

GALÁPAGOS

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ENDEAVOUR II

17 DAYS | YEAR-ROUND FRIDAY DEPARTURES | SAN CRISTOBAL-SAN CRISTOBAL

A 17-day Galápagos expedition aboard the 96-guest *National Geographic Endeavour II* promises an in-depth encounter with all the wonders of Galápagos. Zodiac to pristine beaches, kayak or stand-up paddleboard along volcanic shores, and discover the undersea realm through daily snorkeling or the glass-bottom boat. You'll encounter abundant wild-life—blue-footed boobies, flightless cormorants, Darwin's finches, pink flamingos, giant tortoises. The wildlife of Galápagos is legendary for being without fear in the presence of humans. Many islands have their own endemic species, and you'll see a panoply of Galápagos creatures in their native habitats—on land and in the sea on any of our itineraries. Stay aboard for back-to-back voyages to see all the islands—and save 10%. No single visitor site can be visited twice over a two-week period, so you'll see something new every day.



DAY 1: Guayaquil or Quito, Ecuador

Upon arrival in Guayaquil, transfer to the Hotel Oro Verde Guayaquil—a convenient locally owned hotel—for an overnight stay. Most international flights arrive in the late evening. You may instead opt to fly into Quito, Ecuador's historic capital city in the highlands; take a pre-voyage extension to Mashpi Reserve in the tropical Andes; or arrive a day early in Guayaquil or Quito to rest and relax.

DAY 2: Guayaquil or Quito / San Cristóbal / Embark

After breakfast, fly to Baquerizo Moreno, capital of the Galápagos province on the easternmost island of San Cristobal, a little world unto itself in the tropical Pacific. Take a short bus ride to the dock with our naturalists and embark the ship waiting at anchor. Join fellow guests on the observation deck for a welcome cocktail as the captain circumnavigates Kicker Rock, an iconic eroded tuff cone standing just offshore. Welcome to Galápagos! (B, L, D)

DAY 3: Gardner Bay & Punta Suarez, Española

Morning: Explore the expanse of bright white sand at quiet Gardner Bay, where sea lions rest and play. Swim and snorkel from the beach, and those with experience can snorkel along the offshore islets from the Zodiacs. This is our first chance to kayak or paddleboard.

Afternoon: See swallow-tailed gulls, Española mockingbirds, Nazca boobies and, seasonally, the world's only population of waved albatross at Punta Suarez, where we walk among vividly colored marine iguanas and breeding colonies of sea lions. Landing at a small beach, optional trails lead inland across stepping-stones of iron-laden pillow basalt planks to a blowhole and seabird cliffs. (B, L, D)

DAY 4: Punta Cormorant, Champion Islet & Post Office Bay, Floreana

Morning: Land on a beach tinted green with olivine crystals on this most mysterious of the Galápagos islands, rich in human history. Hike past a lagoon popular with flamingos and other shore birds to a second beach of fine white sand, where green turtles nest. Later, board Zodiacs to snorkel among sea lions and abundant fish at Champion Islet, or take a Zodiac cruise along the shore, looking out for the endangered Floreana mockingbird and other wildlife.

Afternoon: Join the 19th-century tradition of leaving and taking letters from the barrel for hand delivery at Post Office Bay. Paddleboard and kayak along the coast at Baroness Lookout, named after the early settler, the eccentric Eloise Bosquet de Wagner. (B, L, D)

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DAY 5: Puerto Ayora & Highlands, Santa Cruz

Morning: Call at Puerto Ayora, the largest town in the archipelago and headquarters of both the Galápagos National Park and Charles Darwin Research Station. Tour the giant tortoise breeding corrals, a pioneering effort supported by the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic Fund to return wild populations to a natural state. Spend some time in town before continuing to the highlands.

Afternoon: This afternoon we explore the cultural and natural attractions of the highlands of Santa Cruz, where much of our produce is grown on local farms. We stop for lunch at a local ranch dedicated to conservation. This is our best opportunity to see tortoises roaming in the wild. (B, L, D)

DAY 6: Cerro Dragon & Borrero Bay, Santa Cruz / Daphne Major

Morning: Hike through giant cactus and a forest of palo santo to Dragon Hill, the habitat of the colorful Santa Cruz land iguanas, brought back from the brink of extinction.

Afternoon: Kayak, paddleboard, and explore by Zodiac in the wonderful mangrove-lined Borrero Bay, where schools and rays and other marine life are common. Join fellow guests on deck as the captain circumnavigates Daphne Major, the small volcanic island where Peter and Rosemary Grant have conducted ground-breaking research into the evolution of Darwin's finches. (B, L, D)

DAY 7: Bartolomé / Sombrero Chino

Morning: Climb the steps to the 360-foot summit of Bartolomé, a volcanic wonderland of spatter and scoria cones and tuff formations. Enjoy a stunning view of wind- and water- sculpted Pinnacle Rock and the surrounding vista of land and sea. Admire stark lava flows across the way on Santiago, the most recent eruption dating from 1897. Comb the golden-sand beach or immerse yourself among schools of multicolored reef fish. This is a spot where lucky snorkelers might encounter Galápagos penguins, one of the world's rarest penguins—incongruous in this equatorial setting.

Afternoon: Snorkel and explore by kayak and Zodiac in the crystalline water surrounding Sombrero Chino, one of a group of distinctively shaped small islets off Santiago. Keep a keen eye for the Galápagos penguin, sometimes spotted along the coast (B, L, D)



DAY 8: Darwin Bay & Prince Philip's Steps, Genovesa

Morning: Sail north across the Equator to the remote northern realm of the Galápagos, bathed in warmer tropical waters and home to the red-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, great frigates birds, and other nesting seabirds. We have the caldera all to ourselves today with two landing sites to explore.

Afternoon: Kayak, paddleboard, snorkel, and cruise along the caldera walls, where we may see shy Galápagos fur seals. Photograph red-footed boobies and frigate birds of two species, perched in the low-lying shrubs behind coral-strewn Darwin Bay Beach. At Prince Phillip's Steps, follow a trail inland, where more seabirds nest—and where we might see short-eared owls hunt for storm petrels, which nest in astounding numbers in the field of broken lava. (B, L, D)

DAY 9: Baltra / Playa Bachas, Santa Cruz

Morning: After breakfast this morning, join a private guided tour with other guests who are staying aboard for the next voyage.

Afternoon: Rejoin the ship. Land on a beautiful beach of fine white sand to swim, snorkel, or explore a nearby lagoon. Meet guests who have just arrived this evening at the welcome cocktail. (B, L, D)

DAY 10: North Seymour / Rabida

Morning: On this wildlife-rich island, follow coastal trails past groups of Galápagos sea lions and marine iguanas, before heading inland through a silvery forest of palo santo to colonies of magnificent and great frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, and other seabirds. See land iguanas clambering over rocks in search of cacti and other flowers. Look for swallow-tailed gulls, noddys, terns, red-billed tropic birds, and Galápagos fur seals on the rocky walls of this small island, created by geologic uplift rather than lava flows.

Afternoon: Land on a red-sand beach on this volcanically varied island, where we explore inland. We may see flamingos feeding in a brackish lagoon and clownish brown pelicans entertaining us from their nests. Plunge in for a snorkel or explore by kayak or paddleboard. (B, L, D)

DAY 11: Punta Espinosa, Fernandina / Punta Vicente Roca, Isabela

Morning: Hike over impressive lava past tide pools where marine iguanas gather in piles, young sea lions play, and the strange flightless cormorant nests in the remote western archipelago. One of the most active oceanic islands in the world, 5,000-foot Fernandina is the youngest and most pristine island in Galápagos.

Afternoon: Cross the Equator at Volcán Ecuador, northernmost of Isabela's six great shield volcanoes. Snorkel and Zodiac along the wildly eroded coast, where we might see green turtles, fur seals, and even penguins. Keep an eye out for whales and dolphins—the waters here in the west are rich. Join fellow travelers on deck to celebrate crossing the Equator. (B, L, D)



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DAY 12: Urbina Bay & Tagus Cove, Isabela

Morning: Hike through the dry forest along the uplifted coastline at Urbina Bay, where we search for land iguanas, and giant tortoises are sometimes spotted feeding on cactus. Return to swim from the inviting black-sand beach.

Afternoon: Follow in the footsteps of Darwin and Melville at historic Tagus Cove, once the haunt of whalers and pirates. Kayak, paddleboard, and snorkel in the cove, where marine life is rich and a Zodiac cruise along the shore is rewarding. Join naturalists for a hike inland, walking along the crater rim around Darwin's Lake to a viewpoint. (B, L, D)

DAY 13: Playa Espumilla / Buccaneer's Cove & Puerto Egas, Santiago

Morning: Explore a dense coastal forest, home to Galápagos hawks and other land birds, or stroll along the wide beach early this morning. After breakfast, swim, snorkel, kayak, and paddleboard along the spectacular coast of Buccaneers' Cove, a secluded atelier where pirates once careened their ships.

Afternoon: After lunch, explore tide pools and look for fur seals sheltered in quiet grottos of black basalt at Puerto Egas, where you see evidence of an old salt mine and other human history. Swim and snorkel from the beach, which is frequented by sea lions and marine iguanas. (B, L, D)

DAY 14: Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz

Morning: Call at Puerto Ayora, the largest town and headquarters of both the Galápagos National Park and Charles Darwin Research Station, and take advantage of optional excursions arranged for you, or explore independently. There is much to see and do. (B, L, D)

DAY 15: Punta Pitt, Cerro Brujo & Kicker Rock, San Cristobal

Morning: Land on a small, sparkling beach at Punta Pitt for a hike up to a plateau where masked-, blue-, and red-footed footed boobies all nest, and look for endemic San Cristóbal mockingbirds, lava lizards, and other wildlife. Return to the small beach to swim, snorkel, kayak, and paddleboard.

Afternoon: Relax at the celebrated expanse of powdery white sand at Cerro Brujo, one of the most beautiful beaches in Galápagos, and tour the rock formations by Zodiac, paddleboard, or kayak. Join fellow guests on the observation deck for a farewell cocktail as the captain circumnavigates Kicker Rock at sunset. (B, L, D)

DAY 16: Baquerizo Moreno, San Cristobal / Disembark / Guayaquil or Quito, Ecuador

Disembark this morning for a last opportunity to explore before boarding a flight back to Guayaquil, where we transfer to Hotel Oro Verde Guayaquil. The same flight continues to Quito, and you can continue to Lima on an early evening flight to join a post-voyage trip to Peru. Flights arrive in Guayaquil by 5:00 p.m. and Quito by 7:00 p.m. Ask your expedition specialist about these post-voyage options. (B)

DAY 17: Guayaquil or Quito

Transfer to the airport after breakfast or relax at the hotel. Checkout is at 11:00 a.m. (B)

Itinerary

In the Galápagos, no single site can be visited by the same ship more than once over a two-week period. The idea was developed in 2011, and Lindblad was the first voluntary adopter of this innovative new proposal by the Galápagos National Park, which aims to spread people out to allow for a more intimate experience. We have created an optimal balance during each week in terms of terrain and wildlife. If you wish to see all the sites, you could join for two weeks, but be assured there is no better week to experience Galápagos—just nuances for one week to the other. Itineraries are determined by the national park and subject to change.

Visit expeditions.com/expeditions/Galápagos-aboard-national-geographic-endeavour-ii for more information about the voyage.

Visit expeditions.com/endeavourii for more information about the ship.

For more information, call us at 1.800.397.3348 or contact your Travel Advisor.

