JOURNEY
LATIN AMERICA



PRIVATE JOURNEYS WITH JOURNEY LATIN

SIGNATURE GALAPAGOS: ISLAND HOPPING

10 days from **£7,530pp**

ECUADOR & GALAPAGOS ISLANDS / QUITO / GALAPAGOS ISLANDS / ISABELA (ALBEMARLE) / SANTA CRUZ ISLAND (INDEFATIGABLE) / SANTA FE (BARRINGTON)



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

From Andean capital Quito split your time in the Galápagos between stylish Finch Bay Hotel and unique Scalesia Lodge, with a choice of activities by land and sea.

DAY 1	**Arrive in Quito, capital of Ecuador.**
DAY 2	**Guided walking tour of colonial Quito**
DAY 3	**Fly to the Galapagos; light aircraft flight to Isabela Island.**
DAY 4	**Excursion to explore the vast crater of Sierra Negra volcano.**
DAY 5	**Wildlife watching and snorkelling in the National Park and Marine Reserve**
DAY 6	**Visit North Seymour and continue to Finch Bay on Santa Cruz Island.**
DAY 7	**Explore the highlands of Santa Cruz and spot giant tortoises.**
DAY 8	**Cruise to Santa Fé Island, snorkelling opportunities.**
DAY 9	**Visit Tortuga Bay, turtle beaches and snorkel or kayak off the shore.**
DAY 10	**Fly to the mainland and connect with international flight.**

ITINERARY

Hop between islands on this innovative lodge-based holiday with guided explorations by motor yacht and by hiking, snorkelling and kayaking to observe wildlife and wild volcanic landscapes.

For a while now you could visit the Galápagos by expedition cruise, or base yourself at a lodge or hotel on one of the islands. Now you can combine the experience with a few days staying at top quality lodges on two contrasting islands, but also make day visits to other sites by motor yacht.

This way you get the best of both worlds. Based at your lodges, you venture forth to explore an active volcano, and visit many other sites within the National Park and Marine Reserve in search of wildlife. These excursions offer you the opportunity for more active experiences (some included, others charged locally) such as snorkelling, paddling, kayaking, cycling and walking than you'd get on some cruise-only holidays.

Finch Bay Eco Hotel (Santa Cruz Island) is in a tranquil location close to the Galápagos principal town Puerto Ayora and a lovely beach, while Scalesia Lodge has you glamping in luxury fixed tents in the highlands of Isabela Island.

DAY 1

Arrive in Quito, capital of Ecuador.

Upon arrival at high altitude Quito airport in the Andes you will be met and escorted to your boutique hotel in the historic centre of the city.



DAY 2

Guided walking tour of colonial Quito

Explore Latin America's largest and best preserved colonial quarter through the intimate lens of a guided walking tour. Quito was the first city ever to be listed as a World Heritage Site. Narrow cobblestone streets are lined with whitewashed walls and rising above are the steeples and cupolas of the city´s numerous spectacularly decorated historic churches.

Walk through the main plaza, where you will see the Government Palace, the Cathedral and churches built in the 16th and 17th centuries including the richly ornamented San Francisco Monastery, considered one of the most impressive religious buildings in Latin America and Basilica del Voto Nacional, most famous for its quirky gargoyles. View the church of Compania de Jesus, bedecked entirely in gold.



DAY 3

Fly to the Galapagos; light aircraft flight to Isabela Island.



Transfer to the international airport and fly by commercial jet to Baltra in the Galapágos Islands (2-3hrs). Connect to your inter-island twin engine light aircraft – which accommodates 5-9 passengers – to continue to Isabela Island.This is a scenic, mind-blowing start to your adventure. (If the flight departure has to be cancelled the journey will be made by speedboat.)

Transfer by road to your lodge – it's just a 20 minute drive. In the afternoon, you begin to get to know this, the youngest side of the archipelago, exploring wetland lagoons and the giant tortoise-breeding centre.

Visit Sucre cave, in an area of farmland where there'll be a short guided walk to survey and learn about the endemic plants. Continue to Mango Gazevo with views over the cultivated landscapes of southern Isabela. You will be able to spot finches there too. Wrap up your day at the stunning white beach of Puerto Villamil before returning to the lodge for dinner.

DAY 4

Excursion to explore the vast crater of Sierra Negra volcano.



Enjoy an early breakfast before setting out to explore Isabela Island and its most stunning feature: Sierra Negra volcano. Walk along the rim of the world's second largest caldera (its diameter is a staggering 10km) to observe recent volcanic activity and the resulting fascinating formations. The rim is smothered in vegetation which clambers down the sides of the rim until it reaches the floor of the caldera.

You'll also visit Volcán Chico, which too is active: sulphur vents can be observed steaming in its vicinity. This volcano is bald of foliage, the rust-red lava tubes with across the barren lunar landscape. You'll have a guided walk across the lava fields and volcano slopes

Back at the lodge, stroll along the beach at Puerto Villamil, explore the little port or just take it easy in the afternoon. Enjoy an evening drink while catching the sunset – a veritable artist's palette of pinks, lilacs and golds.

DAY 5

Wildlife watching and snorkelling in the National Park and Marine Reserve



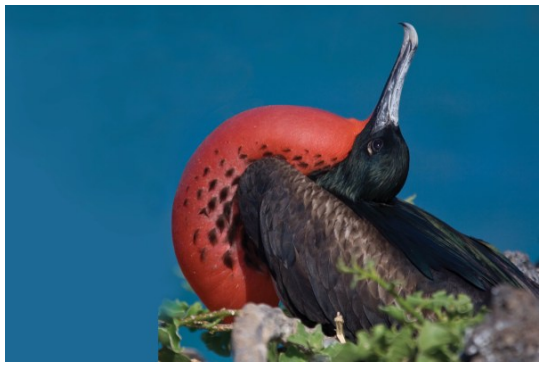
Today will feature exploration of both the Galápagos National Park and the Marine Reserve. From Puerto Villamil it's just a short boat ride to the islets of Tintoreras, ringed by coves and hidden beaches. You take a guided walk to observe marine iguanas, various species of sea birds and sea-lions, and basking white-tipped reef sharks.

There will also be a boat ride where you can look out for penguins. Your guide will then take you to the aquamarine waters of La Calera or Loberia Chica for some snorkelling among marine turtles, rays, reef fish, starfish and octopus. There's also a visit to the turtle breeding centre.

In the afternoon you can discover a melancholy bit of the history of Isabela Island at the Wall of Tears, constructed between 1945 and 1959 by prisoners in the now defunct penal colony on the island.

DAY 6

Visit North Seymour and continue to Finch Bay on Santa Cruz Island.

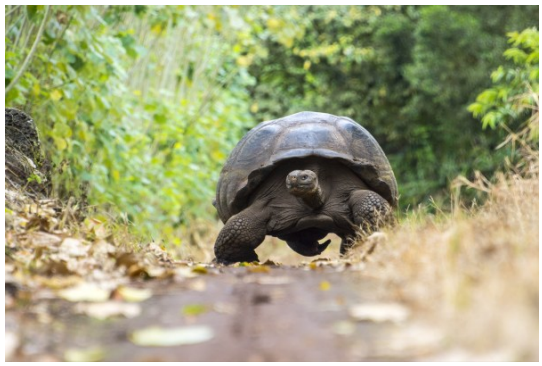


After breakfast, you'll be escorted back to Puerto Villamil's airport. A short flight will take you back to Baltra, where you board the motor yacht Sea Lion for a short cruise to North Seymour Island. Marvel at the sight of Galápagos sea lions and fur seals, blue-footed boobies and frigate birds. Torchwood trees and prickly pears, pillow lava boulders and white sand add to an unforgettable landscape.

In the afternoon cruise to Itabaca Channel and drive across the island Santa Cruz to reach Puerto Ayora, the islands' largest settlement, a lively town with many shops, bars and restaurants.

DAY 7

Explore the highlands of Santa Cruz and spot giant tortoises.



After breakfast, you set off for El Manzanillo. Situated in Santa Cruz's rugged highlands, which are blanketed in grassland dotted with palms, Manzanillo is within the natural path of one of the species of giant tortoise. A short walk will lead you to the grazing areas and water ponds where these giant reptiles roam at liberty and wallow in pools. The cooler uplands are also home to many interesting land birds, plants and trees exclusive to the archipelago.

You will stop briefly at the volcanic 'Gemelos', or Twin Craters (actually collapsed magma chambers surrounded by Scalesia trees, ferns, mosses and orchids, where there is a good opportunity to observe Darwin's finches). In the afternoon, you will stop briefly at a farm where tropical crops such as sugar and cocoa are cultivated before returning to enjoy the hotel facilities.

DAY 8

Cruise to Santa Fé Island, snorkelling opportunities.



After breakfast, board the yacht Sea Lion and cruise to Santa Fé, an impressive volcanic island 16nm from Puerto Ayora. After a wet landing on a pure white sandy beach among basking sea lions, you take as guided walk along a rocky terrain in search of the endemic Santa Fe land iguana patiently waiting under the enormous giant cacti for falling fruits and pads.

Other species to be spotted are pelicans, boobies and the archipelago´s top predator, the Galápagos hawk. Return to the yacht and enjoy one of Galápagos best snorkelling sites. Cruise back to Puerto Ayora, scanning the sea's surface for marine birds and whales. Enjoy cocktails around the pool and stay for dinner or make it a night out in town.

DAY 9

Visit Tortuga Bay, turtle beaches and snorkel or kayak off the shore.



After breakfast you'll leave for Tortuga Bay, voted Ecuador´s best beach. Take a guided walk from Puerto Ayora for 2Km along a paved path to discover more about the arid zone´s deciduous forest and its wildlife inhabitants.

You reach Playa Brava, a stunning 1km long snow-white beach, a seasonal nesting site for the green sea turtles. A few minutes further on Playa Mansa, a secluded natural mangrove cove, has clear and tranquil waters ideal for swimming, snorkelling, paddling on tandem kayaks or stand-up paddle boards. Or simply enjoy the landscape in the shade of mangroves.

Sail back to The Hotel´s dock at Academy Bay. In the afternoon, you can stroll around the Charles Darwin Research Station where the conservation programme for the giant tortoises was founded.

DAY 10

Fly to the mainland and connect with international flight.



Transfer to Baltra Island airport and fly to the mainland to connect with your international flight or continue with an extension in Ecuador.

INCLUDED EXCURSIONS

- Colonial Quito walking tour
- Guided excursions and activities in the Galápagos Islands Some activities are included, others are charged extra locally

ESSENTIALS

SUMMARY OF NIGHTS
10 days, 9 nights: Quito 2; Isabela Island 3; Santa Cruz Island 4.

ACCOMMODATION
We use a mix of hotel standards from mid-range upwards, choosing accommodation we think is great value, comfortable, well-located and which showcases a touch of local character. Properties will vary in heritage from modern to traditional-style countryside properties (haciendas). but will all be well-equipped with rooms that have private bathrooms. Accommodation in the Galapagos includes a deluxe tented lodge on Isabela Island and a first class beachside eco-lodge on Santa Cruz Island.

TRANSPORT
4 flights (longest 2-3hrs).

MEALS
Breakfast daily, full board at Scalesia Lodge

GUIDES
Our local, trusted and carefully selected partners understand the expectations of our customers very well, and their staff and guides are consistently singled out for praise by clients on their return. On this holiday, you will be joined by different guides for each activity and or region, ensuring you benefit from specialised expertise and knowledge, often from someone local to the area.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS
As well as any included activities, this Private Journey includes some free time for optional excursions. As optional excursions are often subject to availability, we recommend you discuss and arrange them with your Travel Expert as early as possible before you depart.

ALTITUDE
Your stay in Quito (2,800m) is at high altitude. Please refer to the Country Information page or your briefing dossier for further information on altitude, including how to avoid and treat altitude sickness.

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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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