Abercrombie & Kent

GALÁPAGOS BY LAND

Welcome to the boutique lodge, Pikaia, headquarters for discovering nature’s headline act: the Galápagos Islands.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries

Latin America, Ecuador & Galápagos Islands

7 days from AU$15,880 pp

Private

Journey Overview

Welcome to the boutique lodge, Pikaia, headquarters for discovering nature’s headline act: the Galápagos Islands. Cruise between islands on a luxury yacht and meet the real-life inspiration behind Darwin’s Theory of Evolution. Marvel at dramatic evidence of the area’s volcanic provenance. And when you think you’ve seen everything on terra firma, head beneath the waves for a whole new treasure trove.

Journey Highlights

- Get up close to Galápagos sea lions, turtles, Darwin’s finches and more
- Spy rare wildlife on the tip of an underwater volcano, Bartolomé Island
- Step back in time to the volcanic beginnings of the Galápagos in Sullivan Bay
- Explore Santa Cruz Island with an array of adventures

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Guayaquil

Welcome to Guayaquil, Ecuador's main port and a bustling city. Upon arrival into the gateway to Galápagos Islands, your A&K representative will accompany you to your boutique accommodation. Ease into local time and get your first taste of the country with a chocolate experience like no other. Pick your own cacao pods and watch as they are transformed into decadent chocolate.

Hotel del Parque

Day 2: Guayaquil – Galápagos Islands

Journey to the airport for your flight to Baltra in the Galápagos archipelago. Leave the city behind and take your front-row seat for nature's dizzying showcase of evolutionary magic in the Galápagos. Your A&K Guardian Angel will welcome you at the VIP Lounge area of Baltra Airport before accompanying you on board your private cruise along Itabaca Canal to Santa Cruz Island. Here, a private vehicle whisks you towards your luxurious lodge, your base for discovery of the Galápagos and its incredible wildlife. Originally discovered by the Spanish Bishop of Panama in March 1535 when his ship was blown off course en route to Peru, the islands were put on the map after Charles Darwin visited in 1835 whilst serving as a naturalist on HMS Beagle.

Pikaia Lodge | Meals: BLD

Day 3: Galápagos Islands

Step aboard your luxury yacht for a whole day dedicated to discovering exactly what inspired Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution. Head first to North Seymour Island, where prickly pear cactus and Palo Santo trees stand out in an arid wilderness. Spy great frigatebirds, swallow-tailed gulls and blue-footed boobies. And get up close to Galápagos sea lions and iguanas. Next, cruise to Bachas Beach and seek out small flamingo ponds overflowing with iguanas, black-necked stilts, whimbrels, Darwin's finches, mockingbirds and gulls. Spend time with nesting sea turtles on the coral beach. Then, back on the yacht, plunge into the steaming water of the Jacuzzi and watch dolphins play below.

Pikaia Lodge | Meals: BLD

Day 4: Galápagos Islands

Explore your island paradise, your way. Soak up the laid-back vibe of Puerto Ayora, the largest town in the Galápagos. Lose yourself in the fascinating world of the 'Father of Evolution' at the Charles Darwin Research Station and stop by the giant tortoise-breeding programme. Trek deep into the Scalesia Forest and encounter Darwin's finches – possibly the most famous birds in the archipelago. Snorkel amongst sea turtles moving dreamily underwater or embark on your own wildlife-spotting tour by bike or on foot.

Pikaia Lodge | Meals: BLD

Day 5: Galápagos Islands

Back on board your luxury yacht for a cruise to Bartolomé Island, the tip of an underwater volcano. Climb to the summit for sweeping views of James Bay and Santiago, your next stop. Cool off with swimming and snorkelling among Galápagos penguins, marine turtles and a kaleidoscope of fish. Marvel at sea lions curled up on rocks and watch flamingos stalking through the water of beachside saline lagoons. Journey onwards to Sullivan Bay and step back in time to the volcanic beginnings of the Galápagos. Experience the surreal and starkly beautiful environment of white coral sand beach and lava, as spy hawks, finches and mockingbirds soar overhead.

Pikaia Lodge | Meals: BLD

Day 6: Galápagos Islands

Continue your island adventure this morning, your way. Choose from a menu of included activities depending on the weather and tidal conditions. Alternatively join your A&K Guardian Angel this afternoon, on a revealing tour of Puerto Ayora, the largest town in the Galápagos. Wander past humble dwellings and shops and be introduced to some of the descendants of the Norwegian, Swiss and German families that originally settled here four generations ago. Return to your lodge and seek out your favourite spot to enjoy nature's show before dinner.

Pikaia Lodge | Meals: BLD

Day 7 Galápagos Islands – Guayaquil

Rise early this morning to soak up your final taste of the Galápagos, before your transfer by road and ferry to the airport for the return flight to Guayaquil where your journey ends.

Meals: B

Map

PACIFIC
OCEAN
GALÁPAGOS
ISLANDS
ECUADOR
Guayaquil
ARRIVE/DEPART
AIR

Accommodation

Hotel del Parque, Guayaquil

Guayaquil might be known to travellers as a port-stop en route to the Galápagos, but the opening of the chic Hotel del Parque puts this stopover city firmly on the map. What was once a 19th-century Catholic hospice is now a luxurious, waterfront boutique hotel. All interiors are cool and fresh, inspired by the tropical surroundings. The 44 guest rooms are light, airy and decorated in go-to boutique hotel shades of grey, white and yellow. Botanic themes dominate and Ecuadorian artworks hang on the walls. The hotel’s restaurant offers rich seafood and delicious dishes inspired by local ingredients.

The historic wooden beamed bell tower provides the perfect setting for a spa treatment. Guests can indulge in a traditional afternoon tea infused with herbs fresh from the garden. For chocolate-lovers, head to the grounds of the park to seek out cacao pods, watch as they are turned into chocolate. You can sample the produce, obviously.

Why we like it

- The hotel’s historic building is located within Parque Historico, a luscious tropical park
- Enjoy a unique spa experience in the bell tower

Pikaia Lodge, Galápagos Islands

Hidden in a secluded location and nestled on top of an extinct volcano crater, Pikaia Lodge is a stunning new alternative for exploring the ‘last paradise on Earth’ in a comfortable and truly sustainable land-based way. The lodge is an entirely new concept in the Galápagos Islands, offering luxurious contemporary accommodation with the highest level of comfort and services.

This lodge has serious eco credentials: solar panels, recycling and a wind turbine allow the lodge to generate up to a third of its own power and to make the best use of water, the most precious resource on Galápagos.

All 14 rooms and suites feature stunning floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows with access to private shaded terraces that offer breathtaking unobstructed views of the Galápagos National Park. From your terrace you may be able to see the savannah, the volcanic cones or to other islands the Pacific Ocean.

The lodge’s infinity pool also offers incredible views that few other places in the world can provide, across the island landscape to the sea, and is strategically placed to receive the sun, shadow free, the entire day, which maintains a pleasant water temperature without the need for heating. The spa is perfect for winding down after a hard day’s exploration, ideally followed by a cocktail at the lobby lounge. All meals are served in the Evolution Restaurant, where you can sample a fusion of Peruvian and Ecuadorian cuisine that utilises local ingredients such as fresh Galápagos eggs, organic beef, suckling pig, lobster or the world-famous jumbo shrimp that’s landed nearby. There’s an Explorers Lounge for relaxing with a library and temporary art and photography installations to promote local artists,

where you can chill out by the fireplace on a cool evening and learn more about the islands with films and lectures. Some of the best beaches of the islands are located near to the lodge, and you'll have the use of the hotel's exclusive 105ft yacht during the day for excursions.

Why we like it

- Great location on Santa Cruz, in the centre of the Galápagos Archipelago
- An entirely new concept in contemporary, high end style
- All the benefits of boat-based exploring with a central base to return to spend the day on board the luxurious 100ft cruise yacht Pikaia I
- Spacious rooms and suites with floor to ceiling windows

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