



## Cormorant – 8 Days Itinerary A

A beautiful brand new catamaran owned by a Galapagos family and run and administrated by a local company with a reputation for excellent service. Very spacious cabins, all with a private balcony with a Jacuzzi, huge sun deck – it offers all the amenities of a larger boat whilst still preserving the relaxed exclusivity of a smaller vessel. This is a great itinerary, taking you through the central and southern parts of the Galapagos with a great selection of Galapagos wildlife and including the beautiful island of Espanola.



## Day 1 Baltra - Arrival at the airport in Galapagos

**Santa Cruz - Bachas Beach** A beautiful white sandy beach punctuated by lava formations. The wonderfully soft sand here makes it a favourite site for nesting Sea Turtles. Here you will also see White Mangroves, one of the three species found in the Galapagos, as well as Marine Iguanas and Flamingos if you are lucky.



**Bachas Beach - Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** World War II remnants, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black necked stilts, whimbrels, sea turtles

**Day 2 Bartolome** Home to one of the most iconic scenery shots of Galapagos, this small island located off the eastern shore of James Island is home to beautiful panoramic views. The striking volcanic landscape looks almost lunar and provides a great introduction to the volcanic origins of the islands, with spatter cones and cinder cones. You will also see Pinnacle Rock, a striking example of a tuff cone, and good examples of pioneering plants, including some beautiful strands of lava cactus. At sea level, this is a great place for swimming and snorkelling, if you are lucky with Galapagos Penguins.



**Bartolome - Activities:** Panga ride, snorkelling & 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. Snorkelling: penguins, reef sharks, rays great colourful fish.



**James (Santiago) – Sullivan Bay** This site is of great geological interest and is located southeast of Santiago Island. Sullivan Bay offers a rare look at a recently formed lava-field. Located on the eastern coast of James Island, just across from Bartolome, this lava field is thought to have been created in eruptions that took place around 1890.

**Sullivan Bay - Activities:** Hike (1.3 mi / 1 ½ km) swimming and snorkelling  
**Difficulty:** Moderate the lava is very hot so be sure to have thick-soled shoes.  
**Type of Landing:** Dry landing at the rocky shore and a wet landing at the white sand beach  
**Highlights & Animals:** Pahoehoe lava flows, which has hardened in accordion-style formation. Small glass-like bubbles of lava can be found, called “hornitos”. Swimming with sea lions and other wildlife from the shore is a lovely way to finish off the tour.



**Day 3 South Plaza** is the best island for observing Land Iguanas, along with Cactus Finches, Tropic Birds and Sea Lions. One of your first stops will be through a small “forest” of Prickly Pear (Opuntia) Cactus. The walk along the sea cliffs is a wonderful experience, with Audubon’s Shearwaters and Red-billed Tropicbirds gliding by. Towards the end of the walk is a Bachelor Sea Lion colony, with a battle-scarred collection of old bulls in various states of recuperation or total retirement!



**South Plaza - 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

**Santa Fe** A volcanic uplift, this island offers a great chance to see the Land Iguanas (*Conolophus pallidus*) endemic to Santa Fe Island. Some of these can be 5 feet long and have a beautiful golden-yellow colour that shows off the scales to advantage. In the same area you'll also see a forest of giant prickly pear cactus. After your visit swimming and snorkelling will often follow.



**Santa Fe - Activities:** Hiking

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights:** Land Iguanas, giant endemic cacti (*Opuntia*)

**Day 4 San Cristobal – Cerro Brujo** The striking, eroded tuff cone was one of the first sites visited by Charles Darwin, it is has a beautiful white coral sand beach where you can take a leisurely walk (depending on time of year) visited by Brown Pelicans, Blue-footed Boobies, and Swallow Tail Gulls as well as Marine Iguanas and Sea Lions. The beauty of this dramatic area can also be explored by 'panga' or small dingy where you can explore a tunnel that goes all the way through the eroded rock formation.



**Cerro Brujo - Activities:** Hike, panga ride, snorkelling & kayaking  
**Difficulty:** Easy walk along the beach  
**Type of Landing:** Wet landing  
**Highlights & Animals:** Beautiful rock formations, sea lions, shore birds, land birds: finches and mockingbirds, snorkeling: nice tropical fish, anemones, sponge coral

**San Cristobal – Punta Pitt** Located in the northwest of the island, this is a large eroded ash cone with dramatic volcanic scenery and is home to a large colony of Sea Lions, as well as Red-footed Boobies, Blue-footed Boobies and Nazca boobies.

**Punta Pitt - Activities:** Panga ride, snorkelling, kayaking & hike (1.5 mi / 2 ½ km)  
**Difficulty:** Moderate/difficult  
**Type of Landing:** Wet landing  
**Highlights & Animals:** Wonderful landscape, sea lion colony, three possible species of Boobies.



**Day 5 San Cristobal – Puerto Chino (Cerro Colorado)** Located in the south east of San Cristobal, this area is home to a very good tortoise breeding area, one of the new sites recently opened up and still not on the itinerary of many yachts, so not many people get to visit here. The site has been developed to help restore the Giant Tortoise population of the Island (which was badly impacted by whalers in past centuries) and provides a great chance to see these magnificent giants up close in a natural habitat with paths covering an area of 900 meters.



As well as a great chance to see Giant Tortoises, you also get to see the Chatam Mockingbird, Woodpecker Finch and Large and Small Tree Finches here. It is also one of the few places that you can see *Calandrinia Galapagosa*, a plant endemic to San Cristobal and critically endangered.

**Puerto Chino - Activities:** Short Hike (0,6 mi / 1 Km)

**Difficulty:** Easy /moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights:** Snorkeling with sea lions, Frigatebirds, Blue-footed Boobies



**San Cristobal - Leon Dormido** Sometimes called Kicker Rock, Leon Dormido is a huge rock formation that is the remains of an ash cone eroded by the sea, with two vertical rocks rising over 150 meters from the ocean and a favourite spot for Tropicbirds along with Great and Magnificent Frigatebirds. You will visit this site by boat and it is a great spot for snorkelling.

**Leon Dormido - Activities:** Snorkelling & panga Ride

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** No landing

**Highlights:** Deep water snorkelling: Sharks, tropical fish, turtles, manta rays (occ.), hammerhead shark, spectacular rock formations, sea birds: Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies & frigatebirds. Second best place to snorkel.



## Day 6

**Espanola (Hood)** This island is one of the highlights of any visit to Galapagos. Espanola is the southernmost island in the Galapagos, and is also the oldest. Numerous Sea Lions are seen here, plus hundreds of Marine Iguanas basking on the rocks. Espanola's Marine Iguanas are unlike other Galapagos Marine Iguanas thanks to their bright colouring, and the Lava Lizards are distinctive too. Espanola is home to thousands of nesting seabirds all year, including Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies and Frigatebirds. Between late March and early December the Waved Albatross, perhaps the most spectacular of Galapagos birds, returns to Espanola by the thousands to perform their amazing mating dance and produce the next generation. Almost the entire population breeds on this island during this time, and they spend the rest of the year at sea.



**Punta Suarez - Activities:** Hike (1.9 mi / 3 km)

**Difficulty:** Difficult

**Type of Landing:** Dry Landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Hood Mockingbird, Nazca Boobies, Waved Albatross, Red-billed tropicbirds, lava lizards, Galapagos Hawk, Blue-footed Boobies, blow hole, amazing landscape

During your visit to **Gardner Bay** there's time to hang out with Sea Lions and snorkel, as well as walk the beautiful white sand beach here, arguably one of the most beautiful beaches in Galapagos.



**Gardner Bay - Activities:** Snorkelling, panga ride, kayaking, short hike (0.6 mi /1km)  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Type of Landing:** Wet landing  
**Highlights & Animals:** White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds. Snorkelling: colourful fish, sea lion nursery



### Day 7 Floreana – Baroness Viewpoint

Baroness Viewpoint 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 Viewpoint - Possible Activities:** Short hike (0.6 mi / 1 km)

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights:** great view, Sea turtles, mysterious story about the first inhabitants of the islands.



Then we will visit the famous **Post Office Bay**. You will land on a beach and head to a spot where 18th century whalers placed a wooden barrel for use 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 - Possible Activities:** Short hike (less than 0.6 mi / 1km) & snorkelling

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing **Highlights:** Barrel Post Office, nice sandy beach

In the afternoon, we will head to **Cormorant Point**. Here you will enjoy a hike to a salt-water lagoon which is home to Flamingos. You will also get to swim in **Champion** the one of the best snorkelling site in the Galapagos Islands.

**Cormorant Point** – Activities: Snorkelling & panga ride & hike (1.2 mi/2km)

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights and Animals:** Flamingos, Devil's Crown: The best snorkelling site in Galapagos Islands with sharks, rays, rock formations, lots of tropical fish.



**Day 8 Santa Cruz - Charles Darwin Research Station** The Charles Darwin Research Station offers a great chance to learn about the work being done to conserve and protect the islands wildlife. For some visitors (depending on the time of year) this is the only time to see Giant Tortoises and certainly the closest range opportunity. It is also a great chance to see the Tortoise Rearing Centre.

**Charles Darwin Research Station - Activities:** Walking

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Giant Tortoises, land and marine iguanas, variety of birds

After this final visit, you will be transferred to Baltra for your flight back to the mainland, or continue your adventure in Galapagos with an extension staying on one of the inhabited islands.

**Please note:** *Itineraries are unlikely to change significantly but are subject to change. Weather, wildlife breeding, instructions from the Galapagos National Park, specific abilities and interests of passengers as well as operational matters may cause your guide or captain to change the times or nature of your visits. Your guide will always endeavour to have the best itinerary for you within these constraints.*



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