

9-DAYS

*Travel for
Travellers*
BY GLP WORLDWIDE

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS IN DARWIN'S FOOTSTEPS

EASTERN ROUTE



GALÁPAGOS

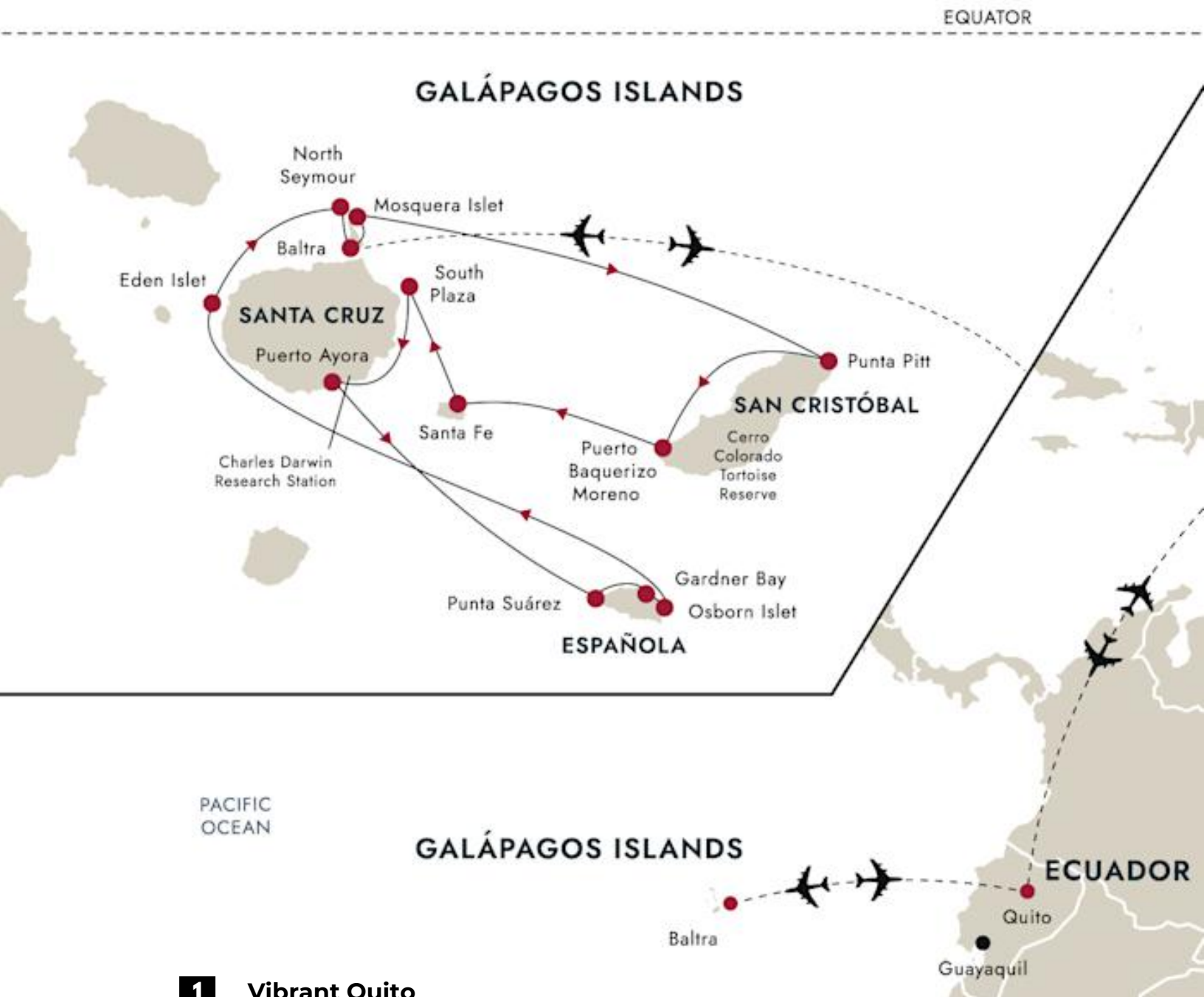
M E E T T H E G U E S T S

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ITINERARY



1 Vibrant Quito

2 Visit historic Quito

3 Your cruise begins

4 Tortoises of San Cristóbal

5 Santa Fe and South Plaza

6 Explore Santa Cruz

7 Dramatic Española

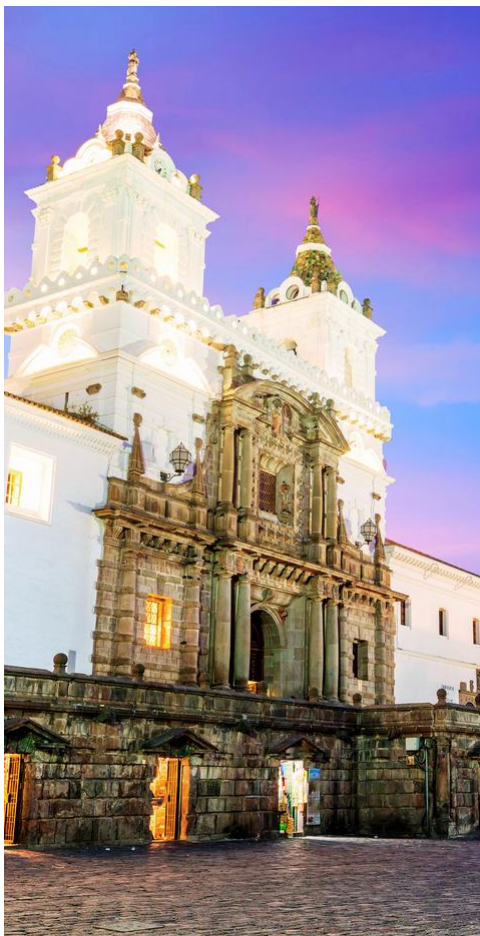
8 Reef life on Eden Islet

9 End of an expedition



DAY 1

Quito



Gateway to the Andes

Your Galápagos adventure begins high in the Andean foothills of Ecuador. Sitting at 9,350 feet above sea level, Quito is one of the world's highest capital cities and is renowned for its beautifully preserved historic centre, built upon an ancient Inca settlement.

Discover the charm of this UNESCO World Heritage city, where colourful plazas, grand churches and elegant colonial architecture bring centuries of history to life. Settle into your hotel and enjoy a relaxing overnight stay before tomorrow's exploration of Quito begins.

DAY 2

Quito

Quito & the Equator

Explore the historic heart of Quito on a guided tour through its beautifully preserved Old Town. Stroll along cobblestone streets, admire elegant colonial architecture and colourful plazas, and sample delicious chocolate made from some of Ecuador's finest cacao.

Continue to the famous Middle of the World City, located just north of Quito. After lunch, visit the iconic Equator monument and capture the perfect photo as you stand with one foot in each hemisphere.





DAY 3

Galápagos Islands

Galápagos Adventure Begins

After breakfast, fly to Baltra Island and transfer to the port, where your expedition ship MS Santa Cruz II awaits. Settle onboard and get ready to explore the extraordinary Galápagos Islands.

Your first stop is Mosquera Islet, home to one of the archipelago's largest sea lion colonies. Walk along the sandy shore with your naturalist guides and look for blue-footed boobies, Sally Lightfoot crabs and other fascinating wildlife.

A large tortoise, likely a Galapagos tortoise, is shown in profile, eating a piece of a palm frond. The tortoise has a dark, wrinkled head and neck, and a large, dark, scaly shell. It is standing on a grassy area with a dense forest of green trees and foliage in the background. The text "DAY 4" is overlaid in large white letters in the upper right corner, and "Punta Pitt" is overlaid in smaller white letters below it.

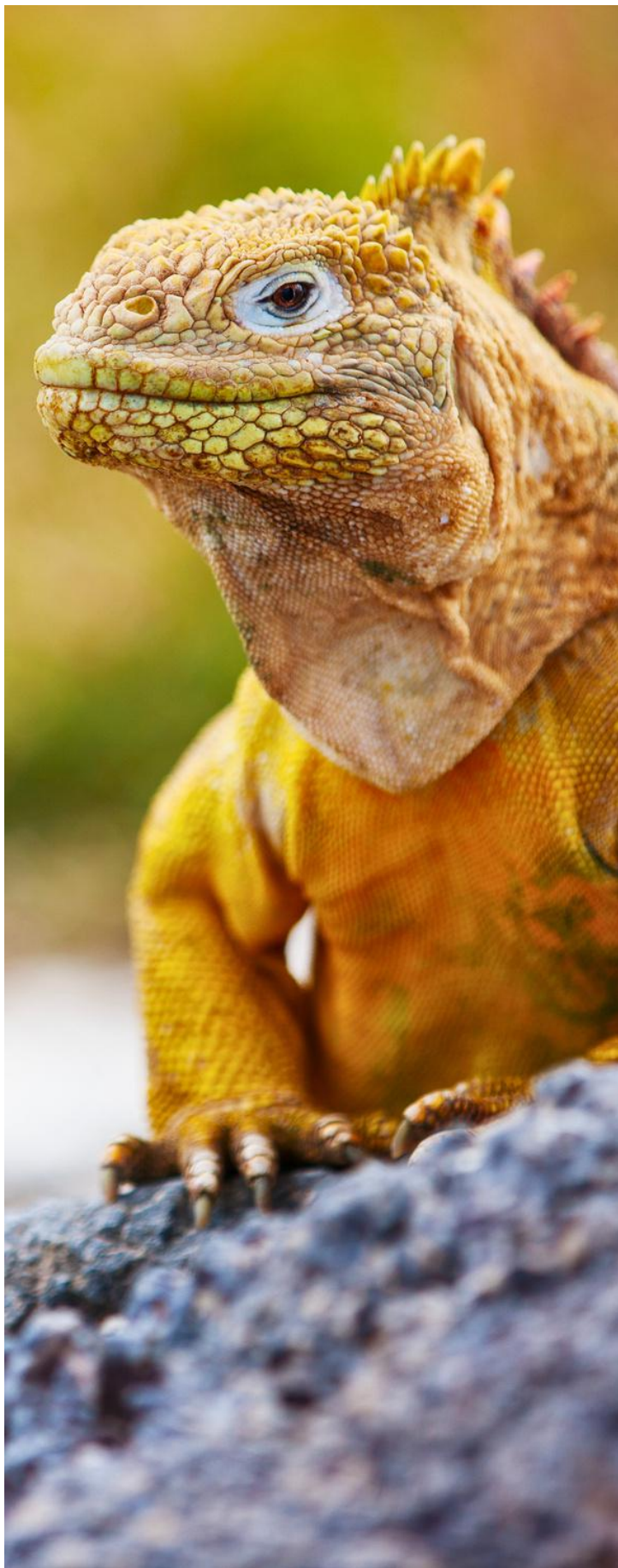
DAY 4

Punta Pitt

San Cristóbal Tortoises

Begin at Punta Pitt, the only place in the Galápagos where you may spot all three species of boobies. Explore the coastline by small boat, take a nature walk, or enjoy swimming and snorkelling in crystal-clear waters.

Continue to the Cerro Colorado Tortoise Reserve, home to endangered giant tortoises as well as San Cristóbal mockingbirds and lava lizards. See these iconic tortoises roaming through a forested habitat similar to the wild.



DAY 5

Santa Fe &
South Plaza

Wildlife in Paradise

Explore the beautiful beaches of Santa Fe Island on a scenic nature walk, home to the endemic Barrington land iguana and playful sea lions. Swim, kayak along the coast, or discover the marine life below aboard a glass-bottom boat.

After lunch, continue to South Plaza Island, where frigatebirds, swallow-tailed gulls and Galápagos shearwaters soar overhead. Look for land and marine iguanas among the island's colourful landscapes and dramatic shoreline.

Santa Cruz & Conservation

Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station in Puerto Ayora, where giant tortoise conservation takes centre stage. See young tortoises, Darwin's famous finches and an impressive forest of prickly pear cacti filled with native birdlife.

Continue into the lush Santa Cruz Highlands, where giant tortoises roam freely through the cooler landscape. After lunch, enjoy time for another activity such as mountain biking or a visit to a local sugar plantation.

DAY 6

Santa Cruz Highlands





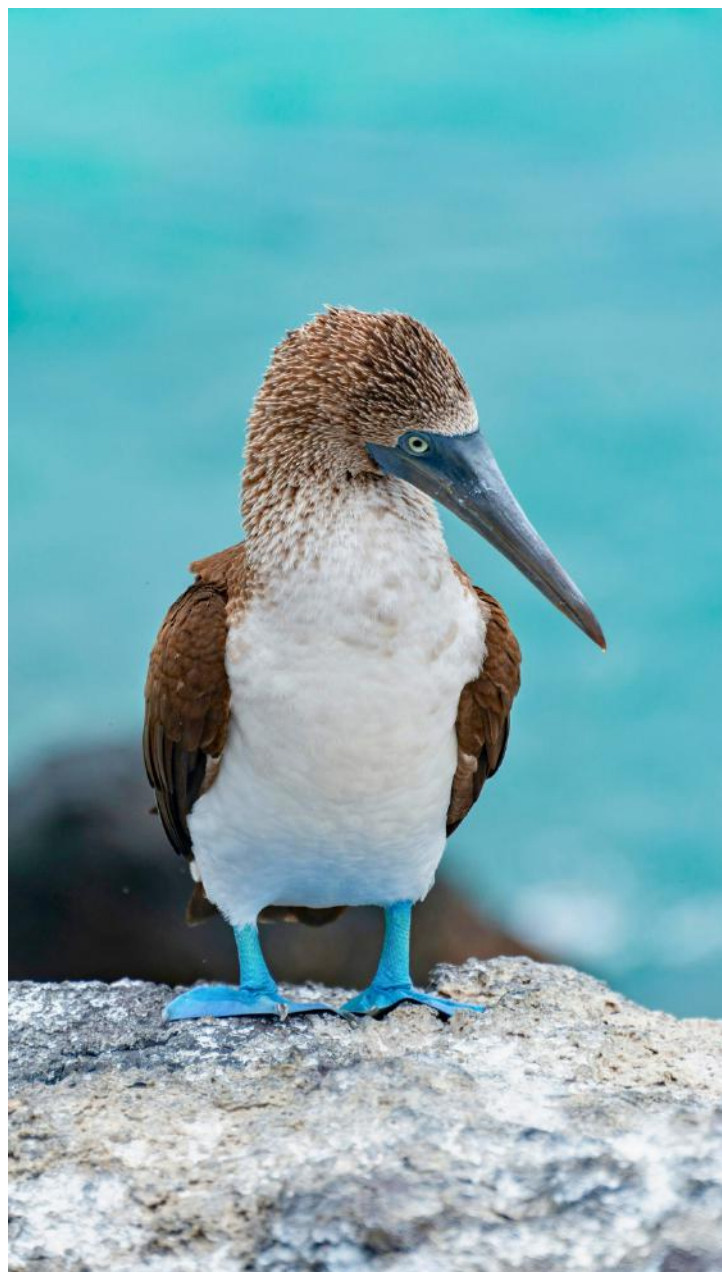
DAY 7

Española Island

Wildlife of Española

Discover the extraordinary wildlife of Española Island, where Nazca boobies, blue-footed boobies and swallow-tailed gulls fill the skies. From April to December, you may also spot the magnificent waved albatross. Watch for colourful lava lizards, marine iguanas and the dramatic El Soplador blowhole.

After lunch, visit the beautiful coral beach of Gardner Bay and nearby Osborn Islet, home to sea lions, mockingbirds and finches. Explore the coast or take to the water for snorkeling or kayaking.



DAY 8

Eden Islet

Reefs, Seabirds & Island Wildlife

Explore the waters around Eden Islet, where Galápagos green turtles, rays and reef sharks may be spotted beneath the surface. Swim or snorkel among the reefs, paddle by kayak, or enjoy the underwater views from a glass-bottom boat.

After lunch, sail to North Seymour Island, known for its colonies of blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls and frigatebirds. Sea lions and marine iguanas are also commonly seen along its wildlife-rich shores.



DAY 9

Baltra Island



Journey's End

Your Galápagos expedition comes to an end as you disembark at Baltra Island and transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito or Guayaquil, where you can connect with your onward journey.

Leave the islands with unforgettable memories of remarkable wildlife, pristine landscapes and extraordinary experiences. Those wishing to see more of Ecuador can also extend their adventure with an optional post-voyage stay.



WHAT IS INCLUDED

HOTEL

- Two nights at a hotel in Quito before the expedition cruise, including breakfast and dinner on Day 2

FLIGHTS

- Flights in economy class between Quito and Baltra, including all taxes

TRANSFERS

- Transfers between the airport and the hotel in Quito before the expedition cruise
- Transfers between the airport and the ship in Baltra
- Note: If your flights have not been booked with us, please provide us with your full flight details no later than 30 days prior to travel (applies to all transfers from the airport to your booked hotel via HX in Quito on the tour start date)

EXTRAS

- Galápagos Islands National Park admission fee
- Transit control card for the Galápagos Islands
- Access to the airport lounge at the Quito (or Guayaquil) airport upon return from the Galápagos Islands for guests flying internationally on the day of disembarkation

EXPEDITION CRUISE

- A stay in a cabin of your choice
- Daily breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Wine, beer and spirits available at meals and throughout the day and evening (subject to licensing laws, excludes premium drinks)
- All day coffee, tea and soft drinks
- A complimentary reusable Ocean Bottle water bottle to refill on board and take home
- A lightweight drawstring backpack to use on board and take home with you
- Professional photos from your trip taken by our onboard photographer
- Complimentary Wi-Fi. Please note, streaming is not supported
- Use of hot tubs, fitness room, lounges and more
- Gratuities included. Fantastic service is standard at HX – though if you'd like to leave something extra, it's always appreciated
- Range of included activities

EXCURSION

- Full-day excursion: Historic Quito & Middle of the World, including lunch, before the expedition cruise

ONBOARD ACTIVITIES

- In-depth lectures and discussions hosted by our knowledgeable Expedition Team
- Full access to the ship's Science Corner
- The Citizen Science Program allows guests to assist with ongoing scientific research
- An onboard professional photographer will give tips and tricks for taking the best landscape and wildlife photos
- Daily briefing with the Expedition Team about the plans for the next day

LANDING ACTIVITIES

- Escorted and guided landings with small boats.
- All necessary equipment for activities, such as walking poles, short wetsuit, and snorkelling equipment (varying sizes for adults, one size for children), will be provided on board on loan. Your HX travel documents will have a recommended packing list.
- Expedition photographer on hand to assist you

NOTES

- All planned activities are subject to weather conditions
- Your flight from Baltra will be to Quito. If you wish to end your expedition in Guayaquil instead, contact our Expedition Specialists. You can also change your final destination from Quito to Guayaquil when booking online.
- Quito's altitude is at approximately 9,350 feet above sea level and during your stay, you might experience mild altitude sickness
- We provide snorkelling gear for adults, but please bring your own if you require a special prescription and for children to ensure the best fit and comfort.
- Excursions and activities are subject to change
- Please make sure you meet all entry and boarding requirements
- No gratuities expected
- Depending on your flight times, an additional overnight might be needed (not included)

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