

PALACE TOURS

Grand Ocean Spray Galapagos Luxury Cruise - 7 Nights, Itinerary A (Saturday to Saturday)

7 Nights • Luxury Experience

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ABOUT THIS TOUR

Overview

This 7-night Itinerary A sails Saturday to Saturday aboard the M/C Grand Ocean Spray and visits Chinese Hat, Isabela, Fernandina, Santa Cruz, South Plaza, Santa Fe, Espanola and San Cristobal. Fares start at US$10,745 per person in a double cabin, with departures listed below through 2028. Best value in the fleet for balcony suites, with a spa and whirlpool on a brand-new hull.

The M/C Grand Ocean Spray is a 16-guest catamaran launched in October 2026 as the successor to the well-known Ocean Spray. All eight Golden Suites are identical in size and layout, each with a private balcony, panoramic shower and walk-in closet, and they are split evenly between the main and upper decks so nobody draws a lesser cabin.

The main deck holds the dining room, a fully stocked bar, a snack station and four lounging areas; the upper deck adds a covered open-air terrace, a panoramic spa and a sun terrace; the sky deck has al-fresco dining, a cocktail bar and a premium whirlpool. Solar panels and a CO2-neutral design carry over from the fleet's newer builds.

Every landing is led by licensed Galapagos National Park naturalist guides in groups of eight or fewer. Snorkelling gear, wetsuits, kayaks and stand-up paddle boards are included in the fare.

Islands you will visit

- Chinese Hat
- Isabela
- Fernandina
- Santa Cruz
- South Plaza
- Santa Fe
- Espanola
- San Cristobal

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

BALTRA ISLAND

Morning: Baltra Airport arrival

the M/C Grand Ocean Spray.

Afternoon: Chinese Hat

This site offers rare, up close viewing of Galapagos wildlife and well-preserved remnants of fragile volcanic rock that can't be found in such a unique condition anywhere else. The island is named after the similarity of an Asian type of hat. Here you can see American Oystercatchers and Galapagos Penguins swimming along the shores.

Activities: Walking, snorkeling, kayaking, dinghy ride

Difficulty: Moderate

Landing: Wet landing

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, various shorebirds, white-cheeked pintail ducks, penguins,

Galapagos Hawks, various tropical fish, sally lightfoot crabs.

Meals on board: lunch, dinner

DAY 2

ISABELA ISLAND



Morning: Isabela - Vicente Roca Point

Vicente Roca Point has outstanding geological formations and is a great place to see various bird species. Because this visitor site is located on the western area of the island, the Cromwell Current provides cold water that carries many nutrients for bot h land and aquatic species, offering the chance to see amazing feeding frenzies.

Activities: Dinghy ride, snorkeling

Difficulty: Easy / Moderate

Landing: No landing

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, various shorebirds, blue -footed boobies, nazca boobies, fur seals, whales, sea turtles, various tropical fish, sally lightfoot crabs and other marine species.

Afternoon: Fernandina - Espinoza Point

As one of the most pristine islands in the archipelago, Fernandina has never had a foreign species invade. It is also the most active island and farthest west. Espinoza point is the only visitor site on the entire island. Here you can see marine iguanas, Galapagos hawks and enjoy a walking and snorkeling activity at one of the most natural, unspoiled sites in the entire world.

Activities: Walking, snorkeling

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Landing: Dry landing - may be slippery

Possible Wildlife: Flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, land iguanas, penguins, sea lions, various shorebirds, Galapagos Hawks, various tropical fish, sally lightfoot crabs, sea turtles.

Meals on board: breakfast, lunch, dinner



DAY 3

ISABELA ISLAND

Morning: Isabela - Tagus Cove

If you like historic remnants, then you will enjoy finding what was left behind by pirates and sailors in the 1800s. This site was one of their preferred pit stops while traveling the seas. The walking here will provide incredible views of the cove and on the other side the mangrove forest where the last 35 pairs of Mangrove finches thrive.

Activities: Walking, snorkeling, kayaking, dinghy ride

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Landing: Dry

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, various shorebirds, flightless cormorant, Galapagos penguins, marine iguanas, sally lightfoot crabs, mangrove finches.

Afternoon: Isabela - Urbina Bay

Millions of years ago, Urbina Bay was once laying on the ocean floor. Volcanic uplifts caused it to rise and now it is occupied by sea lions, land iguanas and flightless cormorants. It is a great place to enjoy some free time on the beach or the guide ma y suggest a walk.

Activities: Walking, snorkeling

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

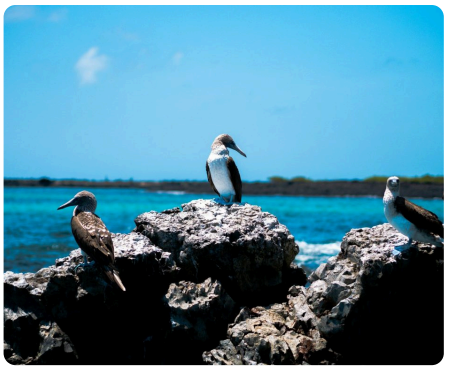
Landing: Wet

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, various shorebirds, flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, sea turtles, land iguanas, Galapagos Hawk, sally lightfoot crabs, Galapagos tortoise.

Meals on board: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 4

ISABELA ISLAND



Morning: Isabela - Elizabeth Bay

This visitor site is visited by dinghy only as the park authorities have no authorized

landing in order to protect the island. While in the dinghy you can appreciate a large abundance of marine life that can be seen in the clear waters.

Activities: Dinghy ride

Difficulty: Easy

Landing: No Landing

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, frigate birds, sea turtles, various shorebirds, flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, pelicans, sally lightfoot crabs, tropical fish and marine life such as Galapagos sharks.

Afternoon: Isabela - Moreno Point

The beautiful rocky shores of Moreno Point offers a plethora of birds to be seen. It is truly a birders delight. The main attraction are the coast lagoons where white tipped sharks can be seen and the panoramic views of Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul volcanoes cannot be missed.

Activities: Walking, snorkeling and dinghy ride

Difficulty: Moderate

Landing: Wet

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, great blue herons, various shorebirds, flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, sally lightfoot crabs, sea turtles, land iguanas, Galapagos Hawk, Galapagos tortoise.

Meals on board: breakfast, lunch, dinner



DAY 5

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Morning: Santa Cruz - Charles Darwin Research Station

The Charles Darwin Research Station is one of the Galapagos Island's most important sites for visitors. It is a research facility that has an extensive collection of Galapagos plant life specimens carefully preserved and also acts as a biological research station and active breeding center operated by the Charles Darwin Foundation. Their biggest conservation efforts are to one day eliminate all invasive and non -native plants and animals destroying endemic species within the islands.

Activities: Walking

Difficulty: Moderate to Difficult

Landing: Dry

Possible Wildlife: Galapagos tortoises in captivation and various stages of tortoises.

Afternoon: Santa Cruz - Highlands

The highlands are located in the northern part of Santa Cruz and can reach elevations up to 1500 meters. This area is rich with hills, ferns, volcanoes and wildlife. A great contrast to the molten lava hardened beaches and rocky areas of other islands al ready seen. It is home to giant tortoises, mockingbirds, finches and many other species.

Activities: Walking

Difficulty: Moderate

Landing: Dry

Possible Wildlife: Galapagos tortoises, finches, mockingbirds, lava lizards, pintail ducks, other shorebirds.

Meals on board: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 6

SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND



Morning: South Plaza Island

South Plaza is one of the smallest islands with a visitor site, but is home to an incredible amount of diverse flora and fauna. It has a large population of Sesuvium plants like the prickly pear cactus tree that is an important source of food for the land iguana. Just a few years ago mice were finally eradicated from the island, helping the population of land iguanas grow healthily once more. The amazing colors of the turquoise waters against the black lava create a setting for amazing photography opportunities.

Activities: Walking

Difficulty: Moderate

Landing: Dry

Possible Wildlife: frigatebirds, sally lightfoot crabs, sea lions, land iguanas, swallow - tailed gulls, various shorebirds and seabirds.

Afternoon: Santa Fe Island

Santa Fe is home to the endemic Santa Fe iguana. The island was created by a volcanic uplift that now hosts a forest of Opuntia and Palo Santo trees. It is a picturesque island with two different trails, one leading to a scenic viewpoint and the other leading to a small beach. Giant tortoises were once native here but went extinct after pirates and sailors took them aboard as a source of food.

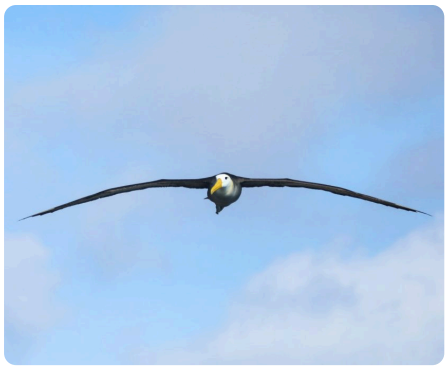
Activities: Walking, snorkeling, kayaking, and dinghy ride

Difficulty: Moderate

Landing: Dry

Possible Wildlife: Santa Fe land iguanas, frigatebirds, sally lightfoot crabs, sea lions, finches, various shorebirds.

Meals on board: breakfast, lunch, dinner



DAY 7

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

Morning: Espanola - Suarez Point

This is a phenomenal site where you will get to see many of Espanola Island's endemic species. The trail will pass by the only Waved Albatross breeding site in all of Galapagos. If you are lucky you might see a young albatross take off for its first flight for up to five years at sea. Older birds stay at sea for months at a time, only coming back to breed. They have the same mate for life and will meet each other each year, only here to reproduce. Other species that can be seen are marine iguanas that stay brightly colored year round, Galapagos doves, Nazca boobies, blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropic birds, and Darwin finches.

Activities: Walking

Difficulty: Easy/Moderate

Landing: Dry

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, marine iguanas, Galapagos hawk, waved albatross, red - billed tropic birds, various shorebirds, nazca boobies, swallow tailed gulls, finches and sally lightfoot crabs.

Afternoon: Espanola - Gardner Bay / Osborn & Gardner islets

This white sandy beach is home to a large colony of sea lions and incredibly blue and turquoise waters. Three different finches can be seen, as well as the Espanola mockingbird. Over time, the mockingbird must have been offered water or food from tourists and now they have no fear of walking on your things or landing very close to you. Or visit the Osborn and Gardner islets that are amazing for underwater discovery. Snorkeling is a highlight on this visitor point. It is so important not to feed or touch the animals. It can disrupt their normal behaviors and threaten their future.

Activities: Walking, snorkeling, kayaking and dinghy ride

Difficulty: Easy

Landing: Wet landing

Possible Wildlife: Sea lions, various shorebirds, mockingbirds, stingrays, sea turtles.

Meals on board: breakfast, lunch, dinner

DAY 8

SAN CRISTOBAL



Morning: San Cristobal - Interpretation Center

A short distance from the centre of San Cristobal is the San Cristobal Interpretation Center, open to the public since 1998, which provides an extensive knowledge about the fascinating history of the archipelago and give visitors a more holistic understanding of these islands' unique habitats and wildlife. The main areas of focus, which are addressed through a number of expositions are: natural history, human history and conservation for the future. For those who are interested in the geology of the archipelago there is a complete exhibit on the volcanic birth of the Galapagos and how this impacted on the habitats present here.

Activities: Walking

Difficulty: Easy

Landing: Dry Landing

Depart from San Cristobal airport. After this last visit, transfer to San Cristobal airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador. Assistance and farewell at the airport.

Meals on board: breakfast

DATES & PRICING

Departure Dates & Rates

DEPARTURE DATE	CLASS / CABIN	SINGLE	DOUBLE (PP)
Nov 28, 2026	Golden Suite	—	**$10,745**
Jul 10, 2027	Golden Suite	—	**$11,290**
Jul 24, 2027	Golden Suite	—	**$11,290**
Aug 7, 2027	Golden Suite	—	**$11,290**
Oct 2, 2027	Golden Suite	—	**$11,290**
Nov 27, 2027	Golden Suite	—	**$11,290**
Dec 11, 2027	Golden Suite	—	**$11,290**
Feb 19, 2028	Golden Suite	—	**$12,450**
Mar 18, 2028	Golden Suite	—	**$12,450**
Apr 15, 2028	Golden Suite	—	**$12,450**
May 13, 2028	Golden Suite	—	**$12,450**
Jun 10, 2028	Golden Suite	—	**$12,450**

Rates shown are per person. Single rate applies to single occupancy; Double rate applies per person in double occupancy.

🏷️ **Look for Coupons and Special Rates on our website.**

Visit https://www.palacetours.com/tour/grand-ocean-spray-galapagos-8-days-itinerary-a for the latest information.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions

Payment Policy*:

- At the time of booking a deposit of 20% of the total tour price
- The remaining balance is due a minimum of 65 calendar days prior to departure date

To issue final confirmation Palace tours requires 60 days prior to departure (or at time of reservation for last minute bookings) the following information for all passengers:

- Complete passenger names
- Passport numbers (& passport copy in case of children)
- Nationality
- Date of birth
- Marital Status
- Dietary or medical restrictions

Failure to provide the above information on time may result in delays and possibly passengers missing the tour completely. Palace tours will not accept responsibility or provide refunds if the above information is not provided in its entirety and on time.

Cancellation Policy*

All cancellations must be done in writing. If a cancellation is received more than 125 days prior to tour departure date a Cancellation fee of 10% of the total price will be retained as cancellation fee.

If a cancellation is received between 124 days and 65 days prior to tour departure date, 20% of the total price will be forfeited.

In the case of a cancellation received less than 65 days prior to the boat departure the full amount will be retained.

*Specific Payment and Cancellation/Reschedule policies for Christmas and New Years´ Eve cruise dates

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the best time to visit Galapagos?

> Galapagos is a place that can be visited at any time. There are two season, and the warmest is between December and May. It is the time of year when the sky is always clear, and the sun shines strongly. If you love to dive in amazing places, the best time to visit Galapagos is from June to November. During this season the weather is a little cooler, but it gives you the chance to enjoy the best from Galapagos' famous marine reserve.

What should we bring?

> Since the islands are situated very near the Equator, we recommend that you bring lightweight clothing and of course, don't forget your swimsuits, sun lotion, and good footwear.

How long is the flight from Ecuador to the Galapagos?

> It depends from where you depart. Flights to the Galapagos leave from Quito and Guayaquil. It takes about half an hour to get from Quito to Guayaquil and roughly one and a half hours from Guayaquil to the islands.

Are there any immunizations required/recommended?

> For the Galapagos Islands there are no required or recommended immunizations. If you, however, intend to spend more time in Ecuador, especially in the jungle, immunization is highly recommended. As this changes from time to time please check with your local health office (or the Institute for Tropical Diseases) a few weeks in advance of your trip.

Are single or triple suites available?

> Most of our cruises will assign double cabins to all passengers unless you want to pay the single supplement if traveling alone. Triple cabins can also be arranged on request, depending on availability and the vessel you choose.

What is the time zone of the Galapagos Islands?

> The Galapagos Islands are 6 hours behind GMT (equivalent to USA Central Standard Time)

Does the equatorial line cross the Galapagos Islands?

> The equatorial line does pass through the Galapagos, just north of Isla Santiago. Please refer to our Itinerary page to see which itinerary passes through the equatorial line.

What are marine currents like the Galapagos?

> The Galapagos Islands waters have the Humboldt Current's influence that brings cold waters especially during the mist rainy season (cool weather) from July to December. The warm season is during the months of January to June. The southeast trade winds become weaker and the water from the Panama Basin remains warm. During this season there is more of a tropical climate with some occasional rains. "El Niño" current may cause a much greater flow of warm waters, making the surface warmer and rainfall increase.

What is the water temperature in the Islands?

> Average water temperatures in Galapagos:
> January - June: 70°F - 80°F (20°C - 26°C)
> July - December: 65°F - 75°F (18°C- 23°C)

Can you snorkel in the Galapagos?

> Snorkeling equipment is available on-board and is an activity on all of our Galapagos Cruises. All water sports convey a certain risk. Passengers participating in these activities do so under their own responsibility.
> *Restrictions and fees might apply, please contact us for more information.

Special Diets:

> Passengers with special dietary needs are asked to request the latest menu offered and in such cases that stated menu does not meet their needs to clearly convey their specific dietary needs. It is the responsibility of passengers with specific dietary needs to addressed additional requirements at least 30 days prior to the start of the cruise. Those general and specific needs not clearly conveyed cannot be met. Every reasonable effort will be made to cater to such requests within reason, subject to availability of products in Ecuador retains the right to refuse to cater such special needs.

Which islands does the Grand Ocean Spray Itinerary A visit?

> The 7-night Itinerary A visits Chinese Hat, Isabela, Fernandina, Santa Cruz, South Plaza, Santa Fe, Espanola and San Cristobal, sailing Saturday to Saturday. See the day-by-day tab for the landing sites and activities on each day.

What is included in the M/C Grand Ocean Spray fare?

> Accommodation in your suite, all meals and snacks on board, soft drinks, guided excursions with licensed National Park naturalists, snorkelling equipment and wetsuits, kayaks and paddle boards, Galapagos airport transfers and a welcome and farewell cocktail. Flights to the islands, the Galapagos National Park fee and transit card, alcoholic drinks and gratuities are extra.

Are the Grand Ocean Spray rates shown the current published rates?

> Yes. The dates and per-person double-occupancy fares on this page are refreshed from the vessel's live inventory. Seasonal promotions on individual departures are applied when you enquire, so ask us for the best current fare on your preferred date.

Where does the 7-night Grand Ocean Spray Itinerary A start and finish?

> This cruise runs Saturday to Saturday. You fly into Baltra airport on day 1 and board the M/C Grand Ocean Spray for an afternoon at Chinese Hat. The last morning (day 8) is a visit to the San Cristobal Interpretation Center before your flight home. Airport transfers in Galapagos are included; flights to and from the islands are not.

Why is the western route to Isabela and Fernandina special on Itinerary A?

> Days 2 to 4 are spent in the far west, where the cold, nutrient-rich Cromwell Current feeds some of the richest wildlife in the islands. At Vicente Roca Point, Espinoza Point on Fernandina, Tagus Cove, Urbina Bay, Elizabeth Bay and Moreno Point you may see flightless cormorants, Galapagos penguins, fur seals, marine iguanas and sometimes whales. Few shorter cruises reach this side of the archipelago.

Will I see the waved albatross on Grand Ocean Spray Itinerary A?

> Day 7 visits Suarez Point on Espanola, which the itinerary describes as the only waved albatross breeding site in all of Galapagos. The trail also passes Nazca and blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropicbirds and Espanola's brightly coloured marine iguanas. The afternoon is at Gardner Bay with the Osborn and Gardner islets. Albatross numbers vary through the year, so sightings are likely in season but never guaranteed.

How fit do I need to be for the 7-night Itinerary A?

> Several walks are graded moderate to difficult, including Tagus Cove and the Charles Darwin Research Station and highlands on Santa Cruz, while Elizabeth Bay and Vicente Roca Point are seen from the dinghy with no landing. Landings mix dry and wet (wading ashore from the dinghy). Groups are kept to eight or fewer per guide, and you can skip a walk and snorkel or kayak instead.

How much deposit is required and which dates are on sale for Itinerary A?

> A deposit of 20% of the fare secures your Golden Suite, and the balance is due 65 days before departure. Departures on sale run from 28 November 2026 to 10 June 2028, with fares from US$10,745 per person sharing; the exact fare for each departure is shown on this page. Children are priced in two bands by age at departure: under 5, and 5 to under 12.

How do I ask a question or book the Grand Ocean Spray 7-night Itinerary A?

> Every departure listed on this page can be booked directly online. If you would like help choosing a date or adding nights in Quito or Guayaquil, email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or message us on WhatsApp at https://wa.me/17864080610, where a travel specialist or our AI assistant will answer.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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