



WILD GALÁPAGOS ESCAPE—WESTERN ISLANDS ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ISLANDER II

8 DAYS | YEAR-ROUND DEPARTURES SATURDAY | 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 / Caleta Tortuga Negra, 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: You will have time for lunch, briefings and to settle into your cabins before joining a Zodiac cruise of Caleta Tortuga Negra, a spectacular mangrove-lined cove teeming with marine life on Santa Cruz Island. Look for green turtles, sharks, and schools of golden and eagle rays. (B, L, D)

DAY 3: Puerto Ayora & Highlands, Santa Cruz

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 visit the Station before continuing to town.

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Afternoon: Head to the lush, green highlands to see giant tortoises roaming in the wild, where we have lunch at a local ranch dedicated to conservation. (B, L, D)

DAY 4: North Seymour / Rábida

Morning: On this wildlife-rich small island, follow trails past coastal groups of Galápagos sea lions and marine iguanas inland through a silvery forest of Palo Santo to colonies of magnificent and great frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, and other seabirds. See land iguanas clambering over rocks in search of cactus and other flowers. Look for swallow-tailed gulls, noddy terns, red-billed tropic birds and Galápagos fur seals on the rocky walls of this small island (like neighboring Baltra), created by not by lava flows geologic uplift. An excellent introduction to the archipelago!

Afternoon: Land on a red sand beach on this volcanically varied island, where we explore inland. We may see flamingos feeding in a brackish lagoon and clownish brown pelicans entertain from their nests. Here is your chance to snorkel or explore by kayak or paddleboard. (B, L, D)



DAY 5: Punta Vicente Roca, Isabela / Punta Espinosa, Fernandina

Morning: Awaken in the remote western archipelago, haunt of whalers and pirates of yore. Board the Zodiacs for a cruise along the wildly eroded volcanic shores of Isabela, a towering island formed of six great shield volcanoes that make up 2/3 of the land area in Galápagos. Snorkel and Zodiac along the coast, where we might see green turtles, fur seals and even penguins. Keep an eye out for whales and dolphins—the waters here in the west are rich.

Afternoon: Hike over impressive lava past tide pools where young sea lions play and the strange flightless cormorant nests. One of the most active oceanic volcanoes in the world, Fernandina is the youngest, and most pristine island in Galápagos. Later back aboard, join fellow travelers on deck to celebrate crossing the Equator. (B, L, D)

DAY 6: Playa Espumilla & Buccaneer's Cove, Santiago / Puerto Egas, Santiago

Morning: Explore a dense coastal forest filled with mangroves, home to Galápagos hawks and other land birds, at Playa Espumilla, or stroll along the wide beach early this morning. After breakfast, swim, snorkel, kayak, and paddleboard along the spectacular coast of Buccaneer's Cove, a secluded atelier where pirates once careened their ships. Darwin camped here during his time on the islands.

Afternoon: After lunch, 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, which is frequented by sea lions and marine iguanas. (B, L, D)



DAY 7: Baltra, Galápagos / Disembark / Guayaquil or Quito, Ecuador

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Balta for the flight back to the mainland. Transfer to the Hotel del Parque on arrival—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. Some flights depart during 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

