

Galapagos: In a World of its Own

A cruise with specialist guides Professor Nicholas Owens and Felipe Cruz



25 November - 2 December 2013

8 day cruise aboard the superb MY Majestic



The Galapagos Conservation Trust, in association with **Galapagos Travel Center**, is proud to present a special cruise around the Galapagos Islands in the company of expert guides, marine biologist **Professor Nicholas Owens** and Galapagos conservationist **Felipe Cruz**. This 10 day adventure begins in Ecuador's capital city Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where a day will be spent exploring the best preserved city in Latin America.

Guests will then be whisked off to the idyllic Galapagos Islands, spending 8 days aboard the magnificent new Majestic motor yacht. While sailing around the Islands, guests will take in some of the most spectacular landscapes in the world and an amazing array of unique flora and fauna. You are invited to experience the unique history and wildlife that Galapagos has to offer while enjoying the expertise and knowledge of your specialist guides.



Professor Nicholas Owens is a marine biologist by training, having studied at the Liverpool University Marine Biological Station, Port Erin, Isle of Man for his first degree and PhD studies at the University of Dundee. He is director of the Sir Alister Hardy

Foundation for Ocean Science (SAHFOS), Professor of Ocean Science at the University of Plymouth and received a BSc from the University of Liverpool and PhD from the University of Dundee.

His primary research interests as a biological oceanographer are in the field of biogeochemical cycling, especially the nitrogen cycle and the production and consumption of biogases. He has spent over three years of his career at sea on a variety of research ships, large and small, in almost all of the world's oceans.



Felipe Cruz coordinates projects for the Galapagos Conservation Trust and works as a naturalist guide. Native to the Galapagos, Felipe began work as a field assistant with the Charles Darwin Research Station. His work on the dark-rumped petrel project

helped saved the petrels from extinction. He has since worked for the Galapagos National Park Service as Head of Protection and as Deputy Director.

Among his successes, Felipe helped to found the Chamber of Tourism and was involved in the production and approval of the Special Law for Galapagos, which led to the extension of the Marine Reserve. He also held the position of Technical Director of the Isabela Project, which aimed to achieve the ecological restoration of northern Isabela.



Itinerary

DAY 1 - MON 25 NOVEMBER

AM Fly to San Cristobal Island, where you will be met by Majestic staff and transferred to the yacht. Here, you will settle into your cabin, enjoy lunch and receive a welcome briefing.

PM You will visit the “Galapaguera” Colorado Hill. It is a new visitor site in the southeast part of San Cristobal Island and can now be reached in roughly one hour by road from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. On the trees and shrubs surrounding the site, you may see land birds like warblers, finches and mockingbirds. Giant tortoises can be observed on the trails. They live there wild but in a protected area to ensure their survival by sealing them off from introduced predators like pigs and goats.

DAY 2 - TUE 26 NOVEMBER

Visit to Floreana Island. Schedule to be confirmed.

DAY 3 - WED 27 NOVEMBER

AM Today you will visit Rabida Island (or Jervis) which is one of the most colourful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago as well as a great snorkeling site. We will start on Rabida’s famous maroon sandy beach, and after

an easy hike, you will arrive to a stunning lookout to enjoy the amazing landscapes.

The island is a birdwatcher’s delight. Some of the rarest species are in abundance such as nine varieties of finches, large-billed flycatchers, Galapagos hawks and brown pelicans.

PM In the afternoon, you will go to Egas Port, also known as James Bay, on Santiago Island which is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to the coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos fur sea lions bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkeling site.

DAY 4 - THU 28 NOVEMBER

AM Visit to Tagus Cove on Isabela Island which is located across from Fernandina Island, near the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. This spot has been frequented by ships since the 1800s, using the area as an anchorage site. Trails winding by Lake Darwin up to a ridge display wonderful views. Punta Tortuga, just north of Tagus Cove, is another lovely beach surrounded by mangroves.





PM Mangle Point is a new visitor site located in Fernandina Island, which is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems, as no foreign species have ever invaded it. The volcano "La Cumbre" dominates the landscape along with beautiful mangrove forests. Since the water is shallow, you can easily take pictures of the magnificent flora and fauna of the west side of Galapagos.

DAY 5 - FRI 29 NOVEMBER

AM Visit to Urbina Bay, located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on Isabela's west coast. The area experienced a major uplift in 1954, causing the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded, leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place for snorkelling.

PM Crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at Espinosa Point, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, reach the island's highlight: the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk.

DAY 6 - SAT 30 NOVEMBER

AM Trip to Bartholomew Island, home of the famous Pinnacle Rock. Bartholomew consists of an extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, black and even green volcanic formations. We will take a trail of stairs to the summit of the volcano (about 30 or 40 minutes) where you will enjoy one of the best views of the islands! You will also visit a small, beautiful beach surrounded by the only vegetation found on this barren island. The beach is perfect for snorkeling where you may even see Galapagos penguins.

PM Visit North Seymour. Here you will be able to see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies and magnificent frigate birds which are abundant on the Island. The island was formed by a series of submarine lava flows containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone.

DAY 7 - SUN 1 DECEMBER

AM Visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station, where giant tortoises are bred in captivity. The Station is home to tortoises ranging from 3in to 4ft long and conservation icon Lonesome George - the last remaining Pinta Island tortoise - lived here for almost 40 years until his death 2012.





AM Excursion takes you from Puerto Ayora to the green highlands of Santa Cruz for a visit to El Chato reserve, is divided into two areas: Caseta and Chato. The trail begins at Santa Rosa (13.7 miles / 22 km) from Puerto Ayora, with the Caseta route being the most challenging. The reserve allows visitors to observe giant tortoises in the wild during the dry season and is also a good place to spot short-eared owls, Darwin's finches, yellow warblers, Galapagos rails and paint-billed crakes.

Day 8 - Mon 2 December

AM Excursion to Lobos Island. Meaning Sea Lion Island, the island is appropriately named as it is ripe with noisy, frolicking, sea lions. This island also offers great snorkelling opportunities as well as a chance to see blue footed and Nazca boobies.

PM After visiting Lobos Island you will be transferred to the San Cristobal airport to catch your flight to Quito or Guayaquil for your connecting flight or hotel accommodation on the mainland.

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Galapagos National Park Service

For more information about the wildlife of the islands, visit savegalapagos.org

To find out more about travelling to Ecuador and the Galapagos islands, and for travel advice, go to galapagosislands.com

Prices and information

For information and to book, contact GCT on **020 7399 7440** or email office@gct.org

Cruise Package:

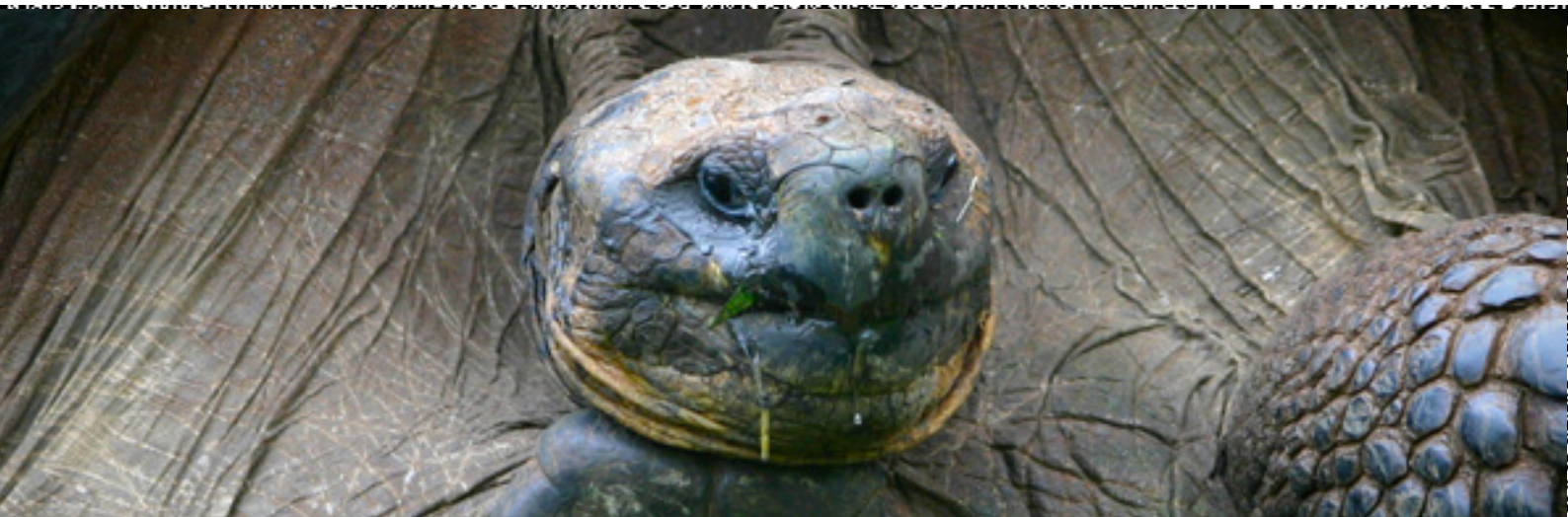
- Price **\$4,450** (deposit 30% to secure booking. Outstanding sum payable no less than two months before departure date)

Price includes:

- 8-day cruise aboard the MV Majestic, including meals
- Airport transfers in Galapagos
- Airport assistance in Quito and Galapagos
- Daily excursions with English speaking guide
- Wetsuits & Snorkelling equipment
- Kayaks
- Fuel surcharge

Price excludes:

- Flights to and from Ecuador
- USD 10 Ingala control card for Galapagos
- Flights between Quito and Galapagos
- Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks
- USD 100 entrance fee/Galapagos National Park
- Travel/Medical insurance
- Gratuities
- Personal expenses





The MY Majestic

The MY Majestic offers an excellent cruise to visit the Galapagos Islands with superior comfort, accommodation and first class service.

The Majestic offers 9 double cabins and ample social areas, including a superb sundeck with a large Jacuzzi. So, relax and enjoy your voyage in style. Soak up the sun on the loungers or take a refreshing dip in the Jacuzzi whilst motoring through some of the most unique islands in the world. But keep your eyes open as you could spot dolphins, whales and mola-mola!

Enjoy first class dining and refreshments in the main deck s bar, dining room and social area or retire to your luxury cabin for a siesta before your next adventure. All cabins include en-suite bathrooms, air-conditioning and hot water.

For more information, visit majestic-cruise.com



Recommended hotel in Quito



Hotel Patio Andaluz, Quito

Hotel Patio Andaluz, located in the heart of historic Quito, is surrounded by beautiful churches, national monuments and overlooked by the towering Andes mountains. This boutique hotel was part of the original Solaris (original building sites) that constituted the city of San Francisco de Quito during the time of its foundation in the sixteenth century. Since then, revolutionaries, historic figures, presidents and great thinkers have passed through its patios and corridors.

Enjoy the elegance and comfort of the Hotel Patio Andaluz and experience the colonial times as you walk through its corridors, patios, arches and attics that have witnessed Ecuadorian history since the end of the sixteenth century. The hotel boasts an exclusive restaurant, El Rincón de Cantuña, which specialises in local and Spanish cuisine, as well as the Tapas Bar Marqués de Jerez, the Guayasamin Reading Room and artisan shop Folklore Olga Fisch.

For more information, visit hotelpatioandaluz.com

