

**GALAPAGOS ADVENTURE CRUISE
VOYAGE ON
M/Y ERIC/FLAMINGO/LETTY
SOUTHERN 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	Patio Andaluz		Arrive Quito.
2	Sat	QUITO	Patio Andaluz	B	Half day City tour
3	Sun	GALAPAGOS ISLANDS	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Fly to the Galapagos, visit La Galapaguera, Cerro Colorado
4	Mon	SAN CRISTOBAL	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Cerro Brujo and Punta Pitt
5	Tues	ESPANOLA	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Punta Suarez and Gardner Bay
6	Wed	FLOREANA	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Punta Cormorant, Devil's Crown, Post Office Bay
7	Thu	ISABELA	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Sierra Negra Volcano
8	Fri	SANTA CRUZ / BARTOLOME	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Black Turtle Cove, Pinnacle Rock
9	Sat	SOUTH PLAZA / SANTA CRUZ	M/Y Eric, Flamingo or Letty	BLD	Opuntia cactus forest, Highlands or Darwin Station
10	Sun	QUITO	Patio Andaluz	BL	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 travel by bus into the interior of San Cristobal to visit La Galapaguera Cerro Colorado, where the National Park has established a breeding program for the tortoises. Browse the helpful information center before setting out with your naturalist guide on your first exploration. Along the trail, we find the San Cristobal (Chatham) mockingbird and Calandrinia plant, both endemic to this island. Observe the terrestrial tortoises living in their natural habitat and learn about their origin, evolution and threats by introduced animals. This evening, your naturalist guides hold your first briefing followed by the Captain’s welcome cocktail. Overnight onboard the **Eric, Flamingo or Letty**. [BLD]

DAY 4: SAN CRISTOBAL

This morning we visit Cerro Brujo, a breathtaking white power-sand beach, said to be one of the most spectacular in Galapagos. Here we have an opportunity to snorkel or kayak directly from the beach, where you may spot turtles or flamingos. Following lunch onboard and repositioning of the vessel, we visit the northeast tip of San Cristobal, Punta Pitt. This is a tuff formation that serves as a nesting site for many sea birds including blue footed, Nazca and red-footed boobies, frigatebirds, swallow-tailed gulls and storm petrels. Punta Pitt is considered to be a first class site for birders, so don’t forget your binoculars! Overnight onboard the **Eric, Flamingo or Letty**. [BLD]

DAY 5: 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”. This is the scene most people envision when they decide to visit Galapagos. 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 **Eric, Flamingo or Letty**. [BLD]

DAY 6: FLOREANA

This morning we step ashore at Punta Cormorant on Floreana, one of the few populated islands in the Galapagos. Floreana presents a rich history with mystery and intrigues worthy of a novel. Set foot on a green-sand beach alive with the sounds of sea lions. Follow a trail to a brackish lagoon, home of the pintail ducks, common stilts, and the pinkest Flamingos in the world. Your guide will help identify a rich variety of plants including morning glories, cutleaf daisies, palo verdes and scalesia, all while approaching a beach with power soft sand. Sea turtles lay their eggs in the sand dunes and brilliantly-colored rays swim in the shallow water. After the walk, we have an opportunity to snorkel at Devil's Crown, a shallow sunken crater colonized by a brilliant array of colorful fish and corral.

This afternoon we visit Post Office Bay, perhaps not the most scenic, but probably the most famous site in Galapagos. 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. Overnight onboard the **Eric, Flamingo or Letty. [BLD]**

DAY 7: ISABELA

Located in the Southwest portion of Isabela is Sierra Negra Volcano, considered the oldest and largest volcano on Isabela. From Puerto Villamil, we travel by motorized vehicle to Santo Tomas, then continue by horseback 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 WWII-era penal colony on Isabela. Overnight onboard the **Eric, Flamingo or Letty. [BLD]**

DAY 8: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND / BARTOLOME

Board the Zodiacs this morning for Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz. We carefully navigate through a series of coves surrounded by lush mangroves. Your naturalist may point out mating marine turtles (Sept-Feb), white-tipped reef sharks, spotted eagle rays and beautiful yellow cow-nosed rays. The Zodiac motors are turned off and all must remain quiet while maneuvering through this magical area.

Following lunch and repositioning, we visit Bartolome, a landscape reminiscent of walking on the moon. 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. Overnight onboard the **Eric, Flamingo or Letty. [BLD]**

DAY 9: SOUTH PLAZA / SANTA CRUZ

This morning's visit is to South Plaza, a small geological uplift with tall cliffs offering spectacular views. After a dry landing, the trails lead us through Prickly Pear cactus or Opuntia and Sesuvium. Here we find the Galapagos land iguana feeding on the cactus leaves. Toward the end of the hill, we encounter a colony of bachelor sea lions. The dominant bulls will likely be in various stages of recovery from battles lost over prime beach territory. We also find swallow tailed gulls, shearwaters and red-billed tropicbirds who build their nests along the cliffs.

This afternoon, we travel by bus to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. The scenery gradually changes while winding 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 corals 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. 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). [BL]**

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.



ERIC, FLAMINGO, LETTY

A modern fleet of three sister motor yachts, these first-class 83-foot vessels provide the greatest overall value in Galapagos yachts considering their 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 three 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 are equipped for noise-reduction and fuel-efficiency. False keels provide stability to ensure a smooth ride.

2012 DEPARTURE DATES (FRIDAY TO MONDAY)

January

1/27 – 2/6

February

2/10 - 2/20
2/24 – 3/5

March

3/9 – 3/19
3/23 – 4/2

April

4/6 – 4/16
4/20 – 4/30

May

5/4 – 5/14
5/18 – 5/28

June

6/1 – 6/11
6/15 – 6/25
6/29 – 7/9

July

7/13 – 7/23
7/27 – 8/6

August

8/10 – 8/20
8/24 – 9/3

September

9/7 – 9/17
9/21 – 10/1

October

10/5 – 10/15
10/19 – 10/29

November

11/2 – 11/12
11/16 – 11/26
11/30 – 12/10

December

12/14 – 12/24

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.