



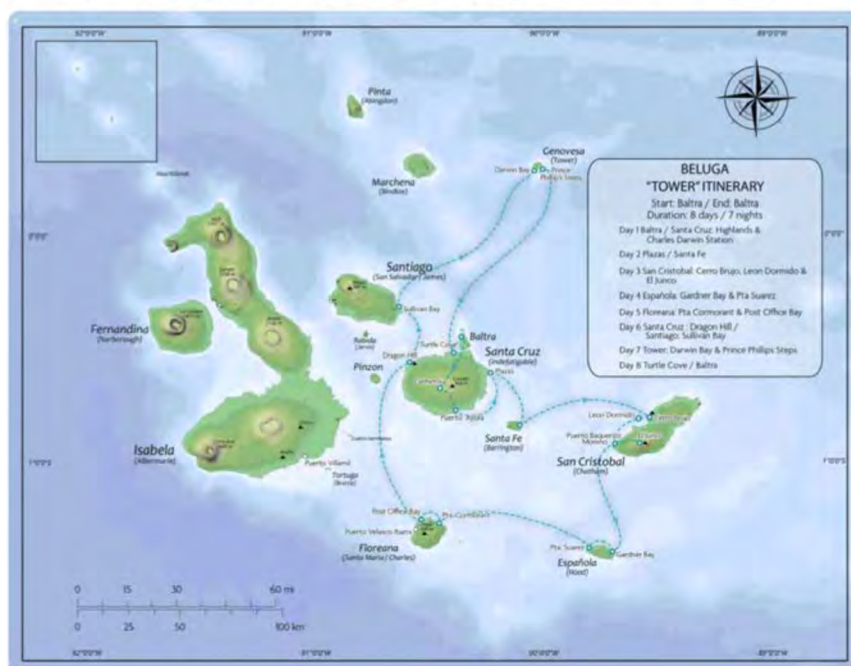
The Magic of the Galapagos Islands

With extensions to the Napo Rainforest and Peru

April 2026



Visit one of the most exotic destinations in the world! Begin by immersing yourself into the Ecuadorian culture with a visit to Otavalo and Quito ... then off to your first-class luxury boat, island hopping to catch all the magnificent sites. Nowhere else can you see unusual & endangered species as on the Galapagos Islands! Don't want to go home? How about 4 days in the Napo basin rain forest and/or visit Peru including Machu Picchu!



Galapagos Aboard M/Y Beluga

March 29, 2026 - In Transit – Hotel De La Ronda <https://www.lacsonadelaronda.com>
(3 nights): 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!

The La Casona De La Rosa Heritage Boutique Hotel has been tastefully renovated for you to immerse in the Ecuadorian Culture. Enjoy all the modern conveniences built into the original house, with colours and stone walls that reflect the passing of time. The rooms have been designed to provide you with an authentic stay, immersing you into the true atmosphere of the unique colonial centre of Quito. Our restaurant is the perfect environment to savour the delights of Ecuadorian cuisine. The hotel is conveniently located within walking distance to the main attractions.



March 30: 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 cobbled 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!

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March 31 – 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



April 1 – 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 you receive 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 larger 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.

Beluga's friendly and professional crew will make sure to fulfill your every need during your journey. 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.



Santa Cruz Island

- Highlands of Santa Cruz: Galapagos giant tortoises can be seen in the wild in the highlands of Santa Cruz.
- Charles Darwin Station: The Charles Darwin Station is a research facility and National Park Information center where you will hear about the giant tortoise and land iguana breeding program.



April 2 - South Plaza Island / Santa Fe Island:

South Plaza Island: Plazas consists of two very small islands that were uplifted from the sea, separated by a channel. Only South Plazas has a visitor site. The highlights include tall Opuntia cactus, land and marine iguanas, a rocky cliff that looks out towards open ocean which is also a nesting site for red-billed tropic birds and gulls, and a seal lion bachelor colony.

Santa Fe Island: Santa Fe is a smaller island of 24 km². The visitor site on Santa Fe is located on the northeast end of the island. Highlights include Santa Fe land iguanas, pelican nesting site, sea lion colony, mockingbird, and Palo Santo trees.

April 3 - San Cristóbal Island:

San Cristóbal Island (Chatham): San Cristóbal is the easternmost island of Galapagos and also one of the oldest.

- Witch Hill: Witch Hill (Cerro Brujo) is a volcanic cone that looks over a beautiful white sandy beach which has plenty of sea lions, pelicans, blue-footed boobies, waders and marine iguanas.
- Galapaguera and El Junco: The lagoon is the only freshwater reservoir in Galapagos and has great views from its altitude of 700m in the highlands of San Cristóbal. Rainwater has collected in the caldera for hundreds of years and formed this lagoon. Galapaguera is a good area to see tortoises in their natural environment.



April 4 - Española (Hood) Island:

Hood Island (Española): Hood is the oldest of the Southern Islands and is the southernmost in the archipelago. Because of its remote location a unique range of endemic species evolved here

- Gardner Bay: Located on the northeast of the island, the site has a long and beautiful white sand beach inhabited by sea lion colonies.
- Islote Gardner and Islote Osborn: These islets are snorkeling sites where visitors will see an abundance of tropical fish, reef sharks, and turtles.
- Punta Suarez: The wildlife at Punta Suarez is plentiful and varied. Along the cliff visitors can enjoy the blowhole where seawater is forced about 20m into the air. The highlights are the Waved albatross (April-Dec) that are only found on Hood, Galapagos Hawks, blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, and Española lava lizards.



April 5 - Floreana Island:

Floreana Island: Floreana is best known for its colourful history of buccaneers, whalers, convicts, and early colonists.

- Punta Cormorant: Punta Cormorant has two contrasting beaches and a large inland lagoon where flamingos can be seen.
- Devil's Crown: This is a snorkeling site located just off Punta Cormorant. The site is a completely submerged volcano that has eroded to create the appearance of a jagged crown – you may just see Galapagos Penguins here!

• Post Office Bay: This is one of the few sites visited for its human history. Visit the wooden mail barrel where letters are dropped off and picked up. Also see the remains of the Norwegian fishing village.



April 6 - Santa Cruz Island / James Island:

Santa Cruz Island:

- Dragon Hill: Cerro Dragon has hyper-salinic small lagoon behind the beach, often frequented by flamingos.

James Island (Santiago):

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

- Sullivan Bay: This site is of great geological interest. Highlights: One hundred-year-old lava flow field, pahoehoe formations, and lava bubbles.



April 7 - Tower (Genovesa) Island:

Tower Island (Genovesa): Tower is an eroded flat volcanic island, with a natural harbour, which is actually the submerged caldera of this volcanic island.

- Darwin Bay: The steep cliffs of this area dominate the island. This area is home to thousands of frigate birds, red-footed boobies, noddy terns, lava gulls, tropicbirds, doves, storm petrels and Darwin's finches.
- El Barranco: There is a good possibility of seeing the unique "Short eared owl" at this site. During the dinghy rides along the cliffs fur seals and several species of seabirds can be spotted.



April 8 - Santa Cruz Island / Baltra for return flight to Quito:

Santa Cruz Island

Caleta Tortuga (Turtle Cove): Turtle Cove is a red mangrove lagoon on Santa Cruz and a perfect example of how mangroves alter the marine environment to create a rich and unique habitat.



Baltra - Return flight to Quito

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!

Lower Deck Cabins 1 – 5 pricing - \$8695USD per person sharing
Upper/Main Deck Cabins 6, 7, 8 - \$8995USD per person sharing
Minimum/Maximum 14 Guests

Payment options –

- USD Bank Draft, USD Cheque or Bank Transfer – USD amount
- USD Credit Card – USD amount plus a 4% service fee
- CDN Cheque – CDN amount closest to USD/CDN exchange rate we receive through our bank
- CDN Credit Card – CDN amount closest to USD/CDN exchange rate we receive through our bank plus 4% service fee

Please note: E Transfers are not available at this time

Yes... we are a Canadian company and prefer to price in Canadian \$. Our partners on the ground quote in USD and with the volatility of the exchange rate, we choose to price in USD which allows guests to make the best decision on method of payment. As well, we work very hard to keep our pricing competitive for our guests, however, we do not have control over increases in game park fees or fuel surcharges. We will endeavor to inform our guests of increases as soon as we hear about them and add those increases, at our cost only, to our guest invoices.

Magic of Galapagos Includes:

Pre-departure package and group meetings
Air/ground transportation between boat/lodges
Meals and activities as mentioned in itinerary
Galapagos Park Fees
Gratuities for boat and lodge staff
Soft sided luggage and final package
Led by destination specialist/Zookeeper Mona Keith.

Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature;
lunches and dinners in Quito; travel insurance
including medical, cancellation, baggage, emergency
evacuation; visa's (if required) and their respective
fees; drinks; any new Government taxes



CLIMATE: April will be a great month 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 from 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.

Category: Premium First Class

Capacity: 16 passengers

Length: 110 ft

Beam: 23 ft

Cruise Range: 12 knots cruising

Motor Vessel, Steel hull

Cabins:

Cabin 1: Triple room | 1 twin & bunk bed
w/ 2 twins

Cabin 2: Double room | 2 twins

Cabin 3: Double room | 1 queen

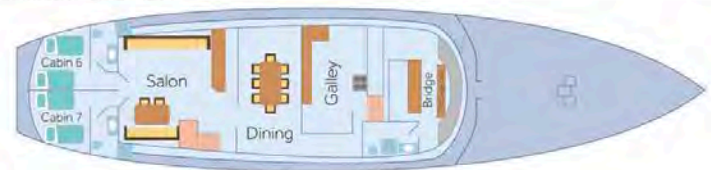
Cabin 4: Double room | 2 twins

Cabin 5: Double room | 1 queen

Cabin 6: Double room | 1 queen or 2
twins

Cabin 7: Double room | 1 queen or 2 twins

Cabin 8: Double room | 2 twins

UPPER DECK**MAIN DECK****LOWER DECK**

Napo Rainforest Extension Before Galapagos

Spanning nearly 2.5 million acres of lush Amazonian rainforest, Ecuador's Yasuní National Park is 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.

March 24, 2025 – Hotel TBA (1 night): Arrive in Quito in a hotel close to the airport for 1 night.

March 25 – Napo Wildlife Centre (3 nights)

<https://napoculturalcenter.com> : Embark on an exhilarating journey from Coca to the Napo Wildlife Center. Following a flight and a brief transfer, you will be warmly welcomed at a private dock with



refreshments and a boxed lunch. A two-hour motorboat ride along the Napo River is followed by a serene canoe trip through a creek to the lodge on a lake. Along the way, spot monkeys and birds. Upon arrival, take in the breathtaking scenery of Lake Añangu, receive a welcome drink, and get briefed on hotel services before settling into comfortable jungle-view rooms. B,L,D



March 26 - After breakfast, embark on a motorized canoe journey to the Parrot Clay Lick in the Yasuní Biosphere Reserve. During the ride, various species of parrots can be observed. Then, walk the Parakeet Trail to observe up to 5 species of parrots, parakeets, and macaws at the clay lick. The site also attracts mammals such as monkeys and jaguars. The morning concludes with a visit to the Kury Muyu intercultural



interpretation center,

managed by women from the community, where you can learn about Kichwa culture and purchase handmade crafts. After lunch, take a boat excursion on the Añangu stream to observe wildlife. In the afternoon, board a catamaran on the Napo River to learn about the legends and traditional songs of the Kichwa community while enjoying snacks roasted over the fire. B,L,D



March 27 - Start the day by enjoying the sunrise during breakfast and visit sustainable community projects to learn about the Kichwa worldview. Explore trails in the terra firme forest, observing the diversity of flora and fauna, including ceiba trees and monkeys. After lunch, take a hike to the second observation tower to spot birds and other species. In the evening, relax and enjoy a typical Amazonian dinner, featuring dishes like maito and chontakuru (roasted chonta worms). After dinner, participate in an exciting night walk to observe insects, reptiles, and mammals active during the night.



March 28 - Hotel De La Ronda

<https://www.lacsonadelaronda.com> (4

nights): To conclude your experience, you have the option to participate in the guayusada ritual, starting early at 4:30 am. During this ritual, the Kichwa Añangu community shares the sacred guayusa, transmitting their ancient knowledge. The experience includes traditional songs and the possibility of a mamakuna interpreting your dreams. Afterward, you will return to enjoy breakfast while the staff collects your luggage for the return journey to El Coca in comfortable motorized canoes, providing you with the last opportunity to appreciate the landscape of the Ecuadorian tropical rainforest. Board your flight to Quito where you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Quito on a bed and breakfast basis.

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March 29: Day at leisure – the group arrives later today.

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The Napo Rainforest Extension
2 Guests - \$2195USD per person sharing
does not include gratuities
4 – 6 Guests - \$2295USD per person
includes gratuities and Mona guiding

About Your Destination Specialist/Tour Leader Mona Keith

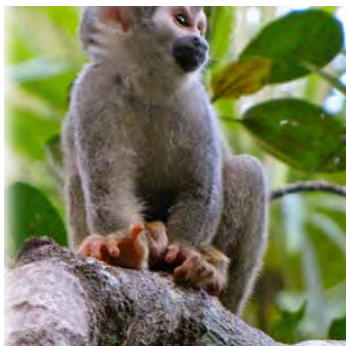


Zookeeper and Naturalist, Mona's lifelong interest in the animals of our world make her a great part of our team. She has a BSc in Zoology and started her career as a Field Biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Federation, working on the endangered Vancouver Island Marmot Project, and the effects of clear-cut 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 35 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-scenes 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 and Peru.



Mona can be reached at
mona@natureencountertours.com
for more detailed destination information.

Contact carol@natureencountertours.com
to coordinate and book all your travel

About Nature Encounters Tours & Travel Ltd.

Welcome to Nature Encounters Tours & Travel! We have extensively researched destinations that will put you in touch with our passion – nature and culture! Our 35+ years of experience, including personally traveling to these areas regularly, coupled with the experience 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 or custom departure, we are dedicated to ensuring your trip is not only memorable but the “best vacation ever!”

In Ecuador and Peru, you will have experiences like no other... walking on lava spewed from ancient volcanoes, swimming with sea lions and even penguins, carefully picking your way through a maze of land iguanas, marveling at the bulbous red pouch of the Frigate Bird, enjoying the colourful people at a local market... and so much more. Your binoculars and camera's will get a very good workout!

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 as well as conservation groups that are near and dear to us – Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Painted Dog Conservation Project, Tikki Hywood Trust, Victoria Falls Anti-Poaching Unit, Mara-Meru Cheetah 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 tiger cubs playing in India to photographing the mating dance of Blue Footed Booby's in Galapagos. You will marvel at the many species that live in our great world.

Join us for the vacation of a lifetime



Nature
Encounters
Tours & Travel

**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**

www.natureencounterstours.com

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