

GALAPAGOS ADVENTURE CRUISE ON THE M/V GRACE SOUTHERN 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, Isla Lobos, Leon Dormido
4	Sun	ESPANOLA ISLAND	Grace	BLD	Punta Suarez, Gardner Bay
5	Mon	FLOREANA ISLAND	Grace	BLD	Post Office Bay, Punta Cormorant
6	Tue	ISABELA ISLAND	Grace	BLD	Tintorerias, Volcan Sierra Negra
7	Wed	SANTA CRUZ ISLAND	Grace	BLD	Bachas Bay, Black Turtle Cove
8	Thu	RABIDA, SANTIAGO	Grace	BLD	Sullivan Bay
9	Fri	BARTOLOME, NORTH SEYMOUR	Grace	BLD	Pinnacle Rock
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, the small islet of "Los Lobos," which true to the name is a haven for barking, playful sea lions. It also serves as a nesting site for blue-footed boobies, and presents us with the first snorkeling opportunity of the voyage! Next, the Grace navigates to Leon Dormido, or "Kicker Rock," an iconic tuff formation rising 500' out of the ocean. Blue-footed boobies, masked boobies and magnificent frigate birds are often seen on the sheer cliff face. 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: ESPANOLA ISLAND

This morning you arrive at Punta Suarez for an outstanding opportunity to see more wildlife including five species of nesting seabirds like the Hood Island mockingbirds, Galapagos doves, and Galapagos hawks. Prehistoric-looking Marine iguanas and giant lava lizards roam the terrain. A short hike leads to the Blowhole, a fissure in the lava cliffs which blasts incoming breakers into geysers over 90 feet high. Following lunch, relax on the beach with the sea lions at Gardener Bay, Espanola. Snorkeling from shore here, you can find plenty of beautiful fish as well as harmless nurse sharks and gentle sea turtles. Due to its isolation, Espanola has a high number of endemic species found only on this island and you will visit the nesting site of over ten thousand pairs of Waved albatross. At one meter high with a two meter wing span, the Waved albatross is one of the most impressive and comical aerial acrobats in the world. Remarkably, they are found no where else on Earth. Today's visits give us ample opportunity for outstanding snorkeling as well as kayaking for those who prefer to remain dry! Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 5: FLOREANA ISLAND

Of all the islands in the Galapagos, Floreana has the most intriguing human history. Learn about the 18th century whalers who created the wooden barrel in Post Office Bay which is still used as a general mail distribution center, and the particularly eccentric self-proclaimed baroness who mysteriously disappeared one night. However, the wildlife is still to be found here and the fine olivine and white sand beaches are common nesting areas for green sea turtles. A nearby lagoon is home to flamingos, pintail ducks, stilts, and other shorebirds. Visitors may also spot stingrays and white-tipped reef sharks swimming in the shallows of the bay. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 6: ISABELA ISLAND

Puerto Villamil leaves one with a feeling of standing on the edge of the earth. The tiny fishing village, founded in 1897 by Don Antonio Gil, is something of a forgotten gem in the islands. It has a population of roughly 2,000 people and is set amidst miles of white sandy beaches that rest at the outer edge of Sierra Negra Volcano, rising 4,452' above. Buried pirates treasures was unearthed here some years ago in the

shadow of a tall coconut palm, thereby giving credence to all the legends of hidden treasure buried beneath palm trees. We travel to the highlands by bus, from the base of the volcano to the Park Service post, where a 2 hour hike on fairly steep terrain takes us to the rim of the volcano. Measuring 10 km across, the caldera is the third largest in the world after Ngorongoro in Africa and Caldera Las Cañadas in the Canarias. At the rim we have spectacular views of the caldera, the island and the surrounding Pacific. We continue hiking for another 45 minutes to the sometimes active cone of Volcán Chico. This is a parasitic cone that protrudes from the northern side of the volcano. The most recent eruption with lava flows and fumaroles occurred in October 2005 and gave evidence of the birth and continued growth of the islands. In the afternoon we return to Puerto Villamil. Along the way we will visit a breeding station for the endemic giant tortoise lead by the National Park Service as well as a hyper-saline lagoon frequented by flamingos and other waders and shore birds. We also plan some free time in town giving us the opportunity to relax in a local beachside bar, soaking up the atmosphere of the island. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 7: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

We begin this day with a visit to Black Turtle Cove on the northern shore of Santa Cruz Island. This site gives our naturalist guide the opportunity to explain how mangrove swamps actively alter their habitat into something richer and more hospitable. Four separate species of mangrove crowd the shore, extending into the lagoon, providing living space for spotted eagle rays, cow nosed or golden rays, swimming in their distinctive diamond formation. Gentle white-tipped reef sharks hover below our quiet pangas, while Pacific green turtles bob to the surface. Myriad species of sea birds, including pelicans, herons and egrets, feed here. The afternoon finds us at Las Bachas, a sandy white coral beach offering prime nesting habitat for sea turtles. Further inland, marine iguanas mingle with flamingos and other wading birds in the saline lagoons. After the hikes, we have opportunities to cool off with snorkeling and kayaking. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 8: RABIDA / SANTIAGO ISLANDS

Located in the geologic “center” of the Galapagos archipelago, Rabida presents a different face to the observer. With its reddish beach and cliffs, and steep, sloping volcanic cinder cones, it’s easy to imagine yourself at the dawning of existence. However, a noisy colony of sea lions will quickly dispel that idea, and a short hike into the interior allows us to observe many species of land birds, including finches, doves, yellow warblers and mockingbirds. Snorkeling along the rocks allow observation of many reef fish common to this area. Just across a narrow channel lies Santiago and Sullivan Bay, which we explore after lunch onboard. Just over a century ago, the island erupted into the massive field of pahoehoe lava which gleams like a giant obsidian sculpture now. While it is easy to imagine the molten lava swallowing everything in its path, today it offers a gallery of abstract shapes and formations. Brightly colored “painted locusts” and lava lizards flit across the swirls of lava, and here and there lava cactus has broken through, pioneering new growth over destruction. Snorkeling and kayaking are offered after our hike. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 9: BARTOLOME AND NORTH SEYMOUR ISLANDS

In the morning, visit Pinnacle Rock on Bartolome Island where penguins are often spotted. Hike 30 minutes up to the summit of the once active volcano for spectacular views of Pinnacle Rock, the white-sand beaches, lush mangrove swamps, and various volcanic formations. The walk to the peak is not difficult and presents a visual education in vulcanology, as the landscape is utterly pristine. Keep an eye out for pelicans and Galapagos hawks. In the afternoon we head to North Seymour Island, and follow the trail amongst swallow tailed gulls, blue-footed boobies, and the endemic land iguanas. Visit the largest colony of magnificent frigate birds found in Galapagos. As you stroll along the beach, you can find marine iguanas and sea lions surfing on the northern swells. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 10: RETURN TO QUITO

Disembark in the morning after a short visit to Mosqueria, a sandy coral beach and prime habitat for sea turtles and sea lions. Your guide will accompany you to the Galapagos airport for your afternoon 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 12-22	May 17-27	September 20-30
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
May 3-13	September 6-16	

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.