



JOURNEY TO THE GALAPAGOS

Dates: From Friday, March 15th – Monday, March 25th, 2019

Duration: 11 days / 10 nights

Total Distance: 3,410 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.

Cost: **\$ 8,995 per person (double occupancy)**
\$ 2,195 plane registration fee (includes Cuba overflight permit)

Single supplement available upon request

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Friday, March 15: West Palm Beach, FL → Boscobel, Jamaica → Cartagena, Colombia 525 + 485 NM

We'll meet at Signature Flight Support FBO of Palm Beach Intl. Airport (KPBI) 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, Cartagena is 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, March 16: Cartagena

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Cartagena is a city with a wealth of character and well-preserved colonial architecture. With restored mansions, horse-drawn carriages and Old World-style plazas, it is a perfect walking city.

With our local guide we'll enjoy a walking tour of the historic walled old town as we discover the hidden history of this colonial city. We'll see Puerta Del Reloj (Clock tower entrance), a symbol of Cartagena, the Plaza San Pedro Claver with its stunning Church, and Plaza Bolivar.

After lunch our tour continues with a drive to visit the impressive Castillo San Felipe. Built in the 17th century to protect the city from marauding invaders, it is the largest Spanish fortification in the Americas. Next, see the 17th century Convent of La Popa, a beautiful convent building that sits atop the highest point in the city, commanding spectacular views of the bay, old town and Caribbean Sea beyond.

Hotel: Sofitel Santa Clara
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included



Day 3 - Sunday, March 17: Cartagena → Guayaquil, Ecuador 795 NM

Fly to Guayaquil, Ecuador – gateway to the Galapagos Islands. Guayaquil is Ecuador's largest city and an important trade center.

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 - 7- Monday, March 18, to Friday, March 22: 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, March 18: Guayaquil to Baltra, Galapagos

Embarkation

Today we will fly commercial airline (ticket not included) to Baltra in the Galapagos. Upon arrival, transfer to the highlands, where we'll learn about Santa Cruz's unique ecosystems and biodiversity. Lunch is at a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Highlands

After lunch, we continue by bus to reach a reserve that is 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 to board Yacht La Pinta.



Day 5 – Tuesday, March 19: *Eden Islet and Sombrero Chino Islet*

Morning: *Eden Islet (Santa Cruz Island)*

A panga ride takes us to Eden Islet, located off the coast of Santa Cruz, where we can observe blue footed boobies diving into the water, reef sharks and frigates.



There's a chance to snorkel and, if weather conditions permit, to ride in the glass-bottom boat. The volcanic setting of this area is quite stunning due to its variety of volcanic debris, including cinder cones, tuff cones, and semi-eroded lava flows.

Afternoon: *Sombrero Chino Islet*

The tiny island of Sombrero Chino gets its name from its appearance, reminiscent of a Chinese hat. This islet, formed only fairly recently, makes a beautiful visit as one explores the wildlife along its 400-metre long trail, which begins at a crescent-shaped white sandy beach.

The cove offers excellent swimming and snorkeling opportunities amid white-tipped reef sharks and Galapagos penguins.

Day 6 – Wednesday, March 20: *Bartolomé Island & Sullivan Bay (Santiago Island)*

Morning: *Bartolomé Island*

This morning, a Galapagos icon awaits: Bartolomé Island. A great way to start the day, with a steep climb up a wooden staircase: the view from the top is worth the effort! Following the walk, we take to the dinghies for a ride around colossal Pinnacle Rock, followed by time to enjoy the beach and some snorkeling. We can also ride in the glass-bottom boat for great views of the underwater world.

Afternoon: *Sullivan Bay (Santiago Island)*

After lunch, we board the pangas to land at Sullivan Bay on the east coast of Santiago, a white coral sand beach great for swimming and snorkelling, and with a trail over a lava field that flowed here less than 100 years ago. This is the perfect place to see and feel the volcanic origin of Galapagos while observing its wildlife.



Day 7 – Thursday, March 21: *Darwin Bay and Prince Philip's Steps (Genovesa Island)*



Morning: *Darwin Bay*

We begin our exploration of this island with an easy stroll to observe marine and land birds. There is an optional walk over sharp lava and uneven terrain for dramatic views, or else 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.

Afternoon: *Prince Philip's Steps (Genovesa Island)*

Enjoy a panga ride along the cliffs before we disembark for a short but steep climb up a wooden staircase. Once at the top, the land is flat, allowing for a captivating walk of about a mile to the other side of this small island, observing large colonies of Nazca boobies, frigate birds and storm petrels and the elusive short eared owl.

Day 8 – Friday, March 22: Baltra Island and Guayaquil

We disembark at Baltra Island where we transfer to the airport to take the commercial flight (ticket not included) back to Guayaquil.

Upon arrival in Guayaquil, transfer to the Hilton Colon hotel.

Hotel: Hilton Colon Guayaquil
Breakfast and Dinner



Day 9 - Saturday, March 23: Guayaquil → Panama City, Panama 665 NM

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: Waldorf Astoria
Breakfast and Dinner included

Day 10 – Sunday, March 24: 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'll continue 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: Waldorf Astoria
Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included

Day 11 - Monday, March 25: Panama City → Grand Cayman → Key West, FL 625 + 315 NM

We will transfer to the airport and fly to Key West to clear US Customs. There will be an optional technical stop in Grand Cayman to refuel.

Breakfast included

Landing Points, Identifier and Runway Lengths:		
Palm Beach	KPBI	10,001'
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
- Meals: All breakfasts and most lunches and dinners
- All meals aboard the ship as well as tours (morning and afternoon)
- Wine selected by Air journey is included with dinner. All other beverages are not included.
- Tips aboard the ship
- \$120 Galapagos National Park entrance fee
- Return transfers between airport and hotel
- All sightseeing, hotel taxes, gratuities and guide services as in indicated in itinerary
- A full time Air Journey pilot escort

Our land program does not include:

- Airport departure taxes and landing fees
- Airline ticket for round-trip flight between Guayaquil – Baltra – Guayaquil
- Beverages except as noted above
- Personal expenses such as laundry, room service, communication charges and other incidentals

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 August 2018. 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 5 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;
- 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 151 days of departure: AJ retains the initial deposit of \$1,000 per person
 - ii) Between 151 and 120 days of departure: AJ retains 50% of the tour cost & the registration fee
 - iii) Between 119 and 90 days of departure: AJ retains 75% of the tour cost & the registration fee
 - iv) 89 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 are mandatory. A survival raft is recommended.

Travel and Cancellation Insurance is strongly recommended and not included in the package. It can be purchased from Air Journey for approximately 6% of the cost of the Journey. The actual cost is based on a person's state of residency, birth date and amount covered. Contact Anais (561 841-1551 ext. 3) at Air Journey for more details.