



# Galapagos Best

Beauty Expeditions

Your journey of a lifetime starts here ...

## Cormorant Evolution Itinerary 2011



|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday</b>    | AM: Baltra Island Airport<br>PM: Santa Cruz Island: Charles Darwin Station      |
| <b>Monday</b>    | AM: Espanola Island: Suarez Point<br>PM: Espanola Island: Gardner Bay           |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | AM: Santa Fe Island<br>PM: South Plaza Island                                   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | AM: North Seymour Island<br>PM: Bartholomew Island: Pinnacle Rock               |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | AM: Fernandina Island: Espinosa Point<br>PM: Isabela Island: Urbina Bay         |
| <b>Friday</b>    | AM: Isabela Island: Elizabeth Bay<br>PM: Isabela Island: Moreno Point           |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | AM: Floreana: Devils Crown and Cormorant Point<br>PM: Floreana: Post Office Bay |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | AM: Santa Cruz Island: Highlands - Airport                                      |

|                  |   |
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| <b>Wednesday</b> | AM: Baltra Island Airport<br>PM: Bartholomew Island: Pinnacle Rock                |
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| <b>Sunday</b>    | AM: Santa Cruz Island: Highlands<br>PM: Santa Cruz Island: Charles Darwin Station |
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## Visitor sites

### Santa Cruz Island: Charles Darwin Station

This NGO celebrates 50 years of scientific work, and it is responsible, to a great extent, for the conservation status and the restoration of the Galapagos. An important partner in the duty of preservation of this pristine archipelago is the National Park Service who run the tortoise breeding centre. At this facility you will meet our conservation icon Lonesome George, the last remaining animal from the species of Pinta Island.



### Espanola Island: Suarez Point

Here you will experience Galapagos in all its natural beauty. The marine iguanas are really covered with fiery colors, sea lions leisurely wander around you, blue-footed boobies and Sally light-foot crabs coat the rocks with their intense grace. The walk leads you through the finest example of an ancient sea bird colony. The cliff shaped by strong wave action and the force of the wind is the home of the only tropical albatross of the Earth. This mythical elegant glider shares the precipice with many others sea birds like tropicbirds, the swallow tailed gull, and the Nazca booby.



### Espanola Island: Gardner Bay

Located on the north coast of Española, Gardner Bay has tranquil white sand beach. The fine grains of sand are perfect for a gentle walk and a relaxing late afternoon. You won't be alone, sea lions and Hood mocking birds will keep you company. Snorkeling off the beach is also possible.





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### Santa Fe Island

Here white sand on the seabed reflects the light to turn the calm waters turquoise. A small forest of gigantic prickly pear cactus grows on a peninsula that keeps the bay sheltered, and there is a large sea lion colony. Santa Fe is an ancient extinct volcano and it has been isolated from other islands long enough to have its own endemic land iguana. Galapagos Hawks, mocking birds, finches and endemic rice rats are sometimes seen.

### South Plaza Island

The dry landing takes you to a brilliant combination of life and colors. Land iguanas wandering through bright red carpet weed, Swallow tailed gulls nesting around the overhanging cliff tops and red-billed tropicbirds and frigate birds and shearwaters flying with dancing displays. This is one of the best places in the archipelago to see land iguanas and swallow-tailed gulls, both indigenous to the Galapagos. There are iguana nests scattered all over the hill. The sheer cliffs of the southern shore are a perfect bird habitat, making it an unparalleled bird observatory especially for swallow-tailed gulls, Audubon shearwaters, and red-billed tropicbirds.



### North Seymour Island

If this is your last day, North Seymour is the best way of saying goodbye to the Galapagos. We will walk among the largest blue-footed booby colony of the Islands. If it is breeding season, you will enjoy their dancing and singing to find a mate. Frigate birds nest here and the males inflate their pouches to attract the females flying above them. Swallow tailed gulls and tropicbirds adorn the large basaltic walls of the island.





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### Bartholomew Island: Pinnacle Rock

Bartholomew Island offers an explosive volcanic landscape. Get ready to climb above 270 feet to admire the dramatic spatter cones and the view of Pinnacle Rock – the most photographed view in Galapagos. Later, time permitting, we will walk on golden beaches where sea turtles nest (December to March), and swim with sea lions, penguins, and maybe even small sharks.



### Fernandina Island: Espinosa Point

Here you can witness the world's end and still being formed, together with mountains of marine iguanas, dramatic lava-bordered beaches, and emerald mangroves.



### Isabela Island: Urbina Bay

The landmass of the inlet was uplifted in 1954. More than ¾ of a mile of shoreline was created, and many coral reef extensions were exposed to air as the upheaval rose from the seabed. The land iguanas of Isabela are the largest in the Galapagos and roam the low lands looking for food. Also, when the rains arrive, it is possible to see giant tortoises sharing the land with the other primitive looking reptile. Urbina is a miniature reminder of a Jurassic time.





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### Isabela Island: Elizabeth Bay

Elizabeth Bay is the only place on the Earth where old tropical mangrove forests and penguins can be found together. The ecosystem is also the residence of spotted eagle rays, sea turtles and a nursery for fish and marine invertebrates. With the outboards off and using only our oars for speed, we will enjoy this serene array of life.



### Isabela Island: Moreno Point

When you land on Punta Moreno you will understand why the Spanish Bishop that discovered the Islands said: "It was as if God had decided to rain stones". When he first set foot on a lava field he struggled to find fresh water and in desperation was reduced to chew on cactus pads to quench his thirst. More than three centuries later a young Naturalist saw beyond the lava. Charles Darwin was amazed by the colonization of plants and the start of life over this terrain. He thought this process could easily compare to the origin of life in our planet. The mystery of mysteries ... The pioneer cactus growing over this country of lava is contrasted with stunning oases. Where lava tunnel roofs have collapsed, brackish water accumulates to give life to greater flamingoes, moorhens, black-necked stilts and Galapagos Martins.



### Floreana: Devils Crown and Cormorant Point

Devils Crown has some of the best snorkelling in all of Galapagos, with white tipped reef sharks, tropical fish, and even some corals. Punta Cormorant lies on the northern shore of Floreana and is the home of greater flamingoes, sea turtles, whimbrels, herons and stilts.





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### Floreana: Post Office Bay

Post Office Bay has left a legacy of pirates, whalers, scientific expeditions and intense stories of murder and constant ambiguity. After a wet landing we walk a very short distance to take part in a most important Galapagos tradition – checking our mail, and taking mail for our neighbours.



### Santa Cruz Island: Highlands

In the highlands of Santa Cruz island, we will search for giant tortoises in the wild, see birds and upland plants, and the forests of giant daisy trees.



## Tariff 2011

| Cabin            | Season   | 8 days/7 nights | 5 days/4 nights | 4 days/3 nights | 10 % Discount for groups of 6 or more<br>25% Discount for children under 12<br>20% Xmas and New Year surcharge<br>70% Single supplement:<br>NIL Fuel surcharge |
|------------------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Standard         | Low      | \$3,895         | \$2,495         | \$1,895         |  |
| Standard         | High     | \$4,295         | \$2,895         | \$1,995         |  |
| Suite supplement | All year | \$195           | \$95            | \$95            |  |
| Charter          | Low      | \$52,450        | \$33,450        | \$25,450        |  |
| Charter          | High     | \$57,950        | \$38,950        | \$26,950        |  |