

Galapagos Islands

Sep 2025



The Galapagos Islands are ranked among the world's most extraordinary wildlife destinations and became one of the world's first UNESCO World Heritage sites in 1978. Its Marine Reserve is among the world's largest and is protected by a large Biosphere Reserve, plus whale and shark sanctuaries. Aged over 6 million years old and still forming, the volcanic archipelago lies 1000 km off the coast of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean. This isolation means species have evolved amid the stark landscapes into new and unique life forms that are astonishingly fearless of humans. Little has changed in the 180 years since Charles Darwin visited.

Day 1 – Wed 03 Sep QUITO

On arrival in Quito, you will be met and transferred to your hotel where your host will be waiting for you. Rest of day to relax after your long flight. Meet group and host this evening for dinner.

Accommodation: Casa Gangotena - 2 nights

Day 2 – Thu 04 Sep QUITO

Explore this vibrant city with a local guide on an enlightening tour which includes a visit to the Middle of the World, celebrating Ecuador's positioning on the equatorial line. Quito is an enchanting blend of history, culture, and natural beauty with gorgeous colonial architecture, charming plazas and ornate churches. Enjoy traditional cuisine and savour the rich Ecuadorian coffee.

Day 3 – Fri 05 Sep GALAPAGOS ISLANDS – BALTRA & SANTA CRUZ

Early transfer to the airport this morning for a flight to Baltra Island, followed by a transfer to your accommodation on the yacht, Isabela II. After an introductory briefing and lunch, we head to Las Bachas, on Santa Cruz Island with its white beach with brackish lagoons which are the feeding

grounds for various birds. Back on the yacht, we'll have a briefing on the expedition, followed by dinner.

Accommodation: Isabela II – 6 nights

Day 4 – Sat 06 Sep SAN CRISTOBAL

Today we visit Punta Pitt, the only site in the Galapagos where the three species of boobies can be found, along with two species of frigatebirds and a colony of sea lions. We then explore Cerro Colorado, where we visit the breeding centre for giant tortoises and the endemic lava lizard.

Day 5 – Sun 07 Sep ESPANOLA ISLAND

At Gardener Bay, enjoy a walk to observe the sea lions, mockingbirds, and finches. Kayaking, snorkelling, or glass-bottom boat rides are also offered. Following lunch onboard, we go on an exciting trail across lava/boulder terrain at Puna Suarez where we can observe elegant albatross, boobies, and swallow-tail gulls.

Day 6 – Mon 08 Sep FLOREANA ISLAND

After breakfast, we disembark and walk to a brackish lagoon at Cormorant Point where American flamingos can be observed. At Champion Islet, you can snorkel or take a glass-bottom boat ride for a stunning array of underwater life. In the afternoon, we land at Post Office Bay to visit the historic barrel that has served as a post office.

Day 7 – Tue 09 Sep ISABELA & FERNANDINA ISLANDS

This morning, we search the mangroves for sea turtles at Punta Morena. These magnificent creatures are iconic symbols of endurance and adaptation and can weight up to 400kg and live for over 100 years. Their slow pace and distinctive shells make them emblematic of the unique biodiversity found in the remarkable archipelago. Later enjoy a glass-bottom boat ride or deep-water snorkel. In the afternoon we reach Punta Mangle on Fernandina Island where we explore the coastline which is home to Galapagos penguins and flightless cormorants.

Day 8 - Wed 10 Sep SANTRA CRUZ & NORTH SEYMOUR ISLANDS

A panga ride takes us to Eden Islet, where we can observe blue-footed boobies and reef sharks. In the afternoon, we walk between numerous nesting frigatebirds on North Seymour Island. Sadly, this is our last night onboard our yacht – the crew see us off with a final briefing, farewell cocktail and dinner.

Day 9 – Thu 11 Sep BALTRA ISLAND – GUAYAQUIL

From Baltra Island we fly back to the mainland and overnight in Guayaquil. The tranquillity of the islands is replaced with the bustle of a busy port town with a rich cultural heritage and energetic atmosphere. Enjoy your last night in Ecuador.

Accommodation: Hilton Guayaquil – 1 night

Day 10 – Fri 12 Sep DEPART ECUADOR

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Price

Classic Suite (12.8m ²) with ensuite	US\$6,999 per person twin share
Classic Suite (double for solo use)	US\$10,850 per person single

Price is subject to change until confirmed and paid in full

Inclusions

- Tour Host from Quito to Guayaquil
- Accommodation (3 nights 4* hotel, 6 nights yacht)
- Breakfast at hotels
- All meals onboard yacht
- Island sightseeing
- Naturalist guides and lecture services in English
- Snorkelling gear
- Luggage handling
- Medical care onboard yacht (but not cost of medication)
- Taxes and transfers in the islands
- Shared airport transfers in Quito and Guayaquil
- Carbon Neutral fee

Exclusions

- International flights to/from Ecuador and domestic flights to/from Galapagos
- Airport taxes
- Galapagos National Park entrance fee
- Migration Control Card
- Fuel Surcharge
- Beverages (except water)
- Gratuities
- Items of a personal nature, eg. laundry
- Wet suits (available for hire)

The Isabela II

Length: 55.9 metres

Passenger capacity: 40

Built: 1979 Renovated: 2018

Onboard you will find a bar/lounge, gift shop, reading room, natural history library, outside deck for alfresco meals and drinks, hot tub, fitness room, multimedia library for lectures, stargazing program, glass bottom boat, sea kayaks, snorkelling equipment and wet suits, digital camera and underwater housing for expedition documenting.

Guests will be split into groups of 11-14 and taken onshore with a naturalist guide who will enhance your experience.

