

LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

# Galápagos Wildlife Adventure

9 days from \$9,495 | Limited to 18 guests

Cruise for six nights on a comprehensive voyage through the wildlife-rich Galápagos archipelago, going ashore to stroll among giant tortoises, marine iguanas and blue-footed boobies; and snorkel and kayak with sea lions and penguins.

## & A&K ADVANTAGES

- ▶ Cruise aboard 'La Pinta' – an expedition vessel that blends stability and style – in the Galápagos Islands
- ▶ Experience some of the world's most intimate wildlife encounters, coming face to face with marine iguanas, giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies, sea lions and more
- ▶ Explore the islands known for optimal wildlife viewing and iconic, less-visited sites, as you enjoy twice-daily shore excursions and nature walks with a certified naturalist guide
- ▶ Choose from island activities that include kayaking, glass-bottom boat excursions, snorkeling, stand-up paddle boarding, 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, as well as an Expedition Leader and a physician on board with you in this remote destination
- ▶ On a selected day during your cruise, enjoy a choice of A&K Design Your Day activities

### DAY 1: Arrive Guayaquil, Ecuador

Arrive in Guayaquil, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. **Hotel del Parque**

### DAY 2: The Galápagos | On Board All-New 'La Pinta'

This morning, fly to Baltra in the remote Galápagos Islands, a haven for the diversity of wildlife that first led naturalist Charles Darwin to propose that species evolved in response to their environment. You are met by your naturalist guide and escorted to 'La Pinta,' your home for a six-night cruise through the Galápagos' western islands, a route that offers a higher number of endemic species than other island



groupings. Attend an introductory briefing followed by lunch, and then get underway cruising to North Seymour Island, where you disembark on your first shore excursion. Walk along the coast and the interior of this beautiful flat island, observing numerous bird colonies as well as sea lions and land iguanas. You may also opt to explore just offshore by dinghy. This evening, return to 'La Pinta' for a welcome cocktail and dinner. 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 3-4: The Galápagos | Isabela & Fernandina

Today, begin at Isabela Island (Punta Vicente Roca). Since there is no landing site at this location, explore the coast by skiff while your naturalist guide explains the dramatic geology of the area, such as the remains of lava flows and tuff rock layers. Watch for the island's abundant wildlife and snorkel along the cliffs, possibly in the company of green sea turtles. This afternoon, visit the youngest and most pristine island of the archipelago, Fernandina (Punta Espinoza) to go ashore and view the amazing combination of barrenness and abundant wildlife. Watch for hawks, penguins and flightless cormorants as you take in the astounding views of the surrounding volcanic landscapes. The next day, disembark at Urbina Bay, on the western side of Isabela Island, to view corals, shells, and large, colorful Galápagos land iguanas.



Get up close to the curious and diverse wildlife of the Galápagos

You may also sight giant tortoises further inland. Cruise up to secluded Tagus Cove on the northwest coast of Isabela Island, once a favorite anchorage for pirates and whalers. Go ashore for a hike to saltwater-filled Darwin Crater. Return to the ship for dinner. 'La Pinta' | Meals: B L D

#### DAYS 5-6: **The Galápagos** | Rabida & Santa Cruz

Disembark at Rabida Island's red-colored beach to observe marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finches. This is a great place to snorkel from the beach. Non-snorkelers may opt to explore via glass-

bottom boat. Proceed to the north shore of Santa Cruz Island to view the fascinating landscapes of Dragon Hill. Circle a lagoon frequented by sea birds, such as red-footed boobies, and trek inland for the chance to observe land iguanas. The next day, continue your explorations on Santa Cruz with a visit to Puerto Ayora and the Charles Darwin Research Station. Get up close to the giant tortoises living on site in a giant prickly-pear cactus forest. Learn from station staff about their latest conservation efforts, and then enjoy some free time in the town of Puerto Ayora, before stopping for a poolside lunch at the Finch Bay Galápagos Hotel.



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



Marvel at the brilliant hues of the Sally Lightfoot crab, a lively denizen of island shorelines



## 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.

### Great Frigatebird

Noted for the vivid red gular sac of the male of the species, which he inflates to impress females during courtship, the frigatebird glides over the water on narrow wings that can span over six feet.

### 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 rise. 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.







Go ashore to walk the life-filled volcanic landscape of Fernandina Island

This afternoon, head up to the highlands, passing farmlands and lush forests, and view the exuberant vegetation where giant tortoises roam in the wild, perhaps spotting one of the iconic, lumbering reptiles yourself. **'La Pinta'** | Meals: B L D

#### DAY 7: The Galápagos | Floreana

After breakfast, ride by *panga* along the maze of channels on the north shore of Floreana Island, continuing to Baroness Cove with its breathtaking views. Then, land at Post Office Bay to visit the historic barrel that has been serving as a post office in the archipelago for over two centuries. Return to the ship to proceed to Punta Cormorant. Before disembarking, snorkel or ride by glass-bottom boat, viewing life beneath the waves. Cruise along the coast of an extinct volcanic cone called Champion Islet. This afternoon, go ashore at Punta Cormorant for an easy walk beside a brackish water lagoon where greater flamingos may be observed. Venture to the other side of the island, where sea turtles come out at night to nest, to take in the flora, fauna and delightful sea views from a white-sand beach. **'La Pinta'** | Meals: B L D

#### DAYS 8-9: Depart Guayaquil

Disembark in Baltra 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 on-board cuisine.



#### Hotel del Parque

Luxury boutique hotel occupying a restored 19th-century church complex.

### DATES & PRICING

Guaranteed Departure Dates	Double Occupancy	Single Supplement
Jan 20-28, Mar 31-Apr 8, Apr 28-May 6, May 26-Jun 3	\$9,995	\$7,795
Sep 1-9	\$9,495	\$7,395
Oct 13-21, Dec 8-16	\$9,995	\$7,795

**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.