

GÁLAPAGOS ISLANDS

NATURALIST CRUISES OF THE ENCHANTED ISLES



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GÁLAPAGOS ISLANDS

THE ENCHANTED ISLES

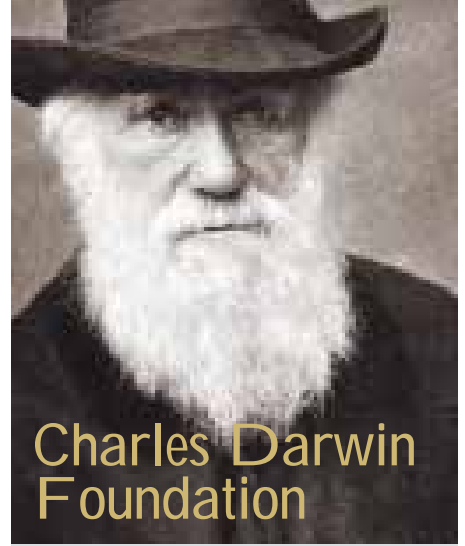
THERE IS NOTHING QUITE LIKE SAILING THROUGH THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS, WITH THE ODD CREATURES THAT POPULATE THIS ISOLATED WORLD FILLING EVERY NICHE AROUND YOU. AND, WHEN IT COMES TO ARRANGING THE BEST GALÁPAGOS ADVENTURE WITH A FOCUS ON NATURE, THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR OUR DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.

THE LURE OF THE GALÁPAGOS

The Galápagos is a rare destination where you become accustomed to being surprised. Few things compare to the joy of observing animals in the wild, or the sense of wonder and privilege felt while spending time with animals that won't run or fly away when humans approach and are truly unique treasures of our earth.

Composed almost exclusively of volcanic rock, the Galápagos Islands thrust their bleak profiles from the Pacific Ocean 1,000kms west of mainland Ecuador. It was here that Darwin found the perfect conditions to formulate his evolutionary theory; 'On the Origin of the Species'. That, far from the ravages of the continents, life evolved into a strange sub-world of specialised creatures that adapted to their harsh environment in an amazing variety of ways.

Setting foot on barren coasts of fresh black lava frozen in its descent to the shoreline, you'll see why early explorers, whalers and pirates likened the islands to an inferno on earth. But you'll quickly come to appreciate each island as a little 'world unto itself' with its own distinctive character, terrain, climate and wildlife. You'll come to see it as a comfortable place for its odd inhabitants to lay eggs, raise young and feed on the abundant marine life swept here by cool Humboldt Currents. From the world's only seagoing lizards to flightless cormorants and penguins, inflatable frigate birds, clownish boobies, patriarchal tortoises and 13 species of Darwin finches, you'll enjoy thrilling encounters with animals, up-close and in large numbers. You're sure to come away inspired to protect them and their environment, one of the last great wild places on the planet.



Charles Darwin Foundation

MISSION AND VISION

"Conservation and sustainable development can only be successful if they are based on sound economic and social understanding."

PETER KRAMER, PRESIDENT OF THE CDF

The Charles Darwin Foundation's mission is to provide knowledge and assistance through scientific research and complementary action to ensure the conservation of the environment and biodiversity in the Galapagos Archipelago.

Within this context, the vision of the Charles Darwin Foundation for 2016 is to be the world's leading research institution dedicated to the conservation of the biological diversity and natural resources of Galapagos, and committed to building a sustainable and collaborative society to achieve this objective





ADVENTURE CRUISES

WITH A FOCUS ON NATURE

The best way to experience the Galápagos is by cruising between the enchanted islands. Unlike traditional cruises in other parts of the world, our Galápagos cruises lack crowds, assigned seats, lavish entertainment and sailing for long periods at sea. Instead, we offer cruises for active individuals interested in the nature and animals of the islands, for those seeking wild places and soft adventure, with time to relax on the beach or swim and snorkel or dive. Most cruises are 7 nights/8 days, however we also offer 4 & 5 day cruises, please ask us for full details, availability and cruise rates.

SAMPLE CRUISE ITINERARY

DAY 1
SAN CRISTOBAL - PLAYA OCHOA
Upon arrival at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **San Cristobal Island**, transfer to your yacht. After a welcome briefing, sail for **Playa Ochoa** where you have a chance to test your snorkelling equipment. At sunset cruise around **Kicker Rock**, a vertical tuff cone formation that abruptly juts up almost 153 mt out of the ocean. **B L D**

DAY 2
TOWER ISLAND - DARWIN BAY
Spend the day on **Tower**, one of the most spectacular islands in the Galápagos. Land on **Darwin Bay**, where swallow-tailed and lava gulls gather. Enter a forest of *Optuntia* cactus and mangroves where colonies of great frigate birds nest. **B L D**

DAY 3
BACHAS BEACH - NORTH SEYMOUR
This morning visit **Las Bachas**, where you find the Greater Flamingo. This afternoon disembark on **North Seymour**, a small geological uplift. After a dry landing follow a trail that leads to swallow-

tailed gulls, blue-footed boobies and the endemic land iguanas. **B L D**

DAY 4
ISABELA - FERNANDINA
Today visit **Tagus Cove**, on **Isabela**. Six volcanoes form the largest Island in Galápagos, and recent lava flows, formed by a volcano, stretch their way around the coast. Graffiti dating back to the 1800's is written on the rocky cliffs. **B L D**

DAY 5
PUERTO EGAS, SANTIAGO - BARTOLOMÉ
Stroll along the shore at **Puerto Egas**, looking for octopus, starfish and other sea life. On **Bartolomé**, it seems like walking on the moon and it is inhospitable to most plants and animals. After landing, climb to the summit of a once active volcano. Along the way, pause to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones and cinder cones. **B L D**

DAY 6
DARWIN STATION - SANTA CRUZ
Friday is feeding day at the **Charles Darwin Research Station**. Scientists

from all over the globe work here and conduct scientific research. The scenery changes as you walk through all seven vegetation zones found in Galápagos. Stop at 'the tunnels' lava tubes, then continue to the town of Puerto Ayora. **B L D**

DAY 7
GARDNER BAY - PUNTA SUAREZ, ESPAÑOLA (HOOD)
Arrive at **Gardner Bay, Española**, where you may find Galápagos Hawks, Darwin's Finches or Hood Mockingbirds. This afternoon reach **Punta Suarez**, Española with the highest rate of endemic species in Galápagos, marine iguanas and Sally Lightfoot crabs. **B L D**

DAY 8
SAN CRISTOBAL
Anchor in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **San Cristobal** and visit the Interpretation Center. Here we gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the Islands. Afterwards, transfer to the airport for our flight back to the mainland. **B**



■ CRUISE

THIS IS A SAMPLE ONLY, AS EACH VESSEL OPERATES A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ITINERARY. PLEASE ASK US AT TIME OF BOOKING FOR THE APPLICABLE ITINERARY FOR YOUR CHOSEN CRUISE/DATE.

M.V. GALÁPAGOS EXPLORER II

SAN CRISTOBAL TO SAN CRISTOBAL - DEPARTING WEDNESDAY

Built in 1990, with an overall length of 89.35 m and reaching 17 knots, the Galápagos Explorer II is one of the most elegant of the vessels cruising the Galápagos waters. Designed to provide both comfort and scientific information to 100 passengers visiting the Galápagos National Park, this vessel travels to the remotest islands of the Archipelago.



M.V. GALÁPAGOS LEGEND

BALTRA TO BALTRA - DEPARTING MONDAY

The ship was totally converted in December 2001 all interiors are new, 1800 square metres of social areas will ensure you have all the amenities of a luxury cruiser and the privacy of a small ship. Enjoy the added comfort of extra space in the luxurious cabins, all with ocean views, private facilities, safe deposit boxes and many other amenities.



M.S. ALTA

SAN CRISTOBAL TO SAN CRISTOBAL - DEPARTING SATURDAY

Alta is a Three Masted Staysail Schooner, a very stylish yacht that has that special charm of a sailing ship. She is 46 m long and capable of 10 knots under power and 14 knots under sail. Alta is fitted with 8 tastefully decorated cabins that accommodate up to 16 passengers. Each cabin has its own private facilities.



M.Y. GRACE

SAN CRISTOBAL TO SAN CRISTOBAL - DEPARTING SATURDAY

MY Grace, named after Princess Grace of Monaco who once owned the vessel, accommodates 18 guests in 9 staterooms, featuring private bathrooms, individual climate controls, safe boxes, telephones and plenty of storage space. Five cabins have twin beds and the other 4 cabins have double beds. Bathrooms have all the essential amenities, bathrobes, hair dryers and ample space.



M.Y. CORAL

BALTRA TO BALTRA - DEPARTING SUNDAY

The Coral accommodates 20 passengers and it is custom designed to fulfill the expectations of the most demanding guest. All cabins have private bath with shower, sink and toilet, generous hot and cold fresh water supplies. The dining room and lounge demonstrate a refined taste and the yacht has three sun decks. Equipped with all the standards you would expect from a high-class yacht.



M.Y.S. ERIC, LETTY AND FLAMINGO

SAN CRISTOBAL TO SAN CRISTOBAL - DEPARTING SUNDAY

These three vessels are our signature yachts with identical characteristics, each accommodating 20 passengers. Two experienced English-speaking naturalist guides take groups of no more than 10 passengers on all shore excursions and share extensive insights into the Islands' diverse wildlife.



M.V. ECLIPSE

BALTRA TO BALTRA - DEPARTING SATURDAY

The MV Eclipse offers a new level in comfort and elegance and accommodates up to 48 passengers. This is half the normal number of passengers for ships of her size. The staterooms on this ship are large and spacious. Each stateroom sports an ocean view, is fully air-conditioned and offer either double and/or twin bed arrangement, well appointed bathrooms complete with hairdryer etc.



M.S. LAMMER LAW

SAN CRISTOBAL TO SAN CRISTOBAL - DEPARTING SATURDAY

This vessel is fully equipped for diving. Attractive and functional, she is perfect for the dedicated diver as well as the naturalist passenger. An ample and stable 28.5 m. Motor Sailer Trimaran with a cruising speed of 10 knots, she has 8 very roomy cabins for 16 passengers. Each cabin has private facilities with fresh, hot and coldwater showers.



M.Y. SKY DANCER

SAN CRISTOBAL TO SAN CRISTOBAL - DEPARTING SUNDAY

Sky Dancer is the best-equipped scuba diving vessel in the Galápagos. She has 9 crewmembers, including the captain, dive instructors, divemaster or naturalist on hand to ensure that your Galápagos voyage transcends into a treasured adventure. There are 8 cabins featuring 2 twin beds, private facilities, window or port-light view.



Nature and wildlife of the Galápagos



Darwin's Finches

Land Iguanas

Marine Iguanas

flightless cormorants

Penguins

fur seals

flamingos

Giant tortoises

albatrosses

sea turtles

Blue-footed Boobies

acrobatic frigates

Dolphins

whales

Spotted Eagle Ray

Galapagos Hawk

Sally Light-foot Crab

Mockingbirds

Storm Petrels

Pelicans

Great Blue Herons

Great Egrets

Lava Lizards

White-tipped Reef Shark

King Angelfish

Lava Cactus

Yellow Cordia

Croton



CALENDAR

OF ANNUAL EVENTS

JANUARY

Warm marine currents arrive. Land birds start nesting. On Española the adult male marine iguanas become brightly coloured. The green sea turtle arrives to the beaches to lay their eggs. Land iguanas begin reproductive cycles on Isabela. Water and air temperatures rise and stay warm until June. Ideal time for snorkelling.

APRIL

Massive arrival of waved albatross to Española. Their courtship starts. Hatching season ends for giant tortoises. Green sea turtles' eggs begin to hatch. Land iguanas hatch on Isabela.

JULY

Sea birds are active, especially blue-footed boobies on Española. Flightless cormorants court and nest on Fernandina. It's possible to find oystercatchers nesting on Puerto Egas, Santiago. Lava lizards initiate mating rituals until November. Whales are more likely to be observed, especially off the western coast of Isabela.

OCTOBER

Lava herons nest until March. The Galápagos fur seal begin their mating period. Boobies raise their chicks on Española. Giant tortoises still lay their eggs.

FEBRUARY

On Floreana flamingos start nesting. White-cheeked pintails start their breeding season. Masked boobies on Española are at the end of their nesting season. Marine iguanas nest on Santa Cruz. Highest water temperature reaches 14c and remains until April. Galápagos dove's nesting season reaches its peak.

MAY

North Seymour's blue-footed boobies begin their courtship. Sea turtles are still hatching on Gardner Bay, Punta Cormorant and Puerto Egas. Most of the marine iguanas' eggs hatch on Santa Cruz. Palo Santo trees begin to shed their foliage. Albatross on Española start laying their eggs.

AUGUST

Galápagos hawks court on Española and Santiago. Masked boobies and swallow tailed gulls nest on Genovesa. Temperature of the ocean descends to 18c. Migrant shore birds start to arrive, and stay on the islands until March. Giant tortoises return to the highlands of Santa Cruz.

NOVEMBER

Sea lion pups are born. Sea lions are sexually active on the Eastern part of the Archipelago. Breeding season of brown noddies. Band rumped storm petrels begin their second nesting period.

MARCH

Water temperature reaches its max. Sporadic tropical rains and intense sun. Air temperature can reach up to 30c. Marine iguanas nest in Fernandina. March 21, the summer equinox signals begin. The waved albatross arrive to Española.

JUNE

Beginning of the dry season. Giant tortoises migrate from highlands to lowlands for suitable nesting places. Beginning of the nesting season of giant tortoises.

SEPTEMBER

Peak of the dry season. The air temperature reaches its lowest. 19c. Penguins demonstrate remarkable activity on Bartolomé until December. Sea lions are very active, especially in the western and central areas of the Archipelago. Most species of marine birds remain active at their nesting sites.

DECEMBER

Hatching of the giant tortoise's eggs begins and lasts until April. Green sea turtles display their mating behavior. The warm season begins and all of the plants of the dry zone produce leaves. Galápagos "turns green". The first young albatross fledge.



ENHANCE YOUR CRUISE

In addition to our Galápagos cruises, Adventure Associates prides itself on providing a range of diverse itineraries around South America that are informative, culturally aware and make the ideal companion to your Galápagos cruise. These individual tours offer a variety of destinations and listed below is a sampling of those available. They allow for the unexpected and spontaneous experiences that inspire a truly memorable journey. Ask our South American consultants for further information, costs and availability and visit our website for a complete showcase of all tours.

Argentina

Stunning natural wonders, boasting an elegant capital with a European flavor.

Best of Argentina

11 days - Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls, El Calafate, Upsala Glacier, Perito Moreno Glacier, San Carlos de Bariloche.

The Road of the Gauchos

4 days - Buenos Aires, San Antonio de Areco, Lobos

Deserts and Canyons

7 days - San Miguel de Tucuman, Quilmes, Cafayate, Cachi, Salta

Classic Ushuaia and Tierra del Fuego

4 days - Ushuaia, Beagle Channel, Tierra del Fuego National Park (October - April).

Bolivia

The highest country with some of the most spectacular scenery anywhere.

Altiplano

4 days - Bolivia to Peru or vv - La Paz, Huatajata, Lake Titicaca, Puno, Cuzco.

La Paz Experience

4 days - La Paz, Valley of the Moon, Tiahuanaco

Brazil

South America's giant, a dazzling land of pristine beaches and steamy jungles.

Best of Brazil

12 days - Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Ouro Preto, Salvador Da Bahia, Brasilia, Iguazu Falls.

Pantanal Experience

4 days - An UNESCO World Heritage Site - Cuiaba, Pousada Araras.

Bossa Nova

7 days - Belo Horizonte, Ouro Preto, Brasilia, Salvador Da Bahia.

Ecuador

The smallest country in the rugged Andean highlands.

Best of Ecuador

7 days - Quito, Otavalo, Cotopaxi Volcano.

Kapawi Amazon Ecological Reserve

5 days - Departs Quito on Monday.

Sacha Amazon Lodge

4 days - Departs Quito on Friday.

La Selva Amazon Lodge

5 days - Departs Quito on Saturday.

Peru

Wander the colonial capitals that echo the legacy of the fabled Inca Empire and the Spanish conquistadors.

Best of Peru

13 days - Lima, Nazca Lines, Arequipa, Colca Canyon, Cuzco, Pisac, Yucay, Aguas Calientes.

Lord of Sipan

5 days - Lima, Trujillo, Chiclayo.

Huaraz

4 days - Lima, Haraz, Chavin de Huantar, Callejón de Huaylas, Pastoruri, Puyas, Raimondi.

Arequipa and Colca Canyon

4 days - Arequipa, Colca Canyon.

Peru Highlights

5 days - Lima, Cuzco, Machu Picchu

Inca Trail Trek

5 days - Cuzco, Inca Trail, Q'Ente, llulluchapampa, Phuyupatamarca, Machu Picchu.

Ceiba Tops Amazon Lodge

3 days - Departs from Iquitos daily.

Posada Amazonas Amazon Lodge

4 days - Departs from Lima or Cuzco, daily.



GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Australian passport holders currently do require a visa to enter Brazil. And, a reciprocity fee (similar to visa) is currently required to enter Chile and this is paid on arrival - current cost US\$34. Please note that your passport must be valid for at least six months from your return date to Australia. Please check with us for any changes to the above and for entry requirements for other South American countries or for non-Australian passport holders who will also require a re-entry visa for Australia.

WARNING

Some cities visited on certain tours are situated at high altitudes of 3,200 metres or more. Please check with your doctor that you are fit to travel at these altitudes.

TOUR ESCORTS / LOCAL GUIDES

Local tour escorts/guides are provided in each city and location whilst on an independent tour. Motor coaches, mini buses or cars are used for sightseeing and transfers depending on the number of passengers travelling together. On individual tours, private car transfers for tours can be requested at an additional cost.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

There is no age restriction for these tours and cruises, however an average level of fitness is required for easy to moderate walks in the Galapagos and Peru. If you are on prescribed medications please bring an adequate supply for your entire journey. Please check with us at time of booking for details on any specific vaccinations required for the areas/countries you will be visiting. However, please consult your doctor or travellers medical centre for current health requirements and personal recommendations.

PRICE & ITINERARY AMENDMENTS

Prices for cruises in this brochure (as indicated on our website) are Per Person in US Dollars (unless otherwise indicated), based on tariffs current at time of printing and are subject to price increases, tax increases, rate of exchange variations and other imposts and these costs will be passed on to the tour member. In the event of flight re-scheduling or unforeseen circumstances, it may be necessary to alter or re-route some or all of the published itinerary and any increased costs resulting therefrom will be passed on to the tour member. Alterations will be done with as little inconvenience as possible to the tour member and include, to the best of the tour operator's ability, tours and other items in the itinerary selected. Wherever possible, sightseeing tours will include the features specified, however, we accept no responsibility for features not included or changed, or should day or half day sightseeing tours not operate or museums or sightseeing attractions be closed, due to public holidays or other circumstances. Where advice is received by Adventure Associates, we will endeavour to make alternative arrangements prior to departure. We can accept no responsibility for itinerary changes after departure which are beyond the control of Adventure Associates.

INSURANCE

Travel insurance is strongly recommended to protect you against loss of deposit or payment, cancellation fees, illness, injury or death, baggage or personal items loss, delays, strikes, war, force majeure, or default by any suppliers or Principals. In certain circumstances within the Terms and Conditions of the Insurance Policy document, tour members may be covered for contingencies such as these.

RESPONSIBILITY

Please read this important information carefully. Payment of a deposit of any part or full payment for a reservation on this tour shall constitute consent to all the provisions contained herein.

Adventure Associates (herein referred to as AA), operators of the package tours outlined herein, give notice that they act only in the capacity of Booking Agents for the tour member in all matters of transportation, tour operation, accommodation and other services. AA, its directors, representatives, or their subsidiaries and/or associated Agents shall not be held responsible, directly or indirectly, for property loss or damage and/or any damages resulting from illness, personal injuries or death which may be sustained by reason of, or during any tour, whether due to the ownership, maintenance or operation of any aircraft, helicopter, vehicle, bicycle, boat, hotel, or any other conveyance used in carrying out these tours. These terms and conditions extend to protect all persons who are or might be servants of AA.

AA can assume no liability due to any cause whatsoever for failure or delay or other irregularity, acts or omissions of any person or firm occurring during a tour under which the means of transportation or other service provided thereby is offered or supplied by owners, operators or public carriers for whom AA acts only as agent. AA shall not be responsible for any injury or death to person or property damage arising out of any act of nature, war, insurrection, revolt or other civil uprising or military action occurring in the countries of origin, destination or passage. Furthermore, AA cannot be held liable for default by any of their suppliers or Principals. These are rare events and tour members are strongly recommended to take out travel insurance.

Without limiting the foregoing, AA shall have no liability to the tour member in the event of such person's dissatisfaction with any such service or accommodation, or for any transportation delay, including but not limited to liability for inconvenience, shortened vacation time, additional expense, or any other kind of damage. No monetary or other allowance can be made where a tour member departs from the itinerary or does not utilise any of the services described in a brochure. In the event of any tour cancellation, AA cannot be held responsible for any costs incurred by a tour member's purchase of any special or non-refundable air, tour, accommodation or other transportation tickets. The expression

"tour member" where used in these terms and conditions includes the person who signed the booking form and all persons on whose behalf it is signed. By forwarding of deposit, the tour member certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other tour members. AA reserves the right to cancel or withdraw any person as a member of the tour at any time. AA reserves the right to alter or omit any part of the itinerary or change any reservation, feature and/or means of conveyance without notice and for any reason whatsoever. AA reserves the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case payment will be refunded without further obligation on its part.

A booking will only be held on receipt by AA of its Booking Form and of all money due at the time of booking and of all subsequent monies as they fall due. Monies shall not be deemed to have been received by or on behalf of AA until actually paid to it and AA has issued its receipt. Payment of money to AA shall be a direction and authorisation for it to disburse the money. No contract shall be entered into until a completed Booking Form is received and accepted by AA. It is the responsibility of the tour member to make sure that they are in possession of the proper travel documents and that they are in compliance with the current government and transportation companies' regulations.

AA has done all it can to ensure that its brochures are accurate but it cannot accept any liability for any inaccuracy in, or departure from, what is described in the brochure. Maps illustrated in this brochure are for general information and may not necessarily reflect actual routings or services provided. Photographs show places in the geographic area but may not be included in the tours.

The transportation companies concerned are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the tour members are not aboard their carriers or conveyances. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned (when issued) shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies and the purchaser of these tours and/or passage. Coupons, tickets and vouchers are issued and accepted by the tour member subject to the service provider's or transportation companies' terms and conditions. All legal questions and actions against AA must be brought in New South Wales, Australia, and by payment of monies to AA and embarking on the tour the tour member waives the right to bring an action against AA into any other forum. Nothing in these terms and conditions shall in any way detract from rights and privileges given to consumers by the Trade Practices Act or similar consumer protection legislation where such rights cannot according to the terms of that legislation be amended, varied or modified.

Law Governing Contract New South Wales.



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