



## INTRODUCTION

This 10-day western and central islands Galapagos adventure is aboard the Reina Silvia Voyager, starting and ending in Ecuador's interesting capital, Quito. The Reina Silvia is a small and highly comfortable vessel accommodating up to 16 passengers so is an intimate way to explore the beautiful Galapagos archipelago. From Quito, transfer to Santa Cruz where the journey will begin. Over the coming days, the itinerary will sail you to the islands of Floreana, Isabela, Santiago and back to Santa Cruz. En route, you will be on the look out for sea turtles, flamingos, sea lions, rays, sharks and marine iguanas – just a few of the myriad creatures inhabiting the islands. Walk, snorkel and cruise your way around this wildlife wonderland.

Please enquire for rates, dates and applicable departures. Prices are subject to change and availability. Terms and conditions apply please contact us for more details.

\* Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations.

## ITINERARY

### TRIP CODE

ECCAWCRQ

### DEPARTURE

Departs Select Fridays

### DURATION

10 Days

### LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador



## GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - WESTERN & CENTRAL ISLANDS | REINA SILVIA VOYAGER

### DAY 1: Quito

Arrive at Quito at any time, the day will be spent at your leisure. Arrival transfers are included. Sitting at 2,850 metres above sea level high in the Andean foothills lies Quito, the capital of Ecuador. The city, a short distance from the Equator and with an amazing backdrop of snow-capped mountains, is known for its stunning colonial architecture and art-work. Founded in the 16th century on the ruins of an Inca city, Quito has one of the largest, least-altered and best-preserved historic centres in the Americas. It was declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1978.

\*Please note that the round trip flight to the Galapagos Islands is included, however there are two separate fees that are not included: the mandatory \$20 INGALA fee, which supports ecosystem preservation and must be settled upon arrival, and the Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee of \$100 per person, which contributes to the preservation and protection of the park's biodiversity.



### DAY 2: Quito & Puerto Ayora

Transfer early to the airport for the flight to the Galápagos Islands. Upon arrival, meet the Naturalist Guide and cross to Santa Cruz islands to visit the highlands and the Charles Darwin Research Station before boarding the boat in the late afternoon from Puerto Ayora. After arrival in Baltra, visit of the highlands of Santa Cruz Island for a special opportunity to view the islands' most famous reptile: the giant tortoises in their wild habitat. What a privilege to see an endangered species roving in this lush environment! The vegetation of the area includes the Scalesia Forest (an endemic giant daisy tree) and birds such as the vermilion flycatcher will delight everyone with its scarlet feathers against an emerald green forest. Look for Darwin's finches, particularly the famous Woodpecker Finch. We will then visit the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center and Charles Darwin Research Station to learn first hand of the conservation and research efforts in the islands. There, you'll see several subspecies of adult tortoises, lots of hatchlings, and learn of the repatriation programs that are saving several subspecies of tortoises and iguanas from extinction.



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### DAY 3: Punta Cormorant & Post Office Bay

Land at Punta Cormorant on Floreana Island. Guided walks to observe the bird and wildlife and learn about the natural history. Snorkelling excursion at Champion Islet. In the afternoon visit Post Office Bay and a pirate cave in the highlands for great views of the island. In the morning, you will head to Punta Cormorant. Here you will enjoy a hike to a salt-water lagoon which is home to flamingos. Afterwards, you will snorkel Champion Islet, named after the whaler Andrew Champion, located just offshore from Floreana Island in the southern part of the Archipelago, considered as one of the most beautiful places on Galapagos for snorkeling. After lunch, you will visit the famous Post Office Bay. You will land on the beach and head to a spot where 18th century whalers placed a wooden barrel for use as an unofficial mailbox. The custom continues to this day with Galapagos visitors. So do not forget your postcards, and do not be surprised if the postcard arrives to its destination before you even get home! In the afternoon, you will visit The Asilo de la Paz. This is a hill 450m high that is behind Straw Hill in the agricultural area of the island. The main attractions are of a historic type: one is the cave of pirates and the other is the freshwater spring. The two sites are located at the base of the hill.



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