

adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht



August 31 - September 8, 2019



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## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

### QUICK VIEW ITINERARY

- Day 1: arrive in Quito, take the shuttle to your hotel
- Day 2: fly to the Galapagos Islands, board your private yacht
- Day 3: hike up Dragon Hill, snorkel at Bartolome Island
- Day 4: hike on Rábida Island, explore Buccaneers Cove, relax on board
- Day 5: dinghy ride through a turtle sanctuary, explore the highlands of Santa Cruz
- Day 6: observe birds at Vicente Roca Point, view marine iguanas
- Day 7: hike to find land iguanas and birds, afternoon to kayak, snorkel, or hike
- Day 8: optional hike or snorkel, explore the lava flows, farewell dinner
- Day 9: one last morning on the beach, fly to Quito, catch your flight home

### TRIP PRICE

Main Trip: \$4,990

Internal Air: \$550

Optional Single Accommodations: \$750

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

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### your adventure in depth

#### DAY 1

Saturday  
8/31/19

### Arrive in Quito

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

#### Shuttle to the Hotel

Arrive in Quito today and take the hotel shuttle to the Wyndham.

#### Accommodations

Wyndham

#### Meals Included

meals on your own

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

your adventure  
in depth

### DAY 2

Sunday  
9/1/19

## Quito to the Galapagos Islands

Never connected to the mainland of South America, the Galapagos 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.

#### Meet Your Group

Please be checked out and meet your group in the hotel lobby at 5:00am sharp.

#### Morning Flight

Head to the airport for your flight to the Galapagos Islands.

#### Transfer to Your Yacht

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.

#### Fausto Llerena Breeding Center

Visit the Charles Darwin Station and Fausto Llerena Breeding Center on Santa Cruz Island, home to the Galapagos giant tortoise breeding program. This is part of the effort to preserve the fragile Galapagos environment and where the famous Lonesome George (the last surviving specimen of his species) lived for decades. Admire a prickly-pear cactus forest, a variety of Darwin's finches, and other land birds. The Darwin Station also works to provide environmental education to communities and schools within the islands and to tourists visiting the Galapagos Islands.

Enjoy some free time to visit the town. There are good shopping opportunities at the local boutiques which sell uniquely designed handcrafts, jewelry, ceramics, T-shirts, and souvenirs. You can also try some food, beer, or ice cream with locals.

### Accommodations

M/Y Coral II

### Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

your adventure  
in depth

### DAY 3

Monday  
9/2/19

Accommodations  
M/Y Coral II

Meals Included  
breakfast, lunch, dinner

## The Galapagos Islands

Located at the center of the archipelago, Bartolome is one of the most frequently visited sites of all the islands. The highest point is only 374 ft above sea level and it is separated from the island of Santiago by Sullivan Bay. The island is an excellent site for snorkeling, filled with the breathtaking volcanic landscapes that make this corner of the world so unique.

**Dragon Hill** On this two hour hike of Dragon hill, you can find various species of flora and fauna. Enjoy the pond behind the beach that is often home to flamingos. Along the trail, observe a variety of reptiles, especially land iguanas, which look like dragons because of their claws and spiky crests. Young iguanas are easily preyed upon by predatory birds and snakes; otherwise, they can live up to 60 years of age. Pass extensive vegetation, including a forest of holy stick trees (burseras), whose appearance changes depending on the season. The forest is home to a variety of birds, including mockingbirds, Darwin finches, yellow warblers, and Galapagos doves.

**Bartolome Island** This afternoon you'll have two landing possibilities: a dock and a beach. The dock, made out 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. They include *Tiquilia nesiotica* (which is endemic to the island), *Chamaesyce* (known as sand mat or spurge in English), lava cactus, and *Scalesia* bushes. 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.

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

.....

### your adventure in depth

#### DAY 4

Tuesday  
9/3/19

### The Galapagos Islands

Also known as Jervis Island in English, Rábida is one of the most diverse in terms of volcanic activity as it lies at the very heart of the archipelago's volcanic origin. It is an island comprised of lava poured out of scoria cones, which are very rich in iron oxide and magnesium (typical of Galapagos basaltic lava); that when exposed and as it rusts, gives the island its astounding, unearthly reddish color. Here, hundreds of sea lions formed a settlement together with a nesting colony of pelicans. Flamingos in the back inhabit a small salty lagoon.

#### Hike on Rábida Island

This island has an abundance of landscapes and marine life. The trail takes about 45 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, sea lions, among many others.

#### Visit Buccaneers Cove

Behind the beach lie two small flamingo ponds where iguanas sunbathe. The native red and black mangrove can be also seen here. This beach is one of the main sea turtle nesting sites in the Galapagos. A turtle can lay eggs three to four times per season. You will also find the remains of barges that were sunk during World War II, when the United States Navy operated a base on Baltra Island.

#### Relax on Board

Relax on board your beautiful yacht as you are mesmerized by the crystal clear water surrounding you.

Accommodations  
M/Y Coral II

Meals Included  
breakfast, lunch, dinner

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

your adventure  
in depth

### DAY 5

Wednesday  
9/4/19

## The Galapagos Islands

On the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, accessible only by the sea where four species of mangrove crowd from the shore out into the lagoon, turtles enjoy swimming in the calm waters. They peek their heads above the surface while fish, rays, and small sharks circle below. White-tipped reef sharks can be seen beneath the boat, and sea birds, including pelicans, herons, and egrets, all feed in the cove. This cove has been designated as a “Turtle Sanctuary.”

#### Morning Boat Ride

This morning, board a dinghy to view the turtles in Black Turtle Cove, a designated Turtle Sanctuary.

#### Lunch

Enjoy lunch on the yacht.

#### Explore the Highlands

Land on Santa Cruz Island and drive about 45 minutes into the highlands. When you arrive, take a 90-minute walk and admire different kinds of birds, such as tree and ground finches, vermilion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (usually standing on the shells of tortoises). The journey to the reserve gives you an opportunity to see the contrasts between the ecosystems in the Galapagos. The road goes from the coast through the agricultural zone and straight up to the dense humid forests. Often, Galapagos Giant Tortoises are also seen on the way, wandering through pastures. This spot is a birdwatchers’ haven since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here.

Accommodations  
M/Y Coral II

Meals Included  
breakfast, lunch, dinner



# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

.....

your adventure  
in depth

### DAY 6

Thursday  
9/5/19

## The Galapagos Islands

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 specie of Tortoise that used to live on a separated island. Isabela Island offers not only diverse ecosystems but also some of the most amazing landscapes and natural sights of the archipelago.

### Vicente Roca Point

Take a dinghy ride along the coast to observe a great diversity of sea and coastal birds. Cold water currents make themselves known here!

### Fernandina Island

Walk for about three hours on Fernandina Island. This is one of the most pristine islands in the world, with no introduced species. Espinosa Point is located on the northwestern part of the island, and its flat jet-black lava is a defining feature of the stark and barren landscape. It is also home to the largest colony of endemic marine iguanas. Enjoy an hour of snorkeling in this area as well.

### Accommodations

M/Y Coral II

### Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

.....

### your adventure in depth

#### DAY 7

Friday  
9/6/19

### The Galapagos Islands

Land iguanas are large — more than 3 feet long — with males weighing up to 30 pounds. They feed mainly on low-growing plants and shrubs, as well as fallen fruits and cactus pads. These succulent plants provide them with the moisture they require during long, dry periods.

#### Urbina Bay

Urbina Bay is located at the west of Isabela Island, it has a spectacular view of Alcedo volcano. Along the trail, which will take about an hour and a half, you will see land iguanas, mockingbirds, finches, Galapagos hawks, Galapagos martins, and occasionally, giant tortoises. At the beach, you will be able to see the largest marine iguanas on the Galapagos, and those who wish to swim or snorkel can approach flightless cormorants, penguins, sea turtles, and assorted colored fish.

#### Tagus Cove

Tagus Cove is located on the Northwestern coast of Isabela Island. It is a historical site visited by Charles Darwin in 1835, where graffiti has been carved into the rock walls by visitors over the past centuries; this happened just before the Galapagos National Park was established in 1959-1960. You'll walk for about two hours, take an hour-long dinghy ride, and snorkel for an hour. Observe countless species this afternoon: blue-footed booby, brown noddy, terns, flightless cormorant, Galapagos penguins, and marine iguanas depending on the season.

#### Accommodations

M/Y Coral II

#### Meals Included

breakfast, lunch, dinner

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

your adventure  
in depth

### DAY 8

Saturday  
9/7/19

## The Galapagos Islands

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.

**Egas Port** This area is a prime place for spotting and observing hunting herons - Great Blue Herons, Yellow-crowned Night Herons, and Lava Herons - as well as oystercatchers. You will enjoy the sight of marine iguanas grazing upon algae beds at low tide, sharing space with crabs and other wading birds. You have the option to visit the Salt Mines by hiking a four-mile round trip trail. The mines are a salty lagoon located inside a crater. Alternatively, enjoy an hour of snorkeling and/or beach time.

**Sullivan Bay** The southeastern portion of Santiago Island features extensive lava flows which are believed to have been formed during the last quarter of the 19th century. The area is covered by Pahoehoe lava flows (Pahoehoe in Polynesian language means "easy to walk"); this type of lava is rare in the rest of the world but is common to the volcanoes of the Galapagos Islands and Hawaii. This is the perfect place to see and feel the volcanic origin of the Galapagos. After exploring the lava flow, you can swim and snorkel with playful sea lions off two small coralline beaches.

**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

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

.....

your adventure  
in depth

### DAY 9

Sunday  
9/8/19

## Depart the Galapagos Islands

Enjoy one last morning in the Galapagos.

### Visit Bachas Beach

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

### Flight to Quito

You'll be transferred to the airport for your flight to Guayaquil, where you will connect with your flights home.

Your flight will land in Quito in the early afternoon, but we do not recommend booking your onward travel for earlier than 6:00pm. AdventureWomen can arrange a day room at a hotel for you at an additional cost where you can shower and repack before your flights home. Let us know if you'd like us to book a room for you.

Meals Included  
breakfast

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.

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

---

your adventure  
in depth

### Accommodation Details

**Wyndham** Embrace the spirit of the Ecuadorian capital, with this hotel as a comfortable and convenient home base, and spend your days exploring Quito's many fascinating museums and breathtaking sites.

**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.

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

---

your adventure  
in depth

### Included/Not Included

#### Included:

- ▶ Accommodations based on double occupancy
- ▶ Meals as noted in the itinerary
- ▶ All transportation throughout the trip
- ▶ All activities as listed in the itinerary
- ▶ Entrance fees & Galapagos entry card
- ▶ English-speaking guide throughout the trip
- ▶ One AdventureWomen Ambassador

#### Not Included:

- ▶ International airfare
- ▶ Domestic airfare
- ▶ Meals not specified in itinerary
- ▶ Alcoholic beverages, unless otherwise specified
- ▶ Items of a personal nature
- ▶ Gratuities

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

---

your adventure  
in depth

is this trip right  
for me?

the important  
stuff

how do I get  
there?

pack your  
bags!

the fine print

### Activity Level:

Moderate

**Active**

High Energy

Challenging

We rate this trip as Active. Our Active adventures get you on your feet! You should be in good physical condition where you are comfortable walking on uneven surfaces, such as cobblestone streets, biking manicured nature trails, or kayaking calm waters.

We recommend training before your trip (with your doctor's permission!) to make the most of your adventure. We have a partnership with FitForTrips, a company that will design an individualized fitness plan for you with this itinerary in mind. Best of all, AdventureWomen guests get a 25% discount with the code FITWOMEN. Learn more at: <https://fitfortrips.com/partners/adventure-women/>

You should come with a flexible, adventurous, and enthusiastic spirit, and a wonderful sense of humor that adventure travel requires.

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

---

your adventure  
in depth

is this trip right  
for me?

the important  
stuff

how do I get  
there?

pack your  
bags!

the fine print

Once you book, you will need to fill out and return to AdventureWomen:

- Information Form
- Booking Conditions Form
- Copy of Flight Information
- Copy of Issuing Page of Passport (photo page)

Final payment is due to AdventureWomen in a cash form (check, money order, or wire transfer) on or before June 2, 2019.

### Passports and Visas:

Citizens of the United States must have a passport valid for six months beyond your travel dates with at least two blank facing pages. If you do not have a passport, please apply now!

### Health Considerations:

Make an appointment with a travel clinic. There are no immunization requirements for travel to the Galapagos, however your local travel clinic may have recommendations for you based on your age, health, and past vaccination history.

For more health information, go to [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel) and navigate to the page about the Galapagos.

### Money:

The currency of Ecuador is the US Dollar. You should bring cash for purchases on the yacht.

### Suggested Gratuities:

- ▶ Guide: \$10 per day
- ▶ Yacht Crew: \$15 per day



# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

---

your adventure  
in depth

is this trip right  
for me?

the important  
stuff

how do I get  
there?

pack your  
bags!

the fine print

**Arrive:** Arrive in Quito, Ecuador (UIO) on August 31, 2019.

**Depart:** Arrive in Quito, Ecuador (UIO) on September 8, 2019  
after 6:00pm.

We are happy to help you make your flight and travel arrangements. Please contact us at:

**(800) 804-8686 or (617) 544-9393**  
**email: [info@adventurewomen.com](mailto:info@adventurewomen.com)**

If you'd like to do anything prior to or following the AdventureWomen trip, we'd be delighted to help you arrange any trip extensions you're interested in.

**Note:** The recent trend in travel is for travelers to finalize their plans much closer to departure time than was customary in the past. While we try to be as flexible as possible booking last-minute registrants, we must release hotel rooms two to three months prior to departure! Please keep this in mind when making your travel plans.

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

your adventure  
in depth

is this trip right  
for me?

the important  
stuff

how do I get  
there?

**pack your  
bags!**

the fine print

This time of year is cooler in the Galapagos, with an average high temperature of 76°F. Be prepared for a range of weather, and dress in layers.

Remember as you choose sunscreen, insect repellent, and toiletries that the Galapagos is a pristine national park. You'll be in and out of the water, and everything you put on your body will likely end up in the ocean. Please be respectful of this unique ecosystem.

Only one checked bag is allowed. Your bag must be soft-sided and it cannot weigh more than 44 pounds. Snorkeling equipment will be provided on board, but if you have your own mask and fins, you should certainly bring them. "Shorty" wet suits are provided on board; AdventureWomen will need to know your wet suit size three months prior to departure.

### Clothing and Gear:

- 1 small soft-sided duffel bag
- 1 day pack
- 4-5 short sleeve shirts (quick dry recommended)
- 1-2 long sleeve shirts (quick dry recommended)
- 1 medium weight fleece sweater/jacket for cool evenings
- 1-2 pairs of pants
- 2-3 pairs of shorts
- 2 bathing suits
- Rash guard (sun protection and easier to put on wet suit)
- Waterproof jacket/windbreaker
- Hat for sun protection
- 5-7 pairs underwear (quick dry recommended)
- 4-5 pairs socks
- Sneakers/walking shoes with good treads
- Water shoes/sandals - closed toed for hikes/walks
- Sleepwear

### AdventureWomen Essentials:

- Travel documents (passport, airline tickets, money)
- 2 spare passport photos in case your passport is lost or stolen
- Write down/print out travel insurance number
- Locks for your suitcase/duffel bag
- Travel alarm clock with spare batteries
- Headlamp or small flashlight with spare batteries
- Binoculars (8x40/42 models are excellent choices; center focus models are easiest)
- Digital camera, memory cards, battery charger
- Power adapters
- Sunglasses, case, and strap
- Spare glasses, contact lenses, cleaner, saline, etc.

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

---

your adventure  
in depth

is this trip right  
for me?

the important  
stuff

how do I get  
there?

**pack your  
bags!**

the fine print

### Essentials Continued:

- Money belt or neck pouch
- Your AdventureWomen insulated bottle (good for hot or cold drinks!)
- Sunscreen and lip balm with SPF
- Mosquito repellent
- Hand wipes/hand sanitizer
- Toothbrush/toothpaste
- Soap, shampoo, and conditioner
- Small packet of tissues
- Tampons and panty liners (avoid plastic applicators)
- Earplugs: We recommend Mack's Pillow Soft White Moldable Silicone Snore Proof Earplugs. Available at most drugstores or at [www.earplugstore.com](http://www.earplugstore.com)
- Assortment of stuff sacks and Ziploc bags
- 1-2 bandanas/Buff
- Reading material/journal and pens

### Personal First Aid Kit:

- Prescription medicine you usually take (in original containers)
- Personal epi pen (if you need one, don't forget to pack it!)
- Bandages, Gauze, Ace bandage, blister prevention
- Antiseptic wipes/spray
- Antibiotic ointment
- Cotton-tipped applicators
- Oral rehydration tablets/packets
- Antidiarrheal medication
- Mild laxative
- Antacid
- Cold remedies
- Ibuprofen/acetaminophen
- Eye drops
- Tweezers, scissors (travel size), safety pins

If you prefer to buy a complete kit, we recommend the Smart Travel first aid kit.

# GALAPAGOS

## Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht

August 31 - September 8, 2019

.....

your adventure  
in depth

is this trip right  
for me?

the important  
stuff

how do I get  
there?

pack your  
bags!

the fine print

### 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

If for some reason you need to switch to a different trip, please call us and we will do our best to accommodate you.

### No Smoking Policy

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

### Health Insurance

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

### Adventure Travel Today

At AdventureWomen, we want everyone to understand that our excursions are adventure travel vacations and not "tours." 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 vacations all over the world for women who want to **experience an active, out of the ordinary vacation, and meet new friends**. Most of all, we want our trips to be **fun!**

**good-natured realist and have a sense of humor!** Adventure vacations, 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!

In this spirit, the successful adventure traveler should be a