



The Small Cruise
Ship Collection

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UNEQUALED ECUADOR! COLONIAL QUITO & GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Aside from Darwins view of the world, little else has changed since his 1835 Galapagos discovery. From the higher altitudes of Quito, head to the islands kayak, skiff, snorkel, and see exquisite, wildlife up-close.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Quito / Arrival

Welcome to Ecuador! Begin your journey in this historic city rich in legends and culture. Your first stop is the grand Casa Gangotena Hotel, voted the #1 Hotel in Ecuador by TripAdvisor and where you will stay these first two nights. A gorgeous example of Spanish Colonial style, enjoy this restored boutique hotel just steps away from picturesque Plaza de San Francisco, built atop Incan temples and markets.

Day 2: Quito

Once called the Northern Capitol of the Inca Empire, the capital city of Quito has long been a center of commerce and culture. The city's growth after Spanish took over in 1534 included the building of many outstanding convents, monasteries and churches, earning Quito the title, Capitol of Art of Spanish

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America. Discover why the city's exquisitely preserved historic center is a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. Departing from your hotel, a walking tour explores its past, present, and future, including a visit to the fascinating pre-Columbian, Museo Casa del Alabado. Your full day of exploration ends at a local restaurant with sunset views overlooking the city.

Day 3: Quito / Isla San Cristobal

On this morning, travel to the second UNESCO World Heritage Site on your itinerary: the legendary Galapagos Islands. From Quito, fly to Isla San Cristobal named after the patron saint of seafarers. A quick panga ride brings you to the Yacht La Pinta to meet the crew, be welcomed aboard, and get acquainted with your ship. As Charles Darwin did in 1835, take your first exploratory steps in the Galapagos at Cerro Colorado home to dozens of bird species, the endemic San Cristobal lava lizard, and a tortoise breeding center set amidst a fantastic deciduous forest along the island's southern shore.

Day 4: Isla San Cristobal

On the eastern side of the island, you'll venture up a trail from the beach with gorgeous views of the shoreline. Explore Punta Pitt where opportunities abound to observe frigatebirds, three types of boobies, and bachelor sea lions that rest on this beach. Perhaps you'll even have a chance to investigate below the surface of the water with a snorkel or swim. Later, after a panga ride around the north tip of the island, walk the tranquil coral sand beach of Cerro Brujo watching seabirds and shore birds bustle about. Keep an eye out for sea lions and marine iguanas.

Day 5: Isla Espanola

Considered one of the top two showcase islands in the archipelago, Isla Espanola is one of the oldest, most isolated

islands and is known for its astounding number of endemic species including the entire world's population of Waved Albatross (typically April to December). A hike at Punta Suarez provides opportunities to see sea lions and seabirds, shorebirds and tropicbirds. Your afternoon at the white sand beach in Gardner Bay includes a short walk to see finches and extroverted mockingbirds. Cool off by snorkeling with green sea turtles, kick back for a snooze alongside the sea lions, or go for a spin in a kayak or the glass-bottom boat.

Day 6: Isla Santa Cruz

Today, it's all about the magnificent giant tortoise. Touring the Charles Darwin Research Station, you'll witness the exceptional conservation program where Galapaguitos are reared in protective captivity until they are old enough to safely repatriate back to their native areas. Embrace Galapagos conservation by learning about threats that still endanger this fragile ecosystem. After a lingering poolside lunch at the Finch Bay Eco Hotel (bring your swimsuit just in case), explore the misty, forested highlands and see the lumbering and charming tortoises in their natural habitat. You'll also have a chance to walk inside the island's famed lava tubes for a geological exploration of these remarkable volcanic channels.

Day 7: Isla Santa Cruz / Sombrero Chino Islet

A panga ride brings you to tiny Eden Islet, where blue-footed boobies, reef sharks, and frigatebirds roam. Pull on your mask and jump into the water for a snorkel with the sea life. If conditions permit, cruise in the glass-bottom boat and marvel at all the world beneath you. On beautiful Sombrero Chino Islet, look for iguanas, sea lions, and sally lightfoot crabs on the 400-metre long trail that brings you to a postcard-worthy sandy, crescent beach. And if you're lucky, swim and snorkel with



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white-tipped reef sharks and Galapagos penguins in these calm waters.

Day 8: Isla Bartolome / Isla Santiago

Geologically young, Bartolome is one of the most picturesque islands of the Galapagos. Climb a wooden staircase to the summit of a volcanic cone with your camera ready to capture the exquisite panoramic views including iconic Pinnacle Rock! Bartolome has its own unique fauna including green sea turtles, Galapagos penguins, and rays. The white sandy beach of Santiagos Sullivan Bay is a stunning spot for swimming, snorkeling, and a chance to peer at life below the surface. Hike to a fantastic lava field that showcases the archipelagos volcanic origins.

Day 9: Isla Genovesa

Our second showcase island Genovesa, known as the bird island lies north of the equator, and you'll cross it twice! On a leisurely exploration of Darwin Bay, witness the many island inhabitants Giant frigatebirds, red-footed boobies, Darwins finches, storm petrels, and nocturnal swallow-tailed gulls. At the beach, snorkel, swim, or investigate shoreline cliffs by kayak. A panga ride past the dramatic cliffs brings you to the short, steep Prince Philips Steps. Once at the top, a fascinating walk amongst stands of Palo Santo trees crosses this flat land through large colonies of boobies, frigatebirds, and just maybe, the illusive short-eared owl.

Day 10: Isla Baltra / Quito / Departure

Your adventure of a lifetime aboard La Pinta concludes on Isla Baltra. From here, transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito and await your connecting flight home. If you've opted for the Peru/Machu Picchu Extension, you'll disembark en route during

a short stop in Guayaquil.

Please Note:

A passport is required on this itinerary. Due to the nature of our explorations, itineraries are guidelines and will change in order to maximize wildlife and natural encounters. Variations in itinerary and the order of days may occur. Casa Gangotena: hotel bedding will either be two double beds or one king bed



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YOUR SHIP: LA PINTA

YOUR SHIP:	La Pinta
VESSEL TYPE:	Small Ship
LENGTH:	63 metres
PASSENGER CAPACITY:	48 (in 24 cabins)
BUILT/REFURBISHED:	1983 / refurbished 2007



After intense days of wildlife exploration, yacht La Pinta provides a haven of relaxation and tranquility with tastefully appointed accommodations and all the facilities for a stylish yet informal ambiance. A full week discovery trip to the Galapagos Islands aboard La Pinta allows encounters with unique fauna, like the famous giant Galapagos tortoises in the wild, land and marine iguanas, flamingos, penguins, blue-footed boobies and the famous Darwin's finches. La Pinta guests will cover all aspects of the Galapagos: discovery, adventure, environmental interpretation, aquatic activities, relaxation, superb service and great dining. Naturalist Guides enhance their interpretative skills with the use of state-of-the-art-expedition equipment. Our staff embraces a spirit of adventure, while at the same time ensures that you always travel in comfort and safety.

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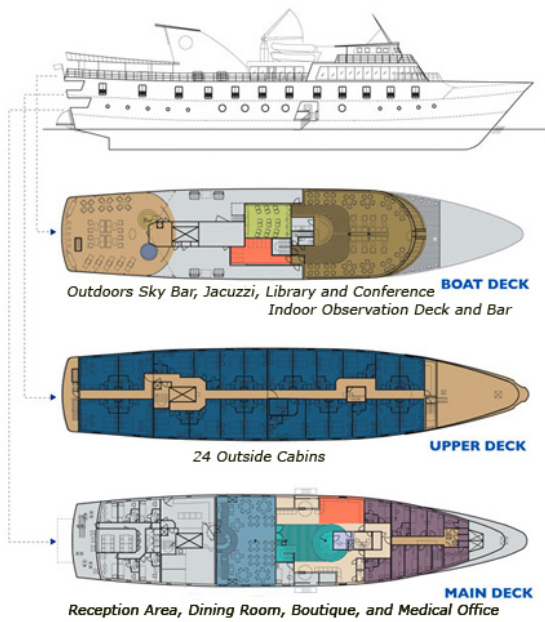
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PRICING



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