

Ecuador & Galápagos Islands: Endemic Expedition

Please note that all of the itineraries listed in our web site are actual private tour itineraries we have prepared for clients over the past 12-18 months. By the very nature of what we do, each private tour itinerary is custom, exclusive and unique unto itself. Our over-riding goal is to create lifelong memories that you and your family will forever carry deep within your hearts.

Overview

UNESCO declared the Galápagos' 19 islands and surrounding marine reserve as a "living museum and showcase of evolution." Situated on the convergence of three ocean currents, the Galápagos plays host to an affluence of marine life. Its continuous seismic and volcanic activity is an exciting study that illustrates not only how the islands were created, but also that it is ever-changing. The meeting of such unique environmental conditions for an isolated archipelago has led to the highest levels of endemism (species found nowhere else) on the planet. Please note, some exploration hikes can be arduous, for example, the hike up Prince Philip's Steps on Genovesa Island. To explore this site, one of the vessels we recommend is the Endemic.

The 16-passenger Endemic is the Galápagos Island's newest luxury catamaran, just launched July 8, 2018. Having scouted five luxury catamaran and yachts previous to this inspection, we can earnestly say the M/C Endemic has lived up to expectations as the premier catamaran in the archipelago. The interior boasts high ceilings, elegantly clean decor, and an airy atmosphere. With wall-to-wall windows, natural light seeps into every corner of its confines. This includes all eight cabin suites, which have private balconies, offering an unrivaled panoramic view of this equatorial paradise. For more information on the Endemic, [click here for our scouting trip blog post!](#) There are other luxury vessels we recommend for visiting the Galápagos, which you can [read more about here](#).

Best Travel Time: [Spring](#) [Summer](#) [Fall](#) [Winter](#)

The Galápagos is great to travel year-round, but for a more in-depth weather guide, you can visit our blog [here](#).

ECUADOR

Temperature Range

Highs: Low 70's

Lows: High 50's

Area

272,045 SQ KM

105,037 SQ MILES

Population

16.5 Million

Language

Spanish & indigenous languages

Capital

Quito

Currency

US Dollar

Day 1

Fly to Guayaquil + Arrive Guayaquil

Through our sister company, premium air provider TRAVNET, we may assist with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

Upon arrival in Guayaquil, you will be privately transferred to the Hotel del Parque for your overnight stay.

Hotel del Parque

Opened in January of 2017, this historical, 44-room, luxury, boutique hotel is our new favorite property in Guayaquil! This hotel is located in the lush Guayaquil Historical Park in the upscale Samborondón area of the city. Hotel del Parque offers a surreal and calming oasis from the noisy city center. Originally conceived in 1891, the building served as a homeless shelter for the elderly and disabled. The rooms are spacious, including extra-large bedrooms with modern bathrooms. Among the

amenities is the amazing restaurant, Casa Julian, which overlooks the hazy Daule River. The hotel offers an outstanding spa service, located in the chapel's bell tower, with spectacular 360° views over the gardens.

Accommodations: Hotel del Parque

Day 2

Fly Guayaquil/Baltra Island + Board the M/C Endemic

Following breakfast, you will be privately transferred to the airport for your flight to Baltra Island.

Upon arrival in Baltra, you will take a short ferry to Santa Cruz Island, where you will board the M/C Endemic. After boarding and a safety briefing, you will take a panga ride to Bachas Beach.

The M/C Endemic

The 16-passenger Endemic is the Galápagos Island's newest luxury catamaran, launched on July 8, 2018. We can earnestly say the Endemic has lived up to expectations as the premier catamaran in the archipelago. The interior boasts high ceilings, elegantly clean decor, and an airy atmosphere. With wall-to-wall windows, natural light seeps into every corner of its confines. This includes all eight cabin suites, which all have private balconies, offering an unrivaled panoramic view of this equatorial paradise. Please note, there are no laundry services available aboard the Endemic.

For more information, read our full blog post [here](#).

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: The M/C Endemic

Day 3

Cerro Brujo, San Cristobal Island

This gorgeous beach is the same shore that witnessed Charles Darwin's first steps in the Galápagos in 1835. The beach is a large expanse, great for walking, with rewarding bird-watching, including blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, herons, frigate birds, and a variety of shorebirds. Keep a lookout for sea lions as well. Special highlights include mockingbirds and lava lizards, both of which are endemic to this island and seen nowhere else in the Galápagos.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: The M/C Endemic

Day 4

Gardner Bay & Punta Suarez, Española Island

Today you will start with a wet landing on a beautiful white coral sand beach guarded by a colony of sea lions. There are no trails, so you will stay along the shore where you may spot nesting sea turtles (January - May), Galápagos hawks, American oystercatchers, Galápagos ground doves, Hood mockingbirds, yellow warblers, lava lizards, marine iguanas, and three species of Darwin's finches.

Punta Suarez (dry landing) is one of the most popular and attractive sites in the Galápagos. Due to Española's isolation from the other islands, it has a collection of unique and endemic species to see. The 15,000 - 17,000 pairs of albatrosses on Española represent almost the entire population of this species on the planet.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: The M/C Endemic

Day 5

Santa Fé & South Plaza Island

Today you will disembark on the white sand beaches of Santa Fé, met by sea lions, and walk into a giant Opuntia cactus grove where endemic land iguanas reside. You may follow this with snorkeling or kayaking to fin rays, urchins, eels, and fish of all types.

Your day will end at South Plaza Island. Being a smaller island, you will notice more interactions between terrestrial and marine animals. A carpet of succulents serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent, green prickly-pear cacti. Yellow-grey land iguanas sit beneath, waiting patiently for pears to drop. Along the coastline, one finds frigate birds, swallow-tailed gulls, and shearwaters gliding in the thermal air currents that form along the cliffs of this small but amazing island.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodations: The M/C Endemic

Day 6

Charles Darwin Research Station & El Chato Reserve, Santa Cruz Island + Fly Home

Disembarking the Endemic, you will visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and its famous tortoises and lizards within an impressive giant, prickly-pear cactus forest. This is the headquarters for scientific investigation, conservation, and the National Park administration on the islands.

Time permitting, after your visit to the research station, you will drive to the green highlands of Santa Cruz, located to the northwest of Puerto Ayora, where you will find El Chato Reserve. The reserve is one of the best places in the islands to observe giant tortoises in their natural habitat.

Following your tour, you will be transferred to the Hotel del Parque to rest and then to the airport for your onward flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Hotel del Parque (pre-departure day-use room)