



Trip Details



Galapagos INTEGRITY Cruise

Small Group Trip
(Custom/Private Trips Available by Request)

For Questions or Booking Information:
info@walkingconnection.com / (800)-295-WALK



Galapagos – Integrity – Trip Details

Trip Dates: Available by request (*Ask for our special pricing on specific departures*)

Length of Trip: 9 days / 8 nights

Pre and Post Trip Optional Extension: Ask about options!

Activity Level: Easy to Moderate

Galapagos - Integrity Trip Details - Itinerary

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.

Day 1 – Arrive in Ecuador

Welcome to Ecuador!

Arrive at the luxurious Hotel Oro Verde Guayaquil or Quito after your late arrival. Spend the evening relaxing before your adventure gets underway.

Accommodation: Hotel Oro Verde Guayaquil OR

Day 2 – To Galapagos

Depart early for your flight to Baltra Island. Meet your Santa Cruz guide in the VIP lounge, and enter Galapagos National Park. You will then transit across Baltra Island and cross Canal de Itabaca to the island of Santa Cruz.

Once on Santa Cruz, board our private bus for a 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. Search for giant tortoises in the wild and Darwin's finches posing among the many Galapagos plant species including the endemic pepper, pea, tomato, cotton, Darwin's aster, club mosses, scalesia (a gargantuan relative of the sunflower) and tree ferns. Then head down to the coastal town of Puerto Ayora for lunch and a wetsuit fitting.

After lunch, visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. Here you learn about conservation issues as well as the tortoise hatching and rearing program. Study the different species of tortoises in Galapagos and check out the Lonesome George exhibit.

In the late afternoon, you will meet with your yacht Naturalist and board Integrity. The yacht will get



underway overnight and you will awaken just as anchors drop at the southernmost island of the trip.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Integrity

Days 3-8 – Cruising the Galapagos

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 this adventure 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 am – Breakfast: Enjoy daily breakfast of fresh fruit, a selection of cereals and breads, eggs made to order, fresh-squeezed juice, and coffee or tea. While you dine, your guide will 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. Daily island walks present a variety of terrain: 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 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. As 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: You will be given the option to snorkel once or twice almost every day and may kayak up to two or three times during the week. Guests who choose not to snorkel or kayak will remain aboard Integrity.

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

1:00 pm – Mid-day 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 available to take siestas, read, or just enjoy the view and refreshing ocean breeze on deck. It's also a good time for whale or 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 take the panga to shore again for more explorations along marked trails. Terrain, vistas, birds and animals will vary. According to park rules, all visitors must be off the islands by 6:00 pm, just in time to enjoy the sunset from the top deck with a

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beverage in hand.

7:00 pm – Dinner: Your chef takes special pride in creating fresh, healthy meals. You will dine on a variety of entrees throughout the week. The chefs are accustomed to accommodating special diets (with advance notice). The chefs also enjoy planning special meals or desserts when 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 wildlife that was seen during the day or preview what you can anticipate for the next day.

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

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Integrity

Day 9 – Disembark Integrity and Return to Guayaquil

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 Guayaquil. In Guayaquil, you will visit the guestroom to refresh, relax and enjoy a leisurely dinner. You will then transfer back to the airport to check in for your late-night departure. If you would prefer to stay an extra night and depart the next day, arrangements can be made.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Galapagos – Integrity Trip Details - Inclusions

This Walking Connection trip includes:

- Expertly planned itinerary in partnership with International Nature & Cultural Adventures
- 8-day/7-night luxury yacht accommodations
- Daily meals, as indicated in itinerary
- Soft-drinks, coffee, tea, juice and draft beer or 2 glasses of house wine
- Expert naturalist guides
- Laundry aboard yacht
- Internet service
- Use of wetsuits, masks, fins & snorkels
- Use of 2-person sea kayaks where permitted by the National Park
- Domestic air and transfers to and from Guayaquil or Quito at beginning and end of trip
- One night hotel with transfers on arrival in Guayaquil or Quito



- Detailed *Know Before You Go* information, including recommended website, reading lists, packing list, and weather forecast

This Walking Connection trip DOES NOT include:

- Local guide and yacht crew gratuities
- All international airfares with tax (not listed in the above inclusions)
- Galapagos National Park entrance fee (currently \$100/adult, \$50/child under 12)
- Galapagos Transit Control tax (currently \$20)
- All items of a personal nature, including beverages and shopping
- All passport and visa application fees, vaccination and medical consulting fees
- All international departure taxes collected at airport of departure
- Additional hotel stay pre- or post- scheduled itinerary
- Early check-in or late check-out of rooms
- Optional tours
- Photographs or phone calls
- Discounts/Refunds on any unused portion of the tour
- Travel Insurance
- Anything that is not expressly stated in the itinerary or on the inclusion list above

Galapagos – Integrity Trip Details - Price & Payments

Price: From \$6995-\$7995 USD per person/double occupancy

Price varies by season

Ask about our special value pricing for select dates! (Jan-June 2020)

Deposits:

An initial deposit of \$1250 USD per person is required to reserve your space. No space will be held without a complete deposit. Deposits are non-refundable.

Payments:

Payments must be made according to the schedule & are subject to cancellation and penalty policy. Final payment is due on or before 90 days prior to the trip. We request that all final payments be made by check, wire transfer or credit card/PayPal. Credit card and PayPal payments for final amount due are subject to a 3% surcharge of total due. Canadian (or other non U.S. Credit cards) are subject to a 4.5% surcharge. Payments can be made online or by phone.



Price Variation:

Prices are based upon the current government fees for park, camping, concession fees and sanctuary entry and all taxes at the time of publication of this information. Should the government impose any new taxes, raise the current tax or increase the entry cost to any park or sanctuary, the price increase will be passed along and charged to you. You will be notified of this increase at the time that Walking Connection is notified. All payments received by Walking Connection are subject to the cancellation policy already published and in effect.

Cancellation, Penalty & Refund Policies:

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

Due to the exclusive, special pricing and small group nature of this adventure, all cancellations requests will forfeit the initial trip deposit (\$1250.) After that:

- For cancellations 91-120 days prior to the trip, 50% penalty of the total trip cost.
- For cancellations and no shows 90 days or less prior to the trip, no refunds.

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

All cancellations must be made in writing and delivered to Walking Connection via e-mail and/or US Postal Service. Your cancellation date is the date your notice is received and confirmed by Walking Connection, not the date of postmark.

Galapagos – Integrity Trip Details - Travel Arrangements

Ecuador Passports/Visas:

Valid passports must have 3 blank pages and a minimum of 6 months remaining before expiration. Visas are not required for Americans entering Ecuador.

For US passport applications and renewals:

<http://www.passportvisasexpress.com/?affId=992183579f5e584ff2a965b511618cc9>

Air Arrangements:

BEFORE you make your international airline arrangements, please contact Walking Connection by phone – (800)-295-9255 to reconfirm the details of the trip. Walking Connection will provide you with recommended arrival and departure airports, times and any additional information you may need BEFORE you book your flights.



Travel Roommates and Single Supplements:

If you have registered for double occupancy but don't have a travel roommate, you may be charged for a Single Supplement for any portion of the trip where you will be rooming as a single.

Galapagos – Integrity Trip Details - Final Details

Trip Grading – Easy to Moderate:

- Each day usually consists of 2-5 hours of activities most centered around walking
- Terrain includes sandy coves, tide pools, lava flows, uneven rocks, steep steps and earthen
- Other activities may include snorkeling and kayaking
- Achieving a specific destination (point A to B) is not usually the goal and all walks are optional
- Your day pack will include a liter of water, snacks, rain jacket, sunscreen, personal items

Special Supplier Gifts & Items:

As a local custom, vendors, suppliers, ground operators, restaurants and hotel properties may offer complimentary beverages that may or may not contain alcohol. Should you elect not to accept this gift, complimentary water may not be offered as a replacement and may only be offered for sale. This is a local custom beyond the control of Walking Connection.

Your Personal Guides:

At Walking Connection, our philosophy is simple: each trip is designed in partnership with locals and delivered by local legends. We work with a small number of trusted travel partners to deliver the best experiences in the safest way possible.

CONTACTS:

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