

Natural Paradise 8-day Cruise "B"

(North Seymour, Isabela, Fernandina, Isabela, Santiago, Santa Cruz, Floreana, Española, San Cristobal)



Day 1: Tuesday NORTH SEYMOUR 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 Natural Paradise 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: 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.



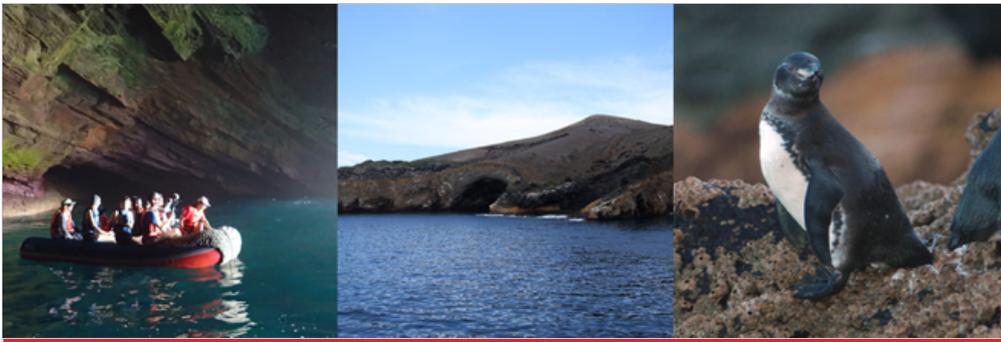
North Seymour Island

Highlights & Animals:	Land & marine iguanas, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, sea lions; snorkeling: rays, reef sharks, fish, garden eels.
Difficulty:	Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride

Day 2: Wednesday ISABELA AND FERNANDINA ISLANDS

In the morning: 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

Highlights & Animals:	Penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, Nazca boobies, two types of sea lions. Sea turtles, rays and puffer fish.
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	No Landing
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, dinghy ride

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

Highlights & Animals:	Flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, ‘a’ā lava, sea lions, penguins, active volcano “La Cumbre”.
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride

Day 3: Thursday
ISABELA ISLAND

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

Highlights & Animals:	Land iguanas (the biggest in the Galapagos), hawks, coral reef, giant tortoises; snorkeling: turtles, rays, tropical fish
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling

In the afternoon: Moreno Point

Moreno Point is located southwest of Elizabeth Bay. Here a dry landing onto what was once flowing 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

Highlights & Animals:	Flamingos, gallinules, pintail ducks, turtles, white-tip reef sharks.
Difficulty:	Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride

Day 4: Friday

ISABELA ISLAND

In the morning: Sierra Negra Volcano

Visit to the Sierra Negra Volcano, which is the largest basaltic caldera in the Galapagos with a diameter of 6.2 miles (10 km). The site offers impressive views and the opportunity to observe up to seven species of finches and a rich display of vegetation. The north side of the caldera provides evidence of its most recent volcanic activity in 2005.



Sierra Negra Volcano, Isabela Island

Highlights & Animals:	Basaltic caldera, stunning views, finches
Difficulty:	Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking

In the afternoon: Wetlands

The Wetlands of Isabela Island are located just outside of Puerto Villamil. They consist of lagoons, swamps, and mangroves and are home to a variety of unique bird species such as common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintails, and gallinules. The Wetlands can be visited on foot via a path through the swamps.



Wetlands, Isabela Island

Highlights & Animals:	Giant mangroves, shore birds, flamingos
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking

Afterwards: Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center

Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center is located about one mile (1.5 km) from Puerto Villamil. Here, tortoise populations from South Isabela, Sierra Negra Volcano, Cerro Azul, Cazuela, Cinco Cerros, Roca Union, San Pedro, Tables and Cerro Paloma have been bred in captivity. In total there are 330 juvenile and adult tortoises.



Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center, Isabela Island

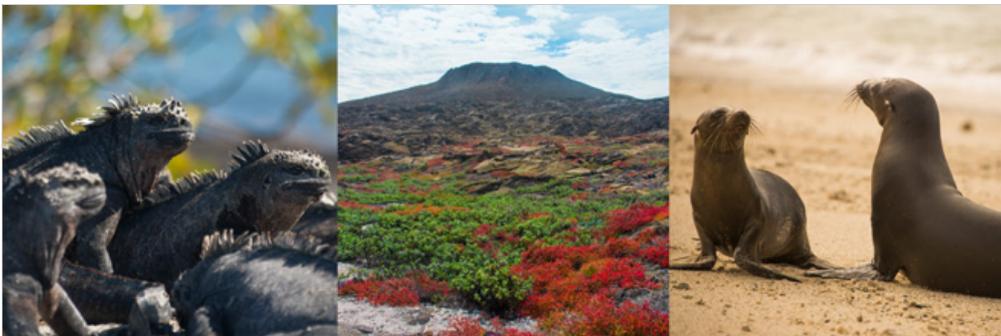
Highlights & Animals:	Two of the five species of the giant tortoise
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking

Day 5: Saturday

SANTIAGO AND SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS

In the morning: 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. Chinese 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.

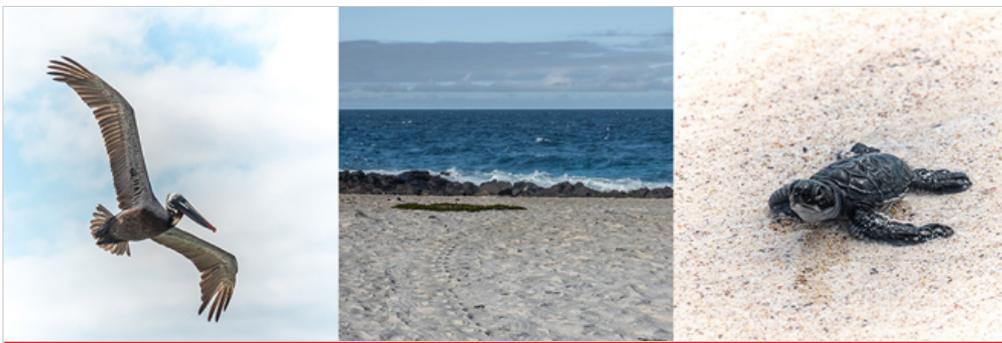


Chinese Hat Islet, Santiago Island

Highlights & Animals:	Lava formations, great site for snorkeling with an abundance of marine species such as sea lions, sharks, rays and penguins.
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride, kayaking, paddle board

In the afternoon: Borrero Bay

In the northern area of Santa Cruz Island, Bahía Borrero is a beautiful white coralline beach used as a nesting site by Green Sea turtles. This extinct volcano, due to its altitude, shows all the different zones of vegetation, changing from the littoral to the arid, and then with more moisture into the humid zone, to end in the dry pampa zone.



Borrero Bay, Santa Cruz Island

Highlights & Animals:	It is an impressive landscape to enjoy while you swim in the turquoise waters of the bay or have a nice relaxing walk along the beach.
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling

Day 6: Sunday

FLOREANA ISLAND

In the morning: 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

Highlights & Animals:	Great view, sea turtles, mysterious story about the first inhabitants of the islands
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride, kayaking, paddle board

Afterwards: 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

Highlights & Animals:	Post office barrel, nice sandy beach
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling

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

Highlights & Animals:	Flamingoes, green-colored beach
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride

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 fans and an excellent opportunity for dolphin watching.



Champion Islet, Floreana Island

Highlights & Animals:	See lions, reef fish and Nazca boobies
Difficulty:	Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing:	No Landing
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, dinghy ride

Day 7: Monday

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

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.
Difficulty:	Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking

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

Highlights & Animals:	White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds; snorkeling: colorful fish, sea lion nursery
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride, kayaking, paddle board

Day 8: Tuesday

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

Highlights & Animals:	Sea lions, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Possible Activities:	Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride

Afterwards: San Cristobal airport departure

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

