



## **M/V ECLIPSE 7-NIGHT ITINERARY WITH GENOVESA**



### **SATURDAY ARRIVAL**

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



Black Turtle Cove is one of the most beautiful marine sites in the Galapagos. It is a complex maze of tranquil salt-water inlets, surrounded by three different species of mangrove. Its waters are a nursery site for sea turtles, rays and sharks as well as a nesting site for sea birds. This site is only accessible by panga. **Difficulty level: Easy**

### **SUNDAY**

- 06:30 Wake up call
- 06:45 Breakfast
- 07:30 Wet landing on Bartolome Island for shallow water or deep water snorkeling
- 10:00 Back on board
- 11:00 Dry landing on Bartolome for hike or panga ride
- 12:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Wet landing at Puerto Egas, Santiago Island
- 16:00 Swimming and snorkeling from the beach
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Monday's program
- 20:00 Dinner



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.**



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.**

## **MONDAY**

- 06:00 Optional wake up call by phone
- 06:30 Dry landing at Tagus Cove, Isabela Island for power hike, or kayaking
- 07:45 Official wake up call
- 08:00 Breakfast
- 08:45 Kayaking
- 09:00 Panga ride along the cliffs
- 09:45 Deep water snorkeling
- 11:00 Back on board
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Dry landing at Punta Espinoza, Fernandina Island
- 17:00 Snorkeling at Punta Espinoza
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Tuesday's program
- 20:00 Dinner



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 early morning activity 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 noddly 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)**

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**



## **TUESDAY**

- 06:45 Wake up call
- 7:00 Breakfast
- 8:00 Panga ride along Punta Vicente Roca, Isabela Island or deep water snorkeling
- 10:00 Back on board
- 11:00 Equator Line crossing – snack at the stern of the ship
- 12:00 Lunch
- 14:30 Wet or dry landing and excursion at Punta Albemarle
- 16:30 Kayak and/or Panga Ride at Punta Albemarle
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Wednesday's program
- 20:00 Dinner

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.**





Punta Albemarle is located on Isabela Island's remote northern tip and after a long time of being closed off to visitors, it will reopen again in 2012 for only a handful of cruise yachts. Punta Albemarle was used as a radar base by the U.S. during World War II. The waters in this region are very productive allowing for excellent chances for seeing whales in the area not to mention nesting cormorants and also the largest marine iguanas in the entire archipelago. **Difficulty level: Easy to moderate.**

### **WEDNESDAY**

- 06:45 Wake up call
- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Dry landing at Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island to visit the Charles Darwin Station  
Afterward bus ride to the highlands of Santa Cruz to see wild giant tortoises
- 13:00 Back on board & lunch
- 15:30 Optional afternoon activities
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Thursday'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.**

### **THURSDAY**

- 06:30 Wake up call
- 06:45 Breakfast
- 07:30 Dry landing El Barranco on Genovesa Island
- 10:00 Kayaking or panga ride
- 11:45 Back on board & lunch
- 14:30 Wet landing and excursion at Darwin Bay Beach on Genovesa Island
- 16:30 Beach time, swim or relax on the beach.
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:30 Briefing on Friday's program
- 20:00 Dinner

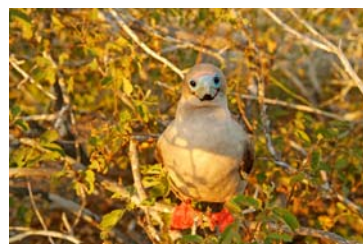


Genovesa, or Tower Island, is the northernmost island that is allowed to be visited by naturalist (non-diving) cruises. This island is extremely remote and home to literally millions of birds belonging to many different species including the red footed booby as well as frigates, swallow-tailed gulls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



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 tortoises are common. **Difficulty level: Easy to moderate.**



## **FRIDAY**

- 06:45 Wake up call
- 07:00 Breakfast
- 08:00 Wet landing and excursion at Bachas Beach, Santa Cruz Island
- 10:00 Swim and snorkel
- 11:00 Back on board & lunch
- 14:30 Dry landing and excursion at Cerro Dragon, Santa Cruz Island
- 16:30 Beach time, swim and snorkel at Cerro Dragon
- 18:00 Back on board
- 19:00 Galapagos jeopardy for kids
- 19:15 Departure briefing
- 19:45 Farewell cocktail
- 20:00 Dinner
- 21:00 Please settle your bills



Las Bachas Beach is located in the north of Santa Cruz Island. Its soft, white sand is derived from decomposed coral, making it a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind the beach there is a small brackish lagoon, where it is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels. **Difficulty level: Easy.**



The name Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill) stems from the fact that it was one of the few sites on Santa Cruz Island where a healthy population of land iguanas were found in 1975. After landing at a pier, a hike takes you to a salt water lagoon behind the beach, frequented by common stilts, pintail ducks and occasionally flamingos. A short walk up the hill leads you to a land iguana nesting site, with breathtaking views of the bay. You will have the chance to go swimming after the walk. **Difficulty level: Easy to moderate.**

### ***SATURDAY DEPARTURE***

- 05:45 Optional wake up call by phone
- 06:00 Circumference ride around Daphne Major  
with briefing by your guides from the MV Eclipse's deck
- 07:15 Official wake up call
- 07:30 Breakfast
- 08:00 Luggage out & vacate cabins
- 08:45 Galapagos documentary shown in main lounge
- 09:45 Snack in the al fresco dining area
- 10:00 Disembark for airport transfer
- 12:30 Plane departs

Daphne Major is located between Santa Cruz and Santiago Islands and is a spectacular bird-watching as well as scientific research site. A select handful of scientists have long studied bird life on these islands, especially Darwin's finches. So important are these populations that this little island became famous after many publications made by well-known researchers, Peter and Rosemary Grant. Your guide will point out the bird-life as well as explain some of the important research carried out on the islands from the vantage point of the yacht's decks as visitors are not allowed to walk on these islands due to their very fragile nature. **Difficulty level: Easy.**

