



TRAVEL THE UNKNOWN

TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

GALAPAGOS CRUISE - EASTERN ISLANDS

8 days



Tour Highlights

- Visit the many islands of the Galápagos
- Red-footed boobies and frigatebirds at El Barranco
- Myriad bird species on Genovesa
- Beautiful, colourful landscapes of Bartolomé
- Majestic volcanoes and breath-taking landscapes of Santiago
- Red sand, pelicans and sea lions on Rábida

- Remarkable flora of Plazas Sur
- Endemic species on one of the oldest Galápagos Islands, Santa Fé
- Blue-footed and Nazca boobies at Punta Suarez
- Paradisaical white-sand beach with sea lions at Gardner Bay

Places visited

Galápagos Islands • Santa Cruz • Genovesa • Galápagos Islands - Santiago • Sombrero Chino • Santa Fé • Española

What's included

- Transfer from Quito/Guayaquil hotel to the airport
- Transfers to/from the ship in the Galápagos Islands
- Domestic flights
- Accommodation on the Galápagos cruise ship
- Full board while on the ship
- Tea, coffee, water
- Snorkelling equipment (snorkel, mask, fins)
- Kayaks
- English-speaking guides
- Ingala transit card
- Galápagos National Park entrance fee

What's not included

- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Alcoholic and soft drinks
- Wetsuits (available to hire for an additional charge)
- Visa fees
- Tipping
- Camera / video camera fees
- Personal items (laundry, telephone, etc.)
- Medical expenses
- Any services not mentioned in itinerary

Notes

Please note that the Eastern Islands itinerary is an extension option for our 16th October 2018 Classic Ecuador group tour. Alternatively, you can cruise the Eastern Islands throughout the year after a private tour of Ecuador or on a tailor-made basis. Just ask our Travel Specialists for more information.


All accommodation subject to availability. Final accommodation choices will be confirmed after booking.



Your Itinerary Explained

Date	Place visited	Meals
	<p>The first part of the text in each day is the itinerary schedule and will explain what you will normally see/do during this day of your itinerary.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>The part of the day's text in italics (and comes after the three dashes "---") is background information on the places or sites on that day of your itinerary. It is not part of your itinerary and may mention places that will not be visited on your itinerary. If you have any questions please ask us. Travel times where noted are only meant as a guideline.</i></p>	<p>B: Breakfast</p> <p>L: Lunch</p> <p>D: Dinner</p>

Tour Itinerary

Day 1	Arrival - Santa Cruz	Meals
	<p>Fly from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra Airport in the Galápagos Islands, where you will be met by a Travel The Unknown representative to begin your exploration of these incredible islands. Our first stop is Black Turtle Cove.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>Formed by a series of volcanic eruptions between 3 and 5 million years ago, the Galápagos Islands are an archipelago of 19 islands and several dozen islets. Left untouched for millions of years, plants and animals thrived on the islands, and today they are famous for their rich biodiversity. Human beings only arrived in the 19th century, including Charles Darwin in 1835, whose observations of finches inspired his theory of evolution. In order to protect the islands' fragile ecosystem, the Galápagos became Ecuador's first national park in 1959. Many rare species can be found on the islands, including the world's only marine lizard, and the only penguin to be found breeding in the tropics.</i></p> <p><i>Santa Cruz island is situated at the centre of the Galápagos archipelago. Santa Cruz is the second-largest island, after Isabela, and was formed millions of years ago by the eruption of a large volcano. The capital city of the island is Puerto Ayora, which is the most populated urban centre on the island.</i></p> <p><i>Located on the northern shoreline of Santa Cruz, Black Turtle Cove is a hidden, naturally-protected mangrove estuary and haven for vulnerable marine life and birds. With strict regulations in place to preserve its pristine waters and not disturb the wildlife, the cove can only be visited via Zodiac with the engines turned off. The forest comprises three mangrove species - red, white and black - with intertwining roots creating an almost impenetrable natural protection. The cove and surrounding waters' wildlife includes green sea turtles, whitetip reef sharks, various rays and pelicans.</i></p>	<p>D</p>

Flight

Overnight in S/S Mary Anne, Galápagos Islands

Day 2	Genovesa	Meals
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Genovesa - Darwin Bay

After sailing overnight, we visit the bird lover's paradise of Genovesa, with excursions at Darwin Bay and El Barranco.

Genovesa was named after the Italian city of Genoa, in honour of Christopher Columbus. The horseshoe-shaped island is home to unique volcanic formations, including a crater lake that is less than 6,000 years old. Genovesa is also known as Bird Island due to the array of bird colonies that nest and live here - lucky visitors may spot the lava gull (the rarest bird in the world), red-footed boobies, short-eared owls and Galápagos swallows.

Darwin Bay on Genovesa comprises a sand and coral beach that is the gateway to a bird lover's paradise. A trail leads through mangroves from the tranquil beach, past tide pools and lava ridges to a viewpoint overlooking Darwin Bay. This is the only place in the archipelago from which to observe the sharp-beaked ground finch.

El Barranco, also known as Prince Philip's Steps, is a gully formed of lava rocks. This leads up over 80 feet to a flat lava field populated by red-footed boobies, Nazca boobies and frigatebirds. This site is the best place in the Galápagos Islands from which to observe the endemic short-eared owl preying on petrels.

Overnight in S/S Mary Anne, Galápagos Islands

Day 3	Santiago - Sombrero Chino	Meals
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Sombrero Chino

This morning, we visit the barren, volcanic island of Bartolomé, before sailing to the small islet of Sombrero Chino for an afternoon excursion.

Santiago, also known as San Salvador or James Island, was formed millions of years ago by two overlapping volcanoes. The rocky island is home to species including marine iguanas, sea lions and fur seals, and marine birds use the cliff sides to nest.

Bartolomé is set off the eastern coast of Santiago in the Galápagos Islands. Bartolomé offers arguably some of the most beautiful landscapes in the archipelago, including a variety of red, orange, green and black volcanic rock formations.

Sombrero Chino (Chinese Hat) lies off the southern tip of Santiago, at the heart of the Galápagos archipelago. The whole island is less than a quarter of a mile squared, with a sloping conical shape resembling a traditional Chinese hat, after which the island is named. It is home to lava lizards and American oystercatchers, and Galápagos penguins can often be seen off the rocky shoreline of the island.

Overnight in S/S Mary Anne, Galápagos Islands

Day 4	Rábida - Santa Cruz	Meals
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Rábida

Our first disembarkation point today is on the strikingly beautiful red-sand island of Rábida. In the afternoon, we visit Cerro Dragón on Santa Cruz.

B L D

Rábida is one of the most unique islands in the Galápagos archipelago. A high iron content in lava flows has given the island's sand a rich red colour, and a wide array of species, such as sea lions, pelicans and white-cheeked pintail boobies, inhabit the island.

Santa Cruz island is situated at the centre of the Galápagos archipelago. Santa Cruz is the second-largest island, after Isabela, and was formed millions of years ago by the eruption of a large volcano. The capital city of the island is Puerto Ayora, which is the most populated urban centre on the island.

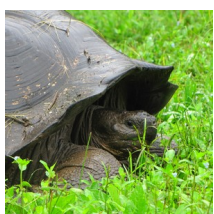
Cerro Dragón, or Dragon Hill, is a rocky, low-lying hill on the north western side of Santa Cruz. It is home to an impressive population of Galápagos land iguanas, who roam around this arid area of the island. The efforts of the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galápagos Park Service to protect the iguanas have successfully increased their numbers.

Overnight in S/S Mary Anne, Galápagos Islands

Day 5

Santa Cruz

Meals



Santa Cruz Highlands

Today we explore Santa Cruz, one of the few inhabited Galápagos Islands. We visit the Santa Cruz highlands then head to the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about the conservation efforts taking place in the archipelago.

B L D

*The **Santa Cruz Highlands** offer a surprising contrast to the beaches and rocky outcrops of the Galápagos Islands. The lush highlands are home to the iconic giant tortoises, where the cool climates and dense vegetation provide the perfect habitat for them to thrive.*

*The **Charles Darwin Research Station** is based in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz and houses an extensive collection of preserved specimens of Galápagos plant life. The research centre serves as the headquarters for the Charles Darwin Foundation and is used to conduct scientific research and promote environmental education.*

Overnight in S/S Mary Anne, Galápagos Islands

Day 6

Plazas Sur - Santa Fé

Meals



Santa Fé

Our first stop today is at the colourful island of Plazas Sur. In the afternoon, we will enjoy an excursion on Santa Fé, south of Santa Cruz.

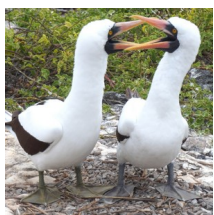
B L D

***Plazas Sur** lies off the east coast of Santa Cruz. The volcanic island is small in size but hosts a huge variety of species, and has become famous for its remarkable flora. Birds including red-billed tropicbirds and swallow-tailed gulls can be seen nesting on the steep, rocky banks. The vegetation of the island noticeably changes from a verdant green in the rainy season, to orange and purple in the dry season.*

Santa Fé is one of the oldest islands in the Galápagos, with rock formations below the water surface dating back 3.9 million years. It is home to the endemic Santa Fé land iguana and Santa Fé rice rat, both of which are only found on this island, while its landscape is identifiable by its abundant giant prickly pear cacti. The island also holds large sea lion colonies, which can be found lying on the beaches in the bay or swimming in the surf of the waves.

Overnight in S/S Mary Anne, Galápagos Islands

Day 7	Española	Meals
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Española -
Punta Suarez

Our destination today is Española, one of the most unique islands in the archipelago. In the morning, we visit Punta Suarez, then after lunch we head to Garner Bay, Gardner Islet and Osborn Islet.

B L D

***Española** is one of the most isolated of the Galápagos Islands, located on the southeastern edge of the archipelago. Along with Santa Fe, it is considered one of the oldest islands, at approximately four million years old. It is home to the waved albatross, blue-footed and Nazca boobies and the Galápagos hawk, along with endemic species such as the Española mockingbird and the Española lava lizard.*

***Punta Suarez** lies on the western coast of Española. A trail passes among colonies of blue-footed and Nazca boobies and past nesting sites of albatross, before ending at a plateau that offers scenic views of El Soplador blowhole. Punta Suarez is also home to sea lions, marine iguanas, oystercatchers and Española mockingbirds.*

***Gardner Bay** is amongst the most idyllic, white-sand beaches in the Galápagos Islands. Spanning over two kilometres, the beach attracts numerous sea lions, who relax and nap on the soft sands. Many species of Darwin's finches and Española mockingbirds can be seen here, along with marine life including green sea turtles.*

*Located northeast of Gardner Bay, **Gardner Islet** boasts a dramatic landscape of vertical cliffs dropping to sandy ledges and large boulders. It is a popular snorkelling spot, hosting some of the smallest fish in the Galápagos, from blackspot morays and garden eels to pufferfish and red-lipped batfish, as well as larger fish including the king angelfish and butterfly fish.*

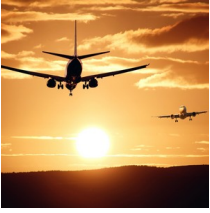
***Osborn Islet** is located to the southeast of Gardner Bay. It is a great spot from which to observe sea lions and offers excellent snorkelling conditions. Opportunities abound to see species such as parrot fish, butterfly fish and the wonderfully eye-catching red-lipped batfish.*

Overnight in S/S Mary Anne, Galápagos Islands

Day 8	Santa Cruz - Departure	Meals
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On our last day in the Galápagos Islands, we visit the Twin Craters on Santa Cruz before transferring to the airport for our flight back to the mainland.

N/A



Flight

The **Twin Craters** are located in the highlands of Santa Cruz, surrounded by dense forest of endemic scalesia trees. Rather than being volcano craters, they were formed by the collapse of surface material in subterranean magma chambers and crevices. A variety of birdlife can be found above the craters, including the vermilion flycatcher and the endemic short-eared owl.

Accommodation

Galápagos Islands : S/S Mary Anne (Cabin on a Cruise)

7 nights



The S/S Mary Anne is one of the few sailing ships operating in the Galápagos Islands today, and the only ship able to navigate by wind power alone. The sails are hoisted at least once on every itinerary, and passengers are assured of an intimate sailing experience as the ship carries a maximum of 16 guests. It is also one of the few ships to offer single cabins with no supplement. On board, guests can enjoy Ecuadorian cuisine and spacious deck space from which to marvel at the incredible scenery of the Galápagos Islands.

Address : Navigating the Galápagos Islands

Website : www.visitgalapagos.travel/sailing-cruises/mary-anne

All accommodation subject to availability. Final accommodation choices will be confirmed after booking.