

adventurewomen

THE DESTINATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Wildlife Cruise by Private Yacht



March 11 - 19, 2023



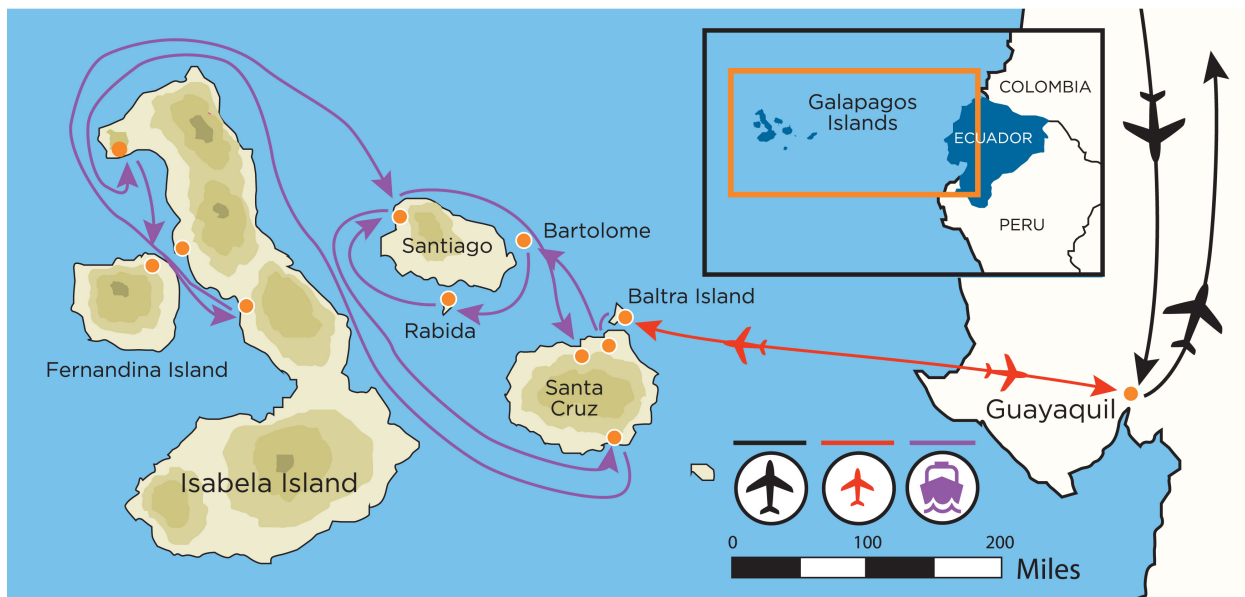
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

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



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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 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 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: \$5,595
Optional Single Accommodations: \$800
Internal Air: \$550

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your adventure
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DAY 1
Saturday
3/11/23

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 are also accompanied by an AdventureWomen Ambassador, committed to helping make your experience a fun and personally rewarding adventure, and cheering you on as you reach beyond your comfort zone to take on new challenges in your own unique way!

Arrival Information

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

Shuttle to the Hotel

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

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DAY 2
Sunday
3/12/23

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 Meet your group at 6:30am (be packed and ready to go!) and head to the airport for your flight to the Galápagos 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 Galápagos giant tortoise breeding program. This is part of the effort to preserve the fragile Galápagos 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 Galápagos 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

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DAY 3
Monday
3/13/23

Galápagos 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 Galápagos doves.

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.

Accommodations
M/Y Coral II

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 4
Tuesday
3/14/23

Galápagos 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 Galápagos 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 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.

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 Galápagos. 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

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DAY 5
Wednesday
3/15/23

Galápagos 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.

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.

Meet with Local Women

This afternoon, you will have the opportunity to meet with some local female artisans who will show you how they handmake their crafts.

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, vermillion 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 Galápagos. The road goes from the coast through the agricultural zone and straight up to the dense humid forests. Often, Galápagos 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

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DAY 6
Thursday
3/16/23

Galápagos Islands

Land iguanas are large - more than three 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.

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!

Snorkeling

Enjoy an hour of snorkeling this morning!

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

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DAY 7
Friday
3/17/23

Galápagos 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 species 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.

Urbina Bay

Urbina Bay is located at the west of Isabela Island and 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, Galápagos hawks, Galápagos martins, and occasionally, giant tortoises. At the beach, you will be able to see the largest marine iguanas on the Galápagos, 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 Galápagos National Park was established in 1959-1960. You'll walk for about two hours. Observe countless species: blue-footed booby, brown noddy, terns, flightless cormorant, Galápagos penguins, and marine iguanas depending on the season. Take a 40-minute dinghy ride, and snorkel for an hour. The deep water snorkeling this afternoon is highly recommended!

Accommodations
M/Y Coral II

Meals Included
breakfast, lunch,
dinner

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DAY 8
Saturday
3/18/23

Galápagos 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. Go for an hour and a half walk, and then you will get to snorkel for an hour as well!

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 Galápagos Islands and Hawaii. This is the perfect place to see and feel the volcanic origin of the Galápagos. After exploring the lava flow on an hour and a half walk, 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

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DAY 9
Sunday
3/19/23

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.

Day Room

You'll have a day room available until 6:00pm. Rest, repack, shower, or grab a bite to eat before taking the hotel shuttle to the airport for your flights home. Lunch and dinner will be on your own today.

Departure Information

Depart Guayaquil, Ecuador (GYE) after 11:00pm.

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
Guayaquil
Meals Included
breakfast

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Accommodation Details

Wyndham 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

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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 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