Mary Anne 8 Day West

A beautiful and truly classic sailing ship, which is very spacious and enchantingly romantic. Ample deck space, which gives plenty of room to relax and enjoy the views. Launched in 1997, this barquentine is a great option, and was specially designed with environmentally friendly cruising in mind. Run by Andando Tours, a local company with a great reputation for quality of service, friendly helpful crews, great food and first class naturalist guides. The yacht, which is very spacious (with 12 cabins for 16 guests) also has kayaks on board which can be used in certain sites whilst other guests are snorkelling. This itinerary visits the pristine western islands, which receive a double dose of upwelling, (from both the Humbolt and Cromwell Currents) and as a result there is cool nutrient rich water which makes for abundant marine life in the form of Penguins, Flightless Cormorants, Marine Iguana's and whales, not to mention the sea birds, sea lions and other amazing Galapagos wildlife that thrive here.

Day 1 **Baltra** Arrival at the airport in Galapagos.

Cerro Messa – Santa Cruz Cerro Messa is a private ecological reserve in the highlands of Santa Cruz with many forest paths filled with endemic Galapagos vegetation, with an impressive and deep sink hole crater. The chance to watch White Cheeked Pintail Ducks, rails, stilts and Frigatebirds who are usually present in the lagoon here. The reserve also offers the opportunity to see mockingbirds, flycatchers, warblers, Galapagos Doves and Darwin's finches. With luck you will also be able to see some of the population of Giant Tortoises that live in the reserve, which are geographically isolated from the main population of Giant Tortoises on Santa Cruz Island. (This nature reserve is a great example of a private initiative trying to work and protect the fragile Galapagos ecosystem alongside the Galapagos National Park).

Activities: Short hike (1.2/2km)
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: No landing
Highlights and Animals: Interesting vegetation, Darwin's Finches, Galapagos Doves and sometimes Giant Tortoises

Day 2
Floreana - Punta Cormorant At Punta Cormorant you will walk on an olivine beach (a mineral known for its olive-green quality, that is found in meteorites, the moon and mars as well as on earth), visit a large lagoon where Great Flamingos sometimes nest, and walk over to Flour Beach, a beautiful white sandy beach to look for Green Sea Turtle nests.

Activities: Hike (1.2 mi/2km)
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Wet landing
Highlights and Animals: An easy walk along a coastal lagoon where Flamingos are often found, along with Stilts and Ducks. White sand beach.

Floreana – Devil's Crown One of the highlights of this area is snorkelling at Devil's Crown, a partially submerged crater teeming with Parrotfish, Wrasse, Surgeonfish, and Damselfish among many other varieties of tropical fish.

Activities: Snorkel
Difficulty: Moderate. Strong current
Type of Landing: No landing
Highlights and Animals: One of the best snorkelling sites in the islands, but a strong current can be a challenge for very inexperienced snorkelers. Sea Lions, Reef Sharks, Sea Turtles, Hammerhead Sharks, Rays, many fish.

Floreana - Post Office Bay The famous Post Office Bay is where people leave their mail to be picked up and delivered by others in the "post office" barrel—a time-honoured tradition begun by whalers more than two hundreds of years ago.

Activities: Short hike (less than 0.2 mi / 0.3km), lava tunnel & snorkelling
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: Wet landing
Highlights: Barrel Post Office, lava tunnel inland (difficult access), nice sandy beach

Day 3 Santa Cruz – Highlands The highlands of Santa Cruz are home to fascinating geological features, like lava tubes and the twin sinkhole craters of Los Gemelos, which are home to some 300 different fern species as well as a forest of Scalesias, a relative of sunflowers. This is an excellent area to look for some elusive endemics like the Woodpecker Finch (one of only a few bird species in the world to use tools), Small Tree Finch, Vegetarian Finch and Galapagos Rail. The highlands of Santa Cruz are one of the best places to see Giant Tortoises in the wild.
Activities: Hike (0.9 mi / 1 ½ km)
Difficulty: Easy /moderate
Type of Landing:
Highlights & Animals: Pitt craters, Scalesia Forest, Darwin finches, Warblers, Flycatchers.

Santa Cruz – Tortuga Bay Tortuga Bay is one of the most beautiful beaches in the Galapagos islands. To get there you have a walk for ½ hour (2,2 km or 1,3 mi) from the town of Puerto Ayora, on a very interesting trail which will allow you to experience a typical Palo Santo and Giant Cactus forest; an ideal environment to look for several species of Darwin Finches, Mockingbirds and Galapagos Flycatchers. What you will see upon your arrival is a gorgeous coral-sand beach with turquoise waters and sand dunes, where sea turtles nest (hence the name!). The larger beach is 1 km (0,6 mi) long and usually has big waves, so most visitors prefer to continue their walk to a smaller beach located on a very protected bay surrounded with mangroves, which is ideal for families and water activities. It is in this sheltered beach where it is possible to kayak (if kayaks are a programmed part of your visit) to look for reef sharks, rays, sea turtles and pelicans. If you have time, you can also take a short walk which goes through a forest of giant Prickly-pear Cactus, where it is possible to find Marine Iguanas, Blue-footed boobies and gulls.

Important tip…. Make sure you bring plenty of sunblock and water for this visit, as there is not much shade during the entire visit!

Activities: Hike to the small beach is 7 km / 4 mi, round trip. Kayaking (if part of program), bird watching, swimming.
Difficulty: Moderate
Type of Landing: No landing
Highlights & Animals: Palo Santo, Giant Cactus dry forest, Darwin Finches, Warblers, Flycatchers and Mockingbirds during the hike. Blue-footed boobies, Pelicans, Marine Iguanas, Sea Turtles and reef Sharks at the beach.

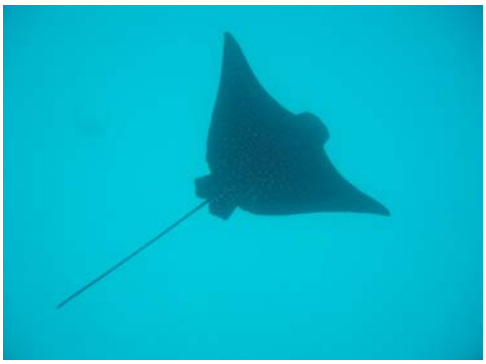
Day 4

Isabela

Measuring over 1800 square miles, and accounting for over half the land surface area in Galapagos, at about 80 miles in length, the seahorse shaped Isabela Island is the largest in the Galapagos. Isabela is formed from six separate volcanoes (Alcedo, Cerro Azul, Darwin, Ecuador, Sierra Negra and Wolf). Being the largest islands, it has many visitor sites, covering a large diversity of ecosystems, from barren lava flows to evergreen lush forests.

Punta Moreno With dramatic seascapes and one of the best sunrise areas in the Galapagos, the visit to this site begins with a dinghy ride along the beautiful rocky shores where shore birds, Penguins, cormorants and herons can be spotted. The barren lava fields lava fields host a surprising amount of wildlife due to the presence of many sink holes with are home to Flamingos, Stilts and Pintail Ducks.

Activities: Hike (1.2 mi / 2km) Snorkelling, dinghy ride
Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing: Dry landing
Highlights & Animals: Flamingos, Gallinules, Pintail ducks, Sea turtles, Reef sharks, Penguins.



Elizabeth Bay Located on the west coast of the Isabela, no landings are permitted here, but it makes for a beautiful dinghy ride. This is one of the best areas to see Galapagos Penguins as they prefer the cooler waters found on western Isabela. Flightless Cormorants and Marine Iguanas are common and often seen basking in the sun on rocks along the shore. As you then enter a narrow cove lined with large Red Mangrove trees, you will see Marine Turtles, Rays and shore birds.

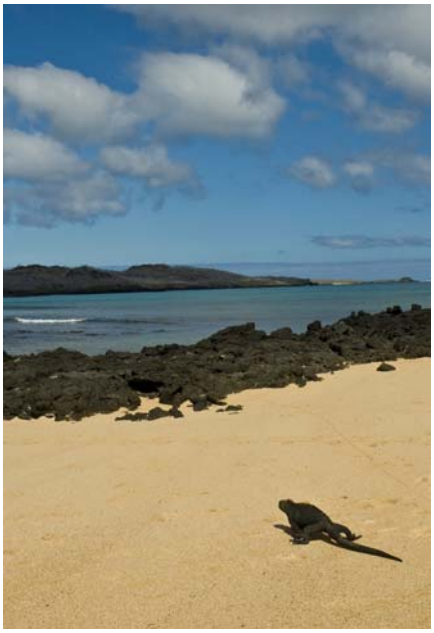
Activities: Two-hour dinghy ride
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: No landing
Highlights & Animals: Mangrove forest, Sea Turtles, Penguins, Rays, Herons, Sea Lions.

Day 5 **Urbina Bay** In 1954, almost 4 miles of coastal seabed dramatically uplifted about 15 ft exposing the sea floor and killing thousands of fish and turtles. This then, vegetation has largely colonized the area but many signs of the uplifting can still be observed. This area is now a nesting site for Land Iguanas and occasionally, giant tortoises coming from the moist uplands. This is a good trail to see Darwin finches and it is not rare to see Galapagos Hawks

Activities: Snorkelling, dinghy ride & hike, 2 trails: short (0.6 mi / 1 km), long (1.9 mi / 3km)
Difficulty: Easy (short trail) / Difficult (long trail)
Type of Landing: Wet landing
Highlights & Animals: Land Iguanas (the biggest in Galapagos), Hawks, uplifted coral reef, Giant Tortoises. Snorkelling: Turtles, Rays, tropical fish

Punta Espinosa Punta Espinosa, is a truly spectacular visitor site and a real highlight for any visitor to the Galapagos. A narrow strip of land extending out from the base of the Fernandina Volcano, it is home to the largest colonies of Marine Iguanas in the Galapagos. You will also have the chance to see Flightless Cormorants here, sea lions, and Galapagos Hawks often perch on the mangrove trees looking for prey. Along the coast, tidal pools provide a perfect environment for invertebrates and shorebirds, such as Oystercatchers, Plovers, Turnstones and Whimbrels.

Activities: Hike of approx (1.2 mi / 2 km). Snorkel.
Difficulty: Moderate
Type of Landing: Dry but sometimes slippery at low tide
Highlights & Animals: Sea Lion colony, Flightless Cormorant, vast numbers of Marine Iguanas, Sea Turtles, Sally-lightfoot Crabs, shorebirds, Herons. Snorkel: Penguins, Marine Iguanas feeding underwater, Cormorants, Sea turtles.



Day 6 Tagus Cove The walk will take you up the slopes of the Darwin Volcano, along the edge of a salt water lagoon to a small hill from which you will see spectacular views of the northern lava fields of Isabela. Most of the fauna will be observed during a dinghy ride along the coast, with dramatic colours and beautiful tuff formations, Blue-footed Boobies, Penguins, Marine Iguanas, Pelicans and shorebirds.

Activities: Long uphill hike, Snorkelling, dinghy ride, Kayak.
Difficulty: Moderate
Type of Landing: Dry landing
Highlights & Animals: Darwin Finches, lowland native vegetation, beautiful landscapes, Penguins, Flightless Cormorants, Blue-footed boobies, Darwin Volcano & Lake

Vicente Roca Point Beautiful volcanic scenery , amazing lava intrusions and huge sea cliff make this place one of the most scenic in the Galapagos. Nazca and Blue-footed Boobies sit along the cliffs whilst Flightless Cormorants stay along the shoreline and if you are lucky you will see Penguins in the water. The upwelling of cold water currents have created an abundance of marine life here, making for great snorkelling.

Activities: Dinghy ride, snorkel.
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: No landing
Highlights & Animals: Spectacular landscapes, Sea Turtles, Blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, Penguins, Flightless Cormorants. Snorkel: Sea turtles, Penguins, Gorgonians and other invertebrates.

Day 7

James (Santiago) – Playa Espumilla This tawny beach is a favourite nesting ground of Green Sea Turtles. There is a trail going inland with some very large Palo Santo trees where a number of land birds can be seen, including the Vermillion Flycatcher, the Galapagos Dove, Darwin Finches and Galapagos Mockingbirds. The beautiful sandy beach is a great place to swim and has some great mangrove areas.

Activities: Hiking (1 mi- 1,6km), Snorkelling and swimming at the beach
Difficulty: Easy / Moderate
Type of Landing: Wet landing
Highlights: Lowland Forest, Galapagos Hawk, Darwin Finches. Snorkelling

James (Santiago) – Bucaneer Cove This is the place were Darwin landed and built his base camp on his visit to James. It is a geological marvel since it offers wonderful scenery and chances to see both new and old ash formations. There is no landing site, so visit here can be only done either by dinghy or kayak. During the dinghy ride you might see Blue-footed Boobies, Brown Noddy, Galapagos Fur Seals and Swallow-tailed Gulls.

Activities: No landing. Boat tour along the coast. Kayak and Snorkelling
Difficulty: Easy
Type of Landing: No landing
Highlights & Animals: Sea birds, scenery, snorkel, spectacular rock formations.

James – (Santiago) - James Bay (Puerto Egas)

This was the island where Charles Darwin spent the majority of his land visits in Galapagos. At James Bay, the Fur Seal Grottos provide great chances to get close views of both Fur Seals and Galapagos Sea Lions in a series of rocky pools. This visit also provides some of the best opportunities for tide-pooling in the Galapagos, and chances to see shore birds such as Plovers, Sandpipers, Herons and Oystercatchers. The snorkel from the beach is excellent.

Activities: Snorkelling, hike (1.2 mi / 2km)
Difficulty: Easy /moderate
Type of Landing: Wet landing
Highlights: Galapagos Fur seals, Galapagos Sea Lions, tidal pools and “grottos”, Galapagos Hawk, Oystercatchers, Marine Iguanas, finches. Snorkelling: Reef Sharks, Turtles, Rays, nice underwater formations.

Day 8 North Seymour A great variety of Galapagos wildlife is provided in the loop trail on this small island. The highlight of your visit here will be the largest colony of Magnificent and Great Frigatebirds in the Galapagos as well as a colony of Blue-footed Boobies. In addition there are Sea lions, Marine Iguanas, Lava Lizards, Swallow-Tailed Gulls, and a few secretive, but very large Land Iguanas.

Activities: Hiking(1.5 mi/2.2 km)**,** Snorkelling & dinghy ride
Difficulty: Moderate/difficult
Type of Landing: Dry landing
Highlights & Animals: Land & Marine Iguanas, Frigatebirds, Blue-footed Boobies, Sea Lions, sea birds. Snorkelling: Rays, Reef Shark, fish, Garden Eels

After this final visit, you will be transferred to Baltra's airport for your flight back to the mainland, or you could continue your Galapagos adventure with a stay in one of the inhabited islands.

Please note: ***Itineraries are unlikely to change significantly but are subject to change. Weather, wildlife breeding, instructions from the Galapagos National Park, specific abilities and interests of passengers as well as operational matters may cause your guide or captain to change the times or nature of your visits. Your guide will always endeavour to have the best itinerary for you within these constraints.***

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