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Gateway Travel

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EXPEDITION CRUISES

Ultimate Galápagos: Northern and Western Route

9 9 20

DAYS CITIES GUESTS (MAX)

Get ready for an adventure beyond Darwin's wildest dreams. Cruising the islands' northern and western routes, our exclusive Ecoventura adventure yachts offer attentive Relais & Châteaux hospitality and the most intimate guest-to-staff ratio in the region. Our acclaimed Expedition Team leads the way, revealing giant tortoises, marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, sea lions, penguins and more with a host of exciting snorkeling, kayaking, Zodiac and shore excursions.

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- ✦ Cruise the Galápagos Islands' northern and western route for eight days aboard one of our Ecoventura adventure yachts, the most exclusive charter vessels in the islands
 - ✦ The expert services of three A&K Expedition Team members and a ship's staff of 10 are shared by just 20 guests
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- ✦ Savor exceptional Relais & Châteaux dining and hospitality onboard, an A&K exclusive in the Galápagos Islands
 - ✦ Encounter the islands' incredible wildlife, keeping watch for giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies, and marine iguanas, as well as sea lions, bottlenose dolphins, hammerhead sharks and more
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- ✦ Broaden your horizons with the Expedition Team's onboard enrichment program of nature lectures, stargazing sessions and more

Ultimate Galápagos: Northern and Western Route

9 DAYS | APRIL 25 - OCTOBER 24

FROM - | 20 GUESTS



Day 1 | Arrive Guayaquil, Ecuador – Cosmopolitan Port City

Youthful, vibrant Guayaquil is Ecuador's largest city, drunk on Pacific breezes and crouching on the west bank of the mighty Guayas River. The candy-colored houses bounding down its hills are filled with interesting galleries and community initiatives, but the beating heart of the city is the picturesque Malecón 2000, which essentially operates as a waterfront town square. This breezy boulevard is where you'll find sleek restaurants serving coconut rich encocado (fish stew) and university students milling around on the water's edge.

🏠 HOTEL DEL PARQUE

Day 2 | San Cristobal Island – In the Footsteps of Darwin

Catch your charter flight to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the capital of the Galápagos Islands and San Cristóbal's main port. Although merely a few hundreds of miles from the mainland, the Galápagos Islands may feel even further away in reality; modern life has largely skirted this group of volcanic, windswept pearls, still every bit as wild and wondrous as when Charles Darwin set foot here in the 1830s. The wildlife he observed so carefully is still the main draw of any adventure here. Colorful Sally Lightfoot crabs and lumbering iguanas, curious boobies and a score of famous finches: many of them are found nowhere else, highly adapted to life on these lonely, elemental islands. Hop aboard a Zodiac for the brisk ride to your luxurious adventure yacht anchored in the bay. Then, sail to León Dormido (Kicker Rock), a remnant of a tuff cone formation rising some 500 feet from the ocean. Blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies and frigatebirds are a common sight along these cliffs.

🏠 THEORY

🍴 BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

Day 3 | Genovesa Island – Birdwatching Prince Philip's Steps

Arrive in Darwin Bay, a coral sand beach where lava gulls gather by tide pools. Wade out to swim or snorkel these warmer northern-route waters frequented by playful sea lions. Then, visit one of the islands' premier birdwatching destinations, Prince Philip's Steps. Explore the cliffs by kayak, stand-up paddleboard or on a deep-water snorkeling excursion from the Zodiac.

🏠 THEORY

🍴 BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

Day 4 | Santa Cruz Island – Black Turtle Cove And Dragon Hill

Embark on a Zodiac excursion into the mangroves of Black Turtle Cove to encounter sea turtles, spotted eagle rays and other incredible species. Step ashore at Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill) and climb its slopes to take in magnificent views of the bay.


🏠 THEORY

🍴 BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

Day 5 | Isabela Island – Punta Espinoza and Urbina Bay

Keep watch for sea lion colonies and other diverse species off Fernandina Island's Punta Espinoza. Here, the resident bulls carefully guard their harems and keep lookout for sharks that threaten the colony's pups. Glimpse some of the hundreds of marine iguanas that share this rocky domain, the largest colony in the Galápagos, as they warm themselves along the rugged shoreline. Then, sail through the Bolivar Channel to watch for whales and dolphins. Disembark at Isabela Island's Urbina Bay, home to four miles of dry seabed exposed by a volcanic eruption. After a wet landing on the beach, explore the remnants of coral skeletons, some of them waist-high. Keep watch for the Galápagos land iguana, marine iguana, giant tortoise, and other distinctive species that call this island home.


 THEORY

 BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

Day 6 | Fernandina Island – Elizabeth Bay and Tagus Cove

Cruise the mangroves of Elizabeth Bay by Zodiac in search of penguins, spotted eagle rays, sea lions and sea turtles. Next, land at Isabela Island's Tagus Cove, a former anchorage of pirates and whalers. Explore by Zodiac or kayak in search of Galápagos penguins, boobies, pelicans and other seabirds. As night falls, go topside to take in the sparkling night sky as you cross the Equator for the final time on your Galápagos voyage.


 THEORY

 BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

Day 7 | Santiago and Rabida Islands – Red Sands and Saltwater Lagoons

Stroll the shoreline of Santiago Island's Puerto Egas to observe octopus, starfish and other inhabitants of the tide pools. Keep an eye out for herons, oystercatchers, and marine iguanas feeding on algae. Then, snorkel from the beach before returning to the ship. Next, the dark red sands of Rábida Island welcome you ashore. Considered the geographic center of the Galápagos, Rábida's volcanic rocks are the most diverse in the archipelago. Hike a trail beside the shore, keeping watch for marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finch. Continue to a saltwater lagoon where migrating greater flamingos tend to flock. Then, snorkel waters frequented by inquisitive sea lions.


 THEORY

 BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

Day 8 | Santa Cruz Island – Into the Highlands

Awake in Santa Cruz's lively harbor of Academy Bay. Go ashore to encounter giant tortoises at a private farm in the highlands. Next, head to Ayora Point and ascend through the seven vegetation zones of the Galápagos to learn about ongoing conservation efforts at the Charles Darwin Research Station and visit the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, a vital resource harboring various species of giant tortoise. Back on board, set out to see "the tunnels" — the largest lava tubes found in the Galápagos. Cap things off with a lavish farewell dinner.

 THEORY

 BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

Day 9 | Depart Guayaquil or Quito – One Last Glimpse

Bid your Captain and crew farewell as you disembark your yacht for a final time on San Cristóbal. Visit the local Interpretation Center to learn more about the island's anthropology and natural history. Afterward, take some free time to walk a nearby trail or snap some last-minute photos. Later today, catch your charter flight to Guayaquil or Quito to connect with your homeward departure.

 THEORY

 BREAKFAST

DATES & PRICES

Plan Your Trip for 2026

English Speaking Local Guides

Airport Meet and Greet with Transfers

Complimentary Wi-Fi on Board and in Hotels

24/7 A&K On-Call Support

Internal Air Included Guayaquil/San Cristóbal/Guayaquil or Quito

Prices are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy.

Deluxe Stateroom

From \$13,495



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Theory

As the only Galápagos vessels accepted into the esteemed Relais Chateaux collection, A&K's Ecoventura adventure yachts offer the most exclusive and intimate cruising experience in the islands. The adventure yachts accommodate 20 guests in 10 spacious staterooms, each with panoramic windows and modern decor. Onboard amenities include wet bars, large sun decks, Jacuzzis and fitness centers. The vessels also offer Wi-Fi, hairdryers and laundry service. English is the official language on board. Guests dine on world-class, local cuisine prepared fresh daily by professional on-board chefs. Origin, Theory and Evolve offer the finest Galápagos Islands cruise experiences, bar none.

