

Please note that all of the itineraries listed in our web site are actual private tour itineraries we have prepared for clients over the past 12-18 months. By the very nature of what we do, each private tour itinerary is custom, exclusive and unique unto itself. Our over-riding goal is to create lifelong memories that you and your family will forever carry deep within your hearts.

Overview

As of 2017, the previously known M/V Eclipse has been renamed M/V Xperience. The Xperience arrived in Galapagos in 1999 and since then she has been the best way to see islands offering the ideal combination of facilities, stability for night sailings, excellent naturalist guides, al fresco dining, and small groups of disembarking passengers. On-board comfort is a high priority on the Xperience, and to emphasize this point, the ship offers the most spacious outdoor areas of any boat in the Galapagos. This all adds up to a spectacular way to see this amazing wildlife destination.

We feel the two highest quality medium-size vessels are the MV Xperience and the Geo Expedition La Pinta. Based on its more spacious, open design and top-quality naturalists, we give our ultimate nod to the 210 ft. 1600 ton MV Xperience. We feel the MV Xperience offers the perfect balance of a premier wildlife experience with quality comfort-ability/stability.

ECUADOR

Temperature Range

Highs: Low 70's

Lows: High 50's

Area

272,045 sq km

105,037 sq miles

Population

14.8 million

Language

Spanish, indigenous languages

Capital

Quito

Currency

US Dollar

Day 1

Fly to Guayaquil + Arrive Guayaquil

Through our sister company, premium air provider TRAVNET, we may assisted with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

Oro Verde Hotel (RL)

Listed as 5-star, we consider the 230-room Oro Verde Guayaquil as more of a mid-4-star range property. By far the highest quality hotel in the city, the deluxe rooms and suites are quite large, featuring nice, modern amenities, including large plasma TV screens, iPod docks, DVD players, and sleek updated bathrooms. Children should enjoy the hotel's outdoor pool, while the adults may indulge in the spa (and the in-house casino if you are game!). A recent client raved about the local Arabica coffee served at breakfast every morning.

Meals: --

Accommodations: Oro Verde Hotel

Day 2

Guayaquil Private Touring

Today will stroll along the Malecan Simon Bolivar, Guayaquil's riverfront promenade or Malecon El Salado containing various eateries and cafes. You may also opt to venture to Hacienda el Castillo, an elegant country farm focused on sustainable farming. The plantation includes 100 hectares of cocoa, 30 hectares of dry tropical forest, and 20 hectares of teak trees.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Oro Verde Hotel

Day 3

Fly Guayaquil/Baltra Island

Upon arrival at Baltra, you will be transferred to the M/V Xperience for boarding. After check-in you will start sailing towards North Seymour Island.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: M/V Xperience

Day 4

South Plaza Island & Santa Fe Islands

Today you will disembark to the island of South Plaza, with the striking black lava and white sand shore line. South Plaza, although quite small, is home to a large Opuntia cacti forest, land iguanas, and one of the largest sea lion colonies in the central region of the archipelago. Your next stop is Santa Fe Island, hosting a number of unique endemic species. Afterwards, you may wish to embark on deep-sea snorkeling off the beach.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: M/V Xperience

Day 5

Punta Pitt & Cerro Brujo in San Cristobal

Punta Pitt is one of the few places on Earth where it is possible to see all three kinds of boobies: Nazca, blue-footed, and red-footed; and two species of frigates. Your next stopover is Cerro Brujo where you may see endemic mockingbirds and lava lizards.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodations: M/V Xperience

Day 6
Floreana Island

Floreana is one of the Galapagos' most famous islands due to the many interesting stories regarding past settlers. You will take a tour immersing yourself in the land's sailing history and encounter such animals like Darwin's finches, yellow warblers and nesting turtles. You will also be able to wander through the black mangroves, lagoons, and unique fauna.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodations: M/V Xperience

Day 7
Isabela Island

By land and sea, you will see a contrasting collection of species. Green sea turtles, spotted eagle rays, white tip reef sharks can be seen below while birds like herons and Galapagos hawks can be seen soaring overhead. Try and spot the flightless birds as well like the cormorants and penguins.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodations: M/V Xperience

Day 8 – Day 10
Charles Darwin Research Station + Pikaia Lodge

At the Charles Darwin Research Station, you will see tortoise conservation efforts! Following this excursion, you will be transferred to Pikaia Lodge offering various archipelago excursion options.

Pikaia Lodge (RL)

Set in the summit of an extinct volcano on Santa Cruz Island, the luxury 14-room Pikaia seems like a futuristic luxury anomaly among the midst of the pristine wildlife of the Galapagos. With no land-based luxury accommodations to date, the astounding pleasant Pikaia is a welcome addition to any Galapagos private travel experience. I was most impressed with Lausanne-educated Jeroen "Geromino" Meijer and his warm, energized staff. The Pikaia's sleek, minimalistic design coupled with the property's integration/immersion into the local Galapagos culture, favorably compares this luxury lodge with a luxury AMAN. Being big AMAN "junkies", this is quite a statement. And the food... fresh fish from the local Galapagos waters prepared with local organic ingredients created a fine dining experience that even our friend Carrie at Michelin star NAHA would be impressed with! With its own 100ft. private yacht (Pikaia 1) we feel a 5-Night Xperience cruise/3-Night Pikaia luxury lodge stay is the ideal Galapagos luxury travel combo.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodations: Pikaia Lodge

Day 11
Fly Santa Cruz Island/Guayaquil/U.S.

Meals: Breakfast
Accommodations: --



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