

## GENOVESA ISLAND

Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Sunrise: 0548; Low tide: 1410 2.1 ft. / 0.7 m    Sunset: 1759; High tide: 0801 4.8 ft. / 1.6 m**

Our last full day in the Galapagos will be spent on the spectacular island of Genovesa, also known by the English name of Tower (after a British admiral). This will represent an overwhelming seabird experience. From frigate birds, red-footed boobies and swallow-tailed gulls to storm petrels and tropicbirds, this low, brushy island serves as a beacon to myriad winged ocean wanderers. Early in the morning we will anchor at Darwin's Bay, the huge submerged caldera of this dormant volcano, which now resonates with bird calls. Enjoy the beautiful scenery of Darwin Bay, perhaps in the company of young red footed boobies and frigates birds that may be resting on the pool and sky deck handrails.

Genovesa has two sites we will all visit, but we need to split our group in half to come within carrying capacity limitations for each site (as per Galapagos National Park specifications); half our group will visit the Prince Phillip's Steps first, while the other half is visiting Darwin Bay area. In the afternoon we will switch sites so everyone can experience the island's diversity.

Prince Philip's Steps (dry landing) lead you up a narrow fissure to the cliff top (about 90 ft/30m elevation gain) and a lovely hike. We follow the trail through a palo santo forest to a storm petrel colony, passing boobies and frigates along the way, and we may even find a hunting owl. Alternatively, one may simply return to the ship after the Zodiac ride without making a landing.

Darwin Bay area requires a wet landing on a white, coralline beach for which you might need footwear (due to larger pieces of coral and shells). On this outing we will all have ample time to stop and contemplate, pause and wonder, and study the behavior of some of the fascinating birds around us.

Please keep in mind, as we reminisce about the wonderful week we have spent exploring the Enchanted Islands, that Galapagos is a unique and incomparable region of our planet. We need to protect it forever – this is not a choice for the world, but an imperative. In the end it will be the passion and insistence of the visitors that will ensure the preservation of the Galapagos Islands. Your enthusiasm for this place plays the key role in its protection.

## GENOVESA, Friday's Schedule

NOTE: This morning is your last chance to turn in laundry.

- 0600** Breakfast for Photo Emphasis Groups (Please sign-up).
- 0630** Disembarkation for Photo Emphasis Groups, Darwin Bay - Wet Landing.
- 0630** Stretching with Wellness Specialist.
- 0700-0800** Breakfast for Natural History Emphasis Groups.
- 0800** Disembarkation for Natural History Emphasis Groups, Long Hike: Prince Philip's Steps – Dry landing.
- 0815** Disembarkation for the easiest option, an easy short walk in Darwin Bay sandy trail (wet landing). You can do this walk with sandals.
- ~1030** Deep-water snorkelers depart from the ship and immediately after, disembarkation for the beach to swim or relax.
- ~1200** All aboard.
- 1230** Departure briefing in the lounge.
- 1300** Lunch is served. Afterwards, Purser will open the global gallery for the final time.

*If you wish to join in our efforts to conserve Galápagos by donating to the LEX-NG Fund please do not forget to drop your filled out form at the front desk. In addition to the genuine satisfaction of helping the conservation of this paradise, you can obtain a significant discount on your future travel dreams.*

*Let's try to obtain 100% participation in this departure!*

- 1330-1500** Meet Photo Instructor in the library to submit the pictures you want to share.
- 1400** Disembarkation paddleboard. (You will be back on time for hikes)
- 1530** Disembarkation begins for Prince Philip's Steps, followed by the Darwin Bay walk.
- 1900** Join Captain Pablo Garcés for our Farewell Cocktail Party in the lounge.
- 1930** Dinner is served.

**Your ideas for FRIDAY:**

- **Out in the Field:**
  - Complete all the check-lists (page 41 to page 48)
  - Look for: a kleptoparasitic bird, an egg on the island, a non-prickly prickly pear cactus.
- **Story Telling Challenge:** Tell a story about colors in nature.
- **Aboard Ship:**
  - Write about the traits of a Global Explorer (pages 56 and 57)