



ECUADOR & PERU

GALAPAGOS AND MACHU PICCHU ABOARD THE M/Y LA PINTA (Luxury Expedition Ship)



DURATION:	17 days / 16 nights
SEASON:	Year round
DEPARTURES:	Guaranteed with a minimum of 2 participants
TRIP RATING:	Easy/moderate Natural History Cruise & Cultural Tour, Grade (II) – This trip includes occasional wet landings (ankle to knee deep water) to reach observation sites, optional water activities such as swimming or snorkeling and nature hikes of up to 4 hours duration on occasionally rough or rocky trails. The Cusco/Machu Picchu segment takes place at high elevations up to an altitude of 12,335', the itinerary has been designed to allow gradual adjustment to the altitude. Walking tours of 1-3 hours duration are optional. Anyone in good fitness and condition, who is able to walk up to 4 hours, should be able to enjoy this trip.
2012 DATES:	On request any week throughout the year, subject to availability La Pinta will be on dry dock from Nov 16 to Dec 21, 2012

INTRODUCTION:

Galápagos National Park straddles the equator 600 miles west of Ecuador's Pacific coast. Undisturbed for centuries and isolated from the mainland, unusual species of birds, plants, reptiles and some mammals developed on the rocky, volcanic atolls of the Enchanted Isles. Darwin's visit and subsequent studies of the island's flora and fauna in 1835 contributed to the formulation of his theory on the evolution of species and brought this fascinating ecosystem to the attention of the world. The park, Ecuador's largest, was established in 1959 to protect the archipelago's unique environment and wildlife. Its landmass consists of nearly 3,000 square miles which is divided between 6 large islands, 12 smaller islands, and over 40 islets. In 1986, the creation of the Marine Resources Reserve expanded the preserved area to include more than 27,000 square miles of ocean. This exciting program offers a great value in the archipelago, featuring one of the most complete 8-day cruise itineraries, aboard one of the most luxurious vessels in these waters.

After a night in Quito, we tour the Lake District, visiting with artists from a variety of handicraft specialties. Following a morning flight to Baltra Island, we begin the cruise aboard our comfortable 48-passenger, luxury expedition boat. Accompanied by some of the best English-speaking naturalist guides in the Galápagos, we learn about the natural history of these enchanted islands, visiting the most outlying sites as well as important central and southern islands. We learn about fascinating species such as marine and land iguanas, flightless cormorants and blue-footed boobies. We also swim with Galápagos penguins and have the chance to snorkel with sea lions and fur seals! While enjoying beautiful views of white, olive or red sand beaches caressed by turquoise waters, we're impressed by the powerful forces of nature. Following our cruise, we fly to Guayaquil and connect to Lima. The following morning we fly to Cusco where we spend a couple of days exploring impressive Inca sites such as the Coricancha, Sacsayhuaman, Chinchero and Ollantaytambo. A visit to Pisac is another opportunity to experience and shop in a colorful Andean market before taking the train to Machu Picchu. Spending the night at the most exquisite hotel in town we have plenty of time for in-depth explorations of the Incas' Lost City before returning to Cusco and Lima.

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY “A” (WESTERN ISLANDS):

DAY 01 (WED): USA/QUITO

Arrive this evening to Ecuador's charming capital city of **Quito**, located at 9,350' in an Andean valley. Our friendly local staff greets you and bring you by private vehicle to one of the city's finest hotels, the centrally located Swissotel to settle in for the night.

DAY 02 (THU): LAKE DISTRICT/OTAVALO

This morning a scenic drive north takes us through the twisted canyons of the Guayabamba River to arrive at the fertile valleys of the Lake District and the community of **Otavallo**, (8,300') where we find a small handicrafts market. We have plenty of time to shop and enjoy the multitude of crafts here, including wood carvings, ceramics and leather goods from all over the country, as well as the exquisite woolen products and embroidery work for which the Otavallo weavers are renowned. Their talent, combined with a sharp business sense, has contributed to worldwide recognition of their proficiency as weavers, and they have become one of the most prosperous of all indigenous groups in South America. Following our explorations, we enjoy a delicious Andean lunch, then visit several handicraft artists (leather workers, bread dough artists, weavers, etc.). Return to the Swissotel in Quito to prepare for the cruise. Dinner is on your own this evening. **Driving distance:** 196 miles or 5 hours (round-trip). (B,L)

DAY 03 (FRI): QUITO/BALTRA ISLAND/NORTH SEYMOUR (GALAPAGOS)

Following breakfast, pick up at the hotel to return to the airport. Our guide assists us with checking in for the 2.5 hour commercial jet flight to **Baltra Island**, with one stop in Guayaquil en route. We pass through an inspection point where park officials ensure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands. We meet our naturalist guides and transfer to the boat docks to catch the *panga*, or dinghy, out to our well-appointed vessel. After our crew welcomes us aboard there is a briefing and safety drill. Lunch is served onboard en route to **North Seymour Island**. This afternoon's visit with a dry landing may very well be the perfect introduction to the Galápagos. Both Baltra and North Seymour have a similar unique topography since both were formed from a geological submarine uplift, as opposed to the islands formed by underwater volcanoes that we will visit throughout the rest of our trip. Some of the distinctive arid vegetation on this island includes the Prickly Pear Cacti, Palo Santos Trees and Salt Bushes. We will also witness some of the biggest sea bird breeding colonies in the Galápagos, such as the comical courtship dance of the Blue-footed boobies. But make sure to watch your step since the boobies, Swallow-tailed Gulls and Yellow Warblers aren't afraid of humans and will sometimes nest right in the trail! Fauna abounds and you will soon find yourself surrounded by sea lions, marine iguanas, frigate birds, and more. With some luck you may even get to see land iguanas. There is a good opportunity here for coastal exploration or snorkeling. Back on board we receive a briefing and a welcome cocktail before dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 04 (SAT): ISABELA/FERNANDINA ISLANDS

After breakfast, disembark (wet landing) at the northernmost point on Isabela Island, **Albemarle Point**, named in English after the Duke of Albemarle in the 17th century. This is an historic site, where an old radar station dating back to WWII, and installed there by American troops, can still be seen. Fauna here includes the largest marine iguanas of the Galápagos, a healthy population of Flightless Cormorants. This is the only place in the world where one can encounter penguins in the Northern Hemisphere. Amid the mangroves, guests can spot great blue herons and brown pelicans nesting. We then depart the island to have lunch on board, later on we have a dry landing onto the black lava fields of **Punta Espinosa** on **Fernandina Island**, the archipelago's youngest and most active member. Since there have been no introduced mammals this island has an incredibly unique environment containing one of the largest colonies of marine iguanas, along with sea lions, sally-light foot crabs, hawks, penguins, and flightless cormorants. We may be surprised to see the lava rocks moving, until we realize that it is the iguanas regulating their body temperature by piling on top of each other for warmth then spending up to 25 cold minutes underwater to feed on algae. They continue this repositioning dance to maintain a constant body temperature of about 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Continuing to the point, we observe several couples of flightless cormorants, watching as they go through their courtship ritual, build their nest or incubate their eggs. A curious sight, these agile blue-eyed swimmers appear rather clumsy on land as their wings dangle uselessly from their sides and they hop from rock to rock. Fernandina's lava landscape is one of the most dramatic we see during our trip, and we hike back inland a short distance to observe lava cactus and other colonizing plants among the stark black rocks. We return to the ship for dinner and a preview of tomorrow's activities. (B,L,D)

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DAY 05 (SUN): ISABELA ISLAND

After breakfast (wet landing) disembark at **Urbina Bay**, located at the foot of volcanoes Alcedo and Darwin, west of Isabela Island, the result of an uplifting of the ocean in 1954. Here you can find corals, shells, and many other calcareous organisms exposed above water. This area is also home to large and very colorful Galápagos land iguanas, giant tortoises (occasionally); a good spot to observe Darwin's finches. Along the shoreline, after the hike, guests may encounter flightless cormorants and see penguins while snorkeling in this beautiful cove. Lunch on board. On the northwest of Isabela, secluded **Tagus Cove** provided a favorite anchorage for pirates and whalers over the centuries. Old graffiti is still found on its walls. The vegetation in the area includes the fragrant palo santo trees. These white-barked trees are leafless and look dead most of the year. They leaf and spring back to life in the wet season. An uphill hike takes guests to the back of Darwin Crater, filled with salt water. The view at the end of the trail is worth the climb. Darwin is one of Isabela's six volcanoes, a remarkable contrast to the lower islands to the east of the archipelago. Possibilities to swim, snorkel or ride kayaks. There is no beach in the area, so these activities are done from the pangas. Briefing and dinner on board. (B,L,D)

DAY 06 (MON): RABIDA/SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS

Disembark at **Rábida Island**, just south of Santiago Island, (wet landing) to view one of the most volcanically varied islands in the chain. Due to the unusually high content of iron, the beach and cliffs are a striking red color from hot lava meeting seawater. A gratifying stroll along the beach of this small island (1.9 sq. mi.) allows the observation of a large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finches. Very close to the beach, hidden behind a strip of green saltbush, is a salt pond where at times greater flamingos migrate. This is a great place to snorkel from the beach, both for beginners as well as for experienced snorkelers, due to the unique combination of underwater species and submarine landscapes. During navigation to our next island, dolphins are often spotted. Lunch is onboard. The north shore of **Santa Cruz Island** hosts Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill) where a dry landing and walk includes a brackish water lagoon frequented by lagoon birds, including stilts, pintail ducks, sandpipers, sanderlings, and more. Further inland, the trail offers a beautiful view of the bay and the western islands of the archipelago. This area is a natural nesting site for land iguanas, constantly monitored and assisted by the Charles Darwin Research Station. The arid-zone vegetation can be a rewarding location for bird watching, where Darwin's finches, Galápagos mockingbirds, the endemic Galápagos flycatcher, and yellow warblers are regular sightings. Tonight's expedition briefing reveals interesting sites for the day ahead. (B,L,D)

DAY 07 (TUE): SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

After breakfast we disembark (dry landing) at **Puerto Ayora** to visit the **Charles Darwin Research Station**, get up-close and personal with giant tortoises, including tortoise celebrities like "Lonesome George", at the breeding and rearing center, a favorite among visitors, and meet some of the international research staff that have made preservation of the Galápagos ecosystem a scientific priority. Founded in 1959, the Research Station has a Natural History Interpretation Center and carries out educational projects to support the Galápagos National Park Service through conservation of natural resources, management of flora and fauna, and the sustainable use of resources. Lunch is at the poolside of the Finch Bay Eco Hotel. This afternoon we visit the highlands of **Santa Cruz Island**, a Scalesia forest and Los Gemelos, a distinctive geology formation consisting of twin pit craters. This island has a variety of geology, wildlife, vegetation, and contains all of the Galápagos life zones. The coastal zone is only a few meters and the plant life is greatly influenced by the presence of salt. Red, white, black, and button mangrove are found along the coast. The dry zone can be remarkably arid from May to December (*garua* season) when only the southeast side of the volcanoes get any precipitation, and even then it is only a fine mist (*garua*). Here we can see the beauty of how various species have adapted to these extremely dry conditions, giving us a variety of cacti. From Dec to mid April, if weather conditions are favorable, we have the opportunity to visit giant tortoises in the wild. Afterwards, we return to Puerto Ayora to stroll the main street, shop for souvenirs or just relax and enjoy the bay filled with sailboats, seabirds and marine iguanas. Return later to La Pinta for dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 08 (WED): FLOREANA ISLAND

Morning disembarkation at **Puerto Velasco Ibarra** (dry landing) and a bus ride to the highlands of Floreana Island. At Asilo de la Paz the hike is primarily of historical interest for guests. It goes past a cave allegedly once used by the first inhabitant of Galápagos – the Irishman Patrick Watkins - and also visits the freshwater spring which served as a source of water for early settlers. Near Asilo de la Paz the National Park Service has built a corral with giant tortoises; however, these are specimens from other islands, as the Floreana Island subspecies of giant tortoise is extinct. Here birdwatchers can spot the medium tree finch (endemic to the highlands of Floreana). Then, a wet landing at the historic barrel that served as a post office in the archipelago since whalers started the tradition more than 200 years ago. This ritual continues today where you can leave a piece of mail, or take one with you to be delivered to its recipient. We learn about the human side of the islands, its early inhabitants and the adventures of pirates and whalers to the

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approximately 100 modern day inhabitants. After lunch, a short trip leads to **Punta Cormorant** on the same island. After a wet landing onto a green beach (from volcanic olivine crystals) we take an easy walk to the saltwater lagoons to visit what have been called the world's most vibrantly-colored pink flamingos sifting in the sand for shrimp. After observing the flamingos, pintail ducks, sandpipers, herons and stilts we follow a short trail over a hill for some time to unwind. Here we are treated to a pristine white sand beach, where sea turtles come out at night to nest (from December to May), so fine some have said it feels like walking on feathers! We will have time to swim, snorkel, a ride in our glass-bottom boat, or just plain sunbathe. Following this relaxing afternoon we return to the yacht for dinner and the next day's expedition plan. (B,L,D)

DAY 09 (THU): SANTA FE/SOUTH PLAZA ISLANDS

After breakfast, a wet landing on a sandy white beach with many sea lion harems. Bulls vie for the right of "Beach Master", while smaller males masking as females make stealthy mating moves. Galápagos hawks are often easily observed, perched atop salt bushes. The giant prickly pear cactus found here live up to their name with tree-sized trunks! The endemic land iguana, unique to this island, may be spotted during the afternoon walk. Snorkeling and swimming from the beach rounds off the rewarding experience. Lunch on board. Disembark (dry landing) in the channel between North and **South Plaza Islands**, where the island tilts toward the water, the approach makes for a lavishly colorful sight! The turquoise waters of the channel contrast brilliantly with the white sand and black lava of the shoreline. The rocks have grown thick with green seaweed in places, speckled with bright orange 'Sally Lightfoot' crabs. Further up the shore a carpet of scarlet sesuvium succulents serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus. Yellow-gray land iguanas sit beneath these, waiting patiently for pears to drop. Along the coastline one finds sea lion colonies, while frigates, swallow-tailed gulls and shearwaters glide playing with the thermals that form along the cliffs of this small but amazing island. Briefing and dinner on board. (B,L,D)

DAY 10 (FRI): SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND/GUAYAQUIL/LIMA

After breakfast we disembark at San Cristóbal, the archipelago's oldest island. **Puerto Baquerizo Moreno** is a small attractive port on a crescent-shaped bay and provincial capital of Galápagos. We say goodbye to our crew and transfer to the airport for the flight back to **Guayaquil**. Arriving in the afternoon, we're met at the airport and assisted with catching our evening flight to **Lima, Peru**. Upon arrival in Lima, our staff meets you and assists with check-in at the Costa del Sol Hotel near the international terminal. (B)

DAY 11 (SAT): LIMA/CUSCO/SACRED VALLEY

We're picked up at the hotel early this morning and accompanied to the airport to catch the one-hour flight to **Cusco**, the former Inca capital. You are met at the airport and we drive one-hour to Pisac in the **Sacred Valley of the Incas**. The route follows a winding mountain road providing superb vistas of the rugged canyon formed by the Urubamba River. Descending into the warm valley, our first stop is the town of **Pisac** (9,708') where we visit the main square and some craft shops. Artists and vendors set up their stalls around the main plaza to sell food and colorful handicrafts. We enjoy a delicious Andean lunch and later on tour Pisac's impressive Incan ruins, perched spectacularly on a ridge overlooking the town and countryside. The walking tour is about 2 miles and follows a wide, exposed, stone-paved trail high above the valley. We visit the main sections of the site including the religious center *Intihuatana*, or Hitching Post of the Sun. Observing dozens of agricultural terraces, these formations were aesthetically built to follow the contours of the hillside rising from the Urubamba River valley. We continue down the valley to the community of Urubamba and check-in to the charming Andean hacienda-style, Sol y Luna Lodge & Spa. The remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure with dinner together this evening. (B,L,D)

DAY 12 (SUN): CHINCHERO/OLLANTAYTAMBO

This morning, we drive back up to the highlands, enjoying panoramic views of the snow-capped Urubamba range including Mount Veronica and Pituisiray, both over 18,000 feet high. We arrive midmorning at **Chincho** (12,335'), a charming community characteristic of Andean towns in that it combines both Incan and colonial architecture. We observe a massive Inca wall with ten trapezoidal niches, which dominates the village's main square, and visit the colonial church. After exploring the ruins of Inca Yupanqui's palace, we join a local community in their courtyard for an overview of the Andean weaving process. After wool is carded, spun, and dyed, learn about the different techniques used to create ponchos, belts (*fajas*), and shawls (*mantas*). On the way back to the fertile Urubamba Valley we stop at the Inca Salt Mines, then continue in our private vehicle to enjoy a buffet-style Andean lunch. Here we have a chance to sample a variety of native delicacies including: several types of potatoes (tubers such as oca); quinoa (sacred to the Incas, referred to as the "mother of all grains"); fava beans; and perhaps try a taste of *cuy*, a savory meat roasted with a variety of herbs traditionally used in fertility celebrations. Afterwards, we drive past burial tombs and ancient farming terraces still in use today to grow barley, wheat, and corn to reach the town of **Ollantaytambo**. We visit the main plaza and some of the side streets of this unique community which still retains the original street plan and foundations

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designed by the Incas. We'll explore the impressive terraced remains of the Sun Temple before returning to the peaceful comforts of the Sol y Luna Lodge & Spa in Urubamba to relax and unwind. (B,L,D)

DAY 13 (MON): MACHU PICCHU

We head back to Ollantaytambo early this morning to catch the Vistadome train for the 1.5 hour ride to Machu Picchu town (formerly Aguas Calientes). Ascending to **Machu Picchu** (7,874') by bus, we join our expert guide for a private tour of this superb archaeological site. Perched atop a crest high above the meandering Urubamba River and surrounded by rugged, green Andean hillsides, Machu Picchu stands as more than just the jewel of Inca architecture. It represents the perfect union of human engineering and the natural environment, a city in harmony with its surroundings. Never reached by the Spanish, this magical place was brought to the world's attention in 1911 by the American historian, Hiram Bingham. Our explorations of *The Lost City of the Incas* include all of the various sectors of the ruins: the industrial area, the Temple of the Sun and the Royal Tomb, the ceremonial water fountains and baths, and the Sacred Plazas. There should be time in the afternoon for the 30-minute walk to the Inca Drawbridge. We stay at the charming Inkaterra Machu Picchu Hotel (situated in 12 acres of secluded cloud forest garden along the Urubamba River), where we partake in a *Novoandino* cuisine dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

DAY 14 (TUE): MACHU PICCHU/CUSCO

Rising early, those who wish may head back to the ruins to catch the early morning light as the sun comes up over *Intipunku*, or the Gateway of the Sun. Afterwards, there are several optional hikes available in and around the site for more ambitious group members. At 8,860' **Huayna Picchu**, or Young Peak, looms over the citadel. An optional 1 hour climb along a very steep and exposed trail ends at terraces and ruins on the mountain's top, providing an excellent, bird's-eye view of Machu Picchu. Another 1.5 hour downhill hike on a shaded trail ends at the mysterious, partially excavated *Temple of the Moon*. Since the schedule is flexible, those who prefer can relax or explore their favorite spots at their own pace. We meet together for lunch before catching the early afternoon Vistadome train for the 1.5 hour scenic journey back to Ollantaytambo. Tracing the course of the Urubamba River, we wind our way past Inca terraces and Quechua communities as we leave the lush cloud forests and make our way back to the highlands. Reception upon arrival and transfer by private vehicle to **Cusco** (11,150') and the familiar Libertador Hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening to try some of the gourmet restaurants in town. (B,L)

DAY 15 (WED): CUSCO

After breakfast, we enjoy a private orientation tour (combination of walking and vehicle) of this friendly, historical city. As we explore the main plaza and side streets, we realize that **Cusco** is still a very colonial city. There are no skyscrapers and most buildings are whitewashed adobe with red tile roofs set on Inca foundations. Cobble streets lead up narrow passageways with brightly painted balconies overhead. Small plazas are filled with flowers and fountains. Our visits include such impressive sites as the *Coricancha*, the Inca's Sun Temple; the main square and cathedral, many of whose stones were taken from nearby Inca palaces; and the Incan walls along *Hatunrumiyoc Street*, which is named for the 12-angled stone that is clearly visible. Driving up to the surrounding hills we explore the Incan fortress of *Sacsayhuaman*, a spectacular complex with commanding views of the Cusco valley, and time permitting, *Tambo Machay*, whose ceremonial pools have remained clear and cold since the time of the Empire. We return to the Libertador Hotel with lunch on your own and the remainder of the afternoon available for personal activities. Tonight, we join our guide for a delicious farewell dinner and pisco sour, a traditional Peruvian drink. (B,D)

DAY 16 (THU): CUSCO/LIMA/USA

Morning at leisure to explore Cusco's colorful San Pedro market and the many side-street craft shops, museums and plazas. We are picked up at the hotel late-morning for the drive to the airport in **Cusco** to catch the flight back to **Lima**. Upon arrival we join our local guide for a private tour of colonial Lima and the fascinating Larco Herrera or Gold Museums, with an extensive collection of pre-Columbian artifacts. Lunch and dinner are on your own to try a typical seafood meal such as ceviche at one of the several fine restaurants in the upscale Miraflores district. Participants leaving tonight have a return transfer to the airport this evening. (B)

DAY 17 (FRI): USA

Arrive in the US this morning and make onward connections home.

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OUTLINE DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY "B" (EASTERN ISLANDS):

DAY 01 (WED): USA / QUITO
DAY 02 (THU): LAKE DISTRICT / OTAVALO
DAY 03 (FRI): QUITO/SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND (Tortoise reserve and Cerro Brujo)
DAY 04 (SAT): CRISTOBAL ISLAND (Galapaguera and Punta Pitt)
DAY 05 (SUN): HOOD ISLAND (Punta Suarez and Gardner Bay)
DAY 06 (MON): SANTA CRUZ ISLAND (Puerto Ayora and Highlands)
DAY 07 (TUE): SANTA CRUZ AND CHINESE HAT ISLANDS (Whale bay and Sombrero Chino)
DAY 08 (WED): BARTOLOME AND JAMES ISLANDS (Sullivan bay)
DAY 09 (THU): TOWER ISLAND (Darwin Bay Beach and Prince Philip's steps)
DAY 10 (FRI): BALTRA ISLAND / GUAYAQUIL / LIMA
DAY 11 (SAT) THROUGH DAY 17 (FRI): AS INDICATED ABOVE ON PAGES 3 & 4.

NOTES ON THE ITINERARIES: Although we do our best to adhere to the schedule listed above, the day-by-day activities on these itineraries are subject to change at any time for numerous reasons beyond our control including Galápagos Park Regulations and/or participant health, weather, sea and/or road conditions. Reservations are recommended well in advance of your preferred departure (at least 6 months for regular programs or 1 year for holiday departures) to ensure your place on the trip of your choice. Reservations placed less than 90 days prior to the scheduled departure will be accepted only if space is available and must be paid in full at the time of booking.

These programs are suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to outdoor activities age 7 and up. The Huayna Picchu ascent is only recommended for kids age 12 and older. Regular departures may include some families and children on the cruise. Hiking or driving distances and altitudes are approximate, and times indicated are NET (they do not include lunch breaks, rest stops, time to explore the area, etc.).

2012 LAND COSTS: Stateroom cabins
 (Upper deck)
 \$ 11,105 ppd (2-3 participants)
 \$ 10,655 ppd (4-6 participants)
 \$ 10,305 ppd (7-12 participants)

ppd=per person double occupancy.

During peak season (Mar 30-Apr 13 & Dec 21-Jan 04, 2012/13) there will be a surcharge of \$200 per adult and \$130 per child and no discounts apply during this period. Only 3 Cabins are available for Single occupancy.

Due to recent Government measures in Ecuador, all vessels operating in the Galápagos Islands have implemented a fuel surcharge. Effective for cruises departing after Jan 01, 2012, the additional \$285 per person is currently waived.

Children's Discount: Kids 6-11 years old at the time of travel are entitled to a discount of \$1,725 ppd on the *Galápagos and Machu Picchu* Land Cost. Limited to one per each accompanying adult sharing a cabin. No discounts are allowed during the peak season indicated above. Other restrictions may apply.

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning packet** and expert travel advice.
- All **in-country transfers** as scheduled (transfers on different days are additional). Ground transportation in spacious and comfortable private vehicles with professional drivers. Occasionally, other Southwind travelers may share the same vehicle, particularly for transfers or tours in Quito & Lima.
- **First-class Vistadome or similar train** from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu town and back to Ollantaytambo. Machu Picchu bus service to/from town and the archeological sanctuary.
- Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance.**
- Galápagos National **Park entrance fee** of \$100 p.p. (\$50 per child 11 or under).
- Galápagos **Transit control card fee** of \$10 per person.
- All **accommodations in first-class (4-5 star) hotels** as listed (or at similar hotels) on a shared basis with private bath. Double beds for couples (primarily queen or king-sized) can be requested in advance, but cannot be guaranteed, as most hotels offer very few rooms with double beds.
- All **meals** indicated on the itinerary (B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=dinner). **Vegetarian diets accommodated** on request (advance notification required). For other diets, consult your travel specialist before making a reservation. Bottled or filtered water is provided on the cruise and mainland.
- All **guided tours** and excursions listed on the mainland (including entrance fees), accompanied by knowledgeable, English-speaking local guides in Quito/Otavalo and Cusco/Machu Picchu regions.

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- Arrival & departure transfers on Baltra or San Cristóbal islands.
- Accommodations on the luxury-class, 48-passenger, **M/Y La Pinta** in a shared cabin with private bath.
- Experienced crew & staff of 24 plus up to 3 naturalist guides and 1 Medical Doctor. Officers on board are bilingual.


NOT INCLUDED:

- US Domestic, International nor local flights from Guayaquil-Lima-Cusco-Lima, and to/from the islands (see **Estimated Airfare** on page 8).
- Ecuadorian & Peruvian departure taxes (\$41 & \$15 respectively).
- Alcoholic beverages, non-alcoholic beverages ordered from the bar on cruise, nor items of a personal nature like laundry, telephone calls, souvenirs etc.
- Tips to the local staff as warranted.
- Any expenses incurred in preparing for this trip such as but not limited to non-refundable airline tickets or travel insurance, nor additional costs due to flight schedule changes, delays, cancellations or missed connections.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend purchasing a plan to protect your trip investment. Travel insurance helps to cover unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates. Weather, geologic events, local strikes, a personal injury/illness to you, family member or your traveling companion could cause interruption or changes to your itinerary, missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage or need for medical attention on the trip or evacuation which is why coverage is important. We recommend the *Worldwide Trip Protector (WTP)* plan offered by Travel Insured International (TII). **Kids 17 and under are free with related adult on the WTP plan.** Information and an application are sent upon receipt of your deposit (sooner if requested). Policies can be purchased securely online at: www.southwindadventures.com/insurance.html. If you, your traveling companion or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you should purchase the WTP policy within 21 days of your deposit in order to be reimbursed for non-refundable costs if a recurrence of the condition forces you to cancel your trip (some restrictions apply). Please call our office or visit our website for more information.

M/Y LA PINTA is an ideal size for cruising the waters of the Galápagos. Elegant public areas feature a stylish and modern atmosphere, with plenty of natural light and a nautical touch. **All 24 outside cabins are on the upper deck and offer panoramic windows.** Twin beds are convertible to one queen bed. La Pinta is family-friendly offering 6 connecting cabins and 4 triple cabins. In-room features include individual AC control, security box, telephone with direct international dialing, generous storage and desk. Outlets allow guests to charge photo/video equipment and personal electronics. Fine cotton linens, down duvets, choice of pillows, biodegradable amenities, hair dryer and plush towels will make you feel at home.

Spacious public areas on the Boat Deck include a large Observation Lounge and Bar, which can be used for 'al fresco' dining; a smaller outside Sky Bar towards the stern, fore and aft observation decks, sun chairs, a small gym, Jacuzzi and a well-stocked Natural History Library-Conference Room with the most up-to-date audio visual equipment. There is a satellite Internet connection (three stations) and wireless in designated areas. La Pinta also features a **glass bottom boat and 3 sea kayaks** for natural history explorations.

 **Note:** To learn more about this vessel and view a photo gallery, please visit: www.yachtlapinta.com

ONBOARD: A typical day on board begins with a beautiful sunrise and breakfast served at 07:30. At about 08:30, we join our English-speaking naturalist for a 3-4 hour shore excursion. The guides onboard are certified by the Charles Darwin Research Station and the National Park Service, they have achieved a high level of experience, knowledge & service. We board our *panga*, or small motorized dinghies, and travel to a specified visitor's site for disembarkation. We may have either a dry landing on a rocky beach or special jetty, or a wet landing where wading through knee or thigh deep water is required. Once on shore our guide will explain the unique features of this location and talk about the life forms encountered along designated trails and beaches. There is typically time for about 45 minutes of snorkeling or swimming.

Lunch is served onboard at about 12:30 and there is an opportunity to rest as the yacht cruises to the next visitor site. In the afternoon, a 3 hour excursion could include snorkeling amid colorful tropical fish, swimming or kayaking with sea lions or cruising in the *panga* to view marine birds and wildlife along the cliffs if there is not a designated landing site. A delicious dinner featuring Ecuadorian as well as International specialties is served at about 19:00 followed by a guide briefing for the following day's activities and special features of the observation sites.

The ship guarantees all departures without a minimum of passengers (maximum is 48). SWA will operate this trip for a minimum of 2 Southwind passengers. There will be other passengers onboard who have booked through other tour companies and/or travel agencies. Those guests will not participate in the full Southwind itinerary which includes Otavalo and the other mainland services, they do not count toward group size for land cost pricing.

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FAMILY ADVENTURES: A visit to the enchanted isles of Galápagos National Park makes an ideal family vacation. Adults and children alike love the contact with wildlife and water activities. Children as young as 6-11 years old are welcome aboard and qualify for special discounts. M/Y La Pinta doesn't offer designated Family Departures but includes activities for children year round. For year-end Holiday cruises, place your reservations at least 1 year in advance for better chances of obtaining space aboard M/Y La Pinta.

PRIVATE GROUPS: Special charters of the M/Y La Pinta (or any of our other vessels) are available for private parties. We suggest making charter arrangements 1-1.5 years in advance and would be happy to provide you with prices and more information.

WEATHER: The **Galápagos Islands** have a surprisingly cool, sub-tropical climate. Weather is regulated by the cold Humboldt, or Peruvian, current (northeasterly trade winds flowing along the western coast of South America and out to the islands) during the dry season and the warm waters from the Panama Basin during the wet season. The islands only receive an average of 10" of rain per year so it is never "rainy". Temperatures vary according to the strength of the trade winds. **December through June**, the cooling currents subside and temperatures rise. Many consider this the hot season or "rainy" season. Daytime highs are in the upper 80's and low 90's, falling to the low 70's at night. The water temperature is also at its warmest during these months (averaging 72-76°F). February through April have the highest precipitation levels (between 1-2" per month) with the rest of year having less than 1" per month. During the months of **July through November**, the trade winds pick up again so the climate is cool and breezy. Many prefer to call this the cool season rather than the dry season. Air temperatures average 73°F during the day (62°F at night) and the water temperature is 68°F. The sea can be a little bit choppy during these months and the sky can be somewhat misty, a phenomenon locally called *garua*.

TEMPERATURES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
MAX AIR TEMP	84	86	88	86	82	78	76	74	76	77	78	80
MIN AIR TEMP	70	74	74	72	72	68	66	64	62	64	66	68
AVE SEA TEMP	74	76	76	76	74	74	72	66	68	70	72	74
AVE RAINFALL	1	1	2	1.5	0.75	0.25	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.5

Temperatures are given in degrees Fahrenheit and rainfall amounts are in inches.

Cusco: The second half of the trip is in mountainous regions where weather conditions change suddenly. The best policy for enjoying such capricious weather is to be prepared for all possibilities ranging from intense sunshine to rain, cold, and/or wind. Generally the Andean climate during the months of April-November is clear, dry and cool, but as this program includes time in the cloud forests on the eastern slopes of the Andes, rain should be expected anytime. Brief hail, sleet or snow storms might also occur at the highest elevations anytime. Andean nights are cold, while the days are pleasant and springlike. **Cusco** has daytime highs in the mid-70's and nighttime lows in the upper 30's. Both daytime and nighttime temperatures in the Sacred Valley are about 10-15° warmer. The Cusco region gets more precipitation (averaging 4-6 inches/month) during the wet season, December-March, when high temperatures average between the mid-60's & 70 degrees during the day and mid-40s at night. The likelihood of rain at Machu Picchu is high. Expect showers, overcast days or mist on most departures. The daytime temperatures in the Lost City are hot (78-85°F), with mild nights (lows around 45-50°F). The sun is quite intense at these elevations, (and in the Galápagos), so a good sun hat along with sunscreen is needed to prevent severe sunburns. Insect repellents such as Skintastic or Skin-so-Soft or long pants are a wise choice to guard against the no-see-ums at Machu Picchu.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE: The Land Cost for this trip DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip airfare from a US gateway to Quito and Lima-US gateway is about \$800-\$1,000. **In-country flight** estimates are \$540 for Quito-Galápagos-Quito, and \$750 for Quito-Lima-Cusco-Lima. All fares are per person estimates. International flights into Quito and out of Lima are currently serviced by American Airlines (Miami), United/Continental Airlines (Houston), LAN Airlines (Miami and JFK) and Delta (Atlanta).

Note: We recommended you **DO NOT** purchase any airline tickets until your trip has been confirmed.

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HOW TO SIGN UP: Submit Southwind's Trip Reservation Form along with a \$1,000 per person per trip deposit (payable by check or credit card). The form and deposit can be completed securely online at www.southwindadventures.com by clicking on "Book a Trip" at the top of our homepage. If you prefer, you can print the Trip Reservation Form and mail/fax it to our office with your deposit. You can also call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements (**your deposit will be charged and your reservation confirmed once we receive your Trip Reservation Form**).

Land Balance: Final payment is due at 90 days by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express or check. You will receive a trip invoice indicating your balance due. Provided services and space are available, reservations can be accepted up to 21 days before departure. Galápagos vessels are relatively small compared to other cruises, so they typically sell out several months in advance. Early booking is required for all departures. Galápagos trips do not qualify for any Southwind discounts except the Children Discounts mentioned under the Land Cost section.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under the 2012 Terms & Conditions on Southwind's website (click [Book a Trip](#)>2012 Terms & Conditions).

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