

# **GALAPAGOS ISLANDS**

**Orbridge**

**A LIVING LABORATORY OF NATURE'S DIVERSITY AND ENDLESS WONDERS**

# Galapagos Islands | Northern Itinerary Highlights *(subject to change)*

- Day 1** **EN ROUTE FROM U.S. • ARRIVE IN QUITO, ECUADOR** After an evening arrival in Quito transfer to your five-star boutique hotel—the only Relais & Châteaux property in Quito. Overnight: Casa Gangotena – Quito
- Day 2** **QUITO (B,L,R)** Following breakfast and a guided panoramic tour of Quito, stop at a local artisan chocolate shop for an immersive, hands-on experience. Meet with a chocolate maker to gain insight into the history, evolution and traditional uses of cacao beans and the significant economic impact the Ecuadorian chocolate industry has on the country. Then roll up your sleeves for an opportunity to make your own chocolate bars. This evening become acquainted with fellow travelers during a welcome orientation. Overnight: Casa Gangotena – Quito



- Day 3** **QUITO • FLIGHT TO BALTRA • SANTA CRUZ: HIGHLANDS • PUERTO AYORA – EMBARKATION (B,L,D)** This morning transfer to Mariscal Sucre International Airport for the approximate two-hour flight to Baltra Airport. Upon arrival transfer to the Baltra Ferry Terminal to ferry to Santa Cruz Island. A short, scenic drive brings you to the Highlands for lunch. Afterward prepare to encounter the magnificent and iconic Galapagos giant tortoise. Your naturalist guide will describe the tortoises' habits and habitat, as well as the ongoing conservation efforts surrounding this astonishing reptile. Later during embarkation take time to unpack and become familiar with your stateroom and the ship's welcoming public spaces. This evening gather for a cocktail before dinner. Overnight: *Isabela II*
- Day 4** **SANTIAGO: PUERTO EGAS • CHINESE HAT ISLET (B,L,D)** After a wet landing onto the island's black sand beach walk the trail and spot for recently reintroduced land iguanas amidst the lava flows. At low tide, marine iguanas graze upon algae beds and colonies of fur seals relax in the sunshine. This active location is ideal for snorkeling. Chinese Hat Islet features a walking trail that begins at a beautiful beach and ends atop a cliff with spectacular views. Back on board embrace leisure time to relax between adventures. Overnight: *Isabela II*

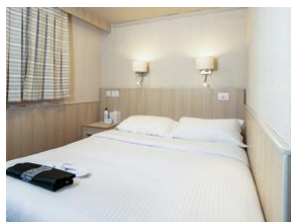
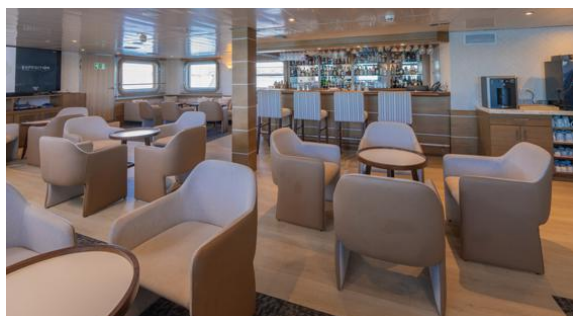
- Day 5** **GENOVESA: PRINCE PHILIP'S STEPS • DARWIN BAY (B,L,D)** Set out on a panga boat excursion along the cliffs of Genovesa—a birder's paradise—before visiting Prince Philip's Steps. For those seeking an alternative activity join a guide to explore the coast by powered watercraft. This is also a great time to snorkel or kayak. Overnight: *Isabela II*
- Day 6** **SANTA FE • SOUTH PLAZA (B,L,D)** This morning visit an idyllic, sandy-white beach populated by colonies of playful sea lions, Galapagos hawks and land iguanas. Enjoy leisure time to stroll the shoreline, snorkel along a natural wave barrier or take a glass-bottom boat ride. Conclude at South Plaza just off the coast of Santa Cruz. This small island is host to the largest population of land iguanas in the archipelago. Overnight: *Isabela II*
- Day 7** **BALTRA – DISEMBARKATION • FLIGHT TO QUITO, ECUADOR (B,L)** Bid a fond adiós to the crew prior to departing Baltra for Quito where you will spend your final night. *(Returning flights to the U.S. may begin departing late evening on Day 7 approximately around 9:00 pm and later.)* Overnight: Wyndham Quito Airport

- Day 8** **QUITO • DEPART FOR U.S. (B)** After breakfast main program guests departing during the suggested times take a complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home. If post-tour guests did not depart on Day 7, they will depart Quito for flights to Cusco, Peru, this morning.

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception)

## Onboard *Isabela II*

Accommodating only 40 guests, the 183-foot *Isabela II* was designed to provide the ultimate in comfort and adventure while cruising the Galapagos Islands. Guests can savor fresh, delicious international and Ecuadorian cuisine at every meal. Enjoy the spacious public decks, dining room, lounge, library, hot tub and fitness room.



### Standard

Full-size bed, window, private bathroom with shower.  
128 sq. ft.



### Classic Twin

Two twin beds, view window, private bathroom with shower.  
139 sq. ft.



### Classic Double

Full-size bed, view window, daybed, private bathroom with shower.  
139 sq. ft.



### Premium Suite

Queen bed, view window, wardrobe, private bathroom with shower.  
170 sq. ft.

**Activity Level:** Guests should be sure-footed on stairs and able to walk at least one mile on rocky, volcanic and uneven ground. Some optional nature hikes will be on irregular and steep terrain. Guests should also be comfortable managing wet beach landings and boarding small vessels. Maximum elevation: 9,350 feet in Quito



## Optional Pre-Tour Mashpi Lodge

Immerse yourself in the unparalleled natural beauty and exclusivity of Mashpi Lodge. Delve into the ecological wonders of the rainforest through interactive workshops, enriching nature activities and expert-led discussions that provide valuable insights into the region's unique flora and fauna.

**Day +1** **ARRIVE IN QUITO, ECUADOR** Transfer to your hotel to refresh for tomorrow's full day of activities. Overnight: Casa Gangotena – Quito

**Day +2** **QUITO • MASHPI LODGE • MASHPI RESERVE** (B,L,D) After breakfast journey 3.5 hours, arriving at award-winning Mashpi Lodge. Settle into your elegantly appointed room, featuring locally-inspired décor. Floor-to-ceiling windows offer breathtaking views of the surrounding greenery, creating an enchanting ambiance amidst the tranquility of your room. Enjoy lunch, then choose from several optional activities. Take a guided hike to one of several waterfalls or follow the Howler Monkey Trail to the Life Centre, which provides extensive information about the rainforest's incredible biodiversity. Return to the lodge to rejuvenate among the property's five-star amenities. Take a leisurely dip in the open-air rooftop hot tub, or visit the spa for a luxurious treatment (*additional fee applies*) complemented by the soothing sounds of the rainforest. Overnight: Mashpi Lodge

**Day +3** **MASHPI LODGE • MASHPI FOREST CANOPY EXPLORATION** (B,L,D) Today get a bird's-eye view of the Mashpi Forest canopy during a guided ride aboard the *Dragonfly*—an aerial cable car. Go for the entire two-hour ride, or combine the *Dragonfly* experience with a guided nature or waterfall hike. This evening join fellow travelers to hear a collection of lectures by a resident biologist or naturalist. Overnight: Mashpi Lodge

**Day +4** **MASHPI • QUITO • MAIN PROGRAM BEGINS** (B,L) After breakfast and final activities at the lodge take a group transfer to Quito for lunch before joining the group for the main program.

## What's Included

- 1 night at Casa Gangotena in Quito
- 2 nights at award-winning Mashpi Lodge
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners (soft drinks available at all meals)
- Entrance to Mashpi Reserve
- *Dragonfly* aerial tram experience
- Full guiding services including interpretation on all activities and experiences within the reserve
- Specialized lectures and field presentations on research conducted in the reserve by local experts
- Use of rain gear (waterproof poncho, rubber boots), walking sticks, spotting scopes and binoculars
- All transportation for excursions using vehicle transport in the reserve
- All gratuities and portage
- Airport transfers for guests arriving during the suggested times
- Round-trip group transportation between Quito and Mashpi Lodge



# Optional Post-Tour Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley

Travel to the mist-shrouded mountain citadel of the Incas. Explore the Sacred Valley of the Incas, ride the train through the Urubamba Valley, and break bread in the home of a local Peruvian family.

**Day 7** **EVENING FLIGHT TO LIMA, PERU** Depending on prevailing air schedules, guests may take an evening group flight to Lima and overnight near the airport. Overnight: Wyndham Grand Costa del Sol Lima Airport

**Day 8** **QUITO OR LIMA • FLIGHT TO CUSCO • SACRED VALLEY (L)** Fly over the Central Andes' peaks and plateaus to the ancient capital of Cusco. Meet your guide and transfer to the Sacred Valley. Enjoy a light lunch before visiting the Yucay Museum of Living Culture for a guided visit. The evening is at leisure. Overnight: Sonesta Posadas del Inca – Yucay

**Day 9** **SACRED VALLEY • MACHU PICCHU (B,D)** Journey to the rail station to board the *Vistadome* train to Aguas Calientes. Disembark the train for a bus ride up the mountain. Join a guide to explore ruins of the lower citadel. Learn about the archaeology and history of Intihuatana (the Sun Dial), the Sacred Plaza, and the Temple of the Sun. Return to the hotel for free time before dinner. Overnight: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

**Day 10** **MACHU PICCHU (B,D)** Experience a quiet morning at Machu Picchu with exploration from the upper citadel. This afternoon visit Aguas Calientes with time to explore independently. Overnight: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

**Day 11** **CUSCO • FLIGHT TO LIMA • DEPART FOR U.S. (B,L)** Return to Ollantaytambo aboard the *Expedition* train. Next visit a private home for lunch followed by a traditional Pachamama ceremony and Archaeo-Music performance. Transfer to the airport for an afternoon flight to Lima. An Orbridge representative will assist with flight connections. A group day room will be provided for comfort between flights. Day Room: Wyndham Grand Costa del Sol Lima Airport

## What's Included

- Airfare from Quito to Lima and round-trip internal airfare between Lima and Cusco (including luggage fees and preferred boarding/seating)
- 3 nights premium accommodations and a group day room on departure day
- 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- Fully guided tours and field presentations from local experts
- All ground excursion transportation including the *Vistadome* and *Expedition* trains through the Urubamba Valley
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and wait staff for included meals
- Airport assistance for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times

