

GALAPAGOS ADVENTURE CRUISE ON THE M/V GRACE SOUTHERN ISLANDS



**WILDLAND
ADVENTURES**

**AUTHENTIC WORLDWIDE
EXPLORATIONS**

Itinerary Overview

An elegant 145 foot motor yacht accommodating just 18 passengers, the Grace offers spacious cabins and excellent service. The Grace was re-christened in honor of a previous owner; Grace Kelly, Princess of Monaco. She carries sea kayaks on board for guests who wish to discover the marine life on a closer scale.

Explore the fascinating blend of Indian and Spanish culture in Quito, South America's oldest capital city and designated UN World Heritage Site, and voyage among the unique Galapagos Islands. Discover plants and animals unique to particular islands as you travel through the archipelago. Our expert naturalist guides explain how these species have evolved and adapted over time. During an 8 day cruise you will visit the major wildlife sites, including some of the more remote outer islands. Meet exotic and bizarre wildlife as you venture among cinder cones, lava flows, white and black sand beaches, and rocky cliffs and cool off with snorkel in clear equatorial waters.

DAY	DATE	OVERNIGHT	HOTELS	MEALS	HIGHLIGHTS
1	Thu	QUITO	La Casona de la Ronda		Arrival in Quito
2	Fri	QUITO	La Casona de la Ronda	B	Quito City Tour
3	Sat	GALAPAGOS ISLANDS	Grace	BLD	Fly to San Cristobal in the Galapagos, Isla Lobos, Leon Dormido
4	Sun	ESPANOLA ISLAND	Grace	BLD	Punta Suarez, Gardner Bay
5	Mon	FLOREANA ISLAND	Grace	BLD	Post Office Bay, Punta Cormorant, Champion Islet
6	Tue	SANTA CRUZ ISLAND	Grace	BLD	Charles Darwin Station; Cerro Dragon; Highlands
7	Wed	SANTA CRUZ	Grace	BLD	Bachas Bay, Sombrero Chino
8	Thu	RABIDA, SANTIAGO ISLAND	Grace	BLD	Jervis, Sullivan Bay
9	Fri	BARTOLOME, NORTH SEYMOUR	Grace	BLD	Pinnacle Rock
10	Sat	DEPARTURE		B	Mosquera Islet; return flight to Quito. Remain at airport for international departure

Itinerary in Detail

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN QUITO

Airport reception and transfer to La Casona de la Ronda, a charming boutique hotel in an elegantly refurbished mansion located on Quito's oldest pedestrian only street, within easy walking distance to the colonial center. Overnight at **La Casona de la Ronda**.

DAY 2: QUITO

We begin our Ecuador vacation with a half-day city tour of colonial Quito, including the bustling Independence Plaza, the dazzling gold-leafed altars of La Compania Church, and the impressive San Francisco Church. Visit the Mitad del Mundo Equatorial marker and ethnographic village and museum. Afternoon and evening are free to explore this beautifully restored city with its busy pedestrian plazas, shops, coffee bars, pubs, and many excellent restaurants. Overnight **La Casona de la Ronda**. [B]

DAY 3: GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Private transfer in the morning to the domestic airport for the two hour flight to the Galapagos. Upon arrival, meet your naturalist guide and transfer to the Grace. The ship's crew will greet you, take care of your luggage, and run through safety drills. Enjoy fresh fruit drinks as the yacht makes her way to the first site visit, the small islet of "Los Lobos," which is a haven for barking, playful sea lions. It also serves as a nesting site for blue-footed boobies, and presents us with the first snorkeling opportunity of the voyage! Next, the Grace navigates to Leon Dormido, or "Kicker Rock," an iconic formation rising 500' out of the ocean. Blue-footed boobies, masked boobies and magnificent frigate birds are often seen on the sheer cliff face. As the sun sets, enjoy a typical Ecuadorian meal, the nightly briefing, and a formal presentation of the captain and crew. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 4: ESPANOLA ISLAND

Arrive this morning at Punta Suarez for an outstanding opportunity to see more wildlife including five species of nesting seabirds including the Hood Island mockingbirds, Galapagos doves, and Galapagos hawks. Prehistoric-looking Marine iguanas and giant lava lizards roam the terrain. A short hike leads to the Blowhole, a fissure in the lava cliffs which blasts incoming breakers into geysers over 90 feet high. Following lunch, relax on the beach with the sea lions at Gardener Bay, Espanola. Snorkeling from shore you can find plenty of beautiful fish as well as harmless nurse sharks and gentle sea turtles. Due to its isolation, Espanola has a high number of endemic species and you will visit the nesting site of over ten thousand pairs of Waved albatross. At one meter high with a two meter wing span, the Waved albatross is one of the most impressive and comical aerial acrobats in the world. Remarkably, they are found nowhere else on Earth. Today's visits give us ample opportunity for outstanding snorkeling as well as kayaking for those who prefer to remain dry! Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 5: FLOREANA ISLAND

Of all the islands in the Galapagos, Floreana has the most intriguing human history. Learn about the 18th century whalers who created the wooden barrel in Post Office Bay which is still used as a general mail distribution center, and the particularly eccentric self-proclaimed baroness who mysteriously disappeared one night. However, the wildlife is still to be found here and the fine olivine and white sand beaches are common nesting areas for green sea turtles. A nearby lagoon is home to flamingos, pintail ducks, stilts, and other shorebirds. Visitors may also spot stingrays and white-tipped reef sharks swimming in the shallows of the bay. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 6: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Following breakfast, we visit the tortoise breeding center at the renowned Charles Darwin Research Station. The Fausto Llerena Center currently holds over 900 young tortoises and 70 adults. This project, begun in the 1970's, has had incredible success in reintroducing specific populations throughout the islands. Following lunch, we have a change of pace when we leave behind the sunshine and beaches for the lush highlands of Santa Cruz Island. Our destination is the tortoise reserve, where these giants are free to roam amongst the tall grasses and loll in fresh water rain pools, as they have for centuries. A walk through a lava

tunnel and hike to twin collapsed craters will once again give insight to the volcanic nature of these islands. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 7: SANTA CRUZ / SANTIAGO ISLANDS

We begin today with a visit to Las Bachas, a sandy white coral beach offering prime nesting habitat for sea turtles. Further inland, marine iguanas mingle with flamingos and other wading birds in the saline lagoons. After the hikes, cool off with snorkeling and kayaking. Following lunch and repositioning, we arrive at our next destination. Sombrero Chino is a tiny island just off the southeast tip of Santiago. Its name (Chinese Hat) describes the island's shape. Though centrally located it is one of the least visited sites in the area. The landing is on a beautiful crescent-shaped white sand beach, home to sea lions and sally lightfoot crabs. The trail on Sombrero Chino's explores its volcanic origin, one of the most evident in the islands. The lava rock is very fragile and tends to easily break. Patches of pahoehoe lava, cracked lava and lava tubes can be found on the island. The path leads partially up the striking red rust sides of the Sombrero to the caldera, high enough on the island to offer spectacular views of the waves crashing below. Snorkeling in the waters near Sombrero Chino is particularly exhilarating; white-tipped sharks frequent the area, as do the playful sea lions and Galapagos penguins. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 8: RABIDA / JAMES ISLAND

Located in the geologic “center” of the Galapagos archipelago, Rabida presents a different face to the observer. With its reddish beach and cliffs, and steep, sloping volcanic cinder cones, it's easy to imagine yourself at the dawning of existence. However, a noisy colony of sea lions will quickly dispel that idea, and a short hike into the interior allows us to observe many species of land birds, including finches, doves, yellow warblers and mockingbirds. Snorkeling along the rocks allow observation of many reef fish common to this area. Just across a narrow channel lies Santiago and Sullivan Bay where over a century ago, the island erupted into the massive field of pahoehoe lava which gleams like a giant obsidian sculpture. While it is easy to imagine the molten lava swallowing everything in its path, today it offers a gallery of abstract shapes and formations. Brightly colored “painted locusts” and lava lizards flit across the swirls of lava, and here and there lava cactus has broken through, pioneering new growth over destruction. Snorkeling and kayaking are offered after our hike. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 9: BARTOLOME AND NORTH SEYMOUR ISLANDS

In the morning, visit Pinnacle Rock on Bartolome Island where penguins are often spotted. Hike 30 minutes up to the summit of the once active volcano for spectacular views of Pinnacle Rock, the white-sand beaches, lush mangrove swamps, and various volcanic formations. The walk to the peak is not difficult and presents a visual education in vulcanology, as the landscape is utterly pristine. Keep an eye out for pelicans and Galapagos hawks. In the afternoon we head to North Seymour Island, and follow the trail amongst swallow tailed gulls, blue-footed boobies, and the endemic land iguanas. Visit the largest colony of magnificent frigate birds found in Galapagos. As you stroll along the beach, you can find marine iguanas and sea lions surfing on the northern swells. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 10: RETURN TO QUITO

Disembark in the morning after a short visit to Mosqueria, a sandy coral beach and prime habitat for sea turtles and sea lions. Your guide will accompany you to the Galapagos airport for your afternoon flight to the mainland, where you will remain at the airport for international connections this evening. Depending on your departure time, we can arrange a hotel room or extend your trip. We encourage our travelers to add time to explore the rich diversity of the Ecuadorian mainland, be it the cultural treasures of the Andean highland villages or colonial Cuenca, the incredible wildlife of the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve or the avian haven of Mindo-Tandayapa cloud forest. Ask your program director for details. [B]

END OF SERVICES

Actual routes and activities may vary. Local trip coordinators reserve the right to change accommodations to similar quality alternatives.

PRICING & DATES:

For current pricing please click here: [Pricing](#)

For scheduled departure dates please click here: [Dates](#)

INCLUDED SERVICES

- Round trip airfare Quito - Galapagos
- All guided tours and excursions
- English-speaking certified naturalist guides
- Galapagos National Park Fees
- Airport-hotel transfers, land and sea transportation
- 9 nights accommodation as indicated
- Meals as indicated [B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner]
- Wildland Adventures travel consultation and pre-departure services

NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- International airfare
- Tips and gratuities
- Quito-Galapagos air (Will be an additional line on your invoice – please see Additional Fees above)
- Galapagos National Park fee, INGALA Ecuadorian transit fee (Will be an additional line on your invoice – please see Additional Fees above)
- Drinks, alcoholic beverages, and meals other than listed above
- Personal expenses for extra services, optional activities, or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control
- Travel insurance for trip cancellation, medical services, or evacuation
- Any other items not mentioned above

Please consider bringing \$300-400 USD per person for the week's tips and gratuities plus extra cash to cover the fees, taxes, meals and personal purchases not included in your itinerary.

NOTE: Due to weather conditions, vessel operation, and Galapagos Park management, **cruise itineraries are subject to change.** All yacht operators reserve the right to change vessels prior to departure due to maintenance or replacement. On very rare occasions when this occurs passengers will be transferred to another vessel and cabin of comparable or better class (comfort, services, amenities, equipment, etc.) at no extra charge.

Accommodations



LA CASONA DE LA RONDA

Perhaps no hotel we offer in Quito is better located than La Casona de la Ronda. Just a few short blocks to the beautiful colonial center of Quito, La Casona's address on "la Ronda" means a step outside your door brings you to a lively pedestrian-only street, dating from pre-Incan times, and full of restaurants, crafts boutiques and street artists. Each room is unique, filled with natural light, some with balcony views of La Ronda, others facing onto a quiet inner courtyard with vertical garden walls. Hand-carved furnishings, polished wood floors, LCD cable TV, rain showers, hair dryers, free Wi-Fi all make your stay comfortable and relaxing.



M/V GRACE

The luxury class motor yacht Grace is among the finest small Galapagos yachts. She has traversed the oceans of the world under many names but has been re-christened for her life in the Galapagos after her late owner the Serene Highness Princess Grace of Monaco, a name representative of her elegance, beauty and prestige. M/Y Grace's stellar past includes ownership and use by the rich and famous like Sir George Tilley and Aristotle Onassis, a brief stint in the British navy, and the vacation home of politicians and celebrities including Winston Churchill.

The 18 passenger M/Y Grace is the ideal Galapagos yacht for the traveler who seeks an in-depth natural history Galapagos adventure, complemented with excellent service, superb accommodations and exceptional dining. With one naturalist guide for every 9 guests on a full ship, all passengers appreciate the personalized onboard service and close interaction with guides in the field.

Booking your Wildland Adventure

HOW TO RESERVE A TRIP

You can book online using our [Reserve a Trip form](#) or by calling 1-800-345-4453. Your space on a trip is confirmed once we receive your reservation form and initial trip deposit. All travelers must sign and submit a [Release of Liability](#).

Deposit requirements are as follows:*

- \$1000 per person for all trips in the Galapagos. This deposit is non-refundable.

*Some trips require additional non-refundable deposits, especially when yachts have been chartered, or if permits to visit archaeological or wildlife sites have been purchased in advance.

CUSTOM TRAVEL

This trip isn't exactly what you're looking for? We are happy to design a private custom itinerary to accommodate your travel dates, interests and style of accommodations. Call us at 1-800-345-4453, send an email to info@wildland.com, or use the Ask The Program Director button on our website.

PAYMENTS, CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Full payment of the trip balance is due 90 days prior to departure. If you must cancel before departure, money will be returned less the cancellation fees charged by Wildland Adventures Inc. plus any additional non-refundable cancellation fees and payments already advanced to airlines, hotels and local operators:

<u>Days Prior to Departure</u>	<u>Cancellation Fee per person</u>
91 or more	Initial deposit amount
90 or less:	100% of costs

PRE-DEPARTURE SERVICES

Upon receipt of your deposit and completed reservation form, we will send you a comprehensive Pre-departure Dossier. This contains important information to help you prepare including immunizations, visas, trip insurance, packing checklist, reading list, maps, cross-cultural information, optional trip extensions and more. You will receive a final trip packet including Final Reminders and local contact information in your destination 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

REFERENCES AND QUESTIONS

Have any questions or concerns? Call us a 1-800-345-4453 or email info@wildland.com. We're here to help and are happy to provide you with references from previous Wildland travelers.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Wildland Adventures, Inc. has arranged your trip utilizing the travel services of local in-country ground operators who are independent contractors. These local outfitters, lodges, hotels and other suppliers of your travel services will make every effort to conduct this trip as described in the itinerary. It is however possible that due to transportation schedule changes, weather, delays and unforeseeable acts of God, humans or nature, this itinerary may vary from what is described. Participants must assume all risks whether identified in advance or unforeseen. All optional activities are at your own risk. Extra costs due to unexpected changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control are not included. We highly recommend purchasing traveler's insurance for trip delay, trip cancellation, baggage, accident or sickness. Representatives are available for assistance at any time during your trip. If preferred hotels are not available, every attempt will be made to reserve alternative accommodations of similar quality. (If upgrade is necessary, higher rates may apply.) All information and services provided are subject to our [Terms and Conditions](#).

GALAPAGOS ADVENTURE CRUISE ON THE M/V GRACE NORTHWESTERN ISLANDS



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3	Sat	GALAPAGOS ISLANDS	Grace	BLD	Fly to Baltra, visit Daphne Major
4	Sun	SANTA FE, SOUTH PLAZAS	Grace	BLD	Giant cactus forest
5	Mon	GENOVESA	Grace	BLD	Prince Phillip's Steps, Darwin Bay
6	Tue	FERNANDINA, ISABELA	Grace	BLD	Punta Espinoza, Urbina Bay
7	Wed	ISABELA	Grace	BLD	Tagus Cove, Punta Vicente Roca
8	Thu	SANTIAGO	Grace	BLD	Playa Espumilla/Caleta Bucanero, James Bay
9	Fri	SANTA CRUZ	Grace	BLD	Charles Darwin Station, Highlands
10	Sat	DEPARTURE		B	San Cristobal Interpretation Center; return flight to Quito. Remain at airport for international departure

Itinerary in Detail

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DAY 2: QUITO

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DAY 3: GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Private transfer in the morning to the domestic airport for the two hour flight to the Galapagos. Upon arrival, meet your naturalist guide and transfer to the vessel Grace. The ship's crew will greet you on board, take care of your luggage, and run through safety drills. Enjoy fresh fruit drinks as the yacht makes her way to the first site visit, Whaler's Bay, a lovely olivine sand cove at the base of Cerro Dragon, and Eden Islet. This area is home to a wide variety of seabirds as well as marine iguanas, and a perfect spot for your inaugural Galapagos snorkeling experience. As the sun sets, enjoy a typical Ecuadorian meal, the nightly briefing, and a formal presentation of the captain and crew. During the rest of this week, you will leisurely voyage through the stunning Galapagos Islands, among a varied landscape of diverse flora and fauna. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 4: SANTA FE / SOUTH PLAZAS

Santa Fe offers one of the more beautiful and sheltered coves in the islands. Its turquoise lagoon is protected by a peninsula of tiny islets forming an ideal anchorage. Geologically it is one of the oldest islands in the archipelago. A wet landing on a sandy white beach brings us close to one of many sea lion colonies. Galápagos hawks are often easily approached, perched atop salt bushes. The giant prickly pear cactus found here live up to their name, with tree-sized trunks! Our goal is to spot one of the large species of land iguana endemic to Santa Fe. Beige to chocolate brown in color with dragon-like spines, these big iguanas truly resemble dinosaurs. After the hike, there is nothing more inviting than a swim in the calm waters of the bay. Following lunch onboard, we visit South Plaza, one of the smallest yet richest islands in the archipelago. Only 130 meters wide (426 feet), it was formed from uplifted seabed, giving it a tilted tabletop quality. The turquoise waters of the channel contrast brilliantly with the black lava of the shoreline, with rocks grown thick with green seaweed in places, speckled with bright orange "Sally light foot" crabs. Further up the shore a carpet of scarlet ice plant (Sesuvium) serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus. Yellow-gray land iguanas sit beneath, waiting patiently for pears to drop. The trail gradually follows the tilt of the island to the cliffs that overlook the ocean to the south, where swallow-tailed gulls nest. Red-billed tropic birds, Nazca and blue-footed boobies ride the windy currents. The overlook is a great place for spotting large marine life, including manta rays. Surf pounds an inlet at the western corner of the island, where a colony of male sea lions makes their home at what is referred to as a bachelor's site. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 5: GENOVESA

We spend the entire day on Genovesa, considered to be one of the most spectacular Islands in Galapagos for bird species. Following breakfast, we embark on a wet-landing at Darwin Bay on the southwestern shore of the island, an ocean-filled caldera ringed by the edges of an ancient submerged volcano. On the coral sand beach, swallow-tailed and lava gulls gather near the tide pools. We enter a forest of *Optuntia* cactus and mangroves where colonies of great frigate birds nest. In a dramatic display, the earthbound males inflate their red-throated pouches to attract females as they fly overhead. The trail leads through a rich inter tidal zone where your naturalist guide helps you identify a wide diversity of wildlife, including yellow-crowned and lava herons, red-billed tropicbirds, and more. After the walk, we can swim in the protected bay where snorkelers are sometimes treated to sightings of giant manta rays that frequent the inner bay near cliff walls. The afternoon finds us across the Bay at Prince Phillip's Steps, named in honor of the British royal's visit in 1964. Here red-footed boobies wrap their brilliant webbed feet around branches of Palo Santo trees while their "Nazca" brethren dot the scrublands beyond. The north shore is a broad lava field where we are able to observe large flocks of storm petrels and sometimes their elusive predator, the short-eared owl. Conditions permitting, we can take kayaks out to paddle the shoreline. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 6: FERNANDINA / ISABELA ISLANDS

Fernandina is the youngest and most pristine of all the Galapagos Islands, and sits the farthest west within the archipelago. This morning, we have a semi-wet landing at Punta Espinoza, where recent lava flows formed by an active volcano stretch their way around the coast. Hundreds of marine iguanas, the largest colony in Galapagos, bask in the sun along the rugged shoreline. Here you may observe these ancient-looking creatures feasting on seaweed both underwater and above the surface. Nearby are raucous sea lion harems with resident bulls that carefully guard their territory. Flightless cormorants build their nests on the point and Galapagos hawks soar overhead. Dominating the scene is towering Las Cumbres volcano (4858'), one of the most active volcanoes in the world. After lunch, we cross the Bolivar Channel where we often spot whales and dolphins riding the bow wave. At the base of Alcedo Volcano, we disembark this afternoon at Urbina Bay on Isabela. Here we find 4 miles of exposed coastal seabed and remnants of marine life, brought to the surface during a dramatic uplift following a volcanic eruption in 1954. You may observe nesting brown pelicans and flightless cormorants here, as well as giant marine iguanas which also inhabit this area. Giant tortoises also inhabit this coastal plain during the rainy season, before migrating to the highlands as the lower elevations dry up. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 7: ISABELA ISLAND

On the way south, the boat will sail through the Bolivar Channel. These are the coldest, most productive waters in the Galápagos, the upwelling of the rich Cromwell current makes for frequent sightings of dolphins and whales in the area. Tagus Cove, named for a British naval vessel that moored here in 1814, was used historically as an anchorage for pirates and whalers. One can still find the names of their ships carved into the rock above our landing, a practice now prohibited, of course. The cove's quiet waters make for an ideal panga ride beneath its sheltered cliffs, where blue-footed boobies, brown noddies and pelicans nests. Flightless cormorants and penguins inhabit the lava ledges near the ocean. From our landing, a wooden stairway rises to the trail entrance for a view of Darwin Lake, a perfectly round saltwater crater. The trail continues around the lake through a dry vegetation zone before climbing inland to a promontory formed by spatter cones. The site provides spectacular views back toward our anchorage in the bay, as well as Darwin Volcano and Wolf Volcano farther to the north. After lunch and repositioning, we visit the northwestern most point of Isabela Island, Punta Vicente Roca. Here the remnants of an ancient volcano form a cove well protected from the ocean swells. The spot is a popular anchorage from which to take panga rides along the cliff where a partially sunken cave beckons explorers. Nazca and blue-footed boobies as well as brown noddies may be seen perched along the point and the sheer cliffs, while flightless cormorants inhabit the shoreline. The upwelling of coldwater currents in this part of the Galápagos produce an abundance of marine life which, in combination with the protection of the coves, makes Punta Vicente Roca one of the archipelago's most interesting snorkeling and dive spots. This is also a great place for kayaking. The entire area of Punta Vicente Roca lies on the towering flank of 2,600 foot Volcano Ecuador. When half of the volcano slid into the ocean, it left a spectacular cutaway view of its caldera. Overnight on the **Grace**. [BLD]

DAY 8: SANTIAGO ISLAND

On the northwestern side of the island is James Bay, which offers access to three unique sites, Puerto Egas, Salt Mine and Espumilla Beach. The first landing, Puerto Egas is the most visited area and begins with a wet landing on a black beach. With intriguing eroded rock formations inland, the trail crosses the dry interior eastward and continues along the shore line where two different types of lavas merge into unreal scenery. There we find the so called Fur seal Grottos, the only place during your visit that allows you to see these beautiful marine mammals during a land excursion. Stroll with your naturalist guide along the shoreline looking for octopus, starfish and other sea life caught in the tide pools. At low tide, catch a glimpse of marine iguanas as they feed on exposed green algae. Watch for great blue herons, lava herons, American oystercatchers and yellow-crowned night herons. Before returning to the yacht, there is outstanding snorkeling with opportunities to view massive numbers of brilliant tropical fish. As an alternative, you may use the kayaks to explore the marine environment and residents without getting wet. This afternoon, disembark for a hike through a Palo Santo forest, retracing trails once walked by pirates and whalers in search of a fresh water supply. A short walk takes us to a mangrove swamp where we may observe a variety of water birds as well as sea turtles. Slightly beyond lies a brackish lagoon, home to flocks of pink flamingos. Overnight on the **Grace**. **[BLD]**

DAY 9: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Santa Cruz is the second largest island in the Galápagos and something of a hub for the archipelago. Puerto Ayora, located in the southeast of this large, round volcanic island is the economic center of the Islands. Puerto Ayora is home to both the Galápagos National Park Service Headquarters and Charles Darwin Research Station, the center of the great restorative efforts taking place in the park, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we go ashore to visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding and Rearing Program run by the research station, which began by rescuing the remaining 14 tortoises on the island of Española in 1970. This program has restored the population of animals there to over 1,000 today. You will see everything from hatchlings to juveniles to large, distinguished individuals like Lonesome George, the last of his particular race of tortoises. The local color of this port makes for an attractive stop-off, with restaurants, souvenir shops and internet cafés. A highlight of any trip is a visit to the Highlands, where the dry coastal vegetation transitions to lush wet fields and forests overgrown with mosses and lichens. Our destination is the Tortoise Reserve, where we will have chances to track and view these friendly and ancient creatures in their natural settings. We continue onto the highland's lava tubes. We descend to the mouth of their arched cave entrances via a wooden walkway. From there we make our way along the cool, dimly lit passages with their fascinating rock formations. Overnight on the **Grace**. **[BLD]**

DAY 10: RETURN TO QUITO

Disembark in the morning for your return to Quito. Depending on your departure time, we can arrange a hotel room or extend your trip. We encourage our travelers to add time to explore the rich diversity of the Ecuadorian mainland, be it the cultural treasures of the Andean highland villages or colonial Cuenca, the incredible wildlife of the Yasuni Biosphere Reserve or the avian haven of Mindo-Tandayapa cloud forest. Ask your program director for details. **[B]**

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Accommodations



LA CASONA DE LA RONDA

Perhaps no hotel we offer in Quito is better located than La Casona de la Ronda. Just a few short blocks to the beautiful colonial center of Quito, La Casona's address on "la Ronda" means a step outside your door brings you to a lively pedestrian-only street, dating from pre-Incan times, and full of restaurants, crafts boutiques and street artists. Each room is unique, filled with natural light, some with balcony views of La Ronda, others facing onto a quiet inner courtyard with vertical garden walls. Hand-carved furnishings, polished wood

floors, LCD cable TV, rain showers, hair dryers, free Wi-Fi all make your stay comfortable and relaxing.



M/V GRACE

The luxury class motor yacht Grace is among the finest small Galapagos yachts. She has traversed the oceans of the world under many names but has been re-christened for her life in the Galapagos after her late owner the Serene Highness Princess Grace of Monaco, a name representative of her elegance, beauty and prestige. M/Y Grace's stellar past includes ownership and use by the rich and famous like Sir George Tilley and Aristotle Onassis, a brief stint in the British navy, and the vacation home of politicians and celebrities including Winston Churchill.

The 18 passenger M/Y Grace is the ideal Galapagos yacht for the traveler who seeks an in-depth natural history Galapagos adventure, complemented with excellent service, superb accommodations and exceptional dining. With one naturalist guide for every 9 guests on a full ship, all passengers appreciate the personalized onboard service and close interaction with guides in the field.

Booking your Wildland Adventure

HOW TO RESERVE A TRIP

You can book online using our [Reserve a Trip form](#) or by calling 1-800-345-4453. Your space on a trip is confirmed once we receive your reservation form and initial trip deposit. All travelers must sign and submit a [Release of Liability](#).

Deposit requirements are as follows:*

- \$1000 per person for all trips in the Galapagos. This deposit is non-refundable.

*Some trips require additional non-refundable deposits, especially when yachts have been chartered, or if permits to visit archaeological or wildlife sites have been purchased in advance.

CUSTOM TRAVEL

This trip isn't exactly what you're looking for? We are happy to design a private custom itinerary to accommodate your travel dates, interests and style of accommodations. Call us at 1-800-345-4453, send an email to info@wildland.com, or use the Ask The Program Director button on our website.

PAYMENTS, CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Full payment of the trip balance is due 90 days prior to departure. If you must cancel before departure, money will be returned less the cancellation fees charged by Wildland Adventures Inc. plus any additional non-refundable cancellation fees and payments already advanced to airlines, hotels and local operators:

<u>Days Prior to Departure</u>	<u>Cancellation Fee per person</u>
91 or more	Initial deposit amount
90 or less:	100% of costs

PRE-DEPARTURE SERVICES

Upon receipt of your deposit and completed reservation form, we will send you a comprehensive Pre-departure Dossier. This contains important information to help you prepare including immunizations, visas, trip insurance, packing checklist, reading list, maps, cross-cultural information, optional trip extensions and more. You will receive a final trip packet including Final Reminders and local contact information in your destination 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

REFERENCES AND QUESTIONS

Have any questions or concerns? Call us a 1-800-345-4453 or email info@wildland.com. We're here to help and are happy to provide you with references from previous Wildland travelers.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Wildland Adventures, Inc. has arranged your trip utilizing the travel services of local in-country ground operators who are independent contractors. These local outfitters, lodges, hotels and other suppliers of your travel services will make every effort to conduct this trip as described in the itinerary. It is however possible that due to transportation schedule changes, weather, delays and unforeseeable acts of God, humans or nature, this itinerary may vary from what is described. Participants must assume all risks whether identified in advance or unforeseen. All optional activities are at your own risk. Extra costs due to unexpected changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control are not included. We highly recommend purchasing traveler's insurance for trip delay, trip cancellation, baggage, accident or sickness. Representatives are available for assistance at any time during your trip. If preferred hotels are not available, every attempt will be made to reserve alternative accommodations of similar quality. (If upgrade is necessary, higher rates may apply.) All information and services provided are subject to our [Terms and Conditions](#).