



## Reina Silvia 8 Days A



Reina Silvia is a first class motor yacht, re-launched in 2011, excellent crew, superb food and a very comfortable yacht. Run by a local family with over 30 years experience and a great reputation for service and excellent quality, working with first rate naturalist guides (this is the sister yacht of the integrity). Stylish interiors, all cabins are air conditioned and with private bathrooms. The yacht is designed for 12 guests (though for families capacity can increase to 16). The itinerary visits the Pristine western islands that receive a double dose of upwelling (from both the Humbolt and Cromwell Currents) which makes for abundant marine life, in the form of Penguins, Flightless Cormorants, Marine Iguanas and Whales... not to mention the sea birds, sea lions and the other amazing Galapagos wildlife which thrive here!



## Day 1      Arrival Baltra

**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.

**Activities:** Walking

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Giant Tortoises, Land and Marine Iguanas, Mockingbirds, Darwin Finches.



## Day 2

**Floreana - Punta Cormorant** At Punta Cormorant you will walk on an olivine beach (a mineral known for its olive-green quality, that is found in meteorites, the moon and mars as well as on earth), visit a large lagoon where Great Flamingos sometimes nest, and walk over to Flour Beach, a beautiful white sandy beach to look for Green Sea Turtle nests.

**Activities:** Hike (1.2 mi/2km)

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights and Animals:** An easy walk along a coastal lagoon where Flamingos are often found, along with Stilts and Ducks. White sand beach.

**Champion Islet** A dingy (or dinghy ride) around this small pristine islet gives you the opportunity to see the elusive Floreana mockingbird. Excellent snorkel.

**Activities:** Snorkelling & dinghy ride & hike (1.2 mi/2km)

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** No landing

**Highlights and Animals:** One of the best snorkelling sites in Galapagos, with Sea Lions, Reef Sharks, rays, rock formations and lots of tropical fish.

**Floreana - Post Office Bay** The famous Post Office Bay is where people leave their mail to be picked up and delivered by others in the "post office" barrel—a time-honoured tradition begun by whalers more than two hundreds of years ago.

**Activities:** Short hike (less than 0.2 mi / 0.3km), lava tunnel & snorkelling  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Type of Landing:** Wet landing  
**Highlights:** Barrel Post Office, lava tunnel inland (difficult access), nice sandy beach

**Day 3 Isabela** Measuring over 1800 square miles, and accounting for over half the land surface area in Galapagos, at about 80 miles in length, the seahorse shaped Isabela Island is the largest in the Galapagos. Isabela is formed from six separate volcanoes (Alcedo, Cerro Azul, Darwin, Ecuador, Sierra Negra and Wolf). Being the largest islands, it has many visitor sites, covering a large diversity of ecosystems, from barren lava flows to evergreen lush forests.



**Elizabeth Bay** Located on the west coast of the Isabela, no landings are permitted here, but it makes for a beautiful dinghy ride. This is one of the best areas to see Galapagos Penguins as they prefer the cooler waters found on western Isabela. Flightless Cormorants and Marine Iguanas are common and often seen basking in the sun on rocks along the shore. As you then enter a narrow cove lined with large Red Mangrove trees, you will see Marine Turtles, Rays and shore birds.

**Activities:** Two-hour dinghy ride  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Type of Landing:** No landing  
**Highlights & Animals:** Mangrove forest, Sea Turtles, Penguins, Rays, Herons, Sea Lions.

**Punta Moreno** With dramatic seascapes and one of the best sunrise areas in the Galapagos, the visit to this site begins with a dinghy ride along the beautiful rocky shores where shore birds, Penguins, cormorants and herons can be spotted. The barren lava fields host a surprising amount of wildlife due to the presence of many sink holes which are home to Flamingos, Stilts and Pintail Ducks.

**Activities:** Hike (1.2 mi / 2km) Snorkelling, dinghy ride  
**Difficulty:** Moderate/Difficult  
**Type of Landing:** Dry landing  
**Highlights & Animals:** Flamingos, Gallinules, Pintail ducks, Sea turtles, Reef sharks, Penguins.

## Day 4

**Urbina Bay** In 1954, almost 4 miles of coastal seabed dramatically uplifted about 15 ft exposing the sea floor and killing thousands of fish and turtles. This then, vegetation has largely colonized the area but many signs of the uplifting can still be observed. This area is now a nesting site for Land Iguanas and occasionally, giant tortoises coming from the moist uplands. This is a good trail to see Darwin finches and it is not rare to see Galapagos Hawks

**Activities:** Snorkelling, dinghy ride & hike, 2 trails: short (0.6 mi / 1 km), long (1.9 mi / 3km)

**Difficulty:** Easy (short trail) / Difficult (long trail)

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Land Iguanas (the biggest in Galapagos), Hawks, uplifted coral reef, Giant Tortoises. Snorkelling: Turtles, Rays, tropical fish

**Punta Espinosa** Punta Espinosa, is a truly spectacular visitor site and a real highlight for any visitor to the Galapagos. A narrow strip of land extending out from the base of the Fernandina Volcano, it is home to the largest colonies of Marine Iguanas in the Galapagos. You will also have the chance to see Flightless Cormorants here, sea lions, and Galapagos Hawks often perch on the mangrove trees looking for prey. Along the coast, tidal pools provide a perfect environment for invertebrates and shorebirds, such as Oystercatchers, Plovers, Turnstones and Whimbrels.

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

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry but sometimes slippery at low tide

**Highlights & Animals:** Sea Lion colony, Flightless Cormorant, vast numbers of Marine Iguanas, Sea Turtles, Sally-lightfoot Crabs, shorebirds, Herons. Snorkel: Penguins, Marine Iguanas feeding underwater, Cormorants, Sea turtles.



## Day 5

**Tagus Cove** The walk will take you up the slopes of the Darwin Volcano, along the edge of a salt water lagoon to a small hill from which you will see spectacular views of the northern lava fields of Isabela. Most of the fauna will be observed during a dinghy ride along the coast, with dramatic colours and beautiful tuff formations, Blue-footed Boobies, Penguins, Marine Iguanas, Pelicans and shorebirds.

**Activities:** Long uphill hike, Snorkelling, dinghy ride, Kayak.

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Darwin Finches, lowland native vegetation, beautiful landscapes, Penguins, Flightless Cormorants, Blue-footed boobies, Darwin Volcano & Lake

**Vicente Roca Point** Beautiful volcanic scenery, amazing lava intrusions and huge sea cliff make this place one of the most scenic in the Galapagos. Nazca and Blue-footed Boobies sit along the cliffs whilst Flightless Cormorants stay along the shoreline and if you are lucky you will see Penguins in the water. The upwelling of cold water currents have created an abundance of marine life here, making for great snorkelling.

**Activities:** Dinghy ride, snorkel.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** No landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Spectacular landscapes, Sea Turtles, Blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, Penguins, Flightless Cormorants. Snorkel: Sea turtles, Penguins, Gorgonians and other invertebrates.

## Day 6

**James (Santiago) – Playa Espumilla** This tawny beach is a favourite nesting ground of Green Sea Turtles. There is a trail going inland with some very large Palo Santo trees where a number of land birds can be seen, including the Vermillion Flycatcher, the Galapagos Dove, Darwin Finches and Galapagos Mockingbirds. The beautiful sandy beach is a great place to swim and has some great mangrove areas.

**Activities:** Hiking (1 mi- 1,6km), Snorkelling and swimming at the beach

**Difficulty:** Easy / Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights:** Lowland Forest, Galapagos Hawk, Darwin Finches. Snorkelling

**James (Santiago) – Buccaneer Cove** This is the place where Darwin landed and built his base camp on his visit to James. It is a geological marvel since it offers wonderful scenery and chances to see both new and old ash formations. There is no landing site, so visit here can be only done either by dinghy or kayak. During the dinghy ride you might see Blue-footed Boobies, Brown Noddy, Galapagos Fur Seals and Swallow-tailed Gulls.

**Activities:** No landing. Boat tour along the coast. Kayak and Snorkelling

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** No landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Sea birds, scenery, snorkel, spectacular rock formations.

**James – (Santiago) - James Bay (Puerto Egas)** This was the island where Charles Darwin spent the majority of his land visits in Galapagos. At James Bay, the Fur Seal Grottos provide great chances to get close views of both Fur Seals and Galapagos Sea Lions in a series of rocky pools. This visit also provides some of the best opportunities for tide-pooling in the Galapagos, and chances to see shore birds such as Plovers, Sandpipers, Herons and Oystercatchers. The snorkel from the beach is excellent.

**Activities:** Snorkelling, hike (1.2 mi / 2km)

**Difficulty:** Easy /moderate

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights:** Galapagos Fur seals, Galapagos Sea Lions, tidal pools and “grottos”, Galapagos Hawk, Oystercatchers, Marine Iguanas, finches. Snorkelling: Reef Sharks, Turtles, Rays, nice underwater formations.



## Day 7

**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 four mangrove species found in the Galapagos. There is a small coastal lagoon behind the sand dunes where Flamingos, Stilts, Pintail ducks and other water birds are regularly seen.

**Activities:** Walking along the beach, swimming, snorkelling. **Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** World War II remnants, Sally Lightfoot crabs, Hermit Crabs, Black Necked Stilts, Whimbrels, Flamingos, Sea Turtles

**North Seymour** A great variety of Galapagos wildlife is provided in the loop trail on this small island. The highlight of your visit here will be the largest colony of Magnificent and Great Frigatebirds in the Galapagos as well as a colony of Blue-footed Boobies. In addition there are Sea lions, Marine Iguanas, Lava Lizards, Swallow-Tailed Gulls, and a few secretive, but very large Land Iguanas.

**Activities:** Hiking(1.5 mi/2.2 km), Snorkelling & dinghy ride

**Difficulty:** Moderate/difficult

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Land & Marine Iguanas, Frigatebirds, Blue-footed Boobies, Sea Lions, sea birds. Snorkelling: Rays, Reef Shark, fish, Garden Eels



**Day 8** You will be transferred to Baltra 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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