

Celebrity XplorationSM

7 NIGHT NORTHERN LOOP ITINERARY



SATURDAY- ARRIVAL IN GALAPAGOS

Arrival at the airport in Baltra
Transfer to the dock
Check-in to your cabin
Introductory briefing & safety drill
Lunch
Panga ride to Mosquera Island
18:00 Back on board
19:30 Briefing on Sunday's program
20:00 Welcome cocktail
20:15 Dinner



Mosquera Islet: This tiny islet is actually home to a huge population of sea lions and is also home to many shorebirds. While at Mosquera, keep your eyes peeled as there are occasional reports of dolphins and orcas. **Difficulty level: Easy**

SUNDAY – SANTIAGO & BARTOLOME ISLANDS

06:30 Wake up call
06:45 Breakfast
07:30 Dry landing at Sullivan Bay for hike and snorkel
10:30 Back on board
12:00 Lunch
14:00 Wet landing on Bartolome Island for shallow or deep water snorkeling
16:30 Back on board
17:00 Dry landing on Bartolome for hike or panga ride
18:00 Back on board
19:30 Briefing on Monday's program
20:00 Dinner

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Sullivan Bay is known for its spectacular volcanic formations, relatively young pahoehoe lava flows, and unique geological scenery. Sullivan's relatively recent volcanic activity, few plants have been able to take root here, much less be successful, so pay particular interest to the low-lying pioneer plant known locally as "mollugo" as well as the lava cactus. **Difficulty level: Moderate**

Bartolome is a small island that has two visitor sites. At the first site, you can snorkel around Pinnacle Rock, where penguins are usually seen. Then, it's back on board for a quick change of clothes followed by a short dinghy ride to a dry landing for a climb to the highest point on the island. On the way up, you will encounter different volcanic formations, including spatter and tuff cones, lava flow and lava tubes. From the summit you will have a wonderful view of Sullivan Bay. For those not interested in the hike, there is the option of a panga ride. Usual fauna and flora also includes sea lions, pioneer plants, reef sharks, rays and colorful reef fish. **Difficulty Level: Moderate. Walk up 375 low-grade stairs to top of volcano at a slow to moderate pace.**



MONDAY – ISABELA ISLAND

- 06:45 Wake up call
- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Wet landing at Urbina Bay for excursion
- 11:00 Back on board
- 12:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Dry landing at Tagus Cove for power hike, panga ride or kayaking
- 17:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Tuesday's program
- 20:00 Dinner

Urbina Bay is located in Western Isabela, at the foot of Alcedo volcano. After landing on a beautiful black-sand beach, you may be able to observe sea turtle nesting sites. This area is also known for penguin and flightless cormorant sightings and is one of the best places to see Darwin's finches as well as large land iguanas. Be on the



lookout for wild Galapagos tortoises which like to feed within the site's dense vegetation. **Difficulty level: Moderate**

Tagus Cove was historically used as an anchoring place for pirates, buccaneers and whalers. Here you will see the names of hundreds of ships painted on the high ridges (a practice now forbidden). On the hike, the trail goes through an area of vegetation and the volcanic landscape of Darwin volcano. At the top of the trail, you will enjoy an incredible view of the whole cove and Darwin Lake.



The brisk "power-hike" is followed by kayaking or a panga ride, where you will have the opportunity to see a large number of blue-footed boobies perched on the ledges of the cliffs, as well as marine iguanas, penguins, brown pelicans, brown noddy terns and swallow-tailed gulls. While exploring the channel between Fernandina and Isabela Islands, we sometimes encounter dolphins and whales. **Difficulty level: Easy to Difficult (panga ride is easy; hike up to lake can be strenuous for some)**

TUESDAY – FERNANDINA & ISABELA ISLANDS

- 06:30 Wake up call
- 06:45 Breakfast
- 07:30 Dry landing at Punta Espinoza, Fernandina Island
- 10:30 Snorkeling at Punta Espinoza
- 11:30 Back on board
- 12:00 Lunch
- 15:30 Panga ride along Punta Vicente Roca or deep water snorkeling
- 17:30 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Wednesday's program
- 20:00 Dinner



Fernandina Island is one of the most pristine ecosystems in the entire world and also one of the most dynamic.

La Cumbre Volcano last erupted in April 2009, and also dominates the landscape, with lava fields stretching towards the ocean from its base. Punta Espinoza is a narrow piece of land where some of the most unique Galapagos species can be seen, including the flightless cormorant, Galapagos snakes, marine iguanas, penguins and the Galapagos hawk. **Difficulty level: Moderate**

Punta Vicente Roca is a wonderful snorkeling site, where you can usually see turtles as well as all kinds of fish. For those

who do not snorkel, a panga ride will give you the opportunity to study some of the Galapagos' spectacular geological rock formations. Nazca boobies, pelicans, swallow-tailed gulls, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants and penguins are often seen in the area. **Difficulty level: Easy to moderate**



WEDNESDAY – SANTIAGO ISLAND

- 06:30 Wake up call
- 06:45 Breakfast
- 07:30 Wet landing at Puerto Egas, Santiago Island
- 09:00 Swimming and snorkeling from the beach
- 11:00 Back on board
- 12:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Wet landing at Espumilla Beach for hike, panga ride, swimming or snorkeling
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Thursday's program
- 20:00 Dinner



Puerto Egas (James Bay) is located on the northwest side of Santiago Island. The landing is on a black beach with eroded rock formations in the background. The trail crosses the dry interior, where the remains of a salt mining enterprise can still be seen, and then continues along the coast. Tidal pools are home to a variety of invertebrate organisms, including sea urchins, octopus and starfish. You will also see marine iguanas, finches, oyster catchers and possibly the Galapagos Hawk. The trail leads to the Fur Sea

Lion Grottos, one of the only places in the islands where these unique animals can be seen.

After the walk, you will have time to swim or snorkel off the beach, where you will see sea lions, fish and maybe some turtles, rays and maybe some reef sharks.

Difficulty level: Easy to Moderate.

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The Espumilla Beach visitor site is on the northern coast of Santiago Island in James Bay. The main attractions here are a Palo Santo forest, beach and the landscape. The Palo Santo forest at Espumilla has some of the tallest specimens of the species in the entire archipelago.

Also look out for the Galapagos Hawk as well as Darwin's finches. The beach is an important site for nesting marine turtles.

Difficulty level: Easy



THURSDAY – SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

06:45 Wake up call

07:00 Breakfast

08:00 Dry landing at Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, afterward bus ride to the highlands of Santa Cruz to see wild giant tortoises

13:00 Back on board & lunch

15:30 Afternoon at leisure

18:00 Back on board

19:30 Briefing on Friday's program

20:00 Dinner



On your visit to the **Charles Darwin Research Station** you will gain insight into the great efforts being made by scientists, guides, rangers and park managers to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will see the famous Galapagos tortoises that are the islands' namesake.

After the visit we drive to the green highlands of Santa Cruz, where you will visit a tortoise reserve to search for giant tortoises in their natural surroundings.

Difficulty level: Easy to moderate.

FRIDAY – GENOVESA ISLAND

06:30 Wake up call
06:45 Breakfast
07:30 Dry landing at El Barranco
10:00 Snorkeling, kayaking or panga ride
11:45 Back on board & lunch
14:30 Wet landing and excursion at Darwin Bay
16:30 Beach time, snorkeling or kayaking
19:15 Departure briefing
19:45 Farewell cocktail
20:00 Dinner
21:00 Please settle your bills



Genovesa, or Tower Island, is the northernmost island that is allowed to be visited by naturalist (non-diving) cruises. This island is extremely remote and home to literally millions of birds belonging to many different species including the red footed booby as well as frigates, swallow-tailed gulls and even endemic owls! There are two sites on Genovesa that are visited by the Celebrity Xploration.

El Barranco, also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, is a steep path with stairs carved into the rock which leads to a plateau full of bird life amongst a Palo Santo forest. You will see Nazca boobies, Galapagos doves, mockingbirds and petrels. With some luck, you may spot a short-eared lava owl. **Difficulty level: Moderate.**

Darwin Bay's soft, coralline white sand is only the beginning of a spectacular excursion. A trail from the beach takes you into lush mangroves where red footed boobies nest. Other locals include sea lions, swallow-tail gulls, frigates and more. Snorkeling is a must here as sharks, colorful reef fish, rays and sea turtles are common. **Difficulty level: Easy to moderate.**



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SATURDAY – NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND & DEPARTURE

- 05:45 Optional wake up call by phone
- 06:00 Short hike at North Seymour Island
- 07:00 Back on board for breakfast. At the same time, the crew will take the luggage to check it at the airport.
- 07:30 Breakfast
- 08:15 Disembark for airport transfer
- 10:15 Plane departs

North Seymour may very well be the perfect way to say goodbye to the Galapagos Islands. Although the island is characterized by arid vegetation, fauna abounds and you will soon find yourself surrounded by frigates, blue footed boobies, land iguanas and more. **Difficulty level: Moderate.**

