

The Galápagos Islands:

In the Wake of Charles Darwin

INTERNATIONAL
Wildlife
ADVENTURES

Trip Planner

Highlights

- Witness one of the world's most amazing wildlife wonders
- Our tour leaders are the best naturalists in the Islands
- Average ratio of 12 to 16 guests to each naturalist
- Choose from different itineraries

Cruising Ecuador's Enchanted Isles



Photos: Randy Green, www.randygreenphoto.com

Of all the world's great wildlife destinations, Ecuador's Galápagos Islands ranks as one of the most rewarding for anyone interested in natural history or photography. Very few places can offer so many approachable species of exotic wildlife as this isolated archipelago, located some 600 miles off the coast of northern South America. It was here, in the early 19th Century, that Charles Darwin encountered the puzzling array of life that later led him to formulate his Origin of Species.

Today, the visitor finds an almost storybook world of incredibly tame wildlife. Imagine yourself snorkeling face-to-face with sea lions, fur seals, and sea turtles, or viewing at arm's length colonies of nesting seabirds,



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www.wildlifeadventures.com

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS



marine and land iguanas and giant tortoises! At night, aboard your boat, marvel at the phosphorescent tropical sea and the blazing stars of the Southern Hemisphere's skies.

All guides in the Galápagos Islands must be licensed and trained by the Ecuadorian Park Service. This way we insure that you will receive broad and accurate information about the complex biological processes that the islands are famous for. All of our guides are fully bilingual (and so are much of our boat crews), and in many cases speak a third language. You can be assured that our guides are the best available in the islands.

Balra's (San Cristobal on some itineraries) jet airport is our connection with the mainland and is just a short bus ride from the harbor where all our cruises begin.

Isabela is the largest island in the archipelago, composed of six shield volcanoes that have merged into a single landmass. Trails offer spectacular views of Darwin Lake, a saltwater crater lake and the long narrow inlet that appears to connect with it. At the top of the trail, observe the different vegetation zones, and catch a glimpse of Darwin and Wolf Volcanoes. Galápagos penguins, flightless cormorants, pelicans and marine invertebrates are often seen.

Fernandina is the youngest island in the Galápagos; the most recent volcanic eruption occurred in 1995. Punta Espinosa is a narrow stretch of land where you can see snakes (non-poisonous), flightless cormorants, Galápagos penguins, and Galápagos hawks. Marine iguanas are everywhere. This is one of the few places where there is the opportunity while snorkeling, if the water is clear, of watching iguanas feed underwater.

At **James (Santiago)** marine iguanas are scattered around feeding on exposed algae and tidepools are filled with Sally Lightfoot crabs that attract several species of herons. On the northeast side of the island, enjoy swimming and snorkeling with playful sea lions in Sullivan Bay.

Floreana's Punta Cormorant sports a beach with green olivine sand. On a brackish lagoon skinny-legged flamingos wade through the water, sifting shrimp with their curved bills. Nearby is Devil's Crown, a volcano crater that has been eroded by the waves, providing one of the best snorkeling sites in the Galápagos.

San Cristobal is home to the Interpretation Center, built in cooperation with the Spanish Science Center. It gives a good introduction to the Galápagos Islands, its marine and land life, fauna and flora. It is located in the outskirts of the small city of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, which is the capital of the Galápagos Province. On Cerro Tijeretas (Frigatebird Hill) visitors are treated to a spectacular view of the white beaches on one side and the roofs of Puerto Baquerizo on the other. The hill is often visited by frigatebirds, giving it its name. Here it is possible to see magnificent frigatebirds and great frigatebirds in the same colony.

Bartolomé is home to the landmark of the Galápagos, Pinnacle Rock. On the rocks at its base are Galápagos penguins, the smallest species of penguin and the only one found in the Tropics. In addition, nesting sea turtles (in season) wade in the shallow water near the shore, exhausted after a long swim to these beaches to lay their eggs.

Plazas Island are two small islets that were uplifted a short distance from the East Coast of Santa Cruz. Despite its small size, some of the most interesting and outstanding species of the archipelago occur here. The principal attraction of Plazas are the land iguanas, the sea lions and the swallow-tailed gulls. Also we can see yellow-tailed mullets, Audubon's shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, frigatebirds, and brown pelicans gliding past the cliffs.

Rábida is a small island with red volcanic rocks surrounding a beautiful red sand beach, where there is a colony of sea lions and a pelican nesting site. The trail leads to a salt water lagoon where shore birds can be seen.

Santa Cruz is the second largest island in the Galápagos. The small town of Puerto Ayora is the economic center of the archipelago and home to the Charles Darwin Research Station and the Galápagos National Park offices. The world-famous research station is a tortoise breeding and rearing center, where tortoises of different subspecies are prepared for reintroduction to their natural habitats. The lush greenery of the Santa Cruz Highlands is a welcome contrast to the arid scenery of the smaller, lower islands.

Hood (Española) is the southern-most island of the archipelago and because it is so isolated, has a high proportion of endemic fauna. Here, along one of the islands loveliest beaches, extroverted mockingbirds sit on top of visitors hats, peck at their feet and investigate their belongings. At Punta Suárez the quantity and variety of wildlife is truly remarkable. Further inland you will see masked and blue-footed boobies, Galápagos doves, red-billed tropicbirds and American oystercatchers. Hood is also home to the only colony of waved albatross on the planet.

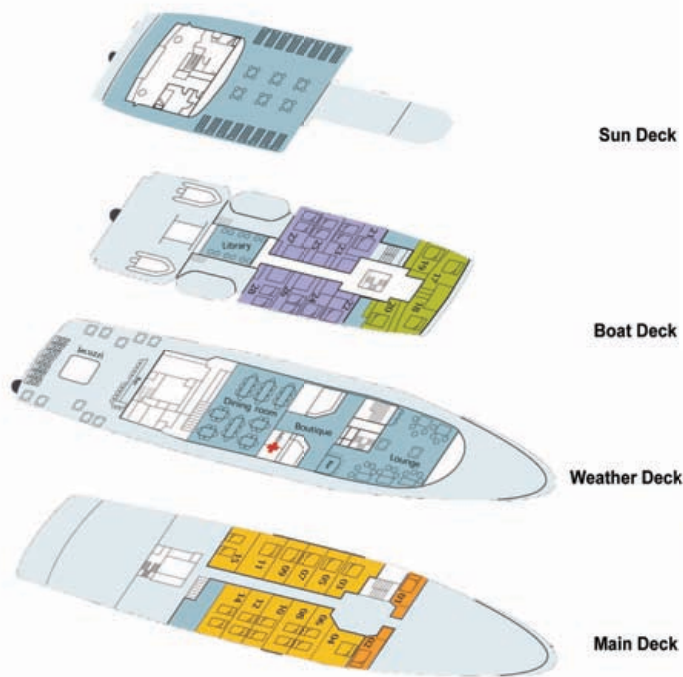
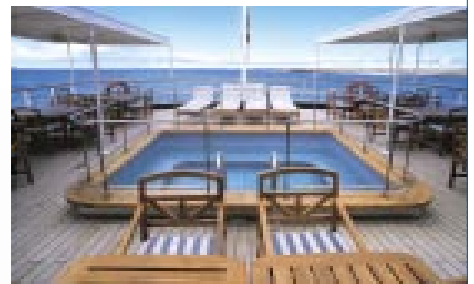
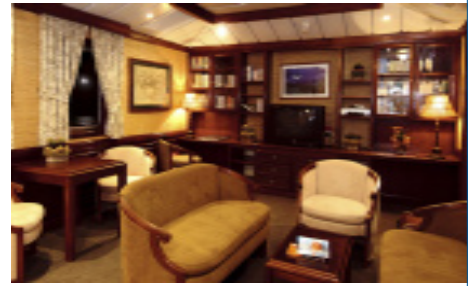
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M/Y Eclipse



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Cabin Layout:
 4 Deluxe staterooms on the Boat Deck
 8 separate staterooms with picture windows on the Boat Deck
 12 staterooms with portholes on the Main Deck
 2 single staterooms with portholes on the Main Deck

Technical Specifications:
 Type of Vessel: Expedition Vessel
 Capacity: 48 passengers
 Length: 210 feet/64 meters
 Beam: 41 feet/12.5 meters
 Depth: 23 feet/7.1 meters
 Draft: 11 feet/3.2 meters
 Gross Tonnage: 1610
 Cruising Speed: 11 knots
 Safety: ISM and SOLAS Requirements
 Life jackets in each cabin
 Lifeboats: 6
 Accommodation: 26 air-conditioned cabins with private facilities
 Crew: 31, plus up to 4 naturalist guides
 Infirmary: Resident physician permanently on-board

- 17-20 DELUXE STATEROOM
- 21-28 SUPERIOR STATEROOM
- 3-15 STATEROOM
- 1-2 SINGLE STATEROOM

Cabin 18
 Area: 210 sq. ft. Approx.



Cabin 27
 Area: 170 sq. ft. Approx.



Cabin 6
 Area: 170 sq. ft. approx.



Cabin 1
 Area: 110 sq. ft. approx.



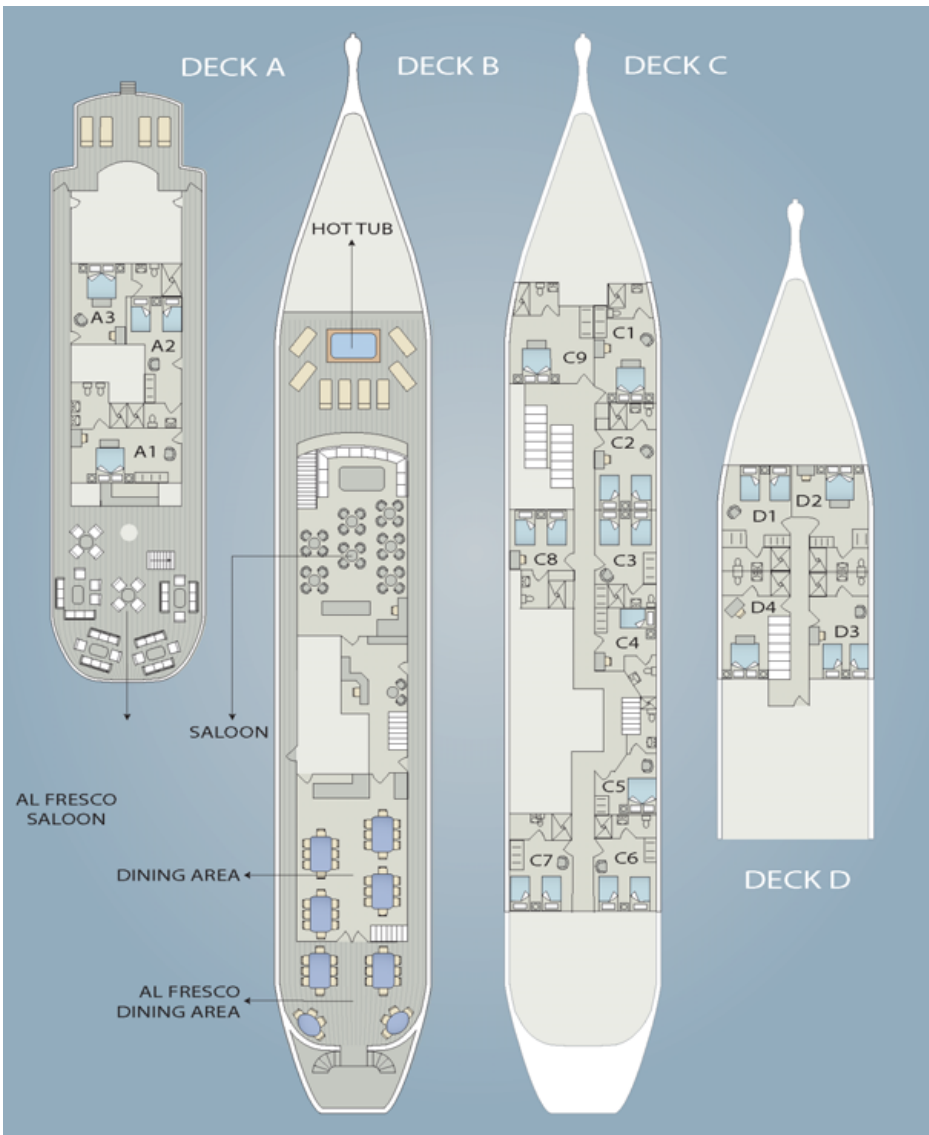
The **M/Y Eclipse** is a luxurious, comfortable 210-foot expedition vessel accommodating 48 passengers in staterooms, each with a sea view, making it perfect for those wanting a larger ship, but without the large crowds.

Fully air-conditioned, the spacious cabins have either a double or twin bed arrangement and well-appointed bathrooms..

M/Y Evolution



[Visit M/Y Evolution web page](#)



The **M/Y Evolution** evokes a classic era of boating with her graceful lines and elegant interiors.

She is a 192 ft cruise ship that accommodates up to 32 passengers in 16 spacious cabins, single or twin all with private bath. M/Y Evolution offers a mix of beautifully furnished salons, open decks and private areas, all in a classic style.

M/Y Grace



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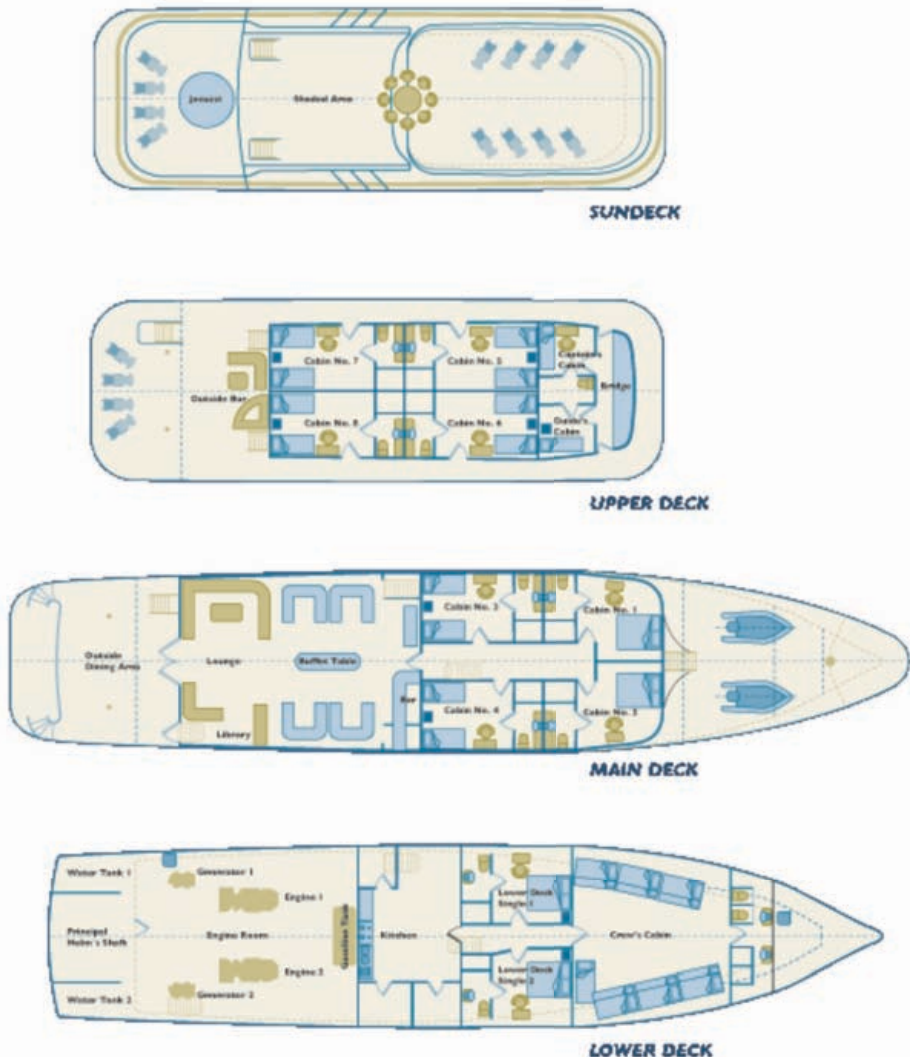
Named after her late former owner, **Her Serene Highness Princess Grace of Monaco**, the name is a representation of her elegance, beauty and prestige.

This 145 feet / 44 meter Camper & Nicholson yacht has traversed the waters of this world and offers superb accommodations for 18 guests in 9 staterooms. Select **M/Y Grace** for a classic and gracious Galapagos tour.

M/Y Galapagos Odyssey



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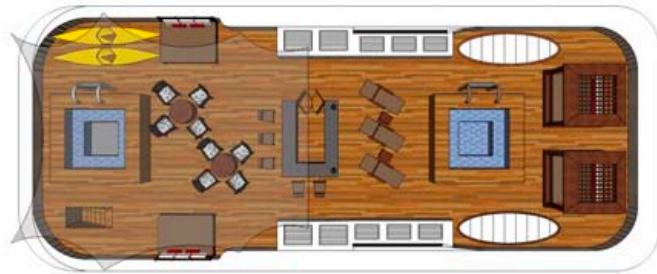
The 16 passenger luxury **M/Y Galapagos Odyssey** was built in 2008 specifically for cruising the Enchanted Islands and crewed by native Galapagueños. Her 8 comfortable and spacious suites feature picture windows that open to the ocean breeze and views.

The ship features a large sun-deck for soaking in a little sun, and an easy to access swimming platform, alfresco dining areas, internet access, and a shaded Jacuzzi.

M/Y Grand Odyssey



[Visit M/Y Grand Odyssey web page](#)



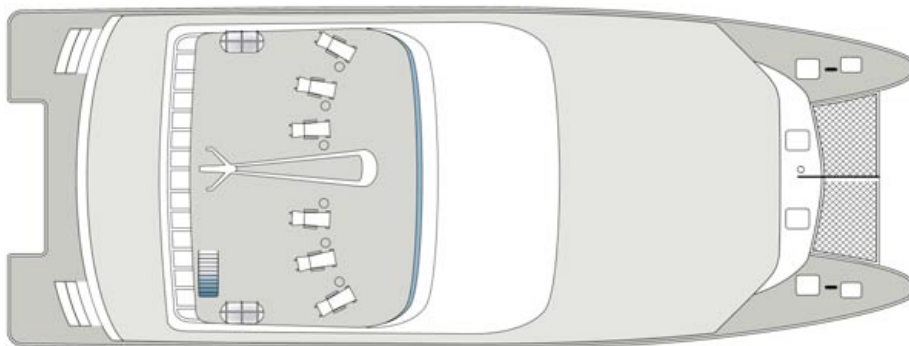
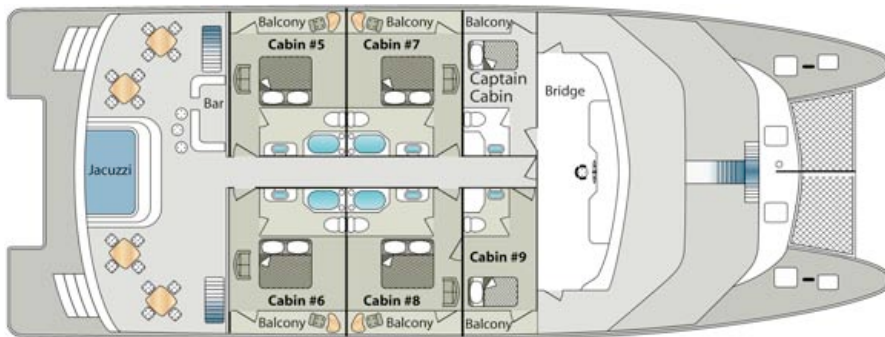
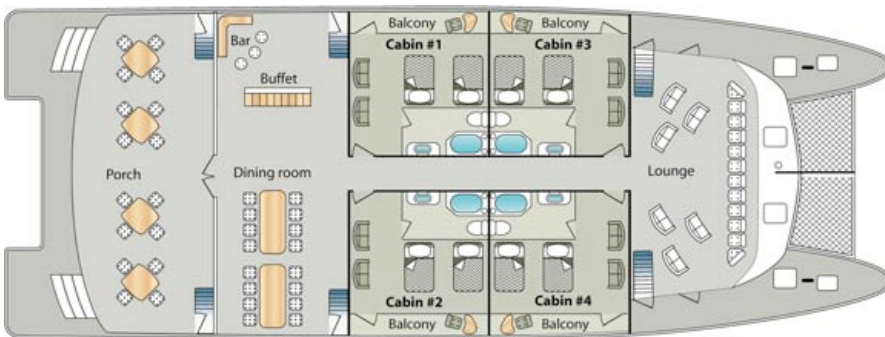
The 135 foot, 16 passenger Galapagos Grand Odyssey features 9 spacious suites with twin or king beds, some of which connect, making them suitable for families. All suites feature panoramic windows to showcase the spectacular views.

You will enjoy local and international dishes. Other ship amenities include a large solarium with shaded and open areas, two Jacuzzis, comfortable sun loungers and a mini spa offering therapies and massages.

M/Y Ocean Spray



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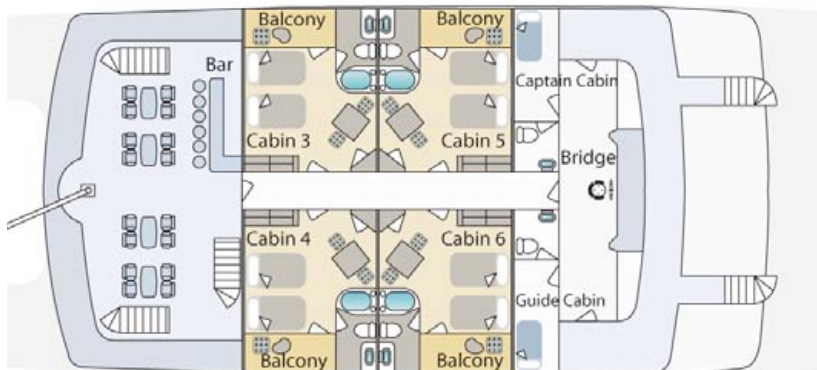
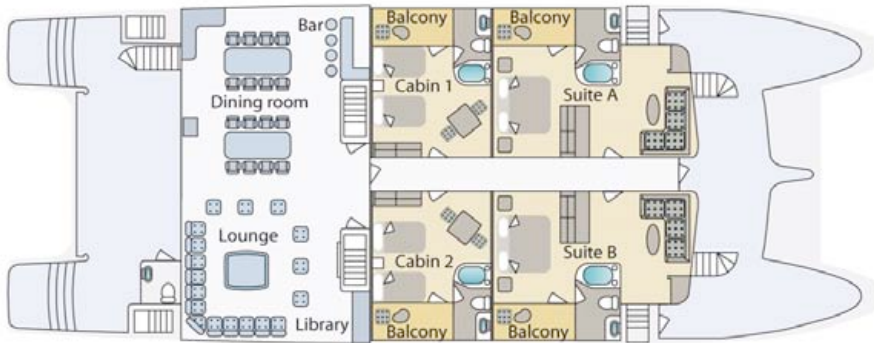
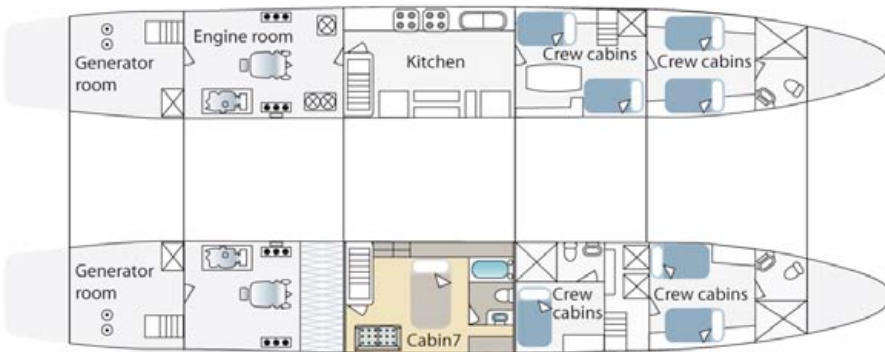
The luxury catamaran **M/Y Ocean Spray**, a 16 passenger catamaran, is the newest boat sailing the Galapagos, and features private balconies off each of her nine cabins for your ultimate Galapagos cruise.

It is fully air-conditioned and you will enjoy excellent food tailored to please any taste. The Ocean Spray offers plenty of outside deck space as well as a Jacuzzi.

M/Y Cormorant



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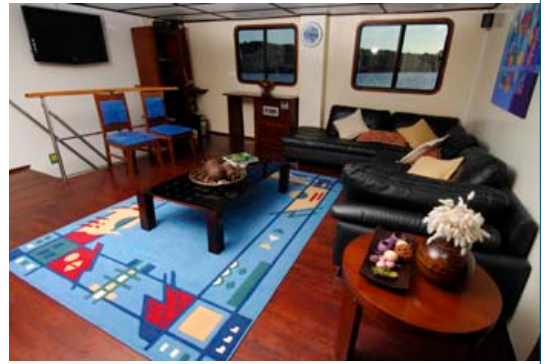
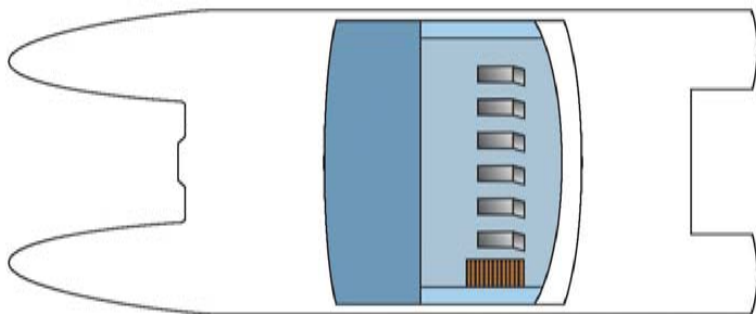
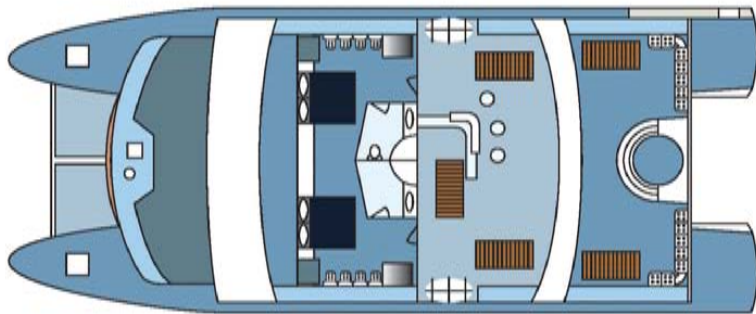
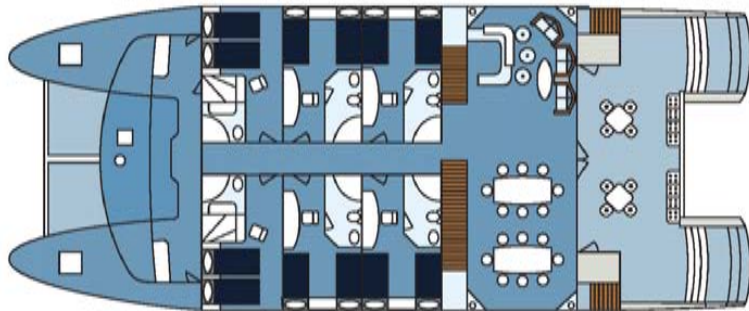
The luxury catamaran **M/Y Cormorant**, a new 16 passenger catamaran, incorporates design features that will make your trip exceedingly comfortable as you explore the Islands. The spacious accommodations include a jacuzzi and a large sun deck, where you can enjoy al fresco dining.

Each of the six cabins and two suites feature a private balcony.

M/Y Journey I



[Visit M/Y Journey I web page](#)



M/Y Journey I, a catamaran built in Guayaquil, Ecuador in 2006 specifically for navigating the waters of the Galapagos Islands. She offers comfortable accommodations in 6 twin bed cabins on the main deck and two suite cabins on the upper deck.

Journey I has been awarded Smart Voyager certification, ensuring that the boat complies with the highest levels of social and environmental standards.

Ways to Enhance Your Galápagos Cruise

Visit our [Ecuador](#) and [Peru](#) web pages for details and pricing.



OTAVALO INDIAN MARKET

(ECUADOR) OTAVALO IS THE MOST FAMOUS INDIAN MARKET IN ECUADOR AND MUCH OF SOUTH AMERICA: PONCHOS, EXQUISITE SWEATERS, WOOL RUGS, LEATHERWORK, WOODEN GOODS, AND INDIAN JEWELRY ARE SOLD HERE. THE OTAVALO INDIANS, FOR WHOM THE TOWN IS NAMED, CLING PROUDLY TO THEIR ANCIENT CULTURE AND MODE OF DRESS. THIS DAY-LONG OUTING INCLUDES: A SCENIC THREE HOUR DRIVE FROM QUITO, MORNING AT OTAVALO MARKET, VISIT TO THE FAMOUS LEATHERWORK VILLAGE OF COTACACHI, AND A STOP FOR LUNCH AT BEAUTIFUL HACIENDA CUSIN WITH SATURDAY EVENING RETURN TO QUITO. [VISIT OUR OTAVALO WEB PAGE](#)

AMAZONIAN RAINFOREST

(ECUADOR) SACHA LODGE IS LOCATED IN THE MIDST OF AWE-INSPIRING PRIMARY RAINFOREST NEAR THE RIO NAPO, ON THE BANK OF A DEEP, CLEAR LAKE. EXPLORE WITH EXPERT GUIDES LARGE NETWORKS OF FOOT AND CANOE TRAILS IN THIS 3,200 ACRE PRIVATE RESERVE. ONE OF THE BEST AMAZONIAN LODGES ON THE RIVER. IT PROVIDES COMFORTABLE, SCREENED-IN HUTS. ALL UNITS HAVE HOT SHOWERS, TOILETS AND RUNNING WATER. [VISIT SACHA LODGE WEB PAGE](#)

DAY 1: FLY QUITO TO COCA, DOWN RIVER TO SACHA • **DAYS 2-3:** SACHA LODGE AREA • **DAY 4:** RETURN TO QUITO



INCA WORLD OF MACHU PICCHU

(PERU) THE INCA WORLD GIVES YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE HOW THE INCAN COMMUNITIES AND RUINS ARE ALL INTERCONNECTED. THIS TOUR FEATURES A TRAIN RIDE TO MACHU PICCHU, VISITS TO THE RUINS OF SACSAYHUAMAN AND OLLANTAY TAMBO AND A SUNRISE WALK TO DOOR OF THE SUN. VISIT OUR [INCA WORLD WEB PAGE](#)

DAY 1: ARRIVE LIMA • **DAY 2:** LIMA/CUZCO AREA RUINS • **DAY 3:** SACRED VALLEY/YUCAY • **DAY 4:** MACHU PICCHU • **DAY 5:** MACHU PICCHU/CUZCO • **DAY 6:** TO LIMA • **DAY 7:** FLY HOME