



## GALÁPAGOS WESTERN ISLANDS

### ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ENDEAVOUR II

10 DAYS | YEAR-ROUND FRIDAY DEPARTURES | BALTRA / SAN CRISTOBAL

A 10-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 through daily snorkeling or the glass-bottom boat. You'll encounter abundant wildlife—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, and 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 to rest and relax, and take an optional full-day excursion from Guayaquil to Hacienda La Danesa.

#### DAY 2: Guayaquil / Baltra, Galápagos / Embark / Playa Bachas, Santa Cruz

**Morning:** Welcome to Galápagos! After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the 1 ½-hour flight to Baltra in the center of the islands, 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. (B, L, D)

**Afternoon:** Land on a beautiful beach of fine white sand, where naturalists introduce us to the islands on a walk to shallow lagoon behind the beach frequented by shorebirds. Take your first dip in the Pacific and try out snorkel equipment for the week.

#### DAY 3: North Seymour / Rabida

**Morning:** On this wildlife-rich island, follow trails past coastal groups of Galápagos sea lions and marine iguanas 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, noddy terns, red-billed tropic birds and Galápagos fur seals on the rocky walls of this small island (like neighboring Baltra), created by geologic up lift not by lava flows. An excellent introduction to the archipelago.

**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 entertain from their nests. Plunge in for your first snorkel or explore by kayak or paddleboard. (B, L, D)

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#### DAY 4: 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, 5000-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)

#### DAY 5: Urbina Bay & Tagus Cove, Isabela

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

**Afternoon:** Land 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 along the crater rim around Darwin's Lake to a viewpoint. (B, L, D)

#### DAY 6: 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 7: 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. Tour the giant tortoise breeding corrals, a pioneering effort, and then head to the lush, green highlands to see giant tortoises roaming in the wild. Here you also have lunch at a local ranch and those who wish can visit the Tomás de Berlanga school supported by the Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic Fund. Most evenings scientists or a representative from the Charles Darwin Station joins us aboard. (B, L, D)

#### DAY 8: 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 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 9: 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 late afternoon and evening are free to explore the city. The same flight continues to Quito, and you may also be able to continue to Lima on an early evening flight to join a post-voyage trip to Peru. Flights arrive in Guayaquil by 5:00 pm and Quito by 7:00 pm. Ask your expedition specialist about these post-voyage options. (B)



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#### DAY 10: Guayaquil

Transfer to the airport after breakfast or relax at the hotel. Checkout is at 11:00. (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 has as its purpose 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](https://expeditions.com/expeditions/Galápagos-aboard-national-geographic-endeavour-ii) for more information about the voyage.

Visit [expeditions.com/endeavourii](https://expeditions.com/endeavourii) for more information about the ship.



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For more information call us at [1.800.397.3348](tel:18003973348) or call your [Travel Advisor](#)