



GALAPAGOS SEA STAR JOURNEY– 10 DAYS

Our Galapagos Cruises combine a contemporary design, privacy and comfort all within the marvellous setting of the Galapagos Islands. The Galapagos Sea Star Journey has a capacity of up to 16 passengers, featuring seven spacious Galapagos Suites – Matrimonial (approx. 25,2 m) and one Sea Star Suite (approx. 35,2 m) equipped with panoramic windows to enjoy the wonderful landscapes of the islands. These come with a private bathroom, hot/cold water, air conditioning (with independent controls), a minibar and TV. Twin beds (or one faux queen bed) and connected suites are available for families.

Local and International dishes – especially designed by our chef – are served in the cosy atmosphere of our dining room. Our yacht offers a large solarium with shaded and uncovered areas, two Jacuzzis and comfortable sun loungers. Social areas include a Saloon, mini-library and video library as well as a play zone for kids (during family departures). Snorkelling equipment and kayaks are available too without any extra charge.

Galapagos Sea Star Journey complies with local and international safety regulations. In addition, we implement sustainable practices throughout our journey to protect the fragile environment of the Galapagos archipelago

Day 1: M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Day 1

****EXAMPLE ITINERARY – ITINERARY MAY VARY DEPENDING ON DEPARTURE. CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS****

Upon arrival at San Cristobal Airport, a guide will meet you, help you collect your luggage, and escort you on a short bus ride to the harbour.

In the afternoon, visit to Cerro Colorado Tortoises Protection and Growing Centre, located at 40 minutes approx. by bus to the south east of the island. This center was built to improve the status of the population of the island tortoises. The center includes a large corral, a Visitors centre, breeding center and an interpretative trail. Along this trail is possible to see different species of native and endemic plants as well birds as the San Cristobal Mockingbird, Yellow Warblers, and many species of finches and the Galapagos flycatcher.



(D)

Overnight in a M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Journey 10 Day Twin with all meals included.

Day 2: M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Day 2

AM: ESPAÑOLA ISLAND, GARDNER BAY

Located on the north-eastern coast of Hood, Gardner Bay provides an excellent beach for relaxing, swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, and the opportunity to observe sea lions. Here we can also observe sharks in the crystal clear ocean waters.



PM: ESPAÑOLA ISLAND, PUNTA SUAREZ

This rocky land spot sustains one of the most impressive and varied colonies of sea birds in the Galapagos. Along its southern shore, high cliffs rise up from the sea affording the visitor spectacular views of soaring birds and of the blow whole where water spouts up to 50-75 feet into the air according to the intensity of the surf.

(B/L/D)

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Day 3: M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Day 3

AM: PUNTA CORMORANT, FLOREANA

This site offers probably the best Flamingo lagoon in the Galapagos; it is also one of the largest in the islands. It's now between two tuff lava cones that give the area a special atmosphere. There are various species of shorebirds to observe besides flamingos; the most frequent are common stilts, white-checked pintail ducks and other migratory birds. It is very interesting to see the two distinct beaches: "The Green Beach" (due to its high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand) and the "Flour Sand Beach" which is made up of coral.



PM: POST OFFICE BAY & BARONESS LOOKOUT, FLOREANA

Sea Star Journey Historically, this site is the location of a wooden barrel placed here in the 18th century by the crew of a whaling ship. Marines as well as tourist used it as a post office. The idea is to carry letters or postcards to their destination by hand. Apart from being the Post Office Barrel, this site was the landing area for some of the first colonists. We will continue to the north of the island and will ascent to an elevated slope to enjoy a beautiful vista at the Baroness Lookout. It is said that Baroness Eloisa von Wagner loved this place and spent several hours watching the horizon. If you walk around 30 minutes, you can see the ruins of her House. From this lookout, the landscape covers the coastline from the Enderby islet to Post Office Bay, as well as Cerro Pajas, the pool of flamingos and wide forest of Palo Santo.

(B/L/D)

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Day 4: M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Day 4

AM : SANTA FE

Located in the south-eastern part of the Galapagos, this island was formed from an uplift instead than a volcanic origin, this is why is mostly flat. There are some theories which assure this could be the oldest island in the Archipelago. Santa Fe is the home of a number of endemic species like the Galapagos Hawk, Galapagos snake, Galapagos mockingbird, rice rats and one of the two species of lands Iguanas of the islands. After disembarkation in the beautiful and clear waters you will be in contact with one of the many sea lion colonies. You can see many salt bushes along the trail as well giant Pickly pear cactus; gigantism is a characteristic of oceanic islands. There are great possibilities of snorkelling with playful sea lions and tropical fishes.



PM: PLAZAS

Sea Star Journey Plazas is located at the east of Santa Cruz Island, and forms part of two islands known as Islas Plazas. Despite its small size, you can see some of the most interesting and outstanding species of the Galapagos. The Plazas land iguanas are smaller than its relatives found at other islands. Throughout the island are several hybrid iguanas, a result of crossing a male marine iguana and a female land iguana, they are unique, recognizable at first glance by their black/gray colour, with a land iguana's crest, but face and tail of the marine iguana. The big population of iguanas is due to the presence of tunas, their favourite food. You can see Swallow Tailed Gulls nesting along the cliffs with other sea birds as: Audubon shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, frigate birds and brown pelicans.

(B/L/D)

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Day 5: M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Day 5

AM: NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND

Seymour is an uplifted (as opposed to volcanic) island and so is generally flat and strewn with boulders. There are good nesting sites here for a large population of magnificent frigate birds. Blue-footed boobies perform their courtship dance in the more open areas and swallow-tailed gulls perch on the cliff edges.



Despite the tremendous surf that can pound the outer shore, you can see sea lions haul out onto the beach or surfing.

Watch your step, as the boobies don't worry much about where they nest, and you might just step on one. Also, you can see in the trees male frigate birds trying to attract the attention of the ladies by inflating their bright red skin flaps.

They sometimes fly in the air to call more attention to themselves. There's a circular path that takes you through the island to a beautiful, rocky shore where the waves crash a silvery-blue.

Sea Star Journey PM: BACHAS BEACH, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

These two small beaches are found to the West of Turtle Cove. Their sand is made of decomposed coral, which makes it white and soft, making it a favourite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind one of the beaches

Day 5 continued...

there is a small brackish water lagoon, where occasionally is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels. The other beach is longer, but it has two old barges, they were abandoned during the Second World War. It happened when the USA used Baltra Island as a strategically point to protect the Panama Channel.

(B/L/D)

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Day 6: M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Day 6

AM: MOSQUERA ISLET

The Mosquera Islet is located between Baltra and North Seymour Islands and it was formed by a geological uplift, in its narrowest width reaches 160 meters approximately. This islet has one of the largest populations of sea lions; visitors can also observe several species of shorebirds. If you are lucky you can also see dolphins and orcas around this islet.



Sea Star Journey PM: DRAGON HILL, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

The visitor site at Dragon Hill has been open for visits on 1993. This site is located in north-western Santa Cruz Island. It consists of a trail that leads to a hyper-saline lagoon behind the beach. Here you can see flamingos, pintail ducks and other species of birds. This site has been re populated with land iguanas from Seymour, Isabela and Santa Cruz islands. There is a short walk to the Hill, which offers a beautiful view of the bay.

(B/L/D)

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Day 7: M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Day 7

AM: BLACK TURTLE COVE

This little cove is located at the northern side of Santa Cruz Island. This is a red mangrove lagoon very calm and quiet which made an ideal place as nursery for many sharks and rays. Its crystal waters permits to observe large groups of white-tip reef, black tipped reef and hammer heads sharks, schools of golden rays and spotted eagle rays. To visit this place, you have to use panga or kayak, due to, there are no landing sites. You can see sea turtles and sometimes they are in the mangrove waters. If you are lucky, you can also see Pelicans and Herons.



PM: CHINESE HAT

This is a small islet (1 sq km) located just off the south-eastern tip of Santiago Island. It is a recent volcanic cone, it shapes is like a Chinese hat when seen from the north side. On the west, you can see lava formations, formed under the sea and rose upward, this is why coral heads can be found on the lava. This is an excellent visit for interpretation of geological features such as lava tubes and lava flows. The landscape is full of sea lions colonies, marine iguanas, and Galapagos penguins.

(B/L/D)

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Day 8: M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Day 8

AM: DARWIN BAY, GENOVESA ISLAND

This bay has origin when the crater of this island collapsed below sea level. The wet landing is on a beautiful white coral sandy beach. This is a favourite island for birdwatchers: red footed-booby, masked boobies, wandering tattlers, lava gulls, whimbrels Yellow-crowned, black-crowned and lava herons, with and yellow warblers can be seen in the area.

Continuing on the trail, visitors climb gradually to the edge of the cliff seeing Red-Foots nesting in the Mangrove trees below. Bird watching includes sightings of Sharp-Beaked Finches, Large Cactus and Ground Finches, Galapagos Doves and Swallow-Tailed Gulls.

Reaching the end the trail at the cliff's edge offers an incredible view of the island and the many birds living there.



PM: EL BARRANCO, GENOVESA ISLAND

Sea Star Journey El Barranco is located in the southern part of Darwin Bay and it is also known as Prince Philip's Steps. Passengers will climb to a plateau that is part of the stretch of land that surrounds Darwin Bay on its eastern side. There is a big population of Masked boobies and Red-Footed boobies in the tree; Storm petrels and Short-eared Owls have found in Genovesa lava flows the ideal place for nesting.

(B/L/D)

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Day 9: M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Day 9

AM: BARTOLOMÉ ISLAND

Bartolomé Island is situated across Sullivan Bay. It has an altitude of 114 meters, from where we can observe one of the most beautiful sceneries of the Galapagos Islands such as: Volcanic cones, lunar-like craters, lava fields, and the famous Toba formed pinnacle eroded by the sea. There is very little vegetation on this island.

It has two breath-taking beaches where marine turtles exist and at the base of the pinnacle, as well as a very small colony of Galapagos penguins.



Sea Star Journey PM: THE SULLIVAN BAY, SANTIAGO ISLAND

Santiago, also called James, or San Salvador Island, is located in the west central part of the Galapagos archipelago. It is the fourth largest island in the archipelago (following Isabela, Fernandina and Santa Cruz). Along with some of the large western volcanoes of Isabela and Fernandina, Santiago is also volcanically active. There are many young flows and cones to see, particularly along the south, west, and east coasts. These may even be seen from the summit of Darwin Volcano and from space. A number of historic eruptions were reported over the last 2 centuries. Santiago actually consists of two coalesced volcanoes: a typical shield volcano on the northwest end and a low, linear fissure volcano on the southeast end.

(B/L/D)

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Day 10: M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Day 10

AM: HIGHLANDS, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

The trail to the highlands leaves from Bellavista and passes through the agricultural zone, near the National Park boundary, the Miconia Zone, and then goes to the Fern and Sedge zone. With clear weather (unpredictable) this area affords beautiful scenes of rolling hills and extinct volcanic cones covered with grass and lush greenery all year round.



Then transfer to Airport for your departing flight (Flights not included but will be added at the time of booking)

Included: Matrimonial/Twin cabin accommodation with private facilities; All meals, Water, Coffee and Tea; All excursions as mentioned in the itinerary (itinerary subject to change) with English speaking naturalist guide class 2/3, All transfers in Galapagos airport / yacht (on cruise dates and flights reserved by Galapagos Sea Star Journey) ; Snorkelling gear and Kayaks

Excluded: Roundtrip flight to Galapagos Islands (will be added at the time of booking) - Galapagos National Park entrance fee (currently USD\$100 per person) - Transit Control Card (currently USD\$20 per person) - Wet Suit Rental- Soft and alcoholic drinks - Personal expenses - Extras and Tips.

Any meals not mentioned in the above itinerary. Travel Insurance. Any flights or services not mentioned in this itinerary.

Please Note: This itinerary and/or hotels quoted within this itinerary may change due to local operating conditions or availability at the time of booking. Please see our terms and conditions for more details. Please note that all flights are non-refundable and non-changeable unless advised otherwise. Viva Expeditions accepts no responsibility for flight delays and subsequent delays on tours.

Please be aware that many of our products are operated in US Dollars and therefore subject to currency fluctuations. Viva Expeditions will do its utmost to avoid passing on any additional charges however if there is a significant change in exchange rates then we will be required to add a currency surcharge without warning. If you would like to remove this currency risk you do have the option of paying in full at the time of booking. Additionally if you have booked one of our cruise products - be aware that many operators also reserve the right to apply fuel surcharges dependant on the price of crude oil.

Final payment on bookings are generally due 95 days prior to departure.

Cabin Accommodation

M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Journey 10 Day Twin (upgrades available)

This wonderful yacht combines, privacy and comfort in the marvellous setting of the Galapagos Islands. M/Y Galapagos Sea Star Journey has a capacity for 16 passengers, it features 7 spacious suites (25m² in average) and 1 Master Suite (35m²) equipped with panoramic windows to enjoy the marvellous landscapes of the islands, private bathroom, hot/cold water, air conditioning with independent controls, mini-bar, TV. Twin beds or one faux queen bed and connected suites for families.



Local and international dishes especially designed by our chef, are served in the cosy atmosphere of our dining room. The yacht offers a large solarium with shaded area, two Jacuzzis (under request) and comfortable sun loungers. Social areas include Living Area, mini library and video library.

Pre-booking Advice

Please click on the below link which includes some detailed information on common destinations. Please read this information prior to approving your quote with your sales consultant as the items mentioned in this document can be difficult (and/or expensive) to change after your booking is confirmed.

[Itinerary Planning Advice](#)

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