



Majestic 8 Day Itinerary "A"

(San Cristobal - Floreana - Española - Santa Cruz - Genovesa - Rabida)



Day 1 (Monday)

San Cristobal Island

In the morning, you will arrive at *San Cristobal Island*. After going through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by a Majestic 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.

In the afternoon, your first visit takes you to *El Junco Lagoon*. Located in the highlands 19 kilometers from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, El Junco is located in the caldera of an extinct volcano. Rainwater feeds the lagoon. There are many farms and ranches in this area of San Cristobal Island, and sometime cows can be found near the lagoon.

El Junco	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hike around the lagoon
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy/moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Beautiful lagoon filling the crater of the extinct volcano. Frigates and occasionally some species of local water birds

Day 2 (Tuesday)

Floreana Island

In the morning, 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!

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

Your afternoon visit is to *Cormorant Point*. Here you will enjoy a hike to a salt-water lagoon which is home to flamingos. You will also have a chance to snorkel around *Devil's Crown* which is the rocky remains of an offshore volcano sticking out of the water. This is a great location to spot a wide range of marine creatures.

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Cormorant Point / Devil's Crown	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, panga ride & hike (1,2 miles / 2km)
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Flamingos occasionally, snorkeling around Devil's Crown

Day 3 (Wednesday)

Española Island

In the morning, you will visit [Suarez Point](#). On the trail you will have the chance to see 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:	Hood mockingbird, Nazca boobies, waved albatross (from the last week of april until the last week of January), red-billed tropicbirds, lava lizards, Galapagos hawk, blue-footed boobies, large cactus finches, marine iguanas, blow hole and amazing landscape.

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, kayaking, short hike (0,6 miles / 1km)
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Highlights & Animals:	White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds. Snorkeling: colourful fish, sea lion nursery



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Day 4 (Thursday)

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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Walking and landscape viewing
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Pit Craters, Scalesia Forest

In the afternoon, you will visit "*Fausto Llerena*" *Giant Tortoises Creeding 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 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 strong enough to survive on their own.

"Fausto Llerena" Giant Tortoises Breeding Center	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Walking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights:</i>	Giant tortoises

Day 5 (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 to a high cliff rock face. A marvelous view can be appreciated from here. This site is also home to a palo santo forest as well as red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, Galapagos swallows, and Galapagos doves.



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El Barranco	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (0,9 miles / 2 Km), snorkeling
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry, difficult landing
Highlights & Animals:	Red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, storm-petrels, Galapagos doves, frigate birds and Nazca boobies. Snorkeling: hammerhead sharks, rays, fish

In the afternoon, you will visit the white-sand coral beach of *Darwin Bay* which heads a half mile trail (0,75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls can be spotted here. Further down the path we 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, colourful reef fish, and white-tipped reef sharks occasionally

Day 6 (Saturday) Rabida and Chinese Hat

In the morning, you will visit *Rabida Island (or Jervis)* which is one of the most colorful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago as well as a great snorkeling site. We will start on Rabida's famous maroon/red sand beach, and after an easy hike, you will arrive to a stunning lookout to enjoy the amazing landscapes. The island is a birdwatcher's delight. Some species are abundant such as a few varieties of finches, Galapagos vermilion flycatchers, Galapagos hawks and brown pelicans.

Rabida Island	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, panga ride & short hike (0,6 miles / 1km)
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Snorkeling: white-cheeked pintail ducks, colourful fish, sea lions, brackish water lagoon, pelicans

In the afternoon, you will visit *Chinese Hat Islet*. This small islet is located near the southeast coast of Santiago Island. Its name comes from the distinct shape of the islet's summit. This small islet is a great location to view many geological formations such as lava tunnels and lava flows. Some of the lava flows were formed underwater and subsequently raised above sea level. The presence of coral heads on the lava flow indicates this phenomenon.



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Chinese Hat Islet	
Possible Activities:	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
Difficulty:	Easy/moderate
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Lava formations, great site for snorkeling with an abundance of marine species such as sea lions, sharks, rays and penguins.

Day 7 (Sunday)

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:	Beach walk, 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 take part in 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 / 1km), dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Sea lions, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies

Day 8 (Monday)

San Cristobal Island

In the morning, you will visit the [Interpretation Center](#). This site is part of an environment project. The tour of this center will explore the natural history of the islands including human interaction and conservation efforts. The Museum of Natural History explains the volcanic origin of the archipelago, ocean currents, climate, and the arrival of endemic species. The Human History exhibit chronologically describes significant events such as discovery and colonization of the islands.



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Interpretation Center	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Museum visit
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Great exhibits about the archipelago's natural history

After visiting the Interpretation Center, you will be transferred to the San Cristobal airport to catch your flight to Guayaquil or Quito on mainland Ecuador.