



## Seaman Galapagos Cruise (#19412)

**Note:** Price printed on this PDF is valid until **30-11-2024** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

### Trip Highlights

Galapagos - Santa Cruz - Fernandina, Mangle Point - Punta Moreno - Isabela Island, Urbina Bay - Tagus Cove - Fernandina Island - Vicente Roca Point - Santiago Island - Vicente Roca Point - Rábida Island - Chinese Hat - Santiago Island, Sullivan Bay - Bartolome Island - Bachas Island - Baltra - North Seymour - Genovesa, Island El Barranco - Darwin Bay - Plazas, Santa Cruz - Santa Fe - San Cristobal

### Detailed Itinerary

#### Day 01

#### DAY 01 : (Friday) Galapagos - Santa Cruz

AM: FLIGHT TO GALAPAGOS - This day you will fly to the Galapagos Island. Due to the Galapagos Government, a fee of AUD 47 must be paid for the migration control card.

Once in Santa Cruz, passengers must go through an inspection point at the airport to make sure that no foreign plants or animals are being introduced to the archipelago. Also, this inspection point is where passengers have to pay for the entrance



to the Galapagos National Park under the following parameters: Passengers Foreigners AUD 234 and Children AUD 117 (under 12 years old).

Our guide will pick you up and carry your luggage to the bus that transports the tourists to the ferries to cross the Itabaca Channel. After this, passengers will be taken by another bus to the first visit to Ranch Manzanillo where visitors must wear comfortable walking shoes, light clothing and a waterproof jacket, sun-block lotion, a camera and repellent for the first activity. The visit to Ranch Manzanillo includes a picnic lunch and a short walk before boarding the Motor Catamaran. It is important to follow these instructions in order to accomplish this itinerary properly. Please be aware that passenger's luggage will be sent directly to the yacht. Santa Cruz offers excellent opportunities to observe the 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 ready to be explored.

#### Day 02

#### DAY 02: (Saturday) Fernandina, Mangle Point - Punta Moreno

AM: FERNANDINA ISLAND, MANGLE POINT - Off the eastern coast of Fernandina, Mangle Point can be found, a superior snorkelling site and a beautiful location for riding in a panga or zodiac through a grove of mangrove trees. A hike of about 1/2 miles is possible. While you are on your ride, you are likely to see sea lions, tortoises, pelicans, rays and birds too numerous to name them all.

PM: PUNTA MORENO - Punta Moreno is located on the north coast of Isabela Island between the volcano Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul volcano. The trail runs along a lava flow Pahoehoe (solidified lava in the form of corrugated or an accordion) into a complex of coastal lagoons, where several species of birds which can be found around this lakes and mangroves.

#### Day 03

#### DAY 03: (Sunday) Isabela Island, Urbina Bay - Tagus Cove

AM: ISABELA ISLAND, URBINA BAY - Urbina Bay is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast, 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 also a great place to snorkel. Urbina Bay is a path that starts off with a wet landing. The course is approximately 3200m, and made up of sand, pumice, lava, coral and vegetation where one can observe iguana burrows. It is an ideal place to see red and blue lobster! 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, sometimes even out of season they are on the bottom of the islands. 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.

PM: ISABELA ISLAND, TAGUS COVE - Tagus Cove is located west of Darwin Volcano on Isabela Island. This was a favourite spot for pirates and whalers, and it was them 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. Its name originated from a British warship that went across the islands in 1814 looking for Galapagos Tortoise for food. 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.

#### Day 04

#### DAY 04: (Monday) Fernandina Island - Vicente Roca Point

AM: FERNANDINA ISLAND, ESPINOZA POINT - Espinoza Point is a famous place known 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.

PM: VICENTE ROCA POINT - One of the most impressive and spectacular places of the enchanted Galapagos Islands; with high cliffs and tuff stone, ash and lava formations give this area a majestic touch, is Punta Vicente Roca. It is located in the north-western coast of the island; it comprises 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 practice Panga Ride and Snorkelling. You can as well find: Penguins, Blue-footed boobies, Terns, Boobies, Sea lions. Also you can snorkel and observe sea turtles, stingrays and puffer fishes.

#### Day 05

#### Day 05: (Tuesday) Santiago Island - Vicente Roca Point

AM: SANTIAGO ISLAND, PLAYA ESPUMILLA - Espumilla beach is located on the northern coast of Santiago Island in James Bay. During the last presence of 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 palosanto forest and the nesting of baby turtles.

PM: VICENTE ROCA POINT - its black beach is located on the west side of the island and is the main attraction of the island. Their volcanic tuff deposits have favoured the formation of this special black sand beach. This site is called Puerto Egas, because there was an attempt 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 and the infrastructure was left abandoned.



### Day 06

#### Day 06: (Wednesday) Rábida Island - Chinese Hat

AM: RABIDA ISLAND - Rábida Island is unique due to the red colour that colours all rocks and sand. The volcanic material in this island is very porous and external factors as rain, salty water, and sea breeze have acted as an oxidizing agent. A short walk along a trail leads you to a coastal lagoon behind the beach which permits you to observe the land birds such as finches, doves, yellow warblers, and mockingbirds. At the lagoon there is a colony of flamingos.

PM: CHINESE HAT - SOMBREGO CHINO - This is a small islet (1 sq. km) located just off the south-eastern tip of Santiago Island. It is a recent volcanic cone, shaped like a Chinese hat when seen from the north. On the west you can see lava formations, formed under the sea and raised upwards, 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.

### Day 07

#### Day 07: (Thursday) Santiago Island, Sullivan Bay - Bartolome Island

AM: 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.

PM: BARTOLOME ISLAND - 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 breath-taking beaches where marine turtles exist and at the base of the pinnacle, as well as a very small colony of Galapagos penguins.

### Day 08

#### Day 08: (Friday) Bachas Island - Baltra - North Seymour



AM: BACHAS ISLAND, SANTA CRUZ - 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 favourite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind one of the beaches there is a small brackish water lagoon, where it is occasionally 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.

PM: NORTH SEYMOUR - North Seymour is an uplifted (as opposed to volcanic) island. Therefore, it 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 can be found bodysurfing.

#### Day 09

#### Day 09: (Saturday) Genovesa, Island El Barranco - Darwin Bay

AM: GENOVESA, ISLAND EL BARRANCO - THE CLIFF

The visitor site of El Barranco is located in the southern part of Darwin Bay from Genovesa Island. The trail is on volcanic rock, consists of 1.5 km and can be done in about 2 hours. The youngest area of the island, from a geological point of view, lies on this area. The cliff is located in the south, are composed of very fragile lava. The natural erosion in these lava flows has become the ideal place for nesting Storm Petrels. You can see two species of petrels that nest in cavities and holes in the lava.

One of its main predators is the short-eared owl. The red-footed booby nests only in the outer islands of the archipelago, Punta Pitt, Gardner (Florea), Wolf, Darwin and Genovesa. Also, present on this island is the masked booby. During the “panga rides” along the cliffs, fur sea lions and several species of seabirds can be seen.

PM: DARWIN BAY - This bay has its origin when the crater of this island collapsed below sea level. The wet landing is on a beautiful white coral sandy beach. This is a favorite island for birdwatchers that allow the following species to be seen: red footed-booby, masked boobies, wandering tattlers, lava gulls, whimbrels, yellow-crowned, and black-crowned lava herons, and yellow warblers. Continuing on the trail, visitors climb gradually to the edge of the cliff seeing Red-Foots nesting in the Mangrove trees below. Birdwatching includes sightings of sharp-beaked finches, large cactus and ground finches, Galapagos doves, and swallow-tailed gulls. Reaching the end of the trail, at the cliff's edge an incredible view of the island and the many birds living there can be observed.



### Day 10

### Day 10: (Sunday) Plazas, Santa Cruz - Santa Fe

AM: PLAZAS, SANTA CRUZ - Plazas is located 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 tunas, their favorite food. Swallow tailed gulls nesting in the rugged cliffs are seen along with other seabirds as: Audubon shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, frigate birds, and brown pelicans.

PM: SANTA FE - Located in the southeastern part of the Galapagos, this island was formed from an uplift instead of a volcanic origin, this is why it is mostly flat. There are some theories which assure this could be the oldest island in the Archipelago. Santa Fe is the home of a number of endemic species like the Galapagos hawk, Galapagos snake, Galapagos mockingbird, rice rats, and one of the two species of land Iguanas of the islands. After disembarking in the beautiful and clear waters you will be in contact with one of the many sea lion colonies. Along the trail many salt bushes can be seen 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 fish.

### Day 11

### Day 11: (Monday) San Cristobal

AM: SAN CRISTOBAL, Jacinto Gordillo Breeding Center

In 2004 the Breeding and Rearing Center for young tortoises Jacinto Gordillo, named after a famous settler, was located in Cerro Colorado, San Cristobal Island, in order to take care of young tortoises. In 2008 an assisted reproduction program started on the island due to the birth of a little turtle in captivity. All of this will be learnt at the Jacinto Breeding Center. One can not only learn about breeding processes but as well get engaged and experience why this breeding centre does what it does. After the morning excursion you will be taken to the airport for your flight to the mainland.

## Inclusions

Airport assistance (Quito or Guayaquil, if flights are booked through GGTS)

Transfers in Galapagos.



Accommodation on board in double cabin.  
All meals during the cruise.  
Naturalist Bilingual Guide level III.  
All visits and excursions according to the itinerary  
Snorkel Gear (mask, tube and fins).  
Kayaks.  
Unlimited purified water, coffee and tea.

## Exclusions

International / Domestic Airfare  
Round trip flight to/from Galapagos  
Galapagos National Park Entrance fee AUD 234,00 p/p  
Galápagos Ingala card AUD 47,00 p/p  
Negative PCR test for Covid-19 (taken 96 hours before the departure)  
Wet suit rental  
Local taxes  
Meals, drinks, tips and other personal expenses or services not specified in the program  
Travel insurance  
Gratuities  
Voluntary tips for drivers  
Travel and medical insurance.

## Note

Rates do not apply for Christmas and New Year departures, please ask your agent for high season rates.

10% discount for children under 12 years (Applies for 1 child for every 2 adults).

Rates are subject to change in case of additional taxes, fuel increases or many other unforeseen circumstance.

Charter - Maximum 16 pax. (Available on request).

Friday departure.



## Fixed Departure

**29 Nov, 2024**

TWIN OCEAN VIEW (MAIN DECK)

AUD 13,478 P P twin share

AUD 22,913 P P single

AVAILABLE

MATRIMONIAL SUITE (UPPER DECK)

AUD 14,011 P P twin share

AUD 23,818 P P single

AVAILABLE

**13 Dec, 2024**

TWIN OCEAN VIEW (MAIN DECK)

AUD 13,478 P P twin share

AUD 22,913 P P single

AVAILABLE

MATRIMONIAL SUITE (UPPER DECK)

AUD 14,011 P P twin share

AUD 23,818 P P single

AVAILABLE

