



## Seaman Journey 8 Days C

*M/C Galapagos Seaman Journey is a first-class catamaran that began sailing the Galapagos Islands in January 2008. She is a first-class expeditionary catamaran offering superior comfort, size, style, and stability. The catamaran's large, comfortable double cabins with outside views, private bathrooms, hot water, a locker and closet.*

*The spacious rooms each have full air-conditioning and individual climate control.*

*On-board you'll also find a comfortable dining room, two bars, a lounge, library, TV/DVD, stereo, first aid, an ice maker, observation deck, a water purifier and spacious sundeck with chairs for relaxing in the sea breeze. A very helpful friendly crew with great service and very good naturalist guides.*





### **Your Itinerary**

The western islands have a pristine untouched quality, which is most evident as you sail along the western coast of Isabela and through the narrow Bolivar Channel separating the Island from Fernandina. The western islands receive a double dose of upwelling (from both the Humboldt 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 Iguanas and Whales... not to mention the sea birds, sea lions and the other amazing Galapagos wildlife which thrive here. Going on deck at night and seeing the numerous large bioluminescent particles is quite an experience.





## Detailed Itinerary

**Day 1 Arrive Baltra** You will arrive to the islet of Baltra from your flight from the mainland, where you will be met at the airport by your guide and the team from the Seaman Journey.

**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:** Pit craters, Scalesia Forest, Darwin finches, Warblers, Flycatchers.



## Day 2 Fernandina and Isabela

### Fernandina - Mangrove Point

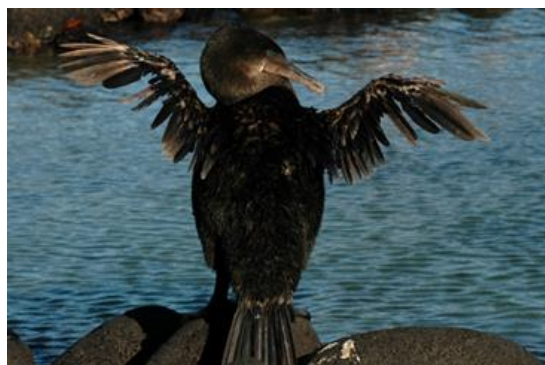
The youngest of the Galapagos Islands at just over 100,000 years old, this is the most pristine and untouched of all the islands (not just in Galapagos, but in the world). Volcanically it is still active with eruptions occurring every 3 to 5 years. No foreign species have ever invaded Fernandina Island. This visitor site has a great opportunity to see the Galapagos Hawk and one of the rarities that evolution has produced in the islands: the Flightless Cormorant.

**Activities:** Dinghy ride, snorkel.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** No landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Flightless Cormorant, Penguins, Marine Iguanas, Galapagos Hawks, Herons, Sea Turtles, Rays. Snorkel: Sea Lions, Penguins, Cormorants, colourful fish.



### 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 island, 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 host a surprising amount of wildlife due to the presence of many sink holes which are home to Flamingos, Stilts and Pintail Ducks.

**Activities:** Hike (1.3 mi / 2.1 km) Snorkelling, dinghy ride

**Difficulty:** Moderate/Difficult

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Flamingos, Gallinules, Pintail ducks, Sea turtles, Reef sharks, Penguins.



### Day 3 Isabela - 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. Since then, vegetation has largely colonized the area but many signs of the uplift 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



### 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



#### Day 4 Fernandina - 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.



**Isabela - 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 has 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 5 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) – Buccaneer Cove

This is the place where 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. Kayaking 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 6 Rabida

A red sandy beach with Sea Lions and nesting Brown Pelicans, which sometimes afford a rare glimpse of chick feeding. There is a short walk inland which offers great views of the beach and lagoon. Years ago Flamingos were regularly seen at the salty lagoon, but nowadays this is a rare sight. Geologically, Rabida is said to have the most diversified volcanic rocks of all the islands. It also provides a great opportunity to snorkel with Sea Lions and has a great diversity of near-shore and pelagic fish.





**Activities:** Wet landing. Hiking 0.5 mi. Kayaking and Snorkelling

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Red sand beach, coastal lagoon, Galapagos Sea Lions, Seasonal colony of Brown Pelicans, Galapagos Hawk. Snorkel: Sea Lions, Butterflyfish, Parrotfish, Eels.

### Chinese Hat or Sombrero Chino

Located just off the southeast tip of James Island, this island owes its name to its shape. A truly beautiful island, surrounded by crystal clear waters, this is great location for Sea Lions. Perhaps more than any other site, this islet gives you a sense of Galapagos volcanic origins as the beautiful white beach gives way to an almost primeval landscape of volcanic rubble.

**Activities:** Hiking 0.4 mi. Snorkelling & Kayaking.

**Difficulty:** Easy/Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Walk along the shore visiting a small colony of Galapagos Sea Lions. Penguins. Snorkel: Penguins, Reef sharks, Parrotfish, Puffers.



### Day 7 Santiago

#### Santiago – Sullivan Bay

This site is of great geological interest and is located southeast of Santiago Island. Sullivan Bay offers a rare look at a recently formed lava field. Located on the eastern coast of James Island, across from Bartolome, this lava field is thought to have been created in eruptions that took place around 1890.

**Activities:** Hike (0.9 mi / 1.5 km) swimming and snorkelling

**Difficulty:** Moderate.

**Type of Landing:** Dry landing at the rocky shore and a wet landing at the white sand beach

**Highlights & Animals:** Pahoehoe lava flows, which has hardened in accordion-style formation. Small glass-like bubbles of lava can be found, called “hornitos”. Penguins in the coastline.



### Bartolome

Home to one of the most iconic scenery shots of Galapagos, this small island is located off the eastern shore of Santiago Island. The striking volcanic landscape looks almost lunar and provides a great introduction to the volcanic origins of the islands, with spatter cones and cinder cones some of which are eroded shaping striking formations like Pinnacle Rock. On the way to the top of Bartolome you will observe good examples of pioneering plants, including some beautiful strands of lava cactus. At sea level, this is a great place for swimming and snorkelling, if you are lucky with Galapagos Penguins.

**Activities:** Dinghy ride & snorkelling. Hike uphill (0.5 mi / 0.8 km)  
**Difficulty:** Moderate/ difficult. Walk up to the top of volcano 114 meters, 375 wooden steps. **Type of Landing:** Dry and wet landing  
**Highlights & Animals:** Pinnacle rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, Penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus. Snorkelling: Penguins, Reef Sharks, Rays, great colourful fish.

### Day 8

You will have an early start this morning, and the visit will be a relatively short one as the yacht must then return to Baltra where the cruise will end in time for guests to take their connecting flight back to mainland Ecuador.

### Santa Cruz - Bachas Beach

A beautiful white sandy beach punctuated by lava formations. The wonderfully soft sand here makes it a favourite site for nesting Sea Turtles. Here you will also see White Mangroves, one of the four mangrove species found in the Galapagos. There is a small coastal lagoon behind the sand dunes where Flamingos, Stilts, Pintail ducks and other water birds are regularly seen.

**Activities:** Walking along the beach.

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** World War II remnants, Sally Lightfoot crabs, Hermit Crabs, Black-necked Stilts, Whimbrels, Flamingos, Sea Turtles

From here you return to Baltra for your flight back to mainland Ecuador.



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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