

Horizon 5-day Cruise "A"

(Bartholomew, Rabida, Santiago, Genovesa, Santa Cruz, North Seymour)



Day 1: Tuesday

BARTHOLOMEW 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 Horizon 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: 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 2: Wednesday

RABIDA AND SANTIAGO ISLANDS

In the morning: Rabida

You will visit Rabida Island (or Jarvis) 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: 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	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, hiking (1.2 miles/2 km)
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Furseals, Galapagos sea lions, tidal pools and grottos, Galapagos hawks, oyster catchers, marine iguanas, finches; snorkeling: reef sharks, turtles, rays, nice underwater formations.

Day 3: Thursday

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 4: Friday

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

In the morning: Mosquera Islet

Mosquera Islet is located between the islands of Baltra and North Seymour. This reef of rocks and coral (the result of an uprising) is only 160 meters across at its narrowest width. This island has one of the largest populations of sea lions and is home to many shorebirds. There have been occasional reports at this site of orcas feeding on sea lions.

Mosquera Islet	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Dinghy ride, snorkeling
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	No Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Orcas, sea lions, shore birds

In the afternoon: Highlands

Accessible by bus from Puerto Ayora, the highlands of Santa Cruz are a deep green which contrast beautifully with the dry, lower part of the islands. The predominant vegetation in the highlands are Scalesia trees which create a lush green forest. The lava tunnels, over half a mile long, are underground and walking through them is a unique, surreal experience. At this place you'll have lunch.

Highlands, Santa Cruz Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Lava tunnels, Finches, wild tortoises, tortoise nesting site.

Afterwards: Fausto Llerena Breeding Center

You will visit "Fausto Llerena" Tortoise Breeding Center in Puerto Ayora, 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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Walking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Giant tortoises, finches, Galapagos rails

Day 5: Saturday

NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND

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

Afterwards: Baltra Airport Departure