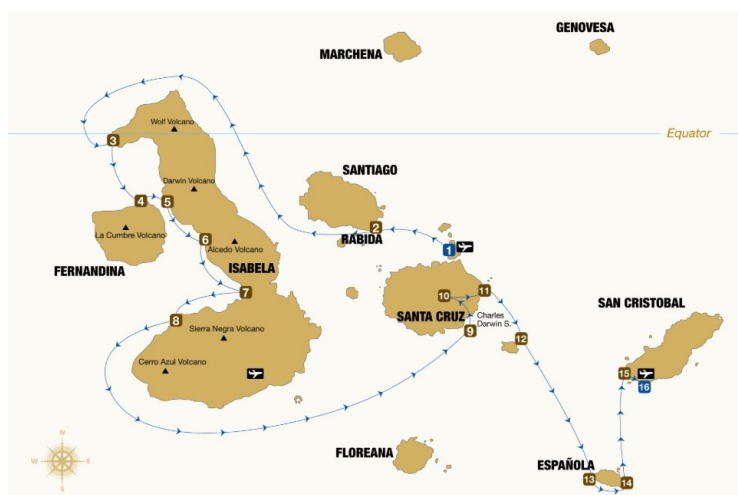




OCEAN SPRAY 8 DAY GALAPAGOS CRUISE

This Galapagos cruise itinerary offers an immersive exploration of diverse islands, each presenting unique wildlife and scenic landscapes. Passengers aboard the M/C Ocean Spray will experience a variety of activities including hiking, snorkeling, and panga rides. Highlights include close encounters with species such as Galapagos penguins, marine iguanas, and the waved albatross, alongside visits to significant conservation sites like the Charles Darwin Research Station. The itinerary also emphasizes the natural history and conservation efforts essential to preserving the archipelago's unique ecosystem, providing both educational insights and spectacular natural beauty in a meticulously planned week-long adventure. For shorter, 3 or 4-night cruises, please contact us for more information.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Saturday

****AM:** Upon arrival, reception and assistance at the airport, transfer from Baltra Airport to the M/C Ocean Spray. ******

****PM:** Chinese Hat******

This site offers rare, up close viewing of Galapagos wildlife and well-preserved remnants of fragile volcanic rock that can't be found in such a unique condition anywhere else. The island is named after the similarity of an Asian type of hat. Here you can see American Oystercatchers and Galapagos Penguins



swimming along the shores.

Activities: Hiking, snorkeling

Difficulty: Moderate

Landing: Wet landing

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, various shorebirds, white-cheeked pintail ducks, penguins, Galapagos Hawks, various tropical fish, sally lightfoot crabs.

Day 2 Sunday

****AM: Isabela - Vicente Roca Point****

Vicente Roca Point has outstanding geological formations and is a great place to see various bird species. Because this visitor site is located on the western area of the island, the Cromwell Current provides cold water that carries many nutrients for both land and aquatic species, offering the chance to see amazing feeding frenzies.

Activities: Panga ride, snorkeling

Difficulty: Easy / Moderate

Landing: No landing

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, various shorebirds, blue-footed boobies, nazca boobies, fur seals, whales, sea turtles, various tropical fish, sally lightfoot crabs and other marine species.

****PM: Fernandina - Espinosa Point****

As one of the most pristine islands in the archipelago, Fernandina has never had a foreign species invade. It is also the most active island and farthest west. Espinosa point is the only visitor site on the entire island. Here you can see marine iguanas, Galapagos hawks and enjoy a hike and/or snorkeling activity at one of the most natural, unspoiled sites in the entire world.

Activities: Hiking, snorkeling

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Landing: Dry landing - may be slippery

Possible Wildlife: Flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, land iguanas, penguins, sea lions, various shorebirds, Galapagos Hawks, various tropical fish, sally lightfoot crabs, sea turtles. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Monday

****AM: Isabela - Tagus Cove****



If you like historic remnants, then you will enjoy finding what was left behind by pirates and sailors in the 1800s. This site was one of their preferred pit stops while traveling the seas. The hike here will provide incredible views of the cove and on the other side the mangrove forest where the last 35 pairs of Mangrove finches thrive.

Activities: Hike, snorkeling and panga ride

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Landing: Dry

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, various shorebirds, flightless cormorant, Galapagos penguins, marine iguanas, sally lightfoot crabs, mangrove finches.

****PM: Isabela - Urbina Bay****

Millions of years ago, Urbina Bay was once laying on the ocean floor. Volcanic uplifts caused it to rise and now it is occupied by sea lions, land iguanas and flightless cormorants. It is a great place to enjoy some free time on the beach or the guide may suggest a hike.

Activities: Hike, snorkeling and panga ride

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Landing: Wet

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, various shorebirds, flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, sea turtles, land iguanas, Galapagos Hawk, sally lightfoot crabs, Galapagos tortoise. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Tuesday

****AM: Isabela - Elizabeth Bay****

This visitor site is visited by panga only as the park authorities have no authorized landing in order to protect the island. While in the panga you can appreciate a large abundance of marine life that can be seen in the clear waters. It is great for snorkeling.

Activities: Panga ride

Difficulty: Easy

Landing: No Landing

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, frigate birds, sea turtles, various shorebirds, flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, pelicans, sally lightfoot crabs, tropical fish and marine life such as Galapagos sharks.

****PM: Isabela - Moreno Point****



The beautiful rocky shores of Moreno Point offers a plethora of birds to be seen. It is truly a birders delight. The main attraction are the coast lagoons where white tipped sharks can be seen and the panoramic views of Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul volcanoes cannot be missed.

Activities: Hike, snorkeling and panga ride

Difficulty: Moderate

Landing: Wet

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, great blue herons, various shorebirds, flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, sally lightfoot crabs, sea turtles, land iguanas, Galapagos Hawk, Galapagos tortoise. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Wednesday

****AM: Santa Cruz - Charles Darwin Research Station****

The Charles Darwin Research Station is one of the Galapagos Island's most important sites for visitors. It is a research facility that has an extensive collection of Galapagos plant life specimens carefully preserved and also acts as a biological research station and active breeding center operated by the Charles Darwin Foundation. Their biggest conservation efforts

are to one day eliminate all invasive and non-native plants and animals destroying endemic species within the islands.

Activities: Visit to the research station

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Landing: Dry

Possible Wildlife: Galapagos tortoises in captivity and various stages of tortoises.

****PM: Santa Cruz - Highlands****

The highlands are located in the northern part of Santa Cruz and can reach elevations up to 1500 meters. This area is rich with hills, ferns, volcanoes and wildlife. A great contrast to the molten lava hardened beaches and rocky areas of other islands already seen. It is home to giant tortoises, mockingbirds, finches and many other species.

Activities: Hike

Difficulty: Moderate

Landing: Dry

Possible Wildlife: Galapagos tortoises, finches, mockingbirds, lava lizards, pintail ducks, other shorebirds. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Thursday



leading to a small beach. Giant tortoises were once native here but went extinct after pirates and sailors took them aboard as a source of food.

****AM: South Plaza Island****

Activities: Hike

Difficulty: Moderate

Landing: Dry

Possible Wildlife: Santa Fe land iguanas, frigatebirds, sally lightfoot crabs, sea lions, finches, various shorebirds. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Friday

South Plaza is one of the smallest islands with a visitor site, but is home to an incredible amount of diverse flora and fauna. It has a large population of Sesuvium plants like the prickly pear cactus tree that is an important source of food for the land iguana. Just a few years ago mice were finally eradicated from the island, helping the population of land iguanas grow healthily once more. The amazing colors of the turquoise waters against the black lava create a setting for amazing photography opportunities.

Activities: Hike

Difficulty: Moderate

Landing: Dry

Possible Wildlife: frigatebirds, sally lightfoot crabs, sea lions, land iguanas, swallowtailed gulls, various shorebirds and seabirds.

****PM: Santa Fe Island****

Santa Fe is home to the endemic Santa Fe iguana. The island was created by a volcanic uplift that now hosts a forest of Opuntia and Palo Santo trees. It is a picturesque island with two different trails, one leading to a scenic viewpoint and the other

****AM: Española - Suarez Point****

This is a phenomenal site where you will get to see many of Española Island's endemic species. The trail will pass by the only Waved Albatross breeding site in all of Galapagos. If you are lucky you might see a young albatross take off for its first flight for up to five years at sea. Older birds stay at sea for months at a time, only coming back to breed. They have the same mate for life and will meet each other each year, only here to reproduce. Other species that can be seen are marine iguanas that stay brightly colored year round, Galapagos doves, Nazca boobies, blue-footed boobies, swallowtailed gulls, red-billed tropic birds, and Darwin finches.



Activities: Hike

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Landing: Dry

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, marine iguanas, Galapagos hawk, waved albatross, redbilled tropic birds, various shorebirds, nazca boobies, swallow tailed gulls, finches and sally lightfoot crabs.

****PM: Española - Gardner Bay / Osborn Islet****

This white sandy beach is home to a large colony of sea lions and incredibly blue and turquoise waters. Three different finches can be seen, as well as the Española mockingbird. Over time, the mockingbird must have been offered water or food from tourists and now they have no fear of walking on your things or landing very close to you. It is so important not to feed or touch the animals. It can disrupt their normal behaviors and threaten their future.

Activities: Walking on the beach and swimming.

Difficulty: Easy

Landing: Wet landing

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, various shorebirds, mockingbirds, stingrays, sea turtles. (B, L, D)

Day 8 Saturday

****AM: San Cristobal - Interpretation Center****

A short distance from the centre of San Cristobal is the San Cristobal Interpretation Center, open to the public since 1998, which provides an extensive knowledge about the fascinating history of the archipelago and give visitors a more holistic understanding of these islands' unique habitats and wildlife. The main areas of focus, which are addressed through a number of expositions are: natural history, human history and conservation for the future. For those who are interested in the geology of the archipelago there is a complete exhibit on the volcanic birth of the Galapagos and how this impacted on the habitats present here.

Activities: Introduction and walk in center

Difficulty: Easy

Landing: Dry Landing

Depart from San Cristobal airport.

After this last visit, transfer to San Cristobal airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador. Assistance and farewell at the airport. (B, -, -)

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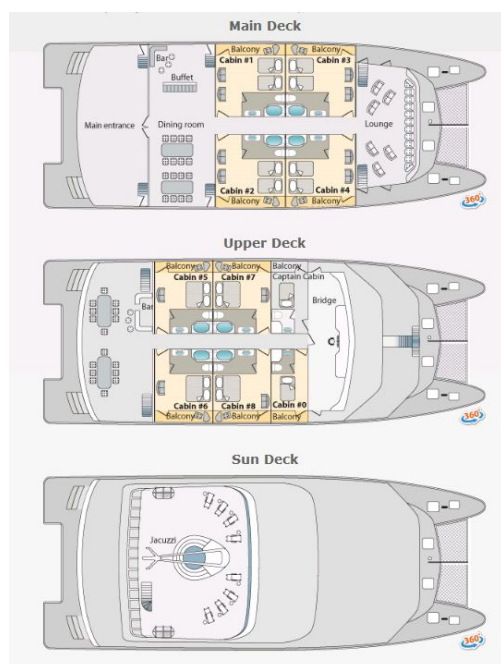
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