ECUADOR & PERU

GALAPAGOS AND MACHU PICCHU TOUR
ABOARD THE M/Y YACHT LA PINTA

DURATION: 14 days / 13 nights

SEASON: April through December

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, snorkeling or kayaking 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.

2026 DATES: On request any week throughout the year, subject to availability
La Pinta won't be on dry dock during 2026

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 an unbeatable 5-day cruise itinerary, aboard one of the most well-appointed vessels in these waters.

After a night in Quito, we tour this historical and charming city. Following a morning flight to Baltra Island, we begin the cruise aboard our comfortable 48-passenger, superior 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 by visiting important central and northern islands. Learn about fascinating species such as marine and land iguanas, giant tortoises and blue-footed boobies. Swim with Galápagos penguins and have the chance to snorkel with sea lions and fur seals! While enjoying beautiful views of white sand beaches caressed by turquoise waters, be awed by the powerful forces of nature. Following our cruise, fly back 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 Vistadome 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.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01 (SAT): USA / QUITO
We arrive this evening to Ecuador's lively capital, **Quito**, located at 9,350' in an Andean valley between rugged volcanic peaks. Meet your friendly Southwind guide at the airport (7,875') and transfer about 50 min by private vehicle to one of the city's finest hotels, the centrally located Swissotel Hotel where we spend the night. Meals are on your own today.

DAY 02 (SUN): QUITO
Join your private Southwind guide for a full-day personalized tour of Quito and the equator monument. Colonial **Quito**, located along Ecuador's Avenue of the Volcanoes, is a rising star among South American capitals. First drive with your guide about an hour north of the capital to **Mitad del Mundo**, marking the equator's path through the country. We visit the intriguing open air Inti-ñan solar museum with exhibits unique to the geographical location, such as balancing an egg on the head of nail and the Coriolis Effect, demonstrating equal forces only found on the equator. A sun dial not only tells time, but produces a shadow on its south & north face precisely for 6 months and only on both faces during the equinoxes. Exhibits of Ecuador's ethnic groups feature typical clothing, housing styles and local customs. Next we drive back to Quito to see how the narrow cobbled streets and plazas of old town have been reinvigorated with boutique hotels and fine eateries where you can savor ceviches, quinoa soups, salads and Ecuadorian chocolate. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, old town shines with evening lighting, whitewashed adobe walls, plazas for strolling and historic churches. Your visit will include the **La Compañía or San Francisco churches** with their ornate, gold-plated altars and collections of colonial paintings. Lunch is included at a traditional Ecuadorian restaurant with samples of fine local cuisine. From the top of Panecillo Hill or Itchimbia Park take in a spectacular view of the capital and nearby volcanoes. After a fun day of activity, return to your hotel in Quito to prepare for the next leg of your journey to the Galapagos. You can choose to dine at the hotel or a local restaurant within walking distance. You will be overnight at the comfortable Swissotel Hotel that features five distinctive restaurants with menus to satisfy every palate. (B,L)

DAY 03 (MON): QUITO / BALTRA ISLAND / SANTA CRUZ (GALAPAGOS)
Pick up at the hotel and return to the airport. Our guide assists with check-in for the 2.5 hour commercial jet flight to **Baltra Island**, with one stop in Guayaquil en route. Upon arrival, pass through inspection where park officials ensure no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands. Meet your naturalist guides and transfer to the Itabaca Channel, taking a small ferry across the Channel to the north shore of **Santa Cruz Island**. We board our bus to the highlands of Santa Cruz, where we'll learn about the unique montane ecosystems and biodiversity. 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. Lunch is served at a local restaurant. Afterwards, we travel by bus to the **El Chato Reserve** on Santa Cruz, one of the best places in the archipelago to see giant tortoises in their natural habitat. The tortoises are easy to spot, lumbering around, eating grass and leaves and wallowing in the small pools. There are several lava tunnels in the reserve, too. A short bus ride takes us down to Puerto Ayora where we catch our zodiac, or small motorized dinghy, to the comfortable M/Y La Pinta to begin our 5 day/4 night cruise. After our crew welcomes us aboard with a cocktail, briefing and safety drill, dinner is served in the dining room. **Note:** please dress with walking shoes and comfortable clothes and be ready for touring. Bring a daypack with any medicines, sunblock, raincoat, water, insect repellent and anything you may need during the excursion as your main luggage will be unavailable until you board La Pinta at the end of the day. (B,L,D)

DAY 04 (TUE): SANTA CRUZ ISLAND
After breakfast, a zodiac ride takes us to **Eden Islet**, located off the Western coast of Santa Cruz. This site has no landing area; the main attraction is its incredible marine life. Here we can observe the graceful blue-footed boobies diving into the water to speer fish, Nazca boobies, marine iguanas, pelicans, lava gulls, reef sharks, rays and frigates. Ashore a variety of birds can be seen across mangrove and rocks, striated herons and perhaps flamingos. There's a chance to snorkel and, if weather permits, ride in the glass-bottom boat. We then depart the island for a delightful lunch on board, later on we stop at the tiny island of **Sombrero Chino** which gets its name from its appearance: a Chinese hat. This islet, only formed fairly recently, makes a beautiful visit with its quarter-mile trail, which begins at a crescent-shaped white sandy beach nestled discreetly in the sheltered cove between Sombrero Chino and Santiago. Sea lions and American oystercatchers often frequent this beach. The trail continues along the coastline of the cove, passing beside the island's characteristic lava terrain and colorful pioneer vegetation and offering glimpses of lava lizards, marine iguanas, and Sally Lightfoot crabs battling the changing tides. The trail ends at the island's rocky shore, which is spattered with scenic tide

pools lined with green algae and marine iguana passersby during the cool season. The cove offers excellent swimming and snorkeling opportunities in tranquil blue waters with sea lions, white-tipped reef sharks, Galápagos penguins and tropical fish. We return to the ship for dinner and a preview of tomorrow's activities. (B,L,D)

DAY 05 (WED): BARTOLOME AND SANTIAGO ISLANDS

This morning, a Galápagos icon awaits: **Bartolomé Island**. Start the day with an invigorating ascent up 375ft in elevation along a wooden path on a dormant volcano. The geological features and soils here are delicate and monitored for preservation. A spectacular panoramic view awaits from the top! The island is a unique lava landscape with pioneer plants like the candelabra cactus. It's dotted with craters, cinder cones, lava flows, spatter cones and broken lava tunnels which run down from the summit. Back at shore, we take to the dinghies for a ride around Pinnacle Rock, the eroded remains of an old volcanic tuff cone. Enjoy the beach and some snorkeling with sea lions and maybe even penguins! A small colony of penguin breeds in the small bay, making this site one of the best places to see them. We can also ride in the glass-bottom boat for great views of the underwater world. Sea turtles have chosen this place as a nesting site, and white-tipped reef sharks are also seen. We return to La Pinta for a delicious lunch. This afternoon, we board the zodiacs to land at **Sullivan Bay** on the east coast of Santiago, a white coral sand beach great for swimming and snorkeling. This is a good area to spot black and white oystercatchers, lava herons and sally light-foot crabs. Follow almost a mile-long trail over a dark lava field that flowed here less than 100 years ago. This is the perfect place to see and feel the volcanic origin of Galápagos and learn about the Pahoehoe lava flows (solidified lava in corrugated form), while observing its wildlife. Tonight's expedition briefing reveals interesting sites for the day ahead. (B,L,D)

DAY 06 (THU): GENOVESA ISLAND

In the morning, we begin our exploration of this island at **Darwin Bay**, a flooded caldera of an extinct volcano, with an easy stroll to observe marine and land birds. Highlights are the nesting colonies of the common frigate, the Nazca booby and the swallow-tailed gulls. We also find nests of red-footed booby in the largest nesting colony of Galápagos for pelagic birds. Red-footed boobies are the only members of the Gannet and Booby family known to nest in trees. The nests are fairly solid structures of twigs, feathers and guano. Birds lay a single egg and both sexes incubate and fend for the young. Swallow-tailed gulls feed at night on squid and fish. They usually nest in cliffs and rocks, but here they do so on sand to camouflage their black spotted eggs. The Great Frigatebird is abundant here and is one of the main attractions of the island. Yellow-crowned Night Herons are also found here. **Genovesa** has no reptiles, possibly due to lack of proper conditions for the nesting of these vertebrates. There is an optional walk over sharp lava and uneven terrain for dramatic views, or we can return to the beach to enjoy swimming and snorkeling at this beautiful natural harbor. The more adventurous can snorkel along the cliffs or paddle sea kayaks. Following an alfresco lunch onboard La Pinta, the afternoon starts with a very interesting zodiac ride along the cliffs looking for fur seals and several species of seabirds. Then we disembark (dry landing) for a short but steep climb up a wooden staircase, the **Prince Philip's Steps**. Once at the top, the land is flat with a thin Palo Santo forest, allowing for a captivating walk of about a mile to the other side of this 5 square-mile island, observing large colonies of Nazca boobies, frigate birds and storm petrels. You can see two species of petrels that nest in cavities and holes in the lava. One is the wooden petrel, which feed during the night, and the other is the Galápagos petrel that is active during the day. One of its main predators is the short-eared owl. Following this afternoon excursion, we return to the yacht for dinner and the next day's plan. (B,L,D)

DAY 07 (FRI): BALTRA ISLAND / GUAYAQUIL / LIMA

After breakfast and a splendid sunrise, we say goodbye to our crew and disembark (dry landing) at **Baltra Island** where we transfer to the airport to take the flight back to **Guayaquil**. Baltra's flat substrate (due to its uplifted origin) is the reason why the island was chosen back in the 1940s as the location to building an airport. Arriving to Guayaquil in the afternoon, we're met at the airport by a Southwind representative and assisted with catching our 2-hour evening flight to **Lima, Peru.** Upon arrival in Lima's Jorge Chavez airport, our friendly staff meets you and assists with check-in at the Wyndham Grand Costa del Sol Hotel located across from the international terminal. (B)

DAY 08 (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 Urubamba and check-in to the Sol y Luna Hotel & Spa (9,430'), a charming Andean hacienda style Relais & Chateaux property where you can relax and unwind with dinner included this evening. (B,L,D)

DAY 09 (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 Pitusiray, both over 18,000 feet high. We arrive midmorning at **Chinchero** (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 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 Hotel & Spa in Urubamba to relax and unwind. (B,L)

DAY 10 (MON): MACHU PICCHU

Rise early to head back to Ollantaytambo to board the **Vistadome train** for a 1.5 hour ride to the village of Machu Picchu. Ascending to **Machu Picchu** (7,874') by shuttle with your 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 several of the various sectors of the ruins: the industrial area, Temple of the Sun and Royal Tomb, the ceremonial water fountains and baths and Sacred Plazas. There should be time today for the 30-minute walk to the **Inca Drawbridge**, an ingenious construction. We stay at the charming Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, a former National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World, situated in 12 acres of cloud forest garden along the Urubamba River in town with dinner included this evening at the hotel's restaurant. (B,L,D)

DAY 11 (TUE): MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO

Early risers can head up to the ruins (gates open at 06:00) to catch the early morning light as the sun comes over *Intipunku*, or the Gateway of the Sun. There are several optional guided hikes in and around the site for active group members. **Huchuy Picchu Mountain,** departing from an access gate, a gradual uphill hike on a newly cleared trail about 30 min to a lookout point at 8,193 ft. **Huayna Picchu Mountain** (8,860') forms the backdrop to Machu Picchu. A steep and challenging trail requiring good physical conditioning leads to terraced ruins on top, providing an excellent birds-eye view. The route ascends steadily uphill approx 1.5 hours (952 ft) on a winding and sometimes exposed trail requiring hands for balance and to hold handrails on steeper sections. There is low cloud forest vegetation along the trail. The hike back down takes approx 1 hour, roundtrip is usually about 2.5-3 hours depending on rest breaks. This trail has abrupt drops and exposure, so it's not recommended for anyone with a fear of heights or vertigo.

A nice less-crowded alternative hike is the **Temple of the Moon** (elev 6,692'). A 3 hour roundtrip up and downhill shaded trail leads to the mysterious, partially excavated ruins on the backside of Huayna Picchu. A series of caverns likely contained mummies during Incan times. This quiet ceremonial monument is perched above the Urubamba River, access is via the same gate as Huayna Picchu then forks to the left initially following a stone paved section that traverses up and around the base of the mountain. You then arrive to a forested area of the trail and descends steadily on wider stone staircases 1,280 ft down to reach the site. The Temple site dates about 1,500 years and remained hidden away until rediscovered in 1936 (25 years after the Hiram Bingham expedition). 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 Incan terraces and Quechua communities leaving the lush cloud forests to make our way back to the highlands. Meet the private vehicle and transfer 1 hour 45' to **Cusco** (11,150') and the historic Palacio del Inka Hotel centrally located near the main plaza. This Luxury Collection hotel by Marriott is the former Palace

of the first governor of Peru, Francisco Pizarro and is built over Incan foundations. For dinner on your tonight, we recommend the hotel's Inti Raymi restaurant and a pisco sour, a traditional Peruvian drink. (B,L)

DAY 12 (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. Cobbled 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 Palacio del Inka Hotel with lunch on your own and the remainder of the afternoon available for personal activities. Dinner is on your own this evening to try some of the gourmet restaurants in town. (B)

DAY 13 (THU): CUSCO / LIMA / USA

Morning at leisure for personal explorations of 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 Museum** 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 14 (FRI): USA

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

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 well in advance of your preferred departure (at least 4-5 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 6 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.).

2026 LAND COSTS:

Stateroom cabins (Upper deck)	
2-3 participants:	from $15,200 p.p.d.
4-6 participants:	from $14,300 p.p.d.
7-12 participants:	from $13,800 p.p.d.

p.p.d.=per person based on double or triple occupancy not including airfare.
Only 3 Cabins at La Pinta are available for Single occupancy.

Peak Season cruises: For cruise departures from Dec 23 through Jan 02, 2026-27, there will be a Holiday surcharge and no discounts apply during this period. 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 $1,290 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.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE: The Land Cost DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Southwind's ticketing specialist can assist with all your air travel – providing an airfare quote to match your itinerary, personalized support for seating, monitoring schedule changes and coordinating directly with the airlines if any adjustments are needed. You'll also benefit

from access to lower contract fares for some routes. Ask about Business Class which is often a good value flying to Ecuador. Flights to Quito are offered by American Airlines (from Miami), United (Houston), Delta (Atlanta), JetBlue (Ft Lauderdale) and LATAM Airlines (Miami). Round-trip airfare from US gateway cities to Quito is about $600-900 per person. Some carriers offer flights to Guayaquil (GYE) where we can assist with arrangements. You have the option to arrange your own flights or redeem award travel yourself if you prefer. Estimated fares are approx $550/person for the Galapagos and $750 for Guayaquil-Lima-Cusco-Lima. Southwind coordinates your Galapagos flights in conjunction with your island visit, that fare is payable on your Southwind invoice. The airlines request that tickets match your passport name. Upon receipt of your deposit, Southwind provides flight booking details for your travel dates. It is important to NOT purchase any tickets until Southwind notifies you that your trip is confirmed.

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning packet** and expert travel advice.
- All **in-country transfers** as scheduled. Ground transportation in spacious and comfortable private vehicles with professional drivers.
- **First-class round-trip Vistadome or similar train** from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu town. 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 $200 p.p. ($100 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. Advanced bookings are recommended if you require double beds (King/queen) for couples, or plan to arrive early or extend your stay.
- 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 and Cusco/Machu Picchu regions.
- Arrival and departure transfers on Baltra island.
- Accommodations on the deluxe 48-passenger, **M/Y La Pinta** in an outside cabin with private bath. Wetsuits and snorkeling gear are provided on board at no extra cost.
- Experienced crew and staff of 24 plus up to 3 naturalist guides (1 guide every 16 passengers) 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.
- Early arrivals, dayrooms or late check-outs at hotels.
- Tours, meals (at about $40-60 each per person) or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- 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.

M/Y LA PINTA: An ideal size for cruising the waters of the Galápagos, the M/Y La Pinta has elegant public areas that 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 and private bathrooms.** 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, storage area, safe and desk. Outlets allow guests to charge photo/video equipment and personal electronics. Fine cotton linens, down duvets, choice of pillows, biodegradable amenities, spacious hot water showers, 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 6 sea kayaks** for natural history explorations.
Note: To learn more about this vessel and view a photo/video gallery, please visit: www.cruises.ec/yachtlapinta/

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 and service. We board our zodiacs, 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 among colorful tropical fish, swimming or kayaking 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. A delicious dinner featuring Ecuadorian as well as international specialties is served at about 19:30 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 Quito and Peru, they do not count toward group size for land cost pricing.

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.

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 strength of the trade winds.
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 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 and breezy. Many consider this the cool/drier season. Daytime air temp ave 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.

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.

7-DAY CRUISE OPTION & PRIVATE GROUPS: The M/Y La Pinta also offers a more comprehensive 7 day/6 night itinerary which includes the Western islands of Fernandina and Isabela that also pairs well with Peru and Machu Picchu for a total of 16 day/15 night. Ask your Travel Consultant for details. Special charters of the M/Y La Pinta (or any of our other vessels) are available for private parties. We suggest making charter arrangements 2-3 years in advance and would be happy to provide you with prices and more information.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: For peace of mind to help protect your travel investment, having coverage is important in case of unexpected trip cancellation due to illness or health/medical condition/injury requiring medical treatment by a physician. Other benefits can include tour delay/interruption from flight issues, weather events, strikes, medical quarantine or emergency accident/illness with evacuation to nearest treatment by US standards. Southwind recommends the **Worldwide Trip Protector Deluxe** from Travel Insured International. We can provide an eQuote on request tailored to your trip or a policy can be purchased directly from TII online or by phone at 800-243-3174. Coverage can also be done through any provider of your choice.

NEXT STEPS: Please contact Southwind to speak with a personal Travel Advisor to help fine tune your travel plans and to receive a custom itinerary with a land cost quote based on your travel dates. You can reach us by filling out our Private Trip Request form, by email at info@southwindadventures.com, by phone at 800-377-9463 or by text to 303-972-0701.
Reservations can be made up to 60 days before departure, provided tour services and hotels are available. 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. Once your trip is confirmed to operate, you will receive pre-departure planning materials, flight booking assistance and advice to help prepare for your exciting vacation.

.

We look forward to having you travel with us in Ecuador & Peru!

Southwind Adventures, Inc

Your Latin America Travel Specialist since 1990
Tel: 303-972-0701 or 800-377-9463 • info@southwindadventures.com
www.southwindadventures.com • Southwind Destinations

26Gmp.Pinta 5D/Version:Oct25