



# THE GALAPÁGOS - INSIDE NATURE'S LABORATORY

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## **7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS**

Guayaquil, Ecuador: Saturday, August 29, 2026 To

Guayaquil, Ecuador: Saturday, September 5, 2026

## **Price Per Person**

Double Occupancy: 13,900.00 USD

Single Occupancy: 25,800.00 USD

See the the tranquil backwaters of the Galapagos archipelago. This expert-led tour offers an in-depth view of the islands, the living natural laboratory that inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.

## **Highlights**

- Go island-hopping cruise around the Galapagos
- Discover the story of Charles Darwin on the islands.
- Savor exceptional Relais Châteaux dining and hospitality onboard, an A&A&K exclusive in the Galapagos Islands



## Meet the locals in Guayaquil

Arrive at José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport, Guayaquil, and meet your local guide in the International Arrivals area for the transfer to Hotel del Parque where you will stay for the night.



## Hotel Del Parque

Hotel Del Parque is a luxury 5-star boutique hotel located within Parque Histórico Guayaquil. Set in a beautifully restored 19th-century estate surrounded by tropical gardens, the property offers elegant rooms, refined dining options, and unique cultural experiences such as chocolate and coffee tastings. Ideal for travelers seeking a peaceful and immersive stay near Guayaquil's top sights.



**Hotel Del Parque Deluxe Room**  
The Deluxe Room at Hotel Del Parque offers a refined blend of comfort, style, and garden views in one of Guayaquil's most elegant boutique hotels. These well-appointed rooms, typically sized around 37-45 m<sup>2</sup>, are furnished with authentic Ecuadorian pieces that harmonize modern comfort and historic character, reflecting the hotel's unique setting within the lush Parque Histórico Guayaquil. Guests can choose between a king-size bed or two full-size beds, making the space ideal for couples, families, or companions traveling together. Each room features thoughtful amenities. Large windows bring in natural light and overlook the courtyard or tropical gardens, creating a tranquil retreat after a day exploring the city or preparing for onward travel.



### The glorious world of the Galapagos

After breakfast, you will transfer to the airport for your flight to San Cristóbal Island in the Galapagos. On arrival, you will be escorted in a Zodiac boat to your home for the next seven nights, a luxurious Relais and Chateaux yacht, where you will be shown to your stateroom and have time to relax over a buffet lunch. This afternoon, it's time to embrace nature at Kicker Rock, a striking geological formation off the western shores of San Cristóbal. As the yacht departs the harbor, you will have time to relax in the comfort of your surroundings. By late afternoon, you will approach León Dormido, or Kicker Rock, a dramatic tuff cone that rises 150 meters (500 feet) from the sea. Shaped by erosion into two towering walls, it creates a striking channel and a spectacular backdrop for photographs, especially at sunset. As you circumnavigate the formation, you will observe blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies and frigatebirds perched on the cliffs. The evening will unfold with a cocktail reception hosted by the Captain and crew, followed by a briefing on the next day's activities. A multi-course dinner, prepared by the yacht's chefs, will complete the first day of your Galapagos journey in refined style.

**Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner**

### Theory

Theory is an exclusive Relais Châteaux expedition yacht in the Galapagos, hosting just 20 guests for an intimate and sustainable luxury experience. With expert Naturalist Guides, main-deck staterooms with panoramic windows, reduced travel time between islands, and refined organic cuisine, this yacht offer an exceptional balance of exploration and comfort.

#### Deluxe Double Stateroom

The Deluxe Double Staterooms on Theory features panoramic ocean-view windows, comfortable twin or king-size beds, private en-suite bathrooms with rainfall showers, climate control, premium linens, and modern amenities such as a TV, espresso machine, and ample storage, all designed for comfort and style during your Galapagos expedition.



### In search of the red-footed booby

Genovesa Island is your destination after breakfast. Take your binoculars in the hope of spotting red-footed boobies and endemic owls. Follow El Barranco, also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, a steep staircase carved into the rock leading to a plateau popular with birdlife. Storm petrels and mockingbirds frequent this spot, and, if you're lucky, you might glimpse a short-eared owl. A longer cruise along the shore is an alternative if you don't wish to disembark. After lunch on board, you will pick up a trail in Darwin Bay on Genovesa that leads from a coral beach through mangroves for more birdwatching, passing past tidal pools where sea lions play, to reach a spectacular viewpoint. After returning to the yacht to relax and hear the daily briefing about tomorrow's activities, all that's left to do is enjoy another superb fine-dining experience.

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### A nursery for sea turtles

Bachas Beach or Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz are the possible destinations after breakfast. Some wonderful sights await at Bachas Beach, including flocks of flamingos, red and black mangroves, and, of course, plenty of birdlife. This is also the main nesting site of sea turtles in the archipelago, where females lay an average of 70 eggs each. Black Turtle Cove is one of the archipelago's most entrancing marine sites. Sail around the complex maze of saltwater inlets, lined with three different species of mangrove, which acts a nursery for sea turtles, rays, and sharks, as well as a nesting site for sea birds. After lunch on board, Dragon Hill is the chosen spot for an afternoon walk around a brackish lagoon, with beautiful views of the bay and the western islands of the archipelago. You might be accompanied by some iguanas, too. In the evening, back on board, the daily briefing will be followed by another gourmet dinner.

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**Under the volcano**

Keep watch for sea lion colonies and other diverse species off Fernandina Island's Punta Espinoza. Here, the resident bulls carefully guard their harems and keep lookout for sharks that threaten the colony's pups. Glimpse some of the hundreds of marine iguanas that share this rocky domain, the largest colony in the Galápagos, as they warm themselves along the rugged shoreline. Then, sail through the Bolivar Channel to watch for whales and dolphins. Disembark at Isabela Island's Urbina Bay, home to four miles of dry seabed exposed by a volcanic eruption. After a wet landing on the beach, explore the remnants of coral skeletons, some of them waist-high. Keep watch for the Galápagos land iguana, marine iguana, giant tortoise, and other distinctive species that call this island home.

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## In the shadow of the Galapagos hawk

Embark on a fun-filled morning, as we unveil another geological wonder at Punta Espinoza on Fernandina Island, the youngest and most pristine island in the Galapagos, formed by active volcanoes that stretch along the coast. Immerse yourself in an ecosystem untouched by introduced animals, witnessing sea lion harems lounging on the beach. Resident bull sea lions diligently guard their territory, keeping a watchful eye for sharks that may threaten the colony's pups. Along the rugged shoreline, hundreds of marine iguana, forming the largest colony in Galapagos, bask in the sun and blend into the dark lava rocks. Explore the point to discover the nests of flightless cormorants, now close to shore since losing their ability to fly. Dive into the pristine waters for an invigorating snorkeling excursion, accompanied by the graceful presence of sea turtles. Time for a little relaxation over lunch before reaching Tagus Cove, where graffiti carved on the cliffs by pirates and whalers in the 19th century is still visible. A short, steep hike will take you to Darwin Lake, a place to view land birds such as tree finches, yellow warblers, and large-billed flycatchers. Kayak in the shadow of the cliffs for a good look at geological features before returning to the yacht for free time, the daily briefing, and another splendid dinner.

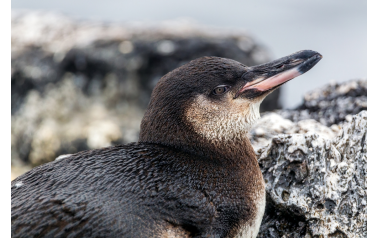
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# 07

**FRIDAY**  
SEPTEMBER  
4, 2026

## Home of the yellow-crowned night heron

After breakfast you will depart for the northwest side of Santiago Island, stepping ashore on a black-sand beach that was visited by Charles Darwin in 1835. Follow the trail across the dry interior, where the remains of a salt-mining enterprise can still be seen, before continuing over terrain strewn with volcanic ash and basalt. The distinctive yellow-crowned night heron is one of the birds that frequents this island for its sea urchins, octopus, and starfish. You'll spot iguanas grazing on the algae beds and colonies of endemic fur seals bathing in the pools formed by the volcanic rocks. After lunch, Rábida Island beckons, its dark-red sand an incredible vision. This is considered the epicentre of the archipelago due to the island's diverse geology. Nesting brown pelicans and nine species of the famous Darwin's finches favor this spot. Snorkel amid the marine life or take a boat ride along the cliffs for a good look at nesting seabirds. Return to the yacht for the familiar round of relaxation, briefing, and a gourmet dinner.

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# 08

**SATURDAY**  
SEPTEMBER  
5, 2026

## In the footsteps of Darwin

After breakfast you will disembark the yacht for your final experience in these enchanted islands, a trip to the Charles Darwin Research Station. It's a chance to gain an insight into the work of scientists and conservationists, as well as the staff of the National Park, to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will also visit the Fausto Llerena tortoise breeding center to find out about their care and reintroduction to their natural environment. You will then be transferred to the airport and enjoy access to the VIP lounge prior to your flight to Guayaquil, where you will embark on your cruise and begin the next chapter of your journey.

**Meals: Breakfast**



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## **Please note:**

This cruise is akin to a private yacht experience, and the cruise itinerary is an example of the program available on board, which are unique to each voyage and subject to change due to park regulations, weather conditions, and other considerations.

This experience is unsuitable for guests with mobility issues and wheelchair users. Good physical health is required. Walks and hikes vary in distance, elevation, and terrain, while snorkeling requires the ability to enter the water from land or a Zodiac boat.

Smoking, including e-cigarettes, is regulated throughout Ecuador and strictly limited in the Galapagos Islands. Please abide by the strict rules and regulations of the Galapagos National Park at all times.

The order of sights visited may vary at short notice due to National Park instructions, and weather, sea or other conditions outside of our control. Wildlife sightings described are not guaranteed and may vary during your visit. Please note that the luggage allowance for the flights to the Galapagos is 23 kg (50 lbs) per person for checked baggage, plus 7 kg (15 lbs) per person for carry-on baggage.

## **Included:**

- All flight and land transfers, accommodation, meals, entrance fees, and activities as stated.
- The services of licensed English-speaking guides on the mainland, and expert English-speaking naturalists on the islands.
- Gourmet snacks, afternoon tea, upgraded open-bar policy on board the yacht.
- Two pints of local beer or two glasses of local wine and two soft drinks, tea or coffee during dinners on the mainland.
- High-speed satellite Wi-Fi on board the yacht.
- Briefings and enrichment lectures.
- Use of Zodiacs, a glass-bottom boat, kayaks, paddle boards, wetsuits and snorkeling gear.
- All gratuities
- Free Laundry (maximum 8 items per person)
- One Wildlife Guide per stateroom

## **Excluded:**

- Any travel, meals, drinks, and activities not specified in the tour description, including premium brands excluded from the open-bar policy on the yacht.
- Travel insurance.
- Any personal expenditure, for example souvenirs, phone calls etc.
- Visa and camera fees.
- Any other services not mentioned above.

