



# ADVENTURE DETAILS

## 9-DAY GALÁPAGOS ADVENTURE

Aboard MV INTEGRITY

## Welcome to the Galápagos Islands

You'll retrace some of Charles Darwin's route of 1835 with superb naturalists and in much greater comfort than he experienced: you'll be pampered by an outstanding crew, dine in style and enjoy the views from large picture windows in the comfort of your spacious stateroom.

Select between the Eastern and Western routes, two of the most inclusive yacht itineraries in Galapagos. Both routes visit many islands. One route focuses on the western islands including visits on Floreana, Isabela and Fernandina; the other route focuses on the eastern islands including visits on Española, San Cristóbal and Genovesa.

## Daily exploration

Naturalist-led shore excursions and snorkeling provide guests with intimate encounters with wildlife.

Each day you will explore the islands, many unchanged since Darwin's time. Your naturalist guide will lead shore excursions to observe flora and fauna with engaging descriptions of the natural forces at work shaping the islands.

## The Luxury Yacht INTEGRITY

An elegant base for 16 discerning guests to discover the islands. Stabilized. Comfortable. Spacious. When not ashore exploring the islands, kayaking, or snorkeling with sea lions, penguins, and tropical fish, you'll travel in comfort and style aboard the 141' 16-passenger luxury yacht INTEGRITY. She is equipped with state-of-the-art stabilizers, Wi-Fi, a relaxing sun deck jacuzzi, and plenty of room to unwind and enjoy your Galapagos experience.

# Walking Connection Guest Itinerary

Please note that the details of this itinerary are subject to change. Many of the planned activities are organized according to availability, events or seasonal dates, appropriate weather conditions or the discretion of our guides. We make every effort to provide the experience described in the itinerary with the understanding that some things may change.

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## DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN ECUADOR

Wednesday

Fly from your home to Quito or Guayaquil, Ecuador.  
Transfer to your hotel for overnight.

Hotel: **Wyndham Quito Airport** or **Oro Verde Guayaquil**

## DAY 2 TO GALÁPAGOS | BOARDING INTEGRITY

Saturday

Depart early for your domestic flight to Baltra Island, Galapagos. After landing on Baltra and disembarking, you will proceed to the airport terminal VIP lounge, meet your Santa Cruz guide, and enter the Galápagos National Park. You will then transit across Baltra Island and cross the Canal de Itabaca to the island of Santa Cruz.

Once on Santa Cruz, you will board our private bus for the trip into the highlands. You will notice dramatic changes in the vegetation as you travel along the paved road through the arid zone up to the rainforest highlands. You will see many Galápagos plant species including the endemic pepper, pea, tomato, cotton, Darwin's aster, club mosses, scalesia (a gargantuan relative of the sunflower) and tree ferns.



During your time in the highlands, you will search for **giant tortoises** in the wild. These tortoises can often be seen on a local farm, where wild tortoises roam freely. During your visit, you will also likely see resident Darwin's finches that often pose for photos among the tortoises.

After spotting the giant tortoises, you will head down to the coastal town of Puerto Ayora for lunch and a complimentary wetsuit fitting.

After lunch, you will visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. Here you will learn about conservation issues as well as the tortoise hatching and rearing program. You will also learn about the different species of tortoises in Galapagos and have a chance to see the renowned Lonesome George exhibit.

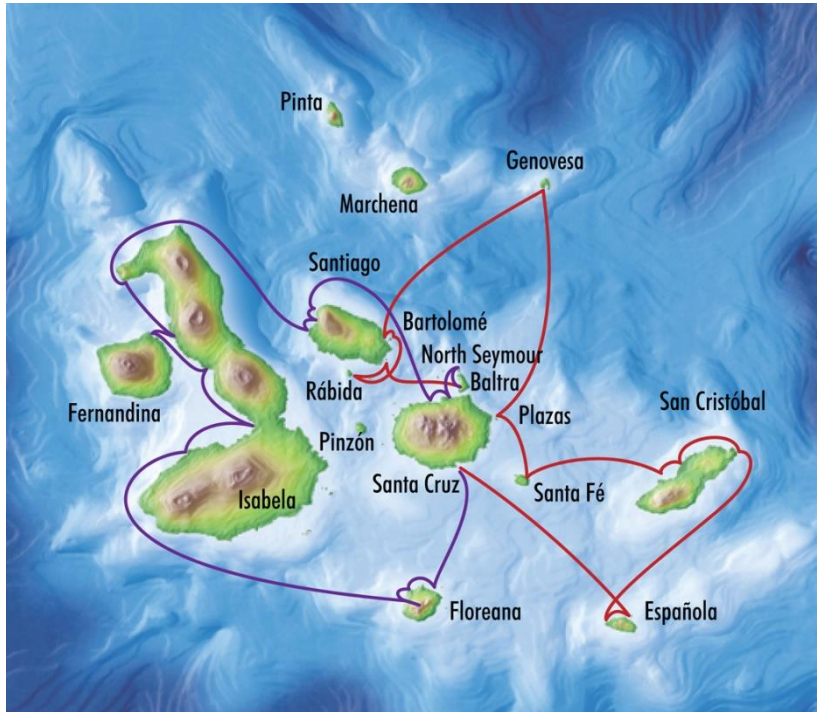
In the late afternoon, you will meet with your yacht Naturalist and board INTEGRITY. During the night, the yacht will get underway and you will awaken just as you anchor at the southernmost island you'll visit.

**WESTERN ROUTE:**

SANTA CRUZ, FLOREANA, ISABELA, FERNANDINA SANTIAGO, NORTH SEYMOUR, BALTRA

**EASTERN ROUTE:**

SANTA CRUZ, ESPANOLA, SAN CRÍSTOBAL, SANTA FÉ, SOUTH PLAZAS, GENOVESA, SANTIAGO, BARTOLOMÉ, RÁBIDA, SOMBRERO CHINO, BALTRA



**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**DAYS 3-8  
CRUISING  
GALAPAGOS  
A SAMPLE  
DAY ABOARD  
INTEGRITY**



Each day aboard the yacht will bring new sights, sounds and experiences. You will encounter many different animals and a variety of landscapes, and hopefully learn something new every day. Life on the boat will follow a distinct rhythm as explained below. Times are all approximate and descriptions are general.

**6:30 AM - Rise and Shine:** Awake just as the sun is rising over the horizon.

**7:00 - Breakfast:** Start each day with a complete breakfast including fresh fruit, a selection of cereals and breads, eggs made to order, fresh-squeezed juice, and coffee or tea. While you enjoy breakfast, your guide will take a moment to explain what the morning's activities will bring so you can plan accordingly with appropriate footwear, clothing and camera equipment.



**7:45 AM - Morning landing:** A 5- to -10-minute *panga* ride brings you to shore for either a wet beach landing or dry dock landing. Walks on land present a variety of terrains: sandy coves, tide pools, lava flows, uneven rocks, steep steps and earthen. The walks are taken at a comfortable pace allowing time for bird watching, taking pictures, learning about you're the wildlife and environment, and simply listening to nature.

**10:30 AM - Mid-morning break:** Return to the boat for a snack and a short break. Since there is absolutely no food allowed on the islands, you are always greeted back aboard the yacht with a tasty selection of snacks and time to relax.



**11:00 AM - Snorkeling/Kayaking:** The group will likely snorkel once or twice every day and may kayak up to two or three times per week. These activities are optional. Guests who choose not to snorkel or kayak will remain aboard INTEGRITY.

**12:00 PM - Lunchtime:** The afternoon meal is the most important meal of the day in Ecuadorian culture. Lunch is a sit-down event with three courses.



**1:00 PM - Midday Siesta & Playtime:** On days when you visit two different islands, the yacht will be in transit for a few hours mid-day. This time is often used to take siestas, read, or just enjoy the view and the refreshing ocean breeze on deck. It's also a good time for whale and dolphin-spotting. If the yacht is not traveling to another island for the afternoon landing, this time may also be used for swimming or kayaking (at designated locations, when accompanied by your naturalist guide).

**3:00 or 3:30 PM - Second Shore Visit:** You will once again take the *panga* to shore for more explorations along marked trails. Terrain, vistas, and featured birds and animals will vary. According to park rules, all visitors must be off the island by 6:00 PM, just in time to enjoy the sunset from the top deck with a beverage in-hand.



**7:00 PM - Dinner:** Your chef takes special pride in creating fresh, healthy meals. You dine on a variety of entrees throughout the week featuring chicken, meat, pork, fish and vegetarian dishes. The chefs are accustomed to accommodating special diets (with advance notice). The chefs also enjoy planning special meals or desserts if the trip falls on a holiday or special event.



**8:00 PM - Recap and Preview:** Evenings are used for talks and lectures to either review the birds and animals that you saw during the day or preview what you should anticipate for the next day.

**Goodnight:** You are free to retire to your cabin as early or as late as you wish. The next day you awake to the views of a new island that awaits exploration.

Yacht: **INTEGRITY**

Meals: **Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

## **DAY 9 DISEMBARK INTEGRITY AND RETURN TO QUITO OR GUAYAQUIL**

**Saturday** This morning the yacht will anchor in Baltra harbor. From here you and your baggage will be transferred to the Baltra Airport where you will be checked-in for the return flight to Quito or Guayaquil.

In Quito or Guayaquil, you have an awaiting guestroom to provide an opportunity to refresh, relax and enjoy a leisurely dinner. You will then transfer back to the airport to check in for your late-night departure.



Hotel: **Wyndham Quito Airport** or **Oro Verde Guayaquil**

Meals: **Breakfast**

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# FINE PRINT

## Included In Your Walking Connection Galapagos Adventure

- All airport transfers
- One night hotel with transfers on arrival in Guayaquil or Quito
- 8-day / 7-night cruise
- Dayroom in Guayaquil or Quito between flight connections on return
- All meals from breakfast on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 9
- Complimentary soft-drinks, coffee, tea, juice and draft beer while aboard yacht
- Two glasses of house wine each night with dinner while aboard the yacht
- Complimentary laundry service available on board the yacht
- Complimentary and unlimited use of internet
- Complimentary use of wetsuits, masks, fins & snorkels
- Complimentary use of eight 2-person sea-kayaks, where permitted by the National Park
- Expert naturalist guide on board that will escort group on all activities.

## NOT Included In Your Walking Connection Galapagos Adventure

- International & domestic airfare
- Galapagos National Park entrance fee (currently \$100 per adult, \$50 per child under 12)
- Galapagos Transit Control Tax (currently \$20)
- Additional wine and other spirits are available for purchase aboard (\$10-\$15 per glass)
- Gratuities for naturalist guides and yacht crew.
- Travel insurance. We recommend Generali.

### General Terms & Conditions

**2022 Price:** \$7295 - \$8995 USD per person, double occupancy, for 9-Day Galapagos Adventure. (price determined by time of year.) **Special \$6995 price for sailings Oct. 22 & Dec. 10, 2021**

**Deposits:** An initial deposit of \$1000.00 USD per person is required to reserve your space. No space will be held without a complete deposit. Deposits may be made by check, PayPal or credit card. Our tour prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuation at the time of final payment.

**Payments:** All payments must be made according to the schedule & are subject to the cancellation & penalty policy. **150 days** prior to departure an additional **1st Payment**, in the amount of \$4500USD/person is due. **Final** balance is due **90 days** prior to departure. 1<sup>st</sup> And final Final payments may be made by check, wire transfer, PayPal or credit card. For credit cards and PayPal there is a 3% surcharge. Outside of the U.S. there is a 4.5% surcharge. Our tour prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuation, park fee increases and increase in tax imposed by the government at the time of final payment.

**Itinerary:** Please note that the details of this itinerary are subject to change. Many of the planned activities and accommodations are organized according to availability, events or seasonal dates, appropriate weather conditions or the discretion of our guides. We make every effort to provide the experience described in the itinerary with the understanding that some things may change or be adjusted.

## Cancellation, Penalty & Refund Policies:

Should you have to cancel your tour the following terms will apply:

Due to the exclusive and small group nature of this adventure, all the initial deposit is non-refundable. After that:

- For cancellations from 121 - 150 days prior to the trip 25% penalty of the trip total.
- For cancellations 91 – 120 days a 50% penalty.
- For cancellations 61 – 90 days a 75% penalty.
- For cancellations and no shows 60 days or less prior to the trip, no refunds.

No refunds will be made for any unused portion of the tour.

NOTE: For cancellations of 180 days or more prior to your planned departure, a one-time transfer of this deposit (less a \$500 per person processing fee) may be made to another Integrity sailing date that departs anytime within one year from the original departure date.

All cancellations must be made in writing and delivered to The Walking Connection via e-mail and/or United States Post Office. Your cancellation date is the date your notice is received and confirmed by The Walking Connection, not the postmark date.

**Trip Insurance:** To cover your investment in your trip, Walking Connection strongly recommends you purchase trip cancellation insurance coverage that would reimburse you for pre-departure trip cancellation fees or post-departure trip interruption (limited to the amount of coverage you purchased) losses, lost baggage or travel documents, delayed luggage, for reasonable accommodation and travel expenses if your trip is delayed, accidental death or dismemberment, and coverage for emergency medical expenses including emergency medical evacuation. Coverage that includes a pre-existing medical condition exclusion waiver, trip cancellation or trip interruption due to financial default of an airline, cruise line, or tour operator may be included, provided you purchase travel insurance **within 15-21 days** of the date on which Walking Connection received your trip deposit, depending on insurance provider.

**Recommended Travel Insurance provided by: Generali Global Assistance**

<https://www.generalitravelinsurance.com/?partner=81350509>

*(If you are asked for a "Producer Code," it is: 81350509)*

**IMPORTANT Air Arrangements:** The Walking Connection does not typically make any airline reservations, either domestic or international. BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR AIRLINE ARRANGEMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT US BY TELEPHONE (800) 295-9255 TO RECONFIRM THE FINAL ASPECTS OF THIS TRIP. The Walking Connection will provide you with the recommended arrival and departure airports, times and any additional information you may need BEFORE YOU BOOK YOUR AIR for this trip.

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