

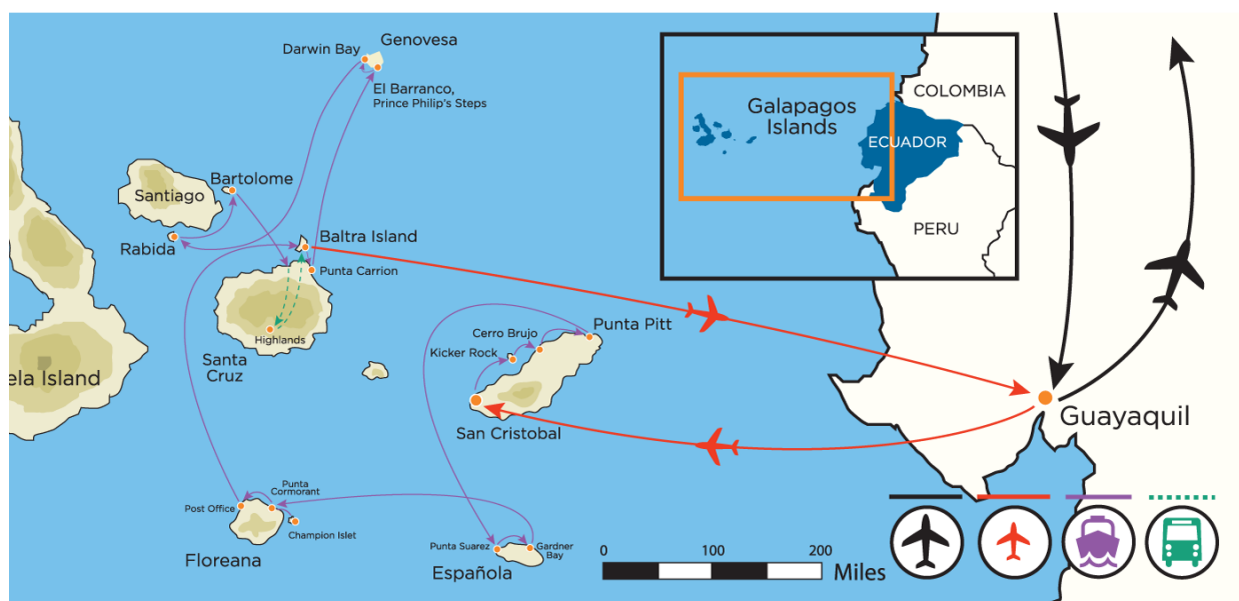
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Galapagos Islands: Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Cruise to five distinct Galápagos Islands aboard the intimate Coral II, your private yacht for the week
- ▶ Swim and snorkel right from the dinghies or off the beach, viewing sea turtles, rays, Galápagos penguins, sea lions, and more
- ▶ Observe Galápagos Giant Tortoises, land iguanas, and iconic marine iguanas, photographing them at close range
- ▶ With your expert Galápagos naturalist guide, identify the resident bird species, including blue-footed boobies, Darwin's finches, and flightless cormorants

TRIP ROUTE



GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

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QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1 arrive in Guayaquil, take the shuttle to your hotel
- Day 2 fly to the Galápagos Islands, board your private yacht
- Day 3 visit Kicker Rock, Punta Pit, and encounter sea lions on San Cristóbal island
- Day 4 hike in the Punta Suarez area, a naturalist's paradise, explore Gardner Bay and its white sandy beach
- Day 5 hike to Punta Cormorant and Champion, explore Post Office and its snorkeling opportunities
- Day 6 admire different kind of birds while at the Highlands Tortoise Reserve
- Day 7 hike to find land iguanas and birds, afternoon to hike and snorkel
- Day 8 optional hike or snorkel, explore the lava flows, farewell dinner
- Day 9 one last morning on the beach, fly to Guayaquil, catch your flight home

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Active

TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$6,595
Optional Single Accommodations: \$1,200
Internal Air: \$650

TRIP DATES

March 18 - 26, 2025

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

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DAY 1
Tuesday
3/18/25

Arrive Guayaquil

Welcome to Ecuador! Get ready for an unforgettable adventure as you settle in and prepare to actively explore the many precious ecosystems of the Galápagos Islands, one of the most important locations on earth to the history of biology.

During your adventure, you'll get to know your expert Galápagos naturalist-guide who will offer onshore and onboard talks about the islands, surrounding sea, and their resident wildlife. You'll meet other incredible individuals on your journey. They will help make your experience a fun and personally fulfilling adventure and will cheer you on as you reach beyond your comfort zone and embrace new challenges!

Arrival Information

Arrive in Guayaquil, Ecuador (GYE) any time today.

Shuttle to the Hotel

Take the hotel shuttle to the Wyndham Guayaquil, Puerto Santa Ana. Look for your name on a sign.

You can check in under AdventureWomen at the hotel. There is a lovely restaurant in the hotel where you can have dinner this evening if you'd like.

Accommodations

Wyndham Puerto Santa
Ana, Guayaquil

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DAY 2
Wednesday
3/19/25

Guayaquil to the Galápagos

Never connected to the mainland of South America, the Galápagos Islands were formed entirely through volcanic activity. Eruptions here can be almost annual, with the majority of volcanic activity being in the younger, westerly islands.

Morning Flight to San Cristobal

Meet your group early in the morning (be packed and ready to go!) and head to the airport for your flight to San Cristobal in the Galápagos Islands.

Transfer to Your Yacht

Upon arrival, you'll be met by your guide at the airport and transferred to the dock where you will board your yacht.

Boat Orientation

You'll be given some information about the yacht, your home for the next week. The crew will show you to your cabin before lunch.

Explore the Interpretation Center

The interpretation center provides a wealth of captivating information, delivering a comprehensive overview of the formation of the Galapagos, its global significance, and the challenges and conservation endeavors it faces. Subsequently, a hike to Frigatebird Hill (Cerro Tijeretas) offers a splendid opportunity to observe both species of frigatebirds, accompanied by a bonus of a breathtaking view of the bay below.

Accommodations

M/Y Coral II

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 3
Thursday
3/20/25

Galápagos Islands, San Cristóbal

San Cristóbal is one of the islands in the Galápagos archipelago, a group of volcanic islands located in the Pacific Ocean about 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) off the coast of Ecuador. The islands are a UNESCO World Heritage site and a biological marine reserve, and they remain one of the world's most pristine and unique environments.

Kicker Rock and Cerro Brujo

Explore San Cristobal Island's ancient and weathered volcanic tuff lava known as Leon Dormido or Kicker Rock on San Cristobal Island. Comprising two rocks with a height of around 480 feet, it derives its name from its striking resemblance to a sleeping lion.

From our pangas, as you head to shore, you are first humbled by the immensity of the stunning cliffs of ðSorcererís Hillí. Simply enjoy sharing the beach with sea lions, snorkeling from the shore or take a walk to a hidden lagoon where we might spot black-necked stilts, ruddy turnstones, whimbrels and white-cheeked pintails.

Punta Pit

Sea lions will greet you as you land on the beach and prepare for your climb to a high point on the steep eroded tuff cone. This is the only place in the islands where you can have the chance to see all three of the booby species in the same place. The red-foots will be perched on the Cordia lutea and small trees, the Nazcaís on the ground near the cliff edge while the blue-foots will be a little further inland. Frigatebirds will be all around, and the views are breathtaking.

Accommodations

M/Y Coral II

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 4
Friday
3/21/25

Galápagos Islands, Espanola Island

Espanola Island, also known as Hood Island, is one of the Galápagos Islands. Espanola is the southernmost island in the Galápagos and is known for its unique wildlife, pristine landscapes, and vibrant marine life. It is home to large colonies of marine iguanas, sea lions, and various seabird species.

Punta Suarez

One of the standout destinations on your journey, Punta Suarez on Espanola Island, offers a naturalist's paradise with a rich array of experiences. Upon landing, you are welcomed by a multitude of marine iguanas and sea lions. As you venture further, your walk brings you into close encounters with boobies, endemic lizards, gulls, and a captivating blow hole. Being the oldest existing island in the archipelago, it provides a unique chance to connect with the endemic waved albatross during their breeding season, spanning from April to December. If fortunate, you may witness their intricate courtship display.

Gardner Bay

Among the most breathtaking beaches in the entire Galapagos, this expansive stretch of long, white, sandy shoreline is gently caressed by turquoise waters. It serves as the residence for a colony of Galapagos sea lions, seemingly indifferent to the humans strolling among them. The Hood mockingbirds, exclusive to this particular island, display eagerness to inspect the visitors, satisfying their innate curiosity. Within the vibrant assembly, Darwin's finches, including the elusive warbler finch, may make an appearance. Additionally, the opportunity to snorkel is available right from the beach, exploring the shallows of the bay.

Accommodations

M/Y Coral II

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 5
Saturday
3/22/25

Galápagos Islands, Floreana Island

Floreana Island is also known as Charles Island. Located in the southern part of the Galápagos archipelago, it is the sixth-largest island in the chain. Cormorant Point and Post Office Bay are two important visitor sites on Floreana. Cormorant owes its reputation to its green-tinged beach (due to olivine crystals) while Post Office Bay is known for its wooden barrel that served as a post office for sailors.

Punta Cormorant / Champion

Make a wet landing on an olivine green-sanded beach. Your hike will take you from the black mangrove beds to a brackish lagoon, typically home to one of the largest flamingo populations in the Galapagos. The island boasts endemic plants like *Scalesia villosa*, white and black mangrove, and holy stick. Reach a stunning white sandy beach, a significant nesting site for Green Pacific Sea Turtles. From the beach, you can observe sea turtles, blue-footed boobies diving into the water, and small reef sharks patrolling the shoreline in search of food.

Return to the olivine beach where you initially landed. Swim or snorkel among sea turtles, reef fish, sea lions, and, on a fortunate day, white-tipped reef sharks. Floreana is also home to a small colony of penguins, occasionally visible in the surroundings.

Post Office Bay

Make a wet landing on the north side of Floreana, known as Post Office Bay. The bay earned its name in 1793 when Captain James Colnett set up a wooden barrel, serving as an informal post office for passing sailors. These sailors would take letters with them and deliver them to their destinations. Today, visitors maintain this tradition by placing unstamped postcards inside the barrel, hoping fellow travelers heading to the letter's destination will carry it for free. During your visit, you may encounter Darwin's finches, Yellow Warbler, and Lava Lizards. Snorkelers can enjoy practicing their skills on the main beach, surrounded by playful sea lions.

Accommodations

M/Y Coral II

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 6
Sunday
3/23/25

Galápagos Islands, Santa Cruz Island

Santa Cruz Island is the second-largest island in the Galápagos and is characterized by its diverse landscapes, wildlife, and visitor sites. The island is home to a variety of wildlife, including giant tortoises, marine iguanas, land iguanas, Darwin's finches, and various bird species.

Highlands Tortoise Reserve

Make a dry landing. In the Galapagos mountains, you can marvel at a diverse array of birds, including tree and ground finches, vermilion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (frequently perched on the tortoises' shells). The journey to the reserve provides excellent opportunities to witness the island's contrasts, spanning various ecosystems. The route meanders from the coastline through the agricultural zone, ascending into the lush, humid forests. Along the way, it's common to encounter Galapagos Giant Tortoises leisurely roaming through pastures in the paddocks. This location is a haven for birdwatchers, as nearly every land bird residing or migrating on the island can be found here.

During your visit, you may encounter Darwin's finches, Yellow Warbler, and Lava Lizards. The bay offers excellent snorkeling opportunities with Green Pacific Sea Turtles. Additionally, the island is renowned for its endemic vegetation, including *Scalesia villosa*, *Lecocarpus Pinnatifidus*, and the Galapagos Milkwort. Snorkelers can enjoy practicing their skills on the main beach, surrounded by playful sea lions.

Accommodations

M/Y Coral II

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 7
Monday
3/24/25

Galápagos Islands, Isabela Island

Isabela Island is located on the west of the archipelago and has one of the richest marine ecosystems. The island was formed by six volcanoes which originally were six different islands; five of the volcanoes are still active. Each one of them is populated by a different species of Tortoise that used to live on a separate island. Isabela Island offers not only diverse ecosystems but also some of the most amazing landscapes and natural sights of the archipelago.

Prince Philip's Steps

This morning, you will visit Genovesa Island where you will be marveled at the variety of sea life that uses the crevices of the lava cliffs for shelter. You will be dropped off at a steep stairway that begins on rocks at the foot of a path that leads through a seabird colony full of Nazca and Red-footed Boobies. At the plateau, the trail continues inland, allowing you to see more nesting booby colonies in the thin Palo Santo forest. Near the end of the trail, over a rocky lava plain, Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels can be observed flying in all directions.

Darwin Bay

Later today, disembark onto a small sand and coral beach where a short trail heads west along a tidal lagoon and then up a rocky hill that leads to a point overlooking the cliffs and Darwin Bay. Along the trail near the tidal lagoon, you will see pairs of Swallow-tailed and Lava Gulls, and Yellow-crowned and Lava Herons. The trail continues through Palo Santo trees which are the home of hundreds of thousands of Red-footed Boobies.

Accommodations

M/Y Coral II

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 8
Tuesday
3/25/25

Galápagos Islands, Santiago Island

Santiago Island is known for its volcanic black beach, wonderful landscapes, fur seal grottos, sea lion colonies, herons, hawks, oystercatchers, finches, doves, white-tipped sharks, and sea turtles. You can see the vegetation change from arid to humid climate zones, as well as the effect of intensive foraging by introduced goats, which have been eradicated.

Hike on Rábida Island

This island has an abundance of landscapes and marine life. The trail takes about 90 minutes to walk, and you can also go around the shoreline in a dinghy to spot fur seals, pelicans, blue-footed boobies, and Nazca boobies. This is an excellent place for swimming and snorkeling; you could see white-tipped sharks, rays, and sea lions, among many others.

Bartolome Island

This afternoon you'll have two landing possibilities: a dock and a beach. The dock, made of lava and concrete, soon turns into a wooden staircase built to avoid erosion and consists of 372 steps. It takes you to the island's summit, where you'll find Pinnacle Rock. Due to its altitude, the lack of vegetation is immediately noticeable. Pioneer plants are present and are named because they are the first to establish roots on new ground. The coralline beach next to Pinnacle Rock is a wet landing site from which you are able to snorkel amongst tropical fish and perhaps sea lions and penguins; they rest on the lava of the intertidal zone and sometimes decide to take a dip.

Farewell Dinner

Have a farewell dinner with your group to toast the end of an exceptional adventure.

Accommodations

M/Y Coral II

Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

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DAY 9
Wednesday
3/26/25

Depart Galápagos Islands

Enjoy one last morning in the Galápagos.

Visit Bachas Beach

Enjoy one last hour of beach time in the Galápagos Islands.

Flight to Guayaquil

You'll be transferred to the airport for your flight to Guayaquil. Please note that lunch and dinner will be on your own today.

Departure Information

Depart from Guayaquil, Ecuador (GYE) after 8:00PM today, or spend the night at your hotel and leave the following day. In either case, you can benefit from the hotel shuttle to get to the airport for your flight home.

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

Accommodations

Wyndham Puerto Santa Ana, Guayaquil

Meals Included

breakfast

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Accommodation Details

Wyndham Puerto Santa Ana, Guayaquil Situated just steps from the historic Santa Ana Hill and its famous Lighthouse, and minutes to the vibrant Malecon 2000, the Wyndham Guayaquil hotel offers an ideal location near Guayaquil's many attractions.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

M/Y Coral II The Coral II is a gorgeous, comfortable yacht offering charming social areas distributed on multiple decks, with both outdoor and interior spaces allowing you to enjoy an intimate expedition experience in your own way. The vessel offers open-deck areas with a Jacuzzi to make the best of your relaxing time while cruising the islands.

Amenities: En suite bathrooms with soap, shampoo, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

Wyndham Puerto Santa Ana, Guayaquil Situated just steps from the historic Santa Ana Hill and its famous Lighthouse, and minutes to the vibrant Malecon 2000, the Wyndham Guayaquil hotel offers an ideal location near Guayaquil's many attractions.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi

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Included:

- ▶ Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- ▶ All meals as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ All transportation throughout the trip
- ▶ Round-trip flights from Guayaquil to the Galápagos Islands as indicated in the itinerary (priced separately from the main trip)
- ▶ Entrance fees and Galápagos entry card
- ▶ English-speaking, naturalist guide in the Galápagos Islands

Not Included:

- ▶ International airfare to and from Ecuador
- ▶ Optional activities
- ▶ Meals not specified in the itinerary
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- ▶ Fees for passport, visas, immunizations, or travel insurance
- ▶ Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Gratuities

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Cancellations and Refunds

Notification of cancellations must be received in writing. Full payment is due 90 days prior to departure date, and the registration deposit is non-refundable.

- For cancellations received 61-90 days prior to the trip departure date: 50% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.
- For cancellations received 1-60 days prior to the trip departure date: 100% of the total trip cost is non-refundable.

You are highly encouraged to purchase **trip cancellation insurance** to cover emergency situations. Travel insurance information will be sent to you once you have registered for your trip.

Switching Trips

Our deposits are nonrefundable and nontransferable. If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you, but switching is not guaranteed.

No Smoking Policy

Beginning in 1995, our trips became smoke free. Please note that there will be no smoking by any participants on AdventureWomen trips.

Health Insurance

You must have your own health insurance to participate in an AdventureWomen trip.

Adventure Travel Today

We define “adventure travel” as travel in which one actively participates, as opposed to a “tour,” in which one is more or less a passive observer. AdventureWomen designs and organizes trips all over the world for women who want an active, out of the ordinary experience, and meet new friends. **Most of all, we want our trips to be fun!** In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a good-natured realist and have a sense of humor! Adventure trips, by nature, require that participants be self-sufficient, flexible, and able to accept situations as they exist, and not just as they would have preferred or expected them to exist. The constraints of scheduled group traveling also necessitate that each of us be understanding of and sensitive to others. Being on time is important, and contributes to the congeniality, success and well-being of both individuals and the group!