

# Ultimate Galapagos

*with Rich Pagen and Kristin Wornson*

Galapagos Islands | 13 DAYS | May 7 – 19 2024

# Go with Rich and Kristin

of *Inside Expeditions*



Kristin Wornson

## MARINE BIOLOGIST | ARTIST | NATURALIST

Kristin's love of beauty and wild things has taken her from skimming the surface of mudflats on a surfboard while researching nudibranch foraging behavior, to building a successful jewelry business that incorporates tiny plants and wildflowers.

The Galapagos Islands have been called a “living museum” Renowned for its spectacular wildlife encounters, these iconic islands and surrounding marine reserve, are one of the richest ecosystems in the world!

## ORNITHOLOGIST | MARINE BIOLOGIST | NATURALIST

Rich's career as a biologist has involved an array of fascinating wildlife fieldwork, both on land and at sea. Through it all, exploration and sharing nature with others has been his central passion.

“From flightless cormorants to lizards who take to the sea, the Galapagos is a place of anomalies, of the unique, of the unexpected.”



Rich Pagen

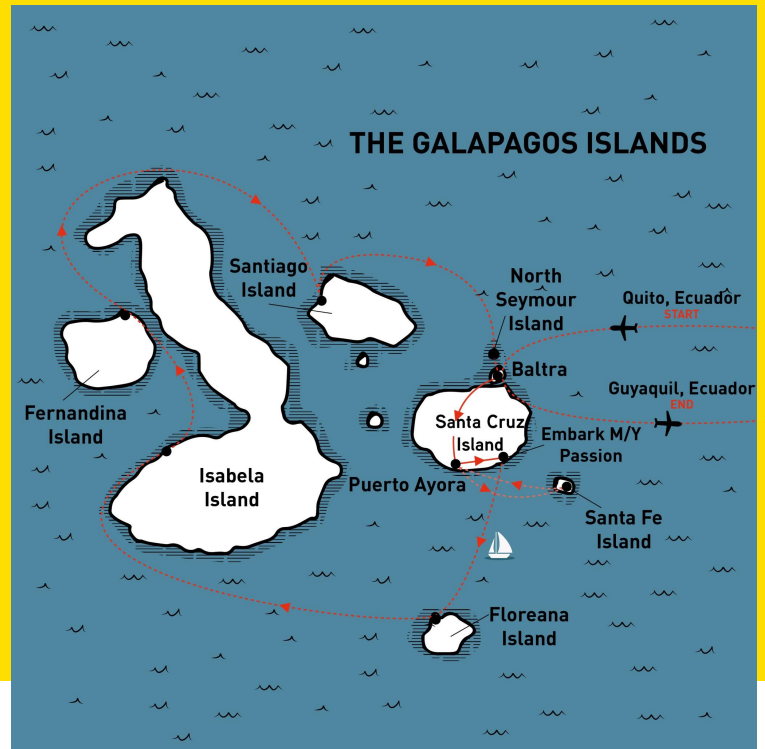
## Adventure highlights

- Encounter a wide variety of wildlife that has grown astonishingly fearless in the absence of humans and large predators.
- Observe numerous endemic species – giant tortoises, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, Galapagos penguins, and Darwin's finches, to name a few.
- Snorkel and swim among playful sea lions; their underwater acrobatics are a delight to behold.
- Discover fascinating geological features including lunar-like lava fields, crater lakes, and eroded volcanic cones.
- Cruise the island in style aboard the luxurious, yet intimate 14-guest yacht, *M/Y Passion*.

# Ultimate Galapagos

Galapagos Islands | 13 DAYS | May 7 – 19 2024

Ancient mariners once thought these islands were enchanted and it's easy to see why. The landscapes and wildlife on each island are truly enchanting, with a contrasting patchwork of desert, forest, beach, and geological formations home to some of the world's most special flora and fauna. With nearly fearless wildlife, the Galapagos remain one of the ultimate destinations for nature enthusiasts. On this voyage, you'll find yourself in intimate encounters with giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies, sea lions, penguins, iguanas, and more. Experience the undeniable wonder of these enchanted isles as you snorkel, swim, and hike amidst spectacular landscapes and the endemic wildlife that so intrigued Charles Darwin.



## Itinerary

### TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024

#### Quito, Ecuador

Arrive in Quito and transfer to the Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to pursue your own interests or relax after your flight. This evening, meet with Rich, Kristin, and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner and briefing.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

#### Quito / Baltra / Puerto Ayora

After breakfast, board our flight to the Galapagos. Arrive in Baltra and take a short cruise to Santa Cruz Island, then transfer to Puerto Ayora's Finch Bay Hotel – a true oasis of tranquility, surrounded entirely by nature with direct access to the beach. After lunch, set out on your first excursion to the Charles Darwin Research Station. This visit makes a perfect introduction to the islands, where we'll see tortoises in various stages of maturity being raised for their eventual release to the wild. After this, spend some free time in Puerto Ayora to browse the shops before returning to the hotel.

### THURSDAY, MAY 9

#### Santa Fe Island

Set sail after breakfast on the private yacht *Sea Lion* for a visit to Santa Fe Island and go ashore on its white sand beach. We'll take a moment to observe sea lions resting on the beach, before going on a hike to search for the Santa Fe land iguana – endemic to the island. Here, we have our first chance to see the famous blue-footed boobies and the Galapagos hawk, and find the archipelago's largest prickly pear cacti. Lunch will be served on-board *Sea Lion* before our return to the Finch Bay Hotel for dinner and overnight.

### FRIDAY, MAY 10

#### Puerto Aroya

This morning, depart for a kayak excursion in the protected marine reserve. During our paddle, look for wildlife on the bird cliffs while sea lions and their pups lounge on nearby beaches. After today's lunch, the afternoon offers the option to join a ceviche cooking class or to take a nature walk with Rich to explore the area. Dinner and overnight at the Finch Bay Hotel.

Blue-footed booby



Greater flamingo, Floreana Island

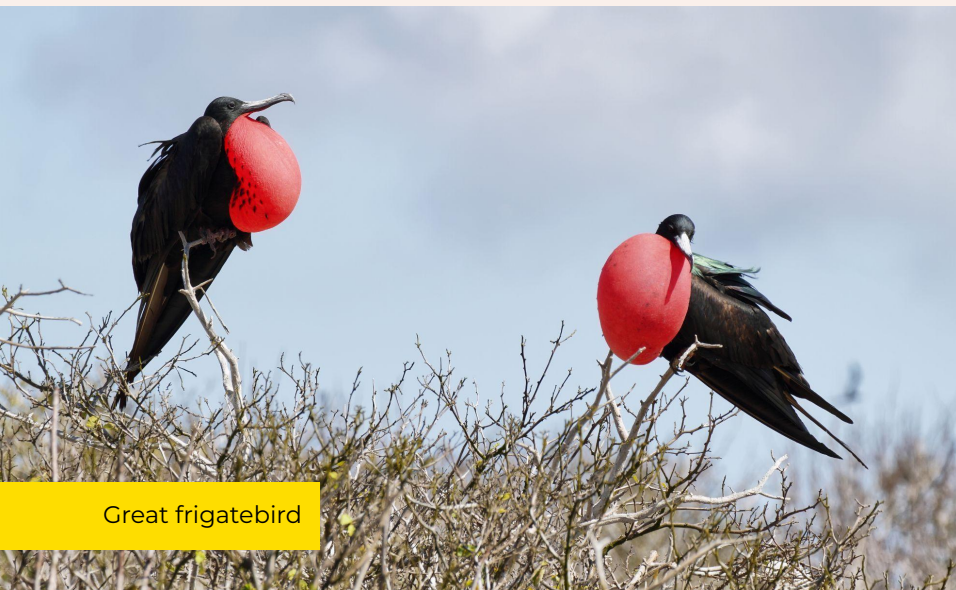


Santiago Island



Sea lion colony, Santa Fe Island

Great frigatebird



Barrington land iguana



## **SATURDAY, MAY 11**

### **Santa Cruz Island / Embark *M/Y Passion***

Check out of the Finch Bay Hotel and depart for the highlands of Santa Cruz to visit a local ranch where we hope to see giant tortoises in their natural habitat. These animals migrate from the coastal area to the highlands and back, so the chosen ranch will depend on the presence of tortoises since they roam free. In the afternoon, embark *M/Y Passion* in time for lunch. After settling into your cabin, depart for the Fausto Llerena Tortoise Breeding Center to see tortoises from different islands. Return to *M/Y Passion* and set sail.

## **SUNDAY, MAY 12**

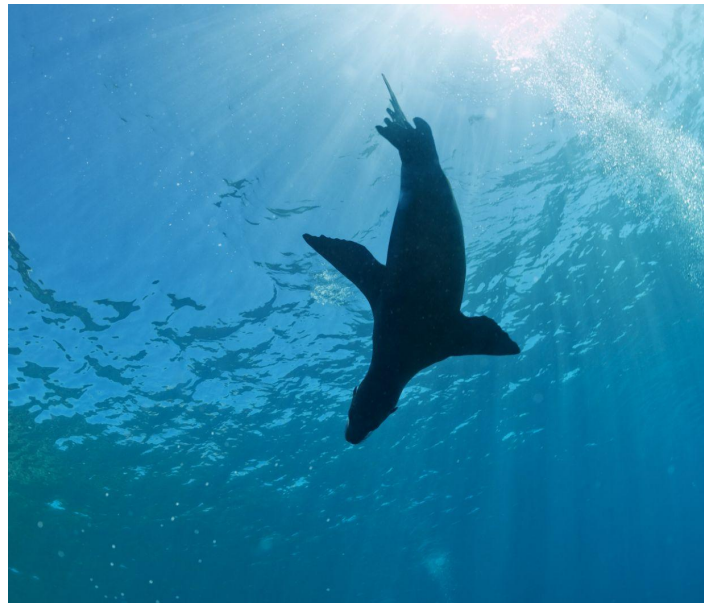
### **Floreana Island**

Land on the olivine beach of Punta Cormorant and take a short walk to a brackish lagoon where greater flamingos come to feed. Continue to a sandy beach where sea turtles nest and take a short cruise to the Devil's Crown. Snorkel among colorful reef fish such as surgeonfish, parrotfish, king angelfish, Moorish idols, and a variety of wrasses and blennies. It's also possible to see sharks, sea turtles, mantas, and spotted eagle rays here. After lunch, visit Post Office Bay, home to a working mailbox. Choose to emulate centuries of mariners by adding a postcard or two to the barrel, then check to see if it contains any postcards deposited by others with an address near your hometown, for you to deliver by hand.

## **MONDAY, MAY 13**

### **Floreana Island**

Step ashore Black Beach, an important site of the archipelago's human history. Observe the Asilo de La Paz, a vital source of fresh water and several caves that served as hideouts for pirates. We'll also hear the story one of the island's most infamous inhabitants, Baroness Eloise Wagner von Bousquet. Spend the rest of the afternoon cruising these nutrient-rich waters in search of whales and dolphins, backdropped by the impressive landscapes of Isabela Island and the Cerro Azul volcano.



## **TUESDAY, MAY 14**

### **Isabela Island**

Explore Isabela, the largest island in the Galapagos. After breakfast, step ashore at Punta Moreno to view a superb pahoehoe lava flow surrounded by giant shield volcanoes, some of which are still active! From here, hike to a lagoon where flamingos are usually present. In the afternoon, land on the black-sand beach at Urbina Bay, a nesting site for green sea turtles. Take a short hike inland to search for the land iguanas and giant tortoises that migrate to and from the highlands. Return to the beach to admire the remains of a geological uplift exposing coral heads and marine fossils, and, conditions permitting, enjoy a bit of snorkeling.

## **WEDNESDAY, MAY 15**

### **Isabela Island / Fernandina Island**

Land near Tagus Cove today, a historical pirate hideaway where the names of numerous ships are recorded for posterity on the cliff face. Hike through beautiful landscapes to Darwin Lake, a salt-water crater lagoon surrounded by tuff stone. After lunch, our yacht will cross Bolivar Channel to Fernandina Island, one of the world's most pristine sites. Disembark at Punta Espinosa and walk along shoreline to search for flightless cormorants; Galapagos sea lions, penguins and hawks; snoozing marine iguanas; and bright red-orange Sally Lightfoot crabs.

**THURSDAY, MAY 16****Fernandina Island / Santiago Island**

Make a wet landing on the black-sand beach of Puerto Egas. With luck, we may see Galapagos fur seals lounging on the edges of the lava fields and sea lions frolicking around arches of ocean-carved lava. Explore crystalline pools known as “grottos,” to observe the abundant marine life and shorebirds they attract. In the afternoon, enjoy a panga ride around the beautiful coastline of Buccaneer Cove, named for the British buccaneers who anchored here to collect supplies and clean their ships. The cove is very scenic with sheer cliffs and unusual rock formations with monikers such as ‘the monk’ and ‘elephant rock.’ Then disembark at Espumilla Beach on Santiago Island. The golden sands are another green sea turtle nesting site. A trail through the forest will take us through some of the largest specimens of Palo Santo trees on the islands to observe yellow warblers, the Galapagos flycatcher, and Darwin finches.

**FRIDAY, MAY 17****Santiago Island / North Seymour**

Step ashore at Sullivan Bay in Santiago Island to view a recent lava flow, including very fresh

pahoehoe lava formations, lava bubbles containing crystallized minerals, and pioneer plants. Along the shoreline, we may find Galapagos penguins and herons. After lunch, disembark on North Seymour Island for a walk through a large colony of nesting birds, including two different species of frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls.

**SATURDAY, MAY 18****Mosqueira Islet / Baltra / Disembark / Guayaquil**

Our last excursion is to Mosquera, a small islet where you'll find a variety of birds and lounging sea lions. Continue to Baltra to disembark and board our flight to Guayaquil. Check in to the Hilton Guayaquil with the rest of the day at leisure. This evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a festive farewell dinner.

**SUNDAY, MAY 19****Guayaquil / Homeward**

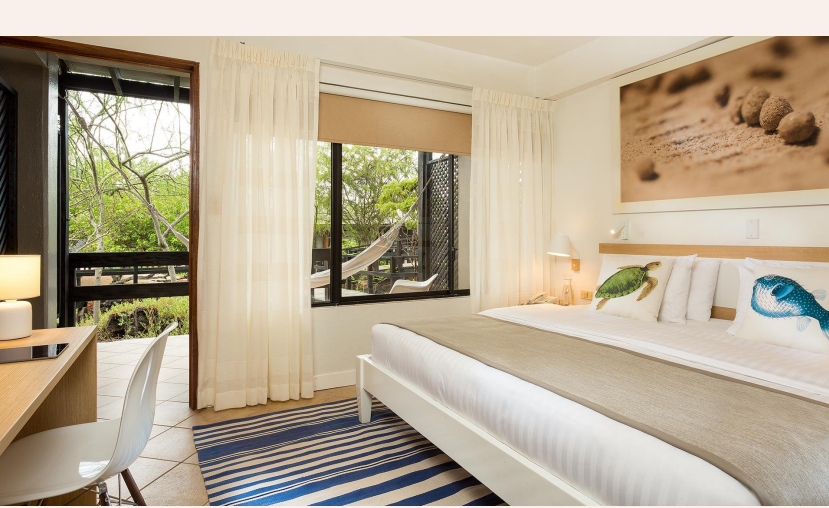
Board your independent homeward flight.

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# Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel

The Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel gives us a beautiful beachfront base for deep exploration. The perfect complement to our Galapagos expedition, a stay at this luxury hotel makes for a more immersive experience while in the islands. The hotel's 21 Finch Bay Rooms are arrayed in a ring around the property, connected by an attractive wooden walkway through the hotel's landscaped gardens. All rooms have balconies with hammocks, perfect for a read or a snooze after a day discovering the islands. Measuring a comfortable 217 square feet, rooms are available as single or double options.

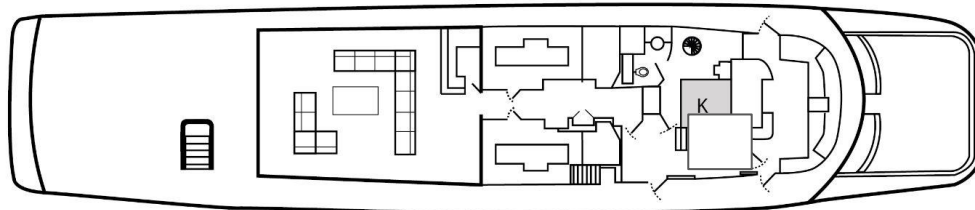


## Onboard the M/Y Passion

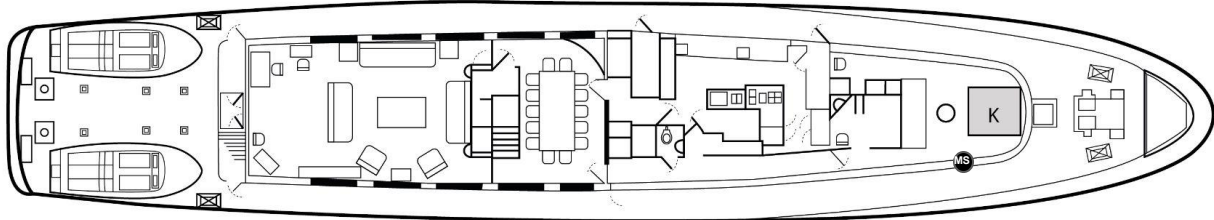
An ideal yacht for exploring the Galapagos Islands, the 14-guest *Passion*, offers luxurious suites with marble bathrooms. The ample interior and exterior public areas include a panoramic sky lounge with bar and sliding glass doors, separate dining room and wonderfully spacious decks more than 2,000 square feet of fine teak decking and a fabulous sun deck with lounge chairs and Jacuzzi. With a 1-to-1 guest to crew ratio, each guest receives truly personalized service, including a chef who can meet any dietary requirements – from kosher to vegan, and everything in between. The *Passion* is also one of the safest, most stable vessels in the islands, constructed from marine steel with 10-foot draft mono-hull and electronic Vosper stabilizers that automatically sense shifts in currents.



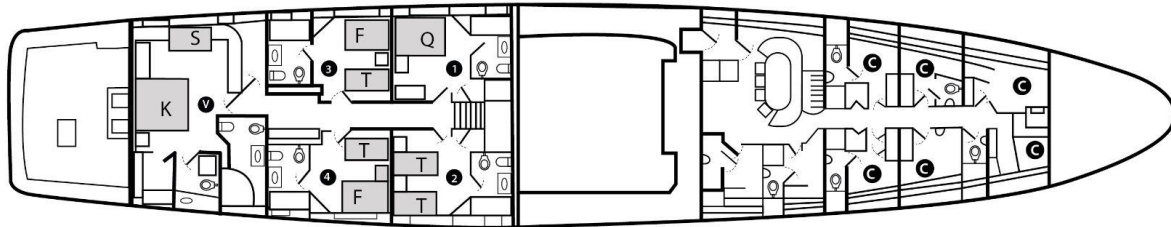
### SKY DECK



### MAIN DECK



### CABIN DECK



- |                       |                      |                      |                           |                           |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>M</b> Master Suite | <b>1</b> Stateroom 1 | <b>3</b> Stateroom 3 | <b>K</b> - King Size bed  | <b>F</b> - Full Size bed  |
| <b>V</b> Vip Suite    | <b>2</b> Stateroom 2 | <b>4</b> Stateroom 4 | <b>Q</b> - Queen Size bed | <b>T</b> - Twins Size bed |

This M/Y Passion has ample social areas, a panoramic sky lounge bar, dining room, wonderfully spacious sun decks for al fresco dining, and a secluded sun deck with a jacuzzi.

All four staterooms are fully air-conditioned, and each has its own private bathroom with bathtub. Additionally, the VIP and Master suites feature two en-suite bathrooms each.

- Length: 159 feet (48.5 meters)
- Beam (Width): 28 feet (8.64 meters)
- Draft: 10 feet (3 meters)
- Speed: 10 knots (18 km/h)
- Type of Vessel: Motor Yacht
- Weight: 459 Tons (Gross)
- Stabilizers: Electronic Vosper Stabilizers
- Power Supply: 240 V 50HZ / 120 V 60HZ



Cabin Deck Stateroom



Cabin Deck Suite



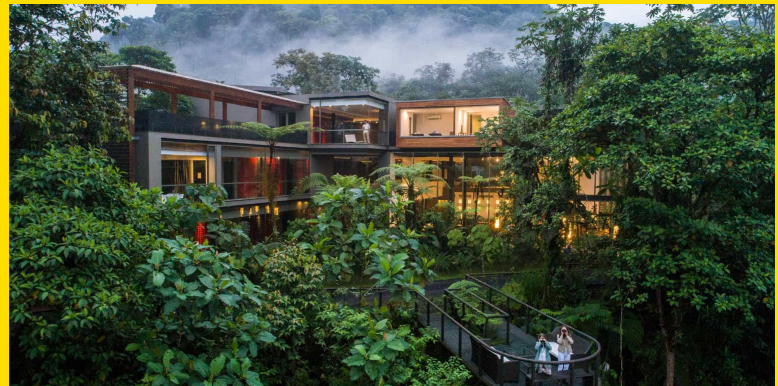
# The Ecuadorian Cloud Forest

## PRE-VOYAGE EXTENSION

With Rich Pagen

MAY 2 – 7, 2024

Located in the center of the lush Choco rainforest, the Mashpi Lodge offers a unique window into this the incredible natural diversity of the area. Join Rich Pagen, together with local naturalist guides to search for exotic birds, unique animals, eerily transparent frogs, rare endemic plants, a variety of orchids, and even glow-in-the-dark fungus. The design and style of this unique lodge allows for an immersive experience and unmatched views of the Choco rainforest. Mashpi Lodge is the perfect blend of luxurious comfort and raw nature within one of the world's most stunning environments.



### THURSDAY, MAY 2 2024

#### Arrive Quito, Ecuador

Upon arrival, transfer to the Casa Gangotena situated in the heart of Quito's Old Town. This evening gather with Rich and your fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner.

### FRIDAY, MAY 3

#### Quito

After breakfast, embark on a walking and driving tour of the Historic Center of Quito. Old Town Quito was the first city to be named a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and is known for its narrow streets, Spanish colonial architecture, markets, and impressive scenery.

### SATURDAY, MAY 4

#### Quito / Mashpi Reserve

Depart from Quito this morning and travel north to the Mashpi Lodge, located on a high plateau just outside of Quito. The Mashpi Lodge sits in the heart of a 2,500-hectare (6,177-acre) reserve, home to spectacular rainforest and cloud forest. Check in upon arrival and, meet the naturalist guides for a briefing about the reserve and offered activities. After enjoying a lunch of classic and contemporary Ecuadorian dishes, we begin our exploration of this unique biological region.

### SUNDAY & MONDAY, MAY 5 - 6

#### Mashpi Reserve

Send two full days exploring the Mashpi Reserve which boasts a spectacular combination of tropical

and subtropical climates, leading to an area teeming with a variety of flora and fauna that is seldom found in such startling variety. We'll enjoy a large variety of activities including a trip through the forest on a "canopy gondola," hikes in search of wildlife, a visit to the nearby Life Center to learn about the area's butterflies, and a climb to the Observation Tower in search of woodpeckers, toucans, parrots, and raptors.

### TUESDAY, MAY 7

#### Return to Quito

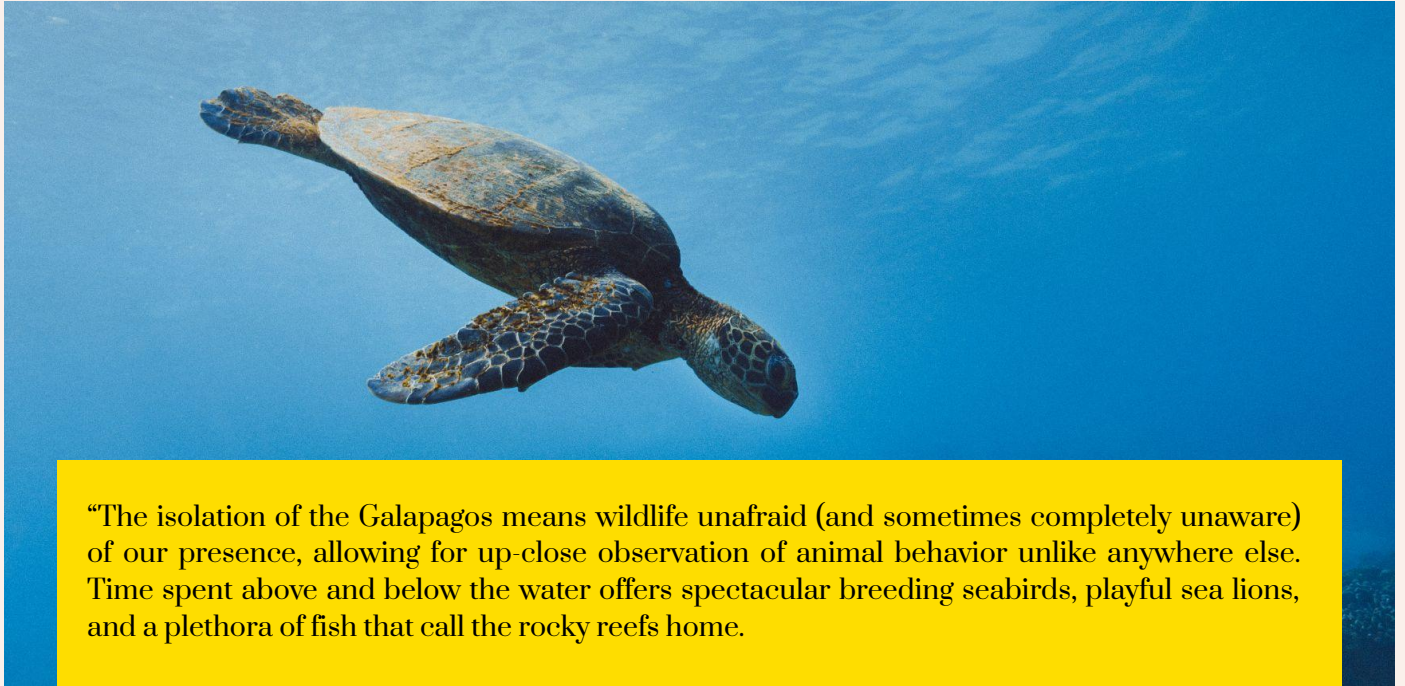
Spend a morning in search of wildlife before breakfast, then return to Quito. Arrive to the Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel and join your fellow travelers before departing to the Galapagos.

### PRICE –

\$4,290 per person

add \$390 for a single room

# Why we love this trip



“The isolation of the Galapagos means wildlife unafraid (and sometimes completely unaware) of our presence, allowing for up-close observation of animal behavior unlike anywhere else. Time spent above and below the water offers spectacular breeding seabirds, playful sea lions, and a plethora of fish that call the rocky reefs home.

From equatorial penguins to massive giant tortoises, the Galapagos is a wildlife lover’s dream-come-true! And it’s a place that invites us back again and again. Each island has its own vibe, and each time of year its own signature happenings. We hope you’ll join us on this wildlife adventure!

Rich and Kristin

## PRICE

### 1 Main Deck Master Suite

\$14,980 per person

### 1 Cabin Deck VIP Suite

\$14,980 per person

### 4 Cabin Deck Staterooms

\$11,980 per person

(add \$4,990 for a single room)

## INCLUSIONS

- 2 nights at a hotel pre/post Galapagos
- 3 nights at Finch Bay Resort
- 7 nights onboard *M/Y Passion*
- All meals plus non-alcoholic beverages with lunch and dinner
- All excursions, transportation, and local guides
- Park fees, taxes, and permits
- Gratuities
- Internal air between Quito / Galapagos / Guayaquil
- Arrival and departure transfers

**Group size: 12 travelers**



## BOOK NOW

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