



THE GALAPÁGOS - INSIDE NATURE'S LABORATORY

9 NIGHTS / 10 DAYS

Guayaquil, Ecuador: Saturday, September 5, 2026 To
Quito, Ecuador: Monday, September 14, 2026

Price Per Person

Double Occupancy: 13,900.00 USD

Single Occupancy: 25,800.00 USD

Travel from Guayaquil's lively streets to the tranquil Galapagos archipelago. This expert-led tour offers a snapshot of urban Ecuador and an in-depth view of the islands, the living natural laboratory that inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. A dinner in Quito with Andean music and dance concludes this unforgettable experience.*

Highlights

- Take an insider's tour of Guayaquil
- Go island-hopping cruise around the Galapagos
- Watch a performance of Andean music and dance in Quito



Meet the locals - including iguanas - in Guayaquil

Disembark the ship in Guayaquil and join your guide for an insider's tour. Discover how the intertwining of a strong traditional culture and contemporary life creates the distinct atmosphere of Ecuador's second city. Enjoy a scenic drive along the main avenue, with its eye-catching Spanish-colonial and modern architecture, mingle with the locals on the bustling Malecon 2000 by the Rio Guayas, and visit a city park where hundreds of iguanas run free. You will also wander around the colorful, historic neighborhood of Las Peñas, home to galleries, museums, and some of the best restaurants in the city, and learn about delectable Ecuadorian chocolate at the Cacao Museum. After checking in to Hotel del Parque, there will be time to refresh before dinner at nearby Casa Julian.

Meals: Dinner**Hotel Rio Guayas**

Hotel Rio Guayas by Art Hotels Ecuador is a stylish boutique hotel in the historic Las Peñas district of Guayaquil. It offers well-appointed rooms, free Wi-Fi, river-view dining, and a rooftop bar with scenic views. Conveniently located near major attractions such as Malecón 2000, the hotel combines comfort, cultural charm, and modern amenities for a memorable stay.

Hotel Rio Guayas Luxury Room

The Luxury Room at Hotel Rio Guayas is a spacious and elegantly appointed retreat designed for comfort and relaxation in the heart of Guayaquil's historic Las Peñas district. Spread across approximately 43 m², this room features your choice of a Super King or Twin beds with plush pillow-top Simmons mattresses dressed in crisp white linens and a 100 % cotton duvet to ensure restful sleep. The highlight of the Luxury Room is its private balcony overlooking the serene Guayas River, offering breathtaking views that change with the light of the day. Guests can unwind in a two-person Jacuzzi or soak tub while taking in the river scenery. The modern bathroom includes a walk-in rain-fall shower, and luxurious amenities such as Ecuadorian organic AromaVida bath products, bathrobes, and slippers elevate the experience.



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 to the port and then transferred in a Zodiac boat to your home for the next seven nights, a luxurious Relais & Chateaux yacht, where you will be shown to your stateroom and have time to relax and enjoy a buffet lunch. 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.



03

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER
7, 2026

In search of the blue-footed booby

The beach where Charles Darwin took his first steps in the Galapagos in 1835 is your destination after breakfast. Pack your binoculars for the chance to spot blue-footed boobies, herons, and frigatebirds, as well as sea lions and lava lizards. After lunch back on board, you will follow the rocky trail up from a green-sand beach to Punta Pitt, a pair of eroded tuff cones, for spectacular views of the shoreline and the surrounding nature. Snorkeling and swimming are also possible during the day. 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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Sun-bathing sea lions

Today you will explore Española Island, a place so remote that it has many endemic plants. See sea lions and marine iguanas basking in the sun and look out for Nazca boobies on the wing, as well as the swallow-tailed gulls and red-billed tropicbirds that live in cracks in the cliffs. Higher up, dwell the world's largest colony of waved albatross. The landscape is equally entrancing and surprising – look out for the blowhole that shoots water 75 feet into the air. After lunch on the yacht, you will head to the shoreline at Gardner Bay to look for sea turtles, as well as more birdlife, including Hood mockingbirds and American oystercatchers. Don your snorkel and peer beneath the waves, too, for King angelfish, manta rays, and whitetip reef sharks. In the evening, back on board, the daily briefing will be followed by another gourmet dinner.

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The green sands of Floreana

Floreana Island is the yacht's next destination. After a good breakfast, you will set off along Green Beach, so named because of the unusual color of its sand, which is scattered with olivine crystals. This morning's hike will take you from black mangrove beds to a brackish lagoon where one of the islands' largest flocks of flamingo live, as well as stilts, sandpipers, and pintail ducks. Spot endemic plants along the way, including Galapagos daisies and Palo Santo, meaning the holy stick. There's time to snorkel, too, at Devil's Crown or Champion Islet, fantastic places to see a kaleidoscope of fish in clear blue water - you might even catch sight of dolphins. Lunch is served on board and there is free time to relax before you explore Post Office Bay, where a historic barrel has served as a post office for more than two centuries. It's a chance to hear the islands' human story, including tales of the pirates and whalers who have called by. Ride a panga (fishing boat) along the maze of channels on the north shore of Floreana to see sea lions, marine turtles, and even penguins. A walk up to the observation tower at Baroness Cove provides the perfect punctuation for the afternoon's activities. Back on board there will be time to relax before the daily briefing and another delicious dinner.

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Take positive action, plant a tree

The next stop is Santa Cruz Island, where you will head for the highlands northwest of Puerto Ayora. Our trek begins at Bellavista, passing through farmland into wilderness. If the weather allows, you will enjoy views of hills and extinct volcanic cones, and spot giant tortoises in their natural habitat, snacking on grass and wallowing in small pools. Look out for vermilion flycatchers, too, and in the highlands' lava tunnels it might be possible to spy a barn owl. You will also see Los Gemelos, a pair of gigantic volcanic craters that reveal the island's deep geological history. Take the opportunity to leave a positive legacy by participating in a reforestation project and planting a tree courtesy of our sister brand, the premier travel company Ecoventura. Discover, too, the vital role native plants play in nurturing local ecosystems. After lunch on board, we will visit the Charles Darwin Research Station 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. Return to the yacht for free time, the daily briefing, and another splendid dinner.

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A nursery for sea turtles and sharks

Bartolomé Island is today's stop. After breakfast, you'll set out across this moonscape scattered with volcanic formations in the shape of lava tubes and cinder cones. A short steep hike will reward you with the sight of pioneer plants, lava cacti, and iguanas, as well as a spectacular view of the golden sands and turquoise waters below. Return through dunes and mangroves to the north shore to see penguins and to snorkel amid bold and bright schools of fish. As the afternoon wanes, you will visit Playa Las Bachas on the northern coast of Santa Cruz, a long white-sand beach bordered by lagoons where flamingos feed in the shallows. After exploring the area, you will have the chance to snorkel in calm waters alive with reef fish and marine life. Back on board, you will gather on the sundeck for gourmet snacks and an Ecuadorian cocktail during the evening briefing. Dinner will be followed by an optional pirate-themed party hosted by the crew, offering a lighthearted close to the day.

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Into the cacti forest

Prepare yourself for another active day with a good breakfast. On reaching South Plaza Island you will take a walk in a cacti forest, surrounded by colorful yellow and red land and marine iguanas – this is also the home of the islands' only hybrid of the species. Be vigilant for the sight of tropicbirds and sea lions, too. In the dry season, this landscape turns red as the succulent *sesuvium edmonstonei*, also known as the Galapagos Carpet Weed, reveals vivid new blooms. After lunch on board, you will have a chance to snorkel before landing on North Seymour, site of the islands' largest colony of magnificent frigatebirds. Sea lions, marine iguanas, and blue-footed boobies might also be seen. A relaxing evening culminates in a final gourmet dinner on board.

Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

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09

SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER
13, 2026

The rhythms of the Andes

After breakfast it's time to check out of your stateroom and head for the airport. Before your flight, there's a last chance to learn even more about the conservation of this precious archipelago at the Interpretation Center on San Cristóbal, with exhibits touching on the human and natural history of the destination and how tourism is controlled. Your flight will then depart for Quito, where you will transfer to La Palma Polo Hotel. Time to relax now before a special farewell dinner, at which you will watch a captivating performance of Andean music and dance, a powerful expression of Ecuador's rich cultural heritage.

Meals: Breakfast Dinner



La Palma Polo Hotel

La Palma Polo Hotel is a stylish countryside hotel in Puenbo near Quito, set among polo fields and lakes with luxurious rooms and suites featuring private terraces and scenic views. The hotel offers a restaurant, pool and bar areas, outdoor activities, and comfortable amenities , perfect for a peaceful stay close to the airport.

Deluxe Double Room

The Deluxe Double Room at La Palma Polo Hotel offers a spacious and refined retreat with direct views of the hotel's lush gardens and polo fields. The room includes a private patio or garden area, creating a tranquil indoor-outdoor atmosphere surrounded by green scenery. Designed for both comfort and convenience, the room features modern amenities such as free high-speed Wi-Fi, a flat-screen TV with premium channels, a coffee/tea maker, electric kettle, and complimentary bottled water. The private bathroom offers a rainfall showerhead and designer toiletries, while thoughtful touches like heated floors, daily housekeeping, and a separate dining area enhance the stay.



10

MONDAY
SEPTEMBER
14, 2026

Depart Quito

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your onward international flight.

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 other activities as stated.
- The services of licensed English-speaking guides on the mainland, and expert English-speaking naturalists on the islands and yacht.
- Gourmet snacks, afternoon tea, 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.

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, laundry, phone calls etc.
- Gratuities for drivers and guides.
- Visa and camera fees.
- Any other services not mentioned above.

