

MARY ANNE, 8 DAYS, WEST

DAY 1 – SATURDAY

First encounters

PM

After arriving at Baltra airport we will be greeted by an Angermeyer Cruises representant to then board a bus which will take us to Cerro Mesa, the first visit on the islands. Cerro Mesa is a private ecological reserve located in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island and dedicated to the conservation of the natural ecosystem. During this visit, we will have the opportunity to walk through the many forest paths, filled with endemic Galapagos vegetation, see the impressive and deep crater, watch the Galapagos ducks and rails, stilts and frigate birds usually present in the lagoon or closely follow the steps of the Galapagos Tortoises, present most of the year (on certain months, the tortoises go down to the coast to lay their eggs). The reserve is also a great place for bird watching, as mockingbirds, flycatchers, warblers, Galapagos doves and Darwin finches are usually present in the area.

DAY 2 – SUNDAY

The Baroness' domain

AM

We spend the day on Floreana, legendary homestead of infamous Baroness Eloise Von Wagner de Bousquet. Wet landing onto the olivine beaches of **Punta Cormorant**; we will be seeking Greater Flamingos on our way to another special beach with the finest sand you'll set your foot on, a sea turtle nesting ground where sharks and rays also visit regularly. We end the outing on a short panga ride to **Devil's Crown**, a key snorkeling site.

PM

After lunch we will visit **Post Office Bay** (wet landing), where you can drop your postcards in the barrel as the whalers did centuries ago.

DAY 3 MONDAY

Tortoises and green forests

AM

Dry landing at Puerto Ayora in Santa Cruz Island. From here we will head to the highlands to see its many attractions, which include lava tunnels, native forests with endemic vegetation and the iconic Galapagos giant tortoises, which inhabit these forests seasonally. Who would have expected it to be so lush and green on these supposed arid islands?

PM

From Puerto Ayora we will walk approximately 45 minutes along a stone paved road which is surrounded by Galapagos coastal vegetation and its most eminent representants: the prickly pear cactus and the holy stick tree. This road, which also presents a very good opportunity to watch birds, especially Darwin finches, will take us to a beautiful, white sand beach known as Tortuga bay. From here it's up to you to decide among the alternatives: swim or snorkel, watch the marine iguanas and other wildlife, explore the coves surrounded by mangrove trees or simply lay back and relax while enjoying the magical landscape.

DAY 4 – TUESDAY

An initiation to the western islands

AM

We arrive at Isabela, the largest island in the Galapagos. After breakfast, we step ashore at **Punta Moreno** (dry landing) onto a superb pahoehoe lava flow surrounded by giant shield volcanoes, some still active! From here we will do a short hike to a lagoon where flamingos are usually present.

PM

Panga ride in and around **Elizabeth Bay**, a salt-water lagoon surrounded by the largest red mangroves of the Galapagos. Here, it is usual to see sea turtles come near our zodiac to greet us. Flightless cormorants and Galapagos penguins are also more abundant in this part of the archipelago.

DAY 5 – WEDNESDAY

Marine abundance

AM

We disembark at **Urbina Bay** (wet landing) onto a black sand beach, nesting site for Green Sea Turtle. We take a brief hike inland in search of land iguanas and giant tortoises (seasonal) that migrate to and from the highlands. At the beach, we will admire the remains of a geological uplift exposing coral heads and marine fossils; and if the sea conditions and time are on our side, we will also snorkel in these waters.

PM

We cross Bolivar Channel to Fernandina Island, one of the world's most unspoilt sites, and disembark (dry landing) at **Punta Espinosa**. Strolling along the shoreline, we will be on the look out for Flightless Cormorants, Galapagos sea lions, Galapagos penguins and hawks, sooty-coloured marine iguanas and bright red-orange Sally Lightfoot Crabs.

DAY 6 - THURSDAY

Pirate's abode

AM

Dry landing near **Tagus Cove**, historic pirate hideaway where names of countless ships are recorded for posterity on the cliff face. Hike through beautiful Galapagos landscapes to Darwin Lake, a salt-water crater lagoon surrounded by tuff stone.

PM

At **Punta Vicente Roca** we will do a panga ride around the beautiful coast line before jumping into the water to enjoy one of the best snorkelling sites of the Galapagos. The underwater cliffs found here are filled with enough colors and life to amaze everyone looking at them for the first time.

DAY 7 – FRIDAY

Grottos and fur seals

AM

After three days exploring the fabulous western islands, we head to central Santiago to disembark at **Espumilla** (wet landing), onto a golden-coloured sand Green Sea Turtle nesting site. A forest trail will take us through some of the largest specimens of Palo Santo on the islands to observe Yellow Warblers, the unbelievably tame Galapagos Flycatcher and the ever-intriguing Darwin's finches.

PM

At **Puerto Egas** (wet landing) we disembark on a dark sand volcanic beach with an interesting history of human settlement. Sleepy Galapagos fur seals lounge under arches of lava carved by the ocean and occasionally dip into the crystalline pools, also known as "grottos". Walk along the shore and observe the abundant marine life.

DAY 8 – SATURDAY

The bird's den

AM

We disembark on **North Seymour** (dry landing), a small uplifted island, where we will walk right up to bird nesting colonies of the two species of Frigatebirds, Blue-footed Boobies and Swallow-tailed Gulls, and experience, depending on season, spectacular displays. After this visit the ship will sail to Baltra where passengers ending their trip will disembark and passengers beginning their cruise will join us on board.

In addition to the land visits we offer a good balance of other activities such as snorkeling, panga rides and kayaking.