

Galapagos Adventure aboard the Coral II

A NATURAL HISTORY ODYSSEY ON A DELIGHTFUL YACHT



Wilderness Travel

Introduction



After more than 45 years of bringing travelers to the storied Galápagos, we're excited to introduce an additional yacht—the delightful *Coral II*, large enough to host 20 guests but we limit it to just 16 (with space for up to six solo travelers on each departure—and no single supplement aboard!). Our superb *Coral II* adventure explores across the northern Galapagos, from Genovesa (Tower) in the East, home to the earth's largest colony of red-footed boobies, to the highlands of Santa Cruz, where we'll mingle with giant tortoises, and out to the remote Western Islands of Fernandina and Isabela, far from the path of day-trippers, where we hike across stunning lava landscapes and snorkel with sea lions and endemic Galápagos penguins.

TRIP DATES

January 10-19, 2025

January 24-February 2, 2025

April 18-27, 2025

May 16-25, 2025

June 13-22, 2025



The Magic of the Galápagos on a Delightful Yacht!

Where in the world can you hike among giant tortoises in the morning, swim alongside playful penguins in the afternoon, then savor a tropical sunset from the deck of your yacht? In the magical Galápagos, Darwin's legendary islands. The wildlife of this supremely isolated archipelago evolved in an environment with no natural predators, so the animals have no fear of humans—you can walk right among nesting blue-footed boobies, giant marine iguanas, and sunning sea lions. An inquisitive Galápagos mockingbird might even land on the brim of your hat!

To be this close to wildlife is a spine-tingling experience found only in Darwin's enchanted world. The Galápagos Islands are truly "a world unto themselves," as Darwin wrote, and we've been sharing them with our guests for more than 45 years. We bring you into the heart of this captivating archipelago the very best way—by small yacht.

The yacht *Coral II* is the perfect vessel for discovering these islands. She is designed for groups of 20, but we limit our voyages to just 16 guests for a more intimate adventure.

There's plenty of common space on three of the *Coral II*'s four decks. Enjoy wildlife observation right from the Sky Deck, head to the Earth Deck for a soak in the Jacuzzi after a day of exploration, and relax on the Moon Deck's sun-and-shade terrace for sunset cocktails and stargazing. The main lounge has panoramic windows for stunning views, comfy sofas, plus a

well-stocked bar and a large TV/DVD for enjoying daily presentations by your expert Galápagos naturalist guide. The 11 cabins are air conditioned and have two picture windows (Junior Cabins) or two portholes (Standard Plus Cabins), plus double or twin options.

With a crew of 11-12, you'll enjoy excellent onboard service each day, and because you are part of a small group, you'll have phenomenal access to the knowledge of your guide on hikes and over delicious meals back on board. The *Coral II*'s excellent cruising speed also means you'll have more time for visiting the islands, while her small size means

less time organizing shore visits. Step on board, unpack just once, and experience the magic of the Galápagos with us. Plan early as space fills quickly!



What Makes WT's Galápagos Special?



SMALL YACHT TRAVEL: THE BEST WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE ISLANDS

Our beautiful small yachts allow an experience of the Galápagos in comfort, with airy deck spaces, delightful cabins, and the camaraderie of a small group. You'll wake each morning with a new island to explore, and while you enjoy lunch in the dining room or *al fresco* on deck, your yacht moves to a second fascinating site for the afternoon activities. Traveling by small yacht gives you the greatest variety of Galápagos wildlife, scenery—and certainly brings you the best snorkeling sites.



ACTIVE ADVENTURES, WITH HIKING, SNORKELING, ZODIAC EXPLORATIONS, AND OPTIONAL SEA KAYAKING

We capture the wonder of Darwin's legendary archipelago on daily island hikes, and on snorkeling excursions that reveal sea lions, sea turtles, Galápagos penguins, marine iguanas, and a kaleidoscopic array of tropical fish (complimentary shorty wetsuits are provided for your use). Our Zodiac explorations bring you through tiny coves and into serene mangrove lagoons, and our yachts have sea kayaks on board, offering a wonderful opportunity for optional exploration.



OUR SMALL GROUPS ENSURE YOUR EXPERIENCE IS PERSONALIZED

We host a maximum of 16 guests on our yachts. You'll enjoy a convivial atmosphere, not only on shore excursions but also on board, as you learn the fascinating natural history of the Galápagos on talks and walks with your expert Galápagos naturalist guide. It's an experience you wouldn't get on the larger cruise ships.



EXPLORE AND LEARN WITH WORLD-CLASS TRIP LEADERS

Our Galápagos naturalists are the best and most experienced naturalist guides in the islands. They are phenomenal teachers and delightful traveling companions with a gift for creating unforgettable experiences. They will enrich every aspect of your trip on daily island hikes, snorkeling adventures, and during their evening presentations on the islands' history and fascinating wildlife.

FRESH AND DELICIOUS ONBOARD CUISINE

The varied menus on the *Coral II* include a mix of international and Ecuadorian dishes, along with savory fresh-caught fish, and there are always several choices at lunch and dinner. Fresh homemade juices and tasty snacks are a highlight, especially after a hike or snorkeling, and the breakfast bar offers made-to-order eggs.



OUR COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION

We care deeply about the islands. Wilderness Travel is a proud founding member of the International Galápagos Tour Operators Association (IGTOA), dedicated to the preservation of these extraordinary islands and ensuring that tourism remains a positive force. We support the Galápagos Conservancy and the Charles Darwin Foundation, and our long-time partners in the islands helped to create the Galápagos Traveler Conservation Fund.

Explore the Galapagos Islands from East to West – All on one Cruise!



Our comprehensive 8-day cruise aboard the *Coral II* begins in the northern realm of the Eastern Islands, where we visit Genovesa (Tower), home to one of the only colonies of red-footed boobies on the planet, walk on red-sand beaches on Rábida, and snorkel with penguins below iconic Pinnacle Rock on Bartolomé. On Santa Cruz Island, we explore by panga in Black Turtle Cove and visit the giant tortoise breeding station at Darwin Station. In the remote Western Islands, completely off-limits to day-trippers, we'll find dramatic volcanic landscapes, giant uplifted coral beds, and spectacular beaches. Here we'll hike across Isabela to a flamingo lagoon and visit the former pirate hideaway of Tagus Cove, see the endemic flightless cormorants and huge marine iguanas of pristine Fernandina, and walk on the huge lava flows of Santiago Island's magnificent Sullivan Bay.

THE ROMANCE—AND ADVANTAGES—OF A BOAT-BASED TRIP IN THE GALÁPAGOS

Being on a boat-based trip gets you to fascinating and wonderfully varied landing sites far from the day-trippers who are staying in hotels. You'll experience two fantastic locations each day, without long, bumpy rides out and back in open speedboats—you'll get to savor your time on the islands instead. Wake up each morning to a new island and a new set of wildlife experiences. Back on board after your morning excursion, enjoy lunch while you yacht moves to a new site for the afternoon's explorations. Savor sweeping views and meals al fresco, an absolutely wonderful way to top off the day as the sun slips into the sea.

SMALL GROUPS AND A TRUE EXPERT GUIDE MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Don't let anyone tell you that 45 people is a "small group." Not 26 either. We take a maximum of 16 travelers aboard the *Coral II*, an ideal group size for an incredibly informative, fun experience, learning from your expert naturalist guide as you walk the trails and share the day's tales over dinner. No canned lectures or lining up on deck waiting for your turn to go ashore. Our guides are the top of their profession, with an incredible gift to share their deep knowledge of the islands.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CHARLES DARWIN

We'll explore the same islands that inspired Charles Darwin, who on his famous 1835 voyage aboard the HMS Beagle discovered species that varied from island to island, helping

him develop his theory of natural selection. Galápagos wildlife has no fear of humans, allowing for incredible encounters. And the land tortoises are so long lived, you may find yourself beside a creature that was alive when Darwin walked here.

HALF OF THE GALÁPAGOS MAGIC IS UNDERWATER!

Much of the Galápagos' astounding wildlife is underwater—and we'll make sure you experience the best of it. Snorkeling excursions in ideal spots—up to two a day—bring you close to tropical fish, marine iguanas, diving cormorants, enormous sea turtles, and playful sea lions.



Incredible Wildlife Year-Round

The Galápagos Islands' geographical location right on the equator make for minimum temperature variations through the year, and there is no "wrong" time to visit, but there are two general seasons. Here are some key highlights, but you really can't go wrong whenever you go!

DECEMBER-MAY: THE WARM SEASON

The water is at its warmest during these months (mid to upper 70's on average), and the seas are generally calmer. Air temperatures are also warmer, with short afternoon showers.

DECEMBER: As the waters warm up, green sea turtles begin their mating rituals and the eggs of the giant land tortoises start to hatch. On Española, the juvenile waved albatrosses begin to leave their nests. Migratory birds and some whales will be visiting the Galápagos on their way south for the winter at this time of year.

JANUARY: In January, land birds begin nesting, green sea turtles swim to the beaches to lay their eggs, and adult marine iguanas begin to show red and green coloration in addition to their usual jet black. January is a great snorkeling month as the water and air temperatures begin to warm up.

FEBRUARY: The waters are typically at their warmest in February. Nazca boobies finish up their nesting activities, and the Galápagos dove population peaks in its nesting. On Santa Cruz Island, marine iguanas can be seen nesting.

MARCH: The snorkeling is great in March. On Isabela, for example, snorkelers at Punta Vicente Roca can find themselves surrounded simultaneously by penguins and tropical fish. On Fernandina, the marine iguanas start nesting.

APRIL: Clear visibility in the water combined with the pleasant temperature makes April ideal for snorkeling. Manta rays and hammerhead sharks prefer the warmer waters as well. Baby green sea turtles and baby land iguanas are hatching.

MAY: Sea turtles continue to hatch on several islands. It becomes cooler and drier in May as the Humboldt current begins to come up from the south. Sea lions begin their mating season across the islands, with pups born a year later.

JUNE-NOVEMBER: THE GARUA SEASON

The drier garua season offers plenty of sunshine but it is less intense, with more cloud cover. The air and water are cooler, with average temperatures in the low to mid 70's F. The water temperature is cooler, although during El Niño years, warm currents can cause warmer waters and unseasonal rain.

JUNE: In June, the giant tortoises of the highlands of Santa Cruz Island begin to move to the lowlands for nesting. Migratory birds and whales on their northern migration often stop to feed in the Galápagos. It's possible to see humpback whales along the coast and endemic Galápagos penguins in the waters.

JULY: Whales and dolphins may be seen in the channel between Isabela and Fernandina. This is a highly active breeding time for many seabirds including the flightless cormorants on Fernandina and blue-footed boobies of Española. Eggs and juvenile birds can be seen at the nests of the blue-footed boobies.

AUGUST: Sea currents are at their strongest and sea temperatures their lowest. We should see sea lion pups on Santa Cruz, and the giant tortoises begin to move back up to the highlands. Out on remote Genovesa Island, swallow-tailed gulls begin to nest, as do the Nazca boobies.

SEPTEMBER: Sea lion colonies are active with harem building. Galápagos penguins are extremely active, especially around Bartolomé. Seabird nesting sites are also full of activity.

OCTOBER: The garua (high fog) is around but usually burns off by midday. Galápagos fur seals begin their mating, and blue-footed boobies rear their chicks on Española and Isabela.

NOVEMBER: The seas are calm, with water temperatures gradually getting warmer, allowing better visibility for snorkelers. Sea lion pups, now about three or four months old, can be very curious and love to investigate visiting snorkelers.

Itinerary



Overnight: La Casona de la Ronda (or Hotel Patio Andaluz)

Set in the heart of Quito's historic district, this renovated 22-room boutique hotel retains much of the character of the original Spanish colonial mansion built in 1738. Guest rooms overlook either the lively (and picturesque) pedestrianized street or the quiet interior patio courtyard and feature hand-carved furniture and polished wood floors. Although they offer an authentic ambiance of old Quito, the rooms feature all the modern conveniences.

DAYS 1-2 QUITO

Day 1: Arrive in Quito, the charming capital of Ecuador nestled into the foothills of the Andes. A Wilderness Travel representative will meet you at the airport for a transfer to our group hotel set in the heart of the city's Old Town. Most flights arrive in the evening, and all meals are on your own today.

Day 2: Quito is brimming with art-filled cathedrals, cobblestone streets, lively squares, and a striking blend of architecture, and you'll enjoy its wonders on a morning walking tour with our expert Quito guide. Highlights include the Plaza Grande, the ornate Presidential Palace, the monasteries of San Francisco and Santo Domingo, and the church of La Compania—a fusion of indigenous and European art made of intricate wood carvings, gold leaf adornments, and a dazzling ceiling. The city has one of the greatest colonial centers in all of South America—the United Nations declared Quito a World Cultural Heritage site in 1978 to assure its preservation. We'll also visit the famous colonial street, La Ronda, once the home of famous musicians, poets, and politicians who helped shape Quito's heritage in the 20th century. After our morning tour, enjoy lunch with your Quito guide in a traditional courtyard restaurant. The afternoon is free for you to explore the historic center. Dinner will be on your own and your guide will be happy to make recommendations depending on how casual or refined you wish to go...BL

Itinerary



Overnight: Coral II

The Coral II has ample social areas on three of her four decks. She is large enough to host 20 guests, but we limit our groups to just 16—with space for up to six Solo Travelers on each departure. The main lounge features panoramic windows, comfy sofas, a bar, and a TV/DVD for presentations by your naturalist guide. Delicious meals are served in the airy dining room. The Sky Deck has a wildlife observation area (think dolphin-spotting!) and on the Earth Deck, the Jacuzzi is ideal for relaxation. The Moon Deck's terrace is the spot for cocktails and stargazing.

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3 GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS / BALTRA ISLAND / ITABACA CHANNEL / SANTA CRUZ / PUNTA CARRION

An early morning transfer brings us to the Quito airport for the 2.5-hour flight to the Galápagos, 600 miles off Ecuador's coast. On arrival to Baltra Airport, we are met by our Galápagos Naturalist Guide (Trip Leader) and transferred to the *Coral II* for embarkation, and lunch aboard the yacht. This afternoon, we'll jump right into activities, beginning with a 1-hour panga ride across the Itabaca Channel, a narrow canal separating the islands of Baltra and Santa Cruz. Cruising the turquoise waters, we can look for blue-footed boobies, Galápagos brown pelicans, Sally Lightfoot crabs, and rich marine life. Near Punta Carrion, the rocky cliff at the northern tip of Santa Cruz Island, we'll have the chance for our first open-water snorkeling excursion, right from the panga. The bay's deep waters provide for better visibility, with the chance to see tropical fish, rays, sharks, sea lions, and more.

Back on board, we'll have plenty of time to change, take a dip in the jacuzzi or enjoy a drink on deck, and then gather for our Welcome Dinner, and your Trip Leader's briefing for the next day.

Itinerary



Overnight: Coral II

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4 GENOVESA ISLAND / EL BARRANCO (PRINCE PHILIP'S STEPS) / DARWIN BAY

We travel to remote Genovesa (Tower) Island this morning, observing the variety of sea life that uses the crevices of the island's lava cliffs for shelter. Red-billed tropicbirds fly overhead, switching between their nests and the bay, and a small colony of fur seals may be found near our landing site. We'll be dropped off El Barranco (also known as Prince Philip Steps for his visit here in 1964). It's a steep stairway that leads through a colony of Nazca and red-footed boobies. At the plateau, the trail continues inland allowing us to see more nesting booby colonies in the thin Palo Santo forest. Near the end of the trail, over a rocky lava plain, wedge-rumped storm-petrels can be observed flying in all directions. If we are lucky, we may catch a glimpse of a short-eared owl.

We head to magnificent Darwin Bay, a flooded caldera, this afternoon, disembarking onto a small sand and coral beach to walk a short trail heads west along a tidal lagoon and then up a rocky hill that leads to a point overlooking the cliffs and Darwin Bay. Along the trail near the tidal lagoon, we should see pairs of swallow-tailed gulls, lava gulls, yellow-crowned and lava herons. The trail continues through Palo Santo trees, Opuntia cacti, and saltbushes inhabited by great frigatebirds and a huge colony of photogenic red-footed boobies. This spot is one of the few places in the islands where visitors are guaranteed to see red-footed boobies. It is estimated that more than 200,000 of them live in the trees and bushes of Genovesa Island. We'll also have an opportunity to experience some of the great snorkeling Darwin Bay is known for.

Itinerary



Overnight: Coral II

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5 RÁBIDA ISLAND / BARTOLOMÉ ISLAND

Dark-red sand covers the unique beaches of Rábida, known as the red island. Here we look for marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, brown pelicans, noddy terns, and colonies of sea lions. Rábida is considered the epicenter of the Galápagos Islands due to the diversity of its volcanic geology. Nesting brown pelicans are found here from July through September, plus nine species of the famous Darwin's finches. Here we'll take a panga ride along marine cliffs to observe nesting seabirds and snorkel off the coast, where marine life is particularly active.

This afternoon, we discover the fascinating landscape of Bartolomé Island, formed by various volcanic parasitic cones—lava bombs, spatter, cinder cones—that resemble a moonscape. Walking the trail up to the summit offers an impressive views of the surrounding islands, including the eroded tuff cone Pinnacle Rock, the Galápagos' famous icon. We also encounter marine iguanas, lava lizards, and blue-footed boobies. Later, we'll have some beach time for snorkeling and the chance to see the famous Galápagos penguins, sea turtles, and white-tipped reef sharks among a great variety of colorful fish. For many visitors, this is one of the snorkeling highlights of the trip and the crystal-clear waters are perfect for appreciating the incredible marine life. Due to its geographical location, there is little vegetation around, but there are pioneer plants including the endemic *Tiquilia nesiotica* and *Chamaesyce* (known as sand mat or spurge in English), lava cactus, and *Scalesia* bushes.

Itinerary



Overnight: Coral II

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6 SANTA CRUZ ISLAND / EL CHATO TORTOISE RESERVE / CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION / BLACK TURTLE COVE

From Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island, we head up into the lush interior highlands to visit El Chato Tortoise Reserve. Here we'll search for giant tortoises in the wild and look for various species of birds, including tree and ground finches, vermilion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (usually perching on the shell of the giant Galápagos tortoises). This area is a birdwatchers' haven, since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here. Our drive up to the reserve offers great opportunities to see the contrasts in the ecosystems. Often, we'll see Galápagos giant tortoises on the way, wandering through pastures in the paddocks.

Later, we descend to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, once home to the famous Lonesome George, the last tortoise of the Pinta race. Established in 1959, the research station works closely with the Galápagos National Park Service to protect the islands. Here we'll see giant tortoise species from several different islands. They live in large, open semi-natural pens and ensure an easy view for visitors. The grounds of the station, with its large stands of native vegetation, are a great place to spot some of the seldom-seen Darwin's finches, such as the woodpecker, cactus, and vegetarian finches.

Itinerary



Overnight: Coral II

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7 ISABELA ISLAND / PUNTA VICENTE ROCA / PUNTA ESPINOSA / FERNANDINA ISLAND

Great deep-water snorkeling is offered today at one of the richest marine havens on Earth, the Bolivar Channel. We take a panga ride along the coast to observe a great diversity of sea and coastal birds; Nazca and blue-footed boobies, noddies, brown pelicans, penguins, flightless cormorants. The upwelling of cold water currents in this part of the Galápagos gives rise to an abundance of marine life, a perfect place for deep snorkeling.

From Punta Espinosa, we can admire a wide view of Isabela Island across the Bolivar Channel, an area that boasts some of the highest diversity of endemic sea fauna in the Galápagos. Here the largest, most primitive-looking marine iguanas are found mingling with sea lions and Sally Lightfoot crabs. Fernandina Island offers a wonderful opportunity to encounter flightless cormorants at their nesting sites, Galápagos penguins, and the “king” of predators on the islands, the Galápagos hawk. Pa-hoe-hoe and AA lava formations cover the majority of Fernandina’s terrain, and marine iguanas are perfectly camouflaged in the lava landscape. Vegetation is scarce inland, with few brachycereus cacti, while mangroves are found along the shore.

Itinerary



Overnight: Coral II

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8 ISABELA ISLAND / URBINA BAY / TAGUS COVE

Isabela Island is the Galápagos' largest island, and today we'll learn about the eruption of the five volcanoes that form it. One of the highlights of Isabela is the uplifted coral reef that resulted from the 1954 seismic activity. At Urbina Bay, depending on the season, we may find giant tortoises, land iguanas, and the endemic flightless cormorant. The bay features a wide variety of plants of different colors that attract various insects, birds, and reptiles. The views of Alcedo Volcano are remarkable. After a short walk inland to explore, it's snorkeling time, a chance to swim with sea turtles, sea lions, and countless tropical fish. As we navigate from Urbina Bay to Tagus Cove, there are opportunities to see whales (May to December).

We'll make a dry landing on Tagus Cove, a historic pirate hideaway, and hike through beautiful landscapes to Darwin Lake, a saltwater lagoon. There are excellent views en route of lava fields and volcanic formations. We will return by the same path for a panga (Zodiac) ride along a shoreline full of marine wildlife, where we will admire a variety of seabirds, such as blue-footed booby, brown noddy, terns, flightless cormorant, and depending on the season, a large number of Galápagos penguins—at just 14" tall, they are the only penguin species to live in the tropics. The population of penguins on the islands is about 2,000 individuals, most of which live on this western portion of Isabela; others are scattered further south. We will have an opportunity to snorkel in deep water. Graffiti believed to have been left by 19th-century pirates is a curious reminder of an intriguing past.

Itinerary



Overnight: Coral II

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 9 SANTIAGO ISLAND / PUERTO EGAS / SULLIVAN BAY

Puerto Egas, a volcanic black-sand beach, was visited by Darwin in 1835. The first section of the trail is formed of volcanic ash (eroded tuff) and the other half is an uneven terrain of volcanic basaltic rock. The unique, truly striking layered terrain of Santiago Island's shore is home to a variety of animals including the bizarre yellow-crowned night heron and marine wildlife including lobster, starfish, and marine iguanas grazing on algae beds alongside Sally Lightfoot crabs. It is easy to see colonies of endemic fur seals swimming in cool water volcanic rock pools.

Sullivan Bay is located at the southeastern portion of Santiago Island and is of important geologic interest. It features extensive relative young pa-hoe-hoe lava flows that were formed during the last quarter of the 19th century. In the middle of the lava flow, older reddish-yellow-colored tuff cones appear. Mollugo plants, with their yellow-to-orange whorled leaves, usually grow out of the fissures. Walking on the solidified lava gives the impression of been in another planet. Tree molds are found, indicating that in that position, large-sized plants grew in small crevices, until the lava flow of past eruptions burned down the flora of the island.

Itinerary



Meals: B

DAY 10 SANTA CRUZ ISLAND / BACHAS BEACH / BALTRA AIRPORT / QUITO

On the north side of Santa Cruz Island behind Bachas Beach lie two small flamingo ponds where iguanas sunbathe. We can also see coastal birds, Darwin's finches, Galápagos mockingbirds, and gulls, as well as interesting native vegetation like red and black mangrove and salt bushes. This beach is one of the main sea turtle nesting sites in the Galápagos. A turtle can lay eggs three or four times per season with an average of 70 eggs each time. At this paradisaical site, we will also find the remains of barges that sank a long time ago, when the United States Navy operated a base on Baltra Island during World War II. Local people modified the word barges to "bachas," hence the island's name.

After the visit to Bachas Beach, we continue to Baltra Airport for our group flight to Quito, where you can connect with late evening homeward flights, or extend your stay with one of our optional extensions.

Visiting the Galápagos National Park

All yacht itineraries, daily landings, and activities are permitted by the Galapagos National Park and are subject to change at any time as a result of critical wildlife protection measures. We will make every effort to update you in advance if there are changes to our schedule.

Pricing

TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, based on double occupancy
2025**

\$7595 (up to 16 members)

Single supplement: \$350 (Quito hotel and transfers only)

No single supplement on board (subject to availability)

Internal airfare: \$595 (subject to change)

Galápagos park fee and transit card: \$220

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

PAYMENT TERMS

At time of reservation: \$2,000

150 days prior to departure: \$4,000

90 days prior to departure: Balance

Please note that this differs from our standard policy.

CANCELLATION & TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$1,000 per person

61-120 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

60 days or less: 100% of trip cost

Please note that this differs from our standard policy

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in hotel and yacht
- All meals included except 2 lunches and 2 dinners as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Use of kayaks, snorkel gear (masks, snorkels, and fins), and shorty wetsuits (3mm)
- Optional Wi-Fi access aboard the yacht

TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to Trip Leaders or staff
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)



Our Yacht: the Coral II

The *Coral II* is comfortable, with ample social areas on three of her four decks. She is large enough to host 20 guests, but we limit our groups to just 16—with space for up to six solo travelers on each departure. The main lounge features panoramic windows, comfy sofas, a well-stocked bar, and a large TV/DVD for daily presentations by your expert naturalist guide. Delicious meals are prepared by our onboard chef and served in the airy dining room. The Sky Deck has a wildlife observation area (think dolphin-spotting!) and on the Earth Deck, the Jacuzzi is ideal for relaxing after a day of exploration. The Moon Deck's sun-and-shade terrace is the spot for sunset cocktails and stargazing. The 11 air-conditioned cabins have two picture windows (Junior Cabins) or two portholes (Standard Plus Cabins), plus double or twin options. With a crew of 11-12, you can expect excellent onboard service each day.



The Coral II: Cabins



CABINS 7-8



CABIN 3

JUNIOR CABIN (CABINS 5-11)

- 7 sea view cabins on the Earth and Sky Decks
- Twin or queen accommodation (5 & 11 are double only)
- 2 picture windows per cabin
- Average cabin area 115 ft sq
- Housekeeping twice a day with turndown service
- Complimentary Galapagos reusable bottle and bag
- All cabins include air conditioning and safe deposit box

STANDARD PLUS (CABINS 1-4)

- 4 cabins on the Sea Deck
- Twin or queen accommodation
- 2 portholes per cabin
- Average Area: 140 ft sq
- Interconnected cabins for families
- Housekeeping twice a day with turndown service
- Complimentary reusable bottle and bag
- All cabins include air conditioning and safe deposit box



- Standard Plus Cabin
- Junior Cabin

SOCIAL AREAS:

Moon Deck

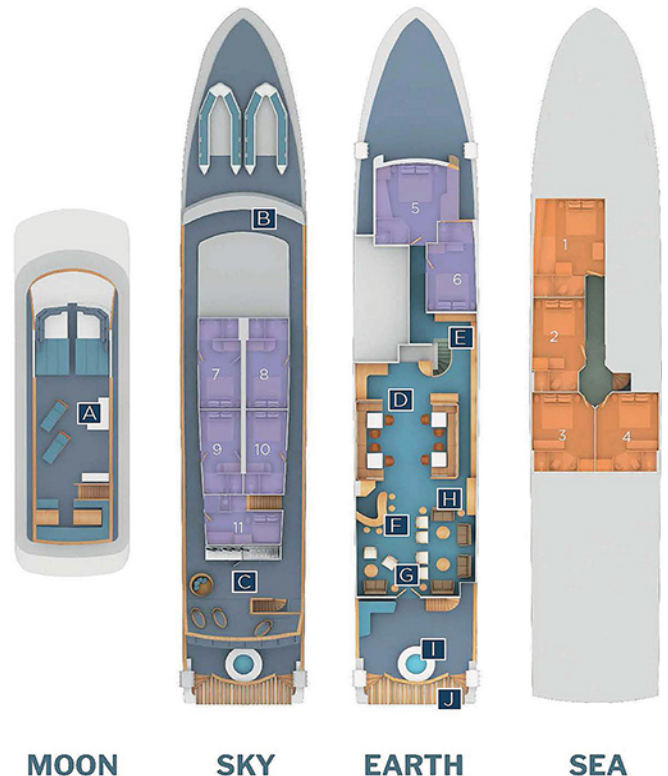
- A** Sun & Shadow Terrace
- Al Fresco BBQ
- Stargazing Area

Sky Deck

- B** Dolphin Observation Deck
- C** Roofed Terrace

Earth Deck

- D** Restaurant
- E** Boutique
- F** Bar
- G** Lounge
- H** Library
- I** Jacuzzi
- J** Embarkation Area



The Coral II: Cabins



CABIN 11



CABIN 10



CABIN 9



CABIN 6



CABIN 5



CABIN 4



CABIN 2



CABIN 1

Extensions

To help you make the most of your adventure, please see below for our selection of curated trip extensions. Please view our website for detailed information, including full itineraries, accommodations, and complete pricing.



CUSCO AND MACHU PICCHU EXTENSION

Discover the best of Peru's breathtaking mountain landscapes, mystical fortress-cities, and thriving cultural and artistic heritage on this extension that brings you to the heart of the Inca empire. You'll explore the beautiful Urubamba Valley, sacred to the Incas and home to the stupendous ruins of Písac and majestic Ollantaytambo. Experience two days at glorious Machu Picchu, the iconic "Lost City of the Incas," perched on a sheer precipice 1,500 feet above the Urubamba River, and enjoy an insider's walking tour of Cusco, the ancient heart of the Inca Empire, and nearby Inca sites including awe-inspiring Saqsayhuaman, the majestic fortress overlooking Cusco. *8 days. From \$4795.*



AMAZON RAINFOREST EXTENSION: NAPO WILDLIFE CENTER

Enjoy an unforgettable adventure at Napo Wildlife Center for the best experience of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Explore by dugout canoe on blackwater lakes, hike trails through the emerald forest, visit the nearby clay lick where hundreds of parrots and macaws gather, get a bird's-eye view from the canopy tower (207 steps!), with its unobstructed 360-degree view of undisturbed forest. NWC is owned by the native Yasuní people, who have lived in this area for centuries. They have a profound respect for maintaining the natural integrity of the ecosystem and are knowledgeable and passionate guides who enhance your experience. Guest cabins are very comfortable and the buffet-style meals in the dining room provide tasty, fresh, and plentiful meals with a good variety to choose from. Our extension has three nights at Napo Wildlife Center and two in Quito, but you have the option to add additional nights. *6 days. From \$2795.*

Extensions



HACIENDA ZULETA AND OTAVALO EXTENSION

A stunning boutique hotel and working farm, Hacienda Zuleta is in an exquisite setting at 9,000 feet in the Ecuadorian Andes. The 19-room estate has 11 private rooms available to guests, each with hand-embroidered linens and beautiful garden views. With its wonderfully remote ambiance, famous hospitality, and beautiful rural surroundings, Zuleta offers an authentic experience of the Ecuadorian highlands. Today the working farm produces a wide range of products including milk, cheese, quinoa, potatoes, and organic vegetables. Of special interest to many guests are the hand-embroidery workshop (optional tour at extra cost), condor rehabilitation project, trout farm, and cheese factory. Outside Magazine named Zuleta one of the world's "Top Ten Finds." After your stay at the hacienda, enjoy a tour of the famous market in the village of Otavalo, visit the workshop of a master weaver in Agato, and, time permitting, visit the colonial town of Cotacachi, famous for its leatherwork and views of deep-blue Cuicocha lagoon, a sacred crater lake. *4 days. From \$1795.*

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Suggested Airport: Quito (UIO)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, after 2:00pm (hotel check-in is at 3:00 pm)

Flights from the US typically arrive in Quito in the late evening. We've planned for 2 nights in Quito pre-cruise since the yacht adheres to a strict sailing itinerary and the group flight to the Galapagos will be on the morning of Day 3.

Upon arrival, you will be met by a private transfer representative (as you exit Customs) and be transferred to the hotel.

If you would like add on extra time in Quito before Day 1, we can request extra nights for you at our group hotel, with an arrival transfer. Please let us know as far in advance as possible, as we stay in small boutique hotels with limited availability.

DEPARTURE

Suggested Airport: Quito (UIO)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 10, anytime after 10:00 pm (UIO)

If you opt to overnight in Quito post-cruise on your own and return the next day, we recommend the Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel for layovers and a complimentary airport shuttle. www.wyndhamhotels.com

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

Trip members are responsible for making their own international air arrangements to and from Latin America.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for the trip.

EXTENSIONS

Our optional extensions follow the cruise. Please request any extensions at least 4-6 months in advance, as lodging and flight availability can be limited.

For our extensions in Ecuador, you should route your international return flight from Quito.

For our extension to Peru, we will fly you to Guayaquil, Ecuador (GYE) on Day 10 and you can reserve an evening flight (after 8:00 pm) to Lima, Peru (LIM).

INTERNAL GALÁPAGOS FLIGHTS

Your internal round-trip flights between mainland Ecuador (Quito) and the Galápagos will be issued and distributed by our local team in Ecuador (the airfare will appear on your final Wilderness Travel invoice).

We will update you with internal flight times 3 weeks prior to departure, and in general our Day 10 return flight Baltra, Galápagos (GPS) to Quito (UIO) arrives Quito between 4:00 and 6:00 pm.

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit wildernesstravel.com/leaders.



DENNIS BALLESTEROS

Dennis Ballesteros, born and raised in the Galápagos, has been a naturalist guide in these famous islands since 2009. His passion for ecology, natural history, and conservation stems from his earliest years—as the son of a science teacher, he gobbled up all the reading he could as a child, and continues to constantly expand his breadth of expertise. Dennis is an incredibly warm and deeply knowledgeable leader and a highly skilled wildlife photographer as well. “I’m genuinely enthusiastic about meeting new people, forging meaningful connections, and sharing experiences of the wonders of Planet Earth.” His lectures and fascinating stories bring joy and learning to every journey.



CECIBEL GUERRERO

When you grow up in one of the most diverse and extraordinary places on earth, it seems only right to invest your time and energy in keeping that place special, and Cecibel “Ceci” Guerrero is no exception. Originally from Ecuador, Ceci guided in the Galápagos from 1993 to 2001. After taking a short break to start a family, she returned to the Galápagos in 2008 to continue her work, obtaining her license as a Level III Naturalist Guide by the Galápagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Research Station.



BITINIA ESPINOZA

Bitinia Espinoza has been guiding groups to the Galápagos and throughout Ecuador since 1991. She graduated from the University of Guayaquil with studies in natural history. Her travels on the lecture circuit on behalf of the Galápagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Research Station have taken her to the US and other regions. Bitinia lives in Quito with her two daughters and three grandchildren.

Trip Leaders



SILVIA VARGAS

Silvia Vargas is in love with the Galápagos Islands and has been since high school, when she first visited from her hometown of Guayaquil, Ecuador. Her passion for the islands drew her back to live in the Galápagos where she works as a certified naturalist—the perfect job for someone with such deep knowledge and a generous spirit. Exploring the same islands over and over?—it’s a dream for this Trip Leader. “The wildlife here has to adapt to weather so variable,” Silvia notes, “it’s fun to see how each species figures it out.”

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

The trip is rated **Level 1+, Easy**, according to our trip grading system. Trips that are rated 1 have optional walks and little elevation gain or loss. The + indicates that this trip is a bit more strenuous than other trips of this level. Our Galápagos journey is appropriate for anyone in good health who is physically active and enjoys regular moderate walks and hikes, but please consider the following factors when choosing this trip:

TERRAIN

The daily hikes are not long (up to 3 miles) but often involve uneven ground, either on dry lava, which can be quite sharp, on rocky trails with uneven surfaces, or on sandy beaches. Trips ashore are by Zodiac. Boarding the Zodiac involves walking down a gang-plank set of stairs and stepping onto the Zodiac while both the yacht and Zodiac are moving with the roll of the seas. A crew member on the Zodiac will reach for your hand to help steady you, but it can often feel tricky, depending on the amount of ocean swell. Passengers are required to wear life jackets when traveling in the Zodiacs. Shore landings are either "dry" (you step out of the Zodiac on to large rocks or a wooden pier) or "wet" (stepping out of the Zodiac into a foot or so of surf and wading to shore). A dry landing is occasionally tricky, especially on days when the seas are active and the rocks you step onto may be slippery. For a wet landing, you may be stepping from the Zodiac into surf that may be up to your knees or higher, so it is important that you have the agility for this. Of course, our boat staff will be on hand to assist with landings.

LIFE ON BOARD

You should understand that this is not a "large-ship cruise," but once you have adjusted to yacht living, you will find this to be one of the most pleasant journeys imaginable. The day usually starts with a delicious breakfast of fresh fruit, cereal, breads, eggs, fresh juice, and coffee or tea. This is often the time when your Trip Leader gives you a briefing on the day's schedule so you can plan your clothing and equipment. On return to the boat, there may be a chance to snorkel or swim before a multi-course lunch is served. During lunch, the yacht often transits to a new area, and in the later afternoon, you'll make a second landing, taking the Zodiac ashore for more exploration and hikes. Visitors must depart the islands by 6:00 pm. After a relaxing dinner, a wrap-up talk will be given by the Trip Leader.

What to Expect

SWIMMING & SNORKELING

Trip members should be able to swim and ideally have previous snorkeling experience. The itinerary includes snorkeling excursions on most days and snorkeling is a major attraction for any visit to the islands. The boat has complimentary shorty wetsuits (3mm neoprene) available on board for your use. Please consult our office (and your Trip Leader on the boat) with any concerns about swimming and snorkeling in the islands. Most snorkeling is in water between 10 to 40 feet deep, but if conditions allow, we may offer open-ocean snorkeling near an off-shore reef. These open-ocean snorkels are not suitable for first-time snorkelers or weak swimmers. Your Trip Leader accompanies the group on all snorkeling excursions and the Zodiac will attempt to stay close, should anyone wish to get out of the water. We do not, however, have staff members available to individually assist snorkelers. It is incumbent on each swimmer to keep track of his or her own whereabouts. Currents in Galápagos can be strong at some sites. You should only choose to swim and snorkel in places where you are completely comfortable. To snorkel, you slide off the side of the Zodiac into the water. Getting back in the Zodiac requires climbing up a small metal ladder attached to the side of the Zodiac. The boat man will help, but it is impossible for him to pull you out of the water — you must be prepared to do most of the work under your own power.

A variety of snorkeling equipment is available on board, but if you are a serious snorkeler, we highly recommend bringing your own snorkel, mask, and possibly fins to assure a proper fit. A proper fit of your mask is critical for allowing you good vision underwater. There is no scuba diving available on our Galápagos trips (our yachts are not set up for scuba diving but there are places in Puerto Ayora where diving is available if you would like to extend your trip). Depending on your personal tolerance for cold, you may not need a wetsuit, but most trip members prefer a wetsuit. Complimentary shorty wetsuits are available on board for your use. If you easily get cold, you may prefer to bring your own full-length wetsuit. Some people like to swim in lightweight leggings or in "skins" (lycra bodysuits sold at dive shops).

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Air Temp	77°F	78°F	83°F	83°F	77°F	72°F	75°F	70°F	70°F	71°F	73°F	74°F
Water Temp	76°F	77°F	77°F	77°F	76°F	73°F	71°F	70°F	71°F	72°F	73°F	74°F
RAINFALL - INCHES												
Monthly Rainfall	2.4 in	4.6 in	4.0 in	3.0 in	0.6 in	0.2 in	0.3 in	0.2 in	0.2 in	0.2 in	0.2 in	0.3 in

Additional Information

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 or email us at info@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us.

ABOUT NEW TRIPS

This is a new adventure and one that we are particularly excited about offering. However, as with all new departures, flexibility and a spirit of adventure are always appreciated! Activities are described in the itinerary but they can vary, sometimes considerably, depending on weather conditions, the group, and other factors.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



MEN'S T-SHIRT



WOMEN'S T-SHIRT



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
+ KLEEN KANTEEN 27OZ WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at wildtrav.com/resources/toucan-club.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel stainless steel water bottle by Klean Kanteen and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$100 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.

Travel Notes



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

- World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2022, 11-time winner
- Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2022, 3 years in a row
- Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*
- Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner
- 50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row
- Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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