

7-DAYS

*Travel for
Travellers*
BY GLP WORLDWIDE

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

NATURE AND WILDLIFE EXPEDITION CRUISE

NORTHERN ROUTE



GALÁPAGOS

M E E T T H E G U E S T S

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BOOK BY JUN 13

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DAY 1 Vibrant Quito



Begin your adventure in the vibrant city of Quito

Your journey begins on the Equator in the lush Andean foothills. At 9,350 feet, Quito is the second-highest capital city in the world, and its main draw is the exquisite Old Town, which was founded on an ancient Inca settlement. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is packed with well-preserved colonial architecture, including colorful plazas, magnificent churches, and stately monuments. Settle into your hotel, then head out to explore.

If you have time, we recommend coming a few days earlier and joining one of our optional Pre-Programs.

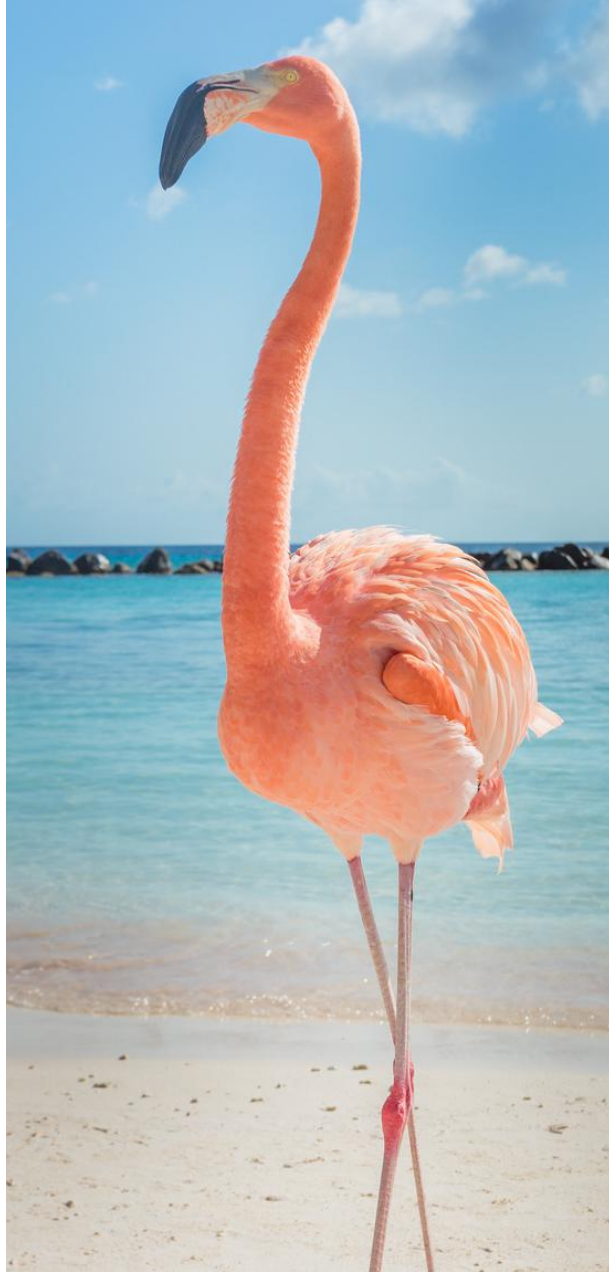
DAY 2 Visit historic Quito

Straddle the Equator in the Middle of the World City

Today, enjoy a guided tour of Quito's remarkable Old Town, one of the largest and best-preserved colonial-era quarters in South America. Wander through cobblestone streets as you admire the architecture and sample delicious chocolate made from the finest Ecuadorian cacao along the way.

Next, you'll head to the iconic 'Middle of the World City', located around 16 miles north of Quito. After lunch, you'll visit the famous monument that delineates the imaginary line that is the Equator. Have your camera ready to capture the moment you stand with one foot in each hemisphere.





DAY 3 Your cruise begins

Get ready to explore the spectacular Galápagos Islands

As your South America land adventure draws to a close, it is time to embark on the next stage of your journey. After breakfast, a short flight will take you to Baltra Island, a part of the spectacular Galápagos Archipelago. A transfer will take you straight to the port, where your comfortable expedition ship MS Santa Cruz II awaits you.

We'll begin our exploration of the Galápagos Islands in the afternoon by following the north shore of Santa Cruz to the fascinating landscapes of Cerro Dragón, or Dragon Hill, where we'll land. On the first part of our walk, we'll pass a brackish lagoon that is frequented by shorebirds and American flamingos. Further inland, the trail offers a beautiful view of the bay and the western islands of the archipelago, as well as your first chance to encounter some land iguanas.

DAY 4

Pristine Santiago Island

SEE ICONIC WILDLIFE AND SPECTACULAR LANDSCAPES

Today, you'll explore Santiago Island's pristine beaches and picturesque landscapes. Take in the impressive cliffs of Buccaneer Cove on the northwest coast, home to a large number of marine birds and sea lions. Immerse yourself in the scenery through a range of water activities and marvel at fantastic rock formations such as 'Elephant Rock' and 'The Bishop'.

In the afternoon, we'll head to Puerto Egas, one of the best visitor sites on the island. You'll have the opportunity to see a colony of Galápagos fur seals and exotic birdlife on an excursion. Or, you can swim or snorkel along the rocky shorelines, typically in the company of marine turtles.

DAY 5 **Stunning Rábida and Bartolomé**

Soak up the sights and sounds of the Galápagos

Your day starts on tiny Rábida Island, located off the southern shore of Santiago Island. Take a thrilling panga ride along the coast to explore the island's mesmerizing, red-colored beach. Soak up the sights and sounds of a sea lion colony and keep an eye out for marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers, and several species of Darwin's finches.

In the afternoon, we'll sail to the golden sands of Bartolomé Island, dominated by the imposing Pinnacle Rock. Swim or snorkel at the beach here or discover colorful marine life riding in our glass-bottom boat. You may even spot some Galápagos penguins on the shore. Hike up to the summit of the island for fantastic views.





DAY 6

Discover a birdlife haven and take a refreshing dip

Genovesa, a bird paradise

Today, you explore Genovesa Island. The morning starts with a steep but short climb (only 90 feet) up Prince Philip's Steps – otherwise known as El Barranco – to reach a flat and rocky plateau. Once there, you can walk along comfortably and look out for large colonies of Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, great frigatebirds, and storm petrels. Afterward, or instead, hop into a kayak for an aquatic adventure.

In the afternoon, we'll land at the beautiful beach that borders Darwin Bay for a swim. After this refreshing dip, take a stroll and observe hundreds of island birds. You can also swim, snorkel, kayak, or just take relax on the beach.





DAY 7

One last adventure

See giant tortoises in the wild



We'll start our last morning on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island. After a dry landing at a passenger wharf and a bus ride to the island's higher region, you'll see a final highlight of your expedition cruise: giant tortoises in the wild.

The windward slopes of the island are set aside as a reserve that is home to two species of giant tortoise. These lush highlands also feature dense forests of Galápagos daisies, orchids, and bromeliads.

After this visit, we'll take a transfer directly to the airport in Baltra for your flight to Quito, where you'll connect to your international flight. Flight to Quito must be requested at the time of booking. Please contact us at the time of booking to continue on to Quito at the end of your tour. If you prefer, you can continue to Guayaquil for another adventure.

To explore more of Ecuador, we recommend extending your stay and joining one of our optional Post-Programs.



WHAT IS INCLUDED

FLIGHTS

- Flights in economy class between Quito and Baltra, including all taxes

HOTEL

- Two nights at a hotel in Quito before the expedition cruise, including breakfast and dinner on Day 2

TRANSFERS

- Transfers between the airport and the ship in Baltra

EXCURSION

- Full-day excursion: Historic Quito and Middle of the World, including lunch, before the expedition cruise

EXTRAS

- Galápagos Islands National Park admission fee
- Transit Control Card for the Galápagos Islands
- Access to the airport lounge at the Quito (or Guayaquil) airport upon return from the Galápagos Islands for guests flying internationally on the day of disembarkation

EXPEDITION CRUISE

- A stay in a cabin of your choice
- Daily breakfast, lunch and dinner
- House wine and beer served with lunch and dinner. From 1 October 2024 departures, wine, beer and spirits (excluding premium alcoholic drinks) available from the bar at any time (subject to Ecuadorean licensing laws)
- All day coffee, tea and soft drinks
- A complimentary water bottle to refill on board and take home
- A backpack or another piece of HX kit
- Professional photos from your trip taken by our onboard photographer
- Complimentary Wi-Fi. Please note, streaming is not supported
- Use of hot tubs, fitness room, lounges and more
- Gratuities included. Fantastic service is standard at HX – though if you'd like to leave something extra, it's always appreciated
- Range of included activities



ONBOARD ACTIVITIES

- In-depth lectures and discussions hosted by experts on the Expedition Team
- Full access to the ship's Science Corner
- The Citizen Science Program allows guests to assist with ongoing scientific research
- An onboard professional photographer will give tips and tricks for taking the best landscape and wildlife photos
- Informal gatherings with the crew for daily briefings

LANDING ACTIVITIES

- Escorted and guided landings with small panga boats
- Loan of all equipment for activities
- Expedition photographers on hand to assist you

NOTES

- All planned activities are subject to weather conditions
- Your flight from Baltra will be to Quito. If you wish to end your expedition in Guayaquil, please advise your booking agent
- Quito's altitude is at approximately 9,350 feet above sea level and during your stay, you might experience mild altitude sickness
- Excursions and activities are subject to change
- Please make sure you meet all entry and boarding requirements
- Depending on your flight times, an additional overnight might be needed (not included)

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NORTHERN ROUTE



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