



Galápagos Islands: Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht - Signature Route

DURATION | 9 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Active

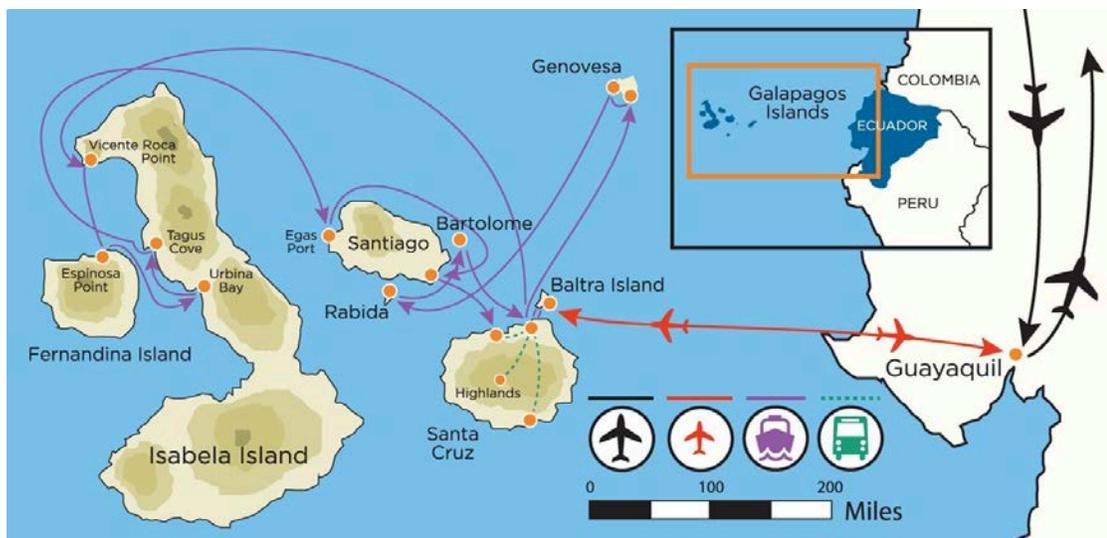
Trip Overview

Cruise the Galápagos Islands by private yacht for an unforgettable wildlife experience. Marvel at giant land tortoises, marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, and Darwin's finches. Your adventure begins in Guayaquil, then you'll board the Coral II yacht in Baltra. Visit the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, hike Dragon Hill, and snorkel at Pinnacle Rock. An expert naturalist guide will accompany you throughout. Explore Rábida Island's red sands and flamingo habitat, Turtle Cove, and Santiago Island's highlands. On Isabela Island, enjoy deep-water snorkeling and spot white-tipped sharks and flightless cormorants. Fernandina Island's marine iguanas and Santiago's twisted lava flows highlight the volcanic origins of the archipelago. Conclude with a festive farewell dinner, toasting to your personal triumphs and the pristine beauty of the Galápagos. Note: This is our iconic Galapagos route, filled with unforgettable experiences. For even more adventure, check out our updated 2026 itinerary that provides an alternate journey of diverse and stunning wonders of the Galapagos!

Trip Highlights

- Cruise to five distinct Galápagos Islands aboard the intimate Coral II, enjoying hospitable services and fresh meals on the outdoor deck and in the cozy dining area.
- Explore starkly beautiful volcanic landscapes, climb to island peaks, and walk through ghostly forests and lush highlands.
- Swim and snorkel viewing sea turtles, rays, Galápagos penguins, sea lions, sharks, and colorful reef inhabitants, while observing giant tortoises, land iguanas, and many of the 56 resident bird species with the help of an expert naturalist guide.

Map View



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Trip Itinerary



Day 1

Welcome to Ecuador!

Arrive in Guayaquil and take the hotel shuttle to the Wyndham Guayaquil, Puerto Santa Ana. Settle in and prepare for an unforgettable adventure exploring the precious ecosystems of the Galápagos Islands, a crucial location in the history of biology. Throughout your journey, you'll get to know your expert Galápagos naturalist guide, who will offer onshore and onboard talks about the islands, the surrounding sea, and their resident wildlife. Enjoy dinner at the lovely hotel restaurant this evening as you get ready for the days ahead.



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



Trip Itinerary



Day 2

From Guayaquil to the Galápagos Islands: Your Adventure Begins

Meet your group early in the morning (be packed and ready to go!) and head to the airport for your flight to the Galápagos Islands, where you'll be greeted by your guide and transferred to the dock to board your yacht. After getting acquainted with the yacht, your home for the next week, and settling into your cabin before lunch, you'll venture to the entry of the Itabaca Channel. Here, in a lagoon with turquoise water, you'll observe sharks, blue-footed boobies, and various fish, marking the start of an unforgettable adventure.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: M/Y Coral II



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



Trip Itinerary



Day 3

Discover Genovesa Island: A Birdwatcher's Paradise

This morning, visit Genovesa Island and marvel at the diverse sea life sheltering in the lava cliffs' crevices. Begin your exploration at a steep stairway leading through a vibrant seabird colony teeming with Nazca and Red-footed Boobies. As you reach the plateau, the trail continues inland through a thin Palo Santo forest, offering glimpses of more nesting booby colonies and Wedge-rumped Storm Petrels darting over a rocky lava plain. Later, disembark onto a small sand and coral beach and follow a trail west along a tidal lagoon, then up a rocky hill to a viewpoint overlooking the cliffs and Darwin Bay. Along the way, spot Swallow-tailed and Lava Gulls, Yellow-crowned and Lava Herons, and wander through Palo Santo trees home to hundreds of thousands of Red-footed Boobies.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: M/Y Coral II



Trip Itinerary



Day 4

Explore the Rich Landscapes and Marine Life of the Galápagos Islands

This island offers a stunning variety of landscapes and marine life. Begin your adventure with a 90-minute trail walk or a dinghy ride along the shoreline to spot fur seals, pelicans, blue-footed boobies, and Nazca boobies. Enjoy swimming and snorkeling in waters teeming with white-tipped sharks, rays, and sea lions. In the afternoon, you'll have two landing options: a dock and a beach. The dock features a wooden staircase of 372 steps leading to the island's summit, where you'll find the iconic Pinnacle Rock. The summit's altitude reveals a lack of vegetation, but you'll see pioneer plants, the first to root on new ground. The coralline beach near Pinnacle Rock is perfect for a wet landing, allowing you to snorkel among tropical fish, sea lions, and penguins, who sometimes rest on the lava in the intertidal zone before taking a dip.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: M/Y Coral II



Trip Itinerary



Day 5

Discover the Wonders of Santa Cruz Island

Land on Santa Cruz Island and drive about 45 minutes into the highlands, where a 90-minute walk awaits, offering sights of tree and ground finches, vermillion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets perched on tortoise shells. The journey showcases the Galápagos' diverse ecosystems, transitioning from coastal areas through agricultural zones to dense humid forests, with Galápagos Giant Tortoises often seen wandering through pastures. Next, visit the Charles Darwin Station and Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, where the Galápagos giant tortoise breeding program operates. Explore the prickly-pear cactus forest, spot various Darwin's finches and other land birds, and learn about efforts to preserve the fragile environment. In the afternoon, meet local female artisans who will demonstrate their handmade crafts. Enjoy lunch on the yacht before boarding a dinghy to visit Black Turtle Cove, a designated Turtle Sanctuary, for turtle viewing.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: M/Y Coral II



Trip Itinerary



Day 6

Dive into the Wonders of Vicente Roca Point and Fernandina Island

Start your day with a dinghy ride along the coast at Vicente Roca Point, where you can observe a diverse array of sea and coastal birds amidst the chill of cold water currents. Spend an hour snorkeling in these rich waters, discovering the vibrant marine life. Next, embark on a three-hour walk on Fernandina Island, one of the most pristine places on Earth with no introduced species. At Espinosa Point on the island's northwestern edge, explore the striking, flat jet-black lava landscape, home to the largest colony of endemic marine iguanas. Cap off the experience with another hour of snorkeling in this remarkable area, immersing yourself in the untouched beauty of Fernandina.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: M/Y Coral II



Trip Itinerary



Day 7

Discover Urbina Bay and Tagus Cove

Start at Urbina Bay on Isabela Island's west side, enjoying a 90-minute hike with views of Alcedo Volcano and sightings of land iguanas, mockingbirds, finches, and giant tortoises. At the beach, see the largest marine iguanas and snorkel among flightless cormorants, penguins, sea turtles, and colorful fish. Then, explore Tagus Cove, a historic site visited by Darwin, with its ancient graffiti. Hike for two hours spotting blue-footed boobies, brown noddies, terns, flightless cormorants, and Galápagos penguins. Finish with a 40-minute dinghy ride and an hour of deep-water snorkeling.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: M/Y Coral II



Trip Itinerary



Day 8

Explore Egas Port and Sullivan Bay

Start your day at Egas Port, a prime spot for observing hunting herons like Great Blue Herons, Yellow-crowned Night Herons, and Lava Herons, along with oystercatchers. Watch marine iguanas grazing on algae beds at low tide, sharing the area with crabs and wading birds. Enjoy a 90-minute walk and an hour of snorkeling. In the southeastern part of Santiago Island, explore the extensive lava flows at Sullivan Bay, formed in the late 19th century. Marvel at the unique Pahoehoe lava, common in the Galápagos and Hawaii. After a 90-minute walk through this volcanic landscape, swim and snorkel with playful sea lions off two small coralline beaches. Cap off your adventure with a farewell dinner, toasting to an unforgettable journey.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: M/Y Coral II



Trip Itinerary



Day 9

Farewell to the Galápagos Islands

Spend your final hours at Bachas Beach, soaking up the last of the Galápagos sun. Depart from Guayaquil (GYE) after 8:00 PM or stay overnight at your hotel and leave the next day. Enjoy the convenience of the hotel shuttle to get you to the airport for your flight home.

Meals: breakfast | Overnight: Wyndham Puerto Santa Ana, Guayaquil



Wyndham Puerto Santa Ana, Guayaquil

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What's Included

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- Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- Activities as indicated in the itinerary
- All meals as listed in the itinerary
- All transportation throughout the trip
- Entrance fees and Galápagos entry card
- English-speaking, naturalist guide in the Galápagos Islands
- English-speaking guide throughout the Amazon trip (extension only)
- Domestic airfare

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

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.

