

ANDES & MARY ANNE GALAPAGOS CRUISE

Day 1 (Thu) – International arrival, transfer in to the 5-star Hotel Plaza Grande

Uniquely located on one corner of the magnificent Plaza de la Independencia, the majestic Plaza Grande offers a luxurious colonial setting with excellent services and elegant suites. The hotel's location is perfect for exploring the splendid historic center of Quito.

Day 2 (Fri) – Quito (B/L/D)

A day designed to give you a taste of your new environment. No trip to Ecuador is complete without a visit to the equator and so first visit Mitad del Mundo for a great photo opportunity with one foot simultaneously in both northern and southern hemispheres. Lunch will be served at El Crater, a restaurant perched on the edge of the extinct Pululahua Volcano.

In the afternoon head back to Quito's superb Historic Center – the best-preserved colonial center in Latin America – to properly spend time exploring the cobbled streets, squares and churches of this fascinating area. Return to Hotel Plaza Grande to relax before meeting for a welcome cocktail followed by dinner.



MARY ANNE SAILING SHIP – WEST ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS (THE EAST ITINERARY MAY BE OFFERED BASED ON THE TOUR DATE – REQUEST DETAILS)

NOTE: Please keep in mind that the Mary Anne’s west itinerary starts upon arrival to the islands. If possible, please wear clothes comfortable enough for a visit to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island: comfortable shoes, a hat for the sun, lightweight pants or shorts.

You will be reunited with your luggage at around 5:00 in the afternoon when you board the Mary Anne at Puerto Ayora (Santa Cruz Island).



Day 3 (Sat): Quito–Baltra Island, Santa Cruz Island (B/L/D)

On arriving at Baltra airport, a representative of the Mary Anne will be there to greet you and guide you to the bus which will take you to the highlands of Santa Cruz for your first visit in the islands: the Twin Craters or *Los Gemelos* – two spectacular, deep craters located on the side of the road that leads to Puerto Ayora. These huge sinkholes were created by the collapse of the roof of empty underground magma chambers. The surrounding scalesia forests are home to birds such as the vermilion flycatcher, yellow warbler, Galapagos hawk and barn owls. The lush vegetation of the highlands is in sharp contrast with that of the arid coastal zones.

From here continue to a ranch to have lunch and then take a short hike to a small lagoon where it is usually possible to see the Vermillion flycatcher, various species of Darwin finches, together with excellent opportunities to view giant Galapagos tortoises in their natural habitat. Afterwards, a visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn more about the archipelago and its volcanic origins as well as be able to see tortoises from different islands and witness the four different stages of development from

Day 4 (Sun): Floreana Island – Punta Cormorant and Post Office Bay (B/L/D)

Several curiosities are associated with Floreana, the sixth largest island in the archipelago – not least the whiff of scandal and intrigue that surrounds three groups of German settlers who arrived on the island in the 1930s and that, one by one, mysteriously began to die or disappear.

Reach Floreana by a wet landing on to the unusually colored green olivine beach of Punta Cormorant – a good spot for encounters with sea lions. A short walk takes you past a lagoon populated by striking greater flamingos before reaching the fine white sands of Flour Beach, which is a sea turtle nesting ground. Several species of ray can often be seen gliding through the shallow waters just off the shoreline. End the visit with a short panga ride to Devil’s Crown, a sunken volcanic cinder cone around which is found some of the best snorkeling in the archipelago.

After lunch there is another wet landing to visit Post Office Bay, named as such after British sailors placed a large wooden barrel in which they left letters for other passing seafarers to take and deliver once home – a tradition in which you can still take part.



Day 5 (Mon): Floreana Island – Black Beach (B/L/D)

A dry landing at Black Beach on Floreana Island to learn about the intriguing human history of the island and its first inhabitants. Floreana was the first island in the archipelago to be inhabited since it has one of the very few fresh water sources, Asilo de La Paz. Visit the caves that served as hideouts for pirates and

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where the first *Galapagueño* was born, according to stories about the infamous Baroness Eloise Wagner von Bousquet and her lovers, which mysteriously began to disappear after settling on the island.

In the afternoon enjoy a navigation under full sail while keeping an eye out for whales and dolphins. The waters of the Galapagos form the second largest marine reserve in the world and the largest representatives of underwater fauna are the different species found here. During the crossing, marvel at the impressive landscapes of Isabela and the Cerro Azul Volcano.

Day 6 (Tue): Isabela Island – Punta Moreno and Elizabeth Bay (B/L/D)

Arrive at Isabela, the largest island in the Galapagos and a relatively young 1 million years old. It was formed by the uplifted lava flows of six major shield volcanoes, all but one of which are still active. Go ashore for a dry landing at Punta Moreno. This dramatic expanse of black pahoehoe lava is home to a unique system of tidal pools and lagoons that, together with the surrounding mangroves, are a magnet for a vast array of wildlife.

In the afternoon take a panga ride around Elizabeth Bay, a saltwater lagoon surrounded by the largest stand of red mangroves of the Galapagos. A cornucopia of bird, animal and sea life is to be found here, from the largest colony of Galapagos penguins in the archipelago to sea turtles, golden and spotted eagle rays, marine and Galapagos land iguanas, flightless cormorants and masked boobies amongst many others.



Day 7 (Wed): Isabela and Fernandina Islands – Urbina Bay and Punta Espinosa (B/L/D)

Disembark at the geologically fascinating Urbina Bay (wet landing) onto a black sand beach, a nesting site for green sea turtles. Created by an uplift in 1954, the shoreline rose by nearly 15 feet (4 meters) while the coast line was driven a further ¾ of a mile further out to sea – an event which exposed giant coral heads and stranded marine life. Take a brief hike inland in search of land iguanas and giant tortoises (seasonal) that migrate to and from the highlands. At the beach view the results of that geological uplift – exposed coral heads and marine fossils – and if the sea conditions and time are on your side, you will also have the chance to snorkel in the surrounding waters.

Later cross the narrow Bolivar Channel to Fernandina Island, one of the most pristine islands in the archipelago largely because it has escaped the introduction of non-endemic species. Disembark (dry landing) at Punta Espinosa, which was formed by lava flows from the massive 2005 volcanic eruption. The intriguing landscape is made all the more dramatic by the almost prehistoric sight of the world's biggest colony of large marine iguanas basking on the jagged rocks as they warm themselves in the sun. A stroll along the shoreline takes you past the sooty-colored marine iguanas and, in stark contrast, the bright red-orange Sally Lightfoot crabs as well as communities of flightless cormorants, Galapagos sea lions and loveable Galapagos penguins.



Day 8 (Thu): Isabela Island – Tagus Cove and Punta Vicente Roca (B/L/D)

Tagus Cove (dry landing) is located directly to the east of Fernandina Island, on the west coast of Isabela. It is a beautiful and well-protected cove sheltered by the shoulders of two volcanic craters and was used as an anchorage site by pirates and whalers for over 300 years. Climb a trail that passes a typical dry vegetation zone and offers spectacular views of the saltwater crater-lake known as Lake Darwin. At the top of the trail view the different vegetation zones, catch a sight of Darwin and Wolf volcanoes, and watch the locals: Galapagos penguins, flightless cormorants and pelicans amongst others.

At Punta Vicente Roca take a panga ride around the magnificent coastline before jumping into the water to enjoy one of the best snorkeling sites in the Galapagos. The underwater cliffs here are filled with color and teeming with the vast quantities of marine life drawn by the particularly nutritious waters.

**Day 9 (Fri): Santiago Island – Espumilla and Puerto Egas (B/L/D)**

After three days exploring the western islands, head to central Santiago and disembark on the golden sands of Espumilla Beach (wet landing), where a short walk will take you inland through a mangrove forest normally inhabited by the common stilt. Sea turtles also visit these mangroves to nest in the sand. Beyond the mangroves is a brackish lagoon that attracts flocks of pink flamingos and white-cheeked pintails. The trail loops through a sparsely forested area before returning to the beach.

At Puerto Egas (wet landing) disembark onto the black sand beach of James Bay and stroll along the rocky coast to view some of the Galapagos Island's most beautiful tidal pools. Sponges, snails, hermit crabs, barnacles and fish, including the endemic four-eyed blenny, can be found here. The coast is also home to a variety of shorebirds, marine iguanas, Sally Lightfoot crabs and sea lions. At Puerto Egas have an opportunity to see Galapagos fur seals as they lounge under arches of lava carved by the ocean and occasionally dip into the crystalline pools, also known as 'grottos'.



Day 10 (Sat): North Seymour Island and Baltra Airport – return to Quito (B/L/D)

Visit the small island of North Seymour (dry landing), for a close view of the nesting colonies of the two species of frigate birds, blue-footed boobies and swallow-tailed gulls. After this short stop, the boat will sail to Baltra where we disembark and transfer to the airport for our flight back to Guayaquil/Quito.

— END OF SERVICES —



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2017 rate per person: \$5,785

Included in the rate:

- Accommodation in double room/cabin
- All meals except dinner 1st night
- All airport transfers
- All specified activities and excursions
- English-speaking guides throughout the tour
- Welcome cocktail and dinner
- Round trip airfare to/from Galapagos
- Transit control card
- Galapagos National Park entrance fee
- Use of snorkeling gear and kayas

Not included in the rate:

- International airfare
- Alcoholic and bottled beverages
- Additional optional activities / services
- Travel / medical insurance
- Gratuities
- Personal expenses