



Galápagos Islands Adventure

April 9-16, 2026

8 days | 7 nights



What to expect on this trip:

Join us for an unforgettable Women in Nature adventure to the Galápagos Islands aboard our own private yacht, the Seaman Journey. Together, we'll explore the breathtaking archipelago, snorkel with sea lions, hike through volcanic landscapes, and immerse ourselves in these unique habitats with an abundance of diverse wildlife.

Our journey will take us to the remote islands, where vast lava fields and minimal vegetation have shaped unique wildlife adaptations. Along the way, you'll have the opportunity to forge lasting friendships with fellow travelers while experiencing the magic of one of the world's most iconic destinations.

On this once-in-a-lifetime Women in Nature trip, ODC staff and professional bilingual Ecuadorian guides will lead our group to various islands to see native wildlife both on land and at sea.

Day 1

Thursday, April 9

Travel to Guayaquil, Ecuador

Our journey begins with traveling from Grand Rapids, MI, to Guayaquil, Ecuador. Upon arrival in Guayaquil, we will check into our hotel and prepare for our trip to the Galápagos Islands the next day.

Day 2

Friday, April 10

Fly to the Galápagos and explore Santa Cruz

After breakfast at the hotel, we will board a plane for the 2-hour flight to Santa Cruz Island. Once we arrive, we will visit a small farm in the highlands where we can observe wild Galápagos tortoises. We will also explore lava tubes, sinkholes, and craters. Following this visit, we will continue our journey to the Seaman Journey. (B,L,D)





Day 3

Saturday, April 11

Explore Isabela and Fernandina Islands

After enjoying breakfast on the yacht, we will travel to Isabela Island. Our first stop will be at Punta Moreno, located on the west coast of Isabela Island. Our group will hike along a trail that follows a Pahoehoe lava flow into the coastal lagoons. Here, we will have the opportunity to spot various bird species, including blue-footed boobies and flightless cormorants, near the lakes and mangroves.

After lunch, we will visit Mangle Point, situated off the eastern coast of Fernandina. This is an excellent location for snorkeling. We will explore the mangrove forests by riding in a panga (or zodiac), where we may view sea lions, tortoises, pelicans, rays, and numerous seabirds. (B,L,D)



Day 4

Sunday, April 12

Marine Life and Coastal Vegetation

We will visit Urbina Bay, located at the base of Alcedo Volcano. This bay offers excellent snorkeling opportunities where you might swim alongside penguins and observe red and blue lobsters. There is a 2-mile trail that features a variety of landscapes, including sand, pumice, lava, coral, and coastal vegetation. While exploring, we will look for iguana burrows, Darwin's finches, and land iguanas.

In the afternoon, we will head to Tagus Cove, a historic site known for its connection to pirates and whalers. Here, you can view cave inscriptions from the 1800s. The area is characterized by volcanic rocks, including lapilli, and features a challenging trail that leads to a lookout point over Darwin Lake and the bay. Keep an eye out for finches, mockingbirds, and a colony of flightless cormorants. We can also take advantage of the fantastic snorkeling opportunities in this area. (B,L,D)





Day 5

Monday, April 13

Espinoza and Vicente Roca Points Adventure

After breakfast, we will head to Espinoza Point, which is famous for its colonies of marine iguanas. This area is also home to unique species such as the flightless cormorant, Galápagos penguin, Galápagos hawk, and Galápagos snake. It is one of the most pristine and remote regions of the Galápagos archipelago.

After lunch, we will venture to Vicente Roca Point. This location features high cliffs and stunning lava formations. The bay is rich in marine life, including seahorses, sea turtles, and Mola-mola (ocean sunfish). You can enjoy panga rides and snorkeling to observe penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, and sea lions. (B,L,D)



Day 6

Tuesday, April 14

A Day at Santiago Island

We will begin our day at Espumilla Beach on Santiago Island, which is renowned for its picturesque coastline formed by sea erosion. During our visit, we will explore the palo santo forest and have the opportunity to spot various wildlife, including baby sea turtles, a colony of flamingos, sea lions, marine iguanas, Darwin's finches, and hawks. Additionally, we will learn about the impact of the now-eradicated feral goat species on the habitat.

In the afternoon, we will explore Puerto Egas, known for its black sand beach and volcanic tuff deposits. The contrast between the dark minerals and the vibrant red sally lightfoot crabs is truly striking. We will visit the sea lion colony and the grotto, where playful fur seals swim in tidal pools. Additionally, you can enjoy snorkeling alongside marine iguanas, sea lions, and other fascinating marine life. (B,L,D)





Day 7

Wednesday, April 15

Island Exploration

We will begin our day at Rábida Island, which has a striking volcanic landscape featuring red rocks and sand. A short trail leads to a lagoon frequented by flamingos and various land birds. You'll have the chance to watch pelicans diving for fish, and you can also enjoy snorkeling with sea lions, moray eels, small sharks, sea stars, and a variety of colorful fish along the coastline.

In the afternoon, we will visit Chinese Hat, a small islet located off the coast of Santiago Island. During this excursion, you can explore unique lava formations and spot various wildlife, including sea lions, lava lizards, marine iguanas, and Galápagos penguins. The vibrant colors of red vesuvium flowers, sally light-foot crabs, and orange-beaked oystercatchers stand out against the lava fields. You'll also have the opportunity to snorkel in calm turquoise waters, where you may encounter white-tipped reef sharks, stingrays, parrotfish, marine turtles, and, with a bit of luck, dolphins or even a rare whale shark. (B,L,D)



Day 8

Thursday, April 16

Black Turtle Cove before heading home

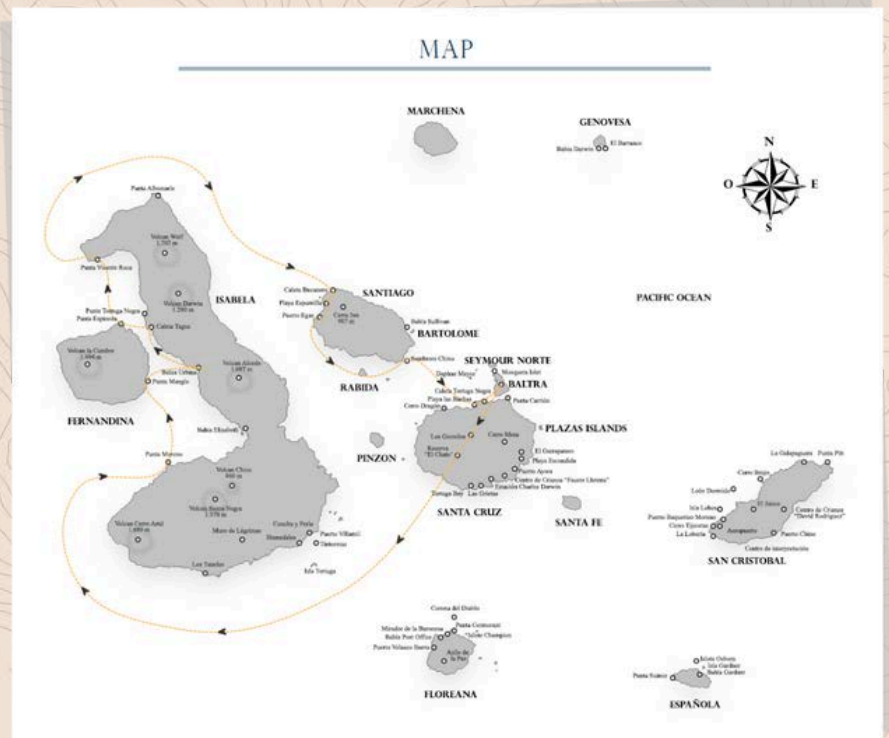
In the morning, we will enjoy a tranquil dinghy ride to Black Turtle Cove, located on the north coast of Santa Cruz. During this exploration of the mangrove-protected cove, you may have the opportunity to see sea turtles, sharks, rays, egrets, and herons. After our adventure, we will transfer to Baltra Airport for our flight back to the mainland and then home to Grand Rapids. (B)





The Seaman Journey features eight bedrooms, accommodating a maximum of 16 passengers, which allows for both intimacy and camaraderie. Six of the cabins contain two single beds and a private restroom, while the other two cabins each have one queen bed and a private restroom.

With several lounge areas available, you'll find the perfect spot to unwind in the afternoon sun after a busy day of wildlife viewing, snorkeling, or exploring. You can connect with fellow travelers or enjoy a stunning archipelago sunset. Throughout this adventure, you'll create lasting friendships while experiencing the magic of one of the world's most iconic destinations and savoring delicious traditional cuisine.



We are excited to explore the Galápagos with you!

TRIP COSTS

\$8,995 – Single occupancy, twin bed shared room

\$8,495 – Double occupancy, shared queen bed

\$9,595 – Single occupancy, queen bed

Payment Info: \$3,000 deposit is due at the time of booking and is required to hold a place on the trip.

\$3,000 second payment due July 31, 2025

Final balance is due by November 30, 2025

*All payments may be made at one time if desired via cash or check.
A 4% transaction fee applies for making payments with a credit card.*



Cancellations: Full refunds will be made until July 31, 2025. After July 31, up to 50% of the monies received may be forfeited by the participant. No refunds will be given for cancellations after November 30, 2025.

We encourage you to purchase trip insurance to protect yourself if unexpected situations require you to cancel your trip. Please contact Joy or Ashley to learn about insurance through TravelSafe Insurance. ODC will assist with coordinating travel through a local travel agency.

Included: 7 nights lodging; transportation from Ecuador to Galápagos, private catamaran; fees for park admission and gratuity, activities indicated in brochure, guides, and gratuity; all meals as indicated in the itinerary (B,L,D*)

*Not included: Flight to Ecuador, meals while in transit to and from Galápagos, souvenirs, snacks between meals, alcoholic beverages, additional excursions, and activities apart from the group.

Please contact trip leaders Joy Funk or Ashley VanZee to learn more or to make a payment:
joy@outdoordiscovery.org or ashley@outdoordiscovery.org. 616-393-9453

**Itinerary subject to change due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances*