

Northwest Voyageurs

Journey to the Galápagos Islands & Ecuador

Aboard the Evolution

Activities Include: Wildlife Viewing • Hiking • Snorkeling • Sea Kayaking

Welcome!

Thank you for choosing Northwest Voyageurs for your journey of a lifetime aboard one of the most sought after vessels in the Galápagos Islands, the ***M/V Evolution***.

Set along the equator, some 600 miles off the South American coast of Ecuador, is a crown jewel of the natural world. The Galápagos Islands live up to our dreams of a sheltered



place far removed from the usual concerns. The skies are almost always sunny, and the sea breezes create that perfect air temperature that instantly relaxes the body. The ocean is an ever inviting turquoise blue, matched by long sandy beaches of coral white, pink, volcanic black and looking-glass green. There are crystal coves and quite mangrove lagoons.

That's just for starters. What will make your visit here truly exceptional are the many opportunities for



close encounters with wildlife. The islands and surrounding waters are quite literally teeming with exotic and colorful creatures that have never learned to fear humans. This translates into a series of daily peak experiences including snorkeling with playful sea lions, tracking giant tortoise and trading stares with unconcerned iguanas. Bird life is abundant, varied and fearless. You may have to give way as a blue footed booby crosses your path, or have the opportunity to observe a Galápagos hawk perched just a few steps away, as an albatross launches itself off a cliff on a journey that will encompass thousands of miles.

The environment beneath the ocean surface is extraordinary, with large tropical and cold water fish found swimming together. Pacific green sea turtles, Galápagos penguins and rays are underwater passers-by while dolphins, whales and whale sharks are frequent visitors to the archipelago. The young Charles Darwin, fresh from university, visited here in 1835 during the voyage of the *HMS*

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Beagle. Darwin maintained that the Galápagos was the source of his ideas and research for *The Origin of Species*. Many of the discoveries he came upon are still in evidence, including the volcanic, island-constructing wonderland of sculpted lava flows, giant lava tubes and inviting inlets shaped by eruption and erosion.

The Galápagos seas tend to be very calm, making travel by yacht the ideal and only way to experience the full spectrum the islands have to offer. Our yachts are recognized worldwide for their seaworthiness, comfort and luxury. Aboard the *Evolution* you'll enjoy private bathrooms, hot showers and air conditioning along with other amenities described below. We offer hearty, top quality meals served using both international and local cuisines. Ecuador is known for its fabulous exotic fruits and garden-fresh vegetables, incomparably fresh Galápagos fish and seafood, varieties of Andean potatoes and its specialty soups to name but a few. These and many other gastronomical treats await you at mealtimes. There is plenty of space to stretch out either in the sun or under shade to relax in the comfortable marine atmosphere.



You'll also be visiting mainland Ecuador with its natural history found in the towering Avenue of the Volcanoes of the Central Andes and pulsing jungles of the upper Amazon, the thriving cultural history of its indigenous populations experienced in its markets, and its rich Spanish colonial history found in the architecture of the Hacienda country and Quito's old town all welcomingly alive and well.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

(Land portion of itinerary is a suggested sample / Yacht itinerary is set by Galapagos National Park)

Day 1, Friday

Your Journey Begins by Flying to Ecuador: Today you start your trip by flying to Quito, Ecuador. Your flight arrives in the evening. Once you clear Customs and Immigration, our representative will meet and transfer you to your hotel. (Accommodations Swissotel)



Day 2, Saturday

Morning: Fly to Galapagos – San Cristobal & Puerto Baquerizo: Following an early breakfast, we transfer you to the airport for your flight to the Galápagos Islands stopping briefly in the coastal city of Guayaquil en route. The turquoise blue water surrounding the coast is visible from the air as we approach the island of San Cristobal. Charles Darwin reported encountering a pair of giant tortoises feeding on cactus during his first landing here in 1835. Upon arrival in Puerto Baquerizo, the administrative capital of the islands and a sleepy little port town, you'll pass through Park Inspection, after which you'll be met by your guide holding a sign for the *Evolution*.

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In 1998 the **Galápagos National Park Visitor Centre** opened for the benefit of islanders and travelers alike, presenting a comprehensive exhibit of the islands' natural history, human interaction, ecosystems, flora and fauna. Our guide will use the exhibits to provide an illustrated overview of the natural history of the islands. From the Interpretation Center, a short trail arrives at Frigate Bird Hill, where both “magnificent-frigates” and “great-frigates” can be seen in the same colony—ideal for learning to distinguish the two bird species. You'll also be treated to views of the harbor where your yacht awaits you below. It's a very short ride to the harbor and it's not long before you will be crossing from shore to reach the Evolution, your home and adventure center for the next week. Your captain and crew will be waiting to greet you and will take care of seeing to it that your bags reach your cabin. Now it's time to get settled in and relax as we set out on our voyage.

Afternoon: San Cristobal – Cerro Brujo: We set out along the coast of San Cristobal heading northeast toward our first landing at **Cerro Brujo**. This inviting powdery beach beside a turquoise waters is a great introduction to the islands offering your first opportunity to go snorkeling with sea turtles, rays and the archipelago's playful 'wolves of the sea' i.e. sea lions. (*B, L, D...Accommodations: Evolution*)

Day 3, Sunday

Morning: Española (Hood) - Punta Suarez: Hood is the southernmost island of the archipelago, and is one of the most popular due to the breathtaking variation and sheer number of fauna that greet the visitor. The giant tortoise was reintroduced to Hood in the 1970's and counts as one of the park's great success stories. They reside in an off-limits area, but don't worry—the famous giant tortoise awaits you on other islands!



The quantity and variety of wildlife at Punta Suarez is remarkable. Sea lions surf the waves beyond the breakwater landing, and tiny pups are known to greet your toes upon arrival. A few steps inland are the largest variety of marine iguana in the Galápagos. They bear distinctive red and black markings, some with a flash of turquoise running down their spine, and nap in communal piles. The trail then takes us beside the western edge of the island where masked boobies nest along the cliff's edge, and then descends to a rocky beach before rising to an open area and a large gathering of nesting blue-foot boobies. Galápagos doves, cactus finch and mocking birds forage by, unconcerned by human presence.

The trail continues to the high cliff edge of the southern shore; below, a shelf of black lava reaches out into the surf where a blowhole shoots a geyser of water into the air. Further east along the cliffs is the “Albatross Airport” where “waved albatross” line up to launch their great winged bodies from the cliffs, soaring out over the dramatic shoreline of crashing waves and driven spray. In the trees set back from the cliff is one of only two places in the world where the waved albatross nests. In fact, the 12,000 pairs that inhabit Hood Island comprise all but a tiny fraction of the world's population of this species. Lucky visitors can watch courtship 'fencing' done with great yellow beaks and necks among the large, fluffy, perfectly camouflaged chicks. Mating occurs year round.



Afternoon: Española (Hood) - Gardner Bay: On the northeastern shore of Hood, Gardner Bay offers

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a magnificent long white sandy beach, where colonies of sea lions laze in the sun, sea turtles swim offshore, and inquisitive mockingbirds boldly investigate new arrivals. You will be lured into the turquoise water for a swim, but just a little further off-shore, the snorkeling by Tortuga rock and Gardner Island offers peak encounters with playful young sea lions and large schools of surprisingly big tropical fish, including yellow tailed surgeonfish, king angelfish and bump-head parrot fish. Sleepy white-tipped reef sharks can be seen napping on the bottom. (*B, L, D...Accommodations: Evolution*)

Day 4, Monday

Morning: Santa Cruz – Puerto Ayora: Santa Cruz is the second largest island in the Galápagos and something of a hub for the archipelago. The small town of Puerto Ayora in the southwest of this large, round volcanic island is the economic center of the Islands, with the largest population of the four inhabited islands (approx. 10,000). Tourism—including refurbishing and resupplying yachts—along with fishing and boat-building, are major sources of commerce.

Puerto Ayora is home to both the Galápagos National Park and **Charles Darwin Research Station**, the center of the great restorative efforts taking place in the park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we go ashore to visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding and Rearing Program run by the research station, which began by rescuing the remaining 16 tortoises on the island of Española in the 1970s. This program has restored the population of animals there to over 1,000 today. You will see many of these animals, with their sweet ET necks and faces, from hatchlings to juveniles to large, distinguished individuals like Lonesome George, the last of his particular race of tortoise—may be 150 years old! The local color of this port makes for an attractive stop-off, with restaurants, souvenir shops and even an internet café.



Afternoon: Santa Cruz – Highlands:

A highlight of any trip is a visit to the Santa Cruz Highlands, where the sparse, dry coastal vegetation transitions to lush wet fields and forests overgrown with moss and lichens. Our destination is the **Tortoise Reserve**, where we will have chances to track and view these friendly ancient creatures in their natural setting. This extends to the adjacent pasturelands, where farmers have given tortoise safe quarter in exchange for allowing paying visitors to see them. The best times to see tortoises here is during the cool dry season from June through December. Another attraction close by is a very large **lava tube**. A wooden stairway descends to the mouth of its arched entrance and continues underground to the narrow passage that marks its exit. (*B, L, D...Accommodations: Evolution*)

Day 5, Tuesday

Morning: Santiago – James Bay: On the northwestern side of the island is South James Bay (Puerto Egas), which offers access to three unique sites. One landing is on a black beach with intriguing eroded rock formations inland. A trail crosses the dry interior eastward and rises to the rim

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of an extinct volcanic crater; cracks within it allow sea water to seep in, which then dries to form salt deposits that have been mined in the past. Darwin describes his visit to South James Bay in *Voyage of the Beagle*.

Another path leads south, where hikers are treated to a series of crystal-clear grottos formed of broken lava tubes. These are home to sea lions and tropical fish, and are the only place in the islands where fur seals can be seen. Further to the north, another landing and path lead to a series of inland lagoons, home to flamingos. Birders coming to James Bay will have the opportunity to spot vermilion flycatchers, Galápagos hawks and the tool-wielding woodpecker finch. Puerto Egas is a good spot for taking pictures—the light for photography is perfect at either dawn or sunset. The lava and the black sand seem to catch fire and the animals acquire a surreal and lovely quality.



Afternoon: Bartolome – Pinnacle Rock: This Island is famous for Pinnacle Rock, a towering spearheaded obelisk that rises from the ocean's edge and is the best known landmark in the Galápagos. Galápagos penguins—the only species of penguin found north of the equator—walk precariously along narrow volcanic ledges at its base. Sea lions snooze on rocky platforms, ready to slide into the water to play with passing snorkelers. Just below the surface, shoals of tropical fish dodge in and out of the rocks past urchins, sea stars and anemones. A perfectly crescent, pink-and-white sandy beach lies just to the east of the pinnacle. Sea turtles use the beach as a nesting site and can sometimes be found wading in the shallow water near the shore, or resting in the sand to recover from the arduous task of digging nests, laying eggs and covering them over.

Penguins dot the nearby rocks of the next landing site, less than a kilometer along the eastern shore. Here the submerged walls of a tiny volcanic crater give the impression of a fountain pool. This dry landing—no wet feet!—is the entrance to a 600-meter (2000-foot) pathway complete with stairs and boardwalks leading to Bartolome's summit. The route is not difficult and presents a museum of vulcanology; a site left untouched after its last eruption, where cones stand in various stages of erosion and lava tubes form bobsled-like runs from the summit. At the top you will be rewarded with spectacular views of Santiago Island and James Bay to the west, and far below, Pinnacle Rock and our beach, where the crystal blue waters of the bay cradle your yacht. (*B, L, D...Accommodations: Evolution*)

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Day 6, Wednesday

Morning: Tower – Phillips Steps: Tower Island could serve as a film set for a secret submarine base! The southwestern part of the island is an ocean-filled caldera ringed by the outer edges of a sizeable and mostly submerged volcano. The island sits to the northwest, slightly removed from the Galápagos archipelago. It is also known as “Bird Island,” a name it lives up to in a spectacular way.

Named for a visit by the British Monarch in 1964, 25-meter (81-foot) Phillips Steps leads to a narrow stretch of land that opens out onto the plateau surrounding Darwin Bay, and extends to form the north side of the island. Red-footed boobies wrap their webbed feet around branches to perch in the bushes, and, in contrast, their “masked-booby” cousins dot the surface of the scrublands beyond. Crossing through the sparse vegetation, you will come to a broad lava field that extends towards the sea—this forms the north shore. “Storm petrels” flutter out over the ocean in swarms, then return to nest in the cracks and tunnels of the lava field, where their predator, the short-eared owl, is a frequent.

Afternoon: Tower- Darwin Bay: Landing on the white coral sands of Darwin Bay and walking up the beach, you will be surrounded by the bustling activity of “great frigate birds.” Puffball-chicks with their proud papás—who sport their bulging scarlet throat-sacks—crowd the surrounding branches, while both yellow-crowned and lava herons feed by the shore. Farther along you will discover a stunning series of sheltered pools set into a rocky outcrop, forming another natural film set. A trail beside the pools leads up to a cliff overlooking the caldera, where pairs of swallow-tailed gulls, the only nocturnal gulls in the world, can be seen nesting at the cliff’s edge. Lava gulls and pintail ducks ride the sea breezes nearby.



A brief panga ride brings us to the base of those same cliffs to reveal the full variety of species sheltering in the ledges and crevices created by the weathered basalt. Among them, red-billed tropic birds enter and leave their nests trailing exotic kite-like tails. This is also an intriguing place to go deep-water snorkeling, where the truly fortunate swimmer can spot one of the giant manta rays that frequent the inner bay along the cliff walls. You might also see them at the surface as the sun set’s on your first full day in the Galápagos. (*B, L, D...Accommodations: Evolution*)

Day 7, Thursday

Morning: Fernandina – Punta Espinosa: At 1495 meters (4,858 feet), the big news on this youngest and westernmost of the islands is La Cumbre volcano that erupts frequently, most recently in May 2005. Fernandina sits across the Bolivar Channel opposite Isabela. Our destination is Punta Espinosa, a narrow spit of land in the northeast corner of the island, where a number of unique Galápagos species can be seen in close proximity. As our panga driver skillfully navigates the reef, penguins show off by throwing themselves from the rocks into the water. Red and turquoise-blue *zayapas* crabs disperse across the lava shoreline, while herons and egrets forage through the mangrove roots. The landing is a dry one, set in a quiet inlet beneath the branches of a small mangrove forest. A short walk through the vegetation leads to a large colony of marine iguanas—a schoolyard of Godzilla’s children—resting atop one another in friendly heaps along the rocky shoreline, spitting water to clear their bodies of salt. Nearby, sea lions frolic in a sheltered lagoon. This is one of the few places you can glimpse iguanas grazing on seaweed underwater.

Farther down this stretch of shore, the world’s only species of flightless cormorants have established their colony near an inviting inlet frequented by sea turtles. Because these birds evolved without land

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predators—it was easier to feed on the squid, octopus, eel and fish found in the ocean—the cormorants progressively took to the sea. They developed heavier, more powerful legs and feet for kicking, serpent-like necks, and wet, fur-like plumage. Their wings are now mere vestiges. Back toward the landing and farther inland, the island's black lava flows become more evident, forming a quiet, inner lagoon. Galápagos hawks survey the entire scene from overhead.

Afternoon: Isabela – Tagus Cove: Isabela is the largest island in the archipelago, accounting for half of the total landmass of the Galápagos at 4,588 square kilometers. Though narrow in places, the island runs 132 km from north to south, or 82 miles. Isabella is formed from six shield volcanoes that merged into a single landmass. It is also home to the highest point in the Galápagos, Wolf Volcano at 1707 meters (5,547 feet), and calderas of up to 20 kilometers (12½ miles) across.



On the way to Tagus Cove, the boat will sail through the Bolivar Channel. These are the coldest, most productive waters in the Galápagos, the upwelling of the Cronwell Current, where dolphins and whales are frequently seen. Tagus Cove, named for a British naval vessel that moored here in 1814, was used historically as an anchorage for pirates and whalers. One can still find the names of their ships carved into the rock above our landing, a practice now prohibited, of course. The cove's quiet waters make for an ideal panga ride beneath its sheltered cliffs, where blue-footed boobies, brown noddies, pelicans and noddy terns make their nests, and flightless cormorants and penguins inhabit the lava ledges.

From our landing, a wooden stairway rises to the trail entrance for a view of Darwin Lake, a perfectly round saltwater crater, barely separated from the ocean but above sea level! The trail continues around the lake through a dry vegetation zone, and then climbs inland to a promontory formed by spatter cones. The site provides spectacular views back toward our anchorage in the bay, as well as Darwin Volcano and Wolf Volcano farther north. (*B, L, D...Accommodations: Evolution*)

Day 8, Friday

Morning: Santiago – North Seymour: North Seymour Island was lifted from the ocean floor by a seismic event, and its origins as a seabed give the island its low, flat profile. Cliffs only a few meters high form the shoreline, where swallow-tailed gulls sit perched in ledges. A tiny forest of silver-grey Palo Santo trees stand just above the landing, usually without leaves, waiting for the rain to bring them into bloom.

This island is teeming with life! You might have to give way to a passing sea lion or marine iguana; blue-footed booby nests sit beside the trail where mating pairs perform their courtship dance. Further along, the rocky shore displays white sand, and large flocks of pelicans mass for a dive-bomb feeding frenzy, rendering a tableau for us from ages long past. The trail turns inland to reveal the largest nesting site in the Galápagos of the “magnificent frigate bird.” These huge, dark acrobats have two-meter wingspans, and males, with puffed up scarlet throat sacks, sit precariously perched in low bushes to watch over their equally large chicks.

Afternoon: Santa Cruz - Black Turtle Cove: On the north shore of Santa Cruz, is a living illustration of how mangroves alter the marine environment to create a rich and unique habitat. Three species of mangrove crowd from the shore out into the lagoon, which reaches almost a mile inland. As we drift through the quiet waters in our panga, we are likely to see spotted eagle rays and diamond shaped mustard rays, which swim in a diamond formation. White-tipped reef sharks slip beneath the boat and Pacific green sea turtles come to the surface for air and to mate. Waterfowl, including pelicans, herons and egret, all feed in the cove. This is a peaceful place that will leave you feeling that way.



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Day 9, Saturday

Morning / San Cristobal: Today our voyage comes to an end. But before we bid farewell to the Evolution and her crew, we pay a visit to **Leon Dormido**, also known as **Kicker Rock**, is a spectacular formation that rises 152 meters (500 feet) out of the Pacific. It takes the form of a sleeping lion, but from another angle you can see that the rock is split, forming a colossal tablet and, piercing the sea, a great chisel ready for etching. Small vessels can navigate through the narrow channel between the rocks. Following this visit we return to Puerto Baquerizo, where you'll have time for some last minute island shopping.

Afternoon: Return to Mainland Ecuador: Next we return to the airport where we began our journey in the Galápagos for the flight back to the Ecuadorian mainland. Upon arriving back in Quito, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. (*B, L, D...Accommodations: Swissotel*)

Day 10, Sunday

Return Home or Extend Your Stay: Today you transfer to the airport for your flight home. We encourage you to extend your stay and refer to the section on Extending Your Stay below.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON ITINERARY: This itinerary is subject to change without notice for various factors including but not limited to: safety, weather, mechanical breakdown, unforeseen emergencies, and the discretion of the Captain, Guide, the boat owners, and the Galapagos National Park.

This itinerary is an accurate representation of what takes place during a typical trip through the Galápagos Islands at the indicated landing sites, as well as during the excursions in mainland Ecuador. The Galápagos is a natural ecosystem, making animal encounters there ultimately unpredictable and therefore exceptional in the way they typically occur. Though Galápagos species seem to have little fear of humans, they are wild animals subject to environmental factors, including their own instincts that can affect sightings, which means these encounters cannot be guaranteed. Accepting all these factors, including adhering to the rules of the Galápagos National Park, is a condition of participation on this trip.

YOUR YACHT & HOME IN THE GALÁPAGOS



Welcome to your home in the Galápagos aboard one of our friendly adventure vessels! The Evolution is equipped with cutting-edge navigation and safety equipment, along with all the comforts of home and more. Our yachts provide for an uncrowded experience of 8 to 16 passengers, with our new vessel, the *Evolution*, catering for up to 32. Our yachts are ideal for private charters as well, and we will arrange a journey around *your* favorite activities and interests.

All cabins come with private bathrooms, hot showers and air conditioning, and during landings your quarters will be cleaned twice daily. Your galley and dining staff will turn out quality meals using both local and international cuisine. Your vessel is stocked with “food for thought” as well—a library containing a wealth of information on the natural history of the Galápagos plus an entertainment center complete with DVDs or videos. All our yachts, including sailing vessels, are equipped with engines to cover the distances of your itinerary expeditiously. This is your vacation and time to relax; all boats have plenty of areas to lounge in the sun or shade, and the bar is always open for refreshments. Sea kayaks are available for some additional fun and we carry snorkeling gear for all. Following is more information on your vessel.

Evolution

Expedition Vessel • 16 Cabins • 32 Passengers • 18 Crew • 2 Naturalist Guides • 1 Tour Leader

► *Perfect for large group charters*

In the days before jet travel when ships like the Queen Mary and Elizabeth ruled transcontinental travel, self-made millionaires, movie moguls and royalty built smaller versions of the great ocean liners as personal yachts. The Evolution gives travelers the sensation of stepping back into a time when travel was less about getting there and more about a style of life focused on visiting exotic places. In this case the Galápagos Islands provide plenty of exotic landings, species and peak travel experiences. This unique adventure ship has all the modern amenities and loving attention to detail in its design—in the spirit of bygone oceangoing luxury—yet retains the jovial atmosphere of a smaller boat. It features stylish cabins, indoor and outdoor dining areas, a library cabin, an observation deck, a sundeck with a small hot-pool, a canopied roof-deck bar, and even a medically staffed infirmary. There is plenty of friendly staff ready to see to your wishes and needs. A special Tour Leader will oversee your yacht, and depending on the size of your group, you may have up to two naturalist guides. We dedicate the Evolution to the astute world-traveler whose voyage of discovery is boundless and never-ending!



Important Note on Travel by Small Yachts through the Galápagos

We offer the unique opportunity to travel by small yacht through the Galápagos archipelago, providing you with an exclusive experience only shared by your small group. We pride ourselves in providing some of the most sought after vessels in the Galápagos. Our small yacht travel comes with factors

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that while very normal, need mentioning. We offer trips that encompass the full spectrum of landings the Galápagos Islands have to offer. The only way to navigate these full itineraries that encompass the outer islands is by the use of engine power. For this reason Galápagos is not a true sailing destination. While some of our yachts are rigged for sailing and do hoist sail during voyages when there is a good wind, sails on these vessels should be considered primarily for show and not navigation. On our sailing vessels we seek to hoist sails two to three times per voyage. The best time for wind in the Galápagos is during the summer months of June through September.

You will at times during your cruise hear the sound of engines; more noticeably when they are being started up for a night crossing. You may also hear the sound of waves slapping the hull depending on the condition of the sea. At times you may also hear generators or temporarily smell diesel, but not for prolonged periods. In heavier seas, which are infrequent in the Galápagos, you may experience sea sickness, especially during open ocean crossings. Please report any inconvenience you are experiencing during your voyage immediately to the Captain. Often there are solutions to any problems you may be experiencing.

YOUR HOTELS, HACIENDAS & LODGES

Swissotel (Deluxe)



This hotel is located midway between the airport and the colonial city and lives up to its name by honoring the Swiss tradition of excellence. This modern hotel has 14 floors housing 240 rooms and suites with excellent views of the city and its surroundings.

There is a business centre and a wide range of quality dining within the hotel. The truly wonderful Amrita Spa located in the hotel and operated by Raffles International is a stand out. Guests may use the indoor/outdoor pool, sauna, steam room, gym, squash courts, casino, and many additional first class services.

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

Extending your stay for even a short time can render rich rewards in Ecuador and nearby Peru. Both are home to some of the world's most spectacular mountains, colorful and ancient indigenous cultures and the western edge of the Amazon basin. You may want to arrive a day or two early to rest up for your trip to the Galápagos while taking time to explore the old colonial section of Quito. The Ecuadorian highlands are just a couple of hours outside of town and you can spend time bargaining at the world famous Indian craft market in Otavalo, as well as the surrounding highland villages. Once there, you will probably wish you had more time to enjoy this lush area of volcanoes, lakes and agricultural land by staying at a local hacienda. The hacienda system formed the backbone of Spanish colonial agrarian society. Some have been converted into gracious hotels, which embody the flavor and hospitality of the region.

For an added rainforest wildlife viewing bonus, Ecuador possesses some of the best eco-lodges the Amazon has to offer. You can extend your stay in the Amazon either before or after the trip. You may also want to consider a trip to Peru's Cusco Valley — the Valley of the Inca — with a trip to Machu Picchu. We can help you customize your choices and make your arrangements. Following are a few suggestions:



Otavalo Market, Highland Craft Villages & Haciendas: Visit the highland craft villages of San Antonio de Ibarra, known for its woodcrafts, Cotacachi, home of Ecuador's finest leather crafts and the weaving village of Peguche. You have a variety of hacienda and spa accommodations to choose from. The second day of this extension brings you to the world famous craft market at Otavalo where you will have plenty of time to shop and bargain. On the return to Quito, you will visit Cuicocha, a crater lake with time to hike its shores planted with orchids and view three nearby volcanic peaks. **2 days, 1 night including overnight accommodations, guide, transportation, 1 breakfast, 2 lunches, 1 dinner**

Amazon Rainforest Adventure: Combining a trip to the Galápagos with a journey into the diverse rainforest ecosystem of the upper Amazon Basin is a wildlife lover's dream. We offer extensions to world-renowned lodges or combine your cruise of the Galápagos with an Amazon riverboat cruise. Each is well run by friendly staff, offering great food and excellent service. Accommodations are comfortable and designed for an authentic experience with amenities including private bathrooms, hot showers and electricity. You can take advantage of naturalist guided rainforest hikes, canoe trips and bird watching or meet the local indigenous people. **4 days, 3 nights including accommodations, transportation, guides, 4 x breakfast, lunch and dinner**

Peru: Cusco, the Valley of the Inca & Machu Picchu: You can also combine a visit to the Galápagos with a trip to Peru and the land of the Inca. Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca, offers a number of impressive sites just above the town, like Sacsayhuaman with its enormous tightly fitted stones forming the head of a jaguar. This trip includes a visit to Machu Picchu where you will overnight in a nearby hotel/spa, so you can watch the sunrise over Wayna Picchu. Some trips may require an extra night in Lima, Peru.



4 days, 3 nights including accommodations, transportations, guides and all

meals

Other Ecuador Options: Cuenca, Cotopaxi & Beyond...

Ecuador is rich in things to do, here are just a few:

- Visit a hummingbird lover's paradise just an hour and half from Quito in the cloud forest.
- The colonial city of Cuenca offers elegant hotels, fine dining and excellent shopping in a relaxed romantic setting beside four rivers.
- Snow capped Cotopaxi volcano lies just to the south of Quito offering authentic hacienda living, horseback riding and Indian craft and livestock markets.
- Have you ever thought of receiving a series of elemental massages in a romantic spa set far above the town of Baños on the flanks of the Tungurahua volcano, while plumes of ash erupt like clockwork from the top of the mountain overhead?

We will be delighted to customize your extension if we haven't already done so

THE BEST GUIDES IN THE GALÁPAGOS & MAINLAND ECUADOR

Our philosophy and approach has resulted in attracting a team of the very best guides the Galápagos National Park and mainland Ecuador have to offer. Each has spent years studying biological, earth and related sciences at university, combined with years of experience leading trips in the field. They are personable, interesting and entertaining individuals who are intent on conveying their deep understanding and love of their treasured island archipelago. They will leave you in admiration of the natural wonders of the Galápagos, Ecuador and the planet we call home.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

Please Refer to Your Invoice

Your invoice has complete info on pricing. Call us if you have questions.

Discounts for Children

We recognize that a trip to the Galápagos is a life changing trip for a child. That's why we offer discounts to kids. Children as young as 6 years old are welcome on most of our trips (excluding diving) and should be excellent swimmers. Please check with our sales staff on discounts for kids.

Cost of Single Supplement

We do offer single supplements which vary according to your yacht and the hotel you are staying in please check with us to confirm prices or refer to your invoice.

International Flights

The cost of international flight is not included in the price of the trip. It's very easy to book your own air tickets on the internet these days or simply contact your local travel agent. Just check with us to be sure the dates you are arriving in and departing from Quito (or alternatively the Ecuadorian coastal city of Guayaquil) are correct and then go ahead and purchase your tickets.. Here are some websites we recommend for doing so:

Air Carriers

American Airlines: www.aa.com

Continental Airlines: www.continental.com

Delta: www.delta.com

LAN: www.lan.com

Taca: www.taca.com

Travel Websites

Expedia: www.expedia.com

Orbitz: www.orbitz.com

Travelocity: www.travelocity.com

We highly recommend that you make your air travel arrangements as early as possible as this will insure availability of flights for your dates. Booking early is also a good way to secure the least expensive fares.

Galápagos Flights

We will arrange to book your flights between the Ecuadorian mainland and Galápagos for you.

The following prices are per person and are subject to change without notice:

US \$395 per person 12 years of age or older

US \$199 per person 11 years of age or younger **(a clear copy of the photo page of the child's passport is required for this discount ticket).**

What Is Included In the Price?

- The cost of the cruise
- Hotel accommodations where noted
- Excursions as noted
- Meals as noted (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- Transfer to and from airports as noted
- You naturalist guide during the cruise

What Is Not Included

- International Airfare
- Airfare to and from the Galápagos Islands (this fee will be added to your invoice and collected prior to your departure and we will make the flight arrangements for you)
- Galápagos Park Fee (\$100 subject to change without notice – this fee will be added to your invoice and collected prior to your departure)
- Departure Tax (\$31.50 subject to change without notice – payment collected at airport)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Optional tipping of guides, crew and porters
- Additional days, excursions and transfers not indicated or shown in the itinerary
- Personal items including alcoholic beverages, laundry service, etc.

Payment and Cancellation Policy

Northwest Voyageurs requires a non-refundable \$1000 deposit from each person to secure your reservation on this trip. Final payments are due no later than 90 days prior to the departure date. If you find you must cancel your trip, please notify Northwest Voyageurs in writing as soon as possible. If we have not received your final payment by the due date, and if we have not received written notification of your need to cancel your reservation, Northwest Voyageurs may at its sole discretion charge the remaining invoice balance to your credit card on file or consider the reservation cancelled and release your spaces.

All payments are non-refundable. However, if you notify us in writing of your need to cancel your trip at least 60 days prior to your departure, we will hold payments on your account less the initial deposit for a period of one year. If you notify us less than 60 days prior to your departure, all payments will be forfeited. Please understand that once you sign up, we lose the right to sell your space to another individual. Therefore, we regretfully cannot make exceptions to our cancellation policies. Northwest Voyageurs STRONGLY recommends purchasing travel insurance for all multi-day reservations.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance can cover unforeseen costs or problems such as lost baggage, cancelled flights, and the costs of canceling your trip due to illness or injury. Northwest Voyageurs STRONGLY recommends purchasing travel insurance for this trip. It is very important to consider purchasing your insurance within 15 days of making your reservation, as there are additional benefits included in the policy including a waiver of pre-existing medical conditions. For more information, or to purchase travel insurance, please visit:

<http://www.travelinsure.com/what/selecthigh.htm?32922>

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO GO?

Because the Galápagos is set on the equator, it is a true year-round destination with seasonal temperatures varying only slightly. The best time to go is really up to the demands of your schedule. The islands have a subtropical climate regulated by the cold Humboldt Current and the warm El Niño current. December through May is the warmest time of year, with highs in the upper 80s (31 degrees Celsius). Although the islands receive slightly more rainfall during this time, the lower elevations of the islands where you will spend almost your entire trip typically offer blue skies and sunshine with occasional haze. The sea is at its warmest and is usually calmer at this time of year. The drier *garua* season lasts from June through November. The *garua* is a mist that forms in the highlands of the islands. Ironically, the *garua* season provides more moisture at the upper elevations of the islands than the so-called wet season. There is plenty of sunshine during the day, but it is less intense, with

Voyage Through the Galápagos Islands

cloudier skies. Air temperature is lower, with highs in the upper 70s or mid-80s (25-30 degrees Celsius). The strong Antarctic Humboldt Current, coming from the south, affects the climate at this time of year. The water temperature, therefore, is at its coolest, about 68 degrees Fahrenheit, 20 degrees Celsius.

HOW DO I RESERVE MY TRIP OR EXTEND MY STAY?

Signing up for your trip or extending your stay is easy. Simply call us at the number shown on the bottom of this page to reserve your space using your credit card. Our sales staff will be there to go over any questions you have and guide you through each step leading toward your trip of a lifetime.

IF YOU HAVE MORE QUESTIONS

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us by email at info@voyageurs.com or by phone at (800) 727-9977 and we will be more than happy to assist you in any way that we can.