

# **GALAPAGOS HOLIDAY ADVENTURE CRUISE ON M/Y LETTY SOUTHERN ISLANDS**



**WILDLAND  
ADVENTURES**

**AUTHENTIC WORLDWIDE  
EXPLORATIONS**

## Itinerary Overview

The M/Y Letty is an 83-ft Galapagos yacht that accommodate up to 20 passengers with 2 expert naturalist guides. This vessel is certified "Smart Voyager" for minimizing impact on the fragile island habitat and carry sea kayaks so guests can explore the islands close up.

Begin your adventure with an exploration of the fascinating blend of Indian and Spanish culture in Quito, South America's oldest capital city and designated UN World Heritage Site. Then set sail among the iconic Galapagos Islands. Discover plants and animals unique to particular islands as you travel throughout the archipelago. Our naturalist guides explain how these species have evolved and adapted over time, and continue to do so! 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, black - even green! - sand beaches and rocky cliffs. Almost every day ends with opportunities to don snorkeling gear and plunge into the cool surf, or grab a paddle and kayak through sea caves and shoreline.

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTELS	MEALS	HIGHLIGHTS
1	QUITO	Casa Aliso		Arrive Quito
2	QUITO	Casa Aliso	BL	Quito City tour + Mitad del Mundo Equatorial Marker
3	GALAPAGOS ISLANDS	M/Y Letty	BLD	Fly to the Galapagos, visit Cerro Tijeretes, Leon Dormido
4	SAN CRISTOBAL	M/Y Letty	BLD	Cerro Brujo and Punta Pitt
5	ESPANOLA	M/Y Letty	BLD	Punta Suarez and Gardner Bay
6	FLOREANA	M/Y Letty	BLD	Punta Cormorant, Devil's Crown, Post Office Bay
7	SANTA CRUZ	M/Y Letty	BLD	Highlands, Charles Darwin Station
8	BARTOLOME / SANTA CRUZ	M/Y Letty	BLD	Pinnacle Rock, Black Turtle Cove
9	SOUTH PLAZA / NORTH SEYMOUR	M/Y Letty	BLD	Opuntia cactus forest
10	QUITO / DEPARTURE		B	Fly to Quito; remain at airport for international departures this evening

# Itinerary in Detail

## DAY 1: ARRIVE QUITO

Arrive in Quito and transfer to Casa Aliso, a charming boutique style hotel conveniently located in the stylish “La Floresta” neighborhood. Overnight at **Casa Aliso**.

**Please Note: We can also accommodate our travelers with arrival and departure from Guayaquil on the delta of the broad Rio Guayas. Please inquire for rates and details**



## DAY 2: QUITO

You begin your Ecuador vacation with a 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 for a fun and informative examination of the curiosities of life on the Equator. You will enjoy lunch al fresco at a lively café in the colonial square. Overnight at **Casa Aliso**. [BL]

## DAY 3: GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Private transfer in the morning to the domestic airport for the flight to the Galapagos [**Avianca #1636 Quito/Galapagos 09:00-11:30**], you are met by your naturalist guide and transferred to the yacht for check-in and lunch onboard. Following lunch, travel overland to Cerro Tijeretas or Frigatebird Hill. This is a great opportunity to spot nesting colonies of both species of frigatebirds, Great and Magnificent. This evening, your naturalist guides hold your first briefing followed by the Captain’s welcome cocktail. Overnight onboard the **M/Y Letty**. [BLD]

## DAY 4: SAN CRISTOBAL

This morning you visit Cerro Brujo, a breathtaking white powder-sand beach, said to be one of the most spectacular in Galapagos. Here you have an opportunity to snorkel or kayak directly from the beach, where you may spot turtles or flamingos. Following lunch onboard and repositioning of the vessel, you visit the northeast tip of San Cristobal, Punta Pitt. This is a tuff formation that serves as a nesting site for many sea birds including blue footed, Nazca and red-footed boobies, frigatebirds, swallow-tailed gulls, and storm petrels. Punta Pitt is considered to be a first class site for birders, so don’t forget your binoculars! Overnight onboard the **M/Y Letty**. [BLD]

## DAY 5: ESPANOLA

Following breakfast, you have a dry landing at Punta Suarez, where you witness the highest rate of endemic species in Galapagos. Sea lions noisily greet you as you land on “their” beach. Curious Hood mockingbirds peck at your shoelaces. From April to November, the waved albatross, found only on Espanola, perform their wild mating ritual. Colonies of blue-footed boobies engage in “sky-pointing” to show off for potential mates. Nazca (formerly masked) boobies busily care for their young. Stunning swallow-tailed gulls are the only nocturnal gulls in the world. Red-billed tropicbirds take shelter under the cliffs. You also find Darwin’s Finches, Galapagos Doves, and Galapagos Hawks. Here you may observe a unique species of marine iguana identified with traces of red and green colorings. Colorful sally light-foot crabs crawl along the shoreline near the dramatic “blow hole”. This is the scene most people envision when they decide to visit Galapagos. During lunch, you motor to the other side of the Island.



This afternoon, you have a wet landing at Gardner Bay. Walk along seemingly endless stretches of this white sandy beach where you’ll find large colonies of sea lions. There is no trail to follow so this is a chance to explore and discover Galapagos Hawks, Darwin’s Finches, or a Hood Mockingbird. Swim with sea lions from the beach. Your expert naturalist guides can point you to an excellent snorkeling site off Gardner Islet with colorful diversity of sea life near Tortuga Rock or caves covered with invertebrates. Passengers are also permitted to use the kayaks at this particular site. Return to the yacht at sunset for dinner and your naturalists’ presentations. Overnight onboard the **M/Y Letty. [BLD]**



## DAY 6: FLOREANA

This morning you step ashore at Punta Cormorant on Floreana, one of the few populated islands in the Galapagos. Floreana presents a rich history with mystery and intrigues worthy of a novel. Set foot on a green-sand beach alive with the sounds of sea lions. Follow a trail to a brackish lagoon, home of the pintail ducks, common stilts, and the pinkest Flamingos in the world. Your guide will help identify a rich variety of plants including morning glories, cutleaf daisies, palo verdes and scalesia, all while approaching a beach with power soft sand. Sea turtles lay their eggs in the sand dunes and

brilliantly-colored rays swim in the shallow water. After the walk, you have an opportunity to snorkel at Devil’s Crown, a shallow sunken crater colonized by a brilliant array of colorful fish and coral.

This afternoon you visit Post Office Bay, perhaps not the most scenic, but probably the most famous site in Galapagos. Here you visit a post barrel, originally put into use in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century by sailors onboard English whaling vessels. You are invited to leave a post card and to pick up any mail from your home area. Overnight onboard the **M/Y Letty. [BLD]**

### **DAY 7: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND**

Today travel via local “chiva” bus to the verdant highlands of Santa Cruz. The scenery gradually changes as you make your way through seven vegetation zones found in the Galapagos Islands. Visit a tortoise reserve, “La Primicias,” where you may observe the giant tortoises in their natural habitat. Next travel to the “Los Gamelos” twin pit craters and prime habitat to the vermilion flycatcher, a brilliant red streak of feathers in the greenery. Following lunch, visit the famous Charles Darwin Research Station, where scientists keep breeding corrals of all species of tortoises found on the islands. You may see brand new hatchlings as well as juvenile tortoises not yet ready to be released into the wild. This evening, you have the option to remain in the town of Puerto Ayora to experience the nightlife and restaurants available there, or return to the yacht for dinner. Zodiacs will be available for transfers through the evening. Overnight onboard the **M/Y Letty**. **[BLD]**

### **DAY 8: BARTOLOME / SANTA CRUZ ISLAND**

Following breakfast, you visit Bartolome, a landscape reminiscent of walking on the moon. While inhospitable to most plants and animals, this young island is breathtaking in its stark beauty. After a dry landing, climb 30 minutes up stairs leading to the summit of a once active volcano. Along the way, you pause to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones, and cinder cones. From the top of the wooden stairs, gaze out across the island for a panoramic view of the island and iconic "Pinnacle Rock", an eroded tuff cone. Down below, crystal clear water is an invitation to snorkel from the beach or Zodiac with schools of tropical fish and Galapagos Penguins. After lunch, visit Las Bachas (The Barges) Beach, a long stretch of soft white sand and lagoons which provide habitat for the Greater Flamingo. Snorkeling here from the beach is a great passenger favorite. Later, a wet landing at Sombrero Chino presents you with sea lion colonies, and after a short hike, the trail gives way to lava fields and tubes. Here you will find marine iguanas and opportunities to snorkel with penguins. Overnight onboard the **M/Y Letty**. **[BLD]**



### **DAY 9: SOUTH PLAZA / NORTH SEYMOUR**

This morning's visit is to South Plaza, a small geological uplift with tall cliffs offering spectacular views. After a dry landing, the trails lead you through Prickly Pear cactus or Opuntia and Sesuvium. Here you find the Galapagos land iguana feeding on the cactus leaves. Toward the end of the hill, you encounter a colony of bachelor sea lions. The dominant bulls will likely be in various stages of recovery from battles lost over prime beach territory. You also find swallow tailed gulls, shearwaters, and red-billed tropicbirds who build their nests along the cliffs.



This afternoon, you have a dry landing at North Seymour, a small geological uplift. Here you may observe Swallow-tailed gulls, Blue-footed boobies, and the endemic land iguanas. Visit the largest colony of Magnificent frigatebirds found in the Galapagos. Back on board the yacht; enjoy the Captain's Farewell cocktail followed by dinner and a briefing. Overnight onboard the **M/Y Letty**. **[BLD]**

## **DAY 10: RETURN TO QUITO**

After a morning visit to the San Cristobal Interpretation Center, your guide returns you to the airport for your mainland flight [**Avianca #1637 Galapagos/Quito 12:30-17:00**]. Remain at the Quito airport for international departures this evening. [B]

**\*\*We encourage our travelers to add time to celebrate the New Year of 2019 by exploring 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. The ultimate adventure combines the wildlife haven of Galapagos with the cultural treasures of Machu Picchu, and it's easy to do! Ask us for details!\*\***

## **END OF SERVICES**

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

### **PRICING AND DATES: (BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)**

For current pricing click [here](#) to be directed to our website

For current dates click [here](#) and view available dates on the right hand side of your screen

***PLEASE NOTE, WE CANNOT EXTEND CHILD DISCOUNTS ON THIS DEPARTURE***

### **ADDITIONAL FEES (THESE CHARGES WILL APPEAR AS SEPARATE LINE ITEMS ON YOUR INVOICE)**

- Roundtrip airfare mainland to Galapagos - Currently \$560 per person adult, \$345 per child 11 and under (***subject to change***)
- Galapagos National Park fee - Currently \$100 per person adult, \$50 per child 11 and under
- INGALA Ecuadorian transit fee – Currently \$20 per person
- Holiday surcharge - \$235 per person

### **INCLUDED SERVICES**

- All guided tours and excursions
- English-speaking certified naturalist guides
- 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 costs above)
- Galapagos National Park fee, INGALA Ecuadorian transit fee (Will be an additional line on your invoice – please see costs 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

**NOTE:** For Galapagos travelers, please be advised that 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.

**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](#).

## Accommodations



### **CASA ALISO, QUITO**

Casa Aliso is a charming boutique hotel in the style and comfort of a small, luxurious home. This luxury Ecuador vacation accommodation is located in the fashionable residential neighborhood of "La Floresta", a quiet, forested area in the northern sector of the city and close to restaurants, shops, and plazas of downtown Quito. Each room is individually designed featuring classic décor with modern style. They are well appointed with a sitting chair, desk, and comfortable beds, with telephones and cable TV. The bathrooms have a bathtub and shower, bathrobes, hairdryers, and are equipped with 220v and 110v sockets. Your Ecuador adventure will be enhanced by the fine cuisine and the exceptionally professional and personal service of the staff at Casa Aliso.



### **M/Y LETTY**

A modern moto yachts, this first-class 83-foot vessel provides the greatest overall value in Galapagos yachts considering their on-board amenities, cabin quality, variability in berth configurations, passenger-to-guide ratio (10-1 or less) and reasonable price. We've been working with this signature fleet of Galapagos boats more consistently than any other vessels in the Galapagos Islands. Refurbished annually, three decks of well-appointed and spacious staterooms feature polished teak and brass detailing. The interior common areas are clean and bright with air-conditioning throughout and large picture windows for spectacular

panoramic views. A wide variety of international and Ecuadorian specialties are served in the natural light of the spacious dining room. The conference room and separate lounge with fully stocked bar provide ample public area space for daily briefings together and a place where adults and young people can gather to watch movies or play games. This Galapagos yacht is self-contained and ecologically sound and is equipped for noise-reduction and fuel-efficiency. False keels provide stability to ensure a smooth ride.