

Galapagos Islands with Ciscoe Morris

January 20th to January 27th, 2018

Visit Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands with Ciscoe Morris. This small group of guests will escape the damp and dark Pacific Northwest for the warmth of the tropics. This expedition holiday is the perfect chance to channel your inner naturalist.

The Ship

The Silver Galapagos is an expedition ship with 50 available suites. For photos of the ship's public areas and suites, click on this link:

<http://www.silversea.com/destinations/galapagos-islands-cruise/8607/?ga=list#gallery>

Accommodation type		Price per person*
Silver Suite	4 available	\$ 12,750.00
Deluxe Verandah Suite	8 available	\$ 10,450.00
Verandah Suite	12 available	\$ 9,750.00
Terrace Suite	2 available	\$ 9,550.00
Explorer Suite	24 available	\$ 7,550.00

*based on double occupancy

Silversea pricing includes an all-inclusive cruise experience, taxes, round-trip flights from mainland Ecuador and transportation to the ship. All sightseeing, food and drink, gratuities are included in this price.

To confirm your reservation, Silversea requires 25% of the tour costs. The balance is due by August 25th 2017. You can save an additional 10% on the prices above by opting to prepay your entire cruise amount by February 28th. If you're ready to book this tour, click on the link to the left.

Three Expedition Ships for just 100 Guests

Silversea's purpose-built expedition ships are designed with ice-strengthened hulls and the latest technologies to ensure maximum comfort and safety while wailing to the world's most remote destinations. A fleet of Zodiac inflatable boats allows guests to explore even the most off-the-beaten path locations, and an Expedition Team of the highest caliber adds insight and understanding to each unforgettable journey.

The Best Service Ratio in Expedition Cruising

Enjoy the welcoming and attentive support of our experienced on-board crew, with the benefit of the best crew-to-guest ratio in expedition cruising.

Onboard Lectures by a Highly Qualified Expeditions Team

We've taken great care to assemble a truly outstanding team of experts from all fields relevant to each destination. You can attend daily lectures, recaps and briefings from eminent naturalists, geologists, biologists, historians, and ornithologists, all of whom have the education, research experience and personal accomplishments to make them ideal companions for your adventure travelling with the world's best cruise line.

All Zodiac, Land & Sea Tours & Activities

Along with on-board lectures, the expedition team leads Zodiac, snorkeling, diving, hiking and other small-group excursions so that you can immerse yourself in the culture, landscape and habitat of a region with the help of experts who can illuminate all you see.

All Oceanview Suites

Highly personalized cruising is the hallmark of the Silversea experience, a distinction well illustrated in some of the most spacious accommodations in expedition cruising. Many include verandas, and all are equipped with every comfort and convenience from marble baths and flat screen TVs with on-demand movies to Wi-Fi Internet access, spa robes and more. In addition, guests can customize their room with a long list of Signature amenities from queen or twin beds to the firmness of your mattress and the pillow type you prefer.

All Accommodations with Butler Service

Enjoy the services of a highly trained butler. Silversea is the only cruise line in the world with butler service for all suites.

Complimentary Beverages In-Suite and Throughout the Ship

Select wines, premium spirits, specialty coffees and soft drinks are complimentary in all bars, lounges and dining rooms. Your suite's mini-bar is also stocked with your preferences and replenished by your butler upon request.

Open-Seating Dining Options

Dine when and with whomever you please during breakfast, lunch and dinner in The Restaurant. The casual, outdoor Grill is also available for breakfast or lunch. At dinner this casual, outdoor eatery morphs into an interactive dining venue where you can grill your own fresh seafood or prime cuts under the setting sun.

Complimentary Expedition Gear

A backpack and stainless-steel water bottle is provided on all expeditions, and a complimentary parka for guests on polar voyages.

In-Suite Dining & Room Service

A late-night snack? Breakfast in suite? A formal dinner from The Restaurant served course-by-course*? Complimentary room service is available 24-hours a day aboard *Silver Explorer*, and from 06:00 to 23:00 aboard *Silver Galapagos* and *Silver Discoverer*.

**Available only during dinner hours.*

Gratuities Always Included

Our unwavering commitment to flawless service requires an attitude that is totally focused on the part of every member of the staff. It is a rare treat to experience personal service on such a high plane. Yet surprisingly gratuities are not expected. They're included in your fare.

**Please note: Beauty salon and spa treatment gratuities not included.*

The Itinerary

WESTERN GALÁPAGOS

Baltra to Baltra

The Western Islands are home to the only active volcanoes in the archipelago and are known both for their spectacular volcanic landscapes as well as penguin spotting; over 95% of Galapagos Penguins live in these islands. It's also the only area to see the endemic Flightless Cormorant. Other key sites include the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, Post Office Bay with its human history and Champion Islet with some of the best snorkelling in the archipelago.

Expedition Highlights:

- Walk across spectacular lava fields
- Explore tidal pools, lush mangroves and Scalesia forests
- See pelicans and penguins along the rocky shores
- Swim with green sea turtles, sea lions and manta rays
- Hike through fragrant forests of Palo Santo "Incense" trees
- Encounter the largest colony of Marine Iguanas
- Watch for a unique species of Flightless Cormorant
- Visit one of the most volcanically active places on Earth
- Discover a saltwater lagoon within a volcanic tuff cone
- Read cave inscriptions from the 1800s
- Learn of the islands' whaling history and early Norwegian settlers
- See wild flamingos (in season) and nesting sea turtles
- Observe giant tortoises and sea lion colonies
- Photograph iconic Pinnacle Rock

Day 1 — San Cristobal

Embark *Silver Galapagos* for your exciting Silversea Western Galapagos Expedition. After settling in and attending a mandatory safety drill we will be setting sail. This afternoon you will be introduced to your Expedition Team.

During the late afternoon *Silver Galapagos* will circumnavigate Kicker Rock. We will be looking for frigatebirds, Swallow-tailed Gulls and Nazca Boobies. The geological formation and its impressive height can best be seen from the ship and conditions permitting we will be able to observe one of the most beautiful sunsets of the Galapagos Islands.

In the evening you will enjoy the first of many memorable meals in The Restaurant.

Day 2 — Bartolomé and Playa Espumilla, Santiago

Some of the most spectacular landscapes in the islands come into view. Just off the coast of Santiago, Bartolomé boasts some of the most magnificent landscapes in the islands including the famous Pinnacle Rock, a towering

obelisk at the edge of the ocean. Go snorkelling or take a walk along the beach to look for the playful Galápagos Penguin, perched on a rock or zooming underwater.

Beautiful Espumilla Beach is an important nesting site for the East Pacific green sea turtle. We will walk through the arid vegetation zone of the interior where we will see the largest palo santo trees in the Galápagos, the perfect habitat for several species of Darwin's finches. At times of the year when conditions are not ideal at Espumilla, you will enjoy a visit to Buccaneer's Cove. This protected cove once served as a safe harbour for pirates as they repaired their ships and replenished their stores. Today, it offers a wealth of water-based activities, including snorkelling with a kaleidoscopic array of tropical fish, whitetip reef sharks, fur seals and even eagle rays. You can embark on a kayak or Zodiac tour and spy some of the beautiful geologic features of the area—red cliffs, natural caves and unique rock formations—while perhaps spotting seabirds like the Brown Noddy that nest in the cliffs.

Day 3 — Punta Vicente Roca, Isabela, and Punta Espinoza, Fernandina

The arid landscape of Isabela, the largest and youngest island in the Galápagos, is pierced by five majestic shield volcanoes. Snorkelling is probably the best although coldest in the islands at Punta Vicente Roca, located at the base of Ecuador Volcano. Half of this volcano collapsed about 100,000 years ago—meaning that visitors now get a spectacular cutaway view of the caldera. Aboard a Zodiac, we will look for Flightless Cormorants and Galapagos Penguins.

The largest colony of marine iguanas in the Galápagos can be seen sunning on the black lava shores of Punta Espinoza at the northeastern corner of Fernandina. One of the most pristine islands in the world, Fernandina hosts an impressive array of wildlife including sea lions, colourful Sally Lightfoot crabs and the rare endemic Flightless Cormorant.

Day 4 — Caleta Tagus and Bahía Elizabeth, Isabela

A short cruise across the Bolivar Strait brings Silver Galapagos to Tagus Cove on Isabela Island. Yellow Warblers and Galápagos Mockingbirds may escort our hike between palo santo trees and yellow cordias, passing the briny Darwin Lake along the way. Join the snorkelling tour to look for penguins, cormorants and the shy Brown Noddy along the sheltered cliffs. You may also explore the area on a kayak.

The tallest red mangrove trees in the Galápagos are found in Elizabeth Bay, an idyllic mangrove lagoon and a fascinating place to observe marine life. We will take a Zodiac through the mangroves where sea turtles swim close to the surface, and pelicans and herons stalk for fish or crab. Sea lions and penguins are also prevalent in this marine sanctuary.

Day 5 — Post Office Bay and Punta Cormorant or Champion, Floreana

Floreana has been luring visitors since the 18th century when whalers hunted the island for tortoises and pirates sought shelter in its caves. Sailors established a rustic mailing system still in use today: a box —today a barrel nailed to a pole— where they would drop letters hoping they would be delivered by other mariners sailing home. You can continue the tradition if you choose. Afterwards take a walk along the lovely beach, or go snorkelling in a colourful underwater world.

A sea lion rookery has developed on Floreana's northern shore. Amid lava rocks that are dotted with prickly pear cacti and sesuvium, a small colony of the creatures thrives. Pups are particularly curious when visitors arrive—they love to go in the water and investigate Zodiacs as they pass through their waters.

As you travel along the coast, you may find many other creatures that look for shelter amid the red and white mangroves: eagle rays, marine turtles, Brown Pelicans and resting Cattle Egrets. Kayaking through the turquoise waters here is a true pleasure, inviting a sense of peaceful solitude and an invigorating feeling of connection to nature.

At Punta Cormorant, one of the most interesting sites in the islands, we will land on the olive-green sand and walk to Flour Beach, a favourite nesting site for green sea turtles, hoping to see flamingos on the way. Floreana also offers some of the best snorkelling sites in the Galápagos.

Day 6 — Cerro Dragón and Las Bachas, Santa Cruz

Cerro Dragon's land iguanas have played an important part in the conservation program by the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galapagos National Park. When their numbers declined in the 1970s some animals were taken to breed in captivity, others were put onto the neighboring islet, Venecia. As these programs were successful, we

will be heading inland on a trail leading past small saltwater lagoons that periodically feature flamingos to see the reintroduced animals. Once at the hill, we will circle Cerro Dragon, looking for the land iguanas and their burrows.

There might also be the possibility to snorkel near the landing site if time and tides permit.

Silver Galapagos will relocate to the northern shore of Santa Cruz during the early afternoon. At Las Bachas there will be the chance to swim from one of the two beaches, see White-cheeked Pintails and flamingos at a lagoon behind the beach and look for sea turtles -Las Bachas is one of the major nesting sites for them.

Day 7 — Los Gemelos, Puerto Ayora and the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, Santa Cruz

The second largest island in the archipelago is home to both the largest human settlement and the second largest wild tortoise population. We will visit Los Gemelos, two pit craters in the midst of a forest of tall scalesia trees that look like giant daisies and are endemic to the Galápagos. There is a good chance to spot land birds, especially one of the rare and endemic Galápagos Martins.

In the afternoon, the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center gives us the opportunity to see both the domed tortoise and the iconic saddleback tortoise after which the islands were named.

Day 8 — Baltra

Following breakfast, disembark *Silver Galapagos* for your return flight from Baltra Airport.

Expedition highlights and wildlife listed here are possible experiences only and cannot be guaranteed. Your Expedition Leader and Captain will work together to ensure opportunities for adventure and exploration are the best possible, taking into account the prevailing weather, wildlife activity and conditions. Expedition Team members scheduled for this voyage are subject to change or cancellation.

Currency

Believe it or not, Ecuador uses the US Dollar as their own currency. There are no exchange fees. Unless you continue on to Peru after the cruise, there is no reason to obtain funds in advance.

Tour Extension

Options will be offered to Quito for sightseeing in the area prior to the cruise. I will also offer a post-cruise expedition to Machu Picchu. Details to follow soon.

Getting there

Flights are surprisingly reasonable to Quito and Guayaquil. I flew United Airlines business class round trip in April 2015 and was pleased with the service and costs. Round trip from Seattle to Quito via Houston was only \$1100. Flights are not available to book until 330 days of the actual flight date, but this will give you an idea of costs based on the same dates in 2017.

Coach fares, depending on airline preference, run between \$1000 and \$1500. Business class fares can be found for between \$400-\$1000 more, depending on the airline and schedule. More information and reservations will be available in late February or March (330 days from travel)

These carriers will take you from Seattle to Quito with one connection.

United Airlines via Houston

Delta Airlines via Atlanta

American Airlines via Dallas or Miami

Multiple Latin carriers via LAX

To Book, I'll need the following information:

Guest name one _____ as appears on passport

Guest name two _____

Daytime telephone number _____

Mailing address _____

Email address _____

Category type Silver Suite _____
 Deluxe Verandah _____
 Verandah _____
 Terrace Suite _____
 Explorer Suite _____

Flight options 1. I'll need help with flights
 2. I'll book my own flights

Options 1. I'm interested in the pre-cruise Quito Tour _____
 2. I'm interested in the post-cruise Machu Picchu Tour _____

Form of payment check/vixsa/mastercard/amex

Payment options 1. I want to pay the 25% deposit and balance in August _____
 2. I'll take advantage of the 10% discount by paying in full now _____