



ECUADOR & THE ISLANDS OF THE GALAPAGOS

Aboard the 40-passenger M/Y Isabella II

JUNE 21 TO JULY 1, 2019

CLASSIC
Escapes

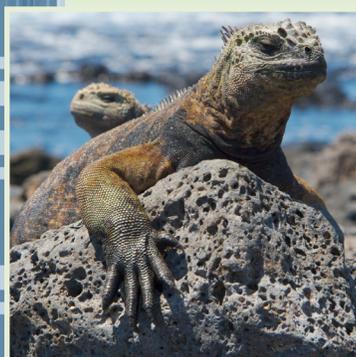
T: 718-280-5000; 800-627-1244
F: 718-204-4726
E: info@classicescapes.com
W: www.classicescapes.com

Nature & Cultural Journeys
for the Discerning Traveler

Journey to the enchanted isles of the Galapagos, where Charles Darwin redefined our understanding of life itself. Begin on the mainland, immersing yourself in the culture of Ecuador. Spend your days discovering UNESCO World Heritage marvels in Quito, gazing at snow-capped mountains, or shopping in the indigenous markets of Otavalo. Feel your heart race in anticipation as you step onto your motor yacht, Isabella II, and home for the next four nights in the Galapagos Islands, a place filled with creatures found nowhere else on Earth. You'll come within steps of these rare animals and hike the unique and storied vistas of the islands accompanied by your expert naturalist guides. Allow yourself to be swept away by this land of discovery and natural wonder.

Days 1/2/3 CINCINNATI/QUITO/OTAVALO

Fly to Quito, where you are escorted to your historic boutique hotel in the heart of 'Quito Antiguo.' On Day 2, depart for South America's most famous Indian fair – the Otavalo Market. As you stroll the streets, immerse yourself in the colorful and vibrant culture listening to Andean pipe music and Quechua, the native tongue from Incan times, drifting across the marketplace. Enjoy a traditional Andean lunch at a local restaurant and continue your shopping adventure in Cotacachi. On Day 3, tour this vibrant colonial city with its churches and altars glittering with Spanish gold. Your tour will give you a chance to explore the colonial quarter, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. At night, you will enjoy a welcome dinner with your group. PATIO ANDALUZ. (Meals Aloft; B,L; B,D)



volcanic origin, this is why is mostly flat, and according to the latest geological studies. The small bay on Santa Fe's northern coast provides one of the most picturesque harbors within the archipelago. A large sea lion colony inhabits most of the surrounding landing site. Follow the trail among a very tall forest of opuntia cacti, where large and somewhat pale land iguanas, that are island endemics, can be seen. A variety of finches and the Galapagos Mockingbird abound. Back to the ship for lunch, as you sail to South Plaza Island. Disembark (dry landing) in the channel between North and South Plazas Islands, where the island tilts toward the water, the approach makes for a lavish colorful sight. You are guaranteed to see land iguanas, who often bask in the shade of a cactus. Nesting on the rugged southern cliffs are usually Swallow-tailed Gulls, which seen along with various other sea birds. The protected rocky seashore is a prime habitat for large colonies of noisy sea lions. Also, you can see Yellow-tailed Mulletts, Audubon's Shearwaters, Red-billed Tropicbirds, Frigatebirds, and Brown Pelicans gliding past the cliff. (B,L,D)

Day 4 GALAPAGOS ISLANDS – BALTRA & SANTA CRUZ ISLANDS/HIGHLANDS

In the morning you will be escorted to the airport for your flight to the Galapagos Islands, where you will be transferred to Santa Cruz Island, having crossed the Ithaca channel by ferry. Travel by bus to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island and watch as the scenery gradually changes while you wind your way through all seven vegetation zones found in the Galapagos. Here, you can find giant tortoises on a private farm in the highlands. Visit Los Gemelos (Spanish for the twins), a pair of large pit craters on the highest part of Santa Cruz, where it is easy to spot the bright red male Vermilion Flycatcher. Late afternoon stroll along the main street of Puerto Ayora before embarking on the yacht *Isabella II* where you will have a briefing on the next day's activities followed by a welcome dinner with the Captain. (B,L,D)

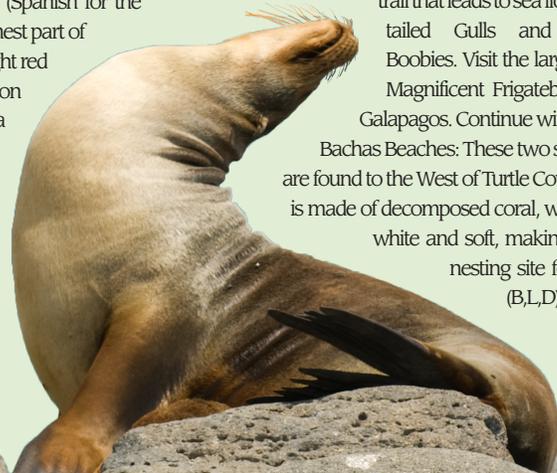


Day 6 NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND & LAS BACHAS (SANTA CRUZ)

A dinghy ride along the shores of tuff-stone layers this morning, will bring you to Seymour Island, also a small geological uplift. After a dry landing, you will follow a trail that leads to sea lions, Swallow-tailed Gulls and Blue-footed Boobies. Visit the largest colony of Magnificent Frigatebirds found in Galapagos. Continue with your visit to Bachas Beaches: These two small beaches are found to the West of Turtle Cove. Their sand is made of decomposed coral, which makes it white and soft, making it a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. (B,L,D)

Day 5 SANTA FE ISLAND & SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND

Located in the southeastern part of the Galapagos, this island was formed from an uplift instead of a





Day 7
BARTOLOME ISLAND & SULLIVAN BAY (JAMES ISLAND)

A small satellite island of the neighboring Santiago Island, Bartolome is a landmark of Galápagos, that of the Pinnacle Rock. After a wet landing, the short, yet somewhat steep trail will unfold virtually every volcanic feature expected to be found in Galápagos: lava flows, tuff, cinder, and spatter cones. To reach the summit a wooden staircase was built to minimize erosion on the island's slopes. The vista is the prize! Down below, the water is crystal clear and you can swim and snorkel with schools of fish. Penguins can also be seen in this area. On the other side, you will find sea turtles and white-tipped sharks close to the shore. (B,L,D)

Days 8/9
FINCH BAY

After breakfast, disembark and return to Puerto Ayora on the island of Santa Cruz. You will have plenty of time to enjoy optional activities available at your hotel as well as to visit the Darwin Research Station. At the CDRS, you will see the giant tortoise pens, an impressive giant prickly-pear cactus forest and land birds like Darwin's Finches, Galapagos Mockingbirds and flycatchers. Scientists from all over the globe work at the station and conduct biological research from anatomy to zoology. Get your picture taken with the giant tortoises and observe year-old tortoises and learn about the captive-breeding program. FINCH BAY HOTEL. (B Daily)

Days 10/11
SANTA CRUZ ISLAND/GUAYAQUIL/CINCINNATI

A last morning to soak in the Galapagos sun before you transfer to the airport for your flight back to Guayaquil. Upon arrival, depending on the time, you will have a city tour and dinner. Later this evening you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight home, arriving the next day.

POST-EXTENSION TO PERU

Fly to Guayaquil and connect to Lima, where you'll be introduced to the heart of urban Peru. Fly to Cusco and drive to Yucay in the sacred valley of the Incas, a place of adventure, natural beauty, and rich history. Explore remarkable ruins, lively markets, and the beautiful rivers and forests before heading on by rail to Machu Picchu, through some of the most breathtaking landscapes imaginable. Get a taste of the legendary Inka Trail with a short morning trek, and explore Cusco itself, the oldest continuously-inhabited city in the Western hemisphere, before returning to Lima and your flight home.

YOUR JOURNEY INCLUDES:

- Flights between Lima/Cusco/Lima on the post-extension.
- Superior and best available accommodations at hotels and cruise ships in Ecuador.
- American breakfast in Quito and Lima on the extension. All meals while on the Galapagos cruise. All other meals as specified in the itinerary.
- 5-Days/4-Nights Cruise to the Galapagos Islands on the M/V Isabela II with all meals included. Naturalist guide provided aboard the ship. Accommodations are in double, air-conditioned cabins (classic cabins), with private facilities. Single cabins on board Isabela II are limited.
- A Cincinnati Zoo host will accompany the group with a minimum of 10 travelers on the main and 10 travelers on the post extension.
- Expert local guides throughout.
- Gratuities for baggage handling, hotel tips and taxes.
- Complimentary baggage tags and passport wallet.
- Complimentary emergency evacuation insurance.

COSTS: PER PERSON, BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY	MAIN TOUR	POST-EXTENSION TO PERU
Land Only, based on Classic Twin Cabins	\$6,995 per person	\$4,395 per person, including flights Lima/Cusco/Lima
Single Room Supplement	\$4,595 per person, additional	\$1,395 per person, additional
International Air from Cincinnati, including domestic flights to and from the Galapagos, taxes & fuel surcharges	\$2,390 per person	N/A
Galapagos flights if international air is NOT purchased through Classic Escapes	\$690 per person	N/A
Flights between Guayaquil/Lima	N/A	\$590 per person, additional

For More Information or Reservations, Please Contact:
 Lori Charles Ellefsen
 800.627.1244
 lorie@classicescapes.com

For Other Trips with the Cincinnati Zoo, Please Visit:
<http://cincinnatizoo.org/education/travel-with-the-zoo/>

PHOTO CREDITS:
 Classic Escapes; © Gerry Ellis,
 © Metropolitan Touring; © Mark Downey; © beataaldridge; © Morten Elm; © Steve Oehlenschlaeger; © Fotos 593; | Fotolia.com; © Roman Shiyano; © Kjersti Joergensen | Dreamstime.com

Classic Escapes protects our planet. ♻️

