



WILD GALÁPAGOS ESCAPE

7-DAY NORTHERN ITINERARY

Day 1: Tuesday Arrive Guayaquil, Ecuador

Upon arrival in Guayaquil, transfer to Hotel del Parque, a serene sanctuary set in historic buildings along the river. Additional nights and a Quito option available. Ask about the 5-Day Wild Andes pre-voyage extension, departs Fridays.

Day 2: Wednesday Guayaquil/Baltra/Embark Transfer to the airport for a flight to Baltra in the center of the Galápagos archipelago, a little world unto itself in the Tropical Pacific. Upon arrival, take a short bus ride to the dock with our naturalists and embark the ship waiting at anchor via Zodiac. After lunch and briefings, make a first landing 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. *National Geographic Islander II* (B,L,D)

Day 3: Thursday South Plazas/Santa Fe

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. Admire diverse seabirds swooping along high sea cliffs. In the afternoon, snorkel, 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.

Day 4: Friday Sombrero Chino, Sullivan Bay, Santiago

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. Later after lunch and a time aboard to relax, make a dry landing at Sullivan Bay. Hike over the smooth pahoehoe lava and admire spatter cones, little miniature hornitos, and the wild riot of black lava, the result an eruption recorded by passing buccaneers in 1897.

Day 5: Saturday Genovesa Island

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. 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 6: Sunday, Santa Cruz/Baltra/Guayaquil

Disembark after breakfast at the north of Santa Cruz Island. Journey by coach to the lush, green highlands, where we see giant Galápagos tortoises roaming wild at a local ranch. Continue to Baltra after an early lunch for a flight back to the mainland. Upon arrival in Guayaquil, transfer to Hotel del Parque, a serene sanctuary set in historic buildings along the river. Dinner is at leisure with Casa Julian in the complex recommended. You also have the option of continuing on the same flight from Galapagos to Quito. Return on a flight home late tonight or stay the night.

Day 7: Monday Guayaquil/Home

After breakfast this morning, transfer to the airport for your flight home. Additional nights available.