



GALÁPAGOS EASTERN ISLANDS

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ENDEAVOUR II

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

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 / 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!

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 the blowhole and seabird cliffs. (B, L, D)

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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 the Zodiacs to snorkel among sea lions and abundant fish-life 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)

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 successful effort to return wild populations to a natural state supported by the Lindblad Expeditions National Geographic Fund. 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 forests 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 the wonderful mangrove-lined Borrero Bay, where schools and rays and other marine life is 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 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 perching precariously 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)

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DAY 9: Baltra / Disembark / Guayaquil or Quito, Ecuador

Disembark this morning for a return flight to Guayaquil, where we transfer to Hotel Oro Verde Guayaquil. 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. Transfer to the Hotel Oro Verde for the evening. Some flights depart in the overnight hours. (B)

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 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 call your Travel Advisor

