



FEATURED ARTICLE

## Giving the Gift of Galápagos

Luxurious environmentally sensitive private yacht excursions changing the way we travel



I wasn't sure what to expect when I was invited to explore The Galápagos Islands on Ecoventura's luxury expedition private yacht, Theory. Perhaps one of the world's most remote and exclusive travel destinations, the archipelago, located some 600 miles off the coast of the Equator, has captivated explorers and adventurers for centuries, inspiring Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Home to countless species of endemic flora and fauna, the voyage was to be the adventure of a lifetime, offering a world-class Relais & Châteaux experience, all while circumnavigating the rich ecological history of our planet.

Perfect for the luxury traveler, Ecoventura's environmentally sound and socially responsible approach to ecotourism is a hallmark of the adventure that focuses on sustainable travel and conservation.

The world-class, bespoke, and personalized service that you receive while onboard is nothing short of amazing. Theory is a floating, world-class hotel with every amenity imaginable, sailing the seas! A luxury yacht trip to the Galápagos offers an unparalleled experience, combining exquisite comfort with breathtaking scenery.

Guests onboard Theory can explore remote islands, encounter unique wildlife, and enjoy fine dining, all while sailing through crystal-clear water from one island destination to another. Walls of windows, impeccably appointed staterooms, welcoming guest lounges, rooftop sundeck, library, and gourmet dining elevate the experience beyond expectation. The gracious and accommodating staff are always there to heighten the guest experience every step of the way.

From gourmet meals and exemplary service to hot chocolate after a snorkeling adventure, Theory excels at creating forever memories that will be cherished for years. The unsung blend of hospitality and adventure makes Ecoventura genuinely exceptional. Ecoventura offers itineraries that allow guests to explore the unique wildlife and stunning landscapes of the Galápagos, all while minimizing their ecological footprint.

Each day of this remarkable journey is filled with thoughtfully curated expeditions guided by expertly skilled naturalists, offering opportunities to be amongst and interact with creatures that defy one's imagination. Daily zodiac rides reveal some of the best snorkeling and ocean kayaking that the world has to offer while also giving us access to a multitude of other-worldly island landscapes that help to define the Galápagos adventure. Whether walking across the barren volcanic hills, hiking along the seaside cliffs, or leisurely strolling the seemingly endless, vibrantly colored, pristine beaches, each sojourn brought us face to face with some of the world's most spectacular animals who genuinely seemed to be as curious about us as we were about them.



On Floreana and San Cristóbal islands, we walked in the footprints left by Darwin's expedition in 1835. Marine and land iguanas, giant tortoises, green sea turtles, flamingos, and the forever famous and super curious Galápagos sea lions welcomed us almost everywhere. Each hike, of which there were many during the seven-day voyage, not only showed us the unique island environments but also gave us insight into life on the island.

The oceans surrounding The Galápagos Islands are teeming with splendid color and an endless assortment of beautifully colored fish. Many Yellowtail surgeonfish, King Angelfish, and Black-nosed Butterflyfish were on our snorkeling adventures. Not to be outdone, the waters, and more importantly, the ocean currents, were also filled with sea turtles, luminescent gigantic starfish, sharks, dolphins, whales, octopus, and sea lions, and, in the waters surrounding Pinnacle Rock on Bartolomé, we were lucky to see the rarest species of penguin in the world.

Not to be outdone, the skies above us hosted a flurry of activity. The Waved albatross, Galápagos hawks, Magnificent frigate birds, Lava gulls, the iconic Blue-footed Boobies, and countless species of finch seemed to embrace us where ever we went! The Galápagos Islands are a birdwatcher's paradise. Observing these fascinating birds in their natural habitat was an unforgettable experience.

The holiday season is quickly approaching, and if you are wondering what to give your favorite person for Christmas, look no further than giving the gift of Galápagos. Gifting a trip to the Galápagos Islands for Christmas is an extraordinary choice, offering unforgettable experiences in a stunning natural environment. It is a present that will last a lifetime.

Floreana's Post Office, established in the late 18th century, is a unique mail system where visitors leave letters in a wooden barrel for travelers to hand-deliver. This centuries-old tradition embodies the spirit of adventure and camaraderie among visitors, making it a charming stop on any Galapagos itinerary.



