

VACATIONS

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CRUISES

## **10-NIGHTITINERARY** A TRULY ALL-INCLUSIVE GALAPAGOS EXPERI **CELEBRITY XPEDITION NORTHERN LOOP** SEPT 26TH TOOCT 6TH, 2019

303-980-6483

DAY 1 THURSDAY - QUITO ARRIVAL On the first day of your journey, you'll be greeted at the airport by a Celebrity Cruises representative and transferred to the JW Marriott hotel. Enjoy free time to relax and settle in.

DAY 2 FRIDAY - QUITO Breakfast is served at the hotel. During a guided tour of the capital of Ecuador, situated at an altitude of 9,350 feet, you'll stand on the equatorial line at the Middle of the World Park and Museum, and marvel at the monastery of San Francisco and La Compañia Church. Your Tour Director will escort you throughout your Quito stay and serve as your personal concierge. Lunch with a spectacular view of the city and enjoy a welcome dinner at a local gourmet restaurant

DAY 3 SATURDAY AM - QUITO - FLIGHT TO BALTRA ISLAND - EMBARKATION After breakfast. you will transfer to the airport for your flight to Baltra, Galapagos. (approx. duration 3 hrs). During World War II, Baltra served as a U.S. military base protecting the Panama Canal from enemy attack. Now the cactus-strewn landscapes of Baltra are home to the region's main airport and where you will meet the ship. From the airport, it is just a short bus and Zodiac ride to the ship for embarkation. You'll be welcomed on board and directed to deck 4 where our Premium Ocean View cabins are located, mid-ship. Set Sail is 3pm

DAY 3 SATURDAY PM - BLACK TURTLE COVE, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND This evening our very first Zodiac ride will take us into Black Turtle Cove, one of the most beautiful sites in the Galapagos. We'll move through a complex maze of tranguil saltwater inlets surrounded by mangroves. Once inside the cove, we'll quietly explore the area looking for sea turtles, several species of rays, and sharks. It is also a nesting site for brown pelicans, egrets, and herons. First Stop...4pm-6pm

DAY 4 SUNDAY AM - RABIDA ISLAND A small island south of Santiago, Rabida is best known for its amazingly red sand and eroded volcanic landscape. A nesting colony of pelicans makes its home here, along with sea lions, finches, mockingbirds, Galapagos Hawks, and some seabirds. With good conditions, the snorkeling can be excellent. Excursion options: Zodiac, walk, swim, kayak, snorkel. 7am-11am

DAY 4 SUNDAY PM - EGAS PORT, SANTIAGO ISLAND With its black sand beach, coastal tide pools, and blue-water grottos, this stop offers a wonderful taste of the Galapagos and the opportunity to see shore birds, Galapagos Hawks, sea lions, marine iguanas, and Galapagos fur seals. Sea lions, colorful tropical fish, and sea turtles are often seen while snorkeling here (conditions permitting). Excursion options: Walk, swimming, snorkel. 3pm-6pm

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## 10-NIGHTITINERARY CONT.

DAY 5 MONDAY AM - TAGUS COVE, ISABELA ISLAND Historically an anchorage for pirates and whalers, this site offers a breathtaking view of Isabela, its volcanoes, and spectacular Darwin Lake. Along the shore, seabirds, penguins, sea lions, sea turtles, and nesting flightless cormorants can often be found. Excursion options: Zodiac, walk, snorkeling, kayak. 7am-11am

DAY 5 MONDAY PM - ESPINOZA POINT, FERNANDINA ISLAND Fernandina is the youngest island in the Galapagos and, as Darwin wrote, it is "covered with immense deluges of black naked lava." Along with its extraordinary black lava rocks, this point of land hosts the largest colony of marine iguanas in the Archipelago, along with sea lions and a nesting site for flightless cormorants. Excursion options: Walk, snorkel, hike. 2pm-6pm

DAY 6 TUESDAY AM - URVINA BAY, ISABELA ISLAND Composed of five coalesced volcanoes, Isabela is the largest island in the Galapagos and the most recently active, the latest eruption having occurred in 2015. Here we will see large land iguanas, finches, and if lucky, a giant tortoise or two. In 1954, the intrusion of magma below one of the island's volcanoes caused part of the bay to be uplifted some 6 meters, and today we can walk through the remains of what was once a thriving underwater reef. Excursion options: Walk, hike, snorkel, swim. 7am to 10:30am

DAY 6 TUESDAY PM - VICENTE ROCA POINT, ISABELA ISLAND The half-collapsed remains of an ancient volcano make for a spectacular setting at this site. Awe-inspiring cliffs, blue waters, and wildlife create a Zodiac ride to remember as we search for sea turtles, penguins, fur seals, the flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, marine mammals, and the oddly shaped form of the elusive sunfish. Excursion options: Zodiac, deep water snorkel. 2:30pm-5:30pm

DAY 7 WEDNESDAY AM - BARTOLOME ISLAND Bartolomé Island hosts one of the region's most often photographed views, and a spectacular geologic setting. Its barren moon-like volcanic landscapes, spatter cones, and pinnacle rock make for a unique stop. It is also home to the endemic Galapagos penguin and provides an excellent opportunity for snorkeling. Excursion options include a hike up some 368 stairs "To the Top" of the volcano, a Zodiac ride, and an optional beach swim or snorkel. Excursion options: Hike, swim, beach and snorkel. 7am-11:30am

DAY 7 WEDNESDAY PM - LAS BACHAS, SANTA CRUZ Las Bachas Beach is located in the north of Santa Cruz Island. Its soft, white sand is derived from decomposed coral, making it a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind the beach there is a small brackish lagoon, where it is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels. Excursion options: Walk and Swim. 2:30pm-5pm

DAY 7 WEDNESDAY PM - DAPHNE ISLAND Daphne is a satellite volcanic cone located north of Santa Cruz Island. The crater floor is an important breeding site for blue-footed boobies. This Island is famous for the scientific investigation led by Peter and Rosemary Grant on the finches' population, one of the most important studies on the field that supports Charles Darwin's Theory. The cliff shore of the island is home for sea lions, pelicans, bluefooted boobies, and tropical birds which can be observed during the circumnavigation of the island. 6pm-7pm

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DAY 8 THURSDAY AM - EL BARRANCO, GENOVESA ISLAND El BARRANCO, also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, named for Prince Philip who visited Galapagos in 1965 and again in 1981, is a steep stairway that leads up through a seabird colony full of Nazca and Red-footed Boobies. Once visitors reach the plateau, the trail continues inland and passes more nesting booby colonies in the thin Palo Santo forest. You'll see Nazca boobies, Galapagos doves, mockingbirds, and storm petrels. Lucky visitors with keen eyes may catch a glimpse of a short-eared lava owl stalking petrel along the island's eastern cliffs. Excursion options: Hike, Zodiac, deep water snorkel. 7am-11:45am



DAY 8 THURSDAY PM - DARWIN BAY, GENOVESA ISLAND Darwin Bay's soft white sand is only the beginning of a spectacular excursion. A trail from the beach takes you into lush mangroves where red-footed boobies nest. Other local wildlife includes sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls, frigate birds, and more. Snorkeling is a must here, as the nutrient-rich water attracts all types of marine life, including sharks, sea lions, sea turtles, and the occasional manta ray. Excursions include: Walk, swim, snorkel, kayak. 2:30pm-6pm

DAY 9 FRIDAY AM/PM - PUERTO AYORA, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND This is the main population center of the islands, and home to the National Park Service tortoise-breeding center and the Charles Darwin Research Station. Here you will have the opportunity to visit the tortoise-breeding center and walk through the Charles Darwin Research Station. In addition, you can also take a bus ride to the highlands to observe giant tortoises in the wild and walk through a lava tunnel. Optional time for shopping will be available. Excursion options: Tortoise-breeding Center/Charles Darwin Center, Highlands. 8am – 6pm

DAY 10 SATURDAY AM - BALTRA DISEMBARKATION / FLIGHT TO QUITO Baltra is the home to the region's main airport and where you will fly out. You will have a zodiac and bus ride to the airport. Disembark and say farewell to our Xpedition crew 8am

DAY 10 SATURDAY PM - QUITO Upon your arrival in Quito, a Celebrity Cruises representative will escort you to the JW Marriott hotel. A Final Celebration Dinner will be served at the hotel.

DAY 11 SUNDAY AM On Sunday after breakfast, your Celebrity Cruises representative will once again escort you to the airport for your return flight home.

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**STEE LORD** 

JEFF GERGORY

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