



## 5 DAYS / 4 NIGHTS ITINERARY

## DISCOVER WONDERS ALONG THE EQUATOR: GALAPAGOS CRUISE - ARCHIPEL I



Program designed for:

**TMLA 2024** 

**Travel Dates:** 

PRE TMLA: Sept 12-16, 2024

Passenger count:

7

Trip Style:

Luxury

#### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Experience the natural and cultural diversity
   Ecuador has to offer.
- Encounter beautiful wildlife along the trip.
- Discover with your own eyes spectacular landscapes.
- Admire up close fearless and endemic wildlife in the Galapagos.





#### YOUR ITINERARY IN A NUTSHELL

**MEALS:** 5B / 4L / 4D

**ACCOMODATION:** 4 nights in Galapagos Archipel Cruise

**EXPERIENCES:** Adventure, Landscapes, Wildlife, Birdwatching.

DAY

Start of Galapagos Cruise Archipel I(5D/4N)

• CC Fausto Llerena

Accommodation at Archipel I

DAY 2 Moreno Point (Isabela)

Urbina Bay

Accommodation at Archipel I

DAY 3 Espinoza Point (Fernandina)

Vicente Roca Point (Isabela)

Accommodation at Archipel I

DAY 4

Puerto Egas (Santiago)

Rabida

Accommodation at Archipel I

DAY 5

Black Turtle Cove

Transfer to Baltra Airport

End of services







#### What to expect onboard your Archipel I cruise:

- The days on-board normally begin early to make the most out of your time on the islands.
- Wake up call is around 7 am, unless activities start earlier.
- After the daily delicious breakfast the morning programme begins. The morning excursion will take you to a different location each day.
- Upon returning on-board you will either have a snack and have some time to relax; or lunch (depending on the duration of the morning programme).
- We will often head towards the next site on the itinerary while you are enjoying lunch.
- Upon arrival the afternoon programme will begin. Normally this ends before dinner is ready which means some leisure time for you to relax and refresh.
- During or after dinner the boat starts moving again to make sure you'll wake up to a different view to the night before.











#### AM - Flight to the Galapagos and boarding of the Archipel I

Today you fly to the magical Galapagos Islands!

In the morning, you will be picked up at the hotel and brought to the Quito airport. There, at the departures hall, you must reach the Galapagos Government Council counter, to purchase the Transit Control Card (\$20 per person, must be kept safe during the trip as it has to be presented again upon return). Then your luggage will be inspected to make sure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced on the islands.

Next you will catch the flight to Baltra island, and upon landing there, authorities will collect the Galapagos National Park entrance fee (\$200 per adult, \$50 per child), unless it has been prepaid.

At the Baltra arrivals area, a guide holding an Oniric Cruises sign will meet you, help you collect your luggage, and escort you on a short bus ride to the harbour, and board the Archipel I cruise. After a greeting from the crew and captain, your cabins will be assigned and then lunch will be served.

#### PM - Fausto Llerena Breeding Centre, Santa Cruz island

Your first excursion will take place on Santa Cruz Island. You will disembark to the Fausto Llerena Breeding Centre, where you can observe tortoises that come from various islands of the archipelago. They are part of a breeding programme intended to repopulate the areas where the number of tortoises has decreased due to human activity or predatory invasive species.





One of the main attractions here is the embalmed Lonesome George tortoise. It hatched in 1910 and died in 2012, and with him, died an entire species (the Pinta Island giant tortoise). If it weren't for the scientists that work here, more species would have gone extinct. Return on board.

Accommodation: Archipel I

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Excursions**: Fausto Llerena Breeding Centre

**Transport**: Private transfer from hotel to airport, private transfer from airport to cruise.











AM - Punta Moreno, Isabela island

During the night we navigated to the northwest coast of Isabela, where two huge volcanoes are found, the Sierra Negra and the Cerro Azul. In between these two is located our visit point, Punta Moreno.

There, we will follow a trail that runs along a solidified black lava flow until we reach a complex of tidal lagoons, where sharks and marine turtles are often seen. Several species of birds can also be visible, including flamingos, which are found around the lakes and mangroves.

#### PM - Urbina Bay, Isabela island

Urbina Bay is located along the west coast of Isabela, and is close to the base of the Alcedo volcano, home to one of the rarest, most endangered species of the Galapagos: the endemic pink iguana of Isabela. The coastline here has undergone major changes recently due to volcanic activity, expanding the shore three quarters of a mile out to the sea. Observe corals, shells, molluscs and many curious organisms.

Accommodation: Archipel I

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Excursions: Isabela island

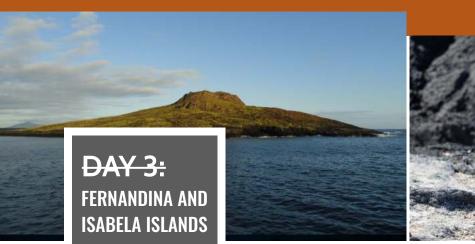
Transport: Archipel I













AM - Punta Espinoza, Fernandina island

After breakfast you will disembark to Fernandina, the Galapagos' westernmost and youngest island (less than one million years old).

It is so remote and pristine that has only 1 visitor site, Espinoza Point, where you will find some of the most bizarre animal species, products of natural selection.

Among them is the flightless cormorant, a bird which had to adjust its way of survival after arriving at the Galapagos Islands and being isolated here for thousands of years. It had to learn how to find food in the ocean, so its wings slowly lost the ability to fly and now work as fins. You are witnessing evolution!

The endemic marine iguanas can also be found conglomerated in the thousands, one over another to maintain their body heat, when they are not swimming near the shore or blocking the way.

#### PM - Punta Vicente Roca, Isabela island

During lunchtime onboard we navigated across the Bolivar Channel for a final visit to Isabela island. While entering a dark cave below a spectacular arch, you will be accompanied by the roaring echoes of the waves crashing the surrounding cliffs. Just around the corner, the collapsed amphitheatre of the Ecuador volcano offers an impressive view. The calmer waters of the coves are well-protected against the ocean swell and are a fairly cold, but a great place for snorkelling amongst various species of shark, penguins, puffer fish and even seahorses and the giant mola-mola!

Accommodation: Archipel I

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Excursions**: Punta Espinoza and Punta Vicente

Roca

Transport: Archipel I











AM - Puerto Egas, Santiago island

We will disembark to the Puerto Egas, where you will enjoy a very unique guided walk along its coastline, masterly sculptured with black basalts and polished multi-coloured ash-layers. All this scenery forms a photogenic location with collapsed lava tunnels, natural arches, caves and blowholes known as 'Darwin's toilet'.

The site is called Puerto Egas because at the beginning of the previous century, there was an attempt by a man named Hector Egas to extract the salt of the lagoons. The enterprise failed but it left traces of the infrastructure amidst the island's wilderness.

#### PM - Isla Rábida

In the afternoon you have a 'wet landing' on the extraordinary red beach of Rabida island. Oxidised iron particles have given its rocks and sand an intense rusty colour. Contiguous to the beach is a shallow green lagoon, an oasis on this otherwise arid island, which attracts all kind of aquatic birds, like pintails and American flamingos. Between the evergreen foliage of the surrounding mangrove bushes, many species of songbirds hide and breed.

One of the most outstanding attractions is the major breeding colony of brown pelicans, the only ones in the world that plunge-dive. On return you will be picked up by the inflatable dinghies, to get ready for snorkelling.

Accommodation: Archipel I

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Excursions: Puerto Egas and Isla Rábida

Transport: Archipel I











#### AM - Black Turtle Cove

You will disembark the cruise for the last time, to get en route to the airport. Right on our way, we will stop to explore Black Turtle Cove from the dinghy.

This place is a living illustration of how mangroves alter the marine environment to create a rich and unique habitat. Three mangrove species crowd the area from the shore out into the lagoon, which reaches almost a mile inland.

As we drift through quiet waters in the zodiac, you are likely to see spotted eagle rays, which swim in a diamond formation. White-tipped reef sharks slip beneath the boat and Pacific green turtles come to the surface for air.

Transfer to Baltra airport.

It's been a pleasure accompanying you on your adventure in Ecuador!
We hope to see you again soon.





### **GENERAL INCLUSIONS**



- Accommodation specified
- Meals as specified in the program
- Excursions & entrances as specified in the program
- Services mentioned in program
- Transportation as specified

- Soft drinks and alcoholic drinks.
- Personal expenses, extras & gratuities.
- International flights.
- Travel insurance.
- Galapagos Round Trip Flights
- Galapagos Entrance Fee (\$200pp paid in cash)
- Transit Control Card Ingala (\$20pp paid in cash)



Itinerary subject to change in case of Forced Majeure events.





### 7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS ITINERARY

## DISCOVER WONDERS ALONG THE EQUATOR: GALAPAGOS CRUISE - TREASURE



Program designed for:

**TMLA 2024** 

**Travel Dates:** 

POST TMLA: Sept 21-27, 2024

Passenger count:

6

Trip Style:

First Class

#### **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Experience the natural and cultural diversity
   Ecuador has to offer.
- Encounter beautiful wildlife along the trip.
- Discover with your own eyes spectacular landscapes.
- Admire up close fearless and endemic wildlife in the Galapagos.





#### YOUR ITINERARY IN A NUTSHELL

**MEALS:** 6B / 5L / 5D

**ACCOMODATION:** 6 nights in Galapagos Treasure Catamaran

**EXPERIENCES:** Adventure, Landscapes, Wildlife, Birdwatching.

DAY

Start of Galapagos Catamaran Treasure (7D/6N)

• Fausto Llerena Breeding center

Accommodation at Treasure

DAY 2

Eden Islet (Santa Cruz)

Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz)

Accommodation at Treasure

DAY 3 White Tipped Reef Shark Canal

Wetlands and Wall of Tears

Accommodation at Treasure

DAY 4

Moreno Point (Isabela)

Tagus Cove

Accommodation at Treasure





### YOUR ITINERARY IN A NUTSHELL

DAY 5

- Espinoza Point (Fernandina)
- Vicente Roca Point
- Accommodation at Treasure

day 6

- Puerto Egas (Santiago)
- Rabida
- Accommodation at Treasure

7

- Las Bachas Beach (Santa Cruz)
- Transfer to Baltra Airport (GPS)
- End of services







#### What to expect onboard your Treasure Catamaran:

- The days on-board normally begin early to make the most out of your time on the islands.
- Wake up call is around 7 am, unless activities start earlier.
- After the daily delicious breakfast the morning programme begins. The morning excursion will take you to a different location each day.
- Upon returning on-board you will either have a snack and have some time to relax; or lunch (depending on the duration of the morning programme).
- We will often head towards the next site on the itinerary while you are enjoying lunch.
- Upon arrival the afternoon programme will begin. Normally this ends before dinner is ready which means some leisure time for you to relax and refresh.
- During or after dinner the boat starts moving again to make sure you'll wake up to a different view to the night before.















#### AM - Flight to the Galapagos and boarding of the Treasure Catamaran

Today you fly to the magical Galapagos Islands!

At the departures hall of the Quito airport, you must reach the Galapagos Government Council counter, to purchase the Transit Control Card (\$20 per person, must be kept safe during the trip as it has to be presented again upon return). Then your luggage will be inspected to make sure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced on the islands.

Next you will catch the flight to Baltra island, and upon landing there, authorities will collect the Galapagos National Park entrance fee (\$100 per adult, \$50 per child), unless it has been prepaid.

A guide holding an Oniric Cruises sign will meet you, help you collect your luggage, and escort you on a short bus ride to the harbour, and board the Treasure cruise.

After a warm welcome, cabins will be assigned and lunch served.

#### PM - Fausto Llerena Breeding Center

Your first excursion will take place on Santa Cruz Island. You will disembark to the Fausto Llerena Breeding Centre, where you can observe tortoises that come from various islands of the archipelago. They are part of a breeding programme intended to repopulate the areas where the number of tortoises has decreased due to human activity or predatory invasive species.





One of the main attractions here is the embalmed Lonesome George tortoise. It hatched in 1910 and died in 2012, and with him, died an entire species (the Pinta Island giant tortoise). If it weren't for the scientists that work here, more species would have gone extinct. Return on board.

Return on board for a welcome toast and dinner.

Accommodation: <u>Treasure</u>

Meals: Lunch and dinner

**Excursions**: Fausto Llerena Breeding Center











#### AM - Eden islet

This morning we will disembark to this appropriately named islet. On its coast you will observe land iguanas and sea lions soaking up the sun, as well as seabirds feeding in the nearby mangrove forests. It is a perfect location for swimming activities, as the clear and calm waters will allow you to snorkel along tropical fish, rays, and two species of sharks.

Alternatively, a kayak ride would be a memorable experience.

#### PM - Dragon Hill, Santa Cruz island

Dragon Hill boasts two key-species that are not too commonly distributed throughout the islands: Galapagos land iguanas and American flamingos. You will climb a hill with giant opuntia cacti where these the former feed and breed. This is a very photogenic spot as well, with breathtaking panoramas over the bay and towards an intriguing steep volcanic spout of red lava that overlooks the area. Dragon Hill has become popular because of its picturesque saline lagoons behind the beach, which contain minerals, algae and shrimp that attract seasonally foraging American flamingos and other seabirds.

Accommodation: Treasure

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Excursions**: Eden islet and Dragon Hill













#### AM - White Tipped Reef Shark Canal

Last night we navigated to Española island, the oldest in the archipelago, estimated at over 4 million years old, located in the extreme southeast of the archipelago.

On the north-eastern coast of this island, Gardner Bay offers a wonderful place to refresh in the turquoise sea and to snorkel side by side with eagle rays, golden rays, barracudas, batfish, turtles, sea lions, and white tipped sharks.

#### PM - Wetlands, Wall of tears, Tortoise breeding centre, Isabela island

Back on the coast, the road leads to the Flamingo Lagoon, an important spot for spotting the elegant flamingos. Afterwards, we will visit the local tortoise breeding centre, where you can see hundreds of giant Galapagos tortoises of all sizes. The hatchlings are not gigantic at all, even smaller than the size of your hand! This project was created to rescue the endangered populations of the two southernmost volcanoes of Isabela. We will finish the tour at the historic "Wall of Tears", a massive wall made of sharp lava chunks built by political prisoners during the 1950s.

Accommodation: Treasure

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Excursions**: White Tipped Reef Shark Canal,

Wetlands











#### AM - Punta Moreno, Isabela island

During the night we navigated to the northwest coast of Isabela, where two huge volcanoes are found, the Sierra Negra and the Cerro Azul. In between these two is located our visit point, Punta Moreno.

There, we will follow a trail that runs along a solidified black lava flow until we reach a complex of tidal lagoons, where sharks and marine turtles are often seen.

Several species of birds can also be visible, including flamingos, which are found around the lakes and mangroves.

#### PM - Tagus Cove, Isabela island

This afternoon's visit starts with a dinghy ride along the island's cliffs. This will provide you a good chance to spot the endemic Galapagos penguin, the only one of its species to live in the tropics. From the landing dock, it's a 30-minute hike along the trail to the top of the cliff, from where you can observe the iconic Darwin Lake (pictured). Look carefully at all the graffiti on the surrounding rocks, they were written by pirates, whalers and buccaneers in past centuries.

Back at the coast, you could pick a kayak to explore these paradisiacal coastal environment.

Accommodation: Treasure

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Excursions**: Punta Moreno and Tagus Cove











AM - Punta Espinoza, Fernandina island

After breakfast you will disembark to Fernandina, the Galapagos' westernmost and youngest island (less than one million years old).

It is so remote and pristine that has only 1 visitor site, Espinoza Point, where you will find some of the most bizarre animal species, products of natural selection.

Among them is the flightless cormorant, a bird which had to adjust its way of survival after arriving at the Galapagos Islands and being isolated here for thousands of years. It had to learn how to find food in the ocean, so its wings slowly lost the ability to fly and now work as fins. You are witnessing evolution!

The endemic marine iguanas can also be found conglomerated in the thousands, one over another to maintain their body heat, when they are not swimming near the shore or blocking your way at the landing dock.

#### PM - Punta Vicente Roca, Isabela island

During lunchtime onboard we navigated across the Bolivar Channel for a final visit to Isabela island. While entering a dark cave below a spectacular arch, you will be accompanied by the roaring echoes of the waves crashing the surrounding cliffs. Just around the corner, the collapsed amphitheatre of the Ecuador volcano offers an impressive view. The calmer waters of the coves are well-protected against the ocean swell and are a fairly cold, but a great place for snorkelling amongst various species of shark, penguins, puffer fish and even seahorses and the giant mola-mola!

Accommodation: <u>Treasure</u>

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Excursions**: Punta Espinoza and Punta Vicente

Roca











AM - Puerto Egas, Santiago island

Puerto Egas is a beach located on the west side of Santiago Island. Volcanic tuff deposits have favoured the formation of this special black sand beach. The site is called Puerto Egas because at the beginning of the previous century, there was an attempt by a man named Hector Egas to extract the salt of the lagoons. The enterprise failed but it left traces of the infrastructure amidst the island's wilderness.

During a walk along the beach you can observe many species of waders and sanderlings. Among the rocks, red crabs are waiting to play hide and seek while you try to get the perfect picture. If you are lucky, you may even find yellow-crowned night herons or even a red-footed booby.

#### PM - Isla Rábida

Rábida Island is unique because of the red colour of the rocks and sand. This, along many islands in the Galapagos, has an extraterrestrial-looking scenery because of its volcanic materials combined with the oxidation caused by the salty humid atmosphere.

The beach wall contains a green lagoon, which is an oasis on this otherwise barren islet. This saltwater pool attracts all kinds of water birds, such as pintails and often American flamingos. Many species of songbirds hide among the foliage! One of the highlights is the breeding colony of brown pelicans, the only ones in existence capable of diving. On the way back, you will be picked up by inflatable boats to get ready for snorkelling.

Accommodation: Treasure

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

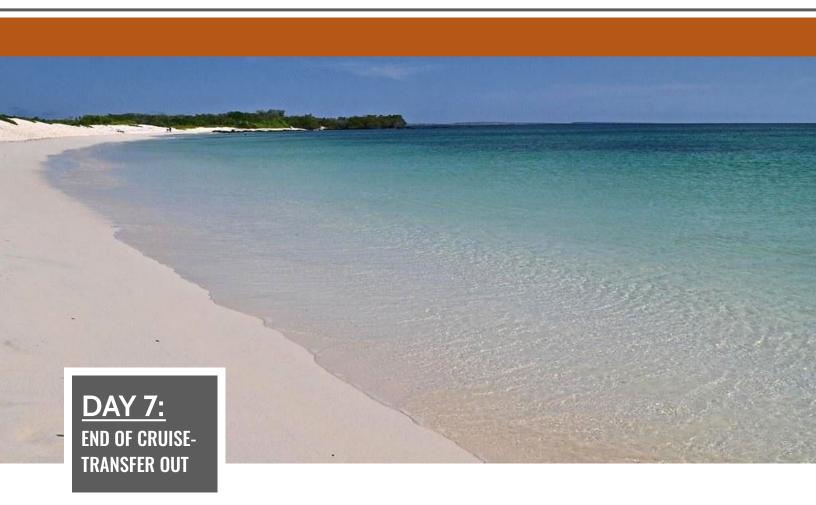
Excursions: Puerto Egas and Rábida Island











#### AM - Bachas Beach, Baltra island

Your last visit is to Bachas. Two conjunct beaches, with soft white sand that makes it a favourite nesting site for sea turtles. There is a small brackish water lagoon behind the first beach, where occasionally it is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels. The second beach is longer, and it has two old barges that were abandoned during the Second World War, when the USA used this Island as a strategic point to protect the Panama Channel.

Transfer to Baltra airport.

It's been a pleasure accompanying you on your adventure in Ecuador! We hope to see you again soon.





### **GENERAL INCLUSIONS**



- Accommodation specified
- Meals as specified in the program
- Excursions & entrances as specified in the program
- Services mentioned in program
- Transportation as specified

- Soft drinks and alcoholic drinks.
- Personal expenses, extras & gratuities.
- International flights.
- Travel insurance.
- Galapagos Round Trip Flights
- Galapagos Entrance Fee (\$200pp paid in cash)
- Transit Control Card Ingala (\$20pp paid in cash)



Itinerary subject to change in case of Forced Majeure events.





# We look forward to welcoming you in Ecuador!

#### Price:

Accordingly for TMLA participants (Buyer priority first)

#### Contact

- COMPANY NAME: Andean Travel Company ATC
- TOUR NAME: Day tour Disconnect to Reconnect
- CONTACT PERSON FOR QUESTIONS AND RESERVATIONS:
  Gabriela Guijarro
  gabriela.g@andeantc.com,
  - +593 98 469 5400