

2009 – 2010
LUXURY ADVENTURES GENERAL INFORMATION

Medical & Health

Guests should be in good physical health in order to be able to make the most of their Galapagos Cruise. Visiting the different islands involves the use of small motorized dinghies, or pangas as they are locally known, and there are some landings on wet and slippery lava rocks. The daily nature hikes may include walking on irregular and elevated terrain and getting in and out of the pangas occasionally requires some physical effort. If a passenger suffers from any medical condition, we advise him/her to consult a physician prior to booking a cruise.

Insurance

Travellers are strongly recommended to purchase trip cancellation insurance, which will reimburse the cost of air tickets and other non-refundable trip payments. Life, international medical, baggage loss & delay, and personal belongings insurance are also recommended. Luxury Adventures assumes no liability for lost or stolen personal belongings during the trip.

Vessel Replacement

Luxury Adventures reserves the right to substitute the Eclipse if considered necessary (i.e. force majeure, mechanical failures, insufficient participants on a specific departure etc). If this is not possible, Luxury Adventures will make every effort to find a similar category yacht as an alternative. If there is a difference in price, this will be refunded accordingly. If the travellers do not take this option, Luxury Adventures reserves the right to cancel the trip upon a refund pro rata per cruise night not used or, as an alternative, will offer a credit towards a future cruise on the Eclipse.

The Galapagos National Park

The Galapagos is a National Park and Marine Reserve and there are certain rules and regulations that need to be complied with. The naturalist guide will inform passengers of these rules. The Galapagos National Park and Luxury Adventures, through the guide aboard, reserve the right to deny any passenger disembarkation for the land visits if any of these regulations are ignored or violated.

Special Diets

Some travellers have special dietary requirements. In this event, Luxury Adventures should be contacted at least 30 days prior to the start of the cruise. Every effort will be made to accommodate any special requests, subject to the products' availability in Ecuador.

Responsibilities of Travellers

Travellers have some responsibilities to crewmembers and other fellow passengers. Travellers should review the conditions contained within the trip itinerary, follow normal social behaviour patterns with fellow passengers and observe all safety requirements on board and on excursions, acting in an appropriate and respectful manner to the ship's crewmembers and all other personnel involved in the cruise.

Smoking Policy

Smoking is allowed only in designated outdoor areas.

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS



Day 1
Thursday

Arrival Quito

Our Adventure begins as you board your flight to Quito. Meet and greet, transfer upon arrival to your hotel for registration. Meals today are under your own arrangements

Accommodation, Swissôtel

Address: 12 de Octubre 1820 y Luis Cordero
Check in time: 2pm and check out at 12noon.
Telephone: 593 2 2567 600 Fax: 593 2 2568 080
www.quito.swissotel.com

Swissotel (Swiss Executive Room), No meals

Day 2
Friday

Quito

Exploring the Colonial City of Quito

After breakfast, take a ride to the historical part of Quito for a guided tour of the city and have lunch at a cozy restaurant. Quito in the 13th century was the prosperous center of the Kingdom of Quitus. Later, it became the northern capital of the Inca Empire. In the 16th and 17th Centuries, Colonial architects built formidable temples, monasteries and mansions here. Today the colonial sector preserves over 400 years of Spanish heritage. In 1978 UNESCO designated this urban jewel as a World Heritage Site. Afternoon at your leisure.

Swissotel (Swiss Executive Room), B.L

Day 3
Saturday

Quito / Galapagos

After breakfast, your guide will pick you up at hotel to transfer you to the national airport for your domestic flights to Galapagos.

M/V Eclipse www.eclipse.com.ec

Arrive at Baltra, Galapagos

The flight from Quito (via Guayaquil) to the Galapagos is approximately 2 ½ hours on a Boeing 727-200. Upon arrival at Baltra travelers pass through a Galapagos National Park inspection point to ensure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands and to pay the park entrance fee of \$100 (unless prepaid as in your case). Guides will meet you, collect your luggage and escort you on the short bus ride to the harbor. Motorized rafts, called 'Pangas' will transport you to the *M/V Eclipse* and our crew will welcome you onboard. After the ship departs, lunch will be served. Your first island visit will be in the afternoon.

Santa Cruz (Indefatigable) Island—Las Bachas Beach

Las Bachas Beach is located in the north of Santa Cruz. Its soft, white sand is derived from decomposed coral, making it a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind the beach there is a small brackish water lagoon, where it is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels.

Eclipse (Stateroom), B.L.D

Day 4
Sunday

Galapagos

Santiago (San Salvador, James) Island—James Bay

Puerto Egas (James Bay) is located on the northwest side of Santiago. The landing is on a black beach with eroded rock formations in the background. The trail crosses the dry interior, where the remains of a salt mining enterprise can still be seen, and then continues along the coast. Tidal pools are home to a variety of invertebrate organisms, including sea urchins, octopus and starfish. The trail leads to the Fur Seals Grottos, one of the only places in the islands where they can be seen. After the walk, you will have time to swim or snorkel off the beach, where you will see sea lions, fish and maybe some turtles and reef sharks.



Bartolome (Bartholomew) Island

Bartolomé is a small island that has two visitor sites. At the first site, you can swim and snorkel around Pinnacle Rock, where penguins are usually seen. Back on board for a quick change of clothes and then it is a short dinghy ride to a dry landing for a climb to the highest point on the island. On the way up, you will encounter different volcanic formations, including spatter and tuff cones, lava flow and lava tubes. From the summit you will have a wonderful view of Sullivan Bay.

Eclipse (Stateroom), B.L.D

Day 5
Monday

Galapagos

Santa Cruz Island (Indefatigable) – Cerro Dragón

The name Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill) stems from the fact that it was one of the few sites on Santa Cruz Island where a healthy population of land iguanas were found in 1975. After landing at a pier, a hike takes to you to a salt water lagoon behind the beach, frequented by common stilts, pintail ducks and occasionally flamingos. A short walk up the hill leads you to a land iguana nesting site, with breathtaking views of the bay.

Rábida Island

Rábida is a small island with red volcanic rocks surrounding a beautiful red sand beach, where there is a colony of sea lions and a pelican nesting site. The trail leads to a salt water lagoon where shore birds can be seen. Rábida is considered to be one of the best snorkeling sites in the Galapagos Islands.

Eclipse (Stateroom), B.L.D

Day 6
Tuesday

Galapagos

Isabela (Albemarle) Island—Tagus Cove

Tagus Cove was historically used as an anchoring place for pirates, buccaneers and whalers. Here you will see the names of hundreds of ships painted on the high ridges (a practice now forbidden). Depending on the season, you will either go hiking or snorkeling. On the hike, the trail goes through an area of vegetation and the volcanic landscape of Darwin volcano. At the top of the trail, you will enjoy an incredible view of the whole cove and Darwin Lake.

On the panga ride, you will see a large number of blue-footed boobies perched on the ledges of the cliffs, as well as marine iguanas, penguins, brown pelicans, brown noddy terns and swallow-tailed gulls. While exploring the channel between Fernandina and Isabela Islands, we sometimes encounter dolphins and whales.



Isabela (Albemarle) Island—Elizabeth Bay

Elizabeth Bay is one of the furthest points of the Galapagos that we will visit on our cruise. A panga ride around two islets called the Marielas offers a wide variety of bird life, such as flightless cormorants, herons, and blue-footed boobies. Then we will enter a sheltered cove – a wonderful mangrove ecosystem that is a refuge for sea turtles and rays.

Eclipse (Stateroom), B.L.D

Day 7
Wednesday

Galapagos

Fernandina (Narborough) Island—Punta Espinosa

Fernandina last erupted in 1995. La Cumbre Volcano dominates the landscape, with lava fields stretching towards the ocean from its base. Punta Espinoza is a narrow piece of land where some of the most unique Galapagos species can be seen, including the flightless cormorant, Galapagos snakes, marine iguanas, penguins and the Galapagos hawk.

Isabela (Albemarle) Island—Punta Vicente Roca

Punta Vicente Roca is a wonderful snorkeling site, where you can usually see turtles as well as all kinds of fish. After the snorkeling you will go on a panga ride, which will give you the opportunity to study some of the Galapagos' spectacular geological rock formations. Nazca boobies, pelicans, swallow-tailed gulls, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants and penguins are often seen in the area

Eclipse (Stateroom), B.L.D

Day 8
Thursday

Galapagos

Santa Cruz (Indefatigable) Island—Charles Darwin Research Station

On your visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station you will gain insight into the huge efforts being made by scientists, guides, rangers and park managers to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will see the famous Galapagos tortoises that are the islands' namesake. After the visit you will have some free time to explore the town of Puerto Ayora.

Santa Cruz (Indefatigable) Island—Highlands

From Puerto Ayora you will travel by bus to the lush, green highlands of Santa Cruz, where you will visit a tortoise reserve to search for giant tortoises in their natural surroundings. You will also see the twin craters, a pair of giant sink holes left in the ground, which attract Darwin finches and other land birds.

Eclipse (Stateroom), B.L.D

Day 9

Galapagos

Friday

Hood (Española) Island—Gardner Bay

Gardner Bay offers the chance to enjoy a wonderful white sandy beach. It is home to one of the most important colonies of sea lions, and it is also a nesting site for sea turtles. After the beach time you will have a chance to deep water snorkel from the panga at Turtle Rock.



Hood (Española) Island—Punta Suarez

Punta Suarez is one of the most popular and attractive sites in the Galapagos. Due to its isolation from other islands, it has a high proportion of endemic fauna. A few steps inland from the landing site, groups of Española marine iguanas bask in the sun. Further inland, Nazca and blue-footed boobies nest almost on the trail, Galapagos doves peck around unaware of visitors and finches go about their business. The trail continues towards a blowhole, which is a fissure in the lava where water spurts high into the air like a geyser. The cracks in the cliffs are home to swallow-tailed gulls and red-billed tropicbirds. Further up the cliff in an area of low-lying trees you will find waved albatrosses nesting. The 10,000 to 12,000 pairs of albatrosses on Española represent the entire population of this species on the planet. They perform one of the most spectacular courtship rituals of the animal world.

Eclipse (Stateroom), B.L.D

Day 10

Galapagos / Quito

Saturday

Santa Cruz – Black Turtle Cove

Black Turtle Cove is one of the most beautiful marine sites in Galapagos. It is a complex maze of tranquil salt-water inlets, surrounded by three different species of mangrove. Its waters are a resting site for sea turtles, rays and sharks. This site is only accessible by panga.

You will take your flight back to the mainland in Baltra Island. Upon arrival to Quito, your guide will meet you to transfer you to your hotel.

Swissotel (Swiss Executive Room), B

Day 11, 2009
Sunday

Quito Departure

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your international flight back home. **B**

END OF LUXURY ADVENTURES SERVICES BON VOYAGE!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Suggested Itinerary for previous approval from the Galapagos National Park. Itineraries and programs are subject to change without previous notice due mainly to readjustment of the National Park policies and regulations, weather conditions, seasonal changes or safety reasons.

B. BREAKFAST, L. LUNCH, D. DINNER

SUGGESTED FLIGHT SCHEDULE IN QUITO/GALAPAGOS:

	FROM / TO	FLIGHT	Departure/Arrival
Day 3	Quito / Galapagos	AEROGAL 2K-034	09:30 AM – 11:40 AM
Day 10	Galapagos / Quito	AEROGAL 2K-035	12:30 PM – 04:30 PM

FLIGHT SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PREVIOUS NOTICE

EXPEDITION PRICE PER PERSON IN USD: (BASED ON 2 PASSENGERS)

ENJOY 2 NIGHTS IN THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS FOR FREE

GALAPAGOS PROGRAM FROM..... \$ 4,616.00
M/V ECLIPSE CRUISE, STATEROOM – SHARING DOUBLE ACCOMMODATION
ROUND TRIP FLIGHT QUITO/GALAPAGOS
GALAPAGOS ENTRANCE FEE
GALAPAGOS MIGRATORY CONTROL CARD
LAND ARRANGEMENTS ACCORDING TO THE ITINERARY
RATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

***2009 PRICES, ALL PRICES INCLUDE TAXES. RATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE MAINLY TO READJUSTMENT OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS.**

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE:

Land arrangements:

- Accommodation in Quito as stated in the itinerary
 - o Swissôtel – 1 Swiss Executive Room
- Private Guide and Land transportation in Quito as stated in the itinerary
- Private Sightseeing and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary
- All meals as stated in the detailed itinerary
- Activities in the Highlands according to the itinerary

Galapagos arrangements:

- 7 nights aboard the Eclipse, Stateroom
- All meals while on board
- Galapagos Migratory Control Card (rate subject to change)
- Galapagos National Park fee (rate subject to change)
- Round trip flight Quito-Galapagos (rate subject to change)
- Local naturalist guides aboard the Eclipse

- Activities in Galapagos: snorkelling, hikes

PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE:

- Travel/baggage/accident/cancellation Insurance - recommended.
- International Flights.
- All internal airfare not specified on Net Price Per Person
- Yellow Fever and Malaria Vaccination
- Gratuities to local guides, drivers, Galapagos guides, crew & escort guide
- Items of a personal nature, such as laundry, alcoholic beverages, excess baggage charges, phone and e-mail
- Excess mileage carried out at the request of the participants
- Passport or visa expenses
- Meals not stated in the itinerary
- Soft drinks & bottled water with meals
- Anything not specifically mentioned in "Program Rates Include".
- Ecuadorian Departure Tax (US\$ 40.80 p/p rates subject to change)

Booking and Cancellation policy Luxury Adventures

Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands Program

(FIT) FOR INDIVIDUAL TRAVELLERS

FIT Bookings and Payments

1. **Bookings made 60 days or less prior to departure:**
A full non-refundable payment is required to confirm the booking.

FIT Cancellation Policies

1. **Cancellations made 60 days or less prior to departure:**
Full payment will be applied as the cancellation penalty.

Form of Payment

1. **Bank Transfer – Wire Transfer**
The sender is responsible for all bank transfer charges.
2. **Credit Card Payment – Signature on File**
Luxury Adventures can only accept Visa and American Express. Copy of credit card holder's passport and copy of credit card, front and back, are required.