

WILD GALÁPAGOS AND PERU ESCAPE NORTHERN ISLANDS

ABOARD *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ISLANDER II*

11 DAYS | YEAR-ROUND FRIDAY DEPARTURES | LIMA + BALTRA / BALTRA

Discover two iconic world wonders in 11 action-filled days. Starting in Lima, fly to Cusco and journey to the Sacred Valley and fabled Machu Picchu. Then venture to Darwin's Galápagos Islands to encounter unique wildlife and landscapes on shore and under the sea. Sail aboard the newest member of our fleet, *National Geographic Islander II*. With just 26 staterooms and suites, this elegant ship feels like a private yacht.



DAY 1: Lima, Peru

Arrive in Lima, Peru's thriving capital, and transfer to the convenient Wyndham Costa del Sol, connected to the airport. Most international flights arrive in the late evening. Or arrive early for a Lima pre-voyage extension staying at the iconic Country Club Lima Hotel. The extension adds just a day to the expedition and gives you a chance to rest, relax, and see this UNESCO World Heritage-designated city.

DAY 2: Lima / Cusco / Sacred Valley

Fly to Cusco this morning. Drive through the Sacred Valley to Chinchero, a typical Andean village where National Geographic Grantee Nilda Callañaupa joins us for lunch and a demonstration of Inca weaving traditions. Continue to Tambo del Inka, where we will stay two nights. Dinner tonight is at the hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 3: Machu Picchu

Drive to Ollantaytambo, where we board our train to Machu Picchu. Perched at 8,000 feet in the "eyebrow of the jungle," the sanctuary is surrounded by tropical mountain forest with diverse birds and orchids. We linger after daytime visitors have departed, returning to Machu Picchu Pueblo for the train ride back to the Sacred Valley and Tambo del Inka this evening. Dinner is served aboard the first-class train. (B, L, D)

DAY 4: Sacred Valley / Cusco

After breakfast this morning, depart for Cusco with a full day to explore. Tour the ornate 17th-century cathedral and Plaza de Armas, the sacred Inca Temple of the Sun and other treasures of this burgeoning cultural capital and center of the Inca universe, where colonial buildings stand atop Inca foundations. Check in at Palacio del Inka in the historic center. Dinner is on your own tonight to explore nearby celebrated restaurants or rest and relax at the hotel. (B, L)

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DAY 5: Cusco / Lima / Guayaquil, Ecuador

Bid farewell to Peru and continue to Ecuador for the second part of our expedition with flights from Cusco via Lima to Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city. Overnight at the 44-room Hotel del Parque, a tranquil haven surrounded by lush gardens set in a lovingly restored 19th-century building. (B, L, D)

DAY 6: Baltra / Playa Las Bachas, Santa Cruz

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: 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. (B, L, D)

DAY 7: South Plazas / Santa Fé Island

Morning: Sea lions greet us at South Plaza, an uplifted block carpeted in salt-loving succulents and teeming with wildlife, including a noisy group of bachelor sea lions and a population of land iguanas. Thread your way across the island through an impressive forest of cactus trees, and thrill at aerial displays of the nocturnal, cliff-nesting swallow-tail gulls and red-tailed tropicbirds. This is a beautiful place to sit and take in the view.

Afternoon: Snorkel, paddleboard and kayak in the secluded cove at Barrington Bay. On shore, a trail leads us through the largest cactus trees in Galápagos. The Santa Fe land iguana is found only on this island, where Galápagos hawks are also thriving once again. (B, L, D)

DAY 8: Sombrero Chino / Sullivan Bay, Santiago

Morning: Sombrero Chino, one of a group of distinctively shaped small islets off Santiago. Keep a keen eye out for the Galápagos penguin, sometimes spotted along the coast.

Afternoon: 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)

DAY 9: Darwin Bay & Prince Philip's Steps, Genovesa

Morning: Sail north across the Equator to the remote northern realm of the Galapagos, bathed in warmer tropical waters and home to the red-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, great frigates birds and other nesting seabirds. Red-footed boobies and frigate birds of two species perching precariously in the low-lying shrubs behind coral-strewn beach at Darwin Bay.

Afternoon: Kayak, paddleboard, snorkel and cruise along the caldera walls, where we may see shy Galápagos fur seals. 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 10: Canal Itabaca, Santa Cruz, Galapagos / Disembark / Guayaquil or Quito, Ecuador

Morning: Disembark after breakfast. Journey by coach to the lush, green highlands, where we see giant Galapagos tortoises roaming wild at a local ranch. Continue to Baltra and return by air 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 11: Guayaquil or Quito

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 www.expeditions.com/expeditions/wild-galapagos-peru 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