



## Montserrat 5 Days Itinerary B Central & Eastern



Built in 2004 and fully refurbished in 2021, Monserrat is a great mid-range option. Officially first class, the yacht has a total capacity of up to 20 guests. Whilst it is larger capacity yacht than we usually work with, the Monserrat's guide-to-passenger ratio of 10 to 1 is one of the best in Galapagos, making Monserrat a great option. 10 cabins in total spread over two decks with lots of comfortable deck space, a friendly crew and good local operation. The yacht also offers stand-up paddleboarding as well as kayaking.







## Day 2

### Rabida

A red sandy beach with Sea lions and nesting Brown Pelicans, which sometimes afford a rare glimpse of chick feeding. There is a short walk inland which offers great views of the beach and lagoon. Years ago, Flamingos were regularly seen at the salty lagoon, but nowadays this is a rare sight. Geologically, Rabida is said to have the most diversified volcanic rocks of all the islands. It also provides a great opportunity to snorkel with Sea lions and has a great diversity of near-shore and pelagic fish.



**Activities:** Wet landing. Hiking (0.5 mi / 0.8 km) Kayaking and Snorkelling

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Red sand beach, coastal lagoon, Galapagos Sea Lions, Seasonal colony of Brown Pelicans, Galapagos Hawk. Snorkel: Sea lions, Butterflyfish, Parrotfish, Eels.



## Bartolome

Home to one of the most iconic scenery shots of Galapagos, this small island is located off the eastern shore of Santiago Island. 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 some of which are eroded, shaping striking formations like Pinnacle Rock. On the way to the top of Bartolome you will observe good examples of pioneer 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.

**Activities:** Dinghy ride & snorkelling. Hike uphill (0.5 mi / 0.8 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.



## Day 3

### South Plaza

This is the best island for observing Land Iguanas, along with Cactus Finches, tropicbirds and sea lions. One of your first stops will be through a small “forest” of Prickly Pear Cactus. The walk along the sea cliffs is a wonderful experience, with Galapagos Shearwaters and Red-billed Tropicbirds gliding by. Towards the end of the walk is a bachelor sea lion colony, with a battle-scared collection of old bulls in various states of recuperation or total retirement!

**Activities:** Hike (0.8 mi / 1.2 km)

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Land Iguanas, Sea lion colony, Galapagos Shearwaters, Swallow-tailed Gulls, Nazca Boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs



### Santa Fe

This is the oldest of the Galapagos islands. Its paradisiacal bay offers great possibilities to swim and snorkel in crystal clear waters. A hike inland offers a great chance to see a species of Land Iguanas (*Conolophus pallidus*) which is endemic to Santa Fe Island. In the same area you'll also see a forest of Giant Prickly Pear Cactus. After your visit you can swim and snorkel both inside and outside the bay.

**Activities:** Hiking, Snorkel

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights:** Santa Fe Land Iguanas, Sea lion colony, Galapagos Hawks, Mockingbirds, Giant Prickly Pear Cactus (the tallest in Galapagos). Snorkel: Sea lions, Reef Sharks, Parrotfish, Surgeonfish.

#### Day 4 San Cristobal – Punta Pitt

Located in the northwest of the island, this is a large eroded tuff cone with dramatic volcanic scenery and is home to a large colony of Sea lions, as well as a few Red-footed Boobies, Blue-footed Boobies and Nazca Boobies.



**Activities:** Uphill hike (0.9 / 1.5 km), dinghy ride, snorkelling, kayaking.

**Difficulty:** Moderate/difficult

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Wonderful landscape, sea lion colony, three possible species of Boobies. Snorkel: tropical fish, sea lions.



#### San Cristobal – Cerro Brujo

This striking eroded tuff cone was one of the first sites visited by Charles Darwin. It has a beautiful coral sand beach where you can take a leisurely walk (depending on time of year) visited by Brown Pelicans, Blue-footed Boobies, and Swallow-tailed Gulls as well as Marine Iguanas and sea lions. The beauty of this dramatic area can also be explored from the dinghy, exploring caves and looking for sea birds.

**Activities:** Hike along the beach (1 mi / 1.6 km), dinghy 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, snorkelling: sea lions, nice tropical fish, anemones.



## Day 5 San Cristobal - Isla Lobos

A perfect place to swim with playful sea lions and snorkel. This basalt island outcropping lives up to its name of “Sea Lion Island”. As well as the sea lion colony on the beach it is also a nesting place for Blue-footed Boobies.

**Activities:** Hike (0.5 mi / 0.8 km), dinghy ride, snorkelling

**Difficulty:** Short but difficult walk.

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Sea lion colony, shore birds, seasonal nesting frigatebirds, Darwin finches. Snorkelling: sea lions, fish.



This morning visit will be an early one and shorter than other visits you have in the week. From here your guide and one crew member will help you with your luggage, take you to San Cristobal Airport and the guide will help you check in for your flight back to mainland Ecuador, or you can extend your Galapagos trip 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.*

