

# WESTERN GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

## SAN CRISTOBAL TO BALTRA, GALAPAGOS



The Western Islands are home to the only active volcanoes in the archipelago and are known both for their spectacular volcanic landscapes and penguin spotting: over 95% of the Galápagos penguins live in these islands. It's also the only area to see the endemic flightless cormorant. Other key sites include Post Office Bay with its human history and Punta Vicente Roca with some of the best snorkelling in the archipelago.



**DATES:** 2020 – Feb 01, 15, 29 | Mar 28  
| Apr 11 | May 09 | Jun 06  
And every other Thursday

**DURATION:** 10 DAYS/9 NIGHTS

**EMBARK:** SAN CRISTOBAL, GALAPAGOS  
**DISEMBARK:** BALTRA, GALAPAGOS  
**SHIP:** SILVER GALAPAGOS

**FROM:** \$8,460

Includes 10% savings and free air from North America

**PRIVATE EXPLOR CLUB SAVINGS –**  
Take an additional 25% off second person in a suite on these dates.

## EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk across spectacular lava fields
- Explore tidal pools, lush mangroves and scalesia forests
- See giant tortoises, pelicans and the largest colony of marine iguanas
- Snorkel with green sea turtles, penguins, sea lions and manta rays
- Hike through fragrant forests of Palo Santo “Incense” trees
- Watch for a unique species of flightless cormorant
- Visit one of the most volcanically active places on Earth
- See wild flamingos (in season) and nesting sea turtles
- Photograph iconic Pinnacle Rock

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 – THU - ARRIVE QUITO, ECUADOR

Meet and transfer to your included JW Marriott hotel. Arrive earlier to explore more of this wonderful, diverse country. Visit the Amazon region and stay at a fabulous wildlife center. See the colorful birds of Ecuador’s Cloud Forest near Quito. We can make all the arrangements for you.

### Day 2 – FRI - FREE DAY TO EXPLORE QUITO

Take in some of the numerous museums, and explore the beautiful historic district, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This evening enjoy a night walking tour of old Quito, where the historic buildings are illuminated.

### Day 3 – SAT – EMBARK *SILVER GALAPAGOS*

You will be transferred to the Quito airport for your included flight to San Cristobal and the *Silver Galapagos*. Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on the southwestern tip of the island is the capital city of the Galapagos Islands. A statue of Charles Darwin graces the harbor, marking one of the first places he likely stepped ashore in the 1830s.

The Silver Galapagos will circumnavigate Kicker Rock, one of the most iconic features of the Galapagos Islands. The small landform is formed by

two tall towers of lava rock and when viewed from the south, resembles a sleeping lion.

### Day 4 — SUN – BARTOLOMÉ - SANTIAGO

Our ship anchors in sight of the volcanic moonscape of Isla Bartolomé, at Sullivan Bay. Zodiacs bring guests ashore to ascend a boardwalk of 388 steps. Passing through the arid volcanic landscape provides a chance to watch for lava lizards, Galapagos Hawks, and Blue-footed Boobies.



Playa Espumilla is located on the northwestern side of Santiago Island and is home to a variety of wildlife including nesting green sea turtles, and plentiful birds such as flamingos, White-cheeked Pintails, Yellow Warblers, Galapagos Hawks, Whimbrels, and American Oystercatchers

### Day 5 — MON – ISLA ISABELA

The agile Silver Galapagos can anchor in deep water right up against the cliffs of Punta Vicente Roca on the northwest side of Isabela Island. From our anchorage Zodiacs set out to cruise beneath the imposing volcanic coastline. The cliffs support endemic Flightless Cormorants, Galapagos fur seals, Blue-footed Boobies, and marine iguanas. The waters below hold scores of Eastern Pacific green sea turtles swimming all around the Zodiacs. If conditions allow, fortunate snorkelers will have an opportunity to swim with eagle rays, Galapagos sea lions, Galapagos Penguins, and schools of small tuna in the blue.

### Day 6 — TUE – ISABELA - FERNANDINA

Tagus Cove is a sheltered area southwest of Volcán Darwin on Isabela Island. The protected waters of

this cove are home to sea turtles, marine iguanas, Flightless Cormorants and Galapagos Penguins.



The tranquil inlets of Elizabeth Bay are the perfect spot for a Zodiac cruise. In the easternmost embayment lies a hidden inlet. Our nimble Zodiacs can enter this small cove to look for sea turtles, rays and even sharks.

#### **Day 7 — WED - ISLA FLOREANA**

Post Office Bay is steeped in history and received its name thanks to a post box that was placed ashore before 1813. Ships that were visiting the Galapagos on multi-year voyages would leave letters here to be collected and delivered by vessels on their way home.



Floreana Island's northernmost point is called Punta Cormorant – named after the British naval vessel HMS Cormorant and dating back to the late 19th century. From the landing beach a short track leads to a shallow lagoon that is famous for its flamingos. The brilliantly pink birds skim the salty waters for shrimp and tend to chicks on the nest.

#### **Day 8 — THU – ISLA SANTA CRUZ**

Cerro Dragón's land iguanas once played an important part in a conservation program headed by the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park. When the reptiles' numbers declined in the 1970s, some animals were taken to breed in captivity and were released back into undeveloped areas. Today, it is an honor to see the success of this program firsthand at Cerro Dragón. Walk inland on a trail past small saltwater lagoons that periodically feature flamingos, to see the reintroduced animals. In a periodic local phenomenon, during rainier times the salinity in the lagoons drops with the inflow of freshwater.



#### **Day 9 — FRI - SANTA CRUZ - Charles Darwin Research Station**

Los Gemelos is Spanish for “the twins” and true to the name, Los Gemelos are twin sinkholes, one on either side of the road running from Puerto Ayora to the north side of the island.

Santa Cruz is where the prestigious Charles Darwin Research Station is located. The station also houses the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center for giant tortoises and land iguanas where guides interpret the center's captive breeding and reintroduction programs.

#### **Day 10 — SAT - BALTRA**

Following breakfast, disembark Silver Galapagos for your return flight from Baltra Airport to Guayaquil and connect with your flight home, or to other adventures in Ecuador, Peru, or other South American attractions.



## The Galápagos All-Inclusive Experience Includes:

- 7-day Galápagos Expedition aboard Silver Galapagos
  - Roundtrip Economy Air between Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands
  - Two-night pre-cruise hotel stay with breakfast at the Quito JW Marriott
  - Evening tour of Quito's historic city highlights
  - All transfers in Quito, Galapagos and Guayaquil
    - Post-cruise hotel day room at Hotel Oro Verde in Guayaquil \*
  - National Park, Ingala Transit Card and portorage
  - PLUS Roundtrip Economy Air to Ecuador
- From \$199\*

\*For guests with flights after 10pm

\*\*Flights are available only for guests traveling from select US/Canadian gateways

## SILVER GALAPAGOS

GUESTS: 100

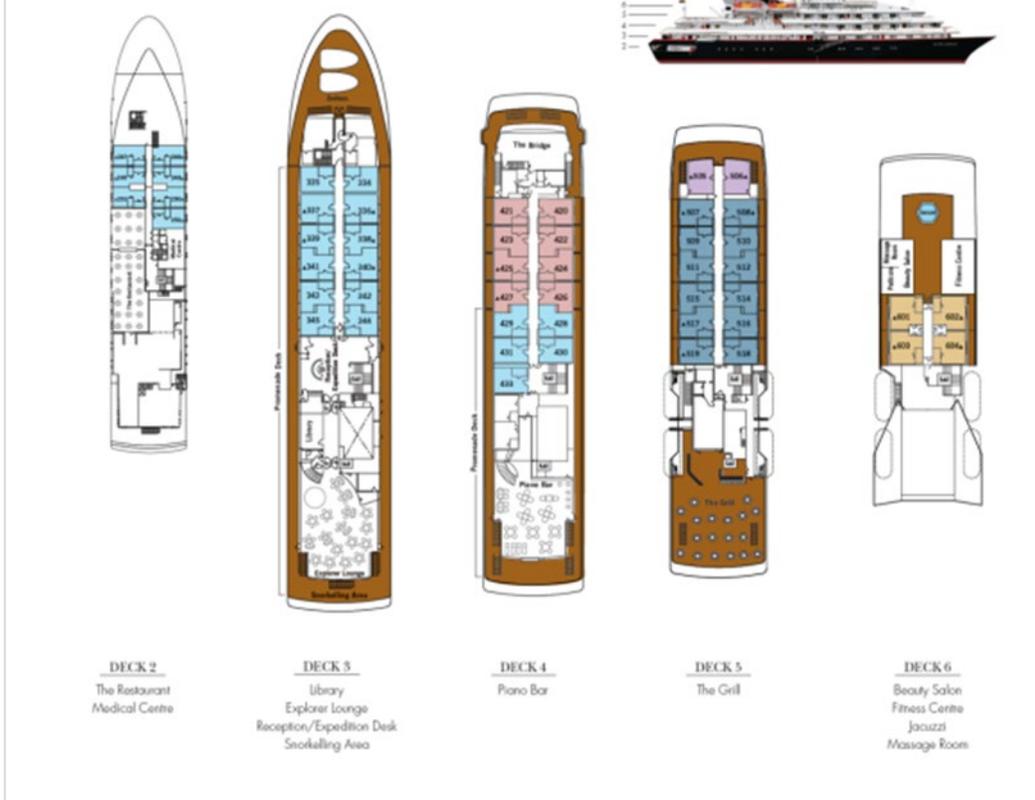
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Silver Galapagos – DECK PLAN



Reservations & Information

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