

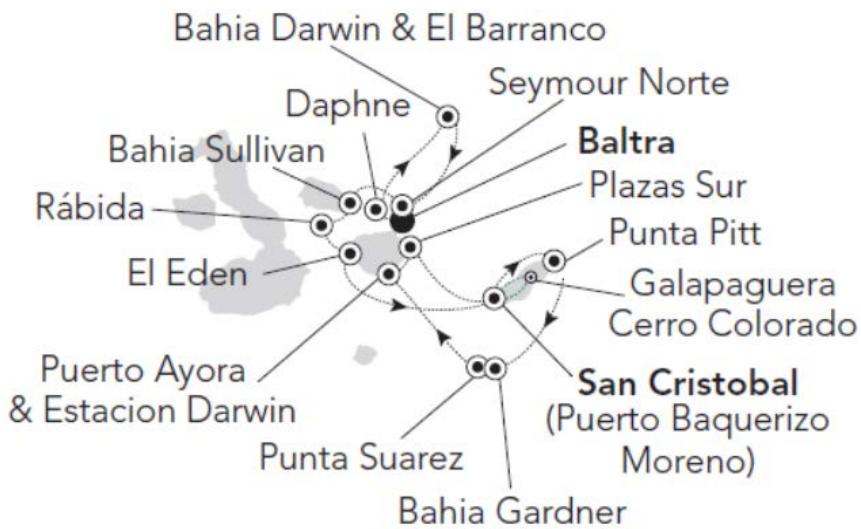
# NORTH CENTRAL GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

## BALTRA TO SAN CRISTOBAL, GALAPAGOS



Enjoy a Galapagos Expedition to snorkel with sea lions and hike along lava tunnels and back to the beginning of time. The *Silver Galapagos* cruise takes you to the remote islands, whilst indulging you in the unrivalled all-suite comfort and elegant sophistication which has made us famous. Watch bellowing elephant bulls challenge each other in a spectacular display. Admire the courtship of a Blue-footed Booby. Step over iguanas basking in the sun. It is not only the abundance of wildlife, but their fearlessness that makes the Galápagos island cruise a nature lover's dream.

### Route Map -



**DURATION:** 10 DAYS/9 NIGHTS

**DATES 2018** - Sep. 06, 20 | Oct. 04, 18 | Nov. 01, 15, 29, 2018  
| Dec. 13, 27

**2019:** Jan. 12, 26 | Feb. 09, 23 |  
Mar. 09, 23 | Apr. 06, 20 | May  
04, 18 | Jun. 01, 15, 29 | Jul. 13,  
27 | Aug. 10, 24 | Oct. 05, 19 |  
Nov. 02, 16, 30 | Dec. 14, 28

**EMBARK:** BALTRA, GALAPAGOS

**DISEMBARK:** SAN CRISTOBAL,  
GALAPAGOS

**SHIP:** SILVER GALAPAGOS

**FROM:** \$6,300

## Expedition Highlights

- Visit “Bird Island” home to over 30 bird species.
- Climb Prince Philip’s Steps to see a thriving seabird colony and search for the Galápagos Short-eared Owl.
- Observe sea lion families and the famed giant tortoises and marvel at the fearless behavior of wildlife.
- Admire the antics of Red-footed and Blue-footed Boobies.
- Hike up the sides of an extinct volcano and hike across lava flows.
- See the Waved Albatross (depending on the season — April to December).
- Swim and snorkel in tranquil, clear waters.
- Photograph colorful marine iguanas.
- Cruise by Zodiac along scenic coastlines.
- Learn about conservation efforts at the “Fausto Llerena Breeding Center”.

## 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 – Fly to Baltra - Embark *Silver*

#### *Galapagos* – Isla Daphne

This morning you will be transferred to the Quito airport for your included flight to Baltra and the *Silver Galapagos*. Upon arrival and once through immigrations procedures, visitors are transferred directly to a nearby dock to join the ship by Zodiac.

Daphne Major is a volcanic tuff crater island, located to the north of Santa Cruz Island. It will be a special event to come in close with the ship and watch for Nazca and Blue-footed Boobies, frigatebirds, Red-billed

Tropicbirds, Brown Noddies, Brown Pelicans, and Swallow-tailed Gulls riding the sea breezes swirling around this rugged landmass.

### Day 4— SUN - Bahía Darwin, Genovesa Island

At Genovesa Island the ship tucks into Darwin Bay, an ancient volcanic crater now flooded by the sea. Zodiacs land on a picturesque sandy beach where Galapagos sea lions often rest on the fine, white sand. Explorations along the shore may reveal marine iguanas looking like prehistoric dinosaurs in miniature. Scores of immature Red-footed Boobies perch on branches within an arm’s reach of the path.

From Darwin Bay on Genovesa Island explorers can access an area known as El Barranco or the “Prince Philip’s Steps”. A brief scramble up the stone steps brings you to the plateau of the island. From here, on



flat ground, a small trail wanders past Red-footed Boobies, perching frigate birds, Galapagos Mockingbirds, Nazca Boobies, and Galapagos finches. The highlight however, is arriving on the windward side of the island to see hundreds of Wedge-Rumped Storm Petrels flying around in a frenzy of activity above the lava field where they nest.

### Day 5 — MON - North Seymour, Sullivan Bay, Santiago

The landing at North Seymour Island is onto black lava rock. After a short climb, visitors arrive on the island’s flat plateau where a number of sea lions nurse pups and frigatebirds nest. The island is dry, and so the predominant tree is the prickly pear cactus favored by the yellow Conolophus land iguanas that live here in number. The undulating terrain is littered with red-brown volcanic boulders and large male Magnificent Frigatebirds can be seen inflating their vivid red gular sacs in hopes of impressing females flying overhead.

The lava fields of Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island will inevitably remind visitors of the surface of the moon. As

brilliant red Sally Lightfoot crabs scuttle along the black volcanic shores, learn about the formation of the islands through geological forces from your guides. The lava flows here are just over one hundred years old and date back to 1897.

#### **Day 6 — TUE - Rabida and Eden, Santa Cruz**

Rugged red cliffs rise from the sea and Zodiacs land onto a beach of dark red sand colored by iron ore. Ghost crabs and Galapagos sea lion pups often rest on the russet sands. Further inland, the rusty sand gives way to shrubby coastal vegetation dominated by prickly-pear cactus. Common Cactus Finches feed on the yellow flowers while Darwin finches and lava lizards skitter across the path in search of food.

Eden is a small, eroded tuff cone from an ancient volcano, and is an excellent example of the unique geology of the Galápagos. The shallow waters around the island are ideal for spotting Pacific green sea turtles, reef sharks, eagle rays, sea lions, marine iguanas and Sally Lightfoot crabs.

#### **Day 7 — WED - La Galapaguera & Punta Pitt, San Cristobal**

Giant tortoises are emblematic of the Galapagos Islands. Zodiacs take all ashore to the pretty little town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. From here we set out by bus for the Galapaguera Cerro Colorado Tortoise Reserve in the highlands of the island. The trails of the reserve lead to encounters with large, lumbering adult tortoises as well as small juveniles that could fit in the palm of a person's hand.

On the northern shore of San Cristobal Island is a peninsula known as Punta Pitt. The point is made up of two coalesced volcanoes and is much younger than the rest of the island. Some of the lava flows are only a few centuries old.

#### **Day 8 — THU - Bahía Gardner and Punta Suárez, Española**

Isla Champion is a small islet off Floreana Island's northeast coast. To cruise by it reveals a bare, rocky island without much allure, but to enter the infinitely blue waters around this small landmass is to discover a spectacular underwater realm. The visibility is generally

impressive and thanks to this water clarity snorkelers often spot reef sharks patrolling the reef wall, cruising Pacific green turtles, and playful Galapagos sea lions. Encounters in the blue with thousands of small silver minnows, large tuna fish, or oceanic sunfish are not unheard of either.

Punta Suárez lies at the western point of Española, the oldest island in the Galápagos. Sheer cliffs provide superb thermals for seabirds and you may spot Swallow-tailed Gulls, Nazca Boobies and Blue-footed Boobies on the breeze. The largest seabird to nest in the Galapagos Islands is the Waved Albatross. These ocean wanderers can be seen seasonally here from April through December, when pairs reunite on Española, going through an elaborate pair-bonding display. Mockingbirds, doves, and occasional Galápagos Hawks can also be seen on the point, along with sea lions and colorful marine iguanas.

#### **Day 9 — FRI - The Fausto Llerena Breeding Center and Puerto Ayora Town Visit, Santa Cruz, Plazas Sur**

*Silver Galapagos* will anchor in front of Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz, 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. Enjoy free time in town where local artists have created charming art galleries and corner cafés.

South Plaza is a serene island located close to the eastern coast of Santa Cruz. This small island is home to a large nesting colony of Swallow-tailed Gulls, along with marine iguanas and Galápagos sea lions. Seabirds crowd the island's shores including Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies, Brown Pelicans, and frigatebirds.

#### **Day 10 — SAT - San Cristobal - Disembark**

Like so many of the islands in the Galapagos, San Cristobal is formed by dormant volcanoes. It lies to the east of the archipelago and is one of the oldest islands in the group. Approximately 6,000 people live on the island. Transfer to the airport for your included flight to Guayaquil.



## SILVER GALAPAGOS

GUESTS: 100

Silver Galapagos – DECK PLAN

### The Galápagos All-Inclusive Experience Includes:

Flights between Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands; Transfers; Two pre- and one post- Hotel\*; National Park fees; Personalized service – the best crew-to-guest ratio in expedition cruising; Butler service in every suite; Open-seating dining options; Beverages in-suite and throughout the ship – select wines, premium spirits, specialty coffees and soft drinks, plus your own tailored mini-bar; In-suite dining and room service – available from 06:00 to 23:00; Enrichment lectures by a highly qualified Expeditions Team; Guided Zodiac, land and sea tours, and shoreside activities led by the Expeditions Team

### PLUS

**Gratuities always included in your fare**

**Low Cost Economy Air – \$199**

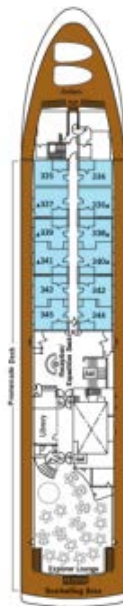
**Economy RT Air (East Coast Gateways) and \$299**

**Economy RT Air (West Coast Gateways).**

\*For guests with flights after 10 pm



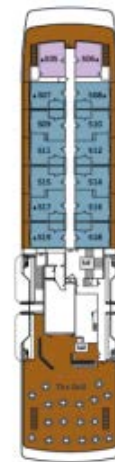
DECK 2  
The Restaurant  
Medical Centre



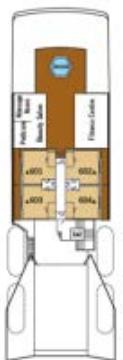
DECK 3  
Library  
Explorer Lounge  
Reception/Expedition Desk  
Storking Area



DECK 4  
Piano Bar



DECK 5  
The Grill



DECK 6  
Beauty Salon  
Fitness Centre  
Jacuzzi  
Massage Room



**Reservations & Information**

**1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)**

Email - [info@explorcruises.com](mailto:info@explorcruises.com)

[www.explorcruises.com](http://www.explorcruises.com)