



ECUADOR

GALAPAGOS WILDLIFE ODYSSEY ABOARD THE M/Y LA PINTA (Deluxe Expedition Ship)



DURATION:	10 days / 9 nights
SEASON:	Year-round
DEPARTURES:	Guaranteed with a minimum of 2 participants
TRIP RATING:	Easy/moderate highland tour & natural history Cruise (Grade I) - This expedition includes activities at elevations of up to 9,350' as well as a 7 day/6 night cruise with occasional wet landings (ankle to knee deep water) to reach observation sites. Optional water activities include swimming, snorkeling and kayaking with marine wildlife and slow-paced hikes up to 4 hours duration on occasionally rough or rocky trails. Anyone in reasonably good fitness and condition, able to walk unassisted for up to 4 hours, should be able to enjoy a visit to the <i>Enchanted Isles</i> .

2024 DATES : On request any week throughout the year, subject to availability
La Pinta won't be on dry dock during 2024

INTRODUCTION:

Galápagos National Park straddles the equator 600 miles west of Ecuador's Pacific coast. Undisturbed for centuries and isolated from the mainland, unusual species of birds, plants, reptiles and some mammals developed on the rocky, volcanic atolls of the *Enchanted Isles*. Darwin's visit and subsequent studies of the islands' flora and fauna in 1835 contributed to the formulation of his theory on the evolution of species and brought this fascinating ecosystem to the attention of the world. The park, Ecuador's largest, was established in 1959 to protect the archipelago's unique environment and wildlife. The landmass consists of nearly 3,000 square miles divided between 6 large islands, 12 smaller islands, and over 40 islets. In 1986, the creation of the Marine Resources Reserve expanded the preserved area to include more than 27,000 square miles of ocean. This exciting adventure offers great value in the archipelago, featuring one of the most complete 7-day itineraries, aboard one of the most luxurious vessels in these waters. It is an ideal opportunity to explore these remarkable islands, and to watch and photograph their unique wildlife.

Starting with an overnight in Quito, our first day is spent touring this historic and charming city. Then, we catch a flight to Baltra Island and start exploring aboard our comfortable 48 passenger expedition ship. Accompanied by some of the best English-speaking naturalist guides in the Galápagos, we learn about the natural history of these enchanted islands, visiting outlying sites as well as important central and southern islands. We learn about fascinating species such as marine and land iguanas, flightless cormorants and blue-footed boobies. We also swim with Galápagos penguins and have the chance to snorkel with sea lions and fur seals! Enjoy beautiful views of white, olive or red sand beaches with turquoise water and prepare to be impressed by powerful forces of nature. Following the 7-day cruise we fly back to Quito to return home.

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY (WESTERN ISLANDS):

DAY 01 (WED): USA / QUITO

We arrive this evening to Ecuador's lively capital, **Quito**, located at 9,350' in an Andean valley between rugged volcanic peaks. Meet your friendly Southwind guide at the airport (7,875') and transfer about 50 min by private vehicle to one of the city's finest hotels, the centrally located [Swissotel Hotel](#) where we spend the night. Meals are on your own today.

DAY 02 (THU): QUITO

Join your private Southwind guide for a full-day personalized tour of Quito and the equator monument. Colonial **Quito**, located along Ecuador's Avenue of the Volcanoes, is a rising star among South American capitals. First drive with your guide about an hour north of the capital to **Mitad del Mundo**, marking the equator's path through the country. We visit the intriguing open air Inti-ñan solar museum with exhibits unique to the geographical location, such as balancing an egg on the head of nail and the Coriolis Effect, demonstrating equal forces only found on the equator. A sun dial not only tells time, but produces a shadow on its south & north face precisely for 6 months and only on both faces during the equinoxes. Exhibits of Ecuador's ethnic groups feature typical clothing, housing styles and local customs. Next we drive back to Quito to see how the narrow cobbled streets and plazas of old town have been reinvigorated with boutique hotels and fine eateries where you can savor ceviches, quinoa soups, salads and Ecuadorian chocolate. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, old town shines with evening lighting, whitewashed adobe walls, plazas for strolling and historic churches. Your visit will include the La Compañía or San Francisco churches with their ornate, gold-plated altars and collections of colonial paintings. Lunch is included at a traditional Ecuadorian restaurant with samples of fine local cuisine. From the top of Panecillo Hill or Itchimbia Park take in a spectacular view of the capital and nearby volcanoes. After a fun day of activity, return to your hotel in Quito to prepare for the next leg of your journey to the Galapagos. You can choose to dine at the hotel or a local restaurant within walking distance. You will be overnight at the comfortable [Swissotel Hotel](#) that features five distinctive restaurants with menus to satisfy every palate.(B,L)

DAY 03 (FRI): QUITO / BALTRA ISLAND / NORTH SEYMOUR (GALAPAGOS)

Pick up at the hotel and return to the airport. Your guide assists with check-in for the 2.5 hour commercial jet flight to **Baltra Island**, with one stop in Guayaquil en route. Upon arrival, pass through inspection where park officials ensure no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands. Transfer to the port with your naturalist guide and ride a zodiac, or small motorized dinghy, to the well-appointed [M/Y La Pinta](#) to begin our 7 day/6 night cruise. After the crew welcomes us onboard and discusses safety, lunch is served en route to **North Seymour Island**. This afternoon's dry landing visit is a perfect introduction to the Galápagos. Both Baltra and North Seymour have unique topography formed from a geological submarine uplift, as opposed to the islands formed by underwater volcanoes that we will visit throughout the rest of our trip. Some of the distinctive arid vegetation on this island includes the Prickly Pear Cacti, Palo Santos Trees and Salt Bushes. We will also witness some of the biggest sea bird breeding colonies in the Galápagos, such as the comical courtship dance of the Blue-footed boobies. But make sure to watch your step since the boobies, Swallow-tailed gulls and Yellow warblers aren't afraid of humans and will sometimes nest right in the trail! Fauna abounds and you will soon find yourself surrounded by sea lions, marine iguanas, frigate birds, and more. With some luck you may even get to see land iguanas. There is a good opportunity here for coastal exploration by dinghy. Back on board we receive a briefing and a welcome cocktail before dinner.

(B,L,D)

DAY 04 (SAT): ISABELA / FERNANDINA ISLANDS

Discover one of the northernmost points on Isabela Island, **Vicente Roca Point**. Since there is no landing site at this location, the coastal exploration is by zodiac, while your naturalist guide explains the dramatic volcanic geology of the area, with remains of lava flows and tuff stone layers. There is abundant wildlife and, depending on the conditions of the ocean, we'll be able to snorkel along the cliffs, hopefully in the company of green sea turtles, seahorses and perhaps the strange yet captivating mola-mola (sunfish). The water in western Galapagos is cold due to the upwelling of the Cromwell Current, offering an abundant food supply for a variety of marine species. Fauna here also includes blue-footed boobies, terns, Nazca boobies, storm petrels, sea lions and penguins, found so close to the Northern Hemisphere. We then depart the island to have lunch on board, later on we have a dry landing onto the black lava fields of **Punta Espinosa** on **Fernandina**, the archipelago's youngest and most active island. Since there have been no introduced mammals this island has an incredibly unique environment containing one of the largest colonies of marine iguanas, along with sea lions, Sally light-foot crabs, hawks, penguins, and flightless cormorants. We may be surprised to see the lava rocks moving, until we realize that it is the iguanas regulating their body temperature by piling on top of each other for warmth, then spending up to 25 cold minutes underwater to feed on algae. They continue this repositioning dance to maintain a constant body temperature of about 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Continuing to the point, we observe several couples of flightless cormorants, watching as they go through their courtship ritual, build their nest or incubate their eggs. A curious sight, these agile blue-eyed swimmers appear rather clumsy on land as their wings dangle uselessly from their sides and they hop from rock to rock. Fernandina's lava landscape is one of

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the most dramatic we see during our trip, and we hike back inland a short distance to observe lava cactus and other colonizing plants among the stark black rocks. We return to the ship for dinner and a preview of tomorrow's activities.

(B,L,D)

DAY 05 (SUN): ISABELA ISLAND

Disembark with a wet landing this morning at **Urbina Bay**, located at the foot of volcanoes Alcedo and Darwin on Isabela Island, the result of an uplifting of the ocean in 1954. Here you can find corals, shells, and many other calcareous organisms exposed above water. This area is also home to large and very colorful Galápagos land iguanas, giant tortoises (occasionally); a good spot to observe Darwin's finches. Along the shoreline, after the hike, guests may encounter flightless cormorants and see penguins while snorkeling in this beautiful cove. Lunch on board. On the northwest of Isabela, secluded **Tagus Cove** provided a favorite anchorage for pirates and whalers over the centuries. Old graffiti is still found on its walls. The vegetation in the area includes the fragrant palo santo trees. These white barked trees are leafless and look dead most of the year. They leaf and spring back to life in the wet season. An uphill hike takes guests to the back of Darwin Crater, filled with salt water. The view at the end of the trail is worth the climb. Darwin is one of Isabela's six volcanoes, a remarkable contrast to the lower islands to the east of the archipelago. Possibilities to swim, snorkel or ride kayaks. There is no beach in the area, so these activities are done from the zodiacs. Briefing and dinner on board.

(B,L,D)

DAY 06 (MON): RABIDA / SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS

Disembark at **Rábida Island**, just south of Santiago Island, (wet landing) to view one of the most volcanically varied islands in the chain. Due to the unusually high content of iron, the beach and cliffs are a striking red color from hot lava meeting seawater. A gratifying stroll along the beach of this small island (1.9 sq. mi.) allows the observation of a large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finches. Very close to the beach, hidden behind a strip of green saltbush, is a salt pond where at times flamingos migrate. This is a great place to snorkel from the beach, both for beginners as well as for experienced snorkelers, due to the unique combination of underwater species and subaquatic landscapes. During navigation to our next island, dolphins are often spotted. Lunch is onboard. The north shore of **Santa Cruz Island** hosts Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill) where a dry landing and walk includes a brackish water lagoon frequented by lagoon birds, including stilts, pintail ducks, sandpipers, sanderlings, and more. Further inland, the trail offers a beautiful view of the bay and the western islands of the archipelago. This area is a natural nesting site for land iguanas, constantly monitored and assisted by the Charles Darwin Research Station. The arid-zone vegetation can be a rewarding location for bird watching, where Darwin's finches, Galápagos mockingbirds, the endemic Galápagos flycatcher, and Yellow warblers are regular sightings. Tonight's expedition briefing reveals interesting sites for the day ahead.

(B,L,D)

DAY 07 (TUE): SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

After breakfast we disembark (dry landing) at **Puerto Ayora** to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, former home of tortoise celebrity and conservation icon "Lonesome George", to get up-close and personal with giant tortoises. George was the last of his subspecies, the Pinta Island Tortoise, and failed to reproduce before passing away. At the breeding and rearing center, a favorite among visitors, we meet some of the international research staff that have made preservation of the Galápagos ecosystem a scientific priority. Founded in 1959, the Research Station has a Natural History Interpretation Center and carries out educational projects to support the Galápagos National Park Service through conservation of natural resources, management of flora and fauna, and the sustainable use of resources. Lunch is at the poolside of the Finch Bay Eco Hotel. This afternoon we visit the highlands of **Santa Cruz Island**, a Scalesia forest; and Los Gemelos, a distinctive geology formation consisting of twin pit craters. This island has a variety of geology, wildlife, vegetation, and it contains all of the Galápagos life zones. The coastal zone is only a few meters and the plant life is greatly influenced by the presence of salt. Red, white, black, and button mangrove are found along the coast. The dry zone can be remarkably arid from May to December (*garua* season) when only the southeast side of the volcanoes gets any precipitation, and even then, it is only a fine mist (*garua*). Here we can see the beauty of how various species have adapted to these extremely dry conditions, resulting in a variety of cacti. From Dec to mid-April, if weather conditions are favorable, we have the opportunity to visit giant tortoises in the wild. Afterwards, we return to Puerto Ayora to stroll the main street, shop for souvenirs or just relax and enjoy the bay filled with sailboats, seabirds and marine iguanas. Return later to La Pinta for dinner.

(B,L,D)

DAY 08 (WED): FLOREANA ISLAND

After breakfast, we land at Post Office Bay to visit the historic barrel that has served as a post office in the archipelago since whalers started the tradition more than 200 years ago. This ritual continues today where you can leave a piece of mail, or take one with you to be delivered to its recipient. We learn about the human side of the islands, its early inhabitants and the adventures of pirates and whalers to the approximately 100 modern day inhabitants. Dinghy rides along the maze of channels on Floreana's north shore can also be enjoyed. Views from La Lobería and the Baroness Viewpoint are quite rewarding. There's great kayaking and swimming from the beach as well. After lunch, a short trip leads to **Punta Cormorant** on the same island. After a wet landing onto a green beach (from volcanic olivine crystals) we take an easy walk to the saltwater lagoons to

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visit what have been called the world's most vibrantly-colored pink flamingos sifting in the sand for shrimp. After observing the flamingos, pintail ducks, sandpipers, herons and stilts we follow a short trail over a hill for some time to unwind. Here we are treated to a pristine white sand beach, where sea turtles come out at night to nest (from December to May), so fine some have said it feels like walking on feathers! We will have time to swim, snorkel, a ride in our glass-bottom boat, or just plain sunbathe. Following this relaxing afternoon, we return to the yacht for dinner and the next day's plan. (B,L,D)

DAY 09 (THU): BALTRA ISLAND / QUITO

After breakfast we disembark at **Baltra Island** where our journey ends. We say goodbye to our crew and transfer to the airport to take the flight back to the mainland. Baltra's flat substrate (due to its uplifted origin) is the reason why the island was chosen in the 1940s as the location to build an airport. Back in **Quito**, Southwind's friendly staff greets you at the airport and brings you to the nearby Rincón de Puembo Hotel to relax, enjoy the pool and gardens and have a leisurely dinner. A dayroom is included for your comfort, your a la carte dinner is on your own. Later on, return with your guide to the airport, check-in assistance for your overnight flight home. There is a VIP lounge in the airport to relax prior to your flight. (B)

DAY 10 (FRI): QUITO / USA

Arrive back to US this morning and make connections home.

NOTES ON THE ITINERARIES: Although we do our best to adhere to the schedules listed above, the day-by-day activities on these itineraries are subject to change at any time without previous notice, and for numerous reasons beyond our control including Galápagos Park Regulations and/or participant health, weather, sea and/or road conditions. Reservations are recommended well in advance of your preferred departure to ensure the trip of your choice (allow 4-5 months for non-holiday or at least 1 year for holiday departures). Reservations placed less than 90 days prior will be accepted only if space is available and must be paid in full at the time of booking.

This trip is suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to outdoor activities age 6 and up. Regular departures may include some families and children on the cruise. Hiking or driving distances and altitudes are approximate, and times indicated are NET (they do not include lunch breaks, rest stops, time to explore the area, etc.).

2024 LAND COSTS:

Stateroom cabins

(Upper deck)

2-3 participants: from \$10,050 p.p.d.

4-6 participants: from \$9,750 p.p.d.

7-12 participants: from \$9,600 p.p.d.

p.p.d.=per person based on double or triple occupancy not including airfare.

Only 3 Cabins are available for Single occupancy.

Peak Season cruises: For cruise departures from Dec 20 through Jan 03, 2024/25, there will be a Holiday surcharge of \$315 per adult and \$195 per child and no discounts apply during this period. Different deposits, cancellation fees and payments procedures apply for these departures. Please contact your Southwind Travel Consultant for details.

Children's Discount: Kids 6-11 years old at the time of travel are entitled to a discount of \$960 ppd on the *Wildlife Odyssey* Land Cost. Limited to one per each accompanying adult sharing a cabin. No discounts are allowed during the peak season indicated above. Other restrictions may apply.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE: The Land Cost DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Southwind's ticketing specialist can assist with all your air travel – providing an airfare quote to match your itinerary, personalized support for seating, monitoring schedule changes and coordinating directly with the airlines if any adjustments are needed. You'll also benefit from access to lower contract fares for some routes. Ask about Business Class which is often a good value flying to Ecuador. Flights to Quito are offered by American Airlines (from Miami), United (Houston), Delta (Atlanta), JetBlue (Ft Lauderdale) and LATAM Airlines (Miami). Round-trip airfare from US gateway cities to Quito is about \$600-900 per person. Some carriers offer flights to Guayaquil (GYE) where we can assist with arrangements, but we recommend Quito as the most convenient route. You have the option to arrange your own flights or redeem award travel yourself if you prefer. Tickets should only be purchased after Southwind notifies you that your trip is confirmed. Round-trip fares to the Galapagos are approx \$550/person. Southwind coordinates your Galapagos flights in conjunction with your island visit, that fare is payable on your Southwind invoice. The airlines request that tickets match your passport name. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind provides flight booking details

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for your travel dates.

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning packet** and expert travel advice.
- All **in-country transfers** as scheduled (transfers on different days are additional). Ground transportation in comfortable private vehicles with professional drivers.
- Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance**.
- Galápagos National **Park entrance fee** of \$100 per person (\$50 per child 11 or under).
- Galápagos **Transit control card fee** of \$20 per person
- All **accommodations in first-class (4-5 star) hotels** as listed (or at similar hotels) on a shared basis with private bath. Advanced bookings are recommended if you require double beds (King/queen) for couples, or plan to arrive early or extend your stay.
- All **meals** indicated on itinerary (B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=dinner). **Vegetarian diets accommodated** on request (advance notification required). For other diets, consult your travel specialist before making a reservation. Bottled or filtered water is provided on the cruise and mainland.
- All **guided tours** and excursions listed on the mainland (including applicable entrance fees), accompanied by a private, bilingual resident guide in Quito.
- Arrival and departure transfers in the Galápagos.
- Accommodations on the deluxe, boutique style 48-passenger, **M/Y La Pinta** in an outside cabin with private bath. Wetsuits and snorkeling gear are provided on board at no extra cost.
- Experienced sailing crew and staff of 24, 3 naturalist guides (1 guide every 16 passengers) and Medical officer. Officers on board are bilingual.

NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, International nor local flights to/from the islands.
- Tours, meals (at about \$30-45 each per person) or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Early arrivals, dayrooms or late check-outs at hotels.
- Alcoholic beverages, non-alcoholic beverages ordered from the bar on cruise, nor items of a personal nature like laundry, telephone calls, souvenirs etc.
- Tips to the local staff as warranted.
- Any expenses incurred in preparation, such as, but not limited to, non-refundable airline tickets or travel insurance, nor additional costs resulting from flight schedule changes, delays, cancellations or missed connections.

M/Y LA PINTA: An ideal size for cruising the waters of the Galápagos, the [M/Y La Pinta](#) has elegant public areas that feature a stylish and modern atmosphere, with plenty of natural light and a nautical touch. **All 24 outside cabins are on the upper deck and offer panoramic windows and private bathrooms.** Twin beds are convertible to one queen bed. La Pinta is family-friendly, offering 6 connecting cabins and 4 triple cabins. In-room features include individual AC control, security box, telephone with direct international dialing, storage area, safe and desk. Outlets allow guests to charge photo/video equipment and personal electronics. Fine cotton linens, down duvets, choice of pillows, biodegradable amenities, spacious hot water showers, hair dryer and plush towels will make you feel at home.

Spacious public areas on the Boat Deck include a large Observation Lounge and Bar, which can be used for 'al fresco' dining; a smaller outside Sky Bar towards the stern, fore and aft observation decks, sun chairs, a small gym, Jacuzzi and a well-stocked Natural History Library-Conference Room with the most up-to-date audio visual equipment. There is a satellite Internet connection (three stations) and wireless in designated areas. La Pinta also features a **glass bottom boat and 6 sea kayaks** for natural history explorations.

Note: To learn more about this vessel and view a photo/video gallery, please visit: www.cruises.ec/yachtlapinta/

ONBOARD: A typical day on board begins with a beautiful sunrise and breakfast served at 07:30. At about 08:30, we join our English-speaking naturalist for a 3-4 hour shore excursion. The guides onboard are certified by the Charles Darwin Research Station and the National Park Service, they have achieved a high level of experience, knowledge and service. We board our zodiac, or small motorized dinghies, and travel to a specified visitor's site for disembarkation. We may have either a dry landing on a rocky beach or special jetty, or a wet landing where wading through knee or thigh deep water is required. Once on shore our guide will explain the unique features of this location and talk about the life forms encountered along

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designated trails and beaches. There is typically time for about 45 minutes of snorkeling or swimming. Lunch is served buffet style onboard at about 12:30 and there is an opportunity to rest as the yacht cruises to the next visitor site. In the afternoon, a 3 hour excursion could include snorkeling amid colorful tropical fish, swimming or kayaking with sea lions or cruising in the zodiac to view marine birds and wildlife along the cliffs if there is not a designated landing site. A delicious dinner featuring Ecuadorian as well as International specialties is served at about 19:30 followed by a guide briefing for the following day's activities and special features of the observation sites.

The ship guarantees all departures without a minimum of passengers (maximum is 48). Southwind will operate this trip for a minimum of 2 Southwind passengers. There will be other passengers onboard who have booked through other tour companies and/or travel agencies. Those guests will not participate in the full Southwind itinerary which includes Quito and the other mainland services, they do not count toward group size for land cost pricing.

OPTIONAL TRIP EXTENSIONS: Travelers with a few extra days may wish to include a visit to the Amazon Rainforests, Cuenca and the southern highlands or Mindo Cloud forest and the Western rainforest. Extensions require a minimum of 2 participants. To view the extensions on our website, click on ['Extend Your Trip'](#).

COMBINATION TRIPS: For those inclined to spend an extra week exploring South America, our *Galápagos Wildlife Odyssey* has been designed to fit together with our tour to **Machu Picchu** in Peru creating an once-in-a-lifetime [14-day adventure](#). Let us know your interest and we can create a special combination for you.

FAMILY ADVENTURES: A visit to the enchanted isles of Galápagos National Park makes an ideal family vacation. Adults and children alike love the contact with wildlife and water activities. Children as young as 6 years old are welcome aboard and qualify for special discounts. M/Y La Pinta doesn't offer designated Family Departures but includes activities for children year-round. For year-end Holiday cruises, finalize your reservations at least 1 year in advance for better chances of obtaining space aboard M/Y La Pinta.

WEATHER: The Galápagos Islands have a surprisingly cool, sub-tropical climate. Weather is regulated by the cold Humboldt Current (flows north-westward along western coast of South America and out to the islands) during the dry season and the warm waters from the Panama Basin during the wet season. The islands only receive an average of 10" of rain per year so it is never "rainy". Temperatures vary according to the strength of the trade winds.

December – June: Cooling currents subside and temps rise. Many consider this the hot/wetter season. Daytime highs are upper 80's-low 90's and 70's at night. The water temp is at its warmest (ave 72-76°F). Feb-Apr have the highest precipitation levels (1-2"/month), rest of year is less than 1"/month.

July – November: The trade winds pick up and the climate becomes cool & breezy. Many consider this the cool/drier season. Daytime air temp ave is 73°F and 62°F at night. The ave water temp is 68°F. The sea can be a bit choppy during these months and the sky can be misty, a phenomenon locally called "garua."

TEMPERATURES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
MAX AIR TEMP	84	86	88	86	82	78	76	74	76	77	78	80
MIN AIR TEMP	70	74	74	72	72	68	66	64	62	64	66	68
AVE SEA TEMP	74	76	76	76	74	74	72	66	68	70	72	74
AVE RAINFALL	1	1	2	1.5	0.75	0.25	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.5

Temperatures are given in degrees Fahrenheit and rainfall amounts are in inches.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend purchasing coverage to protect your trip investment. Travel insurance is important in case of unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates. Weather, natural events, medical reason, quarantine, local strikes, personal injury/illness (for you, your traveling companion or family members at home), could require itinerary interruption or changes. Missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage or the need for medical attention or evacuation are also reasons why coverage is important. Southwind

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recommends **Travel Insured International** which offers coverage options at a good value. If you, your traveling companion or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you can still receive coverage if a recurrence of the condition forces you to cancel your trip, but you do need to purchase a plan **within 21 days of your deposit**. Southwind can provide eQuote for insurance to review upon receipt of your deposit and Trip Reservation eForm.

[Learn more about coverage offered by Travel Insured International](#)

HOW TO SIGN UP: Please complete Southwind's [Trip Reservation eForm](#). There are fields for up to 6 travelers per form with the same address. The deposit is **\$2,000 per person**, [please click here to pay your deposit](#) by any major credit card through our secure CardConnect system. In the total amount due box, enter your deposit amount (without a comma) based on the number of travelers in your party. If you prefer, you can also call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements by phone or send a check. You will receive confirmation of your deposit.

Once your trip is confirmed by Southwind, you will receive comprehensive pre-departure planning documents by email.

Land Balance: Final payment is due at 120 days by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express or check. You will receive a trip invoice indicating your balance due. Provided services and space are available, reservations can be accepted up to 60 days before departure.

Galápagos vessels are relatively small compared to other cruises, so they typically sell out several months in advance. Early booking is required for most departures.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under the current [Terms & Conditions](#) on Southwind's website.

We look forward to having you travel with us in Ecuador!

Southwind Adventures, Inc

Your Latin America Travel Specialist since 1990

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