



5 day cruise B: Tuesday to Saturday –Genovesa Islands and Central.

2013 ITINERARIES

OCEAN SPRAY

OUTLINE ITINERARY

Tuesday

AM Baltra Airport- arrival and transfer to the boat

PM Bartholomew- Pinnacle Rock

Wednesday

AM Genovesa - Darwin Bay

PM Genovesa - El Barranco

Thursday

AM Santiago – Espumilla Beach/Buccaneer Cove

PM Santiago - Egas Port

Friday

AM South Plaza

PM Santa Cruz - Highlands

Saturday

AM Mosquera Islet/Baltra Airport



DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 (Tuesday)

MORNING FLIGHT FROM QUITO OR GUAYAQUIL TO BALTRA ISLAND

(GALAPAGOS)

Assistance at the airport by our representative for your Galapagos flight.

You will arrive at Baltra in the morning. After passing through immigration and baggage claim you will be met by Ocean Spray staff 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.

Our afternoon visit includes the **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.

Possible Activities: Panga ride, snorkeling & hike (1.2 mi / 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, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus. Snorkeling: penguins, reef sharks, rays great colorful fish.



Day 2 (Wednesday)

GENOVESA ISLAND

Our morning visit will take us to the beach at **Darwin Bay**. This white-sand coral beach heads a (1/2 mi - 3/4 km) trail that winds through mangroves that are filled with land birds. You may see Nazca Boobies, Red-footed Boobies, and Swallow-tailed Gulls. Further down the path, you may see sea lions playing in tidal pools. You will arrive cliff-side and can let the spectacular views soak in, while the Boobies and iguanas keep you company.

Possible Activities: Hike (0,9 mi / 1 ½ km), snorkeling, kayaking & panga ride

Difficulty: Easy/moderate

Type of Landing: Wet landing.

Highlights: Nazca Boobies, Red-footed Boobies, Swallow-tailed Gulls, mangroves, coral pebbles beach, snorkeling: rays, colorful reef fish and hammerhead sharks

The afternoon takes us to **El Barranco** or The Cliff, also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, whose steep, rocky path will lead you up 25 meters (82 mi) of cliff-face. After marveling at the view you will have the opportunity to take a (5 mi / 1 km) trek through Palo Santo vegetation. Here you will be dazzled by all the birds: Red-footed Boobies, Short-eared Lava Owls, Galápagos Storms Petrels, and Galápagos Doves are abundant.

Possible Activities: Hike (0,9 mi / 2 km)

Difficulty: Moderate

Type of Landing: Dry, difficult landing

Highlights: Red-footed Boobies, Short-eared Lava Owls, storm-petrels, Galapagos Doves



Day 3 (Thursday)

SANTIAGO ISLAND

We will visit **Espumilla Beach** where 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 find yourself face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark, or a variety of other species of tropical fish.

Possible Activities: Snorkeling and swimming

Difficulty: Easy

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Highlights: Snorkeling

Buccaneer Cove is a testament to the fact that **Santiago Island** was once a refuge for British buccaneers. They would anchor in the protected bay to make repairs and stock up on tortoise meat among other things. It is an excellent opportunity to take in the steep cliffs, where hundreds of seabirds perch in front of the dark red sand beach. See if you can spot 'Monk' or 'Elephant' Rock before your guide points them out!

Possible Activities: Short walk along the beach (less than 0,6 mi / 1km)

Difficulty: Easy

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Highlights & Animals: Sea birds, historical site, snorkeling, rock formations.

In the afternoon visit is to a site called **Egas Port**, also known as James Bay, on **Santiago Island**. Here, you will enjoy a hike over a dry trail known for being a hang-out for curious Galapagos Hawks and Quick-footed Galapagos Lava Lizards. The trail will then lead you to the coastline where you will visit the gorgeous tide pools and grottos which are full of fauna. You will be able to observe the shy Galapagos fur sea lions. You will also get to snorkel at Egas Port beach.

Possible Activities: Snorkeling, hike (1.2 mi / 2km)

Difficulty: Easy /moderate

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Highlights: Fur sea lions, Galapagos Sea Lions, tidal pools and "grottos", Galapagos Hawk, oyster catchers, marine iguanas, finches, snorkeling: reef sharks, turtles, rays, nice underwater formations.



Day 4 (Friday)

SOUTH PLAZAS & SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

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 colorful 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.

Possible Activities: Hike (1.5 mi / 2 ½ km)

Difficulty: Moderate

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Highlights & Animals: Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Audubon's shearwaters, Swallow-tailed Gulls, Nazca Boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs

In the afternoon we will visit the **Highlands of Santa Cruz** where you will walk along a path, observing the hills, ferns, volcanoes, and rich wildlife. This area is home to giant tortoises, the exclusive Galápagos Rail, the Paint-billed Crane and many other species. You will come upon the underground lava tubes, which are more than one kilometer (half a mile) long. Local guides are required and will provide information and flashlights. Walking through the lava tubes is a unique and surreal experience.

Possible Activities: Hike (1.5 mi / 2 ½ km)

Difficulty: Moderate (Long)

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Highlights: Lava tunnels, wild turtles, tortoises breeding center.



Day 5 (Saturday)

MOSQUERA ISLET - DEPARTURE

Mosquera Islet is located between the islands of Baltra and North Seymour. It is a reef of rocks and coral (the result of an uprising) and a great white sand beach. Its narrowest width reaches about 160 meters and has an estimated length of 600 meters. In most of the perimeter there is base of lava rocks, as evidence of the lava uprising, except in the southwest side where the landing occurs.

This island has one of the largest populations of sea lions. You can also observe several species of shorebirds. There have been occasional reports at this site of Orcas (*Orcinus orca*) feeding on sea lions.

Possible Activities: *Walk*

Difficulty: *Easy*

Type of Landing: *Wet Landing (This may be complicated by low tide or when there is heavy swell, during the months of December to March mainly)*

Highlights: *Sea Lions, shorebirds*

After this final visit, you will be transferred to Baltra's airport in time to catch your flight back to the mainland.

Important: *Itineraries and activities subject to change without prior notice. Depending on weather conditions, water currents, time availability, some wildlife described above may not be visible.*