



# **6DAYS/5NIGHTS (A)**

**ITINERARY**

**2012/2013**

6-Day Cruise "A": Saturday to Thursday – Isabela & Fernandina Islands

6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS "A"

OCEAN SPRAY

2012 /2013 OUTLINE ITINERARY

SATURDAY

*AM:* Baltra arrival and transfer to the boat

*PM:* Rabida

SUNDAY

*AM:* Isabela – Vicente Roca Point

*PM:* Fernandina – Espinosa Point

MONDAY

*AM:* Isabela – Tagus Cove

*PM:* Isabela – Urbina Bay

TUESDAY

*AM:* Isabela – Elizabeth Bay

*PM:* Isabela – Moreno Point

WEDNESDAY

*AM:* Santa Cruz – Charles Darwin Station

*PM:* Santa Cruz – Highlands

THURSDAY

*AM:* North Seymour/Baltra

## DETAILED ITINERARY

## DAY 1 (SATURDAY)

MORNING FLIGHT FROM QUITO OR GUAYAQUIL TO BALTRA (GALAPAGOS)

## RABIDA ISLAND

Assistance at the airport by our representative for your Galapagos flight.

You will arrive at Baltra Island in the morning. After passing through immigration and baggage claim you will be met by Ocean Spray staff and transferred to the yacht. You will be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing.

The afternoon visit, **Rabida Island (or Jervis)**, is one of the most colorful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago as well as a great snorkeling site. We will start on Rabida's famous maroon sandy beach and after an easy hike will arrive to a stunning lookout to enjoy the amazing landscapes in the way, we might find some land birds, such as Darwin's finches, Galapagos Hawks and Brown Pelicans.

**Possible Activities:** Snorkeling, Panga ride & short hike (0,6 mi / 1km)

**Difficulty:** Easy/ moderate

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** White-cheeked Pintail Ducks, Colorful Fish, Sea Lions, Brackish Water Lagoon, Penguins, Galapagos Hawk

## DAY 2 (SUNDAY)

## ISABELA &amp; FERNANDINA ISLANDS

**Isabela Island:** The largest in the archipelago, this seahorse-shaped island is also one of the youngest and most volcanically active.

The morning visit is to **Vicente Roca Point**. Comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola-mola (or **pacific** sunfish).

**Possible Activities:** Snorkeling & panga ride

**Difficulty:** Easy /moderate

**Type of Landing:** No landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Penguins, Blue-footed Boobies, Terns, Nazca Boobies, two types of Sea Lions.

**Snorkeling:** Sea Turtles, Rays and Puffer Fish.

**Fernandina Island:** No foreign species have ever invaded this island and therefore it is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. Fernandina is the youngest island in Galapagos. Access to this site is extremely restricted by the Galapagos National Park and you will be one of those very lucky visitors. The volcano "**La Cumbre**" dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean.

Crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands we will land at **Espinosa Point**, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, reach the island's highlight: the Flightless Cormorant nesting site. This area provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos Hawk.

**Possible Activities:** Hike of approx (1.2 mi / 2 km)

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry and slippery at low tide

**Highlights & Animals:** Flightless Cormorant, Marine Iguanas, AA Lava, Sea Lions, Penguins, Active Volcano "La Cumbre"

## DAY 3 (MONDAY)

**ISABELA ISLAND – TAGUS COVE & URBINA BAY**

The morning visit, including **Tagus Cove's** 'cliff-side gallery,' provides a clear view of pirate graffiti dating back to 1836. The contrast between vandalism and the pristine environment is thought provoking. Up the (1.25 mi / 2 km) hike through lava formations, we will see stunning views of the surrounding slopes and volcanoes, making our way to Darwin Lake. This salt-water crater-lake may have been filled with a tidal wave brought on by a volcanic eruption.

**Possible Activities:** Long hike, snorkeling, panga ride  
**Difficulty:** Moderate/ Difficult  
**Type of Landing:** Dry landing  
**Highlights & Animals:** Penguins, Blue Flightless Cormorants, Darwin Volcano & Lake

In the afternoon, we will land at **Urbina Bay** which presents some fascinating geological formations. In 1954, an uplift from the sea formed the bay; which has been characterized by the resulting terrestrial coral reef ever since. Expect to see stingrays and sea turtles swimming near the surface of the water, along with Flightless Cormorants, pelicans, and marine iguanas. You will be dazzled by the breathtaking view of the Alcedo Volcano, with the possibility to see land iguanas and giant tortoises in the wild.

**Possible Activities:** Snorkeling, panga ride & hike, 2 trails: short (0,6 mi / 1 km), long (1.8 mi / 3km)  
**Difficulty:** Easy /moderate  
**Type of Landing:** Wet landing  
**Highlights & Animals:** Land Iguanas (the biggest in Galapagos), Hawks, Coral Reef, Giant Tortoises  
**Snorkeling:** Turtles, Rays, Tropical Fish

## DAY 4 (TUESDAY)

**ISABELA ISLAND – ELIZABETH BAY & MORENO POINT**

The morning visit will take us to **Elizabeth Bay**, a secluded space lacking any landing sites. We will take a traditional 'panga' ride, passing the red mangroves and amongst the wildlife of the lively bay. Elizabeth is known for its marine life; you will probably see sea turtles and rays skimming the surface of the water. You may also see the Brown Pelicans diving for fish, penguins, Blue-footed Boobies & possibly spot humpback whales.

**Possible Activities:** Two-hour panga ride  
**Difficulty:** Easy  
**Type of Landing:** No landing  
**Highlights & Animals:** Mangrove Forest (unique in Galapagos), Sea Turtles, Penguins, Rays, Herons, Sea Lions.

In the afternoon we will visit **Moreno Point**, located south west of Elizabeth Bay. Here, a dry landing onto what was once flowing lava is possible. The lava has left craters in its wake, which formed crystal tide pools. By looking into the pools, you can peer into another world, as the marine life drifts by your window. In the brackish pools of this area, you may see pink flamingos, White-Cheeked Pintails, and Common Gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools you may see white tip reef sharks and some sea turtles.

**Possible Activities:** Snorkeling, panga ride & hike (1.2 mi / 2km)  
**Difficulty:** Moderate/Difficult  
**Type of Landing:** Dry landing  
**Highlights & Animals:** Flamingoes, gallinules, Pintail ducks, turtles, white tip reef sharks.

## DAY 5 (WEDNESDAY)

**SANTA CRUZ – CHARLES DARWIN & HIGHLANDS**

In the morning we start at the **Charles Darwin Station- Breeding Center "Fausto Llerena"** home to *tortoises* ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long. Here you will observe the various sub-species **of tortoises** interacting with each other, and possibly with you. **Many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans.** The babies are only kept until they are about four years old, or large enough to survive in the wild. These conservation efforts continue to be extremely successful.

**CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION**

**Possible Activities:** Walking

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Giant Tortoises, land and marine iguanas, variety of birds

In the afternoon we will visit the **Highlands of Santa Cruz** where you will walk along a path, observing the hills, ferns, volcanoes, and rich wildlife. This area is home to giant tortoises in natural conditions.

**Possible Activities:** Walking

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights:** Wild Turtles, Tortoises Breeding Center

## DAY 6 (THURSDAY)

**NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND & SANTA FE**

In the morning we will head to **North Seymour Island.** Here you will be able to see Galapagos sea lions, blue footed-boobies and magnificent frigate birds.

**Possible Activities:** Snorkeling, Panga ride & Hike (1.5 mi / 2 ½ km)

**Difficulty:** Moderate/difficult

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Land & Marine Iguanas, Frigate Birds, Blue-Footed Boobies, Sea Lions.

**Great snorkelling:** Rays, Reef Shark, Fish, Garden Eels

After this final visit, you will be transferred to Baltra Island's airport in time to catch your flight back to the mainland.

**IMPORTANT:**

*Itineraries and activities subject to change without prior notice. Depending on weather conditions and water currents, some wildlife described above may not be visible.*