



Ecuador Galapagos

## ABOARD THE LETTY, NORTHERN CIRCUIT

Prepared for Leslie Science & Nature Center



**cruise the best northern island sites, including genovesa, on a 20-passenger yacht**



We invite you to join this joint Galapagos cruise with Leslie Science &

Nature Center, the Ann Arbor Hands on Museum and Journeys International for a 10 day educational adventure to the Galapagos Islands. Karen Rendell, for the LSNC will join this group. Karen brings 13 years at LSNC and over 20 years experience as a naturalist working at nature centers and environmental

education centers throughout the U.S. teaching environmental education and leading adventure courses. She is an avid traveler personally and professionally having led young adult travel groups in Panama, Sweden, and Russia. Karen is a graduate from Michigan State University with a degree in Park, Recreation and Tourism.

The first-class motor-yacht, **M/Y Letty**, was custom-designed for Galapagos excursions, offering tremendous value for superior comfort. Two experienced English-speaking naturalist guides attend to the details of your Galapagos cruise. Each naturalist takes a group of no more than ten passengers on all shore excursions and shares extensive insights into the islands' diverse wildlife. Stable rubber boats (Zodiacs), locally called pangas, ferry passengers to shore for island visits. This week-long, comprehensive itinerary visit the islands' most spectacular sites to witness the unique plants and animals that have made these islands famous. Travel to the Galapagos is good year around. In November you can expect summer like temperatures in the 70's and very little rain. Waters should be teeming with wildlife and the birds nesting. The seas around the Galapagos Islands are protected from extremely rough waters by the islands. You may encounter some motion when moving between islands and those sensitive to motion sickness should consider taking medication.

**Date**

Oct 30-Nov 9, 2020

**Duration**

**11 days**

**Land Cost**

**\$6,575 - \$7,025**

Cabins:

Booby Cabins: \$7025 (2 cabins available for 4 persons)

Iguana Cabins: \$6575 (4 cabins available for 8 persons)

Limited Triple Cabins available: -\$200

**Single Supplement**

**\$4,200**

Only one cabin available for a single cabin

**Comfort Level**

●●●○○

**Activity Level**

●●○○○

**Group Size**

**12**

**Best Time To Visit**

J F M A M J J A S O N D

Built in 1991 and refurbished every year, the 20-passenger yacht features ten double outside-facing cabins located on three decks with polished teak wood interiors and either windows or portholes. The yacht is fully air-conditioned, and all cabins have private bath facilities. Picture windows surround the upper two decks and offer spectacular panoramic views of ocean and islands. Enjoy sea breezes, sunny days, and starlit nights on lounge chairs and recliners located on the sun deck and observation points. Snorkeling equipment, custom wet suits, and sea kayaks are all available at no additional cost.

This departure in conjunction with the LSNC is being geared towards adults and only children age 16 and older will be allowed.

### day 1 - fri oct 30 - arrive quito

Arrive in Quito, Ecuador, where you will be met and transferred to your local hotel. Quito is located in a huge valley of the Andes mountains at an altitude of 9,455 feet, it's a great place to extend your stay to explore the city. Overnight for two nights.

**Lodging:** Patio Andaluz Hotel

### day 2 - sat oct 31 - quito

Following breakfast stroll down cobblestone streets and through flowering plazas. Visit the old colonial center of Independence Square, the elegant cathedrals of San Francisco, La Campion and San Austine, Quito's oldest monastery. Walk through the residential sections and past the Legislative Palace (Congress). Panecillio Hill overlooks the city and snow-capped mountains. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to explore on your own or relax.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Lodging:** Patio Andaluz Hotel

### day 3 - sun nov 1 - san cristobal/cerro colorado

You will be transferred to the airport where you will collect your tickets for your flight to the Galapagos.

Upon arrival at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **San Cristobal** Island, the crew is waiting at the airport to escort you to your anchored yacht. After the welcome briefing, buffet lunch, and safety drill, you travel by bus into the interior of San Cristobal to visit La Galapaguera Cerro Colorado, where the National Park has established a breeding program for the tortoises and set up an information center for visitors. Along the trail, you may find the San Cristobal (Chatham) mockingbird and Calandrinia plant, both endemic to the island. Here, you will see the terrestrial tortoises living in their natural habitat, and learn about their origin, evolution and threats by introduced animals.



*Watch for tortoises in their natural habitat*

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## day 4 - mon nov 2 - genovesa/darwin bay/philip's steps

Spend the entire day on **Genovesa** (Tower) Island, considered to be one of the most spectacular islands in all of the Galapagos for its variety and sheer number of birds. This morning, we have a dry landing at Prince Philip's Steps. Red-footed boobies nest here in Palo Santo trees, and Nazca boobies nest near the trail. In an open lava field, we find storm petrels in large numbers. If you are lucky, we will see the elusive short-eared owl. Look for the beautiful Red-billed Tropic bird found in the crevices along the cliff by kayak or Zodiac. You can choose to swim or snorkel from the beach with sea lions in these northern warmer waters or for those with experience, we offer snorkeling in deeper water. This afternoon, we have a wet landing on Darwin Bay, a coral sand beach where swallow-tailed and lava gulls gather near the tide pools. Enter a forest of Opuntia cactus and mangroves where colonies of great frigatebirds nest. The males inflate their red-throated pouches to attract females as they fly overhead. The trail leads through a rich inter-tidal zone where we find a great diversity of wildlife.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



*Nazca boobies are among the many birds you'll see on Genovesa*

## day 5 - tue nov 3 - las bachas/cerro dragon

This morning you will visit Las Bachas, Spanish for "the barges." There is a long stretch of a soft white sand beach and interior lagoons where we find the greater flamingo. The snorkeling from the beach here is wonderful. At Black Turtle Cove (Caleta Tortuga Negra) we have a zodiac ride through a series of coves and inlets surrounded by mangroves. Here you can view pairs of mating sea turtles (Sept to Feb), white-tipped reef sharks and golden cow-nosed rays. Located on the northern tip of Santa Cruz is Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill). Along the trail, we find Darwin Finches, Galapagos Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers, Audubon Shearwater and the endemic land iguanas, orange-yellow in color with large spines along their backs, were once part of the Darwin Station's breeding program. We find pink flamingos feeding in the salt-water lagoon as well as other lagoon birds; stilts, pintail ducks, sandpipers and more. From the top of the hill, we enjoy a majestic view of the bay island covered in Opuntia cactus, Palo Santo and Cordia Lutea (muyuyu). After the briefing and dinner, we sail toward the western islands and cross the equator line for the second time.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



*Male frigatebird displaying his inflated red throat pouch*

## day 6 - wed nov 4 - fernandina/urbina bay, isabela

This morning, we have a wet landing at Punta Espinoza, **Fernandina**, the youngest and most pristine Island in the Galapagos. Recent lava flows formed by an active volcano stretch their way around the coast. Hundreds of marine iguanas, the largest colony in Galapagos, bask in the sun along the rugged shoreline. Observe sea lion harems with resident bulls carefully guarding their territories. Flightless cormorants build their nests on the point, and Galapagos hawks fly overhead. There is a chance to snorkel here with sea turtles. After lunch, we cross the Bolivar Channel, where we often spot whales and dolphins riding the ship's bow wave. We disembark at Urbina Bay, ISABELA, where we find four miles of its coastal seabed, with marine life exposed due to a dramatic uplift in 1954 when the volcano erupted. The marine remnants of coral skeletons, some of them waist-high, are visited after a wet landing on the beach. Urbina is home to the very large and colorful Galapagos land iguanas, occasionally giant tortoises, Darwin Finches. Brown Pelicans and Flightless Cormorants also nest here. Giant Marine Iguanas are seen along the coast. You may encounter penguins while snorkeling here. At Punta Vicente Roca, a Zodiac ride offers an incredible view of the tuff walls, we can enter the wave-sculpted cave and find sea turtle who frequent this area. You may spot the dorsal fin of a Mola Mola, an odd looking giant sun fish. Return to the yacht for briefing and dinner.



*Decipher ancient mariners' graffiti at Tagus Cove*

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## day 7 - thu nov 5 - isabela/elizabeth bay/tagus cove

Our morning excursion is a Zodiac ride in Elizabeth Bay, **Isabela** that begins at a secluded cove lined with large red mangrove trees where you will see turtles, rays, and shore birds. We then motor to the rocky islets known as "Las Marielas," to view colonies of nesting penguins, flightless cormorants, and giant marine iguanas. Isabela was created when six volcanoes flowed together and formed the largest Island in Galapagos. We have a dry landing at Tagus Cove, located on the western Island of ISABELA and a favorite anchorage for pirates and whalers over the centuries. Old graffiti dating back to the 1800's is written on the rocky cliffs. Explore the Coves by Zodiac or kayak to find Galapagos Penguins, Boobies, Pelicans and other seabirds. An uphill hike brings us to a salt-water lagoon, a scenic overlook with a spectacular view of the ocean, lava fields and volcanic formations. An excellent snorkeling site is offered from the zodiac or take out a Kayak and explore the shoreline. After dinner, a sky full of stars beckons to go on deck and observe the galaxy while crossing the equator for the last time.



*Marvel at coral skeletons on land, result of volcanic uplift*

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## day 8 - fri nov 6 - santiago/puerto egas/rabida island

This morning, we disembark on **Rabida** Island, located near Santiago. Rabida sports the most diversified volcanic rocks of all the islands and is considered the geographic center of the Galapagos. The dark red sand beach resulted from erosion of volcanic stones. Follow a trail that leads to a salt water lagoon, and observe Greater Flamingos as they feed. Brown Pelicans nest in the mangroves at the far side of the lagoon. After the walk, there is time for snorkeling. This afternoon, we have a wet landing at Puerto Egas, **Santiago**. Stroll along the shoreline looking for octopus, starfish, and other sea life caught in the tide pools. At low tide, catch a glimpse of marine iguanas as they feed on exposed green algae. Watch for great blue herons, lava herons, American oystercatchers, and yellow-crowned night herons. Our walk ends at the grottos, deep pools of clear water where we encounter shy fur sea lions once on the verge of extinction. Before returning to the yacht, enjoy some snorkeling and kayaking if you wish.



*Look for fur seals (a type of sea lion) in the grotto*

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## day 9 - sat nov 7 - santa cruz/darwin station

Today after breakfast, disembark for a trip to the **Charles Darwin Research Station**. Visit all three tortoise corals and the breeding center with new hatchlings and miniature tortoises not yet ready to be repatriated to the islands where they were born. Scientists from all over the globe come to the station to conduct biological research from anatomy to zoology. You will also visit Van Straelen Hall, where there are exhibits and a short video presentation. Visitors can see the tortoise and land iguana corrals. Puerto Ayora is the social heart of the islands with the largest population of 24,000 inhabitants. This evening you have the option to return to your yacht for a buffet dinner or remain in town on your own account. Those who return to the yacht will be provided zodiacs to return to town to shop for souvenirs or stop at an internet café. Zodiacs will be provided for your return to the yachts.



*Visit Charles Darwin Research Station*

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

---

## day 10 - sun nov 8 - san cristobal/quito or guayaquil

This morning, drop anchor in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **San Cristobal**. Visit the Interpretation Center, which was opened in 1999. Here, you will gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the Galapagos Islands. Afterwards, spend some time in port before heading to the airport for your noontime flight back to the mainland, where you will transfer to your international flight home.

**Meals:** Breakfast



*Drop anchor in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno*

## day 11 - mon nov 9 - home

Arrive home today after a fun week of cruising.

**Meals:** Breakfast

*Anticipated itinerary; actual route may vary.*

## Additional Information Regarding the Letty

A seasoned captain, 8 dedicated crewmembers, and 2 experienced English-speaking naturalist guides attend to the details of your Galapagos cruise. Each naturalist takes a group of no more than 10 passengers on all shore excursions and shares extensive insights into the Islands' diverse wildlife. Small wooden boats, locally called pangas, ferry passengers to shore for island visits. Outfitted in 1991, the fleet of the 20-passenger first class motor-yacht Letty are 83' long with 24' beams each and exclusively custom-designed for Galapagos excursions, with spacious accommodations for small groups.

Polished teak wood interior features fully air-conditioned cabins, public spaces, a dining room, a well-stocked bar, a conference area (with television, stereo cassette/cd equipment), and a book and video library.

Accommodations include ten cabins located on three decks, each with a large private bathroom, fresh hot-and-cold-water shower, either two twin lower beds or one double bed, a roomy closet, overhead storage, separate climate controls, intercom system, bottled water toiletries, and fresh towels. Snorkeling equipment, wet suits, sea kayaks, and beach towels are provided at no additional charge.

Breakfast and lunch are casual buffets with fresh, creatively prepared produce. Unwind quickly in the evening with creamy soups, ceviches, grilled seafood, roasted potato salad, unique deserts, and other delicacies of both Ecuadorian and international cuisines. Additional information can be found here:

<https://www.lettygalapagos.com>

**Please note that this trip operates under different payment and cancellation policies than those described in our Terms and Conditions as noted in our Global Expedition Catalog, on our website and elsewhere. Please request these if you do not have them before advancing a deposit.**

Included in costs: Meals as noted, each night in double occupancy accommodations in Quito for 2 nights prior to cruise, double occupancy accommodations on the cruise, English speaking guides, park or site entry fees, transit card, domestic airfare, surface transport, donation to Leslie Science and Nature Center, equipment other than personal gear, government tax, airport transfer assistance, in-country ticket reconfirmation & check-in assistance (where permitted), complete pre-departure packet, toll-free pre-departure phone assistance.

Not included in costs: Meals not noted as included, gratuities, beverages (except tea or coffee at meals), international flights, airport departure taxes not included with air tickets, visas, itinerary changes after confirmation, any services not included in itinerary, any costs incurred due to canceled or delayed flights, fuel surcharges, acts of nature or other happenings beyond our control, or other costs as are more fully described in Journeys Terms & Conditions.

Deposit and payment schedule: A deposit of \$800 is due per person by October 25, 2019 or sooner in order to guarantee a spot on the trip. A second deposit of \$1000 per person is due, May 1 and final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. **All payments are NON-REFUNDABLE.** All payments are subject to cancellation if payments are not received by the due dates. Airlines require full payment when tickets are issued. All payments may be made by Visa, Master Card, American Express, or check, and the Reservation Form may be submitted by via our website.

Insurance: When you make your application, we strongly recommend the purchase of comprehensive travel insurance in case of emergency situations. Please contact us for a recommended policy.

Airfares: Journeys can make complete air arrangements applicable to your trip as noted in this itinerary. If you wish to redeem frequent flyer mileage or arrange flights directly with the airline, you may do so on your own at no penalty. If you do, please consult with us on exact arrival and departure dates and times before having your tickets issued to avoid errors.

Itinerary Change Fee: There will be a \$40 fee for changes once an itinerary has been confirmed and approved. Additional cancellation penalties or change fees may apply as per our terms and conditions. The passenger is responsible for such fees.

## WHY JOURNEYS?

**We are quite simply the best.** No other company matches our experience, breadth, flexibility and personal service. Our reputation is impeccable.

**We have been an acknowledged innovator in global adventure travel and ecotourism since 1978.** Our itineraries are original, and our trip content is thoughtful, intellectually ambitious, and as adventurous as you like. We are committed to the communities and environments we visit. Our Ecological Code of Ethics serves as a model for others.

**We have won the most prestigious awards in the industry.** Condé Nast selected us for their list of the world's Top Travel Specialists every year since 2003. This year, National Geographic Adventure named us one of the top ten global adventure tour operators.

**Our staff is professional and devoted.** The specialists in Ann Arbor and the guides in the field take pride in 100% client satisfaction. Many remain with us for decades. Journeys founders, Drs. Joan and Will Weber, are active in daily operations.

**We make your travel planning easy.** We offer you the ability to completely customize your trip, according to your interests and abilities. Our knowledgeable specialists are happy to help you select special inclusions and extensions. We'll make your air arrangements or you're free to do your own. We pay attention to detail, and we prepare you well for your trip. We respond promptly to your emails and, if you call us during our business hours, you will be greeted by a person and not a machine.

**We know our destinations well.** We will give you as honest and complete a picture of what you can expect as possible. We don't want to make an easy sale; we want to make an honest one. You will likely find that we under promise and over deliver.

**Our travelers come back again and again.** We have a sophisticated clientele with wide reaching travel goals. Many return to us for five, 10, or more trips.

**We love what we do, and we love sharing our passion with you.**

