



2026

EcoTravel

Overnight Natural History Tours and Day Trips

The Galapagos Islands

Darwin's Islands
of Discovery

Cruise

**March 12 – 20
2026**

**Mainland Extension
March 20 - 25**

Small Groups!
Great Leaders!
Interesting People!

ctaudubon.org/ecotravel



Private Charter

The **Galapagos Archipelago** is a unique World Heritage Site, located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador. Ever since Charles Darwin's famous voyage of the *Beagle*, the islands have provided a wealth of information and inspiration for people throughout the world as the birthplace of evolution.

Join us on a journey to the Galapagos Islands, a remote archipelago where life goes on much as it has for millions of years. Here the animals have no fear of humans, and you can be at one with nature as nowhere else on Earth. Known as a "living laboratory of natural history," a visit here led Darwin to develop his theory of natural selection. Don't miss out on this tremendous learning experience in the "Enchanted Islands."

Day One (Thursday, March 12)

ARRIVING FLIGHTS in QUITO

Overnight: Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel.

Day Two (Friday, March 13)

AM: FLIGHT TO GALAPAGOS

Today, you'll fly from the mainland to the Galapagos Islands. Once in Santa Cruz, passengers go through an airport inspection point to ensure that no foreign plants or animals are being introduced to the archipelago. Additionally, this inspection point is where we pay for the entrance to Galapagos National Park.

Our local guides will pick us up and take our luggage to the bus that transports passengers to the ferries for crossing the Itabaca Channel. After this, we'll be taken by another bus for a visit to Ranch Manzanillo where we suggest visitors wear comfortable walking shoes, light clothing, a waterproof jacket, sunblock, and bring their cameras and insect repellent for this first activity. The visit to Ranch Manzanillo includes a picnic lunch and a short walk before boarding our motor catamaran. It's important to have the above items with you, since passengers' luggage will be sent directly from the flights to the **M/C Seaman Journey** (our yacht).

Santa Cruz offers excellent opportunities to observe the wild Galapagos Tortoises. Tracking tortoises is not the only exciting activity to be found in the highlands. There are plenty of lava tubes, sinkholes, and craters ready to be explored. After this visit, we'll move to the yacht.

Day Three (Saturday, March 14)

AM: MORENO POINT, ISABELA ISLAND.

Punta Moreno is located on the north coast of Isabela Island, between the Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul volcanos. The trail runs along a Pahoeheo lava flow (solidified lava in a corrugated or accordion form) into a complex of coastal lagoons. Several species of birds can be found around these lakes and mangrove forests.

PM: FERNANDINA ISLAND, MANGLE POINT.

Off the eastern coast of Fernandina is Mangle Point. It's a superior snorkeling site and a beautiful location for riding in a panga or zodiac through the mangrove trees. A hike of about half a mile is possible. While you're on your boat ride, you'll likely to find sea lions, tortoises, pelicans, rays, and too many birds to name!



Day Four (Sunday, March 15)

AM: URBINA BAY AND DARWIN'S FINCHES

Urbina Bay is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast, between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954, which caused the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out, leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place to snorkel. Urbina Bay offers a hiking path that starts with a wet landing. The trail is approximately two miles long and is made up of sand, pumice, lava, coral, and vegetation, and is a fine place where one can observe iguana burrows and red and blue lobsters!

In Urbina Bay, you can find Darwin's famous finches. Its main attraction are the land iguanas, which are larger than those found on other islands. Additionally, we may see tortoises roaming about. A large number of interesting plants can be observed such as chamomile and rosewood, but among all these, the beautiful flowers of Darwin's Cotton, endemic to the Galapagos Islands, stands out.

PM: ISABELA ISLAND, TAGUS COVE

Tagus Cove is located west of Darwin Volcano on Isabela Island. This was a favored spot for pirates and whalers who started a tradition of inscribing the names of their boats on a cave wall. At the beginning of the trail, you'll find the small cave where inscriptions date back to the 1800s. The cove's name originated from a British warship that passed through the islands in 1814 looking for Galapagos Tortoises as food. Due to former eruptions, the substrate has a large amount of volcanic rock of different sizes, among the most common being little balls in a nearly spherical shape known as "lapilli" or "petrified rain."

Day Five (Monday, March 16)

AM: FERNANDINA ISLAND, ESPINOZA POINT.

Espinoza Point is a renowned location recognized for its extensive colonies of marine iguanas and as the habitat of unique species such as the Flightless Cormorant, Galapagos Penguin, Galapagos Hawk, and Galapagos Snake.

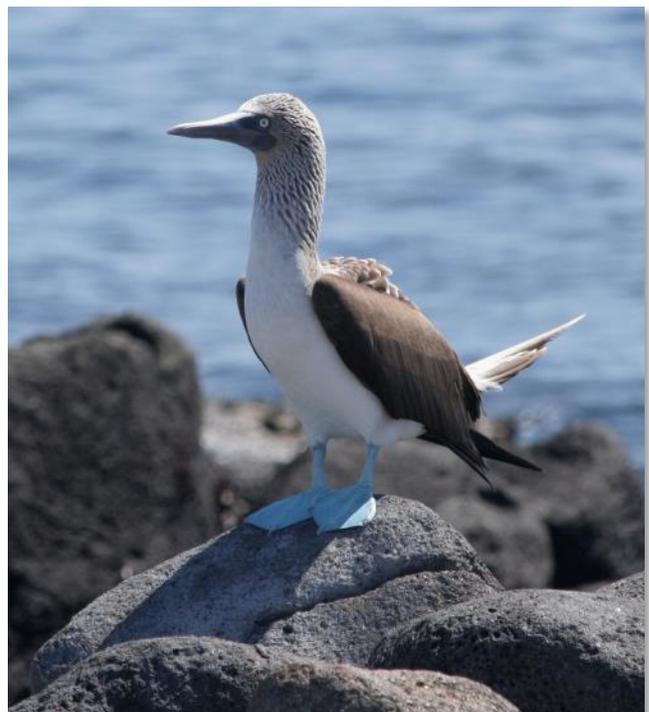
PM: VICENTE ROCA POINT.

One of the most impressive and spectacular places in the enchanted Galapagos Islands is Punta Vicente Roca, with its high cliffs and tuff, ash, and lava formations giving this area a majestic atmosphere. This large bay boasts spectacular marine life. Here, you can find seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola-mola or Ocean Sunfish. This bay is a great place for enjoying panga rides and snorkeling. Also, you can find penguins, Blue-footed Boobies, terns, and sea lions. Take time to go for a snorkel for views of sea turtles, stingrays, and pufferfish.

Day Six (Tuesday, March 17)

AM: SANTIAGO ISLAND, ESPUMILLA BEACH

Espumilla Beach is located on the northern coast of Santiago Island in James Bay. During the last occurrence of the El Niño phenomenon, one of the two lagoons at this site underwent a process of sedimentation, thus causing the dis-



appearance of its representative colony of flamingos. The main attractions now are the Palo Santo forest and the nesting of turtles.

PM: PUERTO EGAS, SANTIAGO ISLAND

The black-sand beach located on the west side of the island is the main attraction. Its volcanic tuff deposits have favored the formation of this special beach. Egas Port is named in honor of Jorge Egas, an entrepreneur who explored the island in the 1930s and opened a salt mine at the foothill of Sugar-loaf Volcano. The site was visited in 1835 by the HMS *Beagle* and Charles Darwin, who described in his journals a group of Spaniards salting tortoise meat with the salt extracted from the area.

Day Seven (Wednesday, March 18)

RABIDA ISLAND

Rábida Island is unique due to the red color of the rock and sand. The volcanic material on this island is very porous where external factors such as rain, salt water, and sea breezes have acted as oxidizing agents. A short walk along a trail behind the beach leads to a coastal lagoon, which allows you to observe land birds such as finches, doves, Yellow Warblers, and mockingbirds. At the lagoon, there is a colony of flamingos.

PM: CHINESE HAT – SOMBRERO CHINO

This is a small islet located just off the southeastern tip of Santiago Island. It's a recent volcanic cone, shaped like a Chinese hat when seen from the north. On the west you can see lava formations, formed under the sea and raised upwards, resulting in the coral heads being found on top of the lava. This is an excellent location to see geological features such as lava tubes and lava flows. The landscape is occupied by a sea lion colony, marine iguanas, and Galapagos Penguins.

Day Eight (Thursday, March 19)

AM: BLACK TURTLE COVE, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

A Zodiac ride to Black Turtle Cove, located on the north coast of Santa Cruz, just west of Baltra, offers a window into this wonderfully quiet hideaway of the Galapagos.

Once in the cove, the boat continues with the engines off and begins to explore the mangrove-protected landscape. Sea turtles feed and mate in the calm waters, and three species of sharks are found here: Blacktip Reef Shark, Whitetip Reef Shark, and Galapagos Shark. Groups of Spotted Rays are often seen, as well as egrets and herons.

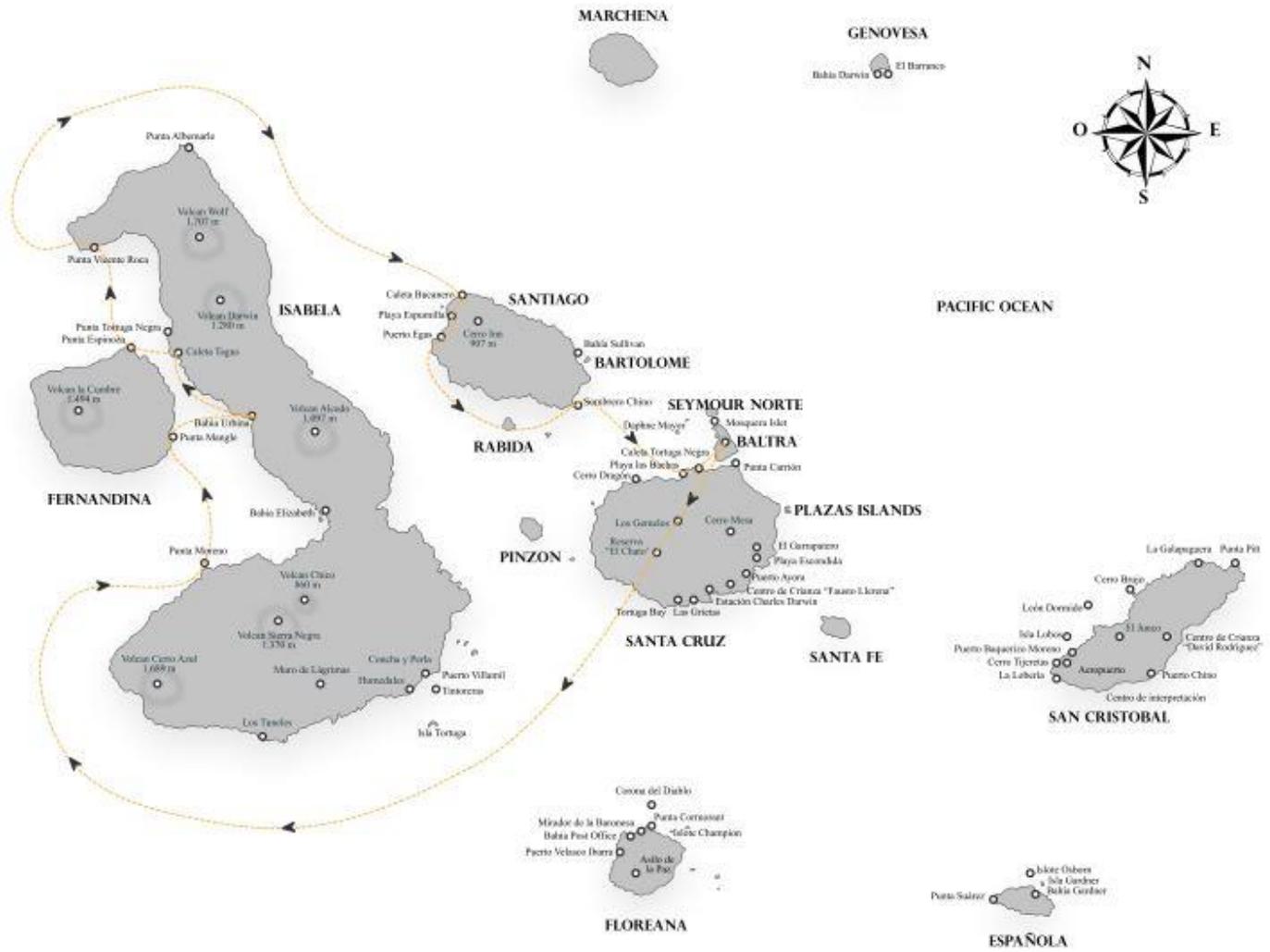
After the visit, you'll be transferred to the Baltra Airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.

Overnight: Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel.

Day Nine (Friday, March 20, 2026)

Flights home or start your Ecuadorian Mainland Extension.





Yacht Specifications - Seaman Journey



Type: Motor Catamaran

Electric System: 2x 50 kw IMO Category: Boutique Yacht Naturalist Liveboard

Electric Power: 110v and 220v AC/DC

Material Construction: Fiberglass

Cruising Speed: 10 knots

Length: 90 feet

Water Capacity: 3,000 gallons

Beam: 36.08 feet

Full Capacity: 2,500 gallons

Draft: 4.75 feet

Passenger Capacity: 16

Year Built: 2007

Crew: 9 members

Main Engines: 2x Cummins 350 hp IMO

Diving: Sport platform

Equipment for Sports: Snorkeling and sea kayaking



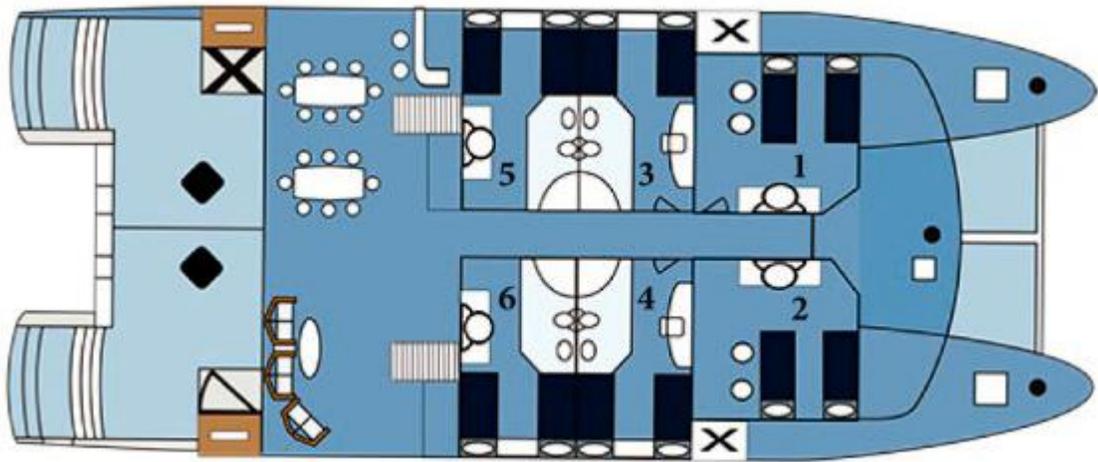
Each meal on board is a treat for the taste buds as the chef prepares the finest international and local dishes using fresh ingredients of the highest quality. All meals include the choice of red meat, poultry, or seafood. In case you have a food allergy or food restriction, we can adapt the menu to your requirements.

After a full day of island visits, you will learn a little more about the sights you visited and will be able to ask your guide specific questions about wildlife, geology, marine life, biology, and other topics. Our locally certified naturalist guide speaks English and has years of experience in the Galapagos Islands.

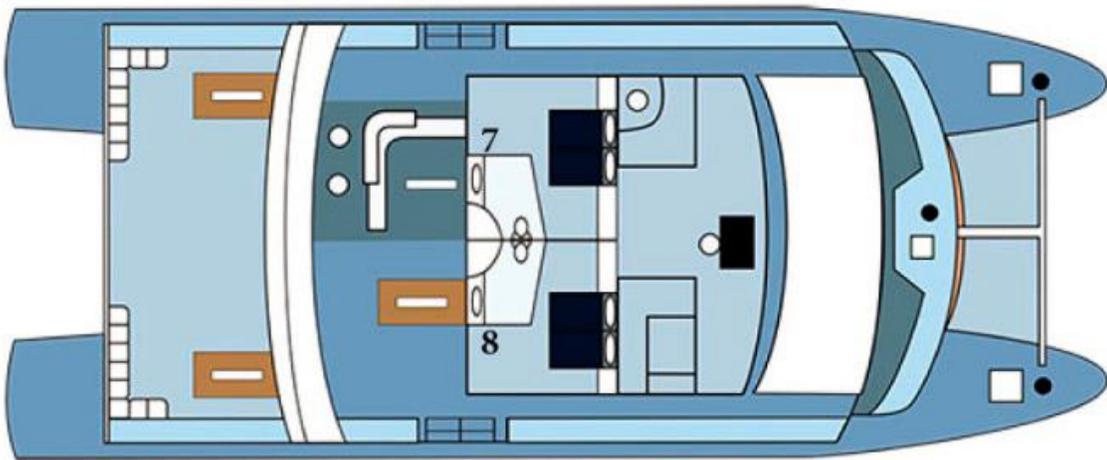
We believe that the key to a great itinerary is variety, therefore we visit several ecosystems within the Galapagos archipelago. Shore excursions are packed full of activities and lots of fun. A typical visit to a landing site includes a Zodiac ride, nature hike, snorkeling or kayaking, and of course, time to relax on the beach.



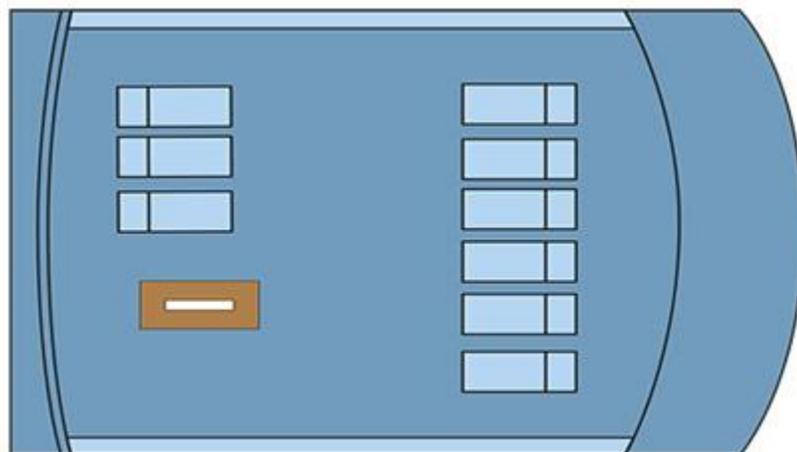
Deck Plans



Main Deck



Upper Deck



Sun Deck





Cruise Information

Cabins (based on double occupancy):

STANDARD OCEAN VIEW: \$8,965 PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY.

UPPER DECK SUITE: \$9,465 PER PERSON BASED ON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY.

SINGLE CABIN: Call for availability and pricing.

The Expedition Package Includes:

- In-country flights from the mainland to the islands and back.
- Ingala (tourist) Card.
- Park Entrance Fee.
- All island transportation with the group in Galapagos.
- Ecuadorian specialist-guide in Galapagos.

Accommodations and Meals

- First and last night accommodation at Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel.
- All ship accommodations based upon two people sharing a cabin.
- Meals and non-bar beverages while onboard the vessel.

Pre-departure Information

- Information on all aspects of the expedition.
- Suggested readings on the history, culture, and the ecology of the Galapagos Islands.

Deviation from the set itinerary could incur additional costs (i.e., transfers, accommodations, etc.).

Package Price Does Not Include:

International Airfares; airport transfers at your departure city; passport and visa fees; air taxes; fuel surcharges (if applicable); excess baggage charges; personal and baggage insurance; all items of a personal nature such as laundry, medical expenses, and room service; alcoholic beverages; any activities not specified in the tour itinerary, or those activities listed as optional; meals on the mainland or while in transit. Upon the completion of your expedition, a gratuity to your crew and guides is customary.

International Airfare: Estimated \$650 round trip flight from the United States' east coast to Quito.

Five Night Mainland Extension

MARCH 20 – 24, 2026 – 4 Nights/5 Days

MAR 20 – 9:00 am pick up at Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel. Transfer (usually a 2.5 hour drive) to San Jorge de Tandayapa Hummingbird Sanctuary located in cloud forest, stopping at the Middle of the World Monument on the Equator. Check into your rooms at the lodge and then enjoy a traditional Andean luncheon on their observation deck, with spectacular views of hummingbird and toucan feeders, birds in the canopy, and the surrounding mountains. Dine with the Hummingbirds!

After lunch, join a bird walk in the lodge area, featuring 28 possible species of hummingbird amongst the 450 bird species, exotic flora and fauna, including many wild orchids in their natural habitat.

Overnight: San Jorge Tandayapa Lodge – queen & twin bed. Includes lunch & dinner.

MAR 21 – Tandayapa Hummingbird Sanctuary. At 6:00 am, visit the moth feeder and bird blind for rare birds and photo opportunities. Enjoy the Canopy Islands Observation Decks, ponds, and streams. Multi-colored bird species like the Blue-winged Mountain Tanager, Red-headed Barbet, Three-striped Warbler, White-winged Becard, Metallic-green Tanager, are just a few of what one can expect. Additionally, abounding hummingbird species visit the feeders, including the iconic Booted Racket-tail and the Violet-tailed Sylph. One can expect seasonal visits by the iconic Toucan Barbet, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Crested Quetzal, and the Golden-headed Quetzal.

Overnight: San Jorge Tandayapa Lodge. Includes three meals.

MAR 22 – Spend your early morning on the lodge's observation decks. After breakfast, at 9:00 am, transfer to San Jorge Milpe Reserve, located in the upper tropical rainforest. This area offers observation decks; a spacious 45-foot high covered tower overlooking the canopy; hummingbird, tanager, and toucan feeders; and trail walking. Possibilities include over 500 bird species such as the endemic Choco Toucan, Esmeraldas Antbird, Choco Warbler, Streaked Xenops, trogons, woodpeckers, tinamous, cuckoos, and more.

Overnight: San Jorge Milpe Forest Lodge – Rooms with 2 queen beds, includes three meals.

MAR 23 - Early morning observation decks. After breakfast, take a guided nature walk to the waterfalls including a picnic lunch. If you like, you may swim at the waterfalls. Return to the lodge with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

After dinner, enjoy a one-hour Night Walk looking for possible snakes, frogs, exotic insects, Common Potoo, Crested Owl, Spotted Owl, Tropical-screech Owl, Rufescent-screech Owl, Cloud-forest Pygmy Owl, Choco Warbler, Oilbirds and Kinkajous.

Overnight: San Jorge Milpe Forest Lodge includes three meals.

MAR 24 – Morning birding at the Rio Tatal trails or Milpe Road, Forest Lodge observatory & tower. After lunch, at 2:00 pm, transfer to Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel (usually a 3 – 3-1/2 hour drive). Includes breakfast & lunch.

MAR 25 - Flights home.

Cost: \$2,598.00 per person, double occupancy – all-inclusive, based on a minimum of six participants. Single Supplement: \$353.



General Terms & Conditions

Reservations

Early reservations with deposit are essential to guarantee your booking. A **\$2,500 deposit per person**, applicable to final payment, is required to reserve space on this trip. Reservations made within 180 days of departure require full payment along with the formal Registration Forms. Final payment for programs is due 180 days prior to departure. Payments can be made by personal check, money order, certified check, or a cashier's check.

Rates and Fares

Prices are accurate as available at time of publication. Prices do not include airfare unless otherwise stated. Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) reserves the right to alter quoted prices to reflect changes in airline fares, land service, or currency exchange rates. In the event that the number of participants is below the minimum required for the quoted price, a small group surcharge may be added.

Cancellation and Insurance

All payments are nonrefundable because this is a private charter. NOTE: In addition, airline tickets and deposits required to guarantee land based reservations may be nonrefundable. The purchase of a general travel insurance plan covering baggage, accident/life, and trip cancellation is highly recommended. Give us a call and we can put you in touch with those providers. CAS reserves the right, if registration is insufficient or other reasons out of our control, to cancel, postpone, or offer the trip with a small group supplement. In the event of cancellation or postponement, those with reservations will be notified as soon as possible and a credit of payments will be held on file. Connecticut Audubon Society is not responsible for the refund or credit of additional expenses incurred in preparation for a trip.

Responsibility

Payment of deposit represents an acceptance of the following terms and conditions by the purchaser: Connecticut Audubon Society, its affiliates, and all cooperating airlines and agencies act only in the capacity of agents in all matters of transportation and tour operations, and their liability is limited to the terms of the airline tickets and land accommodation contracts. They are not responsible for any delays, inconveniences, accidents, expense, or mishap of any kind whatsoever resulting entirely or in part from the negligence of others or from causes beyond their control. They can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, riot, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses or expenses must be borne by the passengers, as the tour rate provides for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Baggage is at the owner's risk entirely. No refund can be made for unused hotel rooms, meals, and sightseeing tours unless arrangements are made at time of booking. The right is reserved to decline any person as a tour member for any reason which affects the operation of the tour or the rights, welfare, or enjoyment of the other tour members. Any refund of the recoverable land tour services is the limit of Connecticut Audubon Society and its affiliates' liability.

To Make a Reservation:

Send the above stated deposit to hold your reservation. Nonmembers, please add \$45 (single) or \$58 (family) for your annual membership and to take advantage of the member discount.

Send your name(s), address, phone number, email address, name of the trip, your deposit, and membership fee (if applicable) to:

Connecticut Audubon Society EcoTravel

PO Box 903, Essex, CT 06426

860-767-0660

ecotravel@ctaudubon.org

www.ctaudubon.org/ecotravel

