



WILD GALÁPAGOS ESCAPE—EASTERN ISLANDS ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ISLANDER II

8 DAYS | YEAR-ROUND THURSDAY DEPARTURES | BALTRA / BALTRA

Explore Darwin's Islands in one action-filled week aboard the newest member of the fleet, *National Geographic Islander II*. With just 26 staterooms and suites, this elegant ship feels like a private yacht. Witness the iconic wildlife that sparked the theory of evolution, snorkel pristine, well-protected waters teeming with sea lions and sea turtles, and hike black-sand beaches and lush highlands. As with our classic, 10-day expeditions, honed over more than 50 years, each voyage is crafted to offer you a diverse perspective of the archipelago with multiple adventures daily on land and undersea. 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 will see something new every day.



DAY 1: Guayaquil or Quito, Ecuador

Welcome to Ecuador! Upon arrival in Guayaquil, Ecuador, transfer to the 44-room Hotel del Parque, a tranquil haven surrounded by lush gardens set in a lovingly restored 19th-century building along the river. Most flights arrive in the late evening. Choose to arrive early for an optional extra night to rest, relax, and prepare for your voyage. And join an optional full-day excursion from Guayaquil to Hacienda La Danesa. You may also fly into Quito instead of Guayaquil (all Galápagos flights originate in Quito). Ask your expedition specialist about flying into Quito, Ecuador's capital. We offer a post-voyage extension to Quito and Otavalo.

DAY 2: Guayaquil / Baltra, Galápagos / Embark / Daphne Major

Morning: Fly this morning to Galápagos. You are welcomed by our naturalist staff at the Baltra Airport and embark the *National Geographic Islander II* by Zodiac. Part of the magic of any Galápagos voyage is the varied nature of the terrain, wildlife and experiences that each island offers, with each departure offering a well-considered balance. Welcome aboard!

Afternoon: Join fellow guests on deck as we circumnavigate Daphne Major, a small volcanic island off the coast of Santa Cruz Island where Peter and Rosemary Grant have conducted ground-breaking research into Natural Selection among Darwin's finches for decades. (B, L, D)

DAY 3: Bartolomé / Cerro Dragon, Santa Cruz

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

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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: Land on the beach for a hike through giant cactus and incense tree forests to reach Dragon Hill, habitat of the colorful Santa Cruz land iguanas brought back from the brink of extinction. (B, L, D)

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

Morning: 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 and eccentric Eloise Bosquet de Wagner. Snorkel among sea lions and abundant fish-life, or cruise along the shore by Zodiac. Keep an eye out for the endangered Floreana mockingbird, now found only on these offshore islets.

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. Optional trails lead inland across iron-laden pillow basalt to the blowhole and seabird cliffs. (B, L, D)



DAY 5: Gardner Bay & Punta Suarez, Española

Morning: Explore the expanse of bright white sand at quiet Gardner Bay, where sea lions rest and play. Swim from the beach, snorkel along the offshore islets, 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. (B, L, D)

DAY 6: Punta Pitt & Cerro Brujo, San Cristóbal / León Dormido (Kicker Rock)

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 Cristóbal mockingbirds, lava lizards and other wildlife.

Afternoon: Relax at the celebrated expanse of powdery white sand at Cerro Brujo, one of the most beautiful beaches in Galapagos. Join fellow guests on deck for a farewell cocktail. (B, L, D)

DAY 7: Canal Itabaca, Santa Cruz, Galapagos / Disembark / Guayaquil or Quito, Ecuador

Morning: Disembark early this morning for an excursion into the highlands to see Galapagos tortoises in the wild at a local ranch, dedicated to conservation. Continue to Baltra for the flight back to Guayaquil, where we transfer to the Hotel del Parque—or continue to Quito for an optional three-night extension. Flights arrive in Guayaquil by 5:00 pm and Quito by 7:00 pm. Ask your Expedition Specialist for details. Transfer to Hotel del Parque for the evening. Some flights depart in the overnight hours. (B)

DAY 8: Guayaquil or Quito

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



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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/wild-galapagos-escape for more information about the voyage.

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

For more information call us at 1.800.397.3348 or call your Travel Advisor

