

Wildlife Galapagos Mary Anne Galapagos Cruise



Beautiful sail boat - just 16 passengers - expert guide
comprehensive itinerary – enormous amount of space – indoor and outdoor
dining areas - sea kayaks on board- locally owned - sustainably run

Explore the unique Galapagos Islands on board one of the Galapagos islands' largest and most striking sail boats.

Choose from a selection of cruise routes and cruise lengths to pick your ideal Galapagos journey on board Mary Anne.

Walk, swim, snorkel and sea kayak to get close to the islands' wonderful and varied wildlife.

Sail with an expert naturalist guide trained by the Galapagos Islands National Park authority.

This is a Pura *handpicked* holiday with an activity level of *low* and a comfort rating of *first*.



The first class yacht Mary Anne.



"It is impossible to be bored on a Galapagos trip, all the islands are different and fascinating. If you think you've snorkeled before, try snorkeling with sea lions, turtles and penguins in one trip." Louise C.

Holiday Itinerary

Day 01 | Mosquera | **sea lions**

Mary Anne's start day is a Wednesday. You can join the cruise from:

Day 01 to day 06 (five nights, route A)

Day 06 to day 11 (five nights, route B)

Day 11 to day 15 (four nights, route C)

Day 01 to day 11 (10 nights)

Day 06 to day 15 (nine nights)

Day 01 to day 15 (14 nights)

Fly to the Galapagos early this morning, a flight of around three hours since the islands are some 600 miles offshore. When you arrive in the islands, you pay the national park entrance fee before heading down to the dock to board your boat.



After lunch, set sail the short distance to North Plaza where you walk close to the fearless wildlife: Sally Lightfoot crabs, sea lions and land iguanas.

Here we describe the itinerary and services of the 16 passenger superior first class motor sailor, Mary Anne. Your boat has ten cabins all with private bathrooms and air conditioning.

Cabins are generally small, you are unlikely to spend much time in them other than to sleep.

You have a crew of seven plus a naturalist guide with you at all times.

Please note that the wildlife and activities described below are based on personal experience of a May trip around the islands.

They are an accurate and typical representation of the itinerary but we can't guarantee weather conditions or wildlife. Precise itineraries are subject to change according to weather conditions and instructions from the National Park.

At just 160m across, this is less an island than a reef.

Questions? Ready to book? Call us on **01273 676 712**

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Handpicked Galapagos cruises

Not all Galapagos Island cruises are the same. The National Park authority defines which boats go where and when. All boats follow their specified routes, week in, week out.

We don't operate our own boats so we are very careful about who we work with.

As well as excellent boats and crews, we believe that the quality of the itinerary is fundamental to your enjoyment of the Islands.

We have first-hand knowledge of the islands and can advise you on different boats to suit your preferences.

We try to ensure that you visit more remote and quieter parts of the archipelago giving you a more intimate experience.

This also ensures that you see the greatest spread of geological time. The wildlife and vegetation on each island is completely different according, in large part, to its age.

We also use boats owned and operated by local families. Locals recruit more staff and source more provisions on the islands rather than the mainland so more of your money stays in the islands.



Mary Anne offers a good deal of space for 24 passengers.

It is home to one of the largest sealion colonies in the Galapagos and is also home to many seabirds.

Enjoy a dinghy ride and/or a snorkel around the islet. If you are very lucky you may see orca. (b,l,d)

Day 02 | Santa Fé | **land iguanas**

South Plaza is a small island off the east coast of Santa Cruz. Despite its size it is home to a great diversity of species and is famous for its extraordinary flora.

Walk an easy trail to the cliff tops to watch the waves crashing below as birds fly in front of you.

The island is also home to land iguanas and a sea lion colony which usually includes some playful pups.

The prickly pear cactus trees complete the picture on this lovely, compact visitor site.

Continue this afternoon to Santa Fé, one of the oldest Galapagos Islands and one of the few that is not volcanically active.

There is no fresh water on the island so it has been relatively undisturbed by human activity.

Formed by an uplift in the earth's crust, rather than a volcano, Santa Fé is relatively flat compared to some of its neighbours.

See endemic species of land iguana, lava lizards and sea lions. You may also see frigate birds and Galapagos hawks.

The sheltered cove here is really quite beautiful, and offers some great snorkeling and swimming with manta rays, sea turtles, sea lions. (b,l,d)

Day 03 | San Cristobal | **boobies**

Cerro Brujo is a beautiful white sand beach, one of the first places visited by Charles Darwin. Brown pelicans, blue-footed boobies, sea lions and marine iguanas are all found. The site is a dry land version of the nearby Kicker Rocks, Cerro Brujo is a very striking, eroded tuff cone.

Punta Pitt is a colourful place with its different types of lava and diverse vegetation. Arguably the most spectacular visitor site on San Cristobal, it is home to a diverse range of species such as sea lions, lava lizards, marine iguanas, frigate birds, pelicans and boobies.

In fact, Punta Pitt is the only place where you can see three species of boobies nesting in the same area.

There is a beautiful golden sand beach here.

Day 04 | Espanola | **seabirds and sea lions**

Start today with a landing on 'sea lion beach'. This is your first chance to get into the water – you can snorkel if you like but really it's just a lovely swimming beach. Along the sand are sea lions basking in the sun. Wander along the beach and enjoy watching them play in the surf.

Mid-afternoon snorkeling excursion to the nearby bay where you might get to swim with sea lions.

Return for lunch on board and an hour or so navigation to the next landing site on the west of the island.

Walk to the rugged cliffs of Punta Suarez to see a spectacular blow-hole.

Along the way you should see a broad spectrum of birdlife, including blue-footed boobies, Galapagos hawks and albatrosses. (b,l,d)

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Isabela Island: blue footed boobies on the rocks.



A pup on Espanola.



Santa Cruz Island: a giant tortoise having lunch.



Dining outside on the rear deck is a popular option.

Day 05 | Floreana | **snorkel and walk**

After breakfast, land at Punta Cormorant to walk across Floreana island. Enjoy the somewhat incongruous sight of flamingoes feeding in a lagoon just inland.

Carry on along a good path to a very pretty sandy beach where you can spot rays and sea turtles.

Return to the boat mid-morning to get ready to go snorkeling in the distinctive Devil's Crown crater.

Swim through pretty coral formations and teeming marine life.

You should see some sea lions and lots of fish. With luck you will see sharks – on a good day you might see hammerheads here.

Travel the short distance around the island to land at Post Office Bay. Here the old sailors' postal system still functions. You leave your letter in a barrel but not before taking out mail bound for your home port.

This way, all letters are slowly distributed around the world for free.

Walk down into a deep lava tunnel for a close look at the geology of these young islands.

This evening is the longest single navigation of your cruise as you make your way between Floreana and Isabela Islands.

It is worth bearing in mind that on this stretch particularly there can be a fair amount of swell.

The movement of the boat and noise are obviously greater during navigation.

If you are worried that this will be an issue, we can recommend the most suitable boats for you. (b,l,d)

Day 06 | Santa Cruz | **giant tortoises**

Drive up to the Santa Cruz highlands to see giant tortoises in the 'wild'.

Really this is a farmer who has created a network of trails on his land where you will usually find giant tortoises.

Interesting but probably the most crowded part of your time in the Galapagos and the most stage-managed.

Visit some very pretty rock formations and walk through the mature vegetation of the highlands – this is likely to be the most greenery you see all week.

Today is a changeover day so there may be clients leaving and joining the boat now.

Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about their breeding, conservation and education programs.

Walk amongst giant land tortoises in the extensive enclosures of the centre.

Meet 'Lonesome George', long thought to be the last of the Pinta Island giant tortoise sub-species but now apparently joined by a new species mate, called Eva.

(b,l,d)

Day 07 | Isabela | **lava and penguins**

Walk across a lava flow this morning on Isabela Island. There is very still little sign of life on these fairly new flows although a couple of isolated lagoons are now home to some vegetation and birdlife.

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Albatross nesting.



Isabela Island: a friendly sea turtle.



Fernandina Island: a marine iguana pile-up.



Spacious communal areas of Mary Anne.

Pass flightless cormorants on your way back to the boat. Make your way directly to a nearby stretch of shore where you snorkel.

Sail north this afternoon to Elizabeth Bay. Get into the zodiacs (small boats) to explore the coastline.

First stop is a couple of small rocky outcrops where you should see your first penguins, living alongside marine iguanas and blue-footed boobies.

Carry on in-shore to a series of mangrove rimmed lagoons. Cut off the engines as you drift in the silence of the late afternoon looking for sea turtles, sharks and penguins in this unusual setting. (b,l,d)

Day 08 | Fernandina | marine iguanas

Visit the shores of one of the world's most active volcanoes to walk amongst the flightless cormorants, sea lions and marine iguanas.

Start today with a walk on Isabela to see if you can see giant tortoises in the wild. You will almost certainly see land iguanas along the way.

Return to the beach to swim or snorkel directly offshore possibly with rays, sea turtles and sharks.

For those of you less inclined to swim, you can take time to simply relax and read a book on the beach.

This afternoon cross the narrow strait to the youngest of the Galapagos Islands, Fernandina.

Here you walk to the jagged lava of Punta Espinosa to see marine iguanas warming themselves on the lava.

You may well need to watch where you are treading as there are lots and lots of them piled up against each other for warmth. (b,l,d)

Day 09 | Isabela | sea turtles

Visit the cliff-side gallery of Tagus Cove for a clear view of some 19th century pirate graffiti. It's strange to see vandalism in such a pristine place.

A dry landing leads to a 2km trail through lava formations leads you to Darwin Lake via some wonderful views of the surrounding volcanoes.

The lake itself is a salt-water crater lake, possibly formed by a tidal wave.

Punta Vicente Roca is a place of dramatic geological formations. Just a few miles south of the equator. This area gives you a clear sense of how the Galapagos were formed. Watch the fantastic birdlife as you explore on board pangas.

When the waters are calm enough you can snorkel, it is a particularly good place to see sea turtles feeding. (b,l,d)

Day 10 | Santiago | fur seals

Wet landing onto golden-coloured sands of Espumilla where green sea turtles nest.

A forest trail takes you through some of the largest specimens of Palo Santo trees on the islands where you can see yellow warblers, Darwin's finches and Galapagos flycatchers.

This afternoon, land on the tiny island of *Sombrero Chino* (Chinese Hat).

This island is only visited by small vessels because the lava is fragile. Explore the lava tunnels of the interior before dropping into the water to snorkel with sea lions and penguins. (b,l,d)

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Sea kayaking back to Mary Anne.



A land iguana in close up.



Humans and sea lion waiting to be picked up at Bartolomé.



A frigate bird with distinctive inflated throat.

Day 11 | North Seymour | **iguanas**

Travel to North Seymour, an uplifted island home to large colonies of blue-footed boobies and frigate birds. Along the coast sea lions and marine iguanas surf the waves.

Today is a changeover day so there may be clients leaving and joining the boat now.

This afternoon, paddle through the mangroves of Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz Island. Observe the delicate marine life and fantastic birdlife in the sheltered cove.

The west cove offers splendid snorkelling and swimming as well as a white coral sand beach.

The beach's name is derived from the numerous sea turtles that come here to lay their eggs year after year.

Other species that can be found include pelicans, flamingos and marine iguanas. (b,l,d)

Day 12 | Genovesa | **sea birds**

Genovesa Island is basically formed by what remains of a submerged volcanic crater.

Being so remote, it is one of the less visited islands and therefore has some of the most abundant birdlife.

Land at Prince Philip's Steps where you climb a steep path to a plateau passing red-footed boobies, and possibly short-eared owls.

Land at Darwin Bay which is the largest tropical seabird colony on the planet.

The site is populated by frigate birds, red-footed boobies, Darwin's finches, doves, mocking birds and Nazca boobies. a coral sand beach which is home to many frigate birds. (b,l,d)

Day 13 | Santiago | **fur seals**

Walk along the coastline to see Galapagos fur seal basking in pools along the shoreline. The water here is improbably pretty.

Because you are walking on lava, this is one of the places in the islands where you have a degree of freedom to wander.

Return to the beach for some great snorkeling. Here you might be swimming with white-tipped sharks, sea turtles, sea lions and a colourful variety of fish.

Carry on around the island to the small, barren outcrop of Isla Bartolomé.

Walk up to the top of the island on a wooden walkway for beautiful views across the eastern Galapagos Islands.

Head back down the hill to snorkel around the base of the emblematic Pinnacle Rock.

The visibility here is amongst the best of the week and you might be lucky enough to swim with penguins and sharks.

Certainly the channels and rock formations underwater make for a beautiful snorkeling environment. (b,l,d)

Day 14 | Santiago | **fur seals**

Visit the island of Rabida, where the unusual coloured sand makes the beach look red from a distance.

Mangroves border a saltwater lagoon here, a popular resting place for flocks of pelicans. Enjoy the opportunity to snorkel from the beach.

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Cabins on Mary Anne are fairly small but very comfortable.



At nearly 70m feet long Mary Anne is a lovely sight in the water.

Dragon Hill (*Cerro Dragon*) is one of the newer visitor sites on Santa Cruz. Here you walk to a lagoon, home to flamingos, common stilts, pintail ducks and other species of birds.

There is a short walk up the hill for great views as well as the chance to see an iguana nesting site. (b,l,d)

Day 15 | travel | **leave the islands**

Land at Bachas beach on Santa Cruz Island.

This very pretty coral sand beach is a nesting site for green turtles between November and March.

It is also a great place to spot birdlife and to swim and to snorkel.

Disembark in Baltra for your flight onwards. (b)

S/S Mary Anne



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Holiday Information

Pura's opinion

Mary Anne is an exciting proposition. At 70m long she carries just 24 passengers with acres of space left over. She is over twice the length of many boats carrying this number.

With nearly 1,000sqm of sail and she is a spectacular sight on the water. Please note that Whilst she has sails, she generally travels under motor with sails being used occasionally, to provide some extra oomph as well as lateral stability.

Owned and operated by the same people who bring you Sagitta and Beagle, Mary Anne comes from a fine stable of first class motor sail boats.

Expect very good food, top notch guides and crew and a comfortable, relaxed but not in any way flashy experience. Mary Anne sits firmly at the top end of the first class sail boats.

Accommodation

Passengers: 16 maximum

Communal areas are very spacious indeed. You are more likely to rattle around than feel squished.

The twelve cabins on Mary Anne are fairly small, comfortable but functional - bed & bathroom. These cabins are designed as a place to lay your head rather than somewhere to lounge about and relax.

Cabin sizes do vary a little, cabins nine and ten being the largest. Cabins one and two are the smallest. The smaller cabins are usually given to solo travelers.

Cabins 1,2, 19 & 20 are *traditional* class cabins which the prices below are based on. These are slightly smaller cabins with single upper and lower bunks.

Cabins 6, 5, 4 & 3 have single upper and small double lower bunks.

Cabins 10, 9, 8 & 7 have lower beds only or have a single upper and offset lower double.

Noise

You should be aware that on any sail boat you will have noise from generators and from the engine when travelling. Even sail boats travel under motor.

The engine room is towards the rear of the boat, well away from cabins.

Stability

Being a sail boat, you will get movement in the water. This will be most noticeable between July and October in the more exposed waters of the south west. She has a deep draft which gives better lateral stability.

Boat specification

Specifications

Length on deck: 66m/216ft

Boat width (beam): 8m/26ft

Hull depth underwater (draft): 5m/17ft

Average speed: 8 knots

Crew: 7 or 8 plus one guide

How active?

In the Galapagos, wildlife viewing is the main activity. There is some gentle walking and snorkeling.

Conditions underfoot in the Galapagos can sometimes be rough as the islands are volcanic.

You should therefore be prepared for some walking over uneven terrain. You can always opt out of excursions.

How responsible?

Pura Aventura is passionate about the places it visits.

To help preserve the integrity of these destinations we:

- Keep groups small to minimise environmental impact.
- Work directly with local businesses and organisations to directly benefit local economies.
- Work with local guides so that our holidays are more interesting for clients and more beneficial locally.
- Make payment to suppliers before our clients arrive.

The boat owners and most of the crew come from the islands which makes the enterprise sustainable.

Mary Anne is SmartVoyager certified.

When should I go?

In the Galapagos, wildlife viewing is excellent year round. Weather and sea conditions do vary somewhat through the year: September is the coolest and choppiest-sea month. From October onwards the weather warms up and the waters calm down until the hottest, calmest-sea month of February.

Not based in the UK?

We are very happy to discuss your requirements if you are not travelling to and from the UK.

Please call us on **+44 1273 676712** between 9am and 6.30pm GMT weekdays.

How do I book?

We need to check availability for Galapagos boats before taking your booking. Once you have the proposal and decide you would like to go ahead then please call in with the following:

- Full names
- Address
- Contact telephone numbers & email
- Deposit of 15%

Deposits can be paid by card, cheque or bank transfer, whichever suits you best (the balance of your holiday is due 60 days prior to travel).

We send you a confirmation email detailing all of the services agreed between us. We ask you to check through all of this carefully and sign off on the holiday.

Prices & departures

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Dates & prices | 04 nights us\$2,675pp 05 nights us\$3,210pp 09 nights us\$5,350pp 10 nights us\$5,885pp 14 nights us\$8,025pp |
| Price includes | Galapagos cruise on Mary Anne with all meals, excursions and guiding while on board.t |
| Not included | Galapagos park entrance fee (us\$110); flights to the Galapagos; personal expenses; tips. |

Prices quoted in US dollars but payment is made in pounds sterling at a rate set at time of payment.

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A year in the Galapagos

January

Beginning of the rainy season. Land birds start nesting, generally after the first rain. On Hood (Española) Island adult marine iguanas become brightly colored (green/red/black). The green sea turtles arrive at beaches to lay eggs. Land iguanas mate on Isabela Island. Both water and air temperatures rise and stay warm until June. Ideal time for snorkeling.

February

On Floreana Island flamingos start nesting in greater numbers. Marine iguanas nest on Santa Cruz Island. Peak nesting season for the Galapagos dove. Breeding season begins for black-tailed pintail ducks. End of nesting season for Nazca (masked) boobies on Hood islands. The highest water temperature reaches 25C (77F) temperatures remain high until April. Penguins move from Bartolomé Island to follow the cool waters back to the west.

March

Height of the rainy season (this does not mean it rains everyday). Sporadic tropical rains, intense sun and hot climate. Air temperature can reach up to 30C (86F) high humidity. Warm waters excellent for snorkelers. Penguins still active in the water next to tropical fish! Deep surge from the northern currents on some shores, wet landings at places like Puerto Egas, Gardner Bay, Bartolomé can sometimes be a challenge. Marine iguanas nest on Fernandina. March 21st, the beginning of the summer equinox signals the arrival of the waved albatross to Española. Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela) can be an amazing site.

April

Massive arrival of waved albatrosses at Española, amazing courtship starts. Eggs of green sea turtles begin to hatch. Eggs of land iguanas hatch on Isabela. End of hatching season for the giant tortoises. While the rains have ended, the islands continue to be quite green. Good visibility in the water for snorkelers.

May

North Seymour's blue-footed boobies begin their courtship. Sea turtles are still hatching on Gardner Bay, Punta Cormorant and Puerto Egas. Most of marine iguanas' eggs hatch from nests on Santa Cruz. Palo santo trees begin to shed their foliage. Waved albatross on Española start laying their eggs. Ban-rumped storm petrels begin their first nesting period.

June

Beginning of the cold (garúa) season. Giant tortoises migrate to the lowlands on Santa Cruz island for the nesting season. South east trade winds return. Currents become a bit stronger. Seas pick up in surge and wave action. Male frigatebirds show off their red pouches on North Seymour. Southern migrating birds stop in the Galapagos on their journey north. Some groups of Humpback whales migrate up to equatorial latitudes along the coast of Ecuador reach Galapagos.

July

Sea bird communities are very active (breeding), specially the Blue footed boobies on Española. Flightless cormorants perform beautiful courtship rituals and nesting activities on Fernandina. American oystercatchers nest along the shores of Puerto Egas

(Santiago Island). Lava lizards initiate mating rituals until November. Cetaceans (whales & dolphins) are more likely to be observed, specially off the western coast of Isabela. Great month to see the four stages of nesting in Blue footed boobies: eggs, chicks, juveniles and sub-adults. Water temperature around 21C (68F).

August

Galapagos hawks court on Española and Santiago. Nazca (masked) boobies and Swallow-tailed gulls nest on Genovesa Island. The temperature of the ocean drops to 18C (64F), this varies according to the geographic zones among the islands. Migrant shore birds start to arrive. Giant tortoises return to the highlands of Santa Cruz. Oceans are quite choppy, currents at the strongest levels, surge can be expected along the shores that face west or south. Popping season of sea lions has started. Western and central islands are common places for such sightings.

September

The air temperature reaches its lowest levels (19C-66F). Galapagos Penguins active around Bartolomé. Snorkelers can swim with penguins active at the surface or torpedo-like while underwater. Sea lions are very active. Females have reached estrus stage, and so harem-gathering males are constantly barking and fighting. Shore fighting is common. Most intense sea lion activity on western and central islands. Most species of sea birds remain quite active at their nesting sites.

October

Lava herons start nesting until March. The Galapagos Fur Sea lions begin their mating period. Blue footed boobies raise chicks all over Española and Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela). Giant tortoises are still laying eggs. Days are not always sunny. Garúa can be expected in most locations, except the western islands where most days have a misty start but after few hours of daylight it burns off. Sunrises in the west can be quite beautiful as the garúa covers only certain locations of the western volcanoes. Summits are clear, but low-lying fog covers the shoreline.

November

Popping of sea lions continues. Sea lions are sexually active on the eastern part of the archipelago. Breeding season for the brown noddies. Some species of jellyfish can be seen around the islands. The Genus Physalia is commonly seen floating around Gardner and Tortuga Islets. Some can also be seen stranded on the shores of Flour Beach (Floreana). Band-rumped storm petrels begin their second nesting period. Seas are calm. South east trade winds decrease, generally great weather. Water temperatures rising and good visibility for snorkelers. Sea lion pups (specially at Champion Islet) play aqua-aerobics next to snorkelers. Most pups here are curious enough to nibble at fins of snorkelers.

December

Giant tortoise eggs begin to hatch. Green sea turtles display their mating behavior. The rainy season begins, all of the plants of the dry zone produce leaves. Galapagos becomes "green". The first young waved albatrosses fledge. Great weather.

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