



JOURNEY TO THE GALAPAGOS

Dates: From Friday, January 25th – Sunday, February 3rd, 2013

Duration: 10 days / 9 nights

Total

Distance: 3,400 nautical miles



Highlights: **Adventure, Wildlife, Nature!** If you are a Nature and Wildlife enthusiast, chances are that you have always wanted to visit the Galapagos Islands! Straddling the Equator in the Pacific Ocean, these islands are home to some of the most fascinating and accessible wildlife anywhere. We are offering a 10-day itinerary covering 3,400 nautical miles where adventure with luxury accommodations will make this Journey a memorable one.

Cost: **\$ 6,495 per person (double occupancy)**
\$ 1,250 plane registration fee (includes Cuba overflight permit)
Single supplement available upon request

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Friday, January 25: Fort Lauderdale → Boscobel, Jamaica → Cartagena, Colombia 500 + 485 NM

We'll meet at Banyan FBO of Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (KFYE) for a briefing about the forthcoming flight.

Our flight today will bring us over Cuba before landing in Boscobel (Jamaica) to refuel. We'll then continue on to Colombia – one of the most ethnically diverse nations in South America – for our visit to Cartagena, undeniably one of Latin America's most beautiful cities lost somewhere in time between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries, with the Caribbean sea as a sparkling backdrop. Sir Francis Drake laid siege to the city but the fortress walls and cannons remain, making the area within the old walled city a living museum.



There will be time to relax before we enjoy a well-deserved welcome cocktail and dinner.

Hotel: Sofitel Santa Clara
Welcome Cocktail and Dinner included

Day 2 - Saturday, January 26: Cartagena

Enjoy a full day tour to experience Cartagena's colonial charm with its tiled roofs, balconies and flower-filled courtyards and relive history in the old walled city, the Ciudad Amarullada, where we'll explore the four sectors, each one with a peculiar story to tell: San Diego, La Matuna, Getsemani and Santo Domingo.

Today's tour will include a walking tour and a city tour to enjoy the highlights of this beautiful city.

Hotel: Sofitel Santa Clara
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 3 - Sunday, January 27: Cartagena → Guayaquil, Ecuador 800 NM

After breakfast we will transfer to the airport for our flight to Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Strategically located in the downtown commercial and banking heart of the city, the Hilton Colon Guayaquil is only a short transfer from the airport.

Hotel: Hilton Colon Guayaquil
Breakfast and Dinner included



Days 4 - 8- Monday, January 28 – Friday, February 1: Cruising the Galapagos aboard the Y/La Pinta



**“La Pinta”
5 day / 4 night cruise
Breakfast, lunch and dinner included aboard the Y/La Pinta
All tours are included**

The Y/La Pinta is a 48 guest luxury yacht offering superb service, expert crew, the most knowledgeable multilingual naturalist/guides and menus that feature the very best international cuisine and celebrated Ecuadorian dishes. Morning and afternoon sightseeing is included. There will be ample time each day to swim, snorkel and relax.

Days 4 - Monday, January 28: Guayaquil to Baltra, Galapagos

Embarkation

Today we will fly commercial airline (ticket not included) to Baltra in the Galapagos. Upon arrival, transfer to the Itabaca Channel. A small ferry will take us across the Channel to the north shore of Santa Cruz Island. We board our bus to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island, where guests will learn about the unique montane ecosystems and biodiversity. Lunch at a local restaurant.



Afternoon: El Chato (Santa Cruz Island)

After lunch, travel by bus to El Chato Reserve, 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 that are common in the reserve. You may also spot some highland birds, like cattle egrets, mockingbirds, finches or flycatchers. There are several lava tunnels in the reserve, a great place to spot the barn owl. There is also a small lagoon covered in red algae where gallinules and Galápagos pintails can be found. Bus ride to Puerto Ayora to board Yacht La Pinta. Welcome introductory briefing including the expedition plan for Tuesday. Boat Drill and other activities will be explained by the staff.

Day 5 – Tuesday, January 29: Bahía Ballena – Whale Bay (Santa Cruz Island) and Sombrero Chino Islet

Morning: Bahía Ballena – Whale Bay (Santa Cruz Island)

After breakfast disembark (wet landing) at a beautiful olivine beach (a volcanic crystal that forms in fast-cooling lava). The area has historical relevance since a small community lived in this area in the late 1900s, collecting lichen (*Rosella Tictoria*), used in the textile industry. The trail leads guests to an old water hole used by the former settlers. There are also boobies, land birds and beautiful views of the northwest side of Santa Cruz Island to enjoy. Several activities are possible after the walk, such as snorkeling or a panga ride along the shoreline. Back on board for lunch.



Afternoon: Sombrero Chino Islet

Less than a quarter-of-a-square-kilometre in size, the tiny island of Sombrero Chino gets its name from its appearance: a Chinese hat. Lying just off the southeastern tip of San Salvador Island (James), this island, only formed fairly recently, makes a beautiful visit as one explores along its 400-metre long trail, which begins at a crescent-shaped white sandy beach. Several species of shore birds can be spotted, along with marine iguanas, lava lizards, Galápagos penguins and sally lightfoot crabs. The cove offers excellent swimming and snorkeling opportunities with white-tipped reef sharks and tropical fish.

Day 6 – Wednesday, January 30: Bartolomé Island & Sullivan Bay (James Island)

Morning: Bartolomé Island

A small satellite island of the neighboring Santiago Island, Bartolomé is a landmark of Galápagos. Broken volcanic material reveals some of the most striking volcanic landscapes: the Pinnacle rock. After a dry landing, the short, yet somewhat steep trail will unfold virtually every volcanic feature expected to be found in Galápagos. Lava flows, tuff, cinder and spatter cones. To reach the summit a wooden staircase was built to minimize erosion on the island's slopes. The vista is the prize: The Pinnacle Rock next to golden beaches and turquoise waters. This is the introduction to the next activity: swimming and snorkeling along the north beach of Bartolomé. Glass Bottom boat is an option for non-snorkelers. Lunch on board.

Afternoon: Sullivan Bay (James Island)

After lunch, board the panga for the short ride to the landing site at Sullivan Bay on the East Coast of Santiago. Wet landing on a white coral sand beach and a walk over lava that flowed here less than 100 years ago. This is the perfect place to see and feel the volcanic origin of Galápagos. The last major eruption on Santiago was probably in the early 1900's. One observer aboard a sailing vessel reported that the ship approached the lava flow so closely that the pine tar used to seal the hull of the ship began to soften, and the captain had to hurry the ship away from the bay.



Day 7 – Thursday, January 31: Darwin Bay (Tower/Genovesa Island) and Prince Philip's Steps

Morning: Darwin Bay (Tower/Genovesa Island)

In the morning, a wet landing for an easy stroll observing thousands of birds, mainly frigate birds, red footed and masked boobies, gulls, herons, finches and mockingbirds. Optional walk over sharp lava and uneven terrain for dramatic views, or else return to the beach to enjoy swimming and snorkeling at this beautiful natural harbour. The more adventurous can snorkel along the cliffs or paddle sea kayaks. Lunch on board.

Afternoon: Prince Philip's Steps (Tower/Genovesa Island)

The afternoon starts with a very interesting panga ride along the cliffs and then disembark (dry landing) on rocks for a steep climb (90 feet) up some stairs. Once at the top of the stairs, the land is flat, allowing for a stimulating walk of about a mile to the other side of this small island, observing large colonies of masked boobies, frigate birds and storm petrels. Those not wishing to disembark can enjoy a longer panga ride along the cliffs (depending on weather conditions).

Day 8 - Friday, February 1: Baltra Island Disembarkation to Guayaquil → Panama City, Panama 665 NM

Disembark on Baltra Island. Transfer to the airport to take the commercial flight (ticket not included) back to the Guayaquil.

We will retrieve our planes and fly to Panama. Enjoy a scenic approach to Panama City including a beautiful view of the Panama Canal.

Hotel: Meridian Hotel
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 9 - Saturday, February 2: Panama City



After breakfast we will depart for our full day sightseeing tour including a one-hour tour on the Panama Canal with the pleasure to enjoy the vegetation and wildlife (monkeys).

We will then proceed to the Miraflores Lock where you will be able to watch ships entering the lock and discover the new museum with the opportunity to enter the Lock on a simulator. A buffet lunch will be served at the Miraflores Restaurant offering a great view of the canal. In the afternoon, we will continue our tour including the Old City with the most important sites.

Hotel: Meridian Hotel
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 10 - Sunday, February 3: Panama City → Grand Cayman → Key West, Florida

625 + 315 NM

We will transfer to the airport and fly back home with great memories. There will be an optional fuel stop in Grand Cayman.

Breakfast included

Landing Points, Identifier and Runway Lengths:

Fort Lauderdale	KFLL	10,008'
Boscobel	MKBS	4,769'
Cartagena	SKCG	8,500'
Guayaquil	SEGU	9,154'
Panama City	MPMG	5,906'
Grand Cayman	MWCR	7,021'
Key West	KEYW	4,801'

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Our land program includes:

- All accommodations in hotels listed or similar categories based on double occupancy
 - ❖ 2 nights in Cartagena (4 star hotel)
 - ❖ 1 night in Guayaquil (4 star hotel)
 - ❖ 4 nights aboard the luxury La Pinta (full board)
 - ❖ 2 nights in Panama City (4 star hotel)
- Breakfast and dinner each day
- All lunches on sightseeing days
- All meals aboard the ship as tours (morning and afternoon)
- Tips aboard the ship
- \$100 Galapagos National Park entrance fee
- A full day tour in Panama City
- Return transfers from hotel to airport
- All sightseeing, hotel taxes, gratuities and guide services as in indicated in itinerary
- All entrance fees in museum and other activities listed in the itinerary
- A full time Air Journey pilot escort

Our land program does not include:

- Travel Insurance (available, call us for details)
- Airport departure taxes and landing fees
- Cost of obtaining passport or visas and or inoculations
- Airline ticket for round-trip flight between Guayaquil and Baltra
- Beverages
- Lunch boxes on flight day
- Personal expenses such as laundry, room service, communication charges and other incidentals
- Transfer from airport to hotel
- Life raft and life vests

Please note that hotel accommodations and sightseeing are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Air Journey reserves the right to amend the order of sightseeing as necessary. Every effort will be made to operate tours as planned, but alterations may occur after the final itinerary has been issued. (As Galapagos authorities decide the ships itinerary, it may be subject to change.)

Our quoted prices include planning, handling and operational charges; they are based on current rates of exchange, tariffs and taxes as of April 2012. Air Journey reserves the right to increase tour prices to cover increased costs, tariffs and taxes, and to reflect fluctuations in foreign exchange markets.

Passports are mandatory for the Journey.

Air Journey has quoted this itinerary with a minimum participation of 4 planes.

The Registration fee includes:

- Extensive Navigation log (airports, route, frequencies, information of airspace, nav-aids, reporting points, international flight plan) tailored for each aircraft;
- Flight plans and eAPIS manifest (departure and arrival) filed on your behalf;
- Pilot briefing prior to each day's flight;
- Weather website with constant updates showing TAF, METAR, Wind Aloft, prognostic forecast and review;
- Fuel availability confirmed along the route of flight;
- 2013 Bahamas and Caribbean Pilot Guide, VFR charts, IFR low or high en route (based on aircraft type and pilot's preferences);
- Flight bag and collared, cotton shirt for the pilot with his name and aircraft tail number embroidered on the upper front. Shirts are available for passengers and crew at an additional cost.

Cancellation, refunds:

- a) **Cancellation by the client:** Is always required in writing and is subject to the following schedule of dates, whereby some or all moneys paid will be retained:
- i) Given outside of 131 days of departure: AJ retains the initial deposit of \$1,000 per person
 - ii) Between 131 and 120 days of departure: AJ retains 50% of the tour cost & the registration fee
 - iii) Between 119 and 80 days of departure: AJ retains 75% of the tour cost & the registration fee
 - iv) 79 days or less or No show of departure: AJ retains 100% of the tour cost & the registration fee
- b) **Cancellation by AJ:** Should AJ cancel the tour after deposits have been received due to fewer than the minimum participants required, the full deposit will be refunded. Should AJ cancel the tour at any time due to factors beyond their control (including war, flood, force of nature, riot, civil action), they will refund the client whatever portion of moneys are reimbursed by ground operators and accommodation suppliers.

Survival equipment is available for rental on a daily basis and will be waiting for you at our departure point. Contact us for details. Life vests and survival raft are mandatory.