



The Cormorant – Itinerary B 8 days

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. The Northern and Western Itinerary is excellent, visiting the western coast of Isabella and the island of Fernandina and includes a superb mixture of Galapagos wildlife and is the newest and most pristine part of the archipelago. It also visits Genovesa, another Galapagos highlight as an outposts for seabirds.



Day 1 Baltra – Santa Cruz Island The afternoon we will visit is a site called **Los Gemelos (The Twins Craters)**. Los Gemelos wait for you at the end of a short hike. These sinkholes are often referred to as craters, though the term is only descriptive, not literal. They were created by the collapse of surface material in underground fissures and chambers. The endemic Scalesia Forest surrounds the site, where you may see Vermillion Flycatchers, Short-eared Owls, and finches.

THE TWINS CRATERS

Activities: Hike (0.9 mi / 1 ½ km)

Difficulty: Easy /moderate

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Highlights & Animals: Pit craters, Scalesia Forest, giant cactus, lava lizards, giant tortoises, land birds: finches, warblers, flycatchers.



Day 2 Isabela Island In the morning we will visit the **Tintoreras Islet**, located a short distance from Puerto Villamil and is the home to a great variety of wildlife. Its turquoise, crystalline waters are inhabited by white-tipped reef sharks, Galapagos Penguins, marine turtles and sea lions. One of its beaches, surrounded by mangroves is one of the few sites where marine iguanas can reproduce successfully.



TINTORERAS ISLET

Activities: Panga ride

Difficulty: Easy

Type of Landing: None

The afternoon visit will head to **Sierra Negra**. The Sierra Negra Volcano boasts the largest basaltic caldera in Galapagos at 9 x 10km. The site offers impressive views and the opportunity to observe up to 7 species of finch and a rich display of vegetation. The north side of the caldera provides evidence of its most recent volcanic activity in 2005.

SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO

Activities: Hiking, horseback riding, walking

Difficulty: Moderate

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Highlights & Animals: Basaltic caldera, stunning views, finches

Day 3 Isabela Island In the morning we will visit **Moreno Point**, located south west of Elizabeth Bay. Here, a dry landing onto what was once flowing lava is possible. The lava has left craters in its wake, which formed crystal tide pools. By looking into the pools, you can peer into another world, as the marine life drifts by your window. In the brackish pools of this area, you may see pink flamingos, White-Cheeked Pintails, and Common Gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools you may see white tip reef sharks and some sea turtles.



MORENO POINT

Activities: Snorkeling, panga ride & hike (1.2 mi / 2km)

Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Highlights & Animals: Flamingoes, gallinules, Pintail ducks, turtles, whitetip reef sharks.

The afternoon visit will take us to **Elizabeth Bay**, a secluded space lacking any landing sites. We will take a traditional 'panga' ride, passing the red mangroves and amongst the wildlife of the lively bay. Elizabeth is known for its marine life; you will probably see sea turtles and rays skimming the surface of the water. You may also see the Brown Pelicans diving for fish, penguins, Blue-footed Boobies & possibly spot humpback whales.

ELIZABETH BAY

Activities: Two-hour panga ride

Difficulty: Easy

Type of Landing: No landing

Highlights & Animals: mangrove forest (unique in Galapagos), sea turtles, penguins, rays, herons, sea lions.



Day 4 Fernandina and Isabela Island

In the morning we will head for **Punta Mangle**. No foreign species have ever invaded Fernandina Island and therefore it is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. The volcano "La Cumbre" dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean. The island's highlight features the Flightless Cormorant nesting site. This area provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos Hawk.



Punta Mangle

Possible Activities: Hike (1.2 mi/2 km)

Difficulty: Moderate

Type of Landing: Dry and slippery at low tide

Highlights & Animals: Flightless Cormorant, marine iguanas, AA lava, sea lions, penguins, active volcano "La Cumbre"

In the afternoon, we will land at **Urbina Bay** which presents some fascinating geological formations. In 1954, an uplift from the sea formed the bay; which has been characterized by the resulting terrestrial coral reef ever since. Expect to see stingrays and sea turtles swimming near the surface of the water, along with Flightless Cormorants, pelicans, and marine iguanas. You will be dazzled by the breathtaking view of the Alcedo Volcano.

URBINA BAY

Activities: Snorkeling, panga ride & hike, 2 trails: short (0.6 mi / 1 km), long (1.9 mi / 3km)

Difficulty: Easy /moderate

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Highlights & Animals: Land iguanas (the biggest in Galapagos), hawks, coral reef, giant tortoises Snorkeling: turtles, rays, tropical fish



Day 5 Fernandina and Isabela

Fernandina Island: Fernandina is the youngest island in 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 Cumbra” dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean.

Crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands we will land at **Espinosa Point**, and 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.

ESPINOZA POINT

Activities: Hike of approx (1.2 mi / 2 km)

Difficulty: Moderate

Type of Landing: Dry and slippery at low tide

Highlights & Animals: Flightless Cormorant, marine iguanas, AA lava, sea lions, penguins, active volcano “La Cumbre”



The afternoon visit including **Tagus Cove's** 'cliff-side gallery,' provides a clear view of pirate graffiti dating back to 1836. The contrast between vandalism and the pristine environment is thought provoking. Up the (1.2 mi / 2 km) hike through lava formations, we will see stunning views of the surrounding slopes and volcanoes, making our way to Darwin Lake. This salt-water crater-lake may have been filled with a tidal wave brought on by a volcanic eruption.

TAGUS COVE

Activities: Long hike, snorkeling, panga ride

Difficulty: Moderate/ Difficult

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Highlights & Animals: Penguins, Flightless Cormorants, Darwin Volcano & Lake



Day 6 Santiago (James) Island Our morning 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 also get to snorkel at Egas Port beach.

EGAS PORT

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.



In the afternoon 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.

ESPUMILLA BEACH

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!



BUCCANEER COVE

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.

Day 7 Genovesa

The morning takes us to **El Barranco**, 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 (0.6 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 Swallows, and Galápagos Doves are abundant.



EL BARRANCO

Possible Activities: Hike (0.9 mi / 1 ½ km)

Difficulty: Moderate

Type of Landing: Dry, difficult landing

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

Our afternoon 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.

DARWIN BAY

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



Day 8 North Seymour

The morning visit will take us to **North Seymour Island**. Galapagos Sea Lions, Blue-footed Boobies and Magnificent Frigate birds are abundant on North Seymour Island. The island was formed by series of submarine lavas containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone.

NORTH SEYMOUR

Activities: Snorkeling, dinghy ride & hiking (1.5 mi/2.5 km)

Difficulty: Moderate/difficult

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Highlights & Animals: Land & marine iguanas, frigate birds, Blue-footed Boobies, sea lions, snorkeling: Rays, reef shark, fish, garden eels

After this final visit, you will be transferred to Baltra's airport for your flight back to the mainland, or you could continue your Galapagos adventure with a stay in 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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