

# ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES

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## GALAPAGOS WILDERNESS CRUISE PACKAGE

Join us for this unforgettable wildlife expedition through one of the most diverse and stunningly beautiful marine environments in the world! With a consistently mild climate and different mating and breeding seasons for each animal, there is truly not a bad time of year to discover the Galapagos Islands. It is also the perfect opportunity for a custom departure for a group of family or friends – charter the entire yacht with a group of 20 passengers! With your local naturalist guides, spend eight exciting days cruising these islands, snorkeling with colorful fish and taking short day hikes through one of the world's greatest wildlife and volcanic island environments! Don't miss this extraordinary opportunity!

No trip to the Galapagos Islands would be complete without a visit to the Amazon Rainforest! Therefore we've designed these extension options: your choice of 4 or 5 Days in an Ecuadorian Rainforest **Jungle Lodge**, enjoying dugout canoe tours led by local experts, traditional cuisine and private baths perched high in your jungle cabins. OR, continue cruising, this time along the Napo River on a Rainforest **River Cruise**!

### Trip Dates: Year Round Departures (Every Saturday)

**Package rates include: In-country flight to Galapagos, Park Fees, Transit Card, and 2 nights lodging pre- and post-cruise with all airport transfers.**

**Cruise Package Rates per person: \*Prices represent a \$500 discount\***

### 2010 PACKAGE RATES: 8 DAY / 7 NIGHTS

<u>7 NIGHTS</u>	<u>DOUBLE</u>	<u>TRIPLE</u>	<u>SINGLE</u>
<b>IGUANA DECK</b>	<b>\$ 3699.00</b>	<b>\$3625.00</b>	<b>\$55259.00</b>
<b>BOOBY DECK</b>	<b>\$ 4025.00</b>		
<b>DOLPHIN DECK</b>	<b>\$ 4355.00</b>		

### DAY 1

Flight from USA to Guayaquil or Quito, Ecuador. Shuttle to Hotel. (Meals on your own)

## DAY 2

Breakfast at hotel, shuttle to airport, flight to San Cristobal. Upon arrival to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, SAN CRISTOBAL Island, our crew is waiting at the airport to escort you to your anchored yacht. After the welcome briefing, buffet lunch and safety drill, we set sail for Playa Ochoa where we have a wet landing. Here, we can test our **snorkeling** equipment and at the same time swim with a small colony of sea lions. Behind the beach, there is a tidal lagoon where bird can be spotted including the rare Chatham mockingbird. At sunset, we cruise around Kicker Rock (Leon Dormido), a vertical tuff cone formation that abruptly juts up almost 500 feet out of the ocean. On the cliffs, we spot blue-footed boobies, masked boobies and magnificent frigate birds. This evening, the guides hold a briefing followed by the Captain's welcome cocktail. (BLD)

## DAY 3

We spend the entire day on TOWER (Genovesa), considered to be one of the most spectacular Islands in Galapagos for bird species. This morning, we have a dry landing at Prince Philip's Steps. Red-footed boobies nest here in Palo Santo trees and Nazca (formerly masked) boobies nest near the trail. In an open lava field, we find storm petrels in large numbers. If you are lucky, we will see the elusive short-eared owl. After the walk, **snorkel** or **kayak** along the shoreline. Look for the beautiful red-billed tropic bird usually found in the crevices. After lunch, take a siesta or relax on deck with a book from our library. This afternoon, we have a wet-landing on Darwin Bay, a coral sand beach where swallow-tailed and lava gulls gather near the tide pools. Enter a forest of Optunia cactus and mangroves where colonies of great frigate birds nest. The males inflate their red-throated pouches to attract females as they fly overhead. The trail leads through a rich intertidal zone where we find a wide diversity of wildlife. After the **walk**, we can **swim** and **snorkel** from the beach with sea lions in these northern warmer waters. We set sail early to motor to the western Islands during the briefing followed by dinner.



(BLD)

## DAY 4

This morning, we have a semi-wet landing at Punta Espinoza, FERNANDINA, the youngest and most pristine Island in Galapagos. Recent lava flows formed by an active volcano stretch their way around the coast. Hundreds of marine iguanas, the largest colony in Galapagos, bask in the sun along the rugged shoreline. Observe sea lion harems with resident bulls carefully guarding their territory. Flightless Cormorants build their nest on the point and Galapagos Hawks fly overhead. After lunch, we cross the Bolivar Chanel where we often spot whales and dolphins riding the bow wave. This afternoon, we have a dry landing at Tagus Cove, located on the western Island of ISABELA. Six volcanoes flowed together and formed the largest Island in Galapagos. During the **walk**, we discover a salt-water lagoon, a scenic overlook with a spectacular view of the ocean, lava fields and volcanic formations. Graffiti dating back to the 1800's is written on the rocky cliffs. Explore the Coves by Zodiac or in one of our clear-bottom sea **kayaks** to find Galapagos penguins, boobies, pelicans and other seabirds. An excellent **snorkeling** opportunity is offered here after the walk. After the briefing and dinner, a sky full of stars

beckons to go out on deck and observe the galaxy. (BLD)

#### **DAY 5**

This morning, we have a wet landing at Puerto Egas, SANTIAGO (James). Stroll along the shoreline looking for octopus, starfish and other sea life caught in the tide pools. At low tide, catch a glimpse of marine iguanas as they feed on exposed green algae. Watch for great blue herons, lava herons, American oystercatchers and yellow-crowned night herons. Our **walk** ends at the grottos, deep pools of clear water where we encounter fur sea lions once on the verge of extinction. Before returning to the yacht, there is a **snorkeling** opportunity with loads of tropical fish. As an alternative, you may use the **kayaks** to explore the marine life without getting wet. During lunch, the yacht motors to the other side of the Island which provides for scenic landscapes. Located off the Southern tip or Santiago, SOMBRERO CHINO or Chinese Hat owes its name to its shape. After a wet beach landing with sea lion colonies, we **snorkel** or **walk** the trail that gives way to a primeval landscape of volcanic rubble including cracked lava formations and lava tubes. The lava tubes are fragile and one must be careful to stay on the trail. We find marine iguanas and pairs of oystercatchers. There are good photographic opportunities here as this site conveys a strong feeling that you've come to a very special place in the world. There is a briefing followed by dinner as we anchor in a calm protected area. (BLD)

#### **DAY**

On Bartolome, it seems like we are walking on the moon. This young Island is inhospitable to most plants and animals. After a dry landing, climb 30 minutes up stairs leading to the summit of a once active volcano. Along the way, we pause to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones and cinder cones. From the top of the wooden stairs, we can gaze out across the island for a panoramic view of the island and "Pinnacle Rock", an eroded tuff cone. Down below, crystal clear water is an invitation to **snorkel** from the beach or Zodiac with schools of tropical fish and Galapagos Penguins. On the other side of the Island, encounter sea turtles and white-tipped sharks. This afternoon, we have a dry landing at North Seymour, a small geological uplift. We follow a trail that leads us to swallow-tailed gulls, blue-footed boobies and the endemic land iguanas. Visit the largest colony of magnificent frigate birds found in Galapagos. As we stroll along the beach, we find marine iguanas and sea lions body surf the northern swells. After the walk there is a **snorkeling** opportunity offered in deep water. Passengers who have purchased our **dive** package will have two dives in lieu of visiting North Seymour. (BLD)

#### **DAY 7**

This morning we travel by bus to the highlands of SANTA CRUZ Island. The scenery gradually changes as we wind our way through all seven vegetation zones found in Galapagos. Here, we visit the tortoise reserve at one of the private farms in the highlands where we encounter giant tortoises in their natural habitat. We visit Los Gemelos, Spanish for "The Twins", a pair of large pit craters where we find the bright red male vermilion flycatcher. We stop at "the tunnels", the largest lava tubes found in Galapagos. After lunch on board, we visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. We visit all three tortoise corals and the breeding center with new hatchlings and miniature tortoises not yet ready to be repatriated. Scientists from all over the globe work at the station and conduct biological research from anatomy to zoology. Visitors can see the pen of Lonesome George, the last surviving member of the Pinta Island subspecies. Stroll through the town of Puerto Ayora (population: 20,000) and the largest town in the Galapagos. Buy souvenirs, mail postcards or kick back at an Internet cafe in the social heart of the Islands. Passengers who have purchased our scuba **dive package** will have two dives in lieu of visiting the Darwin Station. Divers can visit the highlands on their return from the dive. Dinner is served on board. (BLD)

#### **DAY 8**

This morning we have a dry landing at Punta Suarez, ESPANOLA, where we witness the highest rate of endemic species in Galapagos. Sea lions noisily greet us as we land on

their beach. Curious Hood mockingbirds peck at our shoelaces. From April to November, the waved albatross, found only on Espanola, perform their wild mating ritual. Colonies of blue-footed boobies engage in "sky-pointing" to show off for potential mates. Nazca (formerly masked) boobies busily care for their young. Stunning swallow-tailed gulls are the only nocturnal gulls in the world. Red-billed tropicbirds take shelter under the cliffs. We also find Darwin's Finches, Galapagos Doves and Galapagos Hawks. Observe a unique specie of marine iguana identified with traces of red and green colorings. Colorful sally light-foot crabs crawl along the shoreline near to the famous "blow hole". This is the scene most people envision when they decide to visit Galapagos. During lunch, we motor to the other side of the Island. On our last afternoon in Galapagos, we have a wet landing on Gardner Bay, ESPANOLA (HOOD). Walk along seemingly endless stretches of this white sandy beach where you'll find large colonies of sea lions. There is no trail to follow so this is a chance to explore and you may find a Galapagos Hawk, Darwin's Finches or Hood Mockingbird. **Swim** with sea lions from the beach or just relax on your last glorious day in Galapagos. There's an excellent **snorkeling** site off Gardner Islet with a colorful diversity of sea life near Tortuga Rock in caves covered with invertebrates. Passengers are also permitted to use the **kayaks** at this particular site. This evening, enjoy the Captain's Farewell cocktail followed by dinner and a disembarkation briefing. (BLD)

**DAY 9**

This morning, we drop anchor in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, SAN CRISTOBAL. We visit the Interpretation Center opened in 1999. Here we gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the Islands. Afterwards, we head straight to the airport for our flight back to the mainland. Afternoon return flight to Guayaquil or Quito, overnight hotel. (BL)

**DAY 10**

Breakfast at Hotel. Return flights to USA. (B)

Note: Depending on your flight origin in the USA, you may need to depart one day earlier than scheduled, making the trip 11 days instead of 10. Some flight routes, primarily from the West Coast, may require an overnight in Miami, FL.

Package Rates	Deposit	In-country Flight	2 Hotel nights, 2 Breakfasts, 4 Airport Shuttles	Galapagos Park Fee & Tourist Card	Trip Dates	Difficulty	Activities
See chart below	Seasonal \$750 Holiday \$1250	Included From GYE	Included in GYE	Included	Year Round	No Experience Needed	Cruise, Wildlife, Snorkel, Swim

\* Rates and schedules are subject to change at any time.

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## A FEW IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR TRIP...Read carefully

**Full package includes:** All meals as indicated on itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner), 7 night/8 day Cruise, non-alcoholic beverages, purified water, Captain's welcome and farewell cocktail, guide services, shore excursions, use of wet suits, snorkeling equipment and sea kayaks, transfers in the Islands between the airport and dock, Galapagos Park fee, Tourist Card, in-country round trip flight from Guayaquil (extra \$52 fee from Quito), expert naturalist guides, two nights lodging in Guayaquil (extra \$35-\$60 fee in Quito), two breakfasts and 4 airport transfers in Guayaquil.

**Not Included in your Trip Fee:** International airfare, airport departure tax (\$28-\$45); alcoholic beverages onboard; any meals not indicated on itinerary; gratuities to guides and crew (\$175 recommended for an 8-day cruise); items of a personal nature.

**Special Note:** Depending on your flight origin in the USA, you may need to depart one day earlier than scheduled, making the trip eleven days instead of ten days. Some flight routes, primarily West Coast, may require an overnight in Miami, Florida.

**Solo Travellers:** For passengers who are traveling solo and wish to share a room with another tour member, we will do our best to provide a roommate. However, if this is not possible, you will be required to pay for a single cabin 90 days prior to your departure from the USA.

**Single Cabins:** The single cabin rate is based on best available cabin at the time of sailing and cabins are assigned by Adventure Associates 1 week prior to departure. On average, single travellers are assigned to Iguana cabins, but it is possible depending on the boat's fill to be placed in a Booby or even Dolphin deck cabin.

**How is the food:** The food is excellent and healthy: Start each day with a casual breakfast buffet including fresh, exotic fruit juices, eggs, toast, café con leche, fresh yogurt and cereals. At lunch, enjoy a buffet of crisp salads, pastas, assorted vegetables, fresh produce, meats, and fish all creatively prepared. Unwind quickly in the evening with creamy soups, ceviches, grilled seafood, roasted potato salad, unique desserts, and other delicacies both Ecuadorian and international.

**About our crew:** A seasoned captain, 8 dedicated crewmembers, and two experienced, English-speaking naturalist guides attend to the details of your Galapagos cruise. Each naturalist takes a group of no more than 10 passengers on all shore excursions and shares extensive insights into the Islands' diverse wildlife. Small zodiac-style boats, locally called pangas, ferry passengers to shore for Island visits.

**Weather Conditions:** The Galapagos is a sub-tropical destination and most all of the seabirds and reptiles nest year round. You can see courtship, mating, chicks hatching and rearing at any time of the year. There are two seasons, both of which have some precipitation. The Galapagos get an average of ten inches of rain per year, so it is never considered "rainy". During the months of December to May, the cooling currents subside, temperatures rise and the climate is warm and sunny with occasional showers. In June, the trend begins towards cooler temperatures with moderate breezes, which continue through November. This period is often referred to as the "garua" (pron. Gah-ru-ah) season, which means "mist" in Spanish.

**Continued...**

### Temperature Chart

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
MAXIMUM AIR TEMP (in °F)											
84	86	88	86	82	78	76	74	76	77	78	80
MINIMUM AIR TEMP											
70	74	74	72	72	68	66	64	62	64	66	68
AVERAGE SEA TEMPERATURE											
74	76	76	76	74	74	72	66	68	70	72	74
AVERAGE RAINFALL (in inches)											
1.0	1.0	2.0	1.5	0.75	0.25	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.5

**Transportation/Flight Arrangements:** Please consult with Adventure Associates as you prepare your flight arrangements for the best time of arrival/departure.

**Trip & Travel Insurance:** We strongly recommend that travel insurance be purchased immediately following your registration. The insurance protects you and your money from late cancellations, accidents or illness in remote areas, emergency evacuation, and loss of baggage,

airline flight changes and other unexpected delays. The particular program we recommend (Access America) will cover "preexisting" conditions if you purchase full coverage within fourteen (14) days following your registration. Information available upon request.

**How to Register:** If you have not downloaded an application form, please contact our office for a complete registration packet. Complete the application form and return it to our office along with the appropriate deposit. Upon receipt of your application, we will send you a confirmation and details about your pre-trip preparation.

**Payment Schedule & Cancellation / Refund Policy**

We accept personal checks, Visa, Master Card and Amex.

**SEASONAL & PEAK CRUISES**

Deposit: \$750 pp Double / \$1,250 Single (\$300 non-refundable)

Second payment due six months out: \$1200

Full payment due: 90 days prior to departure

Single cabin payment due for unmatched solo travelers: 90 Days prior to departure

If you must cancel prior to departure, the following fee will be assessed based upon our receipt of your written cancellation request (applies only to 1-5 guests traveling together\*):

Days Prior to Departure (trip destination)

90 or more ..... \$300

60 to 89 ..... Deposit

45 to 59 ..... 50% fee

1 to 44 ..... 100% fee

\*Groups of 6 or more incur a group cancellation policy. Call for details.

*In addition, there will be a service charge of \$50.00 per person for airline tickets to Galapagos cancelled 29 days or less prior to departure.*

**HOLIDAY CRUISES (Easter, Christmas, New Year's)**

Deposit: \$1,250 / \$2,250 (\$200 non-refundable)

Second payment due six months out: \$1200

Full payment due: 4 months prior to departure

If you must cancel prior to departure, the following fee will be assessed based upon our receipt of your written cancellation request (applies only to 1-5 guests traveling together\*):

Days Prior to Departure (trip destination)

180 or more ..... \$750

90 to 179..... Deposit

89 to 0 ..... 100% fee

\*Groups of 6 or more incur different cancellation policy. Call for details.

*In addition, there will be a service charge of \$50.00 per person for airline tickets to Galapagos cancelled 29 days or less prior to departure.*

No partial refunds are possible for any unused portion of your trip.

Penalties on airline tickets are subject to the individual air carrier's rules and regulations. Departure is defined as the date of the first flight, or the trip departure date as indicated on our Trip Schedule, whichever comes first. Once a trip has been confirmed, medical circumstances will not be considered as exceptions to our cancellation policy. However, if you have purchased a comprehensive Travel Insurance plan that covers cancellation, you may be able to retrieve some of the funds.

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