

# Horizon 8-day Cruise "A"

(San Cristobal, Española, Santa Cruz, Bartholomew, Rabida, Santiago, Genovesa, Santa Cruz, North Seymour)



## Day 1: Saturday

### SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

**In the morning:** San Cristobal airport arrival

You will arrive at San Cristobal 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:** Gianni Arismendy Interpretation Center

This site is part of an environment project. The tour of this center will explore the natural history of the islands including human interaction and conservation efforts. The Museum of Natural History explains the volcanic origin of the archipelago, ocean currents, climate, and the arrival of endemic species. The Human History exhibit chronologically describes significant events such as discovery and colonization of the islands.

Gianni Arismendy Interpretation Center, San Cristobal Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Museum visit
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	Great exhibits about the archipelago's natural history

## Day 2: Sunday

### 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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Dinghy ride, snorkeling, kayaking & hike (1.5 miles / 2.5 km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Moderate/Difficult
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hike, dinghy ride, snorkeling & kayaking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	Beautiful rock formations, sea lions, shore birds, finches and mockingbirds; Snorkeling: nice tropical fish, anemones, sponges, coral

**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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Dinghy ride
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	No Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	Sharks, tropical fish, turtles, manta rays (occ.), hammerhead sharks, spectacular rock formations; sea birds: blue- footed boobies, Nazca boobies & frigate birds.

## Day 3: 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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Difficult
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Snorkeling, panga ride, short hike (0,6 miles / 1km) and Kayaking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds; snorkeling: colorful fish, sea lion nursery

# Day 4: Tuesday

## SANTA CRUZ AND BARTHOLOMEW ISLANDS

### 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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	World War II remnants. Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black necked stilts, whimbrels, sea turtles.

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

# Day 5: Wednesday

## 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	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Snorkeling, panga ride & short hike (0,6 miles / 1km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy/Moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet Landing
<i>Highlights &amp; Animals:</i>	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	
<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>	Furseals, Galapagos sea lions, tidal pools and grottos, Galapagos hawks, oyster catchers, marine iguanas, finches; snorkeling: reef sharks, turtles, rays, nice underwater formations.

## Day 6: 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	
<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

#### 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	
<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

## Day 7: 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.