



Reina Silvia 8-day Cruise "Eastern Route"

(Santa Cruz, Española, San Cristobal, Santa Fe, South Plaza, Genovesa, Santiago, Bartholomew, Rabida, Santiago)



Day 1: Saturday

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

In the morning: Baltra Airport Arrival

Morning flight from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra, Galapagos Islands. After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by a Reina Silvia staff member and brought into a private bus to start your adventure in Galapagos.

In the afternoon: Fausto Llerena Breeding Center

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 Breeding Center, Santa Cruz Island	
Possible Activities:	Walking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant tortoises, finches, Galapagos rails

Day 2: Sunday

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

In the morning: 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	
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

In the afternoon: 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	
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.

Day 3: Monday

SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

In the morning: 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	
Possible Activities:	Short hike (less that 0,6 miles / 1 km), dinhy ride
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	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, kayaking and snorkeling allow visitors to spot a variety of marine life.

Kicker Rock, San Cristobal Island	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling and dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Difficult
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.

In the afternoon: 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	
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 4: Tuesday

SANTA FE AND SOUTH PLAZA ISLANDS

In the morning: 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	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (5 miles / 8 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land iguanas, giant Opuntia cacti

In the afternoon: 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

Day 5: Wednesday

GENOVESA ISLAND

In the morning: 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	
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

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

Day 6: Thursday

SANTIAGO AND BARTHOLOMEW ISLANDS

In the morning: Sullivan Bay

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, Santiago Island	
Possible Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Lava flows, small volcanoes

In the afternoon: Pinnacle Rock

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.

Pinnacle Rock, Bartholomew Island	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride, snorkeling & hiking (1.2 miles/ 2 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry & Wet Landings
Highlights & Animals:	Pinnacle Rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus; snorkeling: penguins, reef sharks, rays, and great colorful fish.

Day 7: Friday

RABIDA AND SANTIAGO ISLANDS

In the morning: Rabida

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: 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.

Chinese Hat Islet, Santiago Island	
Possible Activities:	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
Difficulty:	Easy
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 8: Saturday

ISLAND

In the morning: Baltra airport departure

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

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