

**GALAPAGOS ADVENTURE CRUISE
ON THE M/V GRACE
NORTHWESTERN ISLANDS**



**WILDLAND
ADVENTURES**

**AUTHENTIC WORLDWIDE
EXPLORATIONS**

Itinerary Overview

An elegant 145 foot motor yacht accommodating just 18 passengers, the Grace offers spacious cabins and excellent service. The Grace was re-christened in honor of a previous owner; Grace Kelly, Princess of Monaco. She carries sea kayaks on board for guests who wish to discover the marine life on a closer scale.

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 through 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 with snorkel in clear equatorial waters.

DAY	DATE	OVERNIGHT	HOTELS	MEALS	HIGHLIGHTS
1	Thu	QUITO	Casa Aliso		Arrival in Quito
2	Fri	QUITO	Casa Aliso	B	Quito City Tour
3	Sat	GALAPAGOS ISLANDS	Grace	BLD	Fly to the Galapagos, Sombbrero Chino
4	Sun	SANTA FE, SOUTH PLAZAS	Grace	BLD	Giant cactus forest
5	Mon	GENOVESA	Grace	BLD	Prince Phillip's Steps, Darwin Bay
6	Tue	FERNANDINA, ISABELA	Grace	BLD	Punta Espinoza, Urbina Bay
7	Wed	ISABELA	Grace	BLD	Tagus Cove, Punta Vicente Roca
8	Thu	SANTIAGO	Grace	BLD	Playa Espumilla/Caleta Bucanero, James Bay
9	Fri	SANTA CRUZ	Grace	BLD	Charles Darwin Station, Highlands
10	Sat	QUITO	Casa Aliso	B	Return flight to Quito
11	Sun	DEPARTURE		B	Departure

Itinerary in Detail

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN QUITO

Airport reception and transfer to Casa Aliso, a charming boutique hotel in an elegantly refurbished mansion located in Quito's stylish "La Floresta" neighborhood. Overnight at **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. Upon arrival, meet your naturalist guide and transfer to the vessel Grace. The ship's crew will greet you on board, take care of your luggage, and run through safety drills. Enjoy fresh fruit drinks as the yacht makes her way to the first site visit, Sombbrero Chino islet. This tiny volcanic cone features a spectacular white coral sand beach and allows us to check out our snorkeling gear for the first swim of the voyage, keeping an eye peeled for the penguins who frequent this area. This is a great place to observe spatter cones ("hornitas") and small lava tubes. As the sun sets, enjoy a typical Ecuadorian meal, the nightly briefing, and a 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 on the [Grace](#). [BLD]

DAY 4: SANTA FE / SOUTH PLAZAS

Santa Fe offers one of the more beautiful and sheltered coves in the islands. Its turquoise lagoon is protected by a peninsula of tiny islets forming an ideal anchorage. Geologically it is one of the oldest islands in the archipelago. A wet landing on a sandy white beach brings us close to one of many sea lion colonies. Galapagos hawks are often easily approached, perched atop salt bushes. The giant prickly pear cactus found here live up to their name, with tree-sized trunks! Our goal is to spot one of the large species of land iguana endemic to Santa Fe. Beige to chocolate brown in color with dragon-like spines, these big iguanas truly resemble dinosaurs. After the hike, there is nothing more inviting than a swim in the calm waters of the bay. Following lunch onboard, we visit South Plaza, one of the smallest yet richest islands in the archipelago. Only 130 meters wide (426 feet), it was formed from uplifted seabed, giving it a tilted tabletop quality. The turquoise waters of the channel contrast brilliantly with the black lava of the shoreline, with rocks grown thick with green seaweed in places, speckled with bright orange "Sally light foot" crabs. Further up the shore a carpet of scarlet ice plant (*Sesuvium*) serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus. Yellow-gray land iguanas sit beneath, waiting patiently for pears to drop. The trail gradually follows the tilt of the island to the cliffs that overlook the ocean to the south, where swallow-tailed gulls nest. Red-billed tropic birds, Nazca and blue-footed boobies ride the windy currents. The overlook is a great place for spotting large marine life, including manta rays. Surf pounds an inlet at the western corner of the island, where a colony of male sea lions makes their home at what is referred to as a bachelor's site. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 5: GENOVESA

We spend the entire day on Genovesa, considered to be one of the most spectacular Islands in Galapagos for bird species. Following breakfast, we embark on a wet-landing at Darwin Bay on the southwestern shore of the island, an ocean-filled caldera ringed by the edges of an ancient submerged volcano. On the coral sand beach, swallow-tailed and lava gulls gather near the tide pools. We 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, including yello-crowned and lava herons, red-billed tropicbirds, and more. After the walk, we can swim in the protected bay where

snorkelers are sometimes treated to sightings of giant manta rays that frequent the inner bay near cliff walls. The afternoon finds us across the Bay at Prince Phillip's Steps, named in honor of the British royal's visit in 1964. Here red-footed boobies wrap their brilliant webbed feet around branches of Palo Santo trees while their "Nazca" brethren dot the scrublands beyond. The north shore is a broad lava field where we are able to observe large flocks of storm petrels and sometimes their elusive predator, the short-eared owl. Conditions permitting, we can take kayaks out to paddle the shoreline. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 6: FERNANDINA / ISABELA ISLANDS

Fernandina is the youngest and most pristine of all the Galapagos Islands, and sits the farthest west within the archipelago. This morning, we have a semi-wet landing at Punta Espinoza, where 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. Here you may observe these ancient-looking creatures feasting on seaweed both underwater and above the surface. Nearby are raucous sea lion harems with resident bulls carefully guarding their territory. Flightless cormorants build their nests on the point and Galapagos hawks soar overhead. Dominating the scene is towering Las Cumbres volcano (4858'), one of the most active volcanoes in the world. After lunch, we cross the Bolivar Channel where we often spot whales and dolphins riding the bow wave. At the base of Alcedo Volcano, we disembark this afternoon at Urbina Bay on Isabela. Here we find 4 miles of exposed coastal seabed and remnants of marine life, brought to the surface during a dramatic uplift following a volcanic eruption in 1954. You may observe nesting brown pelicans and flightless cormorants here, as well as giant marine iguanas which also inhabit this area. Giant tortoises also inhabit this coastal plain during the rainy season, before migrating to the highlands as the lower elevations dry up. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 7: ISABELA ISLAND

On the way south, the boat will sail through the Bolivar Channel. These are the coldest, most productive waters in the Galápagos, the upwelling of the rich Cromwell current makes for frequent sightings of dolphins and whales in the area. Tagus Cove, named for a British naval vessel that moored here in 1814, was used historically as an anchorage for pirates and whalers. One can still find the names of their ships carved into the rock above our landing, a practice now prohibited, of course. The cove's quiet waters make for an ideal panga ride beneath its sheltered cliffs, where blue-footed boobies, brown noddies and pelicans nests. Flightless cormorants and penguins inhabit the lava ledges near the ocean. From our landing, a wooden stairway rises to the trail entrance for a view of Darwin Lake, a perfectly round saltwater crater. The trail continues around the lake through a dry vegetation zone before climbing inland to a promontory formed by spatter cones. The site provides spectacular views back toward our anchorage in the bay, as well as Darwin Volcano and Wolf Volcano farther to the north. After lunch and repositioning, we visit the northwestern most point of Isabela Island, Punta Vicente Roca. Here the remnants of an ancient volcano form a cove well protected from the ocean swells. The spot is a popular anchorage from which to take panga rides along the cliff where a partially sunken cave beckons explorers. Nazca and blue-footed boobies as well as brown noddies may be seen perched along the point and the sheer cliffs, while flightless cormorants inhabit the shoreline. The upwelling of coldwater currents in this part of the Galápagos produce an abundance of marine life which, in combination with the protection of the coves, makes Punta Vicente Roca one of the archipelago's most interesting snorkeling and dive spots. This is also a great place for kayaking. The entire area of Punta Vicente Roca lies on the towering flank of 2,600 foot Volcano Ecuador. When half of the volcano slid into the ocean, it left a spectacular cutaway view of its caldera. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 8: SANTIAGO ISLAND

On the northwestern side of the island is James Bay, which offers access to three unique sites, Puerto Egas, Salt Mine and Espumilla Beach. The first landing, Puerto Egas is the most visited area and begins with a wet landing on a black beach. With intriguing eroded rock formations inland, the trail crosses the dry interior eastward and continues along the shore line where two different types of lavas merge into unreal scenery. There we find the so called Fur seal Grottos, the only place during your visit that allows you to see these beautiful marine mammals during a land excursion. 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. Before returning to the yacht, there is outstanding snorkeling 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. This afternoon, disembark for a hike through a Palo Santo forest, retracing trails once walked by pirates and whalers in search of a fresh water supply. A short walk takes us to a mangrove swamp where we may observe a variety of water birds as well as sea turtles. Slightly beyond lies a brackish lagoon, home to flocks of pink flamingos. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 9: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Santa Cruz is the second largest island in the Galápagos and something of a hub for the archipelago. Puerto Ayora, located in the southeast of this large, round volcanic island is the economic center of the Islands. Puerto Ayora is home to both the Galápagos National Park Service Headquarters and Charles Darwin Research Station, the center of the great restorative efforts taking place in the park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we go ashore to visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding and Rearing Program run by the research station, which began by rescuing the remaining 14 tortoises on the island of Española in 1970. This program has restored the population of animals there to over 1,000 today. You will see everything from hatchlings to juveniles to large, distinguished individuals like Lonesome George, the last of his particular race of tortoises. The local color of this port makes for an attractive stop-off, with restaurants, souvenir shops and internet cafés. A highlight of any trip is a visit to the Highlands, where the dry coastal vegetation transitions to lush wet fields and forests overgrown with mosses and lichens. Our destination is the Tortoise Reserve, where we will have chances to track and view these friendly and ancient creatures in their natural settings. We continue onto the highland's lava tubes. We descend to the mouth of their arched cave entrances via a wooden walkway. From there we make our way along the cool, dimly lit passages with their fascinating rock formations. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 10: RETURN TO QUITO

Disembark in the morning for the return to Quito. Your guide will accompany you to the Galapagos airport for your flight to the mainland, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. 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 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 GRACE

The luxury class motor yacht Grace is among the finest small Galapagos yachts. She has traversed the oceans of the world under many names but has been re-christened for her life in the Galapagos after her late owner the Serene Highness Princess Grace of Monaco, a name representative of her elegance, beauty and prestige. M/Y Grace's stellar past includes ownership and use by the rich and famous like Sir George Tilley and Aristotle Onassis, a brief stint in the British navy, and the vacation home of politicians and celebrities including Winston Churchill.

The 18 passenger M/Y Grace is the ideal Galapagos yacht for the traveler who seeks an in-depth natural history Galapagos adventure, complemented with excellent service, superb accommodations and exceptional dining. With one naturalist guide for every 9 guests on a full ship, all passengers appreciate the personalized onboard service and close interaction with guides in the field.

2012 DEPARTURE DATES

January 19-29
February 2-12
February 16-26
March 1-11
March 15-25
March 29-April 8
April 12-22
April 26-May 6
May 10-20

May 24-June 3
June 7-17
June 21-July 1
July 5-15
July 19-29
August 2-12
August 16-26
August 30-September 9
September 13-23

September 27-October 7
October 11-21
October 25-November 4
November 8-18
November 22-December 2
December 6-16
December 20-30

2012 PRICING

CABIN	ADULT	CHILD
A1, A4	\$6880	\$4990
A2, A3	\$6380	\$4640
C1, C2	\$6380	\$4640
C3-C5	\$6180	\$4500

*Additional fees of \$535 per adult and \$275 per child includes internal air (Quito-Galapagos-Quito), and Galapagos National Park fees. Child pricing for ages 11 and under. Please inquire for single availability and cost

INCLUDED SERVICES

- Round trip airfare Quito - Galapagos
- All guided tours and excursions
- English-speaking certified naturalist guides
- 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 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.