



**ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES OF WA, INC.**

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**GALAPAGOS ISLANDS WILDERNESS CRUISE PACKAGE FOR WOMEN**

Join us for this unforgettable wildlife expedition through one of the most diverse and stunningly beautiful marine environments in the world! With your local naturalist guide you 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! This privately chartered yacht is limited to twenty women. Don't miss this special opportunity and one of our most popular trips!

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: Oct 25 – 3 Nov, 2014**

**Full In-country Package Rates per person:**

**2014 PACKAGE RATES: 8 DAY / 7 NIGHTS**

<u>7 NIGHTS</u>	<u>DOUBLE</u>	<u>TRIPLE</u>	<u>SINGLE</u>
<b>IGUANA DECK</b>	<b>\$ 4885</b>	<b>\$4775</b>	<b>\$6885</b>
<b>BOOBY DECK</b>	<b>\$ 5345</b>		
<b>DOLPHIN DECK</b>	<b>\$ 5715</b>		

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

**DAY 1**

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

## DAY 2 Sunday: Itinerary Western and Northern Route

Breakfast at hotel, shuttle to airport, flight to San Cristobal. Upon arrival to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, SAN CRISTOBAL, our crew is waiting at the airport to escort you by bus to the dock and then by Zodiac to your yacht anchored in the bay. After the welcome briefing and safety drill, a delicious buffet lunch is served. We travel by bus to the highlands to visit Centro de Crianza Jacinto Gordillo aka La Galapaguera Cerro Colorado where the National Park has established a breeding program for the giant land tortoises that you will encounter in their natural habitat. Learn about their origin, evolution and threats by introduced animals at the information center for visitors. Along the trail, we find the San Cristobal (Chatham) mockingbird and Calandrinia plant, both endemic to this island. Join your fellow yacht mates this evening for your first briefing followed by our Captain's welcome cocktail party and dinner prepared by our well-trained chefs. (BLD)

## DAY 3 Monday

We spend the entire day on TOWER (Genovesa), considered to be one of the most spectacular Islands in Galapagos for bird species. 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 Opuntia 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 inter tidal zone where we find a wide diversity of wildlife. After lunch, we have a dry landing at Prince Philip's Steps. Red-footed boobies nest here in Palo Santo trees and Nazca 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. Chose to have a picnic lunch on deck or dine inside. Look for the beautiful Red-billed Tropic bird found in the crevices along the cliff by kayak or Zodiac. You can choose to swim or snorkel from the beach with sea lions in these northern warmer waters or for those with experience, we offer snorkeling in deeper water. Return to the yacht for briefing and dinner before we cross the equator. (BLD)

## DAY 4 Tuesday

Today we visit Las Bachas, which is the Spanish translation for "barges". There is a long stretch of a soft white sand beach and interior lagoons where we find the Greater Flamingo. There is also a wonderful chance to snorkel here from the beach. At Black Turtle Cove aka Caleta Tortuga Negra we have a zodiac ride through a series of coves and inlets surrounded by mangroves. Here you can view pairs of mating sea turtles (Sept to Feb), white-tipped reef sharks and golden cownosed rays. Located on the northern tip of Santa Cruz is Cerro Dragon aka Dragon Hill. Along the trail, we find Darwin Finches, Galapagos Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers, Audubon Shearwater and the endemic land iguanas, orange-yellow in color with large spines along their backs, were once part of the Darwin Station's breeding program. We find pink flamingos feeding in the salt-water lagoon as well as other lagoon birds; stilts, pintail ducks, sandpipers and more. From the top of the hill, we enjoy a majestic view of the bay island covered in Opuntia cactus, Palo Santo and Cordia Lutea (muyuyu). After the briefing and dinner, we sail toward the western islands and cross the equator line for the second time.. (BLD)



## **DAY 5 WEDNESDAY**

We have a semi-wet landing at Punta Espinoza, FERNANDINA, the youngest and most pristine Island in Galapagos with no introduced mammals. 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. There is a chance to snorkel here with sea turtles. After lunch, we cross the Bolivar Chanel where we often spot whales and dolphins riding the bow wave. We disembark at Urbina Bay, ISABELA, where we find four miles of its coastal seabed, with marine life exposed due to a dramatic uplift in 1954 when the volcano erupted. The marine remnants of coral skeletons, some of them waist-high, are visited after a wet landing on the beach. Urbina is home to the very large and colorful Galapagos land iguanas, occasionally giant tortoises, Darwin Finches. Brown Pelicans and Flightless Cormorants also nest here. Giant Marine Iguanas are seen along the coast. You may encounter penguins while snorkeling here. At Punta Vicente Roca, a Zodiac ride offers an incredible view of the tuff walls, we can enter the wave-sculpted cave and find sea turtle who frequent this area. You may spot the dorsal fin of a Mola Mola, an odd looking giant sun fish. Return to the yacht for briefing and dinner. (BLD)

## **DAY 6 THURSDAY**

We visit Elizabeth Bay, ISABELA by zodiac starting with a visit to a secluded cove, lined with large red mangrove trees. Here, turtles, rays, and shore birds can be seen. We motor to the rocky islets known as "Las Marielas", where a colony of nesting Penguins, Flightless Cormorants and giant Marine Iguanas are found. Isabela was created when six volcanoes flowed together and formed the largest Island in Galapagos. We have a dry landing at Tagus Cove, located on the western Island of ISABELA and a favorite anchorage for pirates and whalers over the centuries. Old graffiti dating back to the 1800's is written on the rocky cliffs. Explore the Coves by Zodiac or kayak to find Galapagos Penguins, Boobies, Pelicans and other seabirds. An uphill hike brings us to a salt-water lagoon, a scenic overlook with a spectacular view of the ocean, lava fields and volcanic formations. An excellent snorkeling site is offered from the zodiac or take out a Kayak and explore the shoreline. After dinner, a sky full of stars beckons to go on deck and observe the galaxy while crossing the equator for the last time. (BLD)

## **DAY 7 FRIDAY**

We stroll along the shoreline at Puerto Egas, SANTIAGO (James) 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. After lunch, take a seat on deck to view the dramatic landscape and dolphins that are often spotted here. We disembark on RABIDA (Jervis), located near James Island. Rabida is considered the geographic center of Galapagos because this island sports the most diversified volcanic rocks. The dark red sand beach originated from the high content of iron in the volcanic stones. While strolling along the trail, you may find marine iguanas, mocking birds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin Finches leading to a salt water lagoon where Greater Flamingos migrate. After the walk, there is not-to-miss snorkeling option with a large colony of sea lions. We return to the yacht for the Captain's Farwell cocktail party and dinner as well as a special slide show presentation by your guides. (BLD)

## **DAY 8 SATURDAY**

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 "Las Primicias" one of the private farms in the highlands where we encounter giant tortoises in their

natural habitat. We stop at “the tunnels”, the largest lava tubes found in Galapagos. Look out for the bright red male vermilion flycatcher. After lunch, we will have our last briefing. Today we visit the Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena aka Charles Darwin Research Station. See 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. We stop at Van Straelen Hall where there are exhibits and a short video presentation. Visitors can see the tortoise and land iguana corrals. Puerto Ayora is the social heart of the islands with the largest population of 24,000 inhabitants. This evening you have the option to return to your yacht for a buffet dinner or remain in town on your own account. Those who return to the yacht will be provided zodiacs to return to town to shop for souvenirs or stop at an internet café. Zodiacs will be provided for your return to the yachts. (BLD)

**DAY 9 SUNDAY**

We visit the Interpretation Center opened on San Cristobal Island in 1999, by bus. Here we gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the Islands. Afterwards, we spend some time in port before heading to the airport for our flight back to the mainland. Departs before noon. (BL)

**DAY 10**

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

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<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>Deposit</b>	<b>In Country Flight</b>	<b>Trip Dates</b>	<b>Group Size</b>	<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>See outline below</b>	<b>\$750</b> (\$300 non-refundable)	<b>Included</b>	<b>Oct 25 – 3 Nov, 2014</b>	<b>20 max.</b>	<b>No Experience Needed</b>	<b>Cruise, Hiking, Wildlife, Snorkeling, Kayaking</b>

**A note about our Women Only cruise:**

Due to the charter status of this 20-person yacht for women, our cruise directors evaluate the number of commitments we have around 4-6 months prior to departure. If we have not filled the boat with women at that time, we may choose to open the tour to all travelers. Please keep in mind that most travelers are women, and while there may be others onboard, our tours support a group of 8-10 women who may opt to travel privately on each day’s excursion with one of our knowledgeable naturalists.

## 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 Quito (less \$58 fee from Quayaguil), expert naturalist guides, two nights lodging in Quito, two breakfasts and 4 airport transfers in Quito.

**Not Included in your Trip Fee:** International airfare, airport departure tax (\$54.56-should be paid with purchase of ticket); alcoholic beverages onboard; any meals not indicated on itinerary; gratuities to guides and crew (\$200 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.

### 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 programs we recommend (Allianz or Tavelex) will cover "preexisting" conditions if you purchase full coverage within fourteen (14) or twenty-one (21) 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:** We accept personal checks, Visa and MasterCard.

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

Second Installment due 6 months prior to departure: \$1200

Full payment due: 90 days prior to departure

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

**Cancellation & Refund Policy**

If you must cancel prior to departure, the following fee will be assessed based upon our receipt of your written cancellation request:

Days Prior to Departure (trip destination)

180 days or more.....\$300

179-150 days .....\$500

149-120 days .....Deposit

119-90 days.....\$1250

89 -1 days.....100% fee

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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