

Galapagos Legend ITINERARY A

4 days / 3 nights

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Our Galapagos itineraries offer unforgettable experiences, with our weekly departures allowing you to experience tours including: full board, two daily guided excursions with optional activities such as snorkelling, kayaking and dinghy rides. These cruises can be combined with Diving program extensions and additional nights in Galapagos (upon request).

A NORTH EXPEDITION

Monday - Thursday

Monday:

✈ Baltra Airport
pm. Highlands Tortoise Reserve 🐢
(Santa Cruz Island)

Tuesday:

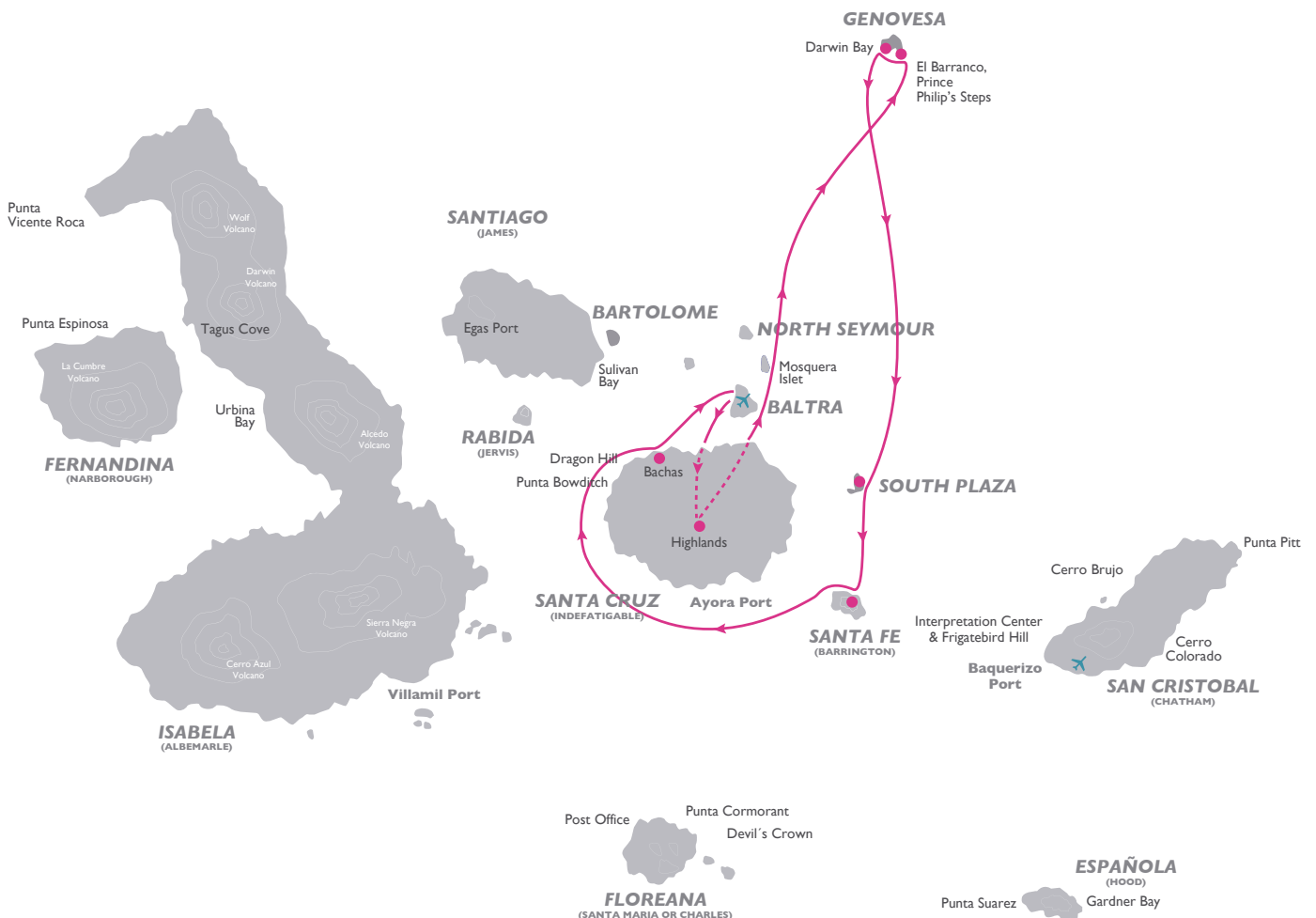
am. El Barranco, Prince Philip's Steps
(Genovesa Island)
pm. Darwin Bay (Genovesa Island)

Wednesday:

am. South Plaza Island
pm. Santa Fe Island

Thursday:

am. Bachas Beach (Santa Cruz Island)
✈ Baltra Airport





DAY 1 - MONDAY
am – Baltra Airport

Departure from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra Island (2 ½ hour flight). Arriving in the Galapagos, passengers are picked up at the airport by our naturalist guides to take advantage of the time in the archipelago.



am – Highlands Tortoise Reserve (Santa Cruz Island)

Dry landing. In the mountains of Galapagos is possible to admire different kind of birds, such as: tree and ground finches, vermillion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (usually standing on the tortoises' shell). The journey to the reserve offers great opportunities to see the contrasts that the island offers in reference to the variety of ecosystems. The road goes from the coast through the agricultural zone and straight up to the dense humid forests. Often, Galapagos giant tortoises are also seen on the way, wandering through pastures in the paddocks. This spot is a birdwatchers' haven, since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here.

Difficulty level: easy
Type of terrain: flat & muddy (depending on season)
Duration: 45-minute drive / 1 ½-hour walk



DAY 2 - TUESDAY
am - El Barranco Prince Philip's Steps (Genovesa Island)

Be marvelled at the variety of sea life that uses the crevices of the lava cliffs for shelter. Red-billed Tropicbirds fly overhead, switching between their nests and the bay, and a small colony of fur seals may be found near the landing site. You will be dropped off at a steep stairway that begins on rocks at the foot of a path that leads through a seabird colony full of Nazca and Red-footed Boobies. At the plateau, the trail continues inland allowing you to see more nesting booby colonies in the thin Palo Santo forest. Near the end of the trail, over a rocky lava plain, Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels can be observed flying in all directions. If you are lucky, you may catch a glimpse of a Short-eared Owl.

Difficulty level: moderate
Type of terrain: rocky – lava
Duration: 45-minute walk



pm – Darwin Bay (Genovesa Island)

Disembark onto a small sand and coral beach. A short trail heads west along a tidal lagoon and then up a rocky hill that leads to a point overlooking the cliffs and Darwin Bay. Along the trail near the tidal lagoon, visitors will see pairs of Swallow-tailed Gulls, Lava Gulls, Yellow-crowned and Lava Herons. The trail continues through Palo Santo trees, Opuntia cacti, and Saltbushes inhabited by Great Frigate birds and Red-footed Boobies. This is one of the few places in the islands where visitors are guaranteed to see Red-footed Boobies. It is estimated that more than 200,000 Red-footed Boobies live in the trees and bushes of Genovesa.

Difficulty level: moderate
Type of terrain: Sand & Lava
Duration: 2 ½-hour walk approx / Snorkeling





DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY

am – South Plaza Island

Sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls and land iguanas are all present at the landing site. The small island is covered with a carpet of a red succulent studded with *Opuntia* cacti. At the cliff edge, we spend time watching birds fly past at eye level in the updraught. These include frigatebirds, flocks of Galapagos shearwaters and of particular note, flights of displaying red-billed tropicbirds. Back at sea level, we once again encounter land iguanas, some of which have hybridized with their resident marine cousins.

Difficulty level: intermediate
Type of terrain: rocky
Duration: 2-hour walk



pm – Santa Fe Island

After a fabulous snorkel in the turquoise waters of the protected bay we may have enjoyed time with sea lions, turtles, reef sharks and spotted eagle rays. Landing onto a sandy beach we are immediately distracted by the abundant sea lions there with us. We begin a walk past a forest of island-endemic giant *Opuntia* cacti. Here we search for another island-endemic the Santa Fe land iguana, paler than its cousins on other islands. Galapagos hawks and even endemic rice rats are also things to look out for.

Difficulty level: intermediate
Type of terrain: rocky
Duration: 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour deep-water snorkeling



DAY 4 - THURSDAY

am – Bachas Beach (Santa Cruz Island)

Wet landing. On the north side of Santa Cruz; behind the beach lies two small flamingo ponds were iguanas sunbathe, see coastal birds, Darwin finches, mockingbirds, and gulls, as well as interesting native vegetation like red and black mangrove, salt bushes. This beach is one of the main sea turtles nesting sites in the Galapagos. A turtle can lay eggs 3 or 4 times per season with an average of 70 eggs each time. At this paradisiacal site, we will also find the remains of barges that sank a long time ago, when the United States Navy operated a base during World War II on Baltra Island. Local people modified the word barges to "Bachas".

Difficulty level: easy
Type of terrain: sandy
Duration: 1-hour walk / beach time



am - Baltra Airport

After the visit, passengers will be transferred to the airport for their return flight to Guayaquil or Quito.