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by ecoventura

G A L A P A G O S



LUXURY EXPEDITION YACHTS FACT SHEET

SPECIFICATIONS

Year Built: 2016 – Origin & 2019 - Theory
L.O.A: 142 feet/ 43.5 meters
Beam: 27.5 feet/ 8.5 meters
Cruising speed: 12-14 knots
Capacity: 20 guests
Crew: 13 including 2 naturalists

Design

The identical luxury expedition yachts combine stylish décor, world-class service and luxurious amenities, built with naval steel and designed to minimize environmental impact.

Speed & Comfort

Traveling at a speed of 12-14 knots allows more time for exploration. The curved bow cuts through waves for smooth sailing and less drag resulting in lower RPMs = less fuel. Fixed stabilizers with bilge keels reduce rolling

Owner/operated

Vessels and permits owned and operated by Ecoventura, a family-owned company from Ecuador founded in 1990.

Environmental action

Invested in making the operation greener in 2000, and became the first recipient of Smart Voyager, installed solar panels and offset carbon emissions. Certified by Rainforest Alliance Best Practices and are reducing the use of plastics on board.

Sustainability programs

Galapagos Biodiversity and Education for Sustainability Fund in 2017 to benefit programs in support of the Charles Darwin Foundation. Support Ecology Project International and Pack for A Purpose to benefit the local community

Affiliations

Relais & Chateaux – The only vessel in Galapagos accepted into this esteemed group of hoteliers, chefs and restaurateurs setting a high standard of excellence.

Traveller Made – A network community dedicated to providing unique and exclusive bespoke journeys looking for different and original experiences.

THE EXPERIENCE

Two expert naturalist guides

One for every 10 guests, the lowest ratio in the Galapagos - share their knowledge and passion during Island excursions, evening briefings and enrichment lectures

Itineraries

Departures are every Sunday on comprehensive 7-night itineraries visiting unique Islands and the week is not split into shorter segments. Combine both for two-week exploration of the entire archipelago.

Activities

Twice-daily guided shore excursions with optional water activities and exploration by Zodiac or glass-bottom boat.

Sports equipment

Five double kayaks, one single kayak, two stand up paddle boards, full 3mm wet suits, masks, fins and snorkels and beach towels are provided at no additional cost.

Family departures

Designated departure dates for families traveling with children age 7 to 17 and up available on all school breaks

Specialty/themed departures offered in the Fall with a local host

Health & wellness with a yoga instructor, hosted departures with a marine biologist, Focus on photography and Culinary cruise for foodies with local chef.

VIP package/ private moments

Ideal for 2-6 guests looking for a more intimate experience with a private naturalist guide, private airport transfers, upgrade to business class seats on flights to Galapagos and a private zodiac ride. Additional charge applies

Private exclusive charter

Ideal for groups of families or friends on an epic holiday or celebration of a milestone event, birthday or anniversary. For an additional charge on charters, we can arrange for a masseuse, yoga instructor or photographer to be on board.

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THE IDENTICAL YACHTS FEATURE

Staterooms

Cabin accommodation in a Deluxe stateroom (145 square feet) featuring large windows showcasing expansive un-obstructed views. All ten cabins are on the Beagle deck with two twin beds that convert to a king size bed; two cabins have interconnecting doors and two accommodate triples with a third pull-down berth.

Cabin amenities

Fine bed linens, memory-foam and soft pillows, climate controls and black out curtains ensure a good night's rest. A vanity nook with a stool and lighted mirror, nightstand, sectional closet with drawers, Flat screen TV with pre-loaded movies, universal docking station, USB, clock, safety deposit box, Espresso and tea kettle set up.

Modern bathroom with rainfall shower, dual-flush toilet, sink, plush towels, waffle bathrobes, slippers, hair dryer, bio-degradable hand soap, body wash, shampoo and conditioner in dispensers.

Food & Beverage

Each meal is carefully prepared, with dinner a beautifully plated four-course menu with Ecuadorian and International specialties using fresh, locally sourced ingredients.

Gourmet snacks are served after each excursion. Afternoon tea service with pastries and snacks available. Our chef offers a cooking demonstration and can provide vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free menus and meet most dietary requests.

Dining room & Bar

Our elegant dining room features marble tabletops, with configurations from two to 8 guests for private or group dining.

Open bar policy

An intimate indoor bar is always open for cocktails, red, white and sparkling wine, beer, sodas, juices, coffee, and tea, snacks – all included in our open bar policy.

Spacious sundeck is partially shaded and fashioned with chic day beds, chaises lounges, two hammocks, an outdoor shower, and wet bar. Tables and chairs are set up for a BBQ lunches served al fresco.

Jacuzzi hot tub

For up to six guests to relax after excursions.

Lounge

Unwind in the comfortable lounge area adjacent to the bar for evening gatherings, Captain's parties, and conversations with your naturalists and fellow ship mates.

Fitness Center

Equipped with a treadmill, elliptical, free weights, yoga mats, and more.

Boutique

High-quality local handicrafts, sundries, and gift items

Library

A selection of publications, some rare, dedicated to the Galapagos and Charles Darwin

Satellite Communications

Satellite communications (Wi-Fi) – available 24/7 and limited to one PIN per cabin.

Laundry service: Cabins are cleaned twice daily, and a light laundry service is available M-F for an additional charge.





GALAPAGOS
ITINERARY A “BEACHES & BAYS”
SOUTHERN/CENTRAL ROUTE



SUNDAY	Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, SAN CRISTOBAL (Chatham) El Junco Lake, SAN CRISTOBAL
MONDAY	Punta Pitt, (SN, PR) SAN CRISTOBAL Cerro Brujo (SN, PR, KY) SAN CRISTOBAL
TUESDAY	Punta Suarez, ESPANOLA (Hood) Gardner Bay (SN, PR, KY) ESPANOLA
WEDNESDAY	Punta Cormorant (PR, SN), FLOREANA Post Office Bay (SN), Baroness Point (PR) FLOREANA
THURSDAY	Highlands of SANTA CRUZ CCFL (Darwin Station), SANTA CRUZ
FRIDAY	Sombrero Chino (SN), Las Bachas (SN) or Black Turtle Cove (PR) Bartolome (PR, SN)
SATURDAY	South Plaza Island (SN) North Seymour (PR)
SUNDAY	Interpretation Center, SAN CRISTOBAL

This is a sample itinerary and the order of the visits may vary depending upon the yacht assigned. Activities include guided land excursions, SN = snorkel, KY = kayak/SUP, PR = Panga (Zodiac) ride

Day by day Description of sites visited with activity and level of difficulty

SUNDAY

Upon arrival in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (SCY) **SAN CRISTOBAL** Island, our guides will be waiting for you to escort you to the right vessel. After a short bus ride and Zodiac transfer to the yacht anchored in the bay, you'll get your cabin assignment and be treated to a delicious buffet lunch. You will be required to participate in a brief safety drill and chose your snorkel equipment. Before the yacht pulls anchor, you'll return to San Cristobal to explore **El Junco Lake (2)**. Spanish for "sedge", El Junco is the caldera of an extinct volcano and only sizable fresh water lake in the Galapagos. Listen for the calls of sea lions - they may try to approach, and as you ride the zodiac and you'll see them lounging on the boats docked in the harbor. Upon your return to the yacht, the Captain and crew will welcome you on board with a cocktail, and a briefing of the next day's activities. With the small number of passengers on your yacht, you'll have an opportunity to dine with the captain later in the week. But for tonight, enjoy meeting your fellow passengers as our kitchen staff treats you to a multi-course dinner complete with complimentary wine.

MONDAY

You'll start your exploration today with a Zodiac ride to look for wildlife at **Cerro Brujo (1)**, which translates to Wizard Hill. Your guide will point out the wide variety of birds soaring around you, from brown pelicans and brown noddy terns to blue-footed boobies dive-bombing the water around you as they fish. Look for different color patterns that indicate age - for example, a brown pelican will have a white neck when it's mature. Sally lightfoot crabs, black when they're young but extremely colorful once fully grown, scurry all over the rocks. Your guides will also point out unusual geological formations, including the Cathedral, jokingly called Darwin's Pants. After the Zodiac tour, you'll be able to take in the gorgeous coral sand beach at your own pace. Take a peaceful walk along the beach, swim with sea lions or you have the option to paddle board or kayak. Paddleboards are beginner-friendly, with the option to kneel if you aren't comfortable standing. This is a good opportunity to become familiar with your snorkeling gear from the beach (1) before snorkeling in deep-water. Your guides will teach you about the various species of fish you've encountered so far. If you'd like help identifying any of the fish in your photos, they'll be happy to lend their expertise.

Return to the yacht for lunch served on the sun deck (weather permitting) before going ashore at **Punta Pitt (4)** for a hike - parts of the trail are rocky, and there is some climbing involved. This is considered one of the best sites for bird-watching, primarily because it is the only place where you'll see all three species of boobies: the blue-footed, the red-footed, and the Nazca. Look for baby blue-footed boobies, fully grown after just a couple of months but fluffy and white until their feathers come in. Your guides will also point out frigates, swallow-tailed gulls, storm petrels, brown pelicans. At Pitt Rock, we can snorkel (2) with sea lions and colorful fish such as King Angel and Surgeon fish. A Zodiac will transfer you back to the boat for a briefing and dinner. As the yacht sets sail, choose from a selection of guide books or fiction in the library, or climb to the top deck for a distant view of "Sleeping Lion". Join your guide on deck for an exploration of the Southern skies full of stars if weather permits.

TUESDAY

This morning you'll land at **Punta Suarez on Espanola (Hood) Island (5)**. Your guides will point out the large number of endemic species living here, such as the waved albatross. These gorgeous birds spend the first several years of their lives in the open ocean and return to land to mate. If your visit is between April and December, you will witness the well-known courtship dance. As you walk, take care not to step on the marine iguanas sunbathing on the dark rocks. These iguanas are usually black but acquire bright red and green coloration during mating season from the algae they eat. Follow the trail to the dramatic ocean blow hole, watch for colorful sally light-foot crabs crawling along the shoreline. We also find Darwin's Finches, Hood mockingbird, Galapagos Doves, red-billed tropicbirds, Galapagos Hawks, Nazca boobies and swallow-tailed gulls, the only nocturnal gull in the world. Return to the yacht for lunch served on deck (weather permitting) and a cooking demonstration on how to make Ecuadorian ceviche.

After lunch, you'll have the option to snorkel at Tortuga Rock (2) and explore the caves covered with invertebrates. Disembark at **Gardner Bay (1)**, site of a beautiful white-sand beach where colonies of sea lions dot the shoreline. The dominant males of a sea lion colony keep watch over their harems to keep them safe. Here you'll have the option to snorkel from the beach (1), kayak or paddle-board, or simply walk along the beach, sunbathe or explore the Darwin Finches, Espanola mockingbird and Galapagos hawks. After the activities, return to the yacht for a briefing and dinner. Your guide will offer an enrichment lecture tonight after dinner. Informative and entertaining, the topic for this evening is on marine currents and climate or Geology of the Islands.

WEDNESDAY

Step ashore at **Punta Cormorant's** olive-sand beach with the sounds of sea lions, lava herons, yellow-crowned night herons and blue-footed boobies as you walk around **Floreana (Charles) Island (3)**. The green mineral you'll see on the beach is caused by a high concentration of iron and manganese from the same basaltic lava found in Hawaii. As you walk to a brackish lagoon, home to Bahama ducks, common stilts, Galapagos flycatchers and bright pink flamingos, the guides will point out the rich variety of plant life, including morning glories, cut-leaf daisies, mangroves (black, red and white), palo verde and Scalesia. The trail leads to a beach where sea turtles lay their eggs in the powdery sand dunes and sting rays swim in the shallow water. Don't miss the opportunity to snorkel at **Devil's Crown or Champion Islet (2)**, a shallow sunken crater colonized by a brilliant array of colorful fish and coral, white-tipped sharks, sea turtles, spotted eagle rays and sea stars. Return to the yacht for lunch and a brief history of the human history of Galapagos and explain the fascinating story of why this island is sometimes called the Island of Mysteries.

In the afternoon, you'll be able to participate in a thrilling Galapagos tradition. Floreana is home to **Post Office Bay (1)**, the site where English whaling vessels erected a post barrel in the late 18th century. When you drop a postcard in the barrel, no postage is required. You'll search through the postcards left by previous visitors, and if you see one addressed to a location near your home, you may choose to take it with you and deliver it in person. Similarly, your note will be delivered by future visitors. Postcards will be provided on board by your guides. Take a Zodiac excursion at **Baroness Point** to look for sea turtles and rays. If you

have an underwater camera, you'll be busy snapping photos of sea stars and a brilliant array of colorful fish. Return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner and a fun filled entertaining pirate themed party – participation is optional.

THURSDAY

When you look outside this morning, your view will be completely different from the last few days. A harbor full of boats is bustling with activity at **Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island (2)**, a town with a population of 24,000. You'll travel by bus to a higher altitude with beautiful geological formations including the lava tunnels at El Mirador and Los Gemelos (the twins), a pair of massive craters. Your guides will explain how they were formed. The highlight of the morning is a visit to a privately-owned ranch where tortoises roam free. These slow-moving giants can grow to be over 500 pounds! Lunch will be served back on board the yacht, and in the afternoon you'll learn about the most famous visitor to the Galapagos - Charles Darwin - as well as current conservation efforts, when you visit the **Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena (1)** and Charles Darwin Research Station. Visit the exhibit honoring Lonesome George, whose death marked the extinction of his species of tortoise from Pinta Island. There's another story with a happier ending: Diego, a tortoise from the San Diego zoo, brought his species back from the brink of extinction by fathering hundreds of offspring. You'll have free time to explore the town as you walk back to the main dock, the distance of about a mile. If you're looking for a souvenir, this is the perfect time. Stop at the artisan chocolate shop to select a truffle, with dozens of flavor options, or visit an art gallery for a painting or ceramic piece. Along the way there will be cafes with coffee, ice cream and internet. You'll have the option to stay on land for dinner with transfers provided by Zodiac. Otherwise, return to the yacht for the usual delicious multi-course dinner. Today's daily briefing will be held in the afternoon to allow for extra time in the evening.



FRIDAY

When you wake up this morning, you'll be in solitude once again, with no other boats in sight. You'll have two options for a morning activity. Today's hike is a challenge, with about 400 wooden steps winding around **Bartolome island (4)**, ending in a gorgeous panoramic view of Pinnacle Rock. Your guide will stop along the way to describe the geology of the landscape - mini lava cones and bombs formed by flowing magma from past volcanic eruptions. If you'd rather skip the hike, enjoy a Zodiac ride around the island to look for penguins. You'll see these adorable animals - the second smallest type of penguin - swimming and diving playfully or grooming themselves on rocks. Crystal clear water beckons you to wade in from the beach (1). Snorkel with schools of tropical fish, white-tipped reef sharks and Galapagos Penguins. Return to the vessel for lunch served on the sundeck (weather permitting).

The itinerary for this afternoon varies depending on your yacht, but all visitors will enjoy lovely views and some of the Galapagos' renowned wildlife. Guests on the Origin go ashore at **Sombrero Chino (Chinese Hat)**, a small island off the southern tip of Santiago that owes its name to its shape. Sea lions await on the beach, and as you explore, you'll see marine iguanas and oystercatchers. Along the trail (3), you'll see remnants of the island's geological history, with volcanic rubble and cracked lava formations. Guests on Theory visit **Playa las Bachas (1)**, (Spanish for barges) on the northern side of Santa Cruz. You'll also have a wonderful opportunity for snorkeling after exploring interior lagoons with vivid flamingos. Guests on the Letty have a Zodiac excursion at **Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove)** through a series of coves and inlets surrounded by mangroves. You'll navigate slowly along the shoreline, listening for the telltale deep inhale of a sea turtle and watching for the wings of a school of golden rays. Your guide will offer an enrichment lecture tonight after dinner. Informative and entertaining, the topic for this evening is on Charles Darwin and evolution or social/ environmental projects that are supported by Ecoventura.

SATURDAY

This morning you'll start out at **South Plaza (3)**, a small islet with tall cliffs and a trail with a variety of plants and animals. This island's species of "Opuntia" or prickly pear cactus has been decimated by invasive species, so you'll see young plants surrounded by nets to protect them. Look for nests for a variety of birds, such as swallow-tailed gulls, shearwaters, small ground finches, and red-billed tropicbirds. This geological uplift is home to a colony of bachelor sea lions, with dominant bulls in various stages of recovery from battles over prime beach territory. You'll also have an opportunity to see land iguanas up close, and your guides will describe what differentiates them from marine iguanas.

During lunch, you'll sail to **North Seymour Island (3)**, where a spectacular sight awaits: frigate birds with red sacs on their chests inflated, seeking mates. At the height of mating season, you'll be surrounded by dozens, but no matter what time of year you visit, there will be individuals seeking mates. The Galapagos Islands are home to two different species of frigates, Great and Magnificent, and your guides will teach you to identify the difference. You'll have a final opportunity to snorkel in deeper water (2). Look for sharks, sea lions, and starfish, along with a variety of tropical fish. Before dinner, the captain and crew join you for a champagne toast to celebrate a wonderful week during the Captain's farewell party. During the briefing, and you'll receive detailed instructions for disembarking the next morning. After dinner, there is a special presentation from your guides and you come to realize your week in paradise has almost come to an end!

SUNDAY

This morning you'll disembark the yacht after breakfast. As a perfect way to sum up the trip, you'll visit the **Interpretation Center on San Cristobal (1)** to discover more about the human history of the Galapagos Islands. There's also a paved trail where you can enjoy a brief walk before a bus ride to town. You'll have some free time for last-minute photos before your transfer to the airport. It's a quick flight back to the mainland, but you'll be bringing lifelong memories with you!

Ecoventura reserves the right at its sole option and discretion and that of the Captain of the vessel without liability for damages or refund of any kind to deviate from the vessel's advertised or regularly scheduled itinerary. Itineraries are subject to change at any time for any reason including mechanical failure and without prior notice. Ecoventura will not be held responsible for any refunds whatsoever for changes to the printed or scheduled itinerary.

7 DAY/ 6 NIGHT CRUISE (SUNDAY TO SATURDAY)

Passengers can disembark one day early on Saturday in Baltra for a shorter, 6 night cruise.

ITINERARY A – SOUTHERN/ CENTRAL ROUTE

SUNDAY TO FRIDAY Same as on 7 night itinerary

SATURDAY Drop off Itabaca Canal 6AM (transfer to Baltra or Puerto Ayora not included)

For passengers who disembark on Saturday and require a private transfer to the airport with a guide, there is an additional charge of \$50 per person or \$200 maximum. The return flight from Baltra will incur an additional fee of \$27 per person and is subject to availability and confirmation is requested

For passengers who disembark on Saturday and remain in Santa Cruz, there is no additional charge. Drop off is at the Itabaca Canal at 6AM local time and passengers will need to arrange for transportation to Puerto Ayora through their hotel.

TWO WEEK ITINERARY BACK TO BACK

Book two consecutive weeks back to back for the most comprehensive cruise itinerary, and do not repeat the same visits twice.

ITINERARY A+B 15 DAY/ 2 WEEK ITINERARY

SUNDAY La Loberia or Cerro Tijeretas, SAN CRISTOBAL
CCJG (La Galapaguera Cerro Colorado), SAN CRISTOBAL

SATURDAY Reserva Ecologica Cerro Mesa, SANTA CRUZ Tortuga Bay, SANTA CRUZ

Difficulty level of Guided shore excursions:

- 1 - Easy walk on even terrain or beach
- 2 - Moderate walk on a trail with mostly firm terrain
- 3 - Rocky trail with moderate landing and climbing
- 4 - Difficult steep rocky trail or climbing up natural stairs
- 5 - Long rocky challenging trail with loose or slippery rocks

Difficulty level of snorkeling excursions:

- 1 - Enter water from the beach in shallow where you can touch the bottom
- 2 - Enter water from Zodiac in deeper water, possible current, requires experience



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