

Majestic 8 Day Itinerary B

(San Cristobal, South Plaza, North Seymour, Bartholome, Santiago, Fernandina, Isabela, Rabida)



Day 1 (Monday)

San Cristobal Island

In the morning, you will arrive at [San Cristobal Island](#). After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by the Majestic staff and transferred to the yacht. You will be guided to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing.

In the afternoon, you will visit the [Interpretation Center](#). This site is part of the project “Plan of Interpretation and Environmental Education for the Galapagos Island.” 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. The center has an outdoor theater as well.

Interpretation Center	
Activities:	Short Hike (0,6 mi / 1 Km)
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights:	Giant tortoises in captivity, snorkeling with sea lions, land and sea birds, blue-footed boobies

Day 2 (Tuesday)

South Plaza and North Seymour Islands

In the morning, you will head to [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 colourful 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	
Activities:	Hike (1,5 miles / 2 ½ km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights:	Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Audubon’s shearwaters, swallow-tailed gulls, Nazca boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs

Majestic 8 Day Itinerary B

(San Cristobal, South Plaza, North Seymour, Bartholome, Santiago, Fernandina, Isabela, Rabida)



In the afternoon, you will visit [North Seymour](#). Here you will be able to see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies and magnificent frigate birds which are abundant on North Seymour Island. The island 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	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, panga ride & hike (1.5 miles / 2 ½ Km)
Difficulty:	Moderate /difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land & marine iguanas, frigate birds, Blue-footed Boobies, sea lions. Great snorkeling: rays, reef shark, colorful fish, garden eels.

Day 3 (Wednesday)

Bartholomew Island and Santiago Island

In the morning, you will head to [Bartholomew Island](#), home of the famous Pinnacle Rock. 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 the Galapagos penguins.

Bartholomew	
Activities:	Panga ride, snorkeling & hike (1,2 miles / 2 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate/ difficult. Walk up to the top of volcano 114 meters, 375 wooden steps
Type of Landing:	Dry and wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Pinnacle rock, panoramic view, moon-like landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus; snorkeling: penguins, reef sharks, rays, great colourful fish.

In the afternoon you will visit [Espumilla Beach](#) and [Buccaneer Cove](#). Espumilla beach is a nice location for snorkeling where you can see herons, Sally Lightfoot crabs, and a lot of marine life. Buccaneer Cove is an old pirate hideout and a great location to observe seabirds and enjoy the dark red sandy beach.

North Seymour	
Activities:	Snorkeling, swimming, short walk on the beach
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Sea birds, marine life, herons, Sally Lightfoot crabs, historic site, rock formations

Majestic 8 Day Itinerary B

(San Cristobal, South Plaza, North Seymour, Bartholome, Santiago, Fernandina, Isabela, Rabida)



Day 4 (Thursday)

Fernandina Island and Isabela Island

In the morning, you will visit [Fernandina Island](#): No foreign species have ever invaded this island, and therefore it is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. Fernandina is the youngest island in the Galapagos. Access to this site is extremely restricted by the Galapagos National Park and you will be one of those very lucky visitors. The volcano "La Cumbre" dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean.

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

Espinosa Point	
Activities:	Hike of approximately (1,2 miles / 2 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry and slippery at low tide
Highlights & Animals:	Flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, 'a'ā lava, sea lions, penguins, active volcano "La Cumbre"

In the afternoon, you will head back to [Isabela Island](#). The largest in the archipelago, this seahorse-shaped island is also one of the youngest and most volcanically active.

Your afternoon visit is to [Vicente Roca Point](#). Comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (or sunfish).

Vicente Roca Point	
Activities:	Snorkeling & panga ride
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate
Type of Landing:	No landing
Highlights & Animals:	Penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, Nazca boobies, sea lions. snorkeling: sea turtles, rays and puffer fish.

Day 5 (Friday)

Isabela Island

In the morning, you will go to [Urbina Bay](#) which 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.

Majestic 8 Day Itinerary B

(San Cristobal, South Plaza, North Seymour, Bartholome, Santiago, Fernandina, Isabela, Rabida)



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

In the afternoon, you will visit [Tagus Cove](#) 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. Punta Tortuga, just north of Tagus Cove, is another lovely beach surrounded by mangroves.

Tagus Cove	
Activities:	Long hike, snorkeling, dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Moderate / difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Penguins, flightless cormorants, Darwin Volcano & Lake

Day 6 (Saturday)

Santiago Island and Rabida Island

In the morning, you will go to [Egas Port](#), also known as James Bay, which 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 fur sea lions bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkeling site.

Egas Port	
Activities:	Snorkeling, hiking (1,2 miles / 2km)
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Fur sea lions, Galapagos sea lions, tidal pools and "grottos," Galapagos hawks, oyster catchers, marine iguanas, finches; snorkeling: reef sharks, turtles, rays, nice underwater formations.

In the afternoon, you will visit [Rabida Island \(or Jervis\)](#) which is one of the most colourful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago as well as a great snorkeling site. We will start on Rabida's famous maroon sandy 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 of the rarest species are in abundance such as nine varieties of finches, large-billed flycatchers, Galapagos hawks and brown pelicans.

Majestic 8 Day Itinerary B

(San Cristobal, South Plaza, North Seymour, Bartholome, Santiago, Fernandina, Isabela, Rabida)



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 & Animals:</i>	Snorkeling: white-cheeked pintail ducks, colourful fish, sea lions, brackish water lagoon, penguins, Galapagos hawk

Day 7 (Sunday)

Santa Cruz Island

In the morning, you will visit [The Charles Darwin Research Station](#) 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.

The Charles Darwin Reserch Station	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Walking
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Giant tortoises in captivity

Your afternoon excursion takes you from Puerto Ayora the green [highlands](#) of Santa Cruz. It is very easy to reach the highlands by bus. The lush and green highlands are nicely contrasted by the dry lower part of the island. These beautiful highlands are dominated by Scalesia forests, which make the hills glow in a lush green. We will also visit a half a mile long underground lava tube. This visit is sure to be a unique, almost surreal experience

Highlands	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking (2 ½ km / 1,5 miles)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Moderate (long)
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights:</i>	lava tubes, wild tortoises, tortoise nesting site.

Day 8 (Monday)

Lobos Island

Your morning visit will involve 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.

Majestic 8 Day Itinerary B

(San Cristobal, South Plaza, North Seymour, Bartholome, Santiago, Fernandina, Isabela, Rabida)



Lobos Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Short hike (less than 0,6 miles / 1km), dinghy ride, snorkeling
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy / moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Snorkeling with sea lions, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies

After visiting Lobos Island, you will transfer to the San Cristobal airport to catch your flight to Guayaquil or Quito on mainland Ecuador.