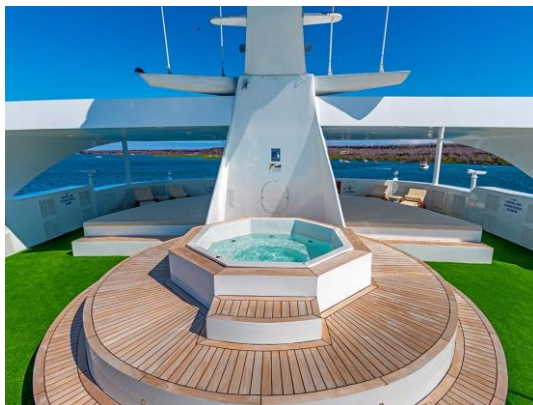




## Ocean Spray – 5 Days

A beautiful catamaran for up to 16 guests offering true 5 star facilities. The elegant design includes a huge sundeck, Jacuzzi and spacious cabins each with private balcony. The company that owns and operates the Ocean Spray has a great reputation for excellent service and works with very good naturalist guides. Service on board is excellent, with an administrator on board to ensure the smooth running of operations. Taking you to the Central and Northern part of the archipelago, this itinerary has an excellent mix of islands allowing you to see a wide selection of Galapagos wildlife, with fascinating scenery, superb snorkelling opportunities especially with sea lions and includes a visit to the beautiful island of Genovesa, an outpost island for sea birds.







## Day 1 Arrive Baltra

Arrival at the airport in Galapagos. Once you have passed through the Galapagos migration control procedures and collected your luggage, as you exit the airport your guide and members of the crew from the Ocean Spray will be there to meet you and take you to board the yacht, and your Galapagos adventure will begin!

You will board the yacht and set off navigating to your first visitor site.

## Bartolome Island

Home of the famous Pinnacle Rock, Bartholomew consists of an extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, black and even green volcanic formations. A trail of stairs leads to the summit of the volcano, boasting one of the best views of the islands. The beach is perfect for snorkeling and possible sightings of the Galapagos Penguin.





**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 2

**Genovesa (Tower)** A highlight of any visit to the Galapagos, a truly beautiful island thanks to the richness of its birdlife. Located in the northeast portion of Galapagos, the island is an outpost for many seabirds (as is Española in the South). Interestingly there are no land reptiles here and only very small Marine Iguanas, due to direction of ocean currents which apparently would not have carried terrestrial animals here. You will visit the following sites.

### Genovesa - Darwin Bay

This bay is actually the caldera of an extinct, partially eroded volcano, with the surrounding cliffs forming the inner portion of the rim. You will land on a coral beach, and will immediately be struck by the amount of birdlife. The trail is loaded with Great Frigatebirds (mating season from February to May), Red-footed Boobies nesting in the mangroves, Swallow-tailed Gulls, Lava Gulls, Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Your trail takes you past a beautiful tide pool area where herons try to catch small fish.

**Activities:** Hike (0.9 mi / 1 ½ km), snorkelling, kayaking & dinghy ride

**Difficulty:** Easy/moderate

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing.

**Highlights:** Nazca Boobies, Red-footed Boobies, Great Frigatebirds, Swallow-tailed Gulls, mangroves, coral pebbles beach. Snorkelling: rays, colourful reef fish and Hammerhead Sharks



### El Barranco or Prince Philip's Steps

The tour begins with a great dinghy ride along the base of the cliffs where you see Red-billed Tropicbirds trying to make a precise landing in their nest. Squadrons of Frigatebirds are seen flying back and forth, whilst Red-footed Boobies perch on branches of Palo Santo trees which seemingly grow out of the cliffs. Once you arrive on land and climb to the cliff-top, you enter an area where nesting Nazca Boobies and Great Frigatebirds are found. It is also a great place to see Galapagos Doves and Vampire Finches (Sharp-beaked Ground Finches) ...ask your guide for the full story on the name! You will also see a large colony of Storm Petrels which attracts Short-eared Owls, often observed stalking at these small sea birds, even during the day.

**Activities:** Hike (0.9 mi / 1 ½ km)

**Difficulty:** Moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry, difficult landing

**Highlights:** Red-footed Boobies, Great Frigatebirds, Short-eared Owls, Storm Petrels, Galapagos Doves, Darwin Finches.



### Day 3 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 (1mi / 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, hiking (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 4      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 (1.2 mi / 2km), 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



## Santa Cruz – Highlands

The highlands of Santa Cruz are home to fascinating geological features, like lava tubes and the twin sink hole 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:** Walk

**Difficulty:** Easy /moderate

**Type of Landing:**

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





**Day 5** 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.

### **Mosquera**

This tiny islet, nestled between Baltra and North Seymour islands is a beautiful long narrow beach with a large population of Galapagos Sea Lions. As with other areas in Galapagos this area has been geologically uplifted.

**Activities:** Wet landing. Short walk along the beach (0.5 mi).

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Type of Landing:** Wet landing

**Highlights & Animals:** Galapagos Sea lion colony, Lava Gulls, Herons.



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.

*"All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this document are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate](http://www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate)"*



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.*

