

## BARTOLOMÉ & SOMBRERO CHINO

Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Sunrise: 0548; Low tide: 1318, 1.8 / 0.6 m**

**Sunset: 1758; High tide: 0705, 5.1 ft. / 1.7 m**

Today we'll enjoy a combination of walks, Zodiac rides, swimming and snorkeling activities. Early morning will see us at Bartolomé (Bartholomew), a lovely volcanic islet just off the east coast of Santiago Island, the fourth largest of the Galapagos Islands, found in the rain shadow of the larger islands of Santiago and Santa Cruz. Few plant species can withstand the drought conditions that occur here. A volcanic moonscape of rust-colored "spatter cones" contrasts with large pale tuff cones and sooty lava flows, where the action of erosion over time has created graceful features in the soft volcanic ash. Several beaches made of gold tinged broken down tuff, bordered by green mangroves add further color to this scenic landscape mosaic.

The above setting will be the focus of an optional early morning (dry) landing which leads to an energetic climb to the summit of this island, 359 ft/120 m high. To control erosion in the friable volcanic tuff the Galapagos National Park Service has constructed a long wooden staircase (376 steps!) over the steeper inclines, making the walk relatively easy, though certainly heart-pumping. The view from the top, however, is worth every breath, so we encourage you to participate in this pre-breakfast outing. After breakfast everyone will have a chance to land on the beautiful golden beach for swimming and/or snorkeling in the nearby shallows, and there will also be deep-water snorkeling for the more experienced. There is a possibility that you will be joined in the water by flitting Galapagos penguins. If water clarity permits, there will be a final opportunity for an outing in the glass bottom boat.

Once aboard, we shall set sail along the southeast coast of Santiago until we anchor close to Sombrero Chino and the Bainbridge Islets. These are interesting small volcanoes, probably formed when the sea level was lower, as parasitic cones of Santiago Island. We'll devote our time to snorkeling and Zodiac rides against the backdrop of another-worldly landscape born of fire, home to Galapagos sea lions, penguins and shore birds.

In 1997, Lindblad Expeditions "adopted" Santiago Island and created a special fund (now the Lindblad Expeditions - National Geographic Fund for Galapagos) through which our guests could help support a major eradication effort to eliminate feral goats and pigs from the island. Today, the goats and pigs are completely gone, thanks in part to donations from some 20,000 of your fellow guests. This enormous success says a lot about the role that caring travelers can play in saving the truly special places on earth. Lindblad Expeditions has been honored with a long list of prestigious awards in recognition of what you have achieved on Santiago Island and elsewhere in Galapagos. Thank you!

## BARTOLOMÉ & SOMBRERO CHINO, Thursday's Schedule

- 0600** Optional early morning wake-up call for pre-breakfast outing.
- 0615** Dry landing for those walking to the top of Bartolomé Islet. Zodiac ride instead of hike.
- 0700-0730** If you are staying on board, join wellness specialist at the sun deck.
- 0745-0845** Breakfast is served.
- 0845-0900** Exchange Snorkeling Gear
- 0900** Disembarkation for Bartolomé (wet landing) where you can swim and snorkel from the landing beach.

**Please note that - as per Galapagos National Park regulations - we can stay at the beach until 1000**

- 1020** Deep water snorkeling departs from the ship.
- 1030** Glass bottom boat outings for non-snorkelers. (Other outings at 11:00 and 11:30).
- 1230** Lunch is served in the dining room.
- 1330** Naturalists will be in the library for Global Explorers to paint your Galapagos Hat.
- 1400** Join Ecologist, Conservationist and Author, Professor Carl Safina, in the lounge, for his presentation: Culture in Animals.
- 1500** Deep water snorkelers depart for Chinese Hat.
- 1700** Disembarkation for Zodiac rides for Chinese Hat (non-snorkelers).
- 1900** Join us in the lounge for a briefing about tomorrow's program followed by a preview of this week's Lindblad Expeditions Video Chronicle.
- 1940** Barbecue dinner at the observation deck if conditions are fine. Afterwards join naturalist Christian Saa for his musical performance in the lounge.

### Your ideas for THURSDAY:

- **Out in the Field:**
  - Spot it: a bird with feathers like fur, a predator, a "pioneer plant", two types of volcanic cones, a volcano that looks like a hat, something that lives in a hole.
  - Learn about parasitic volcanoes (tuff, cinder and spatter cones). (draw them on page 8).
- **Story Telling Challenge:** Tell a story about your fish in FASHION A FISH, or make Your Movie.