



Galapagos Cruises: Seaman Journey

Visit the islands and see famous Galapagos creatures such as penguins and fur seals living on the equator, marine iguanas, giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies and the Galapagos albatross.

INCLUSIONS

- Roundtrip Air and Ground Transfers
- 7 Nights Seaman Journey

- Galapagos National Park Fee
- Tours with Naturalist Guide

- All Meals



FRIDAY:

Santa Cruz Island: The flight from Quito to the Galapagos is approximately 2 1/2 hours on a Boeing 727. Upon arrival at Baltra travelers pass through an airport inspection point to insure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands and to pay the park entrance fee of \$100 (unless prepaid), and \$10 for the INGALA card which is an identity card that you need. Guides will meet you, collect your luggage, and escort you on the short bus ride to the harbor. Motorized rafts, called "Pangas" will transport you to the M/C Journey I and our crew will welcome you onboard. After departure and lunch, the first island visit is made.

Santa Cruz Highlands: Journeying across Santa Cruz into the highlands visitors are delighted by the island's variety of life and geology. Beginning at the coast and traveling across Santa Cruz the road departs from Puerto Ayora climbing through the agricultural lands and into the mist covered forests. Santa Cruz possesses all of the various life zones present in the archipelago. As you travel through these zones birders are enchanted. Whether it's the bright red feathers of a vermilion flycatcher or one of Darwin's Finch almost every bird present in the islands can be found here. Santa Cruz offers excellent opportunities for viewing wild Galapagos Tortoises. Tracking tortoises is not the only exciting activity to be found in the highlands. There are also plenty of lava tubes, sinkholes and craters to explore. These eerie formations offer a fascinating hike into the belly of the island to view its volcanic make-up.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner & Accommodations, Seaman Journey)



SATURDAY:

Mangle point: Off the eastern coast of Fernandina, Mangle Point offers great snorkeling, and the opportunity to take a panga or zodiac through the mangrove trees. You can also take a 1/2 mile hike to see sea lions, tortoises, pelicans, rays, and many colorful birds.

Punta Moreno: Located on the north coast of Isabela Island between the Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul volcanos, enjoy a trail hike along a Pahohoe lava flow. Head into a complex of coastal lagoons, where several species of birds can be found among the lakes and mangroves.

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SUNDAY:

Urbina Bay: Urbina Bay is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast of Isabela, between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954, which caused the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out, leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is a great place to snorkel, as well as to hike. The course is approximately 3200m, and made up of sand, pumice, lava, coral and vegetation where one can observe iguana burrows. In Bahia Urbina you can see Darwin's finches. Its main attraction is the land iguanas, which are larger than in places like South Plaza Island and Galapagos tortoises also in the wild. A large amount of vegetation can be observed such as chamomile and Rosewood, but among all these plants, the beautiful flowers of cotton Darwin, endemic to the Galapagos Islands stand out.

Tagus Cove: Tagus Cove is located west of Darwin Volcano on Isabela Island. This was a favorite spot for pirates and whalers, who started the following tradition: the inscription of the names of boats. At the beginning of the trail, you will see a small cave where you will find inscriptions dating to the 1800s. Due to former eruptions, the substrate has a large amount of volcanic rocks of different sizes, among the most common are little balls of nearly spherical shape known as the "lapilli" or petrified rain.

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MONDAY:

Espinoza Point: Espinoza Point is a place famous for its large colonies of marine iguanas and as the habitat of unique species like the flightless cormorant, Galapagos penguin, Galapagos hawk, and Galapagos snake.

Vicente Roca Point: One of the most impressive and spectacular places of the enchanted Galapagos Islands: with high cliffs and tuffstone, ash and lava formations give this area a majestic feel. Comprised of two distinct islets, this large bay has a spectacular marine life. Here, you can see seahorses, sea turtles and the strange yet fascinating Mola-mola or sunfish. This bay is a great place to enjoy a Panga Ride and Snorkeling. You can also find penguins, Blue-footed boobies, Terns, Boobies, Sea lions.

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TUESDAY:

Santiago Island - Playa Espumilla/Bucanero: Espumilla beach is located in northern coast of Santiago Island in James Bay. During the last presence the El Niño phenomenon, one of the two lagoons in this site, underwent a process of sedimentation, thus causing the disappearance of a representative colony of flamingos. The main attractions are the palo santo and the marvelous. The beach is an important site for nesting marine turtles.

Puerto Egas: Its black beach is located at the west side of the island and is the main attraction of the island. Their volcanic tuff deposits have favored the formation of this special black sand beach. This site is called Puerto Egas, because there was an attempt of company of Hector Egas, to start the exploitation of salt, which failed because the price of salt in the continent was very cheap, and did not justify its exploitation in Galapagos. The project was abandoned and they left their infrastructure.

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WEDNESDAY:

Rabida/Chinese Hat - Rábida Island: Rábida Island is unique because the red color of the rocks and sand. The volcanic material in this island is very porous and external factors as rain, salt water, and sea breeze have acted as an oxidizing agent. A short walk along a trail lead you to a coastal lagoon behind the beach which permits you to observe the land birds such as finches, doves, yellow warblers, and mocking birds. At the lagoon there is a colony of flamingos.

Chinese Hat: This is a small islet (1 sq km) located just off the southeastern tip of Santiago Island. It is a recent volcanic cone, shaped like a Chinese hat when seen from north side. On the west you can see lava formations, formed under the sea and raised upward, this is why coral heads are found on the lava. This is an excellent visit for interpretation of geological features such as lava tubes and lava flows. The landscape is covered by sea lions colonies, marine iguanas, and Galapagos penguins.

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THURSDAY:

Santiago Island - Sullivan Bay: Santiago, also called James, or San Salvador Island, is located in the west central part of the Galapagos archipelago. It is the fourth largest island in the archipelago (following Isabela, Fernandina and Santa Cruz). Along with some of the large western volcanoes of Isabela and Fernandina, Santiago is also volcanically active, with many young flows and cones to be seen, particularly along the south, west, and east coasts. These may even be seen from the summit of Darwin Volcano and from space. A number of historic eruptions have been reported over the last 2 centuries. Santiago actually consists of two coalesced volcanoes: a typical shield volcano on the northwest end and a low, linear fissure volcano on the southeast end.

Bartolome: Bartolome Island is situated across Sullivan Bay. It has an altitude of 114 meters, from where we can observe one of the most beautiful sceneries of the Galapagos Islands such as: Volcanic cones, lunar-like craters, lava fields, and the famous Toba formed pinnacle eroded by the sea. There is very little vegetation on this island. It has two breathtaking beaches where marine turtles exist and at the base of the pinnacle, as well as a very small colony of Galapagos penguins.

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FRIDAY:

Santa Cruz Island - Bachas Beach: These two small beaches are found to 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 it is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels. The other beach is longer, but it has two old barges that were abandoned during the Second World War, when the USA used Baltra Island as a strategically point to protect the Panama Channel.

After the morning excursion you will be taken to the airport for your flight to the mainland.