

6 Days/5 Nights

Departs Tuesdays from Quito or Guayaquil



M/Y Sea Star Journey Cruise A: Galapagos Islands

This boutique yacht, with 8 spacious suites, was named "South America's Leading Boutique Cruise for 2017" by World Travel Awards. Amenities include a large solarium with hot tubs and a mini-spa. Capacity: 16 guests.

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Cruise Accommodations

INCLUSIONS

- Roundtrip Air & Ground Transfers

- Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee

- Excursions with Naturalist Guide
- All Meals



ARRIVAL:

(AM) Flight to Galapagos from Quito/Guayaquil Airport:

Upon arrival at **San Cristobal Island**, guides will meet you, collect your luggage, and escort you to the ship, where the crew will welcome you aboard. After a welcome briefing and safety drill, a delicious buffet lunch is served on board.

(PM) San Cristobal:

In the afternoon, you will visit **Puerto Chino**. It is rife with huge cacti spreading over the trail like trees. Once you get on the beach, you will enjoy its surroundings with wildlife. Sea lions share the beach with people so its common see the pups playing and swimming. Enjoy the deep blue waters with the waves and tide, often visited by tortoises.

Later, you will visit the Breeding Center Jacinto Gordillo. Also known as the "Galapaguera" it is a good place to observe Galapagos tortoises in their natural habitat. San Cristobal island has endemic species such as the Mockingbird *Nesomimus melanotis*, lava lizard, Chatham Leaf-toed Gecko, and the tortoises. All of these species can be observed in this place.

(Lunch, Dinner, & Accommodations, M/Y Sea Star Journey)



M/Y SEA STAR JOURNEY:

(AM) Española Island, Gardner Bay:

Located on the north-eastern coast of Hood, Gardner Bay provides an excellent beach for relaxing, swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, and the opportunity to observe sea lions. Here we can also observe sharks in the crystal-clear ocean waters.

(PM) Punta Suarez:

This rocky land spot sustains one of the most impressive and varied colonies of sea birds in the Galapagos. Along with its southern shore, high cliffs rise up from the sea affording the visitor spectacular views of soaring birds and of the blow hole where water spouts up to 50-75 feet into the air according to the intensity of the surf.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, & Accommodations, M/Y Sea Star Journey)



M/Y SEA STAR JOURNEY:

(AM) Punta Cormorant, Floreana

This site offers the best Flamingo lagoon in the Galapagos; it is also one of the largest in the islands. There are two tuff lava cones between it, so the area has a special atmosphere. There are various species of shorebirds to observe besides flamingos; the most frequent are common stilts, white-checked pintail ducks and, likewise other migratory birds. It is very interesting to see the two distinct beaches: "The Green Beach" (due to its high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand) and the "Flour Sand Beach" which is made up of coral.

(PM) Post Office Bay & Baroness Bay, Floreana:

Historically, this site is the location of a wooden barrel placed in the 18th century by the crew of a whaling ship. The mariners, as well as tourists, used it as a post office. In fact, the idea is to carry letters or postcards to their destination by hand. At the same time, this site was the landing area for some of the first colonists.

We will continue to the north of the island and will visit the Baroness Bay. Here we will have the opportunity to kayak and explore the inlets where seabird nesting sites and sea lion colonies can be found. It is said that Baroness Eloisa von Wagner loved this place and spent several hours watching the horizon. It is a beautiful bay that allows you to breathe in the coastal and volcanic scenery. You will enjoy amazing views from the Sea Star sundeck covering the scenery from Enderby islet to Post Office Bay, Cerro Pajas, the pool of flamingos and wide forest of Palo Santo.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, & Accommodations, M/Y Sea Star Journey)



M/Y SEA STAR JOURNEY:

(AM) Santa Fe Island:

Santa Fe is in the southeastern part of the Galapagos. There are some theories which suggest this could be the oldest island in the Archipelago. Santa Fe is the home to a number of endemic species like the Galapagos Hawk, Galapagos snake, Galapagos mockingbird, and one of the two species of land Iguanas of the islands. After disembarkation in the beautiful and clear waters, you will be in contact with one of the many sea lion colonies. You can see many salt bushes along the trail as well giant prickly pear cactus; gigantism is a characteristic of oceanic islands. There are great possibilities of snorkeling with playful sea lions and tropical fishes.

(PM) Plazas:

Plazas is at the east of Santa Cruz Island and forms part of two islands known as Islas Plazas. Despite its small size, some of the most interesting and outstanding

species of the Galapagos are found here. The Plazas land iguanas are smaller than its relatives found at other islands. Throughout the island are several hybrid iguanas, a result of crossing a male marine iguana and a female land iguana, they are unique, recognizable at first glance by their black/gray color, with a land iguana's crest, but face and tail of the marine iguana. The big population of iguanas is due to the presence of tuna, their favorite food. You can also see Swallow Tailed Gulls nesting along the cliffs with other sea birds, such as Audubon shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, frigate birds and brown pelicans.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, & Accommodations, M/Y Sea Star Journey)



M/Y SEA STAR JOURNEY:

(AM) North Seymour Island:

Seymour is an uplifted (as opposed to volcanic) island and so is generally flat and strewn with boulders. There are good nesting sites here for a large population of magnificent frigate birds. Blue-footed boobies perform their courtship dance in the more open areas and swallow-tailed gulls perch on the cliff edges. Despite the tremendous surf that can pound the outer shore, sea lions haul out onto the beach and surf. The trees are dotted with male frigate birds trying to attract the attention of the ladies by inflating their bright red skin flaps. They sometimes fly in the air to call more attention to themselves. There's a circular path that takes you through the island to a beautiful, rocky shore where the waves crash.

(PM) Bachas Beach, Santa Cruz Island:

These two small beaches are in the West of Turtle Cove. Their sand is made of decomposed coral, which makes it white and soft, making it a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind one of the beaches, there is a small brackish water lagoon, where occasionally is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels. The other beach is longer, and has two old barges abandoned during the Second World War when the USA used Baltra Island as a strategic point to protect the Panama Canal.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, & Accommodations, M/Y Sea Star Journey)

**DAY
6**

DEPARTURE:

(AM) Mosquera Islet:

The Mosquera Islet is located between Baltra and North Seymour Islands and it was formed by a geological uplift. In its narrowest width reaches 160 meters approximately. This islet has one of the largest populations of sea lions. Visitors can also observe several species of shorebirds, reports of dolphins and orcas if you are lucky.



After this activity, you will transfer to Baltra Airport for your flight back to the mainland.

(Breakfast, M/Y Sea Star Journey)
