

\* Itineraries / activities are subject to change without prior notice due to weather conditions, National Park regulations, emergencies on board or any unforeseen situation.

## 4B 4-NIGHT ITINERARY TUESDAY - SATURDAY





## **M/C GRAND OCEAN SPRAY**

### **Itinerary B**

### **4-Night Cruise**

### **Tuesday – Saturday**

#### **DAY BY DAY ITINERARY DESCRIPTION**

(**B**: breakfast/ **L**: lunch/ **D**: dinner)

#### **Tuesday**

**AM:** Upon arrival, reception and assistance at the airport, transfer from Baltra Airport to the M/C Grand Ocean Spray.

#### **PM: Bartholomew - Pinnacle Rock**

Pinnacle Rock is a volcanic cone formed by magma expelled by an underwater volcano. The sea cooled the hot lava and as it exploded from contact, the pieces formed together this huge rock of many, many layers of basalt. The huge rock also has a beach where a small population of green sea turtles will nest during breeding season. Galapagos penguins gather here and swimming can offer beautiful sights of colorful schools of fish and curious sea lions.

**Activities:** Walking, snorkeling and dinghy ride

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Landing:** Wet Landing

**Possible Wildlife:** Galapagos penguins, sally lightfoot crabs, sea lions, rays, sea turtles, sharks, various tropical fish, various shore birds.

( -, L, D)

#### **Wednesday**

#### **AM: Genovesa - Darwin Bay**

Darwin Bay used to be a shield volcano, now you can see where one of the sides of its caldera collapsed after hundreds of years of erosion. It is known for the wide variety of birds that can be seen. Over 20,000 red-footed boobies are estimated to call this island home within the trees and bushes of Genovesa Island.

**Activities:** Walking, snorkeling, kayaking, dinghy ride

**Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate



**Landing:** Wet Landing

**Possible Wildlife:** Red-footed boobies, blue-footed boobies, nazca boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, finches, various shorebirds, rays, tropical fish species, marine iguanas, sea lions.

**PM: Genovesa - El Barranco**

In English, this visitor site is also known as Prince Phillip's Steps. It leads to a rocky path up a cliff that rewards guests with a remarkable view. It is also home to a Palo Santo forest that is home to the nesting red-footed boobies and other shorebirds.

**Activities:** Walking, snorkeling, kayaking, dinghy ride

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Landing:** Dry Landing

**Possible Wildlife:** Red-footed boobies, storm petrels, Galapagos doves, short-eared owls, sea turtles, rays, sharks, sea lions, marine iguanas.

(B, L, D)

**Thursday**

**AM: Santiago - Espumilla Beach / Buccaneer Cove**

As the second Island Charles Darwin discovered, it was originally named after King James of England. Buccaneer Cove is an excellent opportunity for snorkeling and was once a refuge for passing sailors and pirates. The underwater formations provide an amazing home for the many different tropical species of fish that can be found here.

**Activities:** Short walk on beach, snorkeling, kayaking, dinghy ride

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Landing:** Wet Landing

**Possible Wildlife:** Marine iguanas, sea lions, various shorebirds, tropical fish species, rays, sea turtles, sally lightfoot crabs.

**PM: Santiago - Egas Port**

Egas port is also known as James Bay, home to quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. There are grottos and tide pools housing all kinds of different marine species. This is also one of the best snorkeling sites in the Galapagos.

**Activities:** Walking, snorkeling



**Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate

**Landing:** Wet Landing

**Possible Wildlife:** Fur sea lions, Galapagos hawks, oyster-catchers, marine iguanas, finches, sharks, sea turtles, tropical fish.

(B, L, D)

## Friday

### AM: North Seymour Island

The island was named after English nobleman Lord Hugh Seymour. Formed by uplifted submarine lava, the island is home to a huge colony of about 2,500 land iguanas and large populations of sea lions, blue-footed boobies, common noddies, and frigatebirds. Along the coast, it is possible to see land and marine iguanas and the biggest colony of Magnificent Frigatebirds.

**Activities:** Walking, snorkeling, dinghy ride

**Difficulty:** Moderate/Difficult

**Landing:** Dry Landing

**Possible Wildlife:** Land and marine iguanas, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, common noddies, sea lions.

### PM: Santa Cruz – Highlands / Charles Darwin Research Station

On the highlands of Santa Cruz, you'll have the opportunity to see the famous giant tortoises in the wild. So renowned are these endemic animals that they gave the archipelago its name. Birdwatching is also one of the activities to do in the Santa Cruz highlands, since this area is home of finches and other Galapagos birds.

After the visit to the highlands, we continue to the famous Charles Darwin Research Station that provides guests with a unique opportunity to find out about the vital work that is being carried out to preserve the archipelago's ecosystems.

The Research Center is also home to a significant breeding program for Galapagos tortoises, whose numbers have been in decline since the 1970's.

These captivating reptiles are very accustomed to humans, so be sure to bring your camera for some close-ups.

**Activities:** Walking

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Landing:** Dry Landing

**Possible Wildlife:** Wild Galapagos Tortoises, various shorebirds, lava lizards.



(B, L, D)

## **Saturday**

### **AM: Mosquera Islet**

This visitor site is located between the islands of Baltra and North Seymour. It is a reef of rocks and coral (the result of an uprising) and a great white sand beach. Its narrowest width reaches about 160 meters and has an estimated length of 600 meters. In most of the perimeter there is a base of lava rocks, as evidence of the lava uprising, except in the southwest side where the landing occurs. This island has one of the largest populations of sea lions. You can also observe several species of shorebirds. There have been occasional reports at this site of Orcas (Orcinus orca) feeding on sea lions.

**Activities:** Short walk, snorkeling

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Landing:** Wet Landing

**Possible Wildlife:** Sea lions, various shore birds, frigate birds, sally lightfoot crabs.

### **Depart from Baltra airport.**

After this last visit, transfer to Baltra airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador.

Assistance and farewell at the airport.

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\*\*\*End of cruise\*\*\*

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