



## Cormorant II 8-day Cruise "A"

(Santa Cruz, Genovesa, South Plaza, Santa Fe, San Cristobal, Española, Floreana, Santa Cruz)



### Day 1: Saturday

#### SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

##### In the morning: Baltra Airport Arrival

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 II 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: Bachas Beach

Bachas Beach is located on the north shore of Santa Cruz and 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, Santa Cruz Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hiking
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	World War II remnants. Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black necked stilts, whimbrels, sea turtles.

### Day 2: Sunday

#### GENOVESA ISLAND

##### In the morning: El Barranco

El Barranco, also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, 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.

El Barranco, Genovesa Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hiking (0,9 miles / 2 Km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Red-footed boobies, short-eared owls, storm-petrels, Galapagos doves

##### In the afternoon: Darwin Bay

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

## Day 3: Monday

### SOUTH PLAZA AND SANTA FE ISLANDS

#### In the morning: 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	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hike (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Audubon's shearwaters, swallow-tailed gulls, Nazca boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs

#### In the afternoon: Santa Fé Island

Santa Fe Island (Barrington) 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 Fé Island, Santa Fe Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hiking (5 miles / 8 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Land iguanas, giant Opuntia cacti

## Day 4: Tuesday

### SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

#### In the morning: Pitt Point

Pitt Point, situated on the north-eastern tip of the San Cristobal 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, San Cristobal Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride, snorkeling, kayaking & hike (1.5 miles / 2.5 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate/Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Frigate birds, storm petrels, Nazca boobies, blue- and red-footed boobies

#### In the afternoon: 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, San Cristobal Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hike, dinghy ride, snorkeling & kayaking
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Beautiful rock formations, sea lions, shore birds, finches and mockingbirds; Snorkeling: nice tropical fish, anemones, sponges, coral

## Day 5: Wednesday

### SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

**In the morning:** David Rodriguez Breeding Center "La Galapaguera"

Breeding Center David Rodriguez - "La Galapaguera", in Cerro Colorado, 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.

David Rodriguez Breeding Center "La Galapaguera", San Cristobal Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Short hike (0,6 mi / 1 Km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Giant tortoises, finches, warblers, mockingbirds

**In the afternoon:** Lobos Island

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, San Cristobal Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Short hike (less than 0,6 miles / 1 km), dinghy ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Sea lions, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies

**Afterwards:** 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, circumnavigation and dinghy rides allow visitors to spot a variety of marine life.

Kicker Rock, San Cristobal Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	No Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	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:** Suarez Point

On the trail to Suarez Point 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, Española Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	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.

**In the afternoon:** Gardner Bay, Gardner Islet & Osborn Islet

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

## Day 7: Friday

### FLOREANA ISLAND

**In the morning:** 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, Floreana Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Short hike (less than 0.6 miles / 1km) & snorkeling
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Post office barrel, nice sandy beach

**Afterwards:** Baroness Viewing Point

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, Floreana Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Short hike (0.6 miles/1 km), snorkeling, kayak, panga ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Great view, sea turtles, mysterious story about the first inhabitants of the islands

**In the afternoon:** Cormorant Point

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 Flour Sand Beach is composed of white coral.

Cormorant Point, Floreana Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride & hike (1.25 mi /2 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Flamingoes, green-colored beach

**Afterwards:** Champion Islet

Champion Islet, named after the whaler Andrew Champion, 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, Floreana Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling and dinghy ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate/Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	See lions, reef fish and Nazca boobies

## Day 8: Saturday

### SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

**In the morning:** Twin Craters

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, Santa Cruz Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Walking and scape viewing
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Pit craters, Scalesia Forest

**Afterwards:** Baltra Airport Departure


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


**Please note:**

Itineraries are unlikely to change significantly but are subject to change. Weather, wildlife breeding, safety concerns, instructions from the Galapagos National Park, specific abilities and interests of guests as well as operational matters may cause your guide or captain to change the time or nature of visits. Your guide and captain will always endeavor to select the best itinerary within these limits.

## Sales


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