JOURNEY
LATIN AMERICA



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

LUXURY GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CRUISE

10 days from **£11,040pp**

ECUADOR & GALAPAGOS ISLANDS / QUITO / GALAPAGOS ISLANDS



WITH OVER 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE, NO-ONE KNOWS LATIN AMERICA LIKE WE DO

EXPERIENCE SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY

WHY US

We are the UK's No.1 specialist in travel to Latin America and have been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for over four decades; we pride ourselves on being the most knowledgeable people there are when it comes to travel to Central and South America and passionate about it too.

OUR JOURNEY

As our name suggests, we are single-minded about Latin America. This is what sets us apart from other travel companies – and what allows us to offer you not just a holiday but the opportunity to experience something extraordinary on inspiring journeys throughout Mexico, Central and South America.

WE LOVE LATIN AMERICA

- A passion for the region runs through all we do
- All our Consultants have lived or travelled extensively in Latin America
- Up-to-the-minute knowledge underpinned by 40 years' experience

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

- Fully bonded and licensed
- ATOL-protected
- On your side when it matters
- Book with confidence, knowing every penny is secure

THE REAL LATIN AMERICA

- Our insider knowledge helps you go beyond the guidebooks
- We hand-pick hotels with character and the most rewarding excursions
- Let us show you the Latin America we know and love

OVERVIEW & OUTLINE ITINERARY

A sumptuous Galapagos cruise onboard the elegant yacht Grace. This is the most romantic luxury vessel sailing in the islands, originally a wedding gift to Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco.

DAY 1	**Arrive in Quito and transfer to hotel.**
DAY 2	**Quito Hands On Experience**
DAY 3	**Fly to the Galápagos Islands, board your Cruise.**
DAYS 4-9	**Land excursions from the cruise around the Galápagos Islands.**
DAY 10	**Fly to the mainland and connect with international flight home or extend your holiday.**

ITINERARY

Celebrate a special occasion with a week's luxury cruise around Ecuador's Galápagos Islands, sailing on board the elegant Grace.

Travel to Quito, the highland capital of Ecuador, and after a couple of days exploring the city and its picturesque environs fly on to embark on an 8-day cruise around the Galápagos Islands, to see the greatest wildlife show on Earth. It was on a similar trip 200 years ago that Darwin returned from the archipelago to write the seminal book 'The Origin of the Species'. Step into his shoes and explore the diversity of land and marine life which inhabit these enchanting islands.

You'll sail on an elegant luxury yacht which could not be more romantic – Princess Grace and Prince Rainier of Monaco spent their honeymoon on board this very same sleek and glossy vessel. There's abundant deck space and the yacht exudes sumptuous comfort and charm. In addition to landings on the islands you will have the opportunity to snorkel or swim with sea-lions. Travel by night and awaken next day with a new island to discover.

DAY 1

Arrive in Quito and transfer to hotel.



Your hotel sits on the main square of the Old City, Plaza San Francisco.

The active volcano Guagua Pichincha, to the east, glowers over the dynamic city which, at 2,850m, is one of highest capital cities in the world. Quito is divided into two contrasting districts. The modern zone is characterised by towering glass buildings and houses banks, international companies, hotels, shops and restaurants, while the central colonial area has well-conserved and recently spruced-up white-washed architecture, open air markets and graceful Spanish-style mansions and churches.

DAY 2

Quito Hands On Experience



A full day guided tour of Quito, taking you beyond the usual tourist sites to get to the heart of what makes this vibrant city tick.

The tour begins with a visit to Quito's historic colonial centre, a long establish UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will walk through the Plaza de la Independencia and observe the Government Palace, cathedral, and a number of impressive churches. A short walk will then lead you to the vibrant sights and smells of the indoor food market. Your guide will introduce you to some unfamiliar fruits, flavours and remedies, stopping to sample a smoothie, before giving you an opportunity to take part in a herbal cleansing routine with a local curandero. The final stop in the Old Town is at one of Ecuador's popular chocolatiers.

A 45-minute car journey will then take you north to the equatorial line, where you will walk around the rim of the extinct Pululahua volcanic crater. After lunch (included), you will join a guided visit of the Intinan Museum, an interactive exhibition located directly on top of the Equator.

The tour ends with a visit to Casa Agave, the home of a project that researches, innovates and enhances the culture of agave, a genus of plant known best in the wider world for its most famous product – tequila.

DAY 3

Fly to the Galápagos Islands, board your Cruise.



Fly to the Galápagos Islands (2 hrs) where you will embark on your luxurious yacht. Your naturalist guide will be waiting to take you to the quayside.

DAYS 4-9

Land excursions from the cruise around the Galápagos Islands.



The Galápagos Islands emerged in the Pacific Ocean 6 million years ago following a spate of volcanic activity and, isolated from the continental mainland, have become home to unique animal and plant species.

The islands were the inspiration for Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, which formed the basis for his revolutionary book 'The Origin of the Species', published in 1859. Without fear of humans, they are sufficiently trusting to allow you approach them and observe them up close.

Although geologically constantly on the move, these islands remain suspended in time, with giant tortoises, iguanas, penguins, frigate birds, waved albatross and blue-footed boobies and a wealth of rare flora all thriving there. For many, the fascinating and unique wildlife and natural beauty of the islands are matched by the thrill of being at sea. Find a spot on deck as you make your way through the ocean, often trailed by flocks of birds and playful dolphins.

The itinerary for your days in the Galápagos will depend on your date of departure and is subject to change. There are normally two landings a day to seek out the different wildlife that inhabits the islands. Islands visited will vary.

DAY 10

Fly to the mainland and connect with international flight home or extend your holiday.

If you can spare the time we recommend that you extend your holiday to spend a few days stay at **Mashpi Lodge** in the bird-filled Mindo cloud forest: a veritable jungle just a couple of hours' drive from Quito.

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

- Tour to Otavalo with lunch
- 8 day cruise around the Galápagos Islands with guided land excursions

ESSENTIALS

2 flights (longest 2hrs); 8 day cruise.

This holiday incorporates a luxurious converted mansion. The ship is among the most luxurious vessels cruising the Galápagos.

Breakfast daily, lunch day 2, full board days 3-9.

TRIP SUITABILITY

This holiday is suitable for all able, reasonably fit visitors.

The sea can be choppy around the Galápagos islands.

10 days, 9 nights: Quito 2; Galápagos 7.

The rainy season in the Andes runs between November and April when there are showers most afternoons. The dry season is June, July and August when the sun is strong during the day, but at night the temperature drops dramatically (maybe as low as freezing point.). May, September and October are less predictable, with both rainy and sunny spells. Given the proximity to the equator, altitude is the determining factor with regard to temperature. In the mountains at any time of year you should expect a variation between 10°C and 25°C.
In the Galápagos, from January to April it's hot and the sun is relentless, with some sudden showers. From May to July and October to December it is cloudier; in August and September it's often cloudy and cool, and a stiff breeze can make the waters choppier. High and low seasons reflect demand rather than the best time to go. Many boats are in dry dock in September.

A couple of days are spent at high altitude (over 2.500m). A small minority of visitors may be affected temporarily by altitude sickness. Symptoms vary; most common are mild headaches, slight nausea and breathlessness. If you don't recover in a day or two speak to our representatives; in very rare instances it is necessary to descend to lower altitudes. Most people are unaffected and if you drink plenty of water and allow your body to acclimatise (don't exert yourself or drink alcohol) in the first couple of days after arrival, you will minimise your chances of suffering any symptoms.

Please refer to our Briefing Dossier for further information.

For day-to-day wear you should go prepared to encounter all seasons. Both warm clothing and a sun hat are essential at altitude; a light fleece jacket and a Gore-Tex outer shell makes a good combination. Trousers, skirt or shorts made from light, quick-drying synthetic materials work well on the Galápagos Islands.
Strong, comfortable footwear is essential and you should bring insect repellent, sun block, hat and sun glasses. You should take swimwear for ocean swimming (Galápagos). Snorkelling equipment is included but may prefer to bring your own. Aqua-socks or rubber sandals are useful for embarking and disembarking on wet landings. Bring a light waterproof jacket in case of rain. For June to November departures, wetsuits are recommended, as the waters can be chilly for snorkelling (available onboard if required, and included in the cost).

Cruises are informal but you might like to bring something special to wear at dinner.

Don't forget your binoculars, camera, charger and cards.

Please get in touch with the office before departure if you have any doubts. Good equipment is very important and hard to come by in South America and Galápagos.

We carefully select our local partners, some of whom we have worked with for over 25 years. Their English-speaking guides understand the expectations of our clients very well, and are consistently singled out for praise by the latter on their return.

The unit of currency in both Ecuador and the Galápagos is the US dollar.

Cash machines are available in all major cities and towns, and so taking a debit or credit card with a PIN number is the most convenient way of withdrawing money while on your trip, and in most shops and restaurants you can also pay by card. However, since cards can get lost, damaged, withheld or blocked, you should not rely exclusively on a card to access funds.

Most Galápagos ships accept credit cards but check with us before you go.

We recommend that additionally you take a reasonable quantity of US dollars cash (no more than is covered by your insurance), which you can spend as the dollar is the local currency, and possibly some travellers' cheques (American Express are the most widely accepted), though these are gradually falling out of use. Dollar bills should be in good condition, soiled or torn bills may be refused. You can take sterling, but the exchange rate is not always competitive or even available, restricting the number of places where you can change money.

It is very difficult to give a guideline for essential expenses but a budget of around US$50 per day should cover the cost of good quality meals on those days in the holiday itinerary when not on the cruise, drinks and the odd souvenir. Eat at the very best restaurants and you will pay considerably more.

Tips are expected and local guides often rely on their tip as a significant proportion of their income

Most service industry workers will expect a tip of some kind and so it is useful to have spare change for hotel porters, taxi drivers and the like. It is common to leave 10 – 12% in restaurants.

Tipping guidelines can be found in our Briefing Dossier.

Travel insurance is essential.

Details of our recommended policy can be found on our Travel Insurance page.

If you have purchased your flights through Journey Latin America, the international departure tax is usually included in the ticket.

Preventative vaccinations are recommended against the following: typhoid; polio; tetanus; hepatitis A. You should consult your GP for specific requirements such as malaria prophylactics.

For admission to the Galápagos a yellow fever certificate is required for anyone over 1 year old coming from an area with risk of yellow fever transmission.

You can also find helpful information on the Masta Travel Health website.

Holders of a full British passport do not require a visa, although passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the trip begins. Anyone with a different nationality should enquire with us or check with the relevant consulate.

If flying to the US, or via the US you will need to fill in your online ESTA application.

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GET IN TOUCH WITH US...

Our friendly, knowledgeable team of travel experts are always happy to chat about holiday ideas and share helpful advice. Give us a call today and begin planning your perfect trip to Latin America.

0208 747 8315

OPENING HOURS

Monday – Friday: 9am – 6pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

SEND US AN EMAIL

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