



ECUADOR

GALAPAGOS WILDLIFE ODYSSEY ABOARD THE M/V SANTA CRUZ II



- DURATION:** 10 days / 9 nights
- SEASON:** Year-round
- DEPARTURES:** Guaranteed with a minimum of 2 participants.
An exceptional itinerary departing every other week.
- TRIP RATING:** Easy/moderate coastal tour & natural history Cruise, Grade (I) - This trip includes activities at elevations of up to 2,000' as well as a 7 day/6night cruise with occasional wet landings (ankle to knee deep water) to reach the observation sites. Optional water activities include swimming, snorkeling and kayaking with marine wildlife and easy hikes of up to 4 hours duration on occasionally rough or rocky trails. Anyone in reasonably good fitness and condition, who is able to walk unassisted for up to 4 hours, should be able to enjoy a visit to the *Enchanted Isles*.
- 2018 DATES:** On request throughout the year, subject to availability
The M/V Santa Cruz II won't be on dry dock during 2018

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 these stunning islands. 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 6-day cruise itineraries, aboard one of the most comfortable vessels in these waters. It is an ideal opportunity to explore these remarkable islands, and to watch and photograph their unique wildlife.

Starting with an overnight in Guayaquil, our first day is spent touring this historical and vibrant city. Then, we catch a flight to Baltra Island and start exploring aboard our 90-passenger first-class expedition ship. 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, waved albatrosses, and the diving blue-footed boobies. Water activities include swimming with Galápagos green turtles or snorkeling with sea lions and fur seals! Enjoy beautiful views of white, olive or coral sand beaches and turquoise water and prepare to be impressed by powerful forces of nature. Following the 7-day cruise we fly back to Guayaquil for a night before returning home.

Ecuador: Galápagos Wildlife Odyssey

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01 (WED): USA / GUAYAQUIL

Arrive this evening to Ecuador's coastal, vibrant and commercial center city of **Guayaquil**, located at the western banks of the Guayas River. Our friendly local staff greets you and brings you by private vehicle to one of the city's finest hotels just 15 minutes away, the riverside [Wyndham Hotel](#) for the night.

DAY 02 (THU): GUAYAQUIL

The full day city tour of **Guayaquil** starts with a stop at the historical park, a glimpse into the beginnings of this important port city, as well as its lively present-day culture and natural environment. The park's gardens burst with the region's endemic flora. It is also an ideal location to learn about the birds, reptiles, and mammals of this region. Then we go for a short walk to the Southern Malecon 2000, a boardwalk overlooking the Guayas River, where you'll peruse the Integration Plaza with its famous Southern Marketplace and Cristal Palace. Lunch is included at a traditional Ecuadorian restaurant with samples of fine local cuisine. Next, visit the Olmedo Plaza and see the monument to Jose Joaquin Olmedo, a recognized Ecuadorian poet. We also stop at the Morisca Tower for excellent views of the city and the famous monument to the four elements of the planet. Then, we visit the Ecua-Andino hats workshop and learn about the elaboration of the famed Panama hats made of Toquilla straw. For our final visit of the day, we head over to the oldest sectors of the city, the colonial neighborhood of Las Peñas (declared as Cultural Heritage in 1982) where we can walk its narrow streets and admire the magnificent wood architecture and colorful houses. Overnight at the modern and comfortable [Wyndham Hotel](#) overlooking the Guayas River. (B,L)

DAY 03 (FRI): GUAYAQUIL / BALTRA ISLAND / MOSQUERA ISLET (GALAPAGOS)

Following breakfast, we're picked up at the hotel to return to the airport. Our guide assists us with checking in for the 2 hour commercial jet flight to **Baltra Island**. Upon arrival, 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 motorized zodiac rafts, or dinghies, out to our well-appointed vessel, the [M/V Santa Cruz](#). After our crew welcomes us aboard there is a briefing and safety drill. Lunch is served onboard en route to **Mosquera Islet**, a small volcanic uplift between Baltra and North Seymour. This visit with a wet landing may very well be the perfect introduction to the Galápagos. The island is a long and narrow sand bank surrounded by lava reefs. Our groups will approach the island from its western shore, a long shallow reef. Although the island is characterized by arid vegetation, fauna abounds and you will soon find yourself surrounded by sea lions, herons, swallow tailed or Lava gulls. We may even see orcas that occasionally come here to feed on the sea lions. You will learn more about the fragile marine and terrestrial ecosystems of Galápagos. The nature walk is easy as it is restricted to a few hundred yards of flat sandy dunes. This will also be a great opportunity for an introduction to snorkeling. Back on board we receive a briefing and a welcome cocktail before dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 04 (SAT): SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND / PUNTA PITT

After a nutritional breakfast, we disembark (dry landing) at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **San Cristobal** island's capital, and drive 40 minutes to the island's southern shore. At Cerro Colorado, we visit the breeding center for the highly endangered giant tortoises in the midst of a fantastic deciduous forest, home to dozens of bird species, including the San Cristobal mockingbird, and the San Cristobal lava lizard, both island endemics. We enjoy a fresh lunch on the ship and get ready for our next adventure. Wet landing this afternoon at **Punta Pitt**, which is located on the eastern tip of San Cristobal Island. This area is an eroded tuff cone, whose trail provides spectacular views of the shoreline. At Punta Pitt, conditions are good for spotting the rare Red Footed Boobies nesting in the cliffs. In fact, it is the only visitor site in the Galápagos where it is possible to view together all three types of Boobies. We can walk up to a plateau where views of the landscape are spectacular or enjoy a zodiac ride along the coast. To complete this active afternoon of hiking, you can choose between water activities like kayaking, snorkeling, and zodiac rides to catch a glimpse of the astounding marine life at Punta Pitt. Return to the ship for our expedition plan for Sunday and a congenial dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 05 (SUN): SANTA FE ISLAND / SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND

We experience a wet landing and excursion at **Santa Fe Island** this morning. Formed by uplifting, rather than by a volcano, Santa Fe is known for having one of the most beautiful coves in all the Galápagos. We take the dinghy over to this idyllic sandy-white beach populated by many sea lions. Some of the island's endemic species include the Galápagos Hawk, Galápagos Snake, rice rats, different types of finches, and the Galápagos Mockingbird. The visit includes a hike on a trail past salt bushes where Galápagos hawks and marine iguanas tend to roam. The endemic Santa Fe land iguana, unique to this island, may be also spotted during the walk amid the giant prickly pear cactus. Playful sea lions will usually accompany swimmers and snorkelers during beach time. Go swimming and snorkeling from the zodiacs or

Ecuador: Galápagos Wildlife Odyssey

kayak, or if some guests prefer, the glass bottom boat is available for non-snorkelers. After lunch on board this afternoon our dry landing excursion is on **South Plaza Island**. We navigate a channel, whose turquoise waters contrast brilliantly with the white sand and black lava of the shoreline. Although small, this site is home to a large *Opuntia* cacti forest, land iguanas and one of the largest sea lion colonies in the central region of the archipelago. An endemic plant, *Sesuvium*, inhabits this island and is a great climate indicator as its color is a greenish-yellowish during the rainy season and a bright red during the dry season. Beyond, a carpet of scarlet *Sesuvium* plants serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus. Yellow-grey land iguanas sit beneath these, waiting patiently for pears to drop. Along the coastline one finds Nazca boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, while frigates, shearwaters gliding and playing with the thermals, a variety of sea birds and finches. Back on board we enjoy dinner and the daily briefing. (B,L,D)

DAY 06 (MON): SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

This morning we anchor in Academy Bay on **Santa Cruz Island**, home to the bustling village of Puerto Ayora. After breakfast, we disembark (dry landing) to visit the **Charles Darwin Research Station** within an impressive giant prickly-pear cactus forest home to many land birds. These are the headquarters of scientific investigation, conservation and the National Park administration. Here we learn about the threats that exist to the wildlife and the conservation efforts to protect the islands. We watch both hatchling and young Galápagos tortoises in the baby tortoise house where the young are raised until large enough to survive on their own. We also watch some of the remaining 11 subspecies found on the islands and interact with them during our visit to the different enclosures where males and females pass their days, quietly munching on greens and greeting visitors. These lumbering vegetarians are very impressive; for many guests coming face-to-face with the giant tortoises is a trip highlight. A full-grown adult male can weigh up to 550 pounds, and we see just how large they are as we approach to within a few feet! Later this morning, board a private bus to enjoy lunch in the cooler highlands of Santa Cruz Island, a completely different ecosystem. This afternoon we have several options available (mountain biking, kayaking in Tortuga Bay, hiking), which can be discussed in advance with your Expedition Leader. At the end of the day, we return to Puerto Ayora and embark on the Santa Cruz II. (B,L,D)

DAY 07 (TUE): ESPANOLA ISLAND / GARDNER BAY

This morning we visit Punta Suarez at the western end of **Espanola Island**. We approach a small cove in our zodiac, and are most likely escorted by half-a-dozen curious juvenile sea lions, tagging along and playing in the motor's wake. After a dry landing an exciting walk awaits at this site, we pass through a large blue-footed booby colony. There is always interesting behavior to observe here - courtship dances with sky pointing, whistling and honking, mating, nest building or chick rearing! As many of the nesting sites are located right on the trail, there are plenty of opportunities to take close-up photographs of the birds. We walk through a large Nazca booby colony, then make our way past a beach full of colorful marine iguanas. Here we watch water spouting into the sky from the "Blow Hole". From the seaward cliffs above we can watch swallow-tailed gulls, boobies, red-billed tropicbirds and other marine birds swooping and diving into the waves. Behind the cliffs we may encounter a colony of majestic waved albatrosses. These impressive birds, the largest in the archipelago, have a wing span of up to 8 feet and are so heavy they need to waddle quite a distance to reach the cliffs to catch an updraft in order to take off. The courtship ritual of these beautiful creatures is one of the most complex mating dances of any bird species and can take up to 4 hours to complete! The albatrosses are out to sea from January through March and typically can't be observed during these months. Back on board for lunch and some time at leisure. This afternoon we visit **Gardner Bay** on Espanola Island, the most southerly and oldest of the islands, whose beautiful white coral beach is reached by a wet landing. Of all the islands, Espanola has the highest number of endemic species. A transient colony of sea lions frequents this beach, also a major nesting site for marine turtles. Around the small islets, snorkelers will find lots of fish, sometimes even turtles and sharks. Throughout the afternoon there are opportunities for swimming, snorkeling and kayaking. Keep an eye out for Galápagos Hawks and marine iguanas. Returning to the vessel, we enjoy dinner before beginning our next navigation. (B,L,D)

DAY 08 (WED): EDEN ISLET / NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND

The morning light shines on **Eden**, a small islet located off the coast of Santa Cruz. Following a delicious breakfast, a zodiac ride takes us to this islet where we can observe blue-footed boobies diving into the water, reef sharks and frigates. There's a chance to snorkel in these rich in marine life waters and, if weather condition permits, explore the underwater wonders riding in the glass-bottom boat and kayak. After lunch onboard, this afternoon is dedicated to **North Seymour Island**, a dry landing may very well be the perfect completion to the Galápagos Islands and their wildlife. Both Baltra and North Seymour Islands have a similar unique topography since both were formed from a geological submarine uplift, which gives the islands their low, flat profile, as opposed to the islands formed by underwater volcanoes that we visited throughout the past days. Some of the distinctive arid vegetation on this island includes the Prickly Pear Cacti, the silver-grey 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

Ecuador: Galápagos Wildlife Odyssey

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, two species of frigate birds, and more. This evening, we enjoy a farewell cocktail and a special captain's dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 09 (THU): BALTRA ISLAND / GUAYAQUIL

After breakfast and saying goodbye to the crew, we disembark at **Baltra Island** in order to transfer to the airport to take the flight back to the mainland. Back in **Guayaquil**, Southwind's friendly staff greets you at the airport and transfers you to the familiar [Wyndham Hotel](#). This evening dinner is on your own to try some of the city's gourmet restaurants that feature international and Ecuadorian cuisine. Travelers departing this evening have a transfer back to the airport and check-in assistance for their overnight flight. (B)

DAY 10 (FRI) GUAYAQUIL / USA

Early pick up at the hotel, transfer to the airport with check-in assistance for your flight home. (B)

NOTES ON THE ITINERARY: 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 at least 4-6 months in advance (1 year or more for holiday departures) to ensure space on the trip of your choice. Reservations made less than 90 days prior to departure are subject to availability and must be paid in full at the time of booking.

Our Galápagos trips are suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to outdoor activities age 6 and up. Cruises may include families and children onboard. Hiking, driving distances and altitudes are approximate, times indicated are NET (they do not include lunch breaks, rest stops, time to explore the area, etc.).

2018 LAND COSTS:	<u>Expedition Deck Explorer cabins</u>	<u>Panorama Deck Explorer cabins</u>
	\$7,860 ppd (2-3 participants)	\$8,045 ppd (2-3 participants)
	\$7,660 ppd (4-6 participants)	\$7,845 ppd (4-6 participants)
	\$7,510 ppd (7-12 participants)	\$7,695 ppd (7-12 participants)
	\$395 Single Supplement (hotels only)	

ppd = per person double occupancy

On the M/V Santa Cruz II there are a total of 50 cabins for up to 90 guests, 43 of which are Explorer Cabins and located in different decks (23 on the Horizon Deck, 17 on the Expedition Deck and 3 on the Panorama Deck). All are the same size (163.2 sq ft), have the same size large windows, and beds that can convert from twin to double beds.

3 larger Darwin Suites (325 sq ft) are available at additional cost on the Panorama Deck, they feature double picture windows, provide superb comfort and deluxe amenities for more discerning guests. Available in double or twin beds. The Suites can be connected with an Explorer cabin. For families traveling with children, the vessel also offers 2 Triple cabins with a sofa sleeper (192 sq ft) and 36 connected cabins. Double cabins for single use do have a surcharge of 15% except during Peak season.

Due to Government measures in Ecuador, most vessels operating in the Galápagos have implemented a fuel surcharge. Effective for cruises departing after Jan 01, 2018, the additional fee is currently waived.

Peak Season cruises: For departures during Christmas (Dec 24-28) and New Year (Dec 28-Jan 03), there is a Holiday surcharge. Different deposits, cancellation fees and payments procedures apply for these departures. Please contact your Southwind Travel Consultant for details.

Children's Discount: Kids 6-11 years old at the time of travel are entitled to a discount of \$1,475 ppd (Expedition Deck cabins) or \$1,520 ppd (Panorama Deck cabins) on the *Wildlife Odyssey* Land Cost. • **Note:** Children's discounts are limited to one per each accompanying adult sharing a Cabin. No discounts are allowed during the Peak season (Christmas and New Year's departures). Other restrictions may apply.

Ecuador: Galápagos Wildlife Odyssey

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 comfortable private vehicles with professional drivers. Occasionally, other Southwind travelers may share the same vehicle, particularly for transfers in Guayaquil.
- Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance**.
- Galápagos National **Park entrance fee** of \$100 per person (\$50 per child 11 or under).
- Galápagos **Transit control card fee** of \$20 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 applicable entrance fees), accompanied by a bilingual resident guide in Guayaquil.
- Arrival and departure transfers in the Galápagos.
- Accommodations on the First-class, 90-passenger, **M/V Santa Cruz II** in an outside cabin with private bath. Snorkeling gear is provided on board at no extra cost.
- Experienced sailing crew and staff of 60 plus up to 7 naturalist guides and 1 expedition leader (1 guide every 16 passengers) and a permanent Medical officer. Officers on board are also bilingual.

NOT INCLUDED:

- US domestic, International nor local flights to/from the islands (see **Estimated Airfare**).
- Ecuadorian departure taxes (typically included in your airfare)
- Alcoholic beverages, wetsuits and non-alcoholic beverages ordered from the bar on cruise, nor items of a personal nature like laundry, telephone calls, internet service, souvenirs etc.
- Tours, meals or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- 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 resulting from flight schedule changes, cancellations or missed connections.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend purchasing coverage to protect your trip investment. Travel insurance is important in case of unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates. Weather, geologic events, local strikes, personal injury/illness for you, your traveling companion or family members, could require itinerary interruption or changes. Missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage or the need for medical attention or evacuation are also reasons why coverage is important. Southwind offers several plans through Travel Insured International (TII) to fit your budget and coverage amount. We recommend TII's *Worldwide Trip Protector* which offers a good value and **free coverage for kids 17/under traveling with a related adult**. If you, your traveling companion or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you can still receive coverage if a recurrence of the condition forces you to cancel your trip (some restrictions apply and plan purchase needs to be done **within 21 days of your deposit date**). **Please call our office for a quote** or to discuss your insurance options. See our [Travel Insurance](#) page to learn more and purchase a plan.

M/V Santa Cruz II: Refurbished in 2015, the ship shows a new attractive look to explore Galápagos in style and comfort. This vessel guarantees that the utmost care will be given to the environment by implementing the newest sustainable advances in sailing, thus protecting the delicate ecosystem. With 5 spacious decks and elegant interiors the M/V Santa Cruz II assures guests a luxurious ambience from which they can appreciate the breathtaking scenery of the enchanted islands. Its 3 cabin decks host 90 guests in 50 modern cabins. Cabin options include single, double and family cabins. All cabins are equipped with private bathrooms, air conditioning, a large picture window, hair dryer, iPod / MP3 docking station, electrical outlets, in-room safe, reading lights and more. The vessel also offers the exclusive Darwin Suites on the boat's top Panorama Deck. These suites provide guests with enhanced service, as well as selected details such as a take-home Galápagos book and a tablet loan for each cabin.

Ecuador: Galápagos Wildlife Odyssey

When not exploring the islands, guests can relax in the communal spaces, decks or viewing platforms. Enjoying facilities such as indoor and outdoor dining, a lounge bar, complete library, two hot tubs overlooking the ocean and a gym. Meals are served in the Beagle Dining Room or outside Al fresco on the Panorama Deck. Snacks & drinks are served after explorations, whether in the bar, in the library or on the outdoor terrace, where you can take in the fabulous vistas and marine breezes of the Galápagos. A 24-hour coffee station located in the library provides free coffee, tea, and water. Santa Cruz offers menus featuring freshly caught fish and seafood plus organically grown vegetables and fruit, all prepared by a team passionate to provide culinary delights of Ecuadorean and international cuisine under the creative lead of the Gastronomy Director.

Offering 5 and 7-day itineraries, the vessel includes explorations of the Northern, Eastern and Western Islands of Galápagos. Throughout each of these excursions, up to 7 of the knowledgeable naturalists will be available to guide visitors, along with an Expedition Leader who is responsible for ensuring that the outings fully highlights the wonders of the Galápagos. Daily expeditions are adjusted to the personal needs and interests of the guests, including hikes and aquatic activities such as kayaking, snorkeling, and zodiac or glass-bottom boat excursions.

ON BOARD: A typical day on board begins with a beautiful sunrise and breakfast served generally at 07:00. Afterwards, at about 08:30, we join our English-speaking naturalist for a 3-4 hour shore excursion. (Certified by the Charles Darwin Research Station and the National Park Service, the guides aboard these boats are typically level III, meaning they have achieved the highest level of certification and experience.) We board our zodiac, or small motorized dinghy, 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 we encounter as we hike along designated trails and beaches. There is typically time for swimming or snorkeling before lunch for those that enjoy these activities.

Lunch is onboard with siesta time while cruising to the next visitor site. In the afternoon, a 3 hour excursion might include snorkeling amid colorful tropical fish, swimming with sea lions or cruising in the zodiac to view marine birds and wildlife along the cliffs if there is not a designated landing site. Guides will discuss the next day's activities and special features of the observation sites we visit as well offer lectures about natural history of the islands before we enjoy a delicious dinner featuring Ecuadorian as well as International specialties, which is served on board at about 19:30. The ship guarantees all its departures without a minimum number of passengers and a maximum number of 90. Southwind offers this trip for a minimum of 2 passengers. There will be other travelers on board the ship who have booked through other tour companies or travel agencies. They will not participate in the full Southwind program that includes the other mainland services and does not count toward group size for land cost pricing.

OPTIONAL TRIP EXTENSIONS: Travelers with a few extra days may wish to include a visit to the Amazon Rainforests, Cuenca and the southern highlands or Mindo Cloud forest and the Western rainforest. Extensions require a minimum of 2 participants. To view the extensions on our website, click on ['Extend Your Trip'](#).

COMBINATION TRIPS: For those who would like to spend an extra week exploring South America, and wish to see other areas of interest, our *Galápagos Wildlife Odyssey* departures have been designed to coordinate with our tour to Machu Picchu in Peru for the once-in-a-lifetime 14-day [Galapagos and Machu Picchu aboard the M/V Santa Cruz II](#).

FAMILY ADVENTURES: A visit to the enchanted Galápagos Islands makes an ideal family vacation. Adults and children alike love communing with wildlife and the water activities. Children age 6-11 are welcome aboard and qualify for the discounts indicated on page 4.

PRIVATE GROUPS: Special charters of the Santa Cruz (or any of our other vessels) are available for private parties. We suggest making charter arrangements 2 years in advance.

WEATHER: The Galápagos Islands have a surprisingly cool, sub-tropical climate. Weather is regulated by the cold Humboldt Current (flows north-westward along 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 trade wind strength.

December – June: Cooling currents subside and temps rise. Many consider this the hot/wetter season. Daytime highs are upper 80's-low 90's and 70's at night. The water temp is at its warmest (ave 72-76°F). Feb-Apr have the highest

Ecuador: Galápagos Wildlife Odyssey

precipitation levels (1-2"/month), rest of year is less than 1"/month.

July – November: The trade winds pick up and the climate becomes cool & breezy. Many consider this the cool/drier season. Daytime air temp average is 73°F and 62°F at night. The ave water temp is 68°F. The sea can be a bit choppy during these months and the sky can be 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.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE: The Land Cost for this trip DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip airfare from US gateway cities to Quito is about \$600-\$900. This amount does not include the local flights to/from Galápagos estimated at \$550. Non-stop flights to Quito (UIO) are offered by American (Miami & Dallas), LATAM Airlines (Miami), United (Houston) and Delta (Atlanta). United (Houston) and Delta (Atlanta) only have service to Quito; if you need to use these carriers, we can assist with Quito arrangements, but we recommend Guayaquil as the most convenient and lower-cost routing. You are welcome to redeem award tickets or Southwind can help coordinate all your flights. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you more information about booking your flights to match your land itinerary.

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

HOW TO SIGN UP: Please complete Southwind’s [Trip Reservation eForm](#). There are fields for up to 4 travelers per form with the same address. Upon receipt, your Travel Consultant will send you a SmartPay link **to pay your \$1,500 per person deposit** by any major credit card. If you prefer, you can also call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements by phone or send a check. You will receive confirmation of your deposit. Once your trip is guaranteed to operate, you will receive comprehensive pre-departure planning documents by email.

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 30 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 [Terms & Conditions](#) on Southwind’s website.

18-GWO-Santa Cruz/Nov17