

Island-Based Wildlife Exploration

# Galápagos Wildlife Walking Adventure



CLASSIC JOURNEYS  
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

—Travel + Leisure

### “Best Wildlife Encounter” - AFAR magazine

Blue-footed boobies do their slap-happy dance for you. Galápagos penguins dart under your sea kayak. A pod of sea turtles performs their graceful ballet around you. Baby sea lions paddle up for a better look. The giant land tortoises? They're close enough to touch. If you go wild for wildlife, you've found it. AFAR magazine named our Galápagos trips "Best Wildlife Encounter"... in the world. Join our island-based adventure to skip the cramped confines (and back and forth zodiac rides several times a day) of a cruise ship to get up close and personal with the creatures you came to see. Naturalist guides lead you to extraordinary wildlife experiences, minus the flocks of tourists. You have abundant chances to walk, kayak, snorkel - and sip the occasional poolside cocktail. Then we take you a few steps farther - to the rim of the world's second largest volcanic caldera, and much more. Throughout, you stay in luxury waterfront boutique hotels. And you can feel great knowing that we follow 'Leave No Trace' environmental standards and our close ties to the islands means this Classic Journey supports more than 50 local residents and their families.

## DAY 1

### GUAYAQUIL

- Relax or explore Guayaquil
- Stroll through colorful neighborhoods

Situated along the beautiful Guayas River, cosmopolitan Guayaquil is the largest city in the country and the perfect jumping off point for the Galápagos. In addition to being an active port city, it's filled with scenic and interesting landmarks that include the Metropolitan Cathedral, Tower Morisca, and Malecon 2000. If you'd like to stretch your legs, you can go for a stroll through colorful neighborhoods, like Las Peñas, and charming parks, such as Las Iguanas. When you're hungry, follow in the footsteps of the indigenous cultures who have for centuries brought together ingredients from the Andes, Amazon and Pacific coast to create mouthwatering dishes to enjoy at street markets, local eateries and highly regarded restaurants.

**Overnight:** Guayaquil

## DAY 2

### GALAPAGOS / SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

- Fly to Baltra Island and explore Santa Cruz
- Enjoy a seaside hike with excellent bird and animal watching options, including sally light-foot crabs and herons
- Visit the Charles Darwin Research Center

Fueled from breakfast, you'll make a short transfer to Guayaquil airport for your flight to the Galápagos. After arriving on Baltra Island, you'll begin your Galápagos adventure on Santa Cruz Island, where you'll have the chance to see the islands' geologic history up close on foot at eye level.

Begin your time on Santa Cruz with a walk that surrounds you in stunning natural beauty. The path winds through a wild landscape of volcanic rocks and cacti as you follow a footpath to the lava cliffs of Las Grietas. The stretch of emerald green water at the base of the cliffs is fed by an underground river from one end and ocean water from the other. The impressive series of volcanic caves were formed during the cooling of molten lava. This is a great opportunity to spot blue-footed boobies flying overhead and diving for fish.

Later in the afternoon, you can choose your adventure. Get a scientific grounding into the Galápagos' fascinating history with a visit to the Charles Darwin Research Center. Here you'll learn all about the incredible species that call the islands home, including some of the oldest animals in the world, the giant tortoise, as well as Darwin's favorite finch. Or, choose waterside. Go for a swim or relax under an umbrella with a water view, sipping on something cold and watching the world go by.

**Overnight:** Santa Cruz

**Meals:** L

## DAY 3

### SANTA FE ISLAND

- Snorkel and barbeque
- Explore one of the most unique of the Galápagos islands

From Santa Cruz Island your cinematic view stretches to Santa Fe Island, at four million years the oldest of the Galápagos islands and a terrific microcosm of what the archipelago is all about. Santa Fe has its own species of land iguanas that are found nowhere else. And, it's home to groves of Opuntia cactus that look like trees with huge, prickly paddle-shaped leaves.

As you'll find when you join your guide to boat to it for a day of snorkeling and barbeque, the island is a non-stop wildlife immersion with plenty of opportunities to interact with an incredibly wide variety of wildlife, from sea lions and sea turtles to Galápagos hawks, Nazca boobies and so much more.

Mid-afternoon, your captain navigates the boat back to Santa Cruz Island, but not before anchoring along the way at Playa Escondida. This beautiful and isolated beach can only be accessed by water. Join your guides on a naturalist walk to spot Blue Footed Boobies and Sally light foot crabs. And then plunge back into the water to snorkel with spotted eagle rays, golden rays, sea turtles and even white-tipped sharks that inhabit this pristine area.

An additional benefit of exploring with Classic Journeys is our regenerative approach to travel, where we work with an amazing family of locals to make sure that you receive the most genuine and authentic experience while also keeping money in the local economy. Today is a real-life example, as our boat captain used to be a fisherman who now uses his expert knowledge of these waters to introduce you to the octopus and other sea life he knows so well. (And ask us to send you the YouTube

link to the video of a group of Classic Journeys guests rescuing two sea turtles caught by illegal fishing lines. You'll catch yourself smiling through tears of joy!)

**Overnight:** Santa Cruz

**Meals:** B, L

## DAY 4

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### SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS

- Venture into the highlands to interact with the 500-pound giant tortoises
- Accept an invitation to a coffee plantation for a tasting

This morning after breakfast, you'll have the remarkable experience of walking among some of the oldest animals in the world.

The island is home to giant tortoises that can grow up to 500 pounds and live for 175 years or more. And you'll see them on foot at eye level in a way that is truly 'only with Classic Journeys'. Follow your guides along a scenic trail to the tortoises' natural habitat in the highlands at El Chato Reserve. Happily, the walk of an hour or so is too far for cruise ship passengers on their tight schedules. (They settle for a smaller crowded site near the coast.) So, when you reach the watering hole, it's just you with a couple of dozen tortoises. There are no fences or moats between you and these amazing creatures, and your naturalist guides see to it that you get so near that you can hear them breathe and chomp on grass. It's a close encounter like you've never had before.

The same rich volcanic soil that the animals love is perfect for growing coffee, sugar cane, and fruit, as you'll discover on a visit to the family-owned plantation of our friend, Adrianno. You'll spend time with the family and workers, learn about their organic, sustainable operation, and taste products grown and made on the property.

**Overnight:** Santa Cruz

**Meals:** B, D

## DAY 5

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### ISABELA ISLAND

- Come face to face with Galápagos penguins
- Spot blue-footed boobies
- Kayak with baby sea lions and green sea turtles

This morning, transfer to Isabela, the largest of the Galápagos Islands. Isabela straddles the equator, and at one million years old, is also the youngest of the islands.

There's no waiting for wildlife sightings. This afternoon, you experience two ways to get close to the amazing wildlife. First, enjoy a scenic, naturalist walk along mangroves and wetlands that are home to spectacular pink flamingos, iguanas the color of the black lava rocks and an incredible variety of migratory birds. Next, take to the water to kayak with sea lions, green sea turtles, and marine iguanas while keeping your eyes sharp for blue-footed boobies in the trees along the shores as well as watching how they hover over the sea and dive for fish.

This evening, about the time when cruise passengers zodiac back out to their ships, you'll be relaxing at your perfectly-sited boutique hotel.

**Overnight:** Isabela

**Meals:** B, D

## DAY 6

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### VOLCAN SIERRA NEGRA

- Explore one of the largest volcanic craters in the world
- Refresh yourself over a delicious lunch of local specialties at a private hacienda in the highlands

The islands are some of the most volcanically active spots on Earth and Isabela was actually formed by the merger of six volcanos. Today, you'll experience that terrain on foot at eye level as you get a firsthand look at how millennia of eruptions and lava flows have formed the unique Galápagos habitat.

You won't forget this morning's walk along the rim of 500,000-year-old Volcan Sierra Negra. Up here, you get one of the most spectacular views in the islands. The six-mile-wide crater is one of the largest active calderas on the planet, and the scale is awesome. Our guides like to say that with its orange, red and yellow lava formations and puffing fumaroles this is more like walking on Mars than Earth. But the island is surprisingly lush at this altitude. Verdant ferns, papaya trees and angel's trumpets

## DAILY ITINERARY

Galápagos: Island-Based Wildlife Exploration | Wildlife Walking Adventure

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(with blossoms a foot long or more) line the trail. Darwin's finches, hawks, flycatchers and many other birds supply a natural soundtrack.

After refueling over a leisurely lunch at our friends' private hacienda, you have time in the late afternoon to relax by the beach with the local colony of sea lions, or even to stroll the lazy beach town and soak up island life.

**Overnight:** Isabela

**Meals:** B, L

### DAY 7

#### LAS TINTORERAS

- Explore a cluster of small inlets from the water
- Follow an incredible nature path past white sand beaches, wetlands, lava formations, and mangrove forest
- Spot blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, iguanas and the finches that inspired the theory of evolution

Charles Darwin and the HMS Beagle were in the Galapagos during September and October 1835, and Darwin explored several of the islands, collecting the Galapagos species he'd use in his research on his return to England. Isabela was Darwin's final stop before he and the Beagle set sail for Tahiti.

This morning, stroll to the dock where all of your gear - masks, snorkels, flippers, wet suits - is ready and waiting for you. With your naturalist guide, you'll board a panga (a comfortable flat-bottom fishing boat) to explore Las Tintoreras, a cluster of small islets that are one of the few spots where Galápagos penguins live. The birds are unafraid and even curious - and they're nearly foolproof photo subjects. You'll spot them relaxing on the lava rocks, and if you'd like, grab a mask and snorkel and waterproof camera to see them at water level as they dive into the clear blue waters of the lagoon. It's genuinely an incredible experience. The waters of the lagoon also draw green sea turtles, vividly-colored reef fish and fearsome-looking but utterly harmless marine iguanas.

This afternoon, join your guide on a trail that's the most scenically varied in the Galápagos. Your walk takes you past white sand beaches, wetlands, lava formations, and mangrove forests. Along the way, the wildlife spotting opportunities are equally incredibly varied, from pink flamingos to giant land tortoises. Like Darwin, you're likely to spot blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, iguanas and the finches that helped inspire the theory of evolution.

**Overnight:** Santa Isabela

**Meals:** B, D

### DAY 8

#### ISABELA ISLAND / BALTRA ISLAND

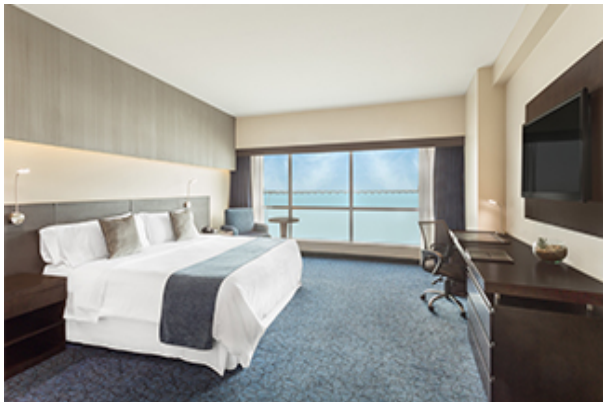
- Part company with a return flight to mainland Ecuador

After breakfast, transfer to Baltra Island for your return flight back to mainland Ecuador.

**Meals:** B



## Tour Hotels



### Wyndham Guayaquil

Situated just steps from the historic Santa Ana Hill and its famous Lighthouse, this luxury high-rise hotel offers an ideal location near Guayaquil's many attractions.

**OVERNIGHT:** Guayaquil | **NIGHTS:** 1



### Angermeyer Waterfront Inn

Built of native lava rock and driftwood, this first-class hotel is situated right on the waterfront. Guests enjoy peace and total privacy, plus a perfect chance to experience what the owners call the true 'Galápagos spirit'.

**OVERNIGHT:** Santa Cruz, Galapagos | **NIGHTS:** 3



### Iguana Crossing

The ocean laps at the front door. There's nothing but National Park (with a live volcano) out the back. This hotel is cool, very close to nature and eco-minded. Amenities include a swimming pool, a roof-deck Jacuzzi and its own excellent restaurant.

**OVERNIGHT:** Isabela, Galapagos | **NIGHTS:** 3

## Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

## Trip Essentials

<b>TRIP LENGTH</b>	8 Days, 7 Nights
<b>START</b>	Wyndham Guayaquil - hotel lobby, Guayaquil, Ecuador
<b>END</b>	Baltra Airport , Baltra Island - Santa Cruz, Ecuador
<b>TERRAIN</b>	Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths.

## What's Included

- Award-winning ocean-front boutique hotels that provide you unlimited access to the wildlife you came to experience
- All breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners
- All activities in the itinerary, including gear for snorkeling and kayaking
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events

**READY TO BOOK?**  
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

## Or give us a call

**1-800-200-3887**

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST  
moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

### AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

### ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

\*\*Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

# THE Classic Journeys Difference

## HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

*Samuel*  
President & Founder



## You can expect the highest standards:



### Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



### Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



### Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



### Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



### Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



### Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

## You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Galápagos...

- Checking off your bucket list as you spot each of the Galápagos Big Five
- Tasting the brew at a 250-acre, family-owned coffee plantation
- Snorkeling, sea-kayaking and swimming with sea lion pups in their natural environment
- Staying in eco-luxe hotels rather than being penned up in a cruise ship offshore
- Exploring with the best naturalist, who always know where to find the giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies and Galápagos penguins