



## Reina Silvia 8-day Cruise "Western Route"

(Santa Cruz, Floreana, Isabela, Fernandina, Isabela, Santiago, Santa Cruz, North Seymour)



### 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:** Twin Craters

You will have lunch at a local restaurant and 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

### Day 2: Sunday

#### FLOREANA ISLAND

**In the morning:** 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 Four 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

#### In the afternoon: 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: Asilo de la Paz

Asilo de la Paz is a hill 450m high that is behind Straw Hill in the agricultural area of the island. The main attractions are of a historic type: one is the cave of pirates and the other is the freshwater spring. The two sites are located at the base of the hill.

Asilo de la Paz, Floreana Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Walking
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Tortoises

## Day 3: Monday

### ISABELA ISLAND

#### In the morning: Moreno Point

Moreno Point is located southwest of Elizabeth Bay. Here a dry landing onto what was once owing lava is possible. The lava has left craters in its wake which formed crystal tide pools. By looking into the pools, you can peer into another world as the marine life drifts by your window. In the brackish pools of this area, you may see pink flamingos, white-cheeked pintails, and common gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools, you may see white-tip reef sharks and some sea turtles.

Moreno Point, Isabela Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, panga ride & hike (1.2 miles / 2km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate/Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Flamingos, gallinules, pintail ducks, turtles, white-tip reef sharks.

#### In the afternoon: Elizabeth Bay

Elizabeth Bay is located on the east coast of Isabela Island. The bay contains many islets, which can be visited by dinghy. Penguins and blue-footed boobies can be spotted on the rocky islets. With an abundance of marine life and clear water, the area is perfect for snorkeling and viewing schools of colorful fish, sea lions, and perhaps even sharks.

Elizabeth Bay, Isabela Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hiking (1.5 miles / 2 km) and dinghy ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Mangrove forest (unique in Galapagos), sea turtles, penguins, rays, herons and sea lions

## Day 4: Tuesday

### ISABELA AND FERNANDINA ISLANDS

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#### In the morning: Urbina Bay

Urbina Bay is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954 causing the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place for snorkeling.

Urbina Bay, Isabela Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, dinghy ride & hike, 2 trails: short (0.6mi/1 km), long (1.9mi/3km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Land iguanas (the biggest in the Galapagos), hawks, coral reef, giant tortoises; snorkeling: turtles, rays, tropical fish

#### In the afternoon: Espinoza Point

Crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at Espinoza Point, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, you will reach the island's highlight: the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area also provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk.

Espinoza Point, Fernandina Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hike (approximately 1.2 miles / 2 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, 'a'ā lava, sea lions, penguins, active volcano "La Cumbre".

## Day 5: Wednesday

### ISABELA ISLAND

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#### In the morning: Tagus Cove

In the morning, you will visit Tagus Cove on Isabela Island which is located across from Fernandina Island, near the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. This spot has been frequented by ships since the 1800s, using the area as an anchorage site. Trails winding by Lake Darwin up to a ridge display wonderful views.

Tagus Cove, Isabela Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Long hike, snorkeling, panga ride, kayaking (depending on weather conditions and time availability).
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate/Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Penguins, flightless cormorants, Darwin Volcano & Lake

**In the afternoon:** Vicente Roca Point

Comprised of two separate coves, Vicente Roca Point is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (or sun fish) while you snorkel.

Vicente Roca Point, Isabela Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling & dinghy ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	No Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, Nazca boobies, two types of sea lions. Sea turtles, rays and puffer fish.

## Day 6: Thursday SANTIAGO ISLAND

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**In the morning:** Espumilla Beach

In Espumilla Beach marine iguanas lounge and the Sally Lightfoot crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey right before your eyes. Snorkeling is highly recommended as you could come face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark and a variety of other species of tropical fish.

Espumilla Beach, Santiago Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling and swimming
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Snorkeling

**Afterwards:** Buccaneer Cove

Buccaneer Cove is a testament to the fact that Santiago Island was once a refuge for British buccaneers. These pirates would anchor in the protected bay to make repairs and stock up on tortoise meat among other things. The steep cliffs, where hundreds of seabirds perch in front of the dark red sand beach, are a magnificent site.

Buccaneer Cove, Santiago Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Short hike along the beach (less than 0.6 miles / 1 km), snorkeling, dinghy ride and kayaking
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Sea birds, historical site, snorkeling and rock formations

**In the afternoon:** Egas Port

Egas Port, also known as James Bay, on Santiago Island is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to the coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos furseals bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkeling site.

Egas Port, Santiago Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, hiking (1.2 miles/2 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy/Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Fur seals, Galapagos sea lions, tidal pools and grottos, Galapagos hawks, oyster catchers, marine iguanas, finches; snorkeling: reef sharks, turtles, rays, nice underwater formations.

#### Afterwards: Minas de Sal

Minas de Sal (Salt Mines) is located northwest of Santiago Island. The trail has an approximate distance of 8 km. round-trip. This site has an important history from the year 1683 when William Ambrose Cowley visited this place, it was he who gave the name of James to the Bay and the island there have been many travelers who have visited this place to exploit this natural resource and salted beef and fish.

Minas de Sal, Santiago Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hiking (5 miles / 8 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Crater of the salt mines

## Day 7: Friday

### SANTA CRUZ AND NORTH SEYMOUR ISLANDS

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#### In the morning: 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.

#### In the afternoon: North Seymour

In North Seymour you may see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies, and magnificent frigate birds which are abundant on this island. North Seymour was formed by a series of submarine lava flows containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone.

North Seymour Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride & hiking (1.5 miles / 2.41 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate/Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry Landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Land & marine iguanas, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, sea lions; snorkeling: rays, reef sharks, fish, garden eels.

## 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.

### Sales

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