



Sunday afternoon

NORTH SEYMOUR, named for Lord Hugh Seymour, is located at the central area of the Archipelago just north of Baltra. It is formed by a series of uplifts of submarine lavas deposited as a flat plateau along underwater fissures. These sporadic uplifts took more than a million years to bring the island to its present level.

The major attraction here is the extravagant colony of Frigate birds, the largest in the Galapagos. Most of them are Magnificent Frigate birds (Magnificent have purplish nape feathers and the Great Frigate birds have greenish). The trail we'll travel is about 2 kilometers long and passes very close to the colony. There's a possibility we'll see the males with their red throat pouches fully extended, attempting to attract females. The females do most of the mate choosing and use the male's inflated gular pouch as a way to judge gene superiority among the many males ready to mate. Also along the path, there are breeding pairs of Blue Footed Boobies. We might be lucky enough to witness their remarkable courtship display, comical and delightful at the same time – a slow, mirrored booby pas de deux. Plus you'll love all the iguanas and sea lions present to observe and photograph.

12:30 - 2:00 PM After your arrival from the airport, **enjoy a buffet lunch** at Darwin's Restaurant, Deck 3

12:00 - 2:00 PM **Gift Shop** is open, Deck 3

2:00 PM **Briefing** about this afternoon's visit to North Seymour and the rules and regulations of the National Park at the Discovery Lounge, Deck 4
General Emergency and Life Boat Drill for all guests

Select your afternoon excursion

4:00 PM **Dry Landing at North Seymour Island (High Intensity)**

Two-kilometer walk on an uneven path with rocks along the path eventually arriving at a beach area to observe Frigate birds, sea lions, Blue Footed Boobies, and Marine Iguanas.

Total Duration: approximately 2.5 hours

4:15 PM **Zodiac Ride along the Coastline & Dry Landing at North Seymour Island (Medium Intensity)**

Zodiac ride along the coastline, and then a short hike close to the landing area for animal observation.

Total Duration: approximately 2 hours

4:30 PM **Zodiac Ride along the Coastline (Low Intensity)**

Zodiac ride along the coastline for animal observation and views at the geological formations of the island. This zone has some of the only limestone formations in Galapagos.

Total Duration: approximately 1.5 hours

RECOMMENDATIONS: hiking shoes, sunscreen, insect repellent, hat, water, rain gear

6:30 PM (approx) **Return** to ship

7:00 - 8:30 PM **Gift Shop** is open, Deck 3

7:45 PM **Captain Geovani Celi**, Master of the MV Xpedition, would like to welcome you all onboard with a toast, followed by a briefing for tomorrow's activities at the Discovery Lounge, Deck 4

8:00 - 9:30 PM **Dinner** at Darwin's Restaurant, Deck 3 (open seating)

Enjoy your evening



Monday morning

Around 7:00 AM we will have the opportunity to see **KICKER ROCK** (Leon Dormido in Spanish, or Sleeping Lion) off the north shore of **SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND**. Known as the Galapagos version of Gibraltar, it is a massive, angular rocky block. Its size alone is impressive, but even more interesting is the cleft that splits the rock into a narrow passage. We will bring our Zodiacs down and circumnavigate the rock for photos.

We sail for the island of San Cristobal for arrival at around 9:00 AM. San Cristobal is the fifth largest and the easternmost island in the Galapagos Archipelago and one of the 4 islands that Charles Darwin visited aboard the HMS Beagle. It is here where the administrative capital of Galapagos, **PUERTO BAQUERIZO MORENO**, is located – a city somewhat sleepier than tomorrow’s Port Ayora. The town stretches out along the small harbor where we will disembark our Zodiacs in a small inlet where boats are built and repaired. The streets are cobbled and a pleasant waterfront park with benches and nice plantings extend along the main street, Charles Darwin Avenue.

6:15 - 9:00 AM **Breakfast** for Early Risers (danish, croissants and coffee) at Beagle Grill, Deck 4

6:30 - 9:00 AM **Breakfast Buffet** at Darwin’s Restaurant, Deck 3

Select your morning excursion

7:00 AM **Early Circumnavigation of Kicker Rock (Zodiac Ride Only)**

If you desire a “wake-up-call” for this activity please call the reception desk (400 on your stateroom telephone). Additionally we will circumnavigate Kicker Rock onboard the Xpedition for those who choose not to disembark the ship.

Total Duration: 45 min - 1hour

8:15 am **Snorkel Equipment Demonstration**

Come to learn about the proper use and care of the snorkeling equipment from your Naturalist. We will also exchange your equipment if the sizing is wrong.

Total duration 15 - 30 minutes approximately.

9:00 AM **Dry Landing at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno**

Disembarkation by groups at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno for shopping and a short walk along main street of Puerto Baquerizo and the Sea Lion Rookery.

Total Duration: 2 hours

10:00 AM **Advanced Snorkeling Activity (Snorkeling Only)**

This activity is off the Zodiac along the shoreline of San Cristobal, looking for sea lions and various inter-tidal species (no shopping or visit to the museum). A ladder is available to return onboard the Zodiac.

Total Duration: 1.5 hours

RECOMMENDATIONS: sandals or tennis shoes, money for shopping, sunscreen, insect repellent, water, rain gear.

12:00 PM (approx) **Return** to ship

continued...



Monday afternoon

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND is our southernmost island and a favorite of many visitors. It is approximately five million years old and by far the oldest island in the archipelago.

SUAREZ POINT is where we will land this afternoon, on the northwest tip of the island. Suarez Point is filled with a high concentration of wildlife. We expect to observe sea lions, Galapagos Hawks, Blue Footed Boobies, Masked Boobies and a red variation of Marine Iguanas. These strange creatures are found only on this island and are often massed on top of rocks for great group photos. The trail is about 3 kilometers long with small boulders the entire trail. The trail leads to the very edge of the dramatic southern cliff, where an impressive Blowhole is visible below and where water gushes up to 20 meters into the air, very much like a Geyser.

12:00 - 2:00 PM Gift Shop is open, Deck 3

12:30 - 2:00 PM Lunch at Darwin's Restaurant buffet, Deck 3

12:00 - 1:30 PM Beagle Grill offers pizza, hot-dogs, hamburgers and our Daily Special, Deck 4

2:30 PM Start of our **Xpedition Lecture Series**, today's topic: "Geology of the Galapagos Islands." Discovery Lounge, Deck 4

Select your afternoon excursion

4:00 PM Dry Landing at Española Island (**High Intensity**)

Point Suarez hike, approximately 3 kilometers over rough terrain (small boulders found along the entire path). This activity has an opportunity of sighting the Waved Albatross. Hiking shoes are recommended.

Total Duration: 2.5 hours

4:15 PM Zodiac Ride along Española Island (**Low Intensity**)

Zodiac ride along the beautiful coastline of Española Island. Optional landing for animal observation close to the landing jetty. Hiking shoes are recommended.

Total Duration: 1.5 hours

RECOMMENDATIONS: hiking shoes, hat, rain gear, water, sunscreen, insect repellent

6:30 PM (approx) Return to ship

7:00 - 8:30 PM Gift Shop is open, Deck 3

7:45 PM Briefing about tomorrow's program. Discovery Lounge, Deck 4

7:00 - 9:30 PM Dinner at Darwin's Restaurant, Deck 3

Enjoy your evening



Tuesday morning

This morning, we will visit **SANTA CRUZ ISLAND**, the second largest island in the Galapagos and a hub for tourists. We will anchor at **PUERTO AYORA*** (the largest town in the Galápagos), where the Charles Darwin Research Station and the National Park Service offices are located. In 1959, the Ecuadorian government declared all the islands, except areas already colonized, as a national park (the centenary year of Darwin's publication "The Origin of Species"). In the same year, the Charles Darwin Foundation was founded with a primary objective of ensuring the conservation of the unique Galapagos ecosystems and to promote the scientific studies necessary to fulfill its conservation functions. In the Darwin station, you can visit the tortoise conservation building with displays on tortoise exploitation, conservation, and ecology. The captive breeding programs for the tortoises started in 1962 and since this time many tortoises have been repatriated to their original islands. Maybe at the station you will be lucky enough to meet "Lonesome George," the last member of the Pinta Island race. Puerto Ayora is a sleepy, slow moving town, a pleasant place to wander with clean public areas, nice plantings of mangrove trees and flowers, numerous gift shops, a bank, and Internet service facilities.

*Note that we will also visit this port Saturday, thus giving our guests a better chance to see tortoises in the wild or to visit the Charles Darwin Station, if you miss one of these sites today.

6:15 - 9:00 AM Breakfast for Early Risers (danish, croissants and coffee) at Beagle Grill, Deck 4

7:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast buffet at Darwin's Restaurant, Deck 3

Select your morning excursion

8:00 AM Highland Activity – Dry Landing at Port Ayora (High Intensity)

Bus ride to the highlands of Santa Cruz to find and observe Giant Tortoises in the wild. Bus-ride is 30 minutes to a "farm" where we will hike 1-1.5 kilometers (less than a mile). Be aware that if there is cloud cover in the "Highlands" there is a possibility of mud and moisture so please bring a rain pullover and good shoes. Upon our return to Port Ayora, there is a short time to shop or walk around before returning to the ship.

Total Duration: approximately 3 hours

8:00 AM Tortuga Bay Beach (High Intensity)

Hike along a paved trail (level path, approximately 5 kilometers / 2.5 Miles roundtrip) arriving at a 1 Kilometer long white sand beach. There is possibility for swimming at a "Calm" beach (Swimming should not be done at the "Rough beach" as there are rip tides). After our return to Port Ayora we will have approximately a half an hour to walk around in town before returning to the ship.

Total duration: 2 to 3 hours

8:15 AM Charles Darwin Research Station Activity – Dry Landing at Port Ayora (Medium Intensity)

Short bus ride through the small town of Port Ayora, arriving at the entrance of the Charles Darwin Research Station. At the Station you will learn about the conservation techniques used here in Galapagos and also see the Giant Tortoise program. Approximately 1.5 kilometers at the Scientific Station.

Optional walk through town for shopping

(1 kilometer total arriving at the disembarkation dock). If you choose to return directly to main dock after the station visit, you may take a taxi to the dock (your Naturalist can organize this).

Total Duration: approximately 3 hours

RECOMMENDATIONS: hiking shoes, sunscreen, hat, rain gear, water, insect repellent

11:30 AM Return to ship

continued...



Tuesday afternoon

CERRO DRAGON or “Dragon Hill” is found on the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island and was recently opened for tourism in 1993. It takes its name from the population of Land Iguanas (*Conolophus Subcristatus*) in this area, once at the brink of extinction due to the attacks of feral dogs, and domestic animals released by early settlers that directly preyed upon the iguanas. In 1975, the Darwin Station and the Galapagos National Park Service started a conservation program for Land Iguanas including “Breeding in Captivity” and repatriations to their natural habitats. The site offers a beautiful view of the landscape from the top of the hill and two small brackish lagoons where occasionally flamingos and other shore birds obtain their food. In part of the trail that we will walk today, we’ll cross a beautiful “white forest,” composed principally of Palo Santo (Incense) trees and the endemic Galapagos cotton plant.

12:00 - 2:00 PM Gift Shop is open, Deck 3

12:30 - 2:00 PM Lunch Buffet at Darwin’s Restaurant, Deck 3

12:00 - 1:30 PM Beagle’s Grill will offer pizza, hot-dogs, hamburgers and our Daily Special, Deck 4

2:30 PM Whale watching with your Naturalists, Deck 6 (forward)

Select your afternoon excursion

4:00 PM **Inland Hike - Dry/Wet* Landing at Dragon Hill, Santa Cruz Island (High Intensity)**

A 2.3 kilometer (1.2 miles approx.) hike inland to search for Land Iguanas. We will pass a small brackish pond that occasionally has flamingos and other waders. One third of the trail has small boulders to walk on, so please bring good shoes. Upon returning to the beach you will have an opportunity to swim and snorkel, so please bring your equipment.

**If the tide level is low you may need to make a wet landing*

4:15 PM **Advanced Snorkeling - Dry/Wet* Landing at Dragon Hill, Santa Cruz Island (High Intensity)**

The zodiacs will transport you to a small group of islands approximately 1.5 kilometers (less than a mile) from the Xpedition. There is a possibility to find turtles, tropical fish, and an interesting underwater topography. This site may have a strong current. The entrance site is found in deep water eventually coming into the shallows. After this activity we will return to the ship to quickly change our swim gear, then we will proceed to make a dry/wet landing at Dragon Hill for a short walk close to the landing site (if time allows).

**If the tide level is low, we may need to make a wet landing.*

4:30 PM **Coastal Exploration (Low Intensity)**

Zodiac ride along the coast of Santa Cruz and Venice Island searching for Land Iguanas, Sea Turtles, sharks, and rays. Optional dry landing for a short walk to a brackish pond for animal observation and if you so choose, we are able to snorkel so please bring your gear.

**If the tide level is low, we may need to make a wet landing.*

RECOMMENDATIONS: Hiking shoes, sunscreen, raincoat, repellent, hat, and water, Snorkeling gear, towels

6:30 PM (approx.) Return to ship

7:00 - 8:30 PM Gift Shop is open, Deck 3

7:45 PM Briefing about tomorrow’s visits, Discovery lounge, Deck 4

8:00 PM **“SOUND OF SILENCE” Dinner under the Stars, Deck 4 (aft)**

(Darwin’s Restaurant will be closed this evening)

Enjoy your evening



Wednesday morning

BACHAS BEACH is located on the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island. The name “Las Bachas” comes from the poor English pronunciation of “barges” by the local population during the 1950’s. The residents could not pronounce “barges” to describe WWII barges that had broken their moorings and ran aground on this beach. The remains of the barges on the beach served as a reminder of their confusion and hence the site was named in this way. Bachas has a fine coralline sand beach with a pair of lagoons located close to the landing beach. These lagoons occasionally have Greater Flamingos feeding in the shallows. Along with the flamingos there is a chance to spot other shore waders and terrestrial bird species. This beach is one of the largest nesting areas of the Pacific Green Sea Turtle in Galapagos so great caution is requested. Turtles nest in this area throughout the year, but mainly from February to May. During the season, the turtles lay an average of 100 eggs, whose incubation takes 55 to 60 days. Turtle nests are identified, as indentations on the high part of the back beach, so please be careful not to walk on them.

6:15 - 9:00 AM Breakfast for Early Risers (danish, croissants and coffee) at Beagle Grill, Deck 4

7:30 - 9:00 AM Breakfast buffet at Darwin’s Restaurant, Deck 3

Select your morning excursion

9:00 AM **Flamingo Search – Wet Landing**

On a short hike along the beach over a small amount of rocky terrain, we’ll search in two different brackish ponds at opposite ends of the beach to try to find flamingos and other waders. Upon return to our landing area we have the opportunity to swim from the beach. This beach is a good “practice-your-snorkeling” site (training).
Total Duration: 2-3 hours

9:30 AM **Beach Activity – Wet Landing**

Wet landing at “Bachas” Beach for a chance to relax and enjoy a swim.
Total Duration: 2-3 hours

RECOMMENDATIONS: hiking shoes, sunscreen, hat, rain gear, water, insect repellent, beach towels, snorkeling gear

11:30 AM Return to ship

continued...



Wednesday afternoon

A recent volcanically active island, **BARTOLOME ISLAND** is located in the central archipelago and built through submarine fissures. With its characteristic moon-like landscape and volcanic cones, this is a very good introduction to the geology of the Galapagos Islands. The site that we will visit today is a moderately strenuous hike to the top of a volcanic cone (374 feet/113 meters in height), which makes up most of the island. The view from the top is perhaps the most famous in all the Galapagos with an opportunity to view up to 28 islands in the distance if the visibility allows. Below you'll see the twin beaches of Bartolome and a pinnacle rock formation. On the return and at the end of the hike, there will be wet landing and time for swimming and snorkeling from the beach. We offer the additional option of a Zodiac ride, then a landing at Bartolome beach for swimming and snorkeling. There is a possibility to find Galapagos Penguins swimming here at Bartolome where there is a population of approximately 50 individuals. These Galapagos Penguins are the only penguins in the world that are found north of the Equator. Galapagos Penguins are very small and fast in the water (up to 40 KPH/22 MPH swimming speed) and luckily, they are usually tolerant of humans so it's not unusual to get very close.

12:00 - 2:00 PM Gift Shop is open, Deck 3

12:30 - 2:00 PM Buffet lunch at Darwin's Restaurant, Deck 3

12:00 - 1:30 PM Beagle Grill offers pizza, hot-dogs, hamburgers and our Daily Special, Deck 4

2:30 PM Xpedition Lecture Series, today's topic: "SHARKS." Discovery Lounge, Deck 4

Select your afternoon excursion

4:00 PM "To The Top" Activity – Dry/Wet Landing at Bartolome Island (**High Intensity**)

1.5 hour trail to the top of the hill at a height of 374 feet/113 meters. Trail is approximately 1.5 kilometers (less than a mile) long with 358 wooden steps. After returning to the Zodiac, we will proceed to land (wet landing) at Bartolome beach for snorkeling and swimming. If you chose to swim/snorkel please leave your equipment at the stern of the ship when you disembark so we may transport it to the beach.

Total Duration: 2.5 hours

4:15 PM Coastal Exploration – Wet Landing at Bartolome Island (**Low Intensity**)

Zodiac ride along the coast searching for penguins and enjoying the geological formations. Those who chose to swim or snorkel please bring your gear for a wet landing at Bartolome beach (optional one-hour activity).

Total Duration: approximately 2 hours

RECOMMENDATIONS: trekking or tennis shoes, sunscreen, insect repellent, beach towels, snorkeling gear, water, hat, rain gear

6:30 PM (approx) Return to ship

7:00 - 8:30 PM Gift Shop is open, Deck 3

7:45 PM Briefing in the Discovery Lounge about tomorrow's visits, Deck 4

7:00 - 9:30 PM Dinner at Darwin's Restaurant, Deck 3.

Enjoy your evening



Thursday morning

This morning we will visit **ISABELA ISLAND**, by far the largest island in the Galapagos Archipelago, with 4550 km². It is composed of five volcanoes that over the years have coalesced into one island. All of these volcanoes are considered active. There are five different subspecies of Giant Tortoises spread upon their slopes; all of the wonderful and mysterious photos you have seen of the Giant Tortoises in the wild were probably taken here. The tallest summit of this Archipelago is Volcano Wolf, located on the north side of the island, at 5,599 feet (approx. 1700 meters). The western coast of Isabela is historically important and is part of the itinerary of the HMS Beagle.

TAGUS COVE was named after an English war ship that passed by in 1814 looking for Giant Tortoises as a food source. Hundreds of buccaneers, whalers, sealers have also dropped anchor here. At this visitor's site, we will hike up to 370 feet and will return with a Zodiac ride along the cliffs. We also offer a zodiac ride along the coast. We might expect to see finches, warblers, Blue Footed Boobies, and penguins.

6:15 - 9:00 AM Breakfast for Early Risers (danish, croissants, coffee) at Beagle Grill, Deck 4

7:00 - 9:00 AM Buffet breakfast at Darwin's Restaurant, Deck 3

Select your morning excursion

8:00 AM Dry Landing at Tagus Cove, Isabela Island* (**High Intensity**)

Steep climb to 370 feet with a view of Darwin's lake then returning to the landing site. Length of trail is 2½ kilometers (1.5 miles) with 150 steps. Duration is 1 hour 45 min. It will be followed by a Zodiac ride of approximately 1 hour. Good shoes and plenty of water are suggested. Upon return there is an opportunity to snorkel along the coastline.

Total Duration: 2 hours 45 min

8:15 AM Zodiac Ride along the Cliffs* (**Low Intensity**)

Zodiac ride along the cliffs and the coastal line searching for penguins, cormorants and pelicans. Upon return there is an opportunity to snorkel along the coastline.

Total Duration: approximately 1½ hours

**We will return to the ship after each of the above two activities to change into our swim and snorkel gear, and then proceed to snorkel from the zodiac along the inside bay of Tagus Cove (if conditions allow).*

RECOMMENDATIONS: hiking shoes, hat, water, sunscreen, rain gear, insect repellent

11:30 AM (approx) Return to ship (snorkeling group will return around 12:30 PM)

continued...



Thursday afternoon

FERNANDINA ISLAND is the youngest and most western of all the islands. It is also the most volcanically active, with an eruption as recently as 1995. In 1968, the floor of the caldera sank 990 feet within a two-week period (a geologic instant) showing this island to be one of the most spectacular in terms of geology. As Darwin wrote, it is “covered with immense deluges of black naked lava.”

PUNTA ESPINOZA, on the northeast corner of the island, has risen and lowered several times during the past decades prior to volcanic eruptions. The trail inland will take you through a recent lava flow landscape with small trees of mangroves growing close to the coast. The primary attractions here are the several sea lion colonies, the largest colony of Marine Iguanas, and at the tip of the peninsula a nesting area of Flightless Cormorants.

12:00 - 2:00 PM Gift Shop is open, Deck 3

12:30 - 2:00 PM Lunch buffet at Darwin's Restaurant, Deck 3

12:00 - 1:30 PM Beagle Grill offers pizza, hot-dogs, hamburgers and our Daily Special, Deck 4

Select your afternoon excursion

2:00 PM **Advanced Snorkeling off the Zodiacs (High Intensity)**

Advanced snorkel activity along the coast of Fernandina searching for Green Sea Turtles, penguins, iguanas feeding in the inter-tidal area, and Flightless Cormorants. The surrounding waters tend to be cold (68°- 71° Fahrenheit) and we may encounter some current. The general depth is 2-4 meters (6-12 ft.).

Total Duration: 1 hour

4:00 PM **Dry Landing Fernandina Island (High Intensity)**

Zodiac ride along the coastline for 30 minutes looking for cormorants and penguins, then a dry landing on an uneven but flat trail of approximately 1½ kilometers (1 mile), to see AA and Pahoe-hoe lava flows. This is followed by wildlife observation at the point. Depending on the tide level we may have to land directly on a lava formation that can be very slippery, so please wear good shoes.

Total Duration: 2½ hours

4:15 PM **Zodiac Ride/Optional Dry Landing (Low Intensity)**

Zodiac ride along the coastline for 1½ hours looking for penguins, Flightless Cormorants and pelican nesting areas. Optional landing for 30 minutes so guests may observe the animals.

Total Duration: approximately 2 hours

RECOMMENDATIONS: hiking shoes, water, insect repellent, sunscreen, rain gear

6:30 PM (approx) Return to ship

7:00 - 8:30 PM Gift Shop is open, Deck 3

7:45 PM Briefing at the Discovery Lounge about tomorrow's activities, Deck 4

7:00 - 9:30 PM Dinner at Darwin's Restaurant, Deck 3

10:00 PM Stargazing with our pilots, weather permitting. Deck 6 (forward)

Enjoy your evening



Friday morning

SANTIAGO ISLAND, also called James and San Salvador, is the fourth largest island found in the Archipelago. In the 1930's, a group of people attempted to colonize this island. The Conway's, a married couple, wrote a book about their experiences entitled "The Enchanted Islands" published in 1947.

PUERTO EGAS, the most popular walk at James Bay, is on a black-sand beach. On the 2k trail, we hope to see oystercatchers, Marine Iguanas, sandpipers, Galapagos Hawks, Sally "light foot" Crabs, Galapagos and fur sea lions. Returning to the landing site, there will be time for swimming and snorkeling from the beach.

6:15 - 9:00 AM Breakfast for Early Risers, (croissants, danish and coffee) at Beagle Grill, Deck 4

7:00 - 9:00 AM Buffet breakfast at Darwin's Restaurant, Deck 3

Select your morning excursion

8:00 AM "Survival of the Fittest" Hiking Activity – Dry Landing/Possibly Wet Landing at Egas Port, Santiago Island (**High Intensity**)

Inland walk of approximately 4 kilometers (roundtrip) arriving to an eroded cinder cone used for salt "mining." Good closed-toed shoes are necessary. Swimming and snorkeling off the beach follow this activity. Please leave your snorkeling gear at the stern of the Xpedition so it can be transported to the beach.

Total Duration: approximately 3 hours

8:15 AM Wet Landing at Egas Port, Santiago Island (**High Intensity**)

Coastal walk of 2 hours, 2 kilometres (1.4 miles) on a level trail, 50% rocky, 50% sandy. After, you'll enjoy swimming and snorkelling off the beach (please take snorkelling gear to the beach).

Total Duration: approximately 3 hours

8:30 AM Wet Landing Egas Port, Santiago Island (**Low Intensity**)

Animal observation in the beach vicinity, very little walking. Followed by swimming and snorkelling from the beach area.

Total Duration: approximately 2 hours

RECOMMENDATIONS: walking shoes, hat, sunscreen lotion, insect repellent, snorkeling gear, rain gear, beach towels

11:30 AM (approx) Return to ship

continued...



Friday afternoon

Between Santiago and the Isabela Islands lies what is considered the geographic center of the Galapagos, **RABIDA ISLAND**. It is named after “La Rábida” Monastery in Spain, where Christopher Columbus first arrived when he left Italy. It is also known as the “Red Island” from the mineral composition of its rocks. Encounter a red beach on a small lagoon that occasionally attracts flamingos. We hope to see pelicans, sea lions, Darwin Finches and Opuntia Cactus. Hike up along a rocky trail to an 80-foot altitude lookout point, and end it with swimming and snorkeling at the beach. Maybe enjoy a Zodiac ride along the outer coast searching for fur seals and taking in the spectacular geology would complete the day (optional). It is considered one of the better snorkeling spots in the archipelago, with a nice variety of species present.

12:00 - 2:00 PM Gift Shop is open, Deck 3

12:30 - 2:00 PM Lunch buffet at Darwin’s Restaurant, Deck 3.

12:00 - 1:30 PM Beagle Grill offers pizza, hot dogs, hamburgers and our Daily Special, Deck 4

2:30 PM Xpedition Lecture Series, today’s topic: “FLOREANA ISLAND.” Discovery Lounge, Deck 4

Select your afternoon excursion

4:00 PM Wet Landing at Rabida Island (Medium Intensity)

Beach walk to observe sea lion colonies, flamingo-lagoon, followed by an inland walk to a small ridge for a view of the landscape. Swimming and snorkelling off the beach. Walking distance of 1.5 kilometres (1 mile).
Total Duration: 3 hours

4:15 PM Wet Landing at Rabida Island (Low Intensity)

There is an optional landing after a coastal Zodiac ride, for a short walk close to the beach with possible swimming and snorkelling.
Total Duration: approximately 1 hour and 30 min

RECOMMENDATIONS: hiking shoes, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, snorkeling gear, water, rain gear

6:30 PM (approx) Return to ship

7:00 - 8:30 PM Gift Shop is open, Deck 3

7:00 - 9:30 PM Dinner will be served at Darwin’s Restaurant, Deck 3

7:45 PM Briefing at the Discovery Lounge about tomorrow’s program on Deck 4

Enjoy your evening



Saturday morning

FLOREANA ISLAND is the sixth-largest island in the archipelago and one of the four islands that Charles Darwin visited aboard the HMS Beagle. Darwin was not impressed at the time by the Viceroy of Galapagos residing here in Floreana. The Viceroy claimed that he could look at a tortoise and derive its island of origin from the shape of its carapace; later this observation proved useful in Darwin's thought process and writings. In 1832, Ecuadorian President Juan José Flores claimed the Islands for Ecuador and established the first Human Colony here. It soon turned into a penal settlement with many political prisoners and others. Floreana was the first capital of the Galapagos during the 19th century.

A short trail directly behind the landing beach leads to a clearing, where there appears to be a pile of junk and graffiti. This is the famous **POST OFFICE BARREL** that started functioning as a mailing system for whalers from 1793. Sailors starting their voyage would leave mail in the barrel to be picked up by ships returning home. It has been used ever since as a mail drop and delivery system and still works today. This barrel was originally set up to facilitate the delivery of mail to England and North America.

6:15 - 9:00 AM Breakfast for Early Risers (danish, croissants, coffee) at Beagle Grill, Deck 4

7:00 - 9:00 AM Breakfast buffet at Darwin's Restaurant, Deck 3

Select your morning excursion

(Please be advised that wasps are present at the landing site and have been an irritation in the past).

8:00 AM Sea Lion Colony/Post Box* (**Low Intensity**)

Zodiac ride to a sea lion colony with a wet landing for a visit to the Post Office barrel, followed by optional swimming and snorkelling (this will be our last site for this activity).

Total Duration: 2 hours

9:45 AM Daylight Point Snorkeling* (**Medium Intensity**)

Zodiac ride to the outer coast of Post Office Bay to snorkel from the dinghy. A last chance to swim with sea lions, parrotfish, sea turtles and possibly penguins.

Total Duration: 2 hours

**Guests who only wish to participate in the Zodiac ride can go along with the low intensity groups and come back to the ship, after the group's beach-landing. This is our last snorkel activity; please leave your equipment at the stern of the ship or outside your stateroom door. Thank you and please do not forget any personal items.*

RECOMMENDATIONS: sandals, water, hat, rain-gear, sunscreen, insect repellent, beach towels, sandals or sneakers

11:00 AM (approx) Return to ship

continued...



Saturday afternoon

12:00 - 2:00 PM Gift Shop is open, Deck 3

12:30 - 2:00 PM Buffet lunch is served at Darwin's Restaurant, Deck 3

12:00 - 1:30 PM Beagle Grill offers pizza, hot dogs, hamburgers and enjoy our Daily Special, Deck 4

Select your afternoon excursion

3:00 PM Highland Excursion - Dry Landing at Port Ayora

Bus-ride to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island to search for Giant Tortoises in the wild. Please wear good shoes for this activity (mud is abundant when it has been raining), and please take a rain jacket (light).

Total Duration: 3 hours

3:15 PM Scientific Station & Port Excursion

Visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about the conservation work and see Giant Tortoises in captivity. After the visit, there is time for shopping (optional).

Total Duration: 2 hours

RECOMMENDATIONS: walking shoes, rain gear, water, sunscreen, camera equipment, money for shopping

5:00 - 7:00 PM Return to ship

7:00 - 8:30 PM Gift Shop is open, Deck 3

7:45 PM Farewell Cocktail Party at the Discovery Lounge, Deck 4

8:00 - 9:30 PM BBQ dinner under the stars, Deck 4 & 5 outer decks
(Darwin's Restaurant will be closed)

10:00 PM Don't miss the **Local Folkloric Show**, at the Discovery Lounge, Deck 4

Please Remember:

- Bills will be settled starting 6:30 AM Sunday morning.
- Due to Ecuadorian regulations, we are obliged to ask you to bring your credit cards for bill settlements.

The last 7 days, we have been sailing with you around the Enchanted Islands covering a distance of 565 nautical miles. We really hope that you have enjoyed this experience onboard the MV Xpedition, and we wish you a happy and safe journey home.

Enjoy your evening