

# GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - CENTRAL & EASTERN ISLANDS 8 DAYS | REINA SILVIA VOYAGER



## TRIP CODE

ECGACERB

## DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

## DURATION

8 Days

## LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador



## INTRODUCTION

Welcome aboard the small and comfortable Reina Silvia which will take you and up to 15 fellow passengers to the eastern and central Galapagos Islands. Starting and ending in Baltra in the Galapagos Islands, this 8-day adventure immerses you in the wildlife and scenery which makes the archipelago so famous. Land on the white sand beaches of Espanola; plunge into outstanding snorkelling in San Cristobal; hang out with iguanas in Santa Fe; bird watch in South Plaza; meet boobies in Genovesa; witness surreal lava formations in Santiago; tread volcanic ground in Bartolome and witness the phenomenon of red sand beaches on the tiny island of Rabida. The journey concludes in Baltra.

*Please enquire for rates, dates and applicable departures. Prices are subject to change and availability. Terms and conditions apply please contact us for more details.*

## ITINERARY

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## DAY 1: Baltra & Santa Cruz

Please arrive at Baltra airport no later than 9:30AM. From the airport you will be transferred to Santa Cruz Islands. Santa Cruz island is the only island within the Galapagos with 6 different vegetation zones and is home to species such as Giant tortoise, marine iguanas and a large variety of birds. After arriving at the airport you will visit the highlands and Charles Darwin Research Station, famous for its conservation and preservation efforts in the islands. Afterwards you will be transferred for boarding on your vessel.



## DAY 2: Gardner Bay & Punta Suarez

In the morning you will arrive at Gardner Bay, a white-sand beach & one of the longest in all the Galapagos. A perfect spot for snorkelling, the beach is accompanied with marine iguanas and sally lightfoot crabs that run across the rocks at the end of the beach. In the afternoon you will head for Punta Suarez. Known for its incredible walking trails, Suarez is also famous for 'El soplador' (the blower), a blowhole known to shoot jets of water at least 25m into the air. Wildlife on the island includes blue footed and Nazca boobies, sea lions, marine iguanas, oystercatchers and the impressive Galapagos hawk.



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### DAY 3: Isla Lobos & Punta Pitt

Travel to the dramatic Kicker Rock in the morning to witness the steep vertical stone walls rising from the ocean and enjoy some of the best snorkelling in the Galápagos. Continue to Isla Lobos on San Cristóbal to observe sea lions before landing at Punta Pitt in the afternoon for a walk to observe wildlife, birds and spectacular scenery. Start the day with an early navigation around the spectacular Kicker Rock. This striking rock formation is located a couple hours off the western shore of San Cristobal. Jutting out of the water, the rocks stand vertically at hundreds of feet above the ocean divided by a small channel. Head to Lobos Island, the most easterly point in the archipelago is one of only a few visiting sites in Galapagos where red-footed boobies can be observed. All three boobies (blue-footed, red-footed and Nazca) are known to nest here, and at Islote Pitt which is a small islet near the anchorage. Blue-footed boobies can often be seen plunge-diving for fish while frigate birds soar overhead. The trail at Punta Pitt winds up through eroded volcanic tuff formations to a plateau for a spectacular view of the island, and Islote Pitt. Along the trail are endemic plants and wildlife unique to San Cristobal, such as the San Cristobal mockingbird and the San Cristobal lava lizard.



### DAY 4: Santa Fe & South Plaza

Visit Santa Fé island for a chance to mingle with the iguanas. Continue to South Plaza for some great bird watching opportunities and views from the oceanside cliffs. Today, spend time visiting fascinating Santa Fé, home to a small population of very large land iguanas, and the largest of the Opuntia cacti. The lagoon is ideal for swimming and snorkeling; sea lions and colorful fish are in abundance here, as well as the occasional sea turtle. Later, visit South Plaza, a small, but very rewarding island to visit. Here you see an array of endemic land iguanas munching on Opuntia blossoms and leaves. On the upper edge, at the windward side, Swallow Tailed Gulls nest. Watch these beautiful birds maneuver in the tricky air currents as they set up to land on the cliff face. From the bluff you can see schools of Yellowtail Mullet, occasionally a shark, and lots of birds flying back and forth.



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## DAY 5: Darwin Bay & El Barranco

Visit Darwin Bay and marvel at the sheer number of birds along the many trails. Head to El Barranco in the afternoon to see the many types of boobies, including red-footed boobies. In the morning, visit the white-sand coral beach of Darwin Bay which winds through mangroves filled with land and marine birds. See Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies and swallow-tailed gulls, and further down the path, observe tidal pools where sea lions swim playfully. In the afternoon, visit El Barranco (also known as Prince Phillip’s Steps), which is a steep, rocky path that leads up to a high cliff-face. If you’re lucky, catch a glimpse of red-footed boobies, short-eared owls, Nazca Boobies, storm petrels, Galapagos swallows, and Galapagos doves, as you enjoy this magnificent views.



## DAY 6: Santiago & Bartolome

Visit Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island to witness the giant lava formations contrasting the white-coral-sand beach. Continue to Bartolomé for a guided walk to see the island’s dramatic volcanic features and the iconic Pinnacle Rock. The morning visit heads to Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island, located on the southeast part of the island. This place is interesting for its geology because the area has elevations in form of small volcanoes, formed by the lava flows. Later, head to Bartolomé Island, home of the famous Pinnacle Rock. This is an exceptional place to observe volcanic island geology and to snorkel. Among the many colorful species you will see Bi-color Parrotfish, Streamer Hogfish, and Flag Cabrilla. Sometimes you get a special treat—a penguin “snorkeling” right around you in hunt of fishy treats. The long climb up the wooden steps to the pinnacle of this cinder cone takes you through cinders and rough volcanic formations, a veritable moonscape. The lower slopes are graced with a light sprinkling of the delicate, silvery Taquilia, a ground hugging plant adapted to this harsh spot. On top you will enjoy the spectacular view of Bartolomé, Santiago, and several other nearby islands.



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## DAY 7: Rabida & Chinese Hat

Spend the morning exploring the red sand beaches and salt water lagoons of this tiny island. Look for wading flamingos and nesting pelicans before heading out to do some snorkelling. In the afternoon, discover the lava flows and lava tunnels on the small island of Chinese Hat. After, enjoy a refreshing dip in turquoise waters. Search for fish and sea turtles in the protected bay. Rabida is a “small red island,” the colour of the volcanic cinders. The red beach is usually well populated with sea lions and pups. At times the low salt bushes are loaded with nesting California Brown Pelicans. Just behind the beach, in a brackish lagoon, see Bahamas White-cheeked Pintail Ducks, migratory shore and wading birds, and Greater Flamingos. Flamingos need the presence of a dozen or two other flamingos to stimulate their synchronous mating dance. If our timing is right, we will be able to observe this highly entertaining ritual as well as two species of boobies nest along the cliffs. Later, travel to Sombrero Chino, a tiny island just off the southeast tip of Santiago. Its name (Chinese Hat) describes the island’s shape. Though centrally located, it is one of the least visited sites in the area. Patches of pahoehoe lava, cracked lava and lava tubes can be found on the island. If you’re up for a walk, a path leads to some spectacular views of the waves crashing below. White-tipped sharks frequent the area, as do the playful Galapagos Penguins and sea lions.



## DAY 8: Disembarkation in Baltra

After having breakfast you will disembark the vessel and transfer from the boat to Baltra airport for your onward travels. Please note the tour concludes upon arrival at the airport.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

### Accommodation

Cabin on board ship



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While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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