



Cormorant 8 Day Itinerary "A"

(Santa Cruz - Bartholomew - Santiago - South Plaza - Santa Fe - San Cristobal - Española - Floreana)



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 transferred to the yacht. You will be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing.

Afternoon's visit is to **Bachas Beach**, which is located on the north shore of Santa Cruz which is a beach for swimming. One of the few remnants of the U.S. World War II presence in the Galapagos, a floating pier, can be seen here. You may see flamingos, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black-necked stilts, and whimbrels. Sea turtles also nest on the beach.



Bachas Beach	
Possible Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	World War II remnants, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black-necked stilts, whimbrels, sea turtles.

Day 2 (Sunday) BARTHOLOMEW & SANTIAGO ISLANDS




In the morning, you will head to **Bartholomew Island** where the famous Pinnacle Rock is found. Bartholomew consists of an extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, black and even green volcanic formations. We will take a trail of stairs to the summit of the volcano (about 30 or 40 minutes) where you will enjoy one of the best views of the islands! You will also visit a small, beautiful beach surrounded by the only vegetation found on this barren island. The beach is perfect for snorkeling where you may even see and swim with Galapagos penguins.

Bartholomew Island	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride, snorkeling & hiking (1.2 miles/ 2 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate/difficult. Walk up to the top of the volcano's 375 wooden steps (450 feet / 150 meters).
Type of Landing:	Dry and wet landings
Highlights & Animals:	Pinnacle Rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus; snorkeling: penguins, reef sharks, rays, and great colorful fish.

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In the afternoon, you will visit **Sullivan Bay** located on the southeast part of Santiago. This place is interesting for its geology because the area is covered by lava flows. This place has elevations in the form of small volcanoes formed by the lava flows.

Sullivan Bay	
Possible Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Lava flows, small volcanoes

Day 3 (Monday) SOUTH PLAZA & SANTA FE ISLANDS

In the morning, you will visit **South Plaza Island**. This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colorful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is the Sesuvium. During the rainy season its color is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season (end of June through January) a bright red.

South Plaza Island	
Possible Activities:	Hike (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Audubon's shearwaters, swallow-tailed gulls, Nazca boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs

Your afternoon visit is to **Santa Fe Island** (Barrington) which is home to the small picturesque bay and anchorage on the island's northeast coast. The bay has two visitor trails: one leading to a scenic viewpoint atop a cliff, and the other spanning from a small beach to a tall prickly pear cactus forest.

Santa Fe	
Possible Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land iguanas, giant Opuntia cacti



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Day 4 (Tuesday) SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

In the morning, you will visit **Witch Hill**. Located on the northern coast, this eroded hill and its surroundings present one of the most picturesque beaches in the Galapagos with its white powdery sand and the abundance of animals. Wildlife includes sea turtles, rays, and various types of booby birds. The clear water provides an excellent opportunity for enjoying swimming and snorkeling.

Witch Hill	
Possible Activities:	Hike, dinghy ride, snorkeling & kayaking
Difficulty:	Easy walk along the beach
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Beautiful rock formations, sea lions, shore birds, finches and mockingbirds; Snorkeling: nice tropical fish, anemones, sponges, coral

In the afternoon, you will visit **Pitt Point**, situated on the north-eastern tip of the island, hosts frigate birds, storm petrels, and all three types of booby birds: the Nazca, blue-footed and red-footed boobies. A steep trail goes up a cliff and through a ravine leading visitors to an area with an abundance of birds.

Pitt Point	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride, snorkeling, kayaking & hike (1.5 miles / 2.5 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Frigate birds, storm petrels, Nazca boobies, blue- and red-footed boobies

Day 5 (Wednesday) SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

In the morning you will visit the **Breeding Center Jacinto Gordillo - "La Galapaguera"** in Cerro Colorado. It is a new visitor site in the southeast part of San Cristobal Island and can now be reached in roughly one hour by road from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. On the trees and shrubs surrounding the site, you may see land birds like warblers, finches and mockingbirds. Giant tortoises can be observed on the trails. They live there wild but in a protected area to ensure their survival by sealing them off from introduced predators like pigs and goats.

Breeding Center Jacinto Gordillo (Galapaguera)	
Possible Activities:	Short hike (0,6 mi / 1 Km)
Difficulty:	Easy /moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant tortoises, finches, warblers, mockingbirds



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Then you will take an excursion to **Lobos Island** which means "Sea Lion Island." This appropriately named island is ripe with noisy, playful, jolly sea lions who will welcome you to their home with open, well, fins. This island also offers great snorkeling opportunities as well as the chance to see blue-footed and Nazca boobies.

Lobos Island	
Possible Activities:	Short hike (less than 0,6 miles / 1 km), dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Sea lions, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies

In the afternoon, you will visit **Kicker Rock**. This striking rock formation is located a couple hours off the western shore of San Cristobal. Jutting out of the water, the rocks stand vertically at hundreds of feet above the ocean divided by a small channel. Although there are no landing areas, kayaking and snorkeling allow visitors to spot a variety of marine life.

Kicker Rock	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling and dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Difficult (Deep water snorkeling)
Type of Landing:	No landing
Highlights & Animals:	Great snorkeling: sharks, tropical fish, turtles, manta rays (occ.), hammerhead sharks, spectacular rock formations; sea birds: blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies & frigate birds.

Day 6 (Thursday)

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

In the morning, you will visit **Suarez Point**. On the trail you will have the chance to spot blue-footed boobies, albatrosses, and Nazca boobies. This island is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses. You will also visit a beautiful site on the ocean front where there is a cliff that the large albatrosses use as a launching pad! You will have the chance to see the famous blowhole that spurts sea water into the air. The landscape is great for photography.

Suarez Point	
Possible Activities:	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
Difficulty:	Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Hood mockingbirds, Nazca boobies, waved albatrosses (approximately from the last week of April until the last week of January), red-billed tropicbirds, lava lizards, Galapagos hawks, blowhole, amazing landscape and maybe blue-footed boobies.



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The afternoon excursion takes you to the spectacular **Gardner Bay**. After landing, you can walk across a lovely white-sand beach amongst a busy sea lion colony or dive into the water to swim with sea lion pups. You may also see curious mockingbirds on the beach.

Gardner Islet / Osborn Islet / Gardner Bay	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, panga ride, short hike (0,6 miles / 1km) and Kayaking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds; snorkeling: colorful fish, sea lion nursery

Day 7 (Friday) FLOREANA ISLAND

Cormorant Point hosts a large flamingo lagoon where other birds such as common stilts and white-cheeked pintails can also be seen. The beaches on this island are distinct: The Green Beach is named so due to its green color, which comes from a high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand, and the Four Sand Beach is composed of white coral.

Cormorant Point	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride & hike (1.25 mi / 2 km)
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Flamingoes, green-colored beach

Afterwards, you will visit **Champion Islet**, named after the whaler Andrew Champion, which is a small island located just offshore Floreana Island in the southern part of the Archipelago, considered as one of the most beautiful places on Galapagos for all snorkeling and diving fans and an excellent opportunity for dolphin watching.

Champion Islet	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling and dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Moderate / Difficult
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Sea lions, reef fish and Nazca boobies

In the afternoon, you will visit the famous **Post Office Bay**. You will land on a beach and head to a spot where 18th century whalers placed a wooden barrel used as an unofficial mail box. The custom continues to this day with Galapagos visitors. So, don't forget your postcards, and don't be surprised if the post card arrives to its destination before you even get home!



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Post Office Bay	
Possible Activities:	Short hike (less than 0.6 miles / 1km) & snorkeling
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Post office barrel, nice sandy beach

Baroness Viewing Point is a fantastic place to absorb the environment of the Galapagos. Once inhabited by an indulgent baroness and her three lovers, the history of this island is intriguing. The legends about this baroness are associated with a fascinating murder mystery. There are easy trails in this area for exploring the flora and fauna of Floreana.

Baroness Viewing Point	
Possible Activities:	Short hike (0.6 miles/1 km)
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Great view, sea turtles, mysterious story about the first inhabitants of the islands

Day 8 (Saturday)

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

In the morning, you will visit **Fausto Llerena Breeding Center** in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, where giant tortoises are bred in captivity; this is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long when adults. Subspecies of the giant tortoises interact with one another, and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity.

The babies are kept until they are about four years-old and are strong enough to survive on their own.

Fausto Llerena Breeding Center	
Possible Activities:	Walking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant Land Tortoises

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