

**GALAPAGOS ADVENTURE CRUISE  
VOYAGE ON  
M/Y ERIC/FLAMINGO/LETTY  
NORTHWESTERN ISLANDS**



**WILDLAND  
ADVENTURES**

**AUTHENTIC WORLDWIDE  
EXPLORATIONS**

## Itinerary Overview

The M/Y Eric, Flamingo and Letty are a fleet of 83-ft Galapagos yachts that accommodate up to 20 passengers with 2 expert naturalist guides. These vessels are certified "Smart Voyager" for minimizing impact on the fragile island habitat and carry sea kayaks so guests can explore the islands close up.

Explore the fascinating blend of Indian and Spanish culture in Quito, South America's oldest capital city and designated UN World Heritage Site, and voyage among the unique Galapagos Islands. Discover plants and animals unique to particular islands as you travel throughout the archipelago. Our expert naturalist guides explain how these species have evolved and adapted over time. During an 8 day cruise you will visit the major wildlife sites, including some of the more remote outer islands. Meet exotic and bizarre wildlife as you venture among cinder cones, lava flows, white and black sand beaches, and rocky cliffs and cool off snorkeling in clear equatorial waters.

DAY	DATE	OVERNIGHT	HOTELS	MEALS	HIGHLIGHTS
1	Fri	QUITO	Casa Aliso		Arrive Quito.
2	Sat	QUITO	Casa Aliso	B	Half day City tour
3	Sun	GALAPAGOS ISLANDS	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Fly to the Galapagos. Playa Ochoa, Leon Dormido
4	Mon	GENOVESA	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Prince Phillip's Steps, Darwin Bay
5	Tues	SANTA CRUZ /NORTH SEYMOUR	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Bachas Beach
6	Wed	FERNANDINA / ISABELA	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Punta Espinosa, Tagus Cove
7	Thu	ISABELA	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Elizabeth Bay, Urbina Bay
8	Fri	SANTIAGO / RABIDA	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Puerto Egas
9	Sat	SANTA CRUZ / SANTA FE	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Highlands or Darwin Station
10	Sun	QUITO	Casa Aliso	B	Fly to Quito
11	Mon	DEPARTURE		B	Departure

# Itinerary in Detail

## DAY 1: ARRIVE QUITO

Arrive in Quito and transfer to Casa Aliso, a charming boutique-style hotel conveniently located in the stylish “La Floresta” neighborhood. Overnight **Casa Aliso (or similar)**.

## DAY 2: QUITO

We begin our Ecuador vacation with a half-day city tour of colonial Quito, including the bustling Independence Plaza, the dazzling gold-leafed altars of La Compania Church, and the impressive San Francisco Church. Visit the Mitad del Mundo Equatorial marker and ethnographic village and museum. Afternoon and evening are free to explore this beautifully restored city with its busy pedestrian plazas, shops, coffee bars, pubs, and many excellent restaurants. Overnight **Casa Aliso (or similar)**. [B]

## DAY 3: GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Private transfer in the morning to the domestic airport for the 2 hour flight to the Galapagos. You are met and warmly greeted by your naturalist guide and transferred to the M/Y Flamingo or Letty. After the welcome buffet lunch and safety drill, we set sail for Playa Ochoa, where we test snorkeling abilities and equipment while swimming with sea lions. Behind the beach, a tidal lagoon hosts many birds, including the rare Chatham mockingbird. At sunset, we cruise around Leon Dormido, or “Kicker Rock,” a tuff cone which abruptly juts nearly 500 vertical feet out of the ocean. On the cliffs, we may spot blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, and Magnificent frigatebirds. Overnight onboard the **Eric, Flamingo or Letty**. [BLD]

## DAY 4: GENOVESA

We spend the entire day on Genovesa (Tower), considered to be one of the most spectacular Islands in Galapagos for bird species. This morning, a dry landing at Prince Philip’s Steps takes us to a forest of Palo Santo trees, where red-footed boobies nest. Striking Nazca (formerly masked) boobies nest near the trail. In an open lava field, observe large numbers of storm petrels, and if you are lucky, we will see the elusive short-eared owl. Following the walk, kayaks are available for paddling along the shoreline. Look for the beautiful red-billed tropic bird usually found in the crevices. Following lunch, we have a wet-landing on Darwin Bay, a coral sand beach where swallow-tailed and lava gulls gather near the tide pools. Enter a forest of *Optuntia* cactus and mangroves where colonies of great frigate birds nest. In a dramatic display, the earthbound males inflate their red-throated pouches to attract females as they fly overhead. The trail leads through a rich inter tidal zone where your naturalist guide helps you identify a wide diversity of wildlife. After the walk, we can swim and snorkel from the beach with sea lions in these warmer northern waters. Returning to the Eric, we set sail early to motor to the western islands. Enjoy your naturalists’ briefing followed by dinner. Overnight onboard the **Eric, Flamingo or Letty**. [BLD]

## DAY 5: SANTA CRUZ / NORTH SEYMOUR

This morning we visit **Las Bachas**, which is the Spanish translation for “barges”. There is a long stretch of a soft white sand beach and interior lagoons where we find the greater flamingo. There is also a wonderful chance to snorkel here from the beach. Remnants of the US presence from World War II, a floating pier, is found here. This afternoon, we have a dry landing at **North Seymour**, a small geological uplift. We follow a trail that leads us to swallow-tailed gulls, blue-footed boobies and the endemic land iguanas. Visit the largest colony of magnificent frigate birds found in Galapagos. As we stroll along the beach, we find marine iguanas and sea lions body surf the northern swells. Following the walk there is a snorkeling opportunity offered in deep water. Overnight onboard the **Eric, Flamingo or Letty**. [BLD]

## DAY 6: FERNANDINA / ISABELA

This morning, 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. After lunch, we cross the Bolivar Channel where we often spot whales and dolphins riding the bow wave.

This afternoon, a dry landing at Tagus Cove places us on the adjacent island of Isabela. Six volcanoes flowing together formed the largest Island in Galapagos. During the walk, we discover a salt-water lagoon, a scenic overlook with a spectacular view of the surrounding ocean and neighboring islands, lava fields and volcanic formations. Graffiti dating back to the 1800's is scrawled on the rocky cliffs. Explore the Coves by Zodiac or in one of our clear-bottom sea kayaks to find Galapagos penguins, boobies, pelicans and other seabirds. An excellent snorkeling opportunity is offered here after the walk. Following the evening's briefing and dinner, a sky full of stars draws us out on deck to observe the galaxy. Overnight onboard the **Eric, Flamingo or Letty. [BLD]**

#### **DAY 7: ISABELA**

This morning, our excursion is a zodiac 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. We disembark this afternoon at the base of Alcedo Volcano, 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. Overnight onboard the **Eric, Flamingo or Letty. [BLD]**

#### **DAY 8: SANTIAGO / RABIDA**

This morning, we have a wet landing at Puerto Egas, Santiago. Stroll with your naturalist guide along the shoreline looking for octopus, starfish and other sea life caught in the tide pools. At low tide, catch a glimpse of marine iguanas as they feed on exposed green algae. Watch for great blue herons, lava herons, American oystercatchers and yellow-crowned night herons. Our walk ends at the grottos, deep pools of clear water where we encounter fur sea lions once on the verge of extinction. Before returning to the yacht, there is a snorkeling opportunity with opportunities to view massive numbers of brilliant tropical fish. As an alternative, you may use the kayaks to explore the marine environment and residents without getting wet.

Following lunch this afternoon, we disembark on Rabida Island, located off Santiago. Rabida sports the most diversified volcanic rocks of all the islands and is considered the geographic center of Galapagos. The dark red sand beach originated from the erosion of volcanic stones. Follow a trail leading to a salt-water lagoon, and hopefully observe Greater Flamingos as they feed. Brown Pelicans also nest in the mangroves at the far side of the lagoon. Following the walk, the snorkeling is excellent at the beach. Overnight onboard the **Eric, Flamingo or Letty. [BLD]**

#### **DAY 9: SANTA CRUZ / SANTA FE**

Travel by bus to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. The scenery gradually changes as we wind our way through all seven vegetation zones found in Galapagos. Here we visit the tortoise reserve where we encounter giant tortoises in their natural habitat. We visit *Los Gemelos*, Spanish for "The Twins," a pair of large pit craters, and habitat for the brilliant red male vermilion flycatcher. A special treat is a stop at "the tunnels," the largest lava tubes found in Galapagos, and eye-popping evidence of the Islands' volcanic origins.

Alternately, we may choose to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. We observe all three tortoise corrals and the breeding center with new hatchlings and miniature tortoises not yet ready to be repatriated to the wild. Scientists from all over the globe work at the station and conduct biological research from anatomy to zoology. We also visit the Van Straelen Hall with exhibits and a short video presentation. Visitors can see the pen of famous Lonesome George, the last surviving member of the Pinta Island subspecies.

This afternoon, we visit Santa Fe, a volcanic uplift, starting with a wet landing on a beach populated by lazing sea lions. Here, we can observe one of the few remaining land iguanas of the species (*Conolophus pallidus*) endemic to Santa Fe Island. Some of these iguanas can be 5 feet long and have very pronounced

spines along the back. We also walk through a forest of giant prickly pear cactus. Back on board the yacht, enjoy the Captain's Farewell cocktail followed by dinner and a briefing. Overnight onboard the **Eric, Flamingo or Letty. [BLD]**

**DAY 10: RETURN TO QUITO**

After a morning visit to the San Cristobal Interpretation Center, your guide returns you to the airport for your mainland flight. Arrive in Quito by late afternoon. Overnight at **Casa Aliso (or similar). [B]**

**DAY 11: DEPARTURE**

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 and yacht operators reserve the right to change accommodations and activities to similar quality alternatives.**

## Accommodations



### **CASA ALISO**

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/Y ERIC, FLAMINGO OR LETTY**

These first-class 83-foot vessels provide the greatest overall value in Galapagos yachts considering the on-board amenities, cabin quality, variability in berth configurations, passenger-to-guide ratio (10-1 or less) and reasonable price. We've been working with this signature fleet of Galapagos boats more consistently than any other vessels in the Galapagos Islands. Refurbished annually, three decks of well-appointed and spacious staterooms feature polished teak and brass detailing. The interior common areas are clean and bright with air-conditioning throughout and large picture windows for spectacular panoramic views. A wide variety of international and Ecuadorian specialties are served in the natural light of the spacious dining room. The conference room and separate lounge with fully stocked bar provide ample public area space for daily briefings together and a place where adults and young people can gather to watch movies or play games. These Galapagos yachts are self-contained and ecologically sound, and equipped for noise-reduction and fuel-efficiency. A false keel provides stability to ensure a smooth ride.

## 2012 DEPARTURE DATES (FRIDAY TO MONDAY)

### February

2/3 - 2/13  
2/17 - 2/27

### March

3/2 - 3/12  
3/16 - 3/26  
3/30 - 4/9

### April

4/13 - 4/23  
4/27 - 5/7

### May

5/11 - 5/21  
5/25 - 6/4

### June

6/8 - 6/18  
6/22 - 7/2

### July

7/6 - 7/16  
7/20 - 7/30

### August

8/3 - 8/13  
8/17 - 8/27  
8/31 - 9/10

### September

9/14 - 9/24  
9/28 - 10/8

### October

10/12 - 10/22  
10/26 - 11/5

### November

11/9 - 11/19  
11/23 - 12/3

### December

12/7 - 12/17  
12/21 - 12/31

## PRICING 2012

CABIN CATEGORY	PER ADULT	PER TEEN	PER CHILD
Iguana Deck	\$4130	\$3595	\$3350
Booby Deck	\$4530	\$3955	\$3735
Dolphin Deck	\$4930	\$4275	\$3845

\*Teen pricing for ages 12-14, children are 11 and under. Additional fees of \$535 per adult/teen and \$275 per child include internal air (Quito-Galapagos-Quito) and Galapagos National Park fees. Discounts are not available on holiday departures. Please call for triple and single rates.

### INCLUDED SERVICES

- All guided tours and excursions
- English-speaking certified naturalist guides
- Roundtrip airfare Quito - Galapagos
- Galapagos National Park fees
- Fuel taxes
- Guided Tours and excursions
- Airport-hotel transfers, land and sea transportation
- 10 nights accommodation as indicated
- Meals as indicated [B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner]
- House wine and beer served with dinner onboard your yacht
- Wildland Adventures travel consultation and pre-departure services

### NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- International 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

*You will need to carry about \$300-\$500 extra cash (must be in local currency or US dollars cash, not travelers checks nor credit cards) to cover the fees, taxes, tips and meals not included in your itinerary.*

**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.