



# 5DAYS/4NIGHTS

## ITINERARY

2017

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### PETREL

#### ITINERARY OUTLINE

##### MONDAY

*AM:* Arrival to Baltra Airport – Santa Cruz Highlands

*PM:* Transfer to Petrel

##### TUESDAY

*AM:* Santiago Island – Sullivan Bay

*PM:* Bartholomew Island – Pinnacle Rock

##### WEDNESDAY

*AM:* Genovesa Island – Darwin Bay

*PM:* Genovesa Island – El Barranco (Prince Phillip's Steps)

##### THURSDAY

*AM:* Santiago Island – Egas Port

*PM:* Santiago Island – Buccaneer Cove / Espumilla Beach

##### FRIDAY

*AM:* Santa Cruz – Carrion Point

*PM:* Transfer to Baltra Airport for departure

#### TERMS TO KNOW

**LANDINGS** – LANDINGS ARE HOW YOU ARRIVE TO THE VISITOR SITES. EACH SITE IS VISITED BY USING A DINGHY (SMALL BOAT), ALSO KNOWN AS ZODIAC OR PANGA.

**PANGA** – PANGA IS THE SPANISH TERM FOR DINGHY OR ZODIAC. YOU WILL HEAR THIS WORD OFTEN.

**DRY LANDING** – UPON ARRIVAL TO THE VISITOR SITE YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO ENTER THE WATER WHEN EXITING THE ZODIAC OR DINGHY.

**WET LANDING** – UPON ARRIVAL TO THE VISITOR SITE YOU WILL EXIT THE DINGHY (SMALL BOAT) BY ENTERING THE WATER FIRST, THEN WALKING ASHORE.

**NO LANDING** – THERE WILL BE NO LANDING BECAUSE ACTIVITY WILL CONSIST OF PANGA RIDE OR SNORKELING.

**DINGHY RIDE** – THE DINGHY RIDE IS A SIMPLE RIDE ON WATER AROUND THE VISITOR AREA. THIS IS DONE WHEN THERE IS NO LANDING PERMITTED OR TO GET A BETTER VIEW OF NEARBY WILDLIFE OR LANDSCAPES.

**POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES** – ALL ACTIVITIES ARE TO BE ULTIMATELY DECIDED BY THE GUIDE CONSIDERING DIFFERENT FACTORS LIKE: WEATHER, SEA CONDITIONS, AND OTHERS. THE ACTIVITIES LISTED IN ALL THE ITINERARIES ARE ULTIMATELY DECIDED BY THE GALAPAGOS NATIONAL PARK

OFFICIALS WITH THE BEST INTEREST OF THE ISLANDS IN MIND. THESE CANNOT BE ALTERED IN ANY WAY.

## DAY 1 (MONDAY)

### ARRIVAL TO BALTRA ISLAND (GALAPAGOS)

Upon arrival to the airport in Baltra you will be greeted by our staff and taken across the Itabaca Channel to visit the Island of Santa Cruz before boarding. The visit includes a short hike. Dress appropriately with sturdy shoes, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt due to the climate of this area. You will visit a site called Highlands.

#### **Santa Cruz Island – Highlands**

**Santa Cruz Island:** Today Santa Cruz is one of the most popular tourist sites. With a population of about 12,000 Galapagos natives, it has the longest paved road in the entire archipelago. One of the biggest conservation efforts is to eliminate all non-native plants and animals that are destroying native and endemic species on the island. There is no longer any volcanic activity but that does not mean there is no evidence. Santa Cruz means holy cross, but it's English name comes from the British vessel – Indefatigable.

**Highlands:** The Highlands of Santa Cruz is a very interesting site due to the rich wildlife, hills, ferns, volcanoes and lava tubes present. Exploring the lava tubes is a surreal and unique experience. Here you can see all the different agricultural zones that are present in the Galapagos in one place. The variety of birds makes this a bird watchers delight.

After the visit to the Highlands you will be transferred to the yacht. You will then be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before the welcome briefing.

**Possible Activities:** Hike

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry

**Highlights:** All Galapagos life zones, vermilion flycatcher, Darwin finch, yellow warblers, Galapagos rails, paint-billed crakes, short eared owls, wild Giant Tortoises.

## DAY 2 (TUESDAY)

### Santiago Island – Sullivan Bay

**Santiago Island:** The second Island visited by Charles Darwin was originally named after England's King James the second. The island was a good source of salt, water and food for whalers and buccaneers passing. There was a salt mine inland that was used to salt fish and tortoise meat. Land iguanas used to populate the island but are now extinct. From Darwin's own notes he wrote that land iguanas were thriving quite well since there was no place to even pitch a tent. Santiago Island today is now one of the most visited islands.

**Sullivan Bay:** Sullivan Bay is a satellite island of Santiago. This is one of the best places to see the Galapagos fur seal. There is not much wildlife to see here, but the old lava formations are quite a site to see with tuff cones, pyroclastic cones, and other volcanic landscapes.

**Possible Activities:** Hike and snorkel  
**Difficulty:** Moderate  
**Type of Landing:** Dry Landing  
**Highlights:** Various volcanic landscapes and formations.

## Bartholomew Island – Pinnacle Rock

**Bartholomew Island:** Bartholomew is another satellite island that derives from Santiago Island. It is home of the famous Pinnacle Rock and is named after James Sullivan, a friend of Charles Darwin who was also aboard the *HMS Beagle*. Of all the islands, this is the most photographed and is also featured in the 2003 movie "Master and Commander".

**Pinnacle Rock:** Pinnacle rock is a volcano cone formed by magma expelled by an underwater volcano. The sea cooled the hot lava and as it exploded from contact, the pieces formed together this huge rock of many, many layers of basalt. The huge rock also has a beach where a small population of green sea turtles will nest. Galapagos penguins gather here and swimming can offer beautiful sights of colorful schools of fish and curious sea lions.

**Possible Activities:** Hike, snorkel, panga ride  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Type of Landing:** Wet Landing  
**Highlights:** Galapagos penguins, Pinnacle rock, swimming, awesome photography opportunities. Snorkel – Sea lions, rays, sea turtles, sharks, many different fish.

## DAY 3 (WEDNESDAY)

### Genovesa Island – Darwin Bay

**Genovesa Island:** This horse-shoe shaped island was formed by the eruption of a shield volcano with large slopes formed by gradual lava flows. It is known as "Bird Island" due to the wide variety of birds that can be seen. The only reptile on the entire island is the marine iguana and it is one of the very few places red-footed boobies gather in one large mass.

**Darwin Bay:** Darwin Bay is the result of the shield volcano where one of the sides of the caldera collapsed after years of erosion. It is one of the places in the Galapagos where red-footed boobies can be guaranteed to be seen. Over 200,000 red-footed boobies are estimated to be living in the trees and bushes of Genovesa.

**Possible Activities:** Hike, kayak, panga ride, and snorkel  
**Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate  
**Type of Landing:** Wet Landing  
**Highlights:** Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, mangroves. Snorkeling – various sharks, colorful fish, sea turtles, sea lions, occasional rays.

## Genovesa Island – El Barranco (Prince Phillip's Steps)

**El Barranco:** Better known as Prince Phillip's Steps, a steep and rocky path leads up to a cliff with a marvelous view. There is also a Palo Santa forest that is home to nesting red-footed boobies and other birds.

**Possible Activities:** Hike, kayak, panga ride, and snorkel

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry Landing

**Highlights:** Spectacular view, red-footed boobies, wedge-romped storm petrels, Galapagos doves, short-eared owls, Palo Santo forest. Snorkel – fish, sea turtles, rays, sharks, and sea lions.

## DAY 4 (THURSDAY)

### Santiago Island – Egas Port

**Egas Port:** Egas port is also known as James Bay. It is home to quick footed Galapagos lava lizards, Galapagos fur seals along the grottos and tide pools and is a great snorkeling site.

**Possible Activities:** Hike and Snorkel

**Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Wet Landing

**Highlights:** Fur seals, sea lions, tidal pools and grottos, Galapagos hawk, salt water lagoon with flamingoes. Snorkeling – sea turtles, rays, sharks and amazing underwater geological formations.

### Santiago Island – Buccaneer Cove/Espumilla Beach

**Buccaneer Cove:** This cove is better known for excellent snorkeling opportunities and was once known as a refuge for British buccaneers or pirates. The underwater formations are amazing and many different species of fish gather here.

**Possible Activities:** Hike, kayak, panga ride and snorkel

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet Landing

**Highlights:** Historical pirate/buccaneer shelter site. Snorkeling – sea turtles, rays, sharks and amazing underwater geological formations.

**Espumilla Beach:** We will also visit Espumilla Beach where marine iguanas lounge and the Sally-Lightfoot crabs attract the hunting herons and perform the dance of predator and prey right before your eyes. Snorkeling is highly recommended as you could find yourself face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark, or a variety of other species of tropical fish.

**Possible Activities:** Snorkeling and swimming, short walk along the beach (less than 0.6 mi / 1 km)

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet Landing

**Highlights:** Snorkeling, sea birds, historical site, and rock formations.

## DAY 5 (FRIDAY)

### Santa Cruz Island – Carrion Point

**Carrion Point:** There is no place to land here so either a panga ride or snorkeling will take place. It is a sheltered lagoon with beautiful turquoise water on the Northern coast of Santa Cruz at the entrance of the Itabaca Channel.

**Possible Activities:** Panga ride and snorkel

**Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate

**Type of Landing:** No Landing

**Highlights:** Various species of fish, white-tipped reef sharks, rays, and sea turtles.

### Transfer to Baltra Airport

Your cruise has officially come to an end. We hope you enjoyed your Galapagos Cruise! We will now transfer you to your scheduled departure from Baltra Airport to mainland Ecuador. Safe travels!

**IMPORTANT:**

**Itineraries and activities are subject to change without prior notice depending on weather conditions, water currents, and sea conditions.**

**The wildlife described above is not guaranteed to be seen during your visit. Please remember to respect your distance between any and all wildlife.**

**Please stay on marked trails and heed the directions of your Naturalist Guide.**