

Galápagos Wildlife Adventure

9 days from \$9,395 | Limited to 18 guests

Cruise for six nights through the dazzling Galápagos archipelago, visiting islands acclaimed for their optimal wildlife viewing and iconic sites; strolling among giant tortoises, marine iguanas and blue-footed boobies; and snorkeling and kayaking with sea lions and penguins. Begin and end your journey in Guayaquil, on Ecuador's sunny coast.

& A&K ADVANTAGES

- ▶ Cruise aboard 'La Pinta' – an expedition vessel that blends stability, spaciousness and style – in the Galápagos Islands
- ▶ Enjoy some of the world's most intimate wildlife encounters – come face to face with land iguanas, and observe flightless cormorants and giant tortoises in their natural habitats
- ▶ Explore the islands known for optimal wildlife viewing, and iconic, less-visited sites, such as Post Office Bay and Darwin Lake, as you enjoy twice-daily shore excursions that include nature walks averaging 12 guests, allowing for more interaction with a certified naturalist guide
- ▶ Choose from island activities that include kayaking, glass-bottom boat excursions, snorkeling, light trekking or simply relaxing on shore
- ▶ Partake of a wide range of onboard activities, including guided stargazing and nature lectures, and rest easy knowing there is a dedicated A&K Resident Tour Director and a physician on board with you in this remote destination

DAY 1: Arrive Guayaquil, Ecuador

Arrive in Guayaquil, the commercial center of Ecuador, where you are met and transferred to your hotel.

Hotel del Parque

DAY 2: The Galápagos | On Board 'La Pinta'

This morning, after a welcome briefing with your A&K Resident Tour Director, fly to Baltra in the remote Galápagos Islands. You are met by your naturalist guide and escorted to 'La Pinta,' your home for a six-night cruise through the Galápagos' Western Islands. Nimble enough to access the Galápagos Islands, yet large and stable enough for safety,



'La Pinta' is built for adventure, offering spacious cabins and a comfortable atmosphere. The vessel is ecologically sound as well, and comes equipped with *pangas* (rubber rafts), a glass-bottom boat and sea kayaks that allow for independent exploration. After lunch, attend an introductory briefing and a fitting for your wetsuit and snorkeling gear. This evening, celebrate your first night in the Galápagos with a welcome reception and dinner. 'La Pinta' | Meals: B L D

DAYS 3-7: The Galápagos | Spectacularly Diverse Wildlife
Lying 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, the Galápagos Islands are a haven for some of the world's most varied wildlife. It was this diversity that first led naturalist Charles Darwin to propose that species evolved in response to their environment. Darwin's work also helped to alert the world to the need — urgent even in his own day — to preserve these islands from degradation by humans. Today, tourism to the Galápagos is closely managed, protecting the wildlife while allowing you to experience the environment much as Darwin did. Because weather, water and wildlife conditions are subject to constant change, your cruise itinerary is not fixed, but two daily excursions are planned to the main sites and islands. This cruise itinerary explores the true origins of the archipelago, and includes landmarks such as Punta Espinoza on Fernandina Island, the intriguing red beach of Rabida Island, the Champion Inlet of Floreana Island, and the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz Island.

Each cruise day begins with a hearty breakfast, before boarding a sturdy *panga* for the morning shore excursion. As soon as your feet touch terra firma, expect to spot flora and fauna (differing species, depending on the island), take photos and confer with your naturalist guide. You may see



Dolphins are one of many seagoing species you may observe each day

sun-bathing sea lions; skittering Sally Lightfoot crabs; tangles of marine and land iguanas; penguins, flamingos, finches, terns and blue-footed boobies; even a century-old tortoise diligently trudging over the sand. Return to 'La Pinta' for a refreshing lunch, perhaps taken al fresco on deck, followed by time at leisure to nap or socialize. Keep your binoculars handy for possible sightings of dolphins or seabirds. In the afternoon, return to the *pangas* for the second excursion of the day, perhaps with an opportunity to swim, kayak or snorkel. You may well come face to face with a water-

dwelling inhabitant, such as a curious sea turtle stopping by to inspect those visiting its equatorial home.

On a selected day during your cruise, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities.

- ▶ **Hike Inland to Cerro Dragon**, viewing its wild inhabitants up close, including lagoon birds and land iguanas.
- ▶ **Kayak Offshore** to experience the islands from a different perspective, paddling amid marine iguanas and sea lions.



View the endearing blue-footed boobies up close, among the many creatures on shore



Encounter the islands' endemic – and often long-lived – giant tortoises

Meet the Natives

From the finches that inspired Darwin to the whales that return to the islands each fall, wildlife sets the Galápagos apart. Encounter each island's unique species up close with the help of your naturalist guide.

Sea Lion

The social sea lion hardly bats an eye at human visitors. When not congregating on the beach, sea lions are swift, powerful swimmers. Want to swim with the sea lions? January through March is a great time of year for water clarity and warmer temperatures. Or come in October for a chance to snorkel with sea lion pups.

Flightless Cormorant

Over the eons since arriving by air in the Galápagos, this living experiment from "Nature's Laboratory" evolved into the world's only flightless seabird besides penguins. It nests from May to October.

Sally Lightfoot Crab

This brilliant-hued crab is perhaps the islands' most photogenic species. It occupies the rocky coasts, feeding on algae, year round.

Blue-Footed Booby

Given to foot-stamping mating displays that make it a favorite of Galápagos visitors, the endearing blue-footed booby may be found mating and nesting year round, depending on conditions.

Marine Iguana & Land Iguana

Called "imps of darkness" by Darwin, marine iguanas are well adapted to the water, with finlike tails and teeth designed to scrape algae from rocks. They begin nesting in February. Their terrestrial kin, land iguanas, prefer dining on prickly pear cactus and have a mating schedule that varies by island.

Galápagos Penguin

Both the rarest and the most northerly penguin species, this island denizen arrived at the Galápagos via the chilly Humboldt Current from Antarctica. Penguins and many other Galápagos bird species, such as red-footed boobies, start nesting in January.

Giant Tortoise

Overhunting and habitat loss nearly drove these placid, stately reptiles to extinction. Happily, conservation efforts are proving successful and many subspecies' populations are on the increase. Visit in January to see tortoises lay their eggs. Come between March and May to see their rare aquatic cousins, green sea turtles, nesting on the beaches.





Cruise past landmarks such as Kicker Rock as you explore the islands

- **Snorkel with Aquatic Denizens**, witnessing undersea life as diverse as penguins, sharks, rays and cormorants.

Back on board 'La Pinta,' enjoy time to shower and relax before gathering in the dining room for another wonderful meal. Each evening, your time is your own: Attend a lecture presented by one of your affable guides, who recaps the day and gives a sneak peek at tomorrow's itinerary; explore the mysteries of the night sky with a fascinating astronomy lecture on deck; peruse the ship's library for further insight into a species you encountered; or gather in the lounge to cap a day of extraordinary discoveries. Drift asleep in your air-conditioned cabin to the rise and fall of gentle ocean swells.

'La Pinta' | Meals: B L D

DAYS 8-9: Guayaquil | Farewell Dinner & Departure
Disembark today and fly back to Guayaquil. Enjoy time to relax before gathering for a farewell dinner at your hotel's restaurant. The next morning, transfer to the airport to board your flight home. **Hotel del Parque** | Meals: B D (Day 8); B (Day 9)

TRAVEL PRIVATELY WITH A&K

For a private journey consider **Tailor Made Ecuador: Galápagos Cruise**.

INSPIRING ACCOMMODATIONS



'La Pinta'

Comfortable and stylish expedition ship featuring fine onboard cuisine, with ample areas for observation and socializing.



Hotel del Parque

Luxury boutique hotel occupying a beautifully restored 19th-century church complex, situated in a tropical oasis in the heart of Guayaquil.

DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Supplement
Jan 9-17, Jan 23-31, Feb 20-28, Mar 19-27, Apr 2-10, May 14-22	\$9,795	\$6,995
Sep 17-25	\$9,395	\$6,595
Oct 1-9, Oct 29-Nov 6, Dec 10-18	\$9,795	\$6,995

Internal Air: Economy class from \$575
Guayaquil/Baltra/Guayaquil

Journey Details

This journey contains some active elements.
Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 7:30 a.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 8.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.