



Galápagos Islands: Wildlife Encounters Aboard a Private Yacht

DURATION | 9 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Level 2 - Moderate

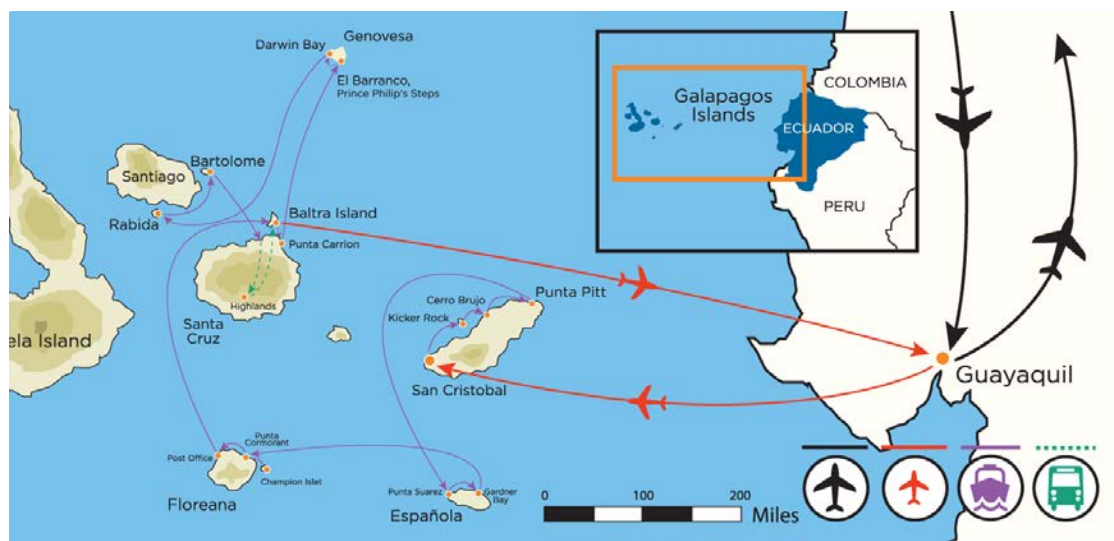
Trip Overview

Experience the Galapagos Islands from the comfort of an intimate private yacht, exploring extraordinary landscapes and wildlife-rich shores with an expert naturalist guide. Every guest will enjoy the privacy of her own single cabin. Cruise among remarkable islands where you may encounter blue-footed boobies, marine iguanas, giant tortoises, sea lions, and Galápagos penguins. Hike volcanic trails and enjoy opportunities to kayak quiet bays and snorkel turquoise waters alive with rays, turtles, sharks, and tropical fish. Along the way, discover vital conservation work, dramatic geology, and the fascinating adaptations that inspired Darwin. Shared discoveries, elegant onboard comforts, and ever-changing island views make this women-only adventure an unforgettable immersion in one of Earth's wildest places imaginable.

Trip Highlights

- Cruise among the remarkable Galápagos Islands aboard the intimate Coral I or Coral II, enjoying comfortable cabins, welcoming gathering spaces, and ever-changing ocean views.
- Swim and snorkel from beaches and dinghies, looking for playful sea lions, graceful rays, sea turtles, tropical fish, sharks, and perhaps Galápagos penguins.
- Look for giant tortoises, marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, frigatebirds, and other endemic species while gaining fascinating insights from your expert naturalist guide.

Map View



Arrival: Arrive in Guayaquil, Ecuador (GYE) on Day 1 any time

Departure: Depart Guayaquil, Ecuador (GYE) on Day 9 after 8 PM or the following day at any time

Trip Itinerary



Day 1

Welcome to Ecuador!

Arrive in Guayaquil, Ecuador, at any time today and take the hotel shuttle to the Wyndham Puerto Santa Ana. Look for your name on a sign, then check in under AdventureWomen and settle into your comfortable room. Situated near historic Santa Ana Hill, the hotel offers a convenient introduction to the city. Relax after your travels, explore the surrounding area, or enjoy dinner independently at the hotel restaurant as you anticipate tomorrow's flight to the Galapagos Islands.



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

Welcome to the Galapagos

Meet your group early this morning and fly from Guayaquil to the Galapagos Islands. Your guide will greet you at the airport and transfer you to the dock to board the Coral I or Coral II, your home for the week. After a yacht orientation and lunch, visit the Interpretation Center to learn about the islands' formation, global importance, conservation challenges, and ongoing protection efforts. Continue to Frigatebird Hill for an easy hike, excellent birdwatching, and sweeping views across the bay.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Coral I or Coral II



Coral I or Coral II

Coral I (March departure) and Coral II (June departure) are stylish sister yachts crafted for travelers seeking an intimate and immersive Galapagos experience. These vessels strike a perfect balance of exclusivity, comfort, and adventure. Each yacht spans three tastefully designed decks, offering welcoming indoor and outdoor spaces ideal for lounging, dining, and enjoying the ever-changing island scenery. Guests can relax in the open-air Jacuzzi between island explorations or unwind in the panoramic lounge with a drink and a view. The yachts' interiors echo the warmth of a private yacht, inviting, elegant, and effortlessly comfortable. Dining on board is a highlight, with a rotating menu of Ecuadorian and international cuisine. Coral I and II deliver an unforgettable blend of attentive



Trip Itinerary



Day 3

San Cristobal's Wild Shores

Explore San Cristobal Island, beginning near Kicker Rock, a dramatic volcanic formation rising approximately 480 feet above the sea. At Cerro Brujo, walk a sandy beach shared with sea lions, snorkel from shore, kayak, or visit a hidden lagoon frequented by shorebirds. Later, land at Punta Pitt and climb an eroded volcanic cone where red-footed, Nazca, and blue-footed boobies can all be seen. Frigatebirds circle overhead as you hike, snorkel, kayak, or explore by dinghy with your expert naturalist guide.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Coral I or Coral II



Trip Itinerary



Day 4

Wildlife of Espanola Island

Discover Espanola Island's remarkable wildlife at Punta Suarez, where marine iguanas and sea lions welcome you ashore. Follow a rocky trail past endemic lizards, gulls, nesting boobies, and a dramatic blowhole. From April through December, watch for waved albatrosses and their elaborate courtship displays. Continue to Gardner Bay, a magnificent sweep of white sand and turquoise water inhabited by a relaxed sea lion colony. Walk among curious Hood mockingbirds and Darwin's finches, then snorkel or kayak in the clear, sheltered bay.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Coral I or Coral II



Trip Itinerary



Day 5

Visit Historic Post Office Bay

Step ashore on Floreana Island at Punta Cormorant or Champion and walk toward a broad lagoon where pink flamingos may be feeding. Continue to a soft, white-sand beach used as a nesting site by green sea turtles, then snorkel in the surrounding waters. At historic Post Office Bay, learn how sailors established an informal mail barrel in 1793. Continue the tradition by leaving an unstamped postcard or carrying one toward its destination, then watch for finches, warblers, lava lizards, and playful sea lions.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Coral I or Coral II



Trip Itinerary



Day 6

Tortoises of Santa Cruz

Venture into the lush Santa Cruz highlands for an unforgettable encounter with wild Galapagos giant tortoises, some weighing up to 600 pounds. Walk through their natural habitat while watching for highland birds, including several species of Darwin's famed finches. Continue to the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about the giant tortoise breeding program and broader efforts to protect the archipelago's fragile ecosystems. Later, explore Punta Carrion by dinghy and snorkel in a turquoise lagoon where sharks, blue-footed boobies, and colorful fish may appear.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Coral I or Coral II



Trip Itinerary



Day 7

Genovesa's Seabird Colonies

Explore Genovesa Island, beginning at Prince Philip's Steps, where a steep stairway leads from the lava cliffs to an extraordinary seabird colony. Follow the rocky trail among nesting Nazca and red-footed boobies, then cross a lava plain where wedge-rumped storm petrels dart overhead. At Darwin Bay, land on a small sand-and-coral beach and walk beside a tidal lagoon. Look for swallow-tailed gulls, lava gulls, herons, and vast colonies of red-footed boobies while hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, or exploring offshore by dinghy.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Coral I or Coral II



Trip Itinerary



Day 8

Rábida and Bartolome

Discover the varied landscapes of Rábida Island on a shoreline hike or dinghy excursion, watching for fur seals, pelicans, blue-footed boobies, and Nazca boobies. Swim or snorkel in waters frequented by rays, white-tipped sharks, sea lions, and colorful fish. Later, climb Bartolome Island's 372-step wooden trail to the summit for panoramic views of famous Pinnacle Rock and the volcanic terrain. Return to the shore to snorkel with tropical fish and perhaps penguins or sea lions, then celebrate your journey at a farewell dinner.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Coral I or Coral II



Trip Itinerary



Day 9

Farewell to the Galápagos Islands

Make one final Galapagos excursion at the Pit Craters on Santa Cruz Island. Walk through an endemic *Scalesia* forest and learn how these dramatic depressions formed when surface material collapsed into underground cracks rather than through direct volcanic action. Watch for vermilion flycatchers and enjoy another opportunity to see giant tortoises. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Guayaquil, or Quito if continuing to the Amazon extension. Depart Guayaquil after 8:00 p.m. or stay overnight, using the hotel shuttle for your onward flight.

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



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.

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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
- Round-trip flights from Guayaquil to the Galápagos Islands as indicated in the itinerary (priced separately from the main trip) ~ please note that, for those who of you who purchased the Amazon Extension, the return flight will fly directly into Quito.
- Entrance fees and Galápagos entry card
- English-speaking, naturalist guide in the Galápagos Islands
- English-speaking guide throughout the Amazon extension (extension only)

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.

