

# Galápagos Private Journey

## ABOARD THE *PASSION*

THE PERFECT CHOICE FOR FAMILY AND SMALL GROUP CHARTERS



Wilderness Travel



## Share the Magic of the Galapagos

### WITH JUST YOUR FAMILY AND CLOSE FRIENDS

The Galápagos Islands offer a rare opportunity to enjoy a memorable vacation with family or a small group of friends and spend some quality time together in a beautiful place—while also walking in the footsteps of Darwin. These legendary islands provide an incredible learning experience for everyone, and most certainly a life-changing one for kids. The wildlife of the Galápagos is unafraid of humans and can be observed closely, while the landscape itself is a classroom of geological evolution. Each day you'll explore a pristine ecosystem that is thriving with countless unique creatures—many of which are found nowhere else in the world. Walk among nesting blue-footed boobies, sit beside prehistoric-looking marine iguanas, snorkel with penguins—these are experiences found only in Darwin's enchanted world.

With more than four decades of bringing travelers to the Galápagos, Wilderness Travel knows that the only way to get an authentic experience of these islands is aboard a small private yacht. The archipelago includes some 21 islands, each

fascinatingly different than the other. To try to experience the Galápagos on a hotel-based tour gets you to only a couple of islands, and larger boats lose the intimacy of the experience. Up until now, there were almost no boats in the Galápagos of a size appropriate for a family or a small group of friends, and none that were of the high quality and comfort of the *Passion*. Journeying in style by private charter aboard the *Passion*,

you'll arrive at a new island each morning and explore multiple visitor sites and trails each day—and enjoy the expertise of your own naturalist guide.



The triple-deck *Passion*, at 160 feet in length, was originally built as a private family yacht for a wealthy British industrialist, with handcrafted touches from marble

bathtubs to teakwood decks. The *Passion* hosts just 14 guests in truly spacious splendor. Five ample staterooms have private bathrooms (four with bathtubs), and the VIP and Master suites feature his-and-hers bathrooms with tubs plus a private lounge area. We combined adventure and luxury for the ultimate Galápagos Private Journey.



# What Makes WT's Galápagos Special?



## A SMALL PRIVATE YACHT: THE BEST WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE ISLANDS

On your own private yacht, you'll wake each morning to a new island to explore, and while you enjoy lunch al fresco on deck, we move to a second fascinating site. Traveling by yacht gives you the greatest variety of wildlife, scenery, and certainly the best snorkeling sites. *The Passion* allows you and your intimate group of family and friends to experience the islands in comfort and style. Take a look at pages 12-15 to learn more about its spacious lounges, beautiful dining spaces, and comfortable staterooms.



## 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.



## A PRIVATE GROUP ENSURES YOUR EXPERIENCE IS PERSONALIZED

Having your own private group means the Galápagos experience can be tailored to your interests. Have a passion for photography or stargazing? Want to spend more time kayaking, hiking, or snorkeling? Your naturalist guide can put an emphasis on your group's interests to enhance your experience in these islands, including fascinating lectures on natural history topics that might call out to you.

## EXPLORE AND LEARN WITH WORLD-CLASS TRIP LEADERS

Our Trip Leaders are the best and most experienced in the Galápagos. They are phenomenal teachers and delightful traveling companions with a gift for creating unforgettable experiences. Our guides 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

Many of the ingredients used by our talented Galápagos chefs are locally sourced in the islands: bread comes from a women's co-op bakery, fresh vegetables are grown on an organic farm, juices are from locally grown fruits—even the ice cream comes from the Galápagos Cooking School! The varied menus range from savory fresh-caught fish to golden llapingachos (Ecuador's tasty potato pancakes).



## 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 partner in the islands, the Angermeyer family, has joined with WildAid to create the Galápagos Conservation Fund.



## Itinerary

### WHEN TO GO

January to December

*Note: This trip must start on a Saturday*

### TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 8 days
- Arrive:** Baltra, Galápagos
- Depart:** Baltra, Galápagos
- Lodging:** 7 nights aboard the yacht
- Meals:** All meals included  
(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Activity:** Small Boat and Yacht Cruising, Snorkeling, Walking, Wildlife and Natural History
- Trip Level:** ① 2 3 4 5 6  
Daily hikes, snorkeling, optional sea kayaking

The Galápagos Islands are truly “a world unto themselves,” as Darwin wrote. Aboard your own private yacht with your naturalist guide, set off into Darwin’s world for an active journey full of nature hikes, snorkeling, and wonder. Abundant marine life makes for fantastic snorkeling, and swimming with playful sea lions is an experience you’ll never forget! A Private Journey allows you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—and still enjoy the signature quality of a Wilderness Travel group trip. The *Passion* has two 7-night/8-day routes (Eastern Itinerary and Western Itinerary) operating Saturday to Saturday—or opt to combine both for a 15-day Ultimate Galápagos journey! Your route will depend on your travel dates. No matter which itinerary you choose, you’ll enjoy hiking, snorkeling, optional sea kayaking, and the unforgettable experience of life aboard a romantic yacht. Each itinerary sees all the major species of the Galápagos. For any questions about the differences between these routes, please reach out to our team of Area Specialists.



# Eastern vs Western Islands

We've designed our Galápagos itineraries to highlight the best islands of the archipelago, with in-depth explorations of the eastern or western islands—or combine both for the Ultimate Galápagos experience! The east and west have unique characteristics (see below), but no matter which journey you choose, you'll enjoy fascinating excursions on land, daily swimming and snorkeling, optional sea kayaking, and awe-inspiring wildlife encounters—sea lions, iguanas, boobies, frigatebirds, flamingos, finches, penguins, sharks, rays, majestic sea turtles, and of course, giant land tortoises!



## EASTERN ISLANDS



DAY	ITINERARY IN BRIEF
Days 1-3	Genovesa / Santiago / Bartolomé
Days 4-5	Rábida / Santa Cruz / Darwin Station
Days 6-8	South Plaza / Santa Fé / Española

The eastern islands are more mature and protected from the open-ocean currents, creating a safe haven for a wide variety of birdlife as well as endemic flora. These islands tend to be smaller than their western counterparts, with lots of flora to create a lush habitat for birds, including waved albatross, great frigatebirds, and elegant swallow-tailed gulls. We visit Isla Genovesa, where one of the only colonies of red-footed boobies exist, walk on red-sand beaches on Rábida, and see the iconic Pinnacle Rock on Bartolomé. The eastern islands' warm waters attract colorful reef fish, tiny Galápagos penguins, and green sea turtles, and you're likely to see young sea lions and fur seals sunbathing on white sandy beaches.

## WESTERN ISLANDS



DAY	ITINERARY IN BRIEF
Days 1-2	Santa Cruz / Darwin Station / Floreana
Days 3-5	Isabela / Urbina Bay / Fernandina
Days 6-8	Santiago / Puerto Egas / North Seymour

The western islands, famed for their dramatic volcanic landscapes, giant uplifted coral beds, and spectacular beaches, are younger, larger, and completely off-limits to day-trippers. Thanks to the upwelling of cool nutrient-rich waters from the open ocean, these islands are home to a vast array of marine diversity, from iguanas, sea lions, and fur seals, to Sally Lightfoot crabs—watching for large pods of dolphins and whales is a true highlight of this trip. On land, we'll meet giant tortoises in the wild, explore historic Post Office Bay and the pirate hideaways on Floreana, and hike across Isabela's stunning lava fields to a mangrove lagoon frequented by pink flamingos. On Fernandina, one of the most pristine places on the planet, expect sea turtles, countless marine iguanas, and a colony of endemic flightless cormorants.





## Eastern Islands Itinerary

### DAY 1, SATURDAY BALTRA ISLAND / BLACK TURTLE COVE

On arrival at Baltra Island, you are met by your naturalist guide and will board the yacht in time for lunch on deck. After lunch, navigate a short distance to Black Turtle Cove, a large mangrove lagoon on the north coast of Santa Cruz Island. Pelicans and herons roost on the branches, while marine dwellers such as green sea turtles or golden rays may cruise right next to your Zodiac as it makes its way through the mangroves. Overnight aboard the yacht...LD

### DAY 2, SUNDAY GENOVESA (TOWER) ISLAND / DARWIN BAY / EL BARRANCO

Awake off Genovesa (Tower) Island and enjoy a walk among its huge colony of photogenic red-footed boobies perched in palo santo trees—the only member of the booby family to nest in trees. At magnificent Darwin Bay, a flooded caldera, land at a coralline beach for a walk that should bring you Darwin's famous finches, including sharp-beaked finches and large cactus finches. Landing at El Barranco (also known Prince Philip Steps, so named for the prince's visit here in 1964), brings you close to nesting frigatebirds and Nazca boobies...BLD

### DAY 3, MONDAY BARTOLOMÉ ISLAND / PINNACLE ROCK / SOMBRERO CHINO

En route to Bartolomé, be on the lookout for tiny Galápagos penguins, the only penguin species that lives north of the equator. A hike to the top of the island offer breathtaking views of Pinnacle Rock, the Galápagos' most famous icon, and neighboring Santiago Island. After lunch, take a Zodiac ride around this scenic setting, visiting the tiny island of Sombrero Chino, an eroded spatter cone. Lava formations are seen on the western side of the island, and the land is covered with sea lion colonies and marine iguanas. You'll also visit a white-sand beach where sea turtles nest. Overnight aboard yacht...BLD

### DAY 4, TUESDAY RÁBIDA ISLAND / SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Rábida, the red island, is a landscape of colorful eroded hills. We'll take a panga ride along the shore and look for marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, brown pelicans, noddly terns, and sea lions. We'll enjoy some snorkeling, and after lunch, head across to Santa Cruz Island's northwest shore, where you can visit a saltwater lagoon with greater flamingos, black-necked stilts, and white-cheeked pintails. Further inland, you will find





Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill), a fantastic land iguana nesting site...BLD

#### DAY 5, WEDNESDAY SANTA CRUZ: EL CHATO TORTOISE RESERVE

From Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island, head up into the highlands. In contrast to the coastal region, the highlands have lush vegetation and forests due to the higher humidity. Visit El Chato Tortoise Reserve to search for these giant creatures in the wild, then visit the Charles Darwin Research Station's tortoise-breeding facility. Established in 1959, the research station works closely with the Galápagos National Park Service to protect the islands. Here you'll see giant tortoise species from several different islands. They live in large, open semi-natural pens and ensure an easy view for visitors...BLD

#### DAY 6, THURSDAY SOUTH PLAZA / SANTA FÉ ISLAND

Landing on one of the oldest docks in the archipelago, head ashore on South Plaza (Plaza Sur). Huge seagoing marine iguanas roam the shores, and swallow-tailed gulls and red-billed tropicbirds are often found here. Later, you will land on a white beach on Santa Fé Island, where sea lions are usually resting, to look for the island's endemic species of land iguana, and will also have the chance to snorkel in the beautiful turquoise waters here...BLD

#### DAY 7, FRIDAY ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

Sail to fascinating Española, the southernmost island in the archipelago, with its long white beaches. This island has a high degree of species differentiation due to its remoteness. Arrive at Gardner Bay, where green sea turtles often rest in the dunes. Galápagos sea lions, Darwin's finches, and Española's endemic mockingbird are found here. This afternoon, head to Punta Suarez for a spectacular walk on a trail lined with marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, and Galápagos sea lions. You will also walk up to an amazing viewpoint of the island's famous blowhole, El Soplador, which shoots water as high as 75 feet in the air. Other major sights on Española include one of the island's most spectacular birds, the huge waved albatross, with its seven-foot wingspan. The birds nest here from April through December. Waved albatross are considered endemic not only to the Galápagos but also to this island, where they exist in colonies of about 12,000 pairs...BLD

#### DAY 8, SATURDAY SANTA CRUZ ISLAND / DISEMBARK

Land on Santa Cruz Island at the town of Puerto Ayora, and after breakfast, bid farewell to your Trip Leader and crew, and disembark. En route to the airport, make a short stop at Twin Craters (Los Gemelos), which are in fact not craters but magna domes that have collapsed. Continue to Baltra Airport and depart on homeward-bound flights...B



# Western Islands Itinerary

## DAY 1, SATURDAY BALTRA ISLAND / SANTA CRUZ ISLAND / PUERTO AYORA / DARWIN STATION

On arrival at Baltra Island in the Galápagos, you are met by your naturalist guide for a drive into the lush Santa Cruz highlands, where you can look for Galápagos tortoises. Transfer to the small town of Puerto Ayora and board the yacht, which is docked in its harbor. After lunch aboard the yacht, visit the Charles Darwin Research Station's tortoise-breeding facility. Established in 1959, the Darwin Station works closely with the Galápagos National Park Service to protect the islands and surrounding marine reserve. The Darwin Station conducts research, assists other researchers within the park, and provides environmental education to communities and schools within the islands. At the Fausto Llerena Tortoise Breeding Center here, you'll see tortoises from different islands. The tortoise pens are divided according to the tortoises' ages, from eggs to adults. Overnight aboard yacht...LD

## DAY 2, SUNDAY FLOREANA ISLAND / DEVIL'S CROWN / BLACK BEACH

Cruise to Floreana, with its myriad volcanic cones and fascinating human history, and visit Punta Cormorant for a walk to a lagoon where elegant pink flamingos wade in the shallows. You may visit Devil's Crown, an offshore remnant

of a volcanic crater that's a haven for variety of tropical fish, and sometimes rays and sea turtles. In the afternoon, visit Floreana's Black Beach, with its lava sand and sea lion colony, where you will learn about the intriguing human history of the island and its first inhabitants. Head into the highlands to visit the Asilo de la Paz, the freshwater spring, as well as the caves that served as pirate hideouts and where the first settlers lived. Floreana is also well known for the mysterious disappearances of some of the later settlers in the 1930s, including the Baroness Von Wagner de Bousquet...BLD

## DAY 3, MONDAY POST OFFICE BAY / ISABELA ISLAND

In the morning, visit Floreana's Post Office Bay, with its historic Post Office Barrel, where in the 18th century, sailors left letters to be posted by passing ships. After the visit, return to the yacht and head out on an afternoon sail to Isabela Island. Along the way, there may be a chance of seeing whales or dolphins swimming along with the yacht—a truly serendipitous moment not possible from the larger cruise ships. This evening, enjoy a sunset dinner with extraordinary views of Isabela's dramatic volcanic landscape...BLD

## DAY 4, TUESDAY PUNTA MORENO / URBINA BAY

Isabela was originally six islands, each with an active volcano. Extensive lava flows joined together to form what is today





the largest island in the Galápagos. Five of these volcanoes are still active and contribute to Isabela's dramatic scenery and spectacular coastline of basaltic bluffs. Walk on Punta Moreno's superb broken lava flow surrounded by giant shield volcanoes. There are flamingos, gallinules, and you may even spot cormorants and Galápagos penguins. After lunch, visit Urbina Bay, with its black sand beach, a nesting site for green sea turtles. The bay was a site of remarkable tectonic activity in 1954 when miles of coastal seabed was dramatically uplifted 15 feet. Scramble along the rocky coast to see the large coral heads and other marine forms stranded after the uplift. As you hike over varied terrain, observe large land iguanas, a variety of endemic plants, and sometimes giant tortoises...BLD

#### DAY 5, WEDNESDAY TAGUS COVE / FERNANDINA ISLAND

Enjoy a short morning hike at Tagus Cove, once an anchorage for pirate boats. At the top of the cliff you can view the volcanic landscapes of Darwin Volcano and Darwin Lake, a saline lake that is saltier than the sea! Setting sail at lunchtime, cross Bolivar Channel to Fernandina Island, one of the world's most unspoiled places, landing at Punta Espinosa, a narrow point of land extending out from the base of the Fernandina Volcano, the most active volcano in the Galápagos. During nesting season (the first half of the year), you may see marine iguana hatchlings here, so tiny they can easily be confused with lava lizards. You should also find flightless cormorants, land iguanas, and Galápagos penguins...BLD

#### DAY 6, THURSDAY SANTIAGO ISLAND / BUCCANEERS COVE / ESPUMILLA BEACH

Cruising to Santiago (James) Island, visit Puerto Egas, a magnificent stretch of coastline where erosion in the lava has formed pools, caves, and inlets that host a great variety of wildlife. Later, take a panga ride around Buccaneers Cove, a safe haven for pirates, sailors, and whalers during the 18th and 19th centuries. Idyllic Espumilla Beach on the island's northern coast is a great place for swimming and snorkeling...BLD

#### DAY 7, FRIDAY SULLIVAN BAY / NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND

In the morning, you will walk the recent lava flows of Sullivan Bay, with their fresh pahoe-hoe formations. Wildlife seen may include Galápagos penguins and herons. After lunch, cruise to North Seymour Island for a hike among prehistoric-looking marine iguanas. North Seymour is a small, uplifted island just north of Baltra with abundant sea lions and blue-footed boobies...BLD.

#### DAY 8, SATURDAY BALTRA ISLAND / DISEMBARK

Arrive in Baltra, bid farewell to your naturalist guide and yacht crew, and disembark. Transfer to the airport for departure on homeward-bound flights...B



# Trip Details

## TRIP COST

### Prices are valid through 2024

#### The Passion

Charter Cost: \$99,000 (2-14 members)

Internal airfare: \$595 (subject to change)

Galapagos park fee and transit card (per person): \$120

10% Holiday surcharge applies during December

*Please note there may be a potential fuel surcharge: \$150 per person*

## TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Galápagos naturalist guide and on-board chef and crew
- Accommodations aboard the yacht
- All meals included aboard yacht plus snacks, water, juices, coffee, and tea
- Sightseeing, tours, and airport transfers as indicated
- Use of kayaks, snorkel gear (masks, snorkels, and fins), and shorty wetsuits (5mm)

## TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, internal flights, accommodations or meals in Quito or Guayaquil, Galápagos park fee and transit control card, meals not specified after each itinerary day, alcoholic beverages (open bar can be added), airport departure taxes, optional gratuities, additional hotel nights (due to airline schedule changes or other factors), pre-trip expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, passports and visas, or other expenses of a personal nature (laundry, etc.). Tipping your Trip Leader and the yacht crew is customary, but at your discretion.

## SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early reservations are recommended since accommodations often sell out far in advance. Please call 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Galápagos Manager or email us at [galapagos@wildernesstravel.com](mailto:galapagos@wildernesstravel.com) with any questions that you may have about this trip. To reserve your Private Journey, we will need to know your preferred dates of travel. We will then check availability and send you a proposed itinerary with exact pricing for your adventure. We can typically hold a provisional booking for one week. At that time, we must collect your

initial deposit or accommodations will be released. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or American Express card. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a letter of confirmation, Detailed Itinerary, Trip Application, Medical Form, and Pre-Departure Information Booklet with information to help you prepare for your adventure. Please see our Cancellations and Transfer Fee Schedule for specific payment information.

## DEPOSIT, TRANSFER, AND CANCELLATION FEES

As indicated in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel catalog, all tours involving yacht charters are subject to deposit requirements and cancellation penalties that differ from “regular” catalog departures.

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation	\$2,500 per person
180 days prior to departure	\$2,500 per person
90 days prior to departure	Balance

## CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$15,000

91-180 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

90 days or less: 100% of trip cost

\*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

## FUEL SURCHARGES

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost fluctuations due to increase in fuel costs that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

## MANDATORY EMERGENCY EVACUATION INSURANCE

**Please note:** Insurance for emergency evacuation is required for this trip. Call for more details.



# Arrival & Departure

## ARRIVAL

Please book your arriving flights into Quito, Ecuador (airport code: UIO). We are happy to book extra hotel nights and extensions as requested. Flight from the US typically arrive in the late evening, so we recommend booking at least one overnight in Quito before you fly to Galapagos, really it's better to have two nights in Quito to ensure an adequate buffer in case of missed connections or airline delays.

## DEPARTURE

Flights going back to the US from Ecuador typically depart in the evening which means you can connect straight from your Galapagos flight to your international departure back home. If you require an overnight in Quito on the return, it's easiest to book day rooms or overnights directly with the Quito Airport Hotel Wyndham. You will get the best rate and the hotel is adjacent to the airport so there is no need to book an extra transfer.

## EXTENSIONS

We recommend extensions to the Highlands of Ecuador or the Ecuadorian Amazon take place before your Galapagos cruise. However if you want to extend to Peru, we suggest that take place after your cruise.

## INTERNAL GALÁPAGOS FLIGHTS

Your internal round-trip flights to/from the Galápagos will be issued and distributed by our local agent in Ecuador (the airfare will appear on your final Wilderness Travel invoice).

## INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

Trip members are responsible for making their own international air arrangements to and from Latin America. The following carriers typically have the most convenient schedules for this tour:

### American Airlines

800-433-7300

[www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com)

### LATAM Airlines

866-435-9526

[www.latamairlines.com](http://www.latamairlines.com)

### United Airlines

800-864-8331

[www.united.com](http://www.united.com)

### Delta Airlines

800-241-4141

[www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)

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](http://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 U.S.

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.





# Our Luxury Yacht: the Passion

## ONE OF THE MOST MAGNIFICENT YACHTS IN THE ISLANDS

Originally an exclusive family yacht, the *Passion* has been adapted for cruising the Galápagos in chic, sophisticated style—it's the perfect combination of luxury and simplicity. Boats this size usually take three times as many passengers, but the *Passion* welcomes just 14 lucky guests. If you want to experience the islands in style, this is the way to go! The *Passion* meets the highest environmental and cruising standards, and her ship amenities are superb.

## LIFE ABOARD THE PASSION

The original name of the *Passion* was Bellissima ("gorgeous" in Italian), and with one step aboard, you'll understand why. Beautifully furnished public areas include a panoramic sky lounge and bar, and nearly 2,000 square feet of wonderful teakwood decks with multiple places to lounge, including a secluded sun deck with an inviting hot tub for relaxation and privacy. Gourmet meals prepared by a creative culinary team are served in the formal dining room or al



"This trip was wonderful. The ship staff were exceptional in their service, professionalism, and interaction with the tour members. The *Passion* was comfortable, larger than expected and exceptionally clean."

-Mary Lou B., Moraga, CA

fresco on the upper deck—one of the delights of traveling by boat. Stabilizers minimize motion at sea so you can enjoy a most comfortable ride. And with a higher than 1:1 passenger-to-crew ratio, you're ensured of personalized, first-class service throughout your cruise.

## ACTIVE EXPLORATION

Your days are filled with fun—and utterly delightful—discoveries. Nature walks led by your expert naturalist guide lead to shorelines where marine iguanas congregate and to colonies of nesting frigatebirds, while snorkeling excursions introduce you to the denizens of the underwater realm—colorful tropical fish, massive sea turtles, playful sea lions, and Galápagos penguins. The fleet of on-board kayaks offers a great way to explore the rugged coastlines and hidden bays (and no previous experience is needed!), while

Zodiacs provide a front-row seat for exploring mangrove estuaries and below rocky cliff faces filled with nesting birds. Wetsuits and snorkeling gear are available for snorkeling excursions.



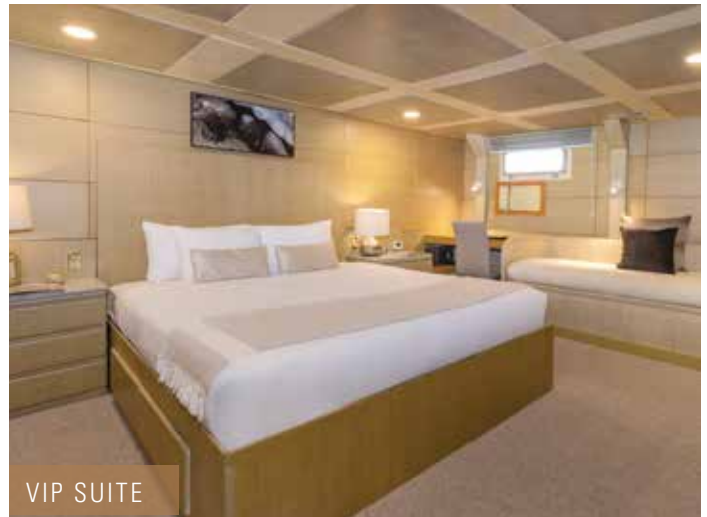
# The *Passion*: Deck Plan

## ELEGANT STATEROOMS—AND TWO SUITES!

The *Passion* is fully air conditioned throughout, and each of the seven cabins also offers individually controlled air conditioning. The cabins include an en suite bathroom with bathtub and hot shower (stateroom 5 has a shower only), hair dryer, and USB charger. Of the five staterooms, one features a king bed (that can be converted to two twin beds), one features a queen bed, one has two twin beds, while two others offer one full and one twin bed each. The two spacious suites have a king-sized bed, private lounge area, and his-and-hers bathrooms.



MASTER SUITE



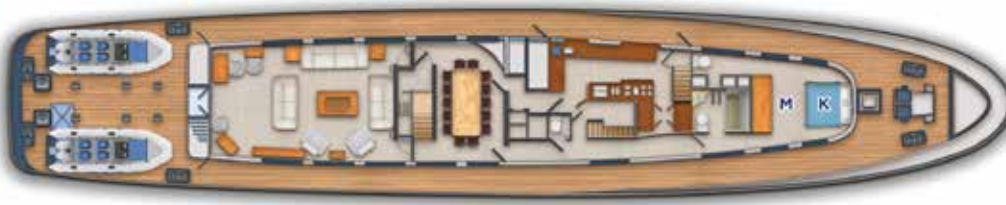
VIP SUITE

SKY DECK



M Master Suite  
V Vip Suite  
1 Stateroom 1  
2 Stateroom 2  
3 Stateroom 3  
4 Stateroom 4  
5 Stateroom 5

MAIN DECK



K King Size bed  
Q Queen Size bed  
F Full Size bed  
T Twin Size bed  
S Sofa bed

CABIN DECK





# The *Passion*: Cabins



SUITE BATHROOM

## MASTER & VIP SUITES

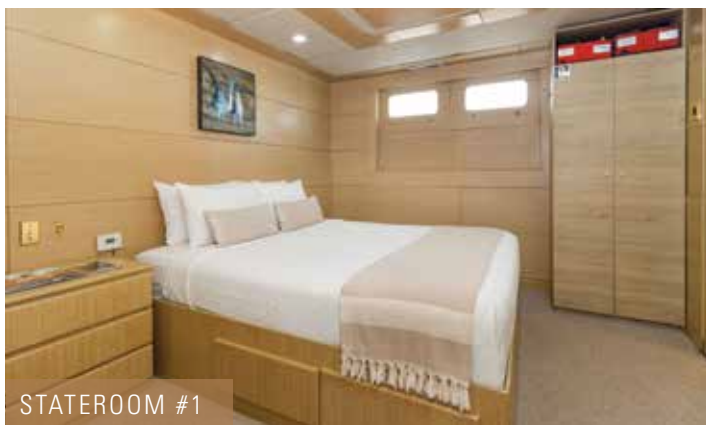
The Master & VIP Suites each have king size beds, private lounge area, AC, hair dryers, High Definition TV system, 110v to 220v outlets, USB charger and private marble bathroom with bathtub per room.

- **Master Suite:** king bed, max 2 guests
- **VIP Suite:** king bed plus daybed, max 2-4 guests (2 adults plus 1-2 children)

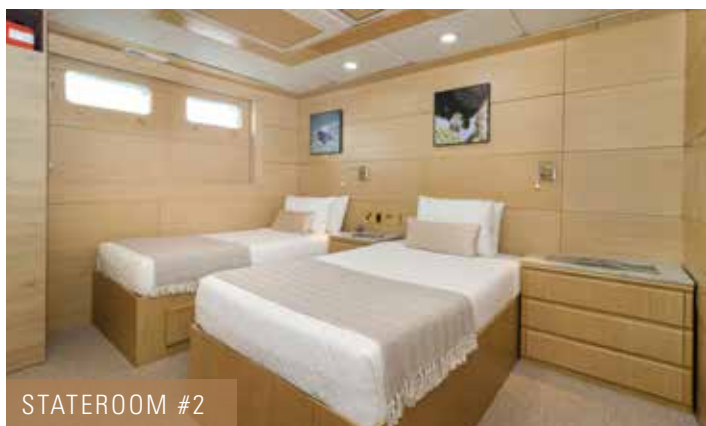
## STATEROOMS

Each of the five ample staterooms has AC, hair dryers, High Definition TV system, 110v to 220v outlets, and USB charger. Staterooms 1-4 have a private marble bathroom (with bathtub). Stateroom 5 has a private bathroom with shower. Beds are either king, queen, twin, or full.

- **Stateroom 1:** queen bed, max 2 guests
- **Stateroom 2:** 2 twin beds, max 2 guests
- **Stateroom 3:** full bed and twin bed, max 3 guests
- **Stateroom 4:** full bed and twin bed, max 3 guests
- **Stateroom 5:** king bed or 2 twin beds, max 2 guests



STATEROOM #1



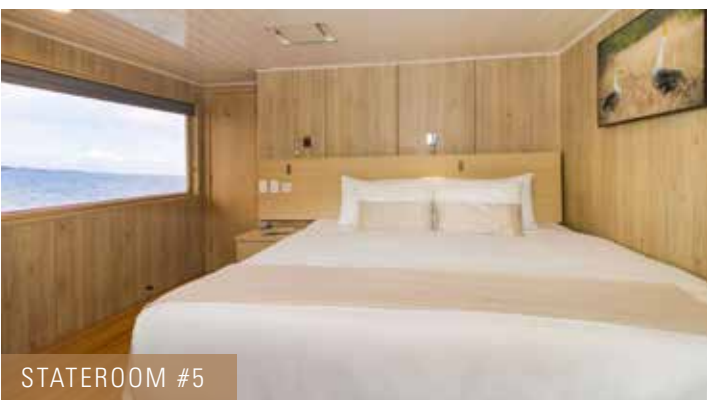
STATEROOM #2



STATEROOM #3



STATEROOM #4



STATEROOM #5

# Extend Your Adventure

To help you make the most of your adventure, we've created several exciting trip extensions. For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our *Galápagos Adventure* webpage and click on the "Extensions" tab: [www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/ecuador/galapagos-islands-active-cruise/extensions](http://www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/ecuador/galapagos-islands-active-cruise/extensions)



## 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. Call for 2024 prices.*



## 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 ambience, 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 the crater lake of Cuicocha. *4 days. Call for 2024 prices.*



## QUITO EXTENSION

Discover the picturesque capital of Quito, perched high in the Andes—warm and laid-back yet bursting with colorful markets and architectural gems that reflect a blend of Spanish, Italian, Moorish, Flemish, and indigenous designs. On this three-day extension, explore the city's Old Town—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Latin America's most well-preserved historic center, where architecture dates back to the 1600s. You'll also taste ancient To'ak chocolate, admire centuries-old indigenous art, and stroll the streets that pulse with vibrant cafes and sophisticated shops.

*3 days. Call for 2024 prices.*



# Cusco & 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 Incan 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," 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.

## DAYS 1-3 LIMA / CUSCO / URUBAMBA VALLEY / PISAC / CHINCHERO / OLLANTAYTAMBO

Arrive in Lima, Peru, and fly to Cusco (11,200'). Drive through the Urubamba Valley to visit the ruins of Pisac, well known for the Inca-built terracing that sweeps around the mountain spur on which the ruin is perched. Also visit Chinchero, an old colonial settlement built upon Inca foundations, and Ollantaytambo, a living Inca village, virtually unchanged from ancient times.

**DAYS 4-5 MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO** Board the morning train with your guide for a short ride through the Urubamba Valley to Machu Picchu. At the Machu Picchu station, head up to the ruins by bus and explore the sanctuary on an afternoon tour, visiting the reconstructed ruins of staircases, altars, temples, and fountains and enjoying the incredible setting. Explore the wonders of Machu Picchu the next

morning, then board your afternoon train to Cusco.

## DAYS 6-8 CUSCO / LIMA / DEPART

Enjoy a private guided walking tour of Cusco, including the spectacular Inca ruins on the hills overlooking Cusco, and an extra day for independent exploration, taking in the delightful blend of Inca and colonial architecture, the abundance of artisan and craft boutiques and wide variety of wonderful restaurants and street cafes, all with a welcoming atmosphere. On Day 8, depart for Lima and connect with onward flights.

## 2024 EXTENSION COSTS

*Call for 2024 prices.*



# What the Trip is Like

## WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

The trip is rated Level 1+. 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:

## HIKES

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.

## SHORE EXCURSIONS

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.

## 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. 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).

## 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 cocktail on deck and a relaxing dinner, a wrap-up talk will be given by the Trip Leader. Filtered water and fruit juices are complimentary on board. Additional beer, liquor, and soft drinks are available for purchase (you can run a tab and settle up at the end of the cruise).





## When To Go? Any Time Of Year!

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.

### DECEMBER TO MAY

The water and the air temperatures are warmer during this season and skies are generally sunny, but this is the also wet season, with short periods of light drizzle almost daily. The warmer and calmer water makes snorkeling ideal at this time of year. It is also the courting and mating season, so you'll be able to see the land birds in their fascinating displays and rituals. Sea turtles nest on the beach in this season, land iguanas are hatching, marine iguanas become brightly colored, and male sea lions spar with each other over females (and you may see newborn pups). This is also the time of colorful flowers on many islands.

### JUNE THROUGH NOVEMBER

As the cold Humboldt Current arrives, the waters become colder and less calm but are richer in nutrients, attracting seabirds and a rich array of fish. It is easy to spot penguins at this time, as they are attracted to the cool waters and plentiful fish. Flightless cormorants perform their nesting rituals, the frigatebirds sport bright red pouches, the waved albatross nests on Española Island, and the blue-footed boobies do their famous "sky pointing" dances. Galápagos hawks court on Española and Santiago, and whales and dolphins are more likely to be observed particularly off the coast of Isabela Island.

CLIMATE IN BALTRA												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Air Temperature	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 Temperature	76°F	77°F	77°F	77°F	76°F	73°F	71°F	70°F	71°F	72°F	73°F	74°F
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



## WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

**Best Travel Specialists in the World:** *Condé Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

**World's Best Tour Operators:** *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

**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 declared in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.



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