



Nature
Encounters
Tours & Travel

The Magic of Galapagos May 2023

with Extensions to
The Napo Rainforest & Peru



Visit one of the most exotic destinations in the world!
We begin by immersing ourselves into the Ecuadorian
culture with a visit to Otavalo and Quito city tour...
then off to our first-class luxury boat, island hopping
to catch all the magnificent sites.

MAXIMUM 14 GUESTS!

Nowhere else can you see unusual & endangered species as on the
Galapagos Islands! Don't want to go home?
Options... 4 days in the rain forest and/or visit Peru!

Galapagos Aboard M/Y Beluga

May 7, 2023 - In Transit – Patio Andaluz Hotel <https://www.hotelpatioandaluz.com>

(3 nts): Flights from Canada/US to Quito Ecuador's capital city. Usually late arrival so rest up for the next day's adventure. We would be happy to book your airline tickets through our wholesaler!

Located in Quito's Quito Historic Center neighborhood, **Hotel Patio Andaluz** is in the city center. Catedral Metropolitana de Quito and Bolivar Theatre are local landmarks, and some of the area's attractions include Quito Observatory and



Interactive Science Museum. Looking to enjoy an event or a game while in town? See what's happening at General Rumiñahui Coliseum or Atahualpa Olympic Stadium. Guests love the hotel's central location.



May 8: Enjoy a half-day tour of Quito. Once capital of the Inca Empire, the city of Quito is a South American Treasure! You will explore the rich history of the Old Town UNESCO World Heritage Site walking the cobble streets and the wide-open Plaza San Francisco. Your local guide will be happy to suggest shopping and dining spots as well! A great way to end your day! B



May 9 – Full Day Tour of Otavalo: Today we travel to Otavalo and the country market alive with the sights and sounds of the Ecuadorian culture. Enjoy lunch along the way and return to Quito for overnight. Galapagos briefing this evening! B,L

May 10 – Aboard M/Y Beluga (7 nights):

Today your adventure begins with a flight from Quito to Baltra Island, Galapagos. Here you will be met and taken to the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about all the amazing conservation and breeding programs that are being done.

Time to board your home for the next 7 days to explore the Galapagos Islands aboard our comfortable, exclusive motor yacht, M/Y Beluga. All meals, snacks and excursions included. B,L,D





Traveling aboard a yacht ensures the visitor receives the most intimate Galapagos experience. Truly 'up close and personal' with nature and the rugged beauty of the islands.

Leaning over the bow watching the dolphins riding the bow wave inches away; spotting that whale in the distance; anchoring in a quiet and secluded cove; strolling the beach amongst the sea lions and watching the boobies dive into the surf, it truly is a unique opportunity.



Beluga's size ensures that our passengers are able to gain access to all the best visitor sites, some of which are closed to the bigger cruise ships. Embark upon our very spacious and comfortable "Superior First Class" motor yacht. With panoramic windows in the salon and great deck space, Beluga is a fantastic way to cruise the islands in speed and style. Equipped with the most modern safety and mechanical equipment, Beluga accommodates 16 passengers in 8 double cabins; one of these has an additional berth which becomes a triple room which is suitable for families. Each cabin has their own private bathroom equipped with hot & cold-water showers. Beluga is fully air-conditioned, has spacious social areas with all the comforts and facilities of a superior first-class motor yacht: panoramic windows in the salon / dining area, and a large sundeck for relaxing, sightseeing or sunbathing.



The Beluga's friendly and professional crew will make sure to fulfill our every need during your journey. The Beluga is outfitted exclusively for the Galapagos Islands and has been awarded the Smart Voyager certification for adhering to conservation standards. Beluga also complies with all international maritime regulations and is SOLAS certified.



May 11 – Sombrero chino Island / Rabida Island: Sombrero Chino: Sombrero Chino is a small volcanic island just off the southeast tip of Santiago. The name of the island describes the shape of the island. Fauna includes Sea lions, marine iguanas and the Galapagos



penguin. This small island with its white sand beach is always a pleasure to visit and a favorite to snorkel. After breakfast you will enjoy a short hike along the coast of the island stopping to admire the sealion colony and unique lava formations. Afterwards there will be snorkeling along the coast of Santiago Island. In the noon hours the boat will navigate to Rabida Island.

Rábida Island: Rábida is a small island with a dark red coral sand beach. Highlights include the lagoon with flamingoes, pelican nesting site, sea

lion bachelor colony, and a snorkeling site at the end of the beach.

May 12 – Isabela Island: Isabela Island (Albemarle): Isabela is the largest of the Galapagos Islands formed by five active volcanoes fused together. Wolf Volcano is the highest point in the entire Galapagos at 1707m.

Sierra Negra : Volcan Sierra Negra has a caldera with a diameter of 10km. View recent lava flows, moist highland vegetation, and parasitic cones.

Puerto Villamil: Puerto Villamil is a charming small town on a white sand beach. Highlights include the Tortoise Breeding Station and the flamingo lagoon. Other visits (depending on conditions) are the

Tintoreras or Los Humedales.



May 13 – Isabela Island – Elizabeth Bay/Punta Moreno:

Elizabeth Bay: This spot is only accessible by dinghy. It is possible to see penguins on the small islets in the bay. The end of the bay is long and narrow surrounded by three species of mangroves. Galapagos Sea Turtles and rays can usually be seen in the water.

Punta Moreno: Punta Moreno is located in the central southwestern coast of Isabela Island. The site has spectacular views of volcanoes Alcedo, Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul. Some highlights include impressive lava flows, desolate and pristine landscape, varied and unusual arid zone vegetation.



May 14 – Isabela Island – Urbina Bay / Tagus Cove:

Urbina Bay: Urbina Bay is located at the central-west coast of Isabela Island at the foothills of Alcedo and Darwin volcanoes. Highlights include the colourful land iguanas, Galapagos Giant tortoises and the coral uplifting from 1954.

Tagus Cove: Tagus Cove is a natural harbor where centuries ago whalers and pirates left their ship's names painted or carved on the rocks. A walk uphill to Darwin's Crater salt-water lake will provide an excellent view.

May 15 – Fernandina Island – Puta Espinoza & Isabela Island – Punt Vicente Roca:

Punta Espinoza: Punta Espinoza is a place famous for its large colonies of marine iguanas and as the habitat of unique species like the flightless cormorant, Galapagos penguin, Galapagos hawk, Galapagos snake, among others.



May 16 – James (Santiago) Island / Bartolome Island:

James (Santiago) Island:

This Island is located between Isabela and Santa Cruz Islands. This Island offers a wide variety of seabirds, marine iguanas and fur seals.

Playa Espumilla: Espumilla Beach has a beautiful contrast between the golden beach and the green mangroves. It is

also a great site to see flamingos, pintail ducks, green sea turtle nests and the Galapagos Hawk.

Buccaneers Cove: This site was Charles Darwin's home for 9 days. As well as a resting site for many whalers and pirates. With this rich history Buccaneers Cove is a must see. Enjoy a panga ride or snorkel looking for Galapagos Fur Seals, Brown Noddies, Pelicans & Swallow-tailed Gulls

Bartolome Island: Famous for its pinnacle rock and penguins. A hike will take you to the highest point on Bartolome for a spectacular view. Sea lions and penguins can be seen around Pinnacle Rock. There is a sandy beach with great swimming and snorkeling.



May 17 – In Transit: This morning you will say goodbye to your amazing guide & crew on Beluga as you will be transferred to the Baltra airport as you fly back to Quito. Here you will have a hotel room for day use until you are transferred to the airport to connect with your international flight home full of fantastic memories of a most unusual land!

Or.... How about a visit to Peru including Lima, Machu Picchu, Sacred Valley and the Nazca Lines?

The Magic of Galapagos! Minimum/Maximum 14 Guests

Cabin 3 & 4- Available - \$7995USD per person

***** If you are a single female willing to share, we may have a roommate for you!**

Cabins 1, 2, 5, 6, 7 & 8 are spoken for - can be waitlisted

Cabin 1 & 2 \$7895USD per person Cabin 6 & 7 - \$8095USD per person

Cabin 8 - \$8195USD per person

Payment options –

- USD Bank Draft – amount above
- CDN Cheque – amount will be the closest CDN/USD exchange rate we receive through our bank
- CDN Credit Card – amount will be the closest CDN/USD exchange rate we receive through our bank plus 4% service fee
- USD Credit Card – amount above plus a 4% service fee

GALAPAGOS ALL INCLUSIVE OF:

Air/ground transportation between boat/lodges
All meals on boat and at lodges, B&B in Quito
Galapagos Park Fees
Otavalo day tour including lunch
Gratuities for boat and lodge staff
Led by destination specialist/Zoo Keeper Mona Keith.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:

Items of a personal nature; lunches and dinners in Quito; cancellation, baggage, emergency evacuation or travel insurance; visa's and their respective fees; drinks; any new Government taxes; departure tax of \$25.00USD



CLIMATE: May will be a great time to visit Galapagos and Ecuador. The rain forest will be just that – wet, humid and a real treat to experience. You will experience incredible downpours one minute and bright sun and blue skies the next. Bring your dry bag for camera gear! On the Galapagos Islands, the weather will be dry and warm. Temperatures could range into the high 20's low 30's but very dry. The water will be warm at this time making snorkeling and swimming very comfortable and often a welcome relief! Some of the islands have cooler currents and therefore you may want to bring a wetsuit for more time in the water.

Rain Forest Extension \$1595USD per person sharing

Single Pricing \$2295USD

Spanning nearly 2.5 million acres of lush Amazonian rainforest, Ecuador's Yasuní National Park is also a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. This is a mesmerizing place unlike any other! The Napo Wildlife Center is the only facility of its kind located within the vibrant heart of one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on our planet.

May 2, 2023: Arrive in Quito, Ecuador's capital city. You will be met and transferred to a hotel for 1 night.



May 3, 4, 5 – Napo Wildlife Centre, Ecuador (3 nights): A varied travel day from Quito to Napo Wildlife Centre encompassing a flight over the majestic Andes Mountain's snow-covered peaks and a motorized (2.5 hour) boat trip down the Napo River, largest river in Ecuadorian Amazonia. Upon arrival to the boat dock, you will have time for a loo break and then will be paddled along a narrow creek that connects to the lake where the lodge is located. <https://www.napowildlifecenter.com>

With 12 ample and comfortable standard cabins and 4 suites, the lodge accommodates a total of 36 people, distributed in suites, doubles and triple rooms. Our fully equipped cabins feature electricity, security box, ventilation water and a private bathroom, a balcony surrounded by beautifully groomed natural gardens. The restaurant, serving national and international food, At Napo Wildlife Center Eco Lodge, we place all our efforts at granting you an unforgettable jungle experience, far from the troubles of modern-day life, where you will be

sure to find solace and relaxation amidst singing birds, while experiencing the ageless customs, traditions and legends of the Kichwa culture.

Your stay will include a hike along forest trail to visit the Kichwa Community of Añangu and sharing time with a family on their activities. Visit a parrot clay lick where you will be able to find different species of parrots, parakeets and even macaws. Enjoy the 12-story



canopy tower which opens a whole new world! Hike along primary forest to discover the forest interior, possibilities of finding lizards, colorful manakins or the unique and endemic Golden mantle tamarin monkeys. Explore the lake and creeks by dugout canoe with great possibilities of running into a Giant otter family on the way... VERY special place! B,L,D



May 6: Patio Andaluz Hotel, Quito - <https://www.hotelpatioandaluz.com>: Today you will boat/fly back to Quito, rest of day at leisure. B

May 7: A day at leisure to explore your surroundings as the rest of the group arrives for your Galapagos adventure. B

INCLUDED: Return air tickets Quito-Coca-Quito and road/boat transfer to lodge; accommodation; all meals; all excursions including Añangu Kichwa Community, and visits to the exclusive NWC's parrot-macaw clay licks; local native guide and naturalist bilingual guide; entrance fee to the Yasuni National Park, rain poncho and rubber boots provided when needed for excursions.

*****Mona will join with a group of 4 guests and tips will be included as well.**

NOT INCLUDED: Drinks, gratuities, any other item not specified.



**Nature
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To book your adventure to Galapagos, Ecuador & Peru please contact
Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd.
Vancouver Area (604) 947 9005 Toll Free 1 866 949 3007

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carol@natureencounterstours.com

About Your Destination Specialist/Tour Leader - Mona Keith



Zookeeper and Naturalist, Mona's lifelong interest in the animals of our world make her a great part of our team. She has a BSc in Zoology and started her career as a Field Biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Federation, working on the endangered Vancouver Island Marmot Project, and the effects of clear-cut logging on the forest birds of Vancouver Island. She began her Zoo-keeping career in 1982 at the Calgary Zoo, and has nurtured her passion and honed her skills working closely with animals ever since. She strives to ensure that the animals under her care have the best life possible while they serve as ambassadors for their species educating people about the crucial role all wildlife plays in our lives and the world we live in.

For over 28 years, she has worked almost exclusively with African species, dedicating most of her time to giraffes, hippos, lions and zebra. Besides the basic cleaning and feeding, she spends time providing behavioural enrichment to enhance their lives both physically and emotionally. Mona also works in training the animals to participate willingly in essential animal husbandry needs such as weighing, hoof trims for the giraffes and tooth trims for a hippo.

Mona's role as a Zookeeper includes educating the public about the animals under her care. She has given numerous talks to school groups, special behind-the-scene tours and many TV, radio and newspaper interviews. Mona is an avid birdwatcher keeping lists of sightings in North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, and Africa. She loves to share her passion for our avian friends and her enthusiasm is sure to rub off. As an experienced trip leader, Mona will provide valuable knowledge and enjoyment to your trip to see the wonders of Ecuador & the Galapagos.

**Mona can be reached at mona@natureencounterstours.com for more destination information.
Contact Carol to coordinate and book all your travel**

About Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd.

Welcome to Nature Encounters Tours & Travel! We have traveled the globe in search of destinations that will put you in touch with our passion – nature! Our experience, and that of our guides, is matched by a personalized service that keeps our guests returning to travel with us year after year. From the moment you inquire about a location to the start of your small group departure – we are dedicated to ensuring your trip is memorable.

On safari, you can experience everything from watching a lioness care for her young in the hollow of an old tree to having a magnificent five-ton elephant display his enormous ears and mock charge your vehicle . . . or lay on a sandy beach that goes on for miles and miles while listening to the sound of the Indian Ocean. Your accommodation and meals, in either lodges or tented camps, range from truly comfortable to absolutely luxurious. Backpacking was never like this! Swimming pools, gardens and the fragrance of wild basil will surround you as your binoculars scout the magnificent scenery for cheetah, elephant, zebra, lilac breasted rollers, hyena, and tawny eagles to name a few. Your game activities can include driving in national parks watching for wildlife along the way, walking with an experienced guide looking for all the little things you may have missed by driving, and boating or canoeing – enjoying some of the most incredible rivers and lakes.

Ecotourism is an important part of the Nature Encounters Tours & Travel experience. Our guests are happy to contribute to a sustainable industry where the local people, as well as the wildlife, benefit from their visit. We support villages and schools such as the A.I.C. Girls' School in Kajiado, Kenya and conservation groups that are near and dear to us - the Painted Dog Conservation Project, Tikki Hywood Trust, Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit, The Serengeti Lion Research Project, Wildlife SOS in India and Friends of the Galapagos to name a few. We do indeed walk the talk . . .

Our goal is to give our guests an experience they won't ever forget – from dancing with the Maasai in East Africa to enjoying watching the antics of a pair of polar bears enjoy a tussle in the snow to photographing and observing the many species that live in our great world.

Join us for the vacation of a lifetime!