



Cormorant 8 Day Itinerary "B"

(Santa Cruz - Isabela - Fernandina - Santiago - Genovesa - North Seymour)



Day 1 (Saturday) BALTRA & SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Morning flight from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra, Galapagos Islands.

You will arrive at Baltra Island in the morning. After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by a Cormorant staff member and brought into a private bus to start your adventure in Santa Cruz island:

In the morning, you will visit the **Twin Craters** located opposite to each other on both sides of the road leading from Puerto Ayora to Baltra. The name is only figurative; not real craters, these formations were created by the collapse of surface material in underground fissures and chambers. The view is breathtaking.


Twin Craters	
Possible Activities:	Walking and scape viewing
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Pit craters, Scalesia Forest


Then, you will head to the **highlands**. Accessible by bus from Puerto Ayora, the highlands of Santa Cruz are a deep green which contrast beautifully with the dry, lower part of the islands. The predominant vegetation in the highlands are Scalesia trees which create a lush green forest. The lava tunnels, over half a mile long, are underground and walking through them is a unique, surreal experience. At this place you'll have lunch.

Highlands	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Lava tunnels, Finches, wild tortoises, tortoise nesting site.


Then, you'll be transferred to the yacht. You will be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before dinner and a welcome briefing.


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Day 2 (Sunday)

ISABELA ISLAND

Tintoreras Islet, located a short distance from Puerto Villamil, is home to a great variety of wildlife. Its turquoise, crystalline waters are inhabited by white-tip reef sharks, Galapagos penguins, marine turtles and sea lions. One of its beaches surrounded by mangroves is one of the few sites where marine iguanas can reproduce successfully.

Tintoreras Islet	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride and hike
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights:	White-tipreef sharks, penguins, marine turtles, sea lions, marine iguanas

The morning will consist also of a visit to the **Sierra Negra Volcano** which is the largest basaltic caldera in the Galapagos with a diameter of 6.2 miles (10 km). The site offers impressive views and the opportunity to observe up to seven species of finches and a rich display of vegetation. The north side of the caldera provides evidence of its most recent volcanic activity in 2005.

The Sierra Negra Volcano	
Possible Activities:	Hiking, horseback riding, walking
Difficulty:	Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights:	Basaltic caldera, stunning views, finches

In the afternoon you will head to **the Wetlands** of Isabela Island which are located just outside of Puerto Villamil. The Wetlands consist of lagoons, swamps, and mangroves and are home to a variety of unique bird species such as common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintails, and gallinules. The Wetlands can be visited on foot via a path through the swamps.

Wetlands	
Possible Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant mangroves, shore birds, flamingos

Next you will visit **Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center** of Isabela. It is located about one mile (1.5 km) from Puerto Villamil. In this breeding center, populations from South Isabela Sierra Negra Volcano, Cerro Azul, Cazuela, Cinco Cerros, Roca Union, San Pedro, Tables and Cerro Paloma have been bred in captivity. In total there are 330 juvenile and adult tortoises.



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Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center	
Possible Activities:	Walking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Two of the five species of the giant tortoise

Day 3 (Monday) ISABELA ISLAND

In the morning you will visit **Moreno Point** located southwest of Elizabeth Bay. Here a dry landing onto what was once owing lava is possible. The lava has left craters in its wake which formed crystal tide pools. By looking into the pools, you can peer into another world as the marine life drifts by your window. In the brackish pools of this area, you may see pink flamingos, white-cheeked pintails, and common gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools, you may see white-tip reef sharks and some sea turtles.

Moreno Point	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, panga ride & hike (1.2 miles / 2km)
Difficulty:	Moderate / difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights:	Flamingos, gallinules, pintail ducks, turtles, white-tip reef sharks.

In the afternoon, you will visit **Elizabeth Bay**, which is located on the east coast of Isabela Island. The bay contains many islets, which can be visited by dinghy. Penguins and blue-footed boobies can be spotted on the rocky islets. With an abundance of marine life and clear water, the area is perfect for snorkeling and viewing schools of colorful fish, sea lions, and perhaps even sharks.

Elizabeth Bay	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (1.5 miles / 2 km) and dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Mangrove forest (unique in Galapagos), sea turtles, penguins, rays, herons and sea lions

Day 4 (Tuesday) FERNANDINA AND ISABELA ISLANDS

The morning visit to **Mangle Point** allows you to witness the amazing views and wildlife on the Coast of Fernandina Island. This is a small inlet on Fernandina's coast where you can snorkel to your hearts delight and watch playful sea lions, curious penguins, and also catch a glimpse of where flight less cormorants reside.



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Mangle Point	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	No landing
Highlights & Animals:	Snorkeling, lava cactus, A'A lava

In the afternoon, you will visit **Urbina Bay** which is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954 causing the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place for snorkeling.

Urbina Bay	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, dinghy ride & hike, 2 trails: short (0.6mi/1 km), long (1.9mi/3km)
Difficulty:	Easy /moderate
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land iguanas (the biggest in the Galapagos), hawks, coral reef, giant tortoises; snorkeling: turtles, rays, tropical fish

Day 5 (Wednesday) FERNANDINA AND ISABELA ISLANDS

In the morning, crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at **Espinosa Point**, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, you will reach the island's highlight: the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area also provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk.

Espinosa Point	
Possible Activities:	Hike (approximately 1.2 miles / 2 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry and slippery at low tide
Highlights & Animals:	Flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, 'a'ā lava, sea lions, penguins, active volcano "La Cumbre".

The afternoon visit is to **Vicente Roca Point**. Comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (or sun fish).



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Vicente Roca Point	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, dinghy ride & hike, 2 trails: short (0.6mi/1 km), long (1.9mi/3km)
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate
Type of Landing:	No landing
Highlights & Animals:	Penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, Nazca boobies, two types of sea lions. Sea turtles, rays and puffer fish.

Day 6 (Thursday) SANTIAGO ISLAND

In the morning, you will go to **Egas Port**, also known as James Bay, on Santiago Island which is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to the coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos furseals bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkeling site.

Egas Port	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, hiking (1.2 miles/2 km)
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate
Type of landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Furseals, Galapagos sea lions, tidal pools and grottos, Galapagos hawks, oyster catchers, marine iguanas, finches; snorkeling: reef sharks, turtles, rays, nice underwater formations.

The afternoon visit is to **Espumilla Beach** where marine iguanas lounge and the Sally Lightfoot crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey right before your eyes. Snorkeling is highly recommended as you could come face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark and a variety of other species of tropical fish.

Espumilla Beach / Buccaneer Cove	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling and swimming
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Snorkeling

Day 7 (Friday) GENOVESA ISLAND

In the morning, you will visit **El Barranco** which is also known as Prince Phillip's Steps. It is a steep, rocky path that leads up a high cliff rock face. A marvelous view can be appreciated from here. This site is also home to Palo Santo vegetation as well as red-footed boobies, short-eared owls, Galapagos storm petrels, and Galapagos doves.



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El Barranco	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (0,9 miles / 2 Km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry, difficult landing
Highlights & Animals:	Red-footed boobies, short-eared owls, storm-petrels, Galapagos doves

In the afternoon, you will visit the white-sand coral beach of **Darwin Bay** which includes a half mile trail (0,75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls, which can easily be spotted here. Further down the path we'll find tidal pools where sea lions swim playfully. At the end is a spectacular view of a cliff.

Darwin Bay	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (0,9 miles / 1,5 Km), snorkeling, kayaking, and dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, swallow-tail gulls, mangroves, coral pebble beach, snorkeling: rays, colorful reef fish, and hammerhead sharks occasionally

Day 8 (Saturday)

NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND

In **North Seymour** you may see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies, and magnificent frigate birds which are abundant on this island. North Seymour was formed by a series of submarine lava flows containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone.

North Seymour	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride & hiking (1.5 miles / 2.41 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate / Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land & marine iguanas, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, sea lions; snorkeling: rays, reef sharks, fish, garden eels.

After this final visit, you will be transferred to the Baltra airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.