

Wonders of the Galápagos

CONNOISSEURS SERIES

11 Days | Departs Thursday, returns Sunday | Limited to 24 passengers



Two blue-footed booby basking in the sun



Visit Quito's historic "Old Town," named a UNESCO World Heritage Site • Explore the Galápagos during a seven-night expeditionary cruise aboard MV 'Eclipse' • Snorkel, dive and kayak to see an amazing variety of marine and wildlife • Join a nature walk limited to only 12 guests, ensuring plenty of interaction with your accompanying naturalist guide

DAY 1: USA or Canada/Quito, Ecuador

Arrive in Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this evening and transfer to your hotel for a brief welcome reception. *Swissôtel*

DAY 2: Quito

While modern-day Quito pushes against its outskirts with a recent boom of rapid building and industrial development, its center retains much of its colonial architecture and flavor. Pedestrians walking along the narrow cobble streets of the old residential sections may peer through graceful archways into the flowered patios of red-roofed stone mansions from the past. Your visit today includes a stop at the Equatorial Monument before exploring Quito's "Old Town" and marveling at the city's ornate churches, cathedrals and Baroque architecture. Visit San Francisco Church, dedicated to Quito's patron saint and rich in artistic treasures, as well as La Compañía Church, whose glittering interior was created with seven tons of gold. Tonight, gather for a private welcome dinner. *Swissôtel B L D*

DAY 3: Quito/The Galápagos

This morning, fly via coastal Guayaquil to the Galápagos Archipelago where you board 'Eclipse,' your home for the seven-night cruise that forms the heart of your itinerary. Settle in, attend an introductory briefing and get acquainted with the ship and staff. *MV 'Eclipse' B L D*

DAYS 4-9: The Galápagos

Lying about 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, the Galápagos islands are a haven for some of the world's most unique and 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 pristine islands from degradation by humans. Since the first people arrived in the 17th century (the Galápagos has no indigenous human population), invasive species such as rats, goats and feral cats have decimated the native species, driving many into extinction. Today, tourism to the



Visitors get an up-close view of sea lion



Watching active dolphin from a kayak

Galápagos is closely managed, and your visit adheres to the strictest standards of environmental responsibility. You may explore, secure in the knowledge that your visit has a minimal impact on the native flora and fauna. Weather, water and wildlife conditions affect the day-by-day schedule of your journey, but visits are planned for the main islands and their landmarks, such as Pinnacle Rock on Bartolomé Island, Punta Espinoza on Fernandina Island, Gardner Bay and Punta Suarez on Española, the volcanoes of Isabela Island and the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz Island. Embark from 'Eclipse' in *pangas* (rubber boats) to explore rocky beaches and volcanic landscapes speckled with cacti and sleeping sea lion. Wander among the Galápagos' unique species; with little experience of people, the Galápagos wildlife regards you with curiosity rather than fear. See sunbathing sea lion playing tag between surf and sand; skittering Sally Lightfoot crab; tangles of marine iguana; penguin, finch, pelican, frigate bird, tern and booby overhead and underfoot; even a century-old tortoise diligently trudging over the sand. Be sure to call on Lonesome George, the world's last known Pinta Island tortoise, in his home at the Charles Darwin Research Center. As you sail the blue waters between islands, there is time to relax, reflect and confer with your naturalist guide about the sights you have seen and those yet to come.

MV 'Eclipse' B L D

DAY 10: The Galápagos/Quito

Disembark today and return to Quito, where this evening you gather with fellow travellers for a festive farewell dinner.

Swissôtel B D

DAY 11: Quito/USA or Canada

Board your homebound flight. *B*

For more information, contact

Randy Saucedo / randy@detailcompany.com

800.292.2213 Toll Free

713.524.7235 Office



PRICE PER PERSON

Land/cruise arrangements	Stateroom	Superior Stateroom	Deluxe Stateroom
Double occupancy	\$ 6,695	\$ 7,195	\$ 7,595
Single supplement	\$ 2,780	\$ 5,615	\$ 6,005
Internal airfare Quito/Galápagos/Quito Economy class	from \$ 525		

Please check with A&K for our special international airfares.

DEPARTURE DATES

2010	Jan 07 - 17	Apr 08 - 18 [†]	Jul 29 - Aug 08 [†]
	Jan 14 - 24	Apr 22 - May 02	Aug 05 - 15 [†]
	Jan 21 - 31	May 06 - 16	Oct 14 - 24
	Feb 04 - 14	May 20 - 30	Oct 28 - Nov 07
	Feb 11 - 21	May 27 - Jun 06	Nov 04 - 14
	Feb 18 - 28	Jun 03 - 13	Nov 11 - 21
	Feb 25 - Mar 07	Jun 10 - 20 [†]	Nov 18 - 28
	Mar 11 - 21 [†]	Jun 17 - 27 [†]	Nov 25 - Dec 05
	Mar 18 - 28 [†]	Jul 01 - 11 [†]	Dec 09 - 19 [†]
	Mar 25 - Apr 04 [†]	Jul 08 - 18 [†]	Dec 16 - 26 [†]
Apr 01 - 11 ^{†*}	Jul 22 - Aug 01 [†]	Dec 23 - Jan 02 11 ^{†*}	
2011	Jan 06 - 16	Feb 10 - 20	Mar 10 - 20
	Jan 13 - 23	Feb 17 - 27	Mar 17 - 27
	Jan 27 - Feb 06	Feb 24 - Mar 06	Mar 24 - Apr 03

New dates and prices may apply in 2011.

[†]Family friendly departure. Contact A&K for details.

^{}Holiday surcharge will apply.*