

GALAPAGOS ADVENTURE CRUISE ON THE M/V EVOLUTION SOUTHERN ISLANDS



**WILDLAND
ADVENTURES**

**AUTHENTIC WORLDWIDE
EXPLORATIONS**

Itinerary Overview

Discover a blend of Indian and Spanish culture in Quito, South America's oldest capital city designated as a UN World Heritage Site. Voyage among the Galapagos Islands, a showcase of evolution, aboard a deluxe yacht. As you travel from island to island, our on-board, expert naturalist guide points out the unique behavioral and physical characteristics plants and animals have developed as they evolve and adapt to each unique island habitat.

During an 8-day voyage, you visit all the major sites in the archipelago, including outer islands. No where else on Earth can you observe, photograph and commune so closely with exotic and bizarre wildlife as you venture among cinder cones, lava flows, white and black sand beaches, rocky cliffs and shorelines. Plan to hike, snorkel and sea kayak.

DAY	DATE	OVERNIGHT	HOTELS	MEALS	HIGHLIGHTS
1	Thu	QUITO	Casa Aliso		Arrive and transfer to your hotel.
2	Fri	QUITO	Casa Aliso	B	Half day city tour
3	Sat	BALTRA / BARTOLOME	Evolution	BLD	Arrive Baltra, Pinnacle Rock
4	Sun	ISABELA / FERNANDINA	Evolution	BLD	Punta Vicente Roca, Punta Espinosa
5	Mon	ISABELA	Evolution	BLD	Urbina Bay, Elizabeth Bay
6	Tue	ISABELA	Evolution	BLD	Puerto Villamil, Volcan Sierra Negra
7	Wed	SANTA CRUZ	Evolution	BLD	Charles Darwin Research Station, Highlands
8	Thu	FLOREANA	Evolution	BLD	Mirador Baronesa, Post Office Bay
9	Fri	ESPANOLA	Evolution	BLD	Punta Suarez, Gardner Bay
10	Sat	QUITO	Casa Aliso	BLD	Interpretation Center, fly to Quito
11	Sun	QUITO		B	Depart

Itinerary in Detail

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN QUITO

Airport reception and transfer to Casa Aliso, a charming mansion elegantly re-imagined as a boutique hotel in the stylish district of “La Floresta.” Overnight at **Casa Aliso (or similar)**

DAY 2: QUITO

Enjoy a half-day city tour of colonial Quito. Beginning in the charming hillside neighborhood of Guapulo with quaint cobblestone streets and lavish walled residences of ambassadors, continue into the main area of Quito’s New Town, passing the American Embassy and House of Culture. The old colonial center includes the bustling Independence Plaza, the dazzling gold-leafed altars of La Compania Church and the San Francisco Church. Your orientation continues with a visit to Mitad del Mundo, the Equatorial marker and ethnographic village and museum. Learn about the broad diversity of people living in this small nation, from descendents of African slaves on the Pacific coast to the remote Achuar of the rainforest. Overnight **Casa Aliso (or similar)**. [B]

DAY 3: GALAPAGOS ISLANDS / BARTOLOME

Private transfer this morning to the domestic airport for the flight to the Galapagos. You are met and warmly greeted by your naturalist guide and transferred to the Evolution. We set out immediately for the island of Bartolome, perhaps one of the most iconic images of the Galapagos. While inhospitable to most plants and animals, this young island is breathtaking in its stark beauty. After a dry landing, climb 30 minutes up stairs leading to the summit of a once active volcano. Along the way, we pause to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones and cinder cones. From the top of the wooden stairs, gaze out across the island for a panoramic view of the island and iconic "Pinnacle Rock", an eroded tuff cone. Down below, crystal clear water is an invitation to snorkel from the beach or Zodiac with schools of tropical fish and Galapagos Penguins. As the sun sets, enjoy a typical Ecuadorian meal, the nightly briefing and formal presentation of the captain and crew. During the rest of this week, you will leisurely voyage through the stunning Galapagos Islands, among a varied landscape of diverse flora and fauna. Overnight onboard the [Evolution](#). [BLD]

DAY 4: ISABELA / FERNANDINA

Following breakfast, a panga navigation to Punta Vicente Roca presents an excellent opportunity to observe the rich marine life sustained by the upwelling of the cold Cromwell Current. The remnants of an ancient volcano create twin turquoise coves, protected from the ocean and a snorkeling paradise. A partially submerged cave is a perfect perching site for masked and blue-footed boobies, as well as unique flightless cormorants. The caving of Volcan Ecuador, the Islands’ 6th largest volcano, allows a cutaway view of the inner caldera. After lunch, we cross the Bolivar Channel where we often spot whales and dolphins riding the bow wave. We have a semi-wet landing at Punta Espinoza, Fernandina, the youngest and most pristine Island in Galapagos. Recent lava flows formed by an active volcano stretch their way around the coast. Hundreds of marine iguanas, the largest colony in Galapagos, bask in the sun along the rugged shoreline. Observe sea lion harems with resident bulls carefully guarding their territory. Flightless Cormorants build their nests on the point and Galapagos Hawks soar overhead. Overnight onboard the [Evolution](#). [BLD]

DAY 5: ISABELA

Isabela is actually composed of 6 major volcanoes which flowed together to create the largest of the Galapagos Islands, and one of the most popular with visitors. At the base of Alcedo Volcano, we disembark this morning at Urbina Bay. Here we find 4 miles of exposed coastal seabed and remnants of marine life, brought to the surface during a dramatic uplift in 1954, following a volcanic eruption. The marine remains of coral skeletons, some of them waist-high, are visited after a wet landing on the beach. You may observe nesting brown pelicans and flightless cormorants here, as well as giant marine iguanas which also inhabit this area. Following lunch, we board zodiacs for the ride to Elizabeth Bay. We begin with a visit to a secluded cove, lined with large red mangrove trees sheltering turtles, rays, and shore birds. We motor to the rocky islets known as “Las Marielas,” where a colony of nesting penguins, flightless cormorants and giant

marine iguanas may be found. The snorkeling here is fantastic, and there will be plenty of time given to explore the undersea world. Overnight onboard the **Evolution. [BLD]**

DAY 6: ISABELA

This morning's excursion is a slight change of pace. Accompany your naturalist guide to explore laid-back Puerto Villamil, the main settlement of Isabela. Villamil is often considered the most beautiful site in the Galapagos, largely due to the expansive, palm-tree lined white coral beach stretching the length of the town and beyond. This is the perfect spot for viewing seabirds, iguanas and many species of crabs. A visit to the town jetty will often turn up Galapagos penguins and blue-footed boobies as well. Just behind the settlement, brackish lagoons are home to brilliant pink flamingos, common stilts, whimbrels, white cheeked pintails, and gallinules to name only a few. Located in the Southwest portion of Isabela is Sierra Negra Volcano, considered the oldest and largest volcano on Isabela. From Puerto Villamil, we travel this afternoon by motorized vehicle to Santo Tomas, then continue to the rim of the caldera. Enroute, we traverse a lava field through a series of craters and fumaroles until we reach Volcan Chico. Keep an eye peeled for the vermilion flycatcher, Galapagos martins, whimbrels, egrets, Galapagos Hawks and possibly the dark-billed cuckoo. A short stop is made at El Muro de las Lagrimas (Wall of Tears), a large wall of lava rock built by prisoners of a former penal colony on Isabela. Overnight onboard the **Evolution. [BLD]**

DAY 7: SANTA CRUZ

A highlight of any trip is a visit to the the famous Charles Darwin Station on Santa Cruz Island where we learn about current research and conservation initiatives, including several breeding programs that hope to reintroduce specific tortoise species back onto the island of their origin. Meet Lonesome George, possibly the oldest and most famous resident of Galapagos and the last surviving individual giant tortoise of his Pinta Island sub-species. Following lunch, we journey to the Santa Cruz Highlands, where the sparse, dry coastal vegetation transitions to lush wet fields and forests overgrown with moss and lichens. Our destination is the Tortoise Reserve, where we will have opportunities to track and view these friendly ancient creatures in their natural setting. This extends to the adjacent pasturelands, where farmers have given tortoise safe quarter. Nearby, a wooden stairway descends to the mouth of a giant lava tube, its arched entrance continues underground for several meters before reaching a narrow passage that marks its exit. Overnight onboard the **Evolution. [BLD]**

DAY 8: FLOREANA

Floreana presents a rich history with mystery and intrigues worthy of a novel. A wet landing on the "Mirador de Baronesa" is an opportunity for our naturalist guide to spin tales of the infamous "Baroness" who one day landed on Floreana with 3 men and subsequently began a campaign of terrorizing and scandalizing other settlers. Eventually the Baroness, 2 of her lovers and a third settler turned up dead or missing. Nothing is known of what really happened, but you are free to add your own speculations! The viewpoint itself is a tuff basalt formation, and the climb to the top is easy and rewarding. This afternoon we visit Post Office Bay, another remnant of Floreana's colorful past. Here we visit a post barrel , originally put into use in the late 18th Century by sailors onboard English whaling vessels. You are invited to leave a post card and to pick up any mail from your home area, to be delivered upon your return. Overnight onboard the **Evolution. [BLD]**

DAY 9: ESPANOLA

Following breakfast we have a dry landing at Punta Suarez, where we witness the highest rate of endemic species in Galapagos. Sea lions noisily greet us as we land on "their" beach. Curious Hood mockingbirds peck at our shoelaces. From April to November, the waved albatross, found only on Espanola, perform their wild mating ritual. Colonies of blue-footed boobies engage in "sky-pointing" to show off for potential mates. Nazca (formerly masked) boobies busily care for their young. Stunning swallow-tailed gulls are the only nocturnal gulls in the world. Red-billed tropicbirds take shelter under the cliffs. We also find Darwin's Finches, Galapagos Doves and Galapagos Hawks. Here we may observe a unique species of marine iguana identified with traces of red and green colorings. Colorful sally light-foot crabs crawl along the shoreline near the dramatic "blow hole". During lunch, we motor to the other side of the Island. This afternoon, we have a wet landing at Gardner Bay. Walk along seemingly endless stretches of this white sandy beach where you'll find large colonies of sea lions. There is no trail to follow so this is a

chance to explore and discover Galapagos Hawks, Darwin's Finches or a Hood Mockingbird. Swim with sea lions from the beach. Your expert naturalist guides can point you to an excellent snorkeling site off Gardner Islet with colorful diversity of sea life near Tortuga Rock or caves covered with invertebrates. Passengers are also permitted to use the kayaks at this particular site. Return to the yacht at sunset for dinner and your naturalists' presentations. Overnight onboard the **Evolution**. **[BLD]**

DAY 10: QUITO

Today our voyage comes to an end. But before we bid farewell to the Evolution and her crew we pay a visit to the Interpretation Centre. In 1998 the Galápagos National Park Visitor Centre opened for the benefit of islanders and travelers alike, presenting a comprehensive exhibit of the islands' natural history, human interaction, ecosystems, flora and fauna. Our guide will use the exhibits to provide an illustrated overview of the natural history of the islands. From the Interpretation Center, a short trail arrives at Frigate Bird Hill, where both "magnificent-frigates" and "great-frigates" can be seen in the same colony—ideal for learning to distinguish the two bird species. Disembark in the morning and your guide will accompany you to the Galapagos airport for your afternoon flight to the mainland. Transfer in from the Quito airport and stay overnight at **Casa Aliso (or similar)**. **[B]**

DAY 11: DEPART FOR HOME

Transfer to the airport for your return flight home or extend your trip to visit more of Ecuador's natural wonders. **[B]**

END OF SERVICES

Actual routes and activities may vary. Local trip coordinators reserve the right to change accommodations to similar quality alternatives.

Accommodations



CASA ALISO, QUITO

Casa Aliso is a charming boutique hotel in the style and comfort of a small, luxurious home. This luxury Ecuador vacation accommodation is located in the fashionable residential neighborhood of "La Floresta", a quiet, forested area in the northern sector of the city a close to restaurants, shops and plazas of downtown Quito. Each room is individually designed featuring classic décor with modern style. They are well appointed with a sitting chair, desk, and comfortable beds, with telephones and cable TV. The bathrooms have a bathtub and shower, bathrobes, hairdryers and are equipped with 220v and 110v sockets. Your Ecuador adventure will be enhanced by the fine cuisine and the exceptionally professional and personal service of the staff at Casa Aliso.



M/V EVOLUTION

The M/V Evolution combines 1920's elegance and style with modern day comfort and safety. The 210 ft Galapagos expedition ship is one of the most popular vessels among guests who appreciate the special ambiance of a classic small ship with the space and amenities of a completely renovated and modern Galapagos yacht. The Evolution is professionally operated by eighteen crew members, a special Galapagos tour leader, and naturalist guides trained and licensed by the Galapagos Islands National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Research Center. The Evolution features a lounge with bar and facilities for lectures,

presentations and films, and a library with a wide range of books, movies and games. Two spacious sundecks are lined with beautiful rattan furniture and you will enjoy stargazing at night in the hot tub on the bow. Meals are served buffet style in the dining room and al fresco dining area. Kids dishes, vegetarian menus and special diets are available upon request. Other amenities include an air renewal system, boutique, and an infirmary with a MD on board at all times. Snorkeling equipment, wetsuits, and kayaks are provided. The Evolution also offers a unique perspective on your Galapagos trip by carrying clear acrylic sea kayaks for 'glass-bottom' glimpses beneath the calm seas. For more information on the cabin configurations and boat dimensions, please see our [website](#).

2012 DEPARTURE DATES (THURSDAY TO SUNDAY)

December 30-January 9	May 3-13	September 6-16
January 12-22	May 17-27	September 18-28
January 26-February 5	May 31-June 10	October 4-14
February 9-19	June 14-24	October 18-28
February 23-March 4	June 28-July 8	November 1-11
March 8-18	July 12-22	November 15-25
March 22-April 1	July 26-August 5	November 29-December 9
April 5-15	August 9-19	December 13-23
April 19-29	August 23-September 2	December 27-January 6, 2013

2012 PRICING

Cabin number	Per Adult	Per child
A 1	\$6680	\$6095
A 2-3	\$6335	\$5395
C1-3, C5-9	\$5780	\$5095
C4 & D1-4	\$5380	\$4795

*Principal additional fees of \$535 per adult and \$275 per child include: Internal air Quito-Galapagos-Quito, and Galapagos National Park Fee. Child is ages 11 and under

INCLUDED SERVICES

- All guided tours and excursions
- English-speaking naturalist guides
- Round trip airfare Quito - Galapagos
- Galapagos National Park fees
- Airport-hotel transfers, land and sea transportation
- 10 nights accommodation as indicated
- Meals as indicated [B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner]
- Wildland Adventures travel consultation and pre-departure services

NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- International or internal airfare
- Tips and gratuities
- Airport departure taxes
- Drinks, alcoholic beverages, and meals other than listed above
- Personal expenses for extra services, optional activities, or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control
- Travel insurance for trip cancellation, medical services, or evacuation
- Any other items not mentioned above

NOTE: Wildland Adventures, Inc. has arranged your trip utilizing the travel services of local in-country ground operators who are independent contractors. These local outfitters, lodges, hotels and other suppliers of your travel services will make every effort to conduct this trip as described in the itinerary. It is however possible that due to transportation schedule changes, weather, delays and unforeseeable acts of God, humans or nature, this itinerary may vary from what is described. Participants must assume all risks whether identified in advance or unforeseen. All optional activities are at your own risk. Extra costs due to unexpected changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control are not included. We highly

recommend purchasing traveler's insurance for trip delay, trip cancellation, baggage, accident or sickness. Representatives are available for assistance at any time during your trip. If preferred hotels are not available, every attempt will be made to reserve alternative accommodations of similar quality. (If upgrade is necessary, higher rates may apply.) All information and services provided are subject to our Reservation Form Terms and Conditions.

For Galapagos travelers, please note that due to weather conditions, vessel operation, and Galapagos Park management, cruise itineraries are subject to change. All yacht operators reserve the right to change vessels prior to departure due to maintenance or replacement. On very rare occasions when this occurs passengers will be transferred to another vessel and cabin of comparable or better class (comfort, services, amenities, equipment, etc.) at no extra charge.