

Genovesa Island

Dec 16, 2022 - National Geographic Endeavour II



A flying Nazca booby juvenile at Darwin Bay. Photo by Omar Adrian



A young red-footed booby on Genovesa Island. Photo by Omar Adrian



Galapagos mockingbird looking for some breakfast. Photo by Omar Adrian



Darwin finch looking for seeds on the beach. Photo by Omar Adrian



Lava heron looking for food at Darwin Bay. Photo by Omar Adrian

While navigating along the northeast corner of the archipelago, we have reached the final full day of our expedition in the Galápagos Islands. Early in the morning, we woke up inside the majestic caldera of Genovesa, which is considered the “Island of the Birds.”

After six hours of navigation, we enjoyed breakfast with dramatic views of impressive volcanic landscape, including the clefts of an old, massive, collapsed caldera that is home to many different species of marine birds. We dropped anchor with outings planned for both sides of the island. The ship was divided into two groups. Half of us visited Darwin Bay and the other half went to Prince Philip’s Steps. Both outings were fantastic, and we enjoyed observing red-footed boobies everywhere. This island is home to some 200,000 red-footed boobies, the largest population in the world.

Our morning ended with water activities. We had the opportunity to take magical pictures of different wildlife species along the rocks during a fantastic kayak. Guests were surrounded by plenty of colorful fish, Galapagos sea lions, and fur seals while snorkeling. It was a phenomenal experience!

In the afternoon, the groups switched, and excursions took place again at Prince Philip’s Steps and Darwin Bay. Then we walked through incense trees and a yellow cordia forest, which led us to a lava field. We spotted Galapagos mockingbirds, many frigatebirds, and the endemic Nazca boobies with their chicks.

We ended our walk as the sun was setting and returned to the ship with great memories. It was a fantastic adventure! Every day in the Galapagos is an opportunity to reconnect with the beauty of nature through unbelievable encounters. Today was no exception while visiting the northeastern region of the Galapagos. What a perfect way to end this fantastic journey!

About the Author



Omar Adrian · Naturalist

Omar arrived at the Galapagos with his family when he just a year old. His father was a Naturalist in the islands and would take him exploring both on land and in the water, aboard the ships he was working on. At an early age, he learned all about the unique nature of the archipelago and the species that inhabit it. Omar got sea legs before getting land legs and being bare footed on the rocky Galapagos terrain was his natural way. He has happy memories of a childhood spent in Puerto Ayora, on Santa Cruz Island, where he went to an English language kindergarten and spent hours in the water and on the coralline sandy beaches abundant on the island. As he grew older, they moved to Quito, the capital of Ecuador, where continued with the rest of his education surrounded by the snow-capped Andes. They would return to the islands during summer vacations, however, and these visits grew longer as Omar grew up. He got to witness first-hand how his hometown grew from small rural village to commercial town. Eventually, Puerto Ayora got too big for the family's tastes, so they moved to San Cristobal Island, the place that he considers home to this day.