



EXPEDITIONS

GALAPAGOS BY CATAMARAN AN INTIMATE VOYAGE WESTERN ISLANDS

10 Days | Year-Round Friday Departures | Baltra / Baltra



Itinerary

A 10-day exploration of Darwin's living laboratory aboard the newest and most intimate addition to the fleet, 16-guest *National Geographic Delfina*. Discover the famed archipelago on the ultimate, intimate expedition. Zodiac to pristine beaches, kayak or stand-up paddleboard along volcanic shores, and discover the undersea through daily snorkeling. You'll encounter abundant wildlife—blue-footed boobies, 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 experience two itineraries and see more 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. Note that Quito sits at a 9,350ft elevation. It is an alternative option to Guayaquil, at no additional cost, and recommended if you opt for a pre-voyage extension to Mashpi Reserve in the tropical Andes outside Quito, or take just one extra day on the See Quito Pre-Voyage Extension. You can also choose to reserve additional hotel nights and tours in Quito or Guayaquil.

DAY 2

• GUAYAQUIL OR QUITO, ECUADOR/BALTRA/EMBARK/CALETA TORTUGA NEGRA, SANTA CRUZ

Morning: Welcome to Galápagos! After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the 1½-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: After lunch and a chance to settle in, join the first Zodiac cruise at Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove), a quiet mangrove-lined lagoon on Santa Cruz Island. Look for green turtles, sharks, and schools of golden and eagle rays.

DAY 3

• 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. (B, L, D)

Afternoon: Kayak, paddleboard, snorkel, and cruise along the caldera walls in search of wildlife. Later, climb Prince Phillip's Steps for a walk among colonies of nesting seabirds to a field of broken lava, where an astounding number of storm petrels nest.

DAY 4

• SULLIVAN BAY, SANTIAGO / BARTOLOMÉ

Morning: Hike over the smooth pahoehoe lava and admire spatter cones, little miniature hornitos, and the wild riot of black lava at Sullivan Bay, the result an eruption recorded by passing buccaneers in 1897. (B, L, D)

Afternoon: Climb the steps to the summit of this 300-foot volcanic wonderland for stunning views. Explore, swim and snorkel from the beach.

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DAY 5	<p>PUNTA VICENTE ROCA, ISABELA/PUNTA ESPINOZA, FERNANDINA</p> <p>Morning: 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. The waters here in the west are rich. (B, L, D)</p> <p>Afternoon: In the remote western archipelago, hike over impressive lava past tide pools where marine iguanas gather in piles, young sea lions play and the strange flightless cormorant nests. Fernandina is the youngest, and most pristine island in Galápagos.</p>
DAY 6	<p>URBINA BAY & TAGUS COVE ISABELA</p> <p>Morning: Hike through the dry forest along the uplifted coastline at Urbina Bay, where you search of land iguanas and giant tortoises sometimes are sighted. Return to swim from the inviting black sand beach (B, L, D)</p> <p>Afternoon: Land in the footsteps of Darwin and Melville at historic Tagus Cove, once the haunt of whalers and pirates. Opt to hike inland along the crater rim for view's of Darwin's Lake. Kayak, paddleboard and snorkel in the cove.</p>
DAY 7	<p>PUERTO EGAS, BUCANEERS COVE & ESPUMILLA BEACH, SANTIAGO</p> <p>Morning: 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 frequented by sea lions and marine iguanas. Swim, snorkel, kayak, and paddleboard along the spectacular coast of Buccaneers Cove, a secluded atelier where pirates once careened their ships. (B, L, D)</p> <p>Afternoon: Explore a dense coastal forest, home to Galápagos hawks and other land birds, at Playa Espumilla, or stroll along the wide turtle-nesting beach.</p>
DAY 8	<p>PUERTO AYORA, SANTA CRUZ</p> <p>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)"</p>
DAY 9	<p>DAPHNE MAJOR & BALTRA</p> <p>Come out on deck at sunrise as we circumnavigate Daphne Major, looking for wildlife and learning about the important research undertaken here. Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Balta for flights back to the mainland. 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)</p>
DAY 10	<p>GUAYAQUIL OR QUITO, ECUADOR</p> <p>Transfer to the airport after breakfast or relax at the hotel. Checkout is at 11:00. (B)</p> <p>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 more islands, you could stay on for back-to-back voyages, 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.</p> <p>Visit expeditions.com/galavoyage for more information about the voyage. Visit expeditions.com/delfina for more information about the ship.</p> <p>For more information call us at 1.800.397.3348 or call your Travel Advisor</p>