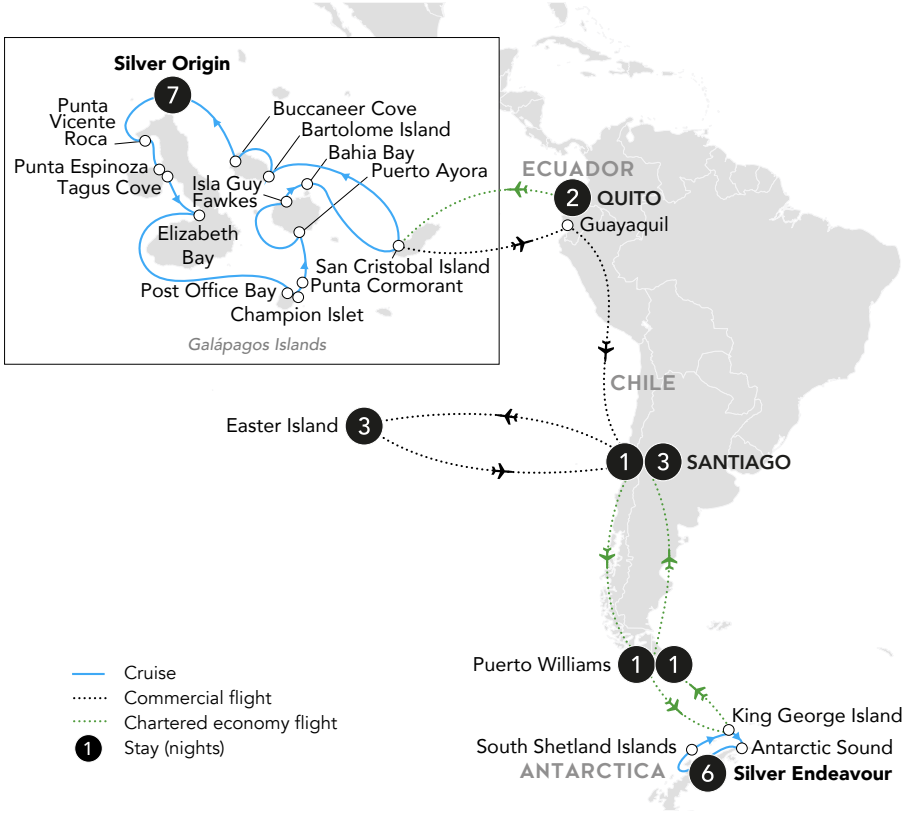
CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

EPIC DISCOVERY OF THE GALÁPAGOS EASTER ISLAND & ANTARCTICA

Embark on a seamless discovery of three of the world's most remote and fascinating destinations. From the untamed nature of the Galápagos Islands to the pristine, frozen wilderness of Antarctica. Our expedition cruises bring us encounters with endemic wildlife, pristine surroundings, and surreal beauty. In between our time at sea aboard Silversea's sophisticated small ships, we spend three nights on Easter Island, home to the legendary, towering moai sculptures. This spirited journey is reserved for just 26 guests.



A JOURNEY OVERVIEW

Quito - Galápagos Islands - Easter Island - Santiago - Valparaíso - Puerto Williams - King George Island - Antarctic Sound - Antarctic Peninsula - South Shetland Islands - Santiago

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25 Days - Expedition Cruises & Land Exploration
Departing: 15 October 2026

$59,800 pp twin share
Single Room + $29,900
Suite Upgrades available

Day 1 Quito (Ecuador)
Our journey begins with a private transfer to GO Quito Hotel. Enjoy your afternoon at leisure before we meet for a Welcome Dinner at our hotel.

Day 2 Quito
This morning, we set out for the 'middle of the world'. Quito holds the distinction of being the closest city to the equator and, at Mitad del Mundo, we take the rare opportunity to stand astride the world's hemispheres. While here, we visit the onsite Ethnographic Museum, whose exhibits feature an array of outfits worn by Ecuador's various indigenous groups. Nearby, the Intiñan Equator Museum presents a series of interactive displays, granting an appreciation of life lived along the equator.

Following lunch at a local restaurant, we further explore Quito, which is notable for being the first entire city to be listed as a World Heritage site. Its Church and Convent of San Francisco comprises an extensive complex of cloisters, three churches, a plaza, and a library. A staggering collection of religious art adorns the baroque altar of the main church, as well as throughout the site. Close by, we see the sweeping facade of the Presidential Palace. During this evening's dinner, we enjoy the graceful movements and colourful attire of a local folk-dance group.

Day 3 Embark Silver Origin, Galápagos Islands
After breakfast, we transfer to the airport and board an economy class flight with our fellow cruise guests. Our aircraft soon touches down on San Cristóbal Island in the Galápagos, where we meet our waiting ship, Silver Origin. This afternoon, board the ship's Zodiacs and explore the waters around curiously shaped Kicker Rock. Keep watch for blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, and frigatebirds soaring gracefully overhead. Just below the surface of the water, we may also spy the occasional manta ray, turtle, or hammerhead shark. Returning to our elegant vessel, we savour the Ecuadorian cuisine prepared by its expert chefs.

Day 4 Galápagos Islands
Having left San Cristóbal Island behind, we soon drop anchor alongside tiny Bartolomé Island. Aboard Zodiacs, we set out to explore Bartolomé's barren landscape. Making their home across the other-worldly terrain are the island's lava lizards, along with the occasional spiny clump of lava cactus. A gradually ascending boardwalk leads us to the island's peak, where we're rewarded with spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and its nearby islands. Galapagos hawks circle for prey and endearing blue-footed boobies parade themselves before us. Adjacent to Bartolomé, we also see the peculiar Pinnacle Rock standing proud.

Return to the ship for lunch as Silver Origin advances to the opposing coast of neighbouring Santiago Island. Our captain soon drops anchor in Buccaneer Cove, named for the pirates whose marauding ways saw them land here. From aboard our Zodiacs, we see a plethora of Palo Santo trees and giant prickly pear cacti across Santiago's lava-strewn landscape. Swallow-tailed gulls, Nazca and blue-footed boobies scan the waters for their next catch, while fur seals and Galapagos sea lions laze upon the shore.

Day 5 Galápagos Islands

Approaching the shores of the archipelago's largest island this morning, we discover a rich marine haven. Just off Isabela Island, schools of black striped salemas, white tip reef sharks, and a variety of ray species glide effortlessly through the alluring, deep blue waters. Joining them below the surface, marine iguanas feast on the bounty of seaweed growing along the seabed. After exploring the island's remarkable lava tubes and underwater caves, we return to the ship for lunch.

Soon our captain is navigating the Bolivar Channel between the islands of Isabela and Fernandina. This stretch of water harbours astonishing biodiversity, with whales, dolphins, turtles and rays all taking advantage of the nutrient-rich waters. Our Expedition Team guide us in our discoveries of this fascinating realm and its inhabitants. In the middle of Fernandina Island sits the volcano, La Cumbre. Erupting around every four years, the volcano's lava flows provide a source of warmth for the resident marine iguanas, who gather in abundance. Bright red Sally Lightfoot crabs crawl across soft white sands, which are also frequented by Galapagos sea lions and flightless cormorants.

Day 6 Galápagos Islands

Our voyage brings us to Tagus Cove, on the north-western coast of Isabela Island. Named for the British frigate, HMS Tagus, the cove has provided shelter for ships for hundreds of years. On our approach to the island, keep watch for Galapagos penguins and flightless cormorants. While here, perhaps join one of the following four experiences: Skirt the shoreline aboard a Zodiac, spotting seabirds nesting along rocky cliff faces. Enjoy a hike across the island. A narrow ridge separates the cove from Darwin Lake, which you can appreciate from an adjacent viewpoint. A diversity of birdlife can be seen here, including medium ground-finches, Galapagos hawks, yellow warblers, and Galapagos flycatchers. You may prefer the perspectives afforded by kayaking or snorkelling.

Back aboard the ship, we enjoy lunch while cruising further south along Isabela Island to arrive in Elizabeth Bay. The forest of mangroves here provides a contrast to the otherwise volcanic landscape. This habitat is favoured by great blue herons and frigatebirds for the hunting opportunities it presents. Turtles, rays and sharks also feed within this stretch of water.

Day 7 Galápagos Islands

Sparsely populated Floreana was the first island settled by Ecuadorians. Its Post Office Bay is named for the mail retrieval service that began here in 1793, while the pristine waters are ideal for swimming and snorkelling. Close by, the diminutive Champion Islet offers further aquatic adventures, as curious sea lions accompany those keen snorkellers among us. Stingrays, turtles, white-tip reef sharks, and an abundance of colourful fish also inhabit the waters here. Aboard Zodiacs, we also scan the skies for red-billed tropicbirds and the rare Floreana mockingbird. At the northernmost point of Floreana Island, we reach Punta Cormorant. A short track from the shore brings us to a lagoon where flamingos are known to congregate. We continue to an idyllic beach, hoping to discover Galapagos green sea turtles. Should we be fortunate, there may also be sightings of white-cheeked pintails, an endemic duck with distinctive markings.

Day 8 Galápagos Islands
Heading north, Silver Origin makes its approach to Santa Cruz Island. The most populated island in the archipelago, Santa Cruz welcomes us as we dock in the town of Puerto Ayora.

Spend the morning on your choice of experience, either joining members of our Expedition Team on a hike to observe the island's flora and fauna, or on a selection of other expedition-style activities. Following lunch aboard the ship, we further explore Puerto Ayora. At the Charles Darwin Research Station, learn about the work done by scientists and volunteers to further our understanding of ecosystems and the delicate balance between nature, climate and humanity. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to browse the offerings of local art galleries and cafes.

Day 9 Galápagos Islands
Along the north-western coast of Santa Cruz, we arrive at Dragon Hill, where Galapagos land iguanas, flamingos and other bird species thrive, indifferent to the presence of people. This afternoon, the waters surrounding the four Guy Fawkes islets invite exploration. Found just off the north-west coast of Santa Cruz, the region is a treasure trove of tropical fish, coral and starfish. The deep and clear waters here provide excellent conditions for snorkelling. During a brief stop in Bowditch Bay, we see the turquoise waters and white sands that make for an inviting home for the area's giant tortoises and nesting turtles.

Day 10 Disembark Silver Origin, Guayaquil, Santiago (Chile)
Having seen an abundance of wondrous wildlife, we disembark Silver Origin after breakfast this morning. Transferring to the airport on San Cristóbal Island, we then board a scheduled economy class flight to Guayaquil. Later this afternoon, a subsequent flight takes us to the Chilean capital, Santiago. On arrival, our group checks into the airport hotel, Holiday Inn Santiago.

Day 11 Easter Island
A mid-morning flight takes us across the South Pacific to Easter Island. Hanga Roa, the only town on Easter Island, greets us when we land in the afternoon. While on the island, we stay at the architecturally distinct Explora Rapa Nui lodge. This evening, we dine at the lodge's restaurant, tantalising our tastebuds with its expertly prepared local produce.

Day 12 Easter Island
During our two full days on Easter Island, a choice of sightseeing excursions is available. Explore Rano Raraku, where the stone for the island's gigantic moai statues was quarried. At Ahu Tongariki, marvel at the line of 15 moai lining the shore, including some of the island's tallest. Visit the abandoned village of Orongo, where a collection of stone house can be seen perched along the lip of a volcanic caldera. At the beach of Anakena, spend time upon the shores where Polynesians first landed after crossing the Pacific in dugout canoes. Head to Ahu Akivi, the site known for its seven moai that stare out to sea. There are also scenic hiking options taking in the lava fields and spectacular coastal settings across the island. Back at the lodge, there will also be an opportunity to select your activity for tomorrow.

Day 13 Easter Island
Set out on your chosen experience today, granting you an alternate perspective of the island. Enjoy lunch and dinner at Explora Rapa Nui.

Day 14 Easter Island, Santiago
Enjoy a relaxing morning, taking in the moai and surrounds as you please. We leave Easter Island after lunch and make our return to Santiago, with dinner enjoyed in-flight. Touching down this evening, we transfer to The Ritz-Carlton, Santiago, located within the prestigious El Golf neighbourhood.

Day 15 Santiago
This morning, take a tour of the city's premier sights. Within Santiago's historic heart, we look upon the grand facade of the Moneda Presidential Palace. Continuing to the city's Plaza de Armas, we find the Metropolitan Cathedral and the Central Post Office, alongside other colonial-era buildings. Following lunch, we adjourn to San Cristóbal Hill, whose summit we reach via cable car. Standing at the base of the hill's 22-metre statue of the Virgin Mary, spectacular panoramas of Santiago, as well as the Andes mountain range, are to be admired. After returning to our hotel late this afternoon, enjoy your choice of dining venue this evening.

Day 16 Valparaíso, Santiago
This morning, we head to the coast, our sights set on Valparaíso. Throughout this colourful port city, a labyrinth of narrow laneways leads to a profusion of street art and vibrant facades. A network of funiculars services the city, facilitating the easy ascent of more than 40 hills to discover the city's further hidden treasures. Within Plaza de la Victoria we see the Neptune Fountain and the impressive Turri Clock Tower. A short distance from here, we arrive at the former home of the poet Pablo Neruda, La Sebastiana, whose eclectic interiors and prized ocean views are a sight to behold. After lunch, we return inland to Casablanca Valley. One of the region's top wine producers, Casas del Bosque Winery, invites us in for a wine tasting and lunch within its charming pastoral setting. On our return to Santiago, choose your preferred dining venue from either our hotel or a selection local restaurants.

Day 17 Puerto Williams
Accompanied by our fellow cruise guests, we board a chartered economy flight for Puerto Williams, along Chile's southern tip. Here we check into the brand-new Cormorant at 55 South. The world's most southerly hotel, our residence hosts us for this evening's dinner. We also attend a briefing on our Antarctica cruise.

Day 18 King George Island (Antarctica), Embark Silver Endeavour
Departing Puerto Williams this morning, we fly across the Southern Ocean to arrive on King George Island, the largest of the South Shetland Islands. Whisked away by Zodiacs, we meet our waiting expedition ship, Silver Endeavour, whose crew welcomes us aboard. Familiarise yourself with your comfortable suite before joining us for dinner in one of the ship's restaurants.

Day 19 Antarctic Sound

The profound vastness and isolation of Antarctica can only ever be fully appreciated at close range. This is an experience enjoyed by a relative few. We begin our voyage at the northernmost tip of the White Continent, as we cruise into Antarctic Sound. We glimpse the jagged profiles of scattered icebergs, while anticipating the excitement of a whale's splashing tail. As we draw nearer to huge slabs of ice, keep watch for colonies of gentoo penguins. While up above, graceful petrels soar. When conditions prove favourable, a choice of experiences off the ship will be available. Climb aboard Zodiacs, accompanied by our Expedition Team – comprising polar explorers and marine biologists – for closer inspection of this world of wonder from the water. You may otherwise choose to go ashore for a hike across mesmerising white landscapes.

Day 20 Antarctic Peninsula

Our captain charts a route determined by weather and ice conditions. Irrespective of nature's vagaries, our scenery never fails to leave us in awe. We explore regions few have seen firsthand; the only other humans we may sight from afar are those stationed at the occasional research base. Our vessel escorts us by colossal icebergs and glaciers tinged a subtle shade of blue. Expansive mountain ranges punctuate the boundless landscape, the occasional proud peak displaying a surface of exposed rock. As we trace the shoreline aboard our trusty Zodiacs, we keep watch for a waddle of Adélie penguins. Again today, should conditions permit, our Expedition Team will be on hand to lead you ashore for a hike in this pristine environment. You may prefer to take in this seldom-seen setting during a Zodiac cruise.

Day 21 Antarctic Peninsula

Awakening to another day on the edge of the White Continent, we may find seabirds keeping us company. Look to the sky to see the proud wingspan of a wandering albatross, or down below to admire the fishing prowess of a king cormorant. With favourable conditions, our Zodiacs may once more be lowered into the icy seas to skirt along the surreal shoreline. Or else, go ashore, traversing the ice-covered landscape while your guides illuminate the seemingly inexplicable permeating this magnificent continent.

Day 22 Antarctic Peninsula

After breakfast on board our ship, be on the lookout for wildlife. Our captain, crew and Expedition Team will alert us to sightings of penguins, seals and whales as we cruise along. Should the weather be suitable, perhaps take your position along the bow of the ship for a more close-up view of the exquisite terrain. We continue to navigate a path through a series of monumental ice structures, as our captain looks for further opportunities to explore by Zodiac or on foot.

Day 23 South Shetland Islands

To the north of the Antarctic Peninsula, across the Bransfield Strait, we find the South Shetland Islands. While their sovereignty is a matter of some contention, the Antarctic Treaty has sanctioned the establishment of research stations, belonging to 13 countries, here. And though their claims to the territory may not be heeded by any such convention, the elephant seals and penguins who call this place home continue to go about their lives relatively untroubled.

The imposing peaks of Mount Foster serve as the principal landmark as we approach the archipelago. We take our places up on deck as our ship draws nearer Deception Island. Our vessel makes its entrance through an opening in the island's volcanic caldera. We reach land and set out on a hike of the former whaling outpost, taking in its mystical landscapes. The adventurous among us may even choose to take a dip in the geothermal waters at Pendulum Cove. You may also take advantage of a final Zodiac cruise on offer today. Enjoy our final evening aboard Silver Endeavour during dinner this evening.

Day 24 King George Island, Disembark Silver Endeavour, Puerto Williams (Chile)
This morning, we bid farewell to our Expedition Team, disembarking Silver Endeavour on our return to King George Island. A waiting aircraft once again whisks us over the Southern Ocean. Landing back in Puerto Williams, The Cormorant at 55 South awaits our return. Enjoy dinner at our hotel this evening and reflect on the astonishing sights we witnessed during our voyage.

Day 25 Santiago
This morning, following breakfast, we head to the airport for a flight to Santiago, where our epic journey concludes. Bid farewell to your fellow travellers and new-found friends and contemplate the many spectacular sights we have witnessed.

We look forward to welcoming you
to the world of Captain's Choice.