



WONDERS OF THE GALÁPAGOS & MACHU PICCHU - A LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEY (2024)

Discover natural and man-made wonders, from Ecuador to Peru, on a journey that includes a four-night cruise in the wildlife-rich Galápagos Islands, an exclusive visit to a village in the Sacred Valley and a guided exploration of Machu Picchu, the awe-inspiring “Lost City” of the Incas.

Small Group Journeys, Luxury Small Group Journeys



Latin America, Ecuador & Galápagos Islands, Peru



12 days from AU\$26,490 pp



18 Guests

Journey Overview

Discover natural and man-made wonders, from Ecuador to Peru, on a journey that includes a four-night cruise in the wildlife-rich Galápagos Islands, an exclusive visit to a village in the Sacred Valley and a guided exploration of Machu Picchu, the awe-inspiring “Lost City” of the Incas.

Journey Highlights

- Cruise for four nights in the Galápagos Islands aboard stylish ‘La Pinta,’ a newly renovated, 48-guest expedition vessel that offers comfort and flexibility for exploring
- Experience some of the most intimate and up-close wildlife encounters in the world, both on land and in the water
- Explore the Galápagos on twice-daily shore excursions that include nature walks led by a certified naturalist guide, and choose from activities such as kayaking, snorkelling, light trekking or relaxing on shore
- Discover magnificent Machu Picchu firsthand in the company of a local expert guide, and stay at the only hotel on-site for access to the ruins before most other visitors arrive
- Meet people of the Sacred Valley of the Incas when you privately visit their remote village to gain insight into their centuries-old weaving and farming techniques
- From April through December, opt to trek the last portion of the Inca Trail, from KM104 to Machu Picchu



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Guayaquil, Ecuador

Arrive in tropical Guayaquil, gateway to the Galápagos, where you are met and transferred to your hotel.

Hotel del Parque

Day 2: Guayaquil | Baltra, the Galápagos

Fly to the remote Galápagos island of Baltra, where you join your naturalist guide for the ferry ride to Santa Cruz Island. Disembark and drive up into the island's mist-shrouded highlands in search of giant tortoise. Continue on to Puerto Ayora and board 'La Pinta,' your expedition ship for your four-night cruise through the Galápagos' northern islands. 'La Pinta' is built for adventure, offering spacious cabins, floor-to-ceiling windows and a comfortable atmosphere. The vessel is ecologically sound and comes equipped with *pangas* (rubber rafts), a glass-bottom boat and sea kayaks that allow for independent exploration. Tonight, dine on board.

'La Pinta' | Meals: BLD

Day 3: Cruising the Galápagos | Eden & Sombrero Chino

After breakfast, get fitted for your wetsuit and snorkelling gear. Then, Ride Like a Local, boarding a panga for a shore excursion to Eden Islet, a secluded, biodiverse enclave off Santa Cruz. Here, observe the island's iconic bluefooted booby. Take this opportunity to snorkel the reef or view marine life aboard a glass-bottom boat. Back aboard 'La Pinta,' cruise onward to Sombrero Chino, yet another secluded islet of the Galápagos archipelago. Disembark your panga to hike wilderness trails, swim in a sandy cove, and snorkel among white-tipped reef shark and Galápagos penguin.

'La Pinta' | Meals: BLD

Day 4: Cruising the Galápagos | Bartolomé & Santiago Islands

Disembark on Bartolomé Island to hike up to the volcano's summit and take in the views. After a panga ride to visit the penguin of Pinnacle Rock, snorkel the reef, relax on the beach or take in the local marine life aboard a glass-bottom boat. Later, swim or snorkel along the white coral sand beach of Sullivan Bay.

'La Pinta' | Meals: BLD

Day 5: Cruising the Galápagos | Genovesa Island

This morning, hike and snorkel Genovesa Island, a birdwatcher's paradise. Explore Darwin Bay, snorkelling along the cliffs or paddling out in sea kayaks. View the island's cliffs before disembarking to climb the steep, rocky pass of Prince Philip's Steps. Your ascent leads to a clifftop frequented by Nazca booby, frigate bird, storm petrel and the elusive short-eared owl.

'La Pinta' | Meals: BLD

Day 6: Guayaquil & Lima, Peru | Begin a Peruvian Adventure

Disembark 'La Pinta' at Baltra Island, where you transfer to the airport to fly to mainland Ecuador, and then board a connecting flight to Lima, Peru. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport | Meals: BL

Day 7: Cusco | Sacred Valley

Fly to Cusco, located more than 3,352 metres above sea level, where you are met and transferred to the Sacred Valley of the Incas. En route, visit a sanctuary to interact with the South American camelid species living there — such as llama and alpaca — and learn about the valuable fibres created from their coats. Then, visit the beautiful Hacienda Sarapampa for a Chef's Table experience. Enjoy lunch with the owner, who cordially shares his family's history in farming and shows you around the farm.

Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba | Meals: BLD

Day 8: Sacred Valley | Like a Journey Back in Time

Today, visit Moray, a fascinating archaeological site comprising a series of concentric agricultural terraces, some almost 152 metres deep. Then, journey to a remote mountain village, where you experience ancient agricultural methods used for centuries, on an A&K-exclusive experience. Continue to the Children of the Rainbow school, a project supported by A&K Philanthropy, where you enjoy lunch and take in an equestrian performance featuring Paso Fino horses. Return to your hotel to enjoy a relaxing Scenic Sundowner before dinner.

Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba | Meals: BLD

Day 9: Machu Picchu | Bingham's Stunning Find

Visit the imposing fortress of Ollantaytambo, with its massive stone terraces, and then Ride Like a Local by train, journeying deep into the Andes toward Machu Picchu. Alternatively (at an additional cost), start toward Machu Picchu by train, stopping at KM 104 to disembark and hike to the Sun Gate above the Incan citadel. Overlooking the Urubamba River, Machu Picchu was built in the 15th century at the height of the Inca Empire. Although this "Lost City" was revealed to the rest of the world by American Hiram Bingham in 1911, its location was long known to locals. Its original purpose, however, remains a matter of some conjecture, as the Incas left no written records. As you wander amid the age-old stone walls, picture life here as it might have been. Tonight, stay in the only hotel on site, just steps from the entrance.

Sanctuary Lodge, A Belmond Hotel, Machu Picchu | Meals: BLD

Day 10: Machu Picchu | Walk the Spectacular Ruins

Rise with the sun and join your expert guide to walk through Machu Picchu in the early morning mist before the crowds arrive. After your explorations, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Ollantaytambo by train, savouring incomparable views of the mountain scenery that surrounds you. On arrival, transfer to your hotel in Cusco, a 400-year-old architectural treasure that was once a monastery. Tonight, relax or stroll this ancient Incan capital on your own.

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco | Meals: BL

Day 11: Cusco | Plaza de Armas & Colossal Sacsayhuaman

This morning, discover Cusco on a city excursion that includes the Gothic Renaissance-style Cathedral Basilica on the Plaza de Armas and the Santo Domingo Temple, a Dominican church built on the foundations of the Koricancha, the Incas' principal religious building. Later, visit the well-preserved ruins of Sacsayhuaman, a testament to Incan architectural skill. Compiled from colossal stones, its walls were cut and placed together with incredible precision and without a single drop of mortar to hold them in place. Back in Cusco, stop for lunch at a local restaurant near the plaza. Afterwards, enjoy an afternoon at leisure to relax or shop. Tonight, join your fellow guests for a farewell dinner at an elegant Cusco restaurant.

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco | Meals: BL D

Day 12: Depart Lima | Design Your Day

This morning, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities:

- **Visit the San Blas Neighbourhood**, a unique, bohemian enclave where you find the workshops of artisans.
- **Stroll San Pedro Market and Visit the Inca Museum**, for a taste of local fruits and cheese, and a glimpse into history.
- **Join a Photographer in Cusco** who helps you capture authentic images of the city's architecture and people.

Later today, fly to Lima and connect with your homebound flight.

Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport (dayroom) | Meals: B

Journey Details

Internal air included: Guayaquil/Baltra/Guayaquil/Lima/Cusco; Cusco/Lima

This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 6:15 a.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: return to Lima airport in the afternoon on Day 12.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

A Medical Waiver signed by your doctor is required if you choose the option to hike the Inca Trail from KM 104 available on select dates. This full-day high-altitude hike is challenging and over steep and uneven terrain. A good level of physical fitness and appropriate footwear is necessary.

Please note: 'La Pinta' is a stylish expedition vessel ideal for small-group exploration. The ship and its shore excursions are shared with other passengers.

Included with every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Travelling Bell Boy Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Your Choice of Activity on Design Your Day
- Traveller's Valet Laundry Service
- Internet Access
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

Customise this Journey

Talk to one of our expert Journey Designers or your travel agent about booking this tour as a private journey for your own small group with family or friends. Or, if you would prefer to travel privately, find out more about creating the perfect bespoke Tailor-Made Journey based on this itinerary.

Map



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

La Pinta, Galápagos Islands



Yacht La Pinta is a spacious vessel operated by an incredibly hospitable team. The crew and naturalist guides onboard have a strong attachment to the ancient islands of the Galápagos, and you're bound to learn a thing or two on board. The yacht was even named after the memory of Lonesome George, the last of the Pinta Island tortoises.

You have constant opportunities to get out and explore the wildlife-abundant reefs, beaches and landscapes. Your expert guide will take you to explore the many highlights of these islands, including Fernandina, Santa Cruz and the Charles Darwin Research Station. The fascinating history and animals of these world-renowned sights will come to life before your eyes.

After a day of hiking, swimming or snorkelling, come back to relaxing outdoor spaces. Enjoy sunbathing, alfresco dining and whale watching in the warm equatorial sun. The sundeck comes equipped with a Jacuzzi, an ideal spot for watching the marine and birdlife all around you. Yacht La Pinta's dining room is a highlight too, offering traditional Ecuadorian delicacies alongside classic European dishes. You can also experience a wealth of onboard learning, with engaging natural-history lectures and a well-stocked library.

Why we like it

- This sophisticated yacht boasts some of the largest cabins in the Galápagos, all complete with floor-to-ceiling windows
- Unique ship design allows complete immersion in this unique environment, accompanied by expert guides

- Enjoy land-based hiking excursions and take to the water for snorkelling, swimming and exciting panga-boat rides

Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba



Built in the heart of the Urubamba Valley, among the flowers and trees that carpet the mountainous region, Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba has been designed with the architecture of the Cusco region in mind. Local life is also reflected in the kitchen, with alpaca steaks, river trout, lamb and guinea pig bred at Inkaterra's own organic homestead near that quite well-known ruin, Macchu Pichu. From the arrival drinks (pisco sours, Peruvian beers made from quinoa, wheat and maize, or chilled purple corn) to the vegetable garden, it's unlikely you'll go hungry. You can work off the indulgence in the 14-acre grounds or roam further afield with one of the hotel's ecological guides.

Each room is designed as a calm retreat to return to after a busy day of exploring, with warm fireplaces for the colder mountain nights, terraces for panoramic views, dining areas for private meals, and a living area to take some time out. VIP treatment comes as standard so take an extra day just to enjoy the calm of your private palace.

Why we like it

- Nothing but awe-inspiring views over the Sacred Valley
- Modern design with colonial inspiration, set in an iconic Peruvian valley
- The 10 acre organic plantation affords the freshest produce: you can pick your own vegetables for dinner
- Experience a multitude of activities, including horse riding, bird watching and star gazing

Sanctuary Lodge, A Belmond Hotel, Machu Picchu



This Belmond hotel stands amidst a place rich in ancient heritage, renowned spirituality and incredible natural beauty. It is the ideal base from which to explore the archaeological wonders, spot rare species of birds and flowers (especially orchids of which there are an estimated 300 species in the area) or unwind and enjoy breath-taking scenery from the lodge's garden.

An intimate hotel, it has fewer than 30 rooms and only two suites, so we recommend requesting this hotel well in advance. All are simply, yet stylishly furnished, with large comfortable beds dressed with warm duvets.

Pleasant as they are, however, the rooms (and everything else) play second fiddle to the location. No other hotel stands as close to the Inca citadel or offers such jaw-dropping views.

Why we like it

- 12 of the 29 rooms and suites have mountain views, some from private terraces
- The Sanctuary Lodge enjoys an exclusive location, nestled adjacent to the awe-inspiring Machu Picchu Inca citadel
- The intimate Tampu Restaurant serves international cuisine and Andean specialities using fresh, local ingredients
- Spa services include Inca or aromatherapy massages and complimentary yoga sessions
- Other facilities include bars and terraces, beautiful gardens and, of course, an array of tours and excursions to Machu Picchu (as well as some of the area's lesser known sights)

Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco



One of the cities most unique hotels, Monasterio, A Belmond Hotel, Cusco combines centuries-old charm with professional service. A national monument, you can experience a touch of Peruvian history without even leaving your room, each one remaining largely unchanged. All rooms are unique, varying in design and size. Most offer pleasant views across the courtyard of the cobbled streets of Cusco.

With a 300-year old cedar tree as its centrepiece and a chapel complete with an art collection, this elegant hotel is rooted within the local culture. The Belmond's team will be happy to arrange guided cultural tours, traditional crafts classes or even a hands-on cooking class. In the evenings, sit back and relax at the elegant lobby bar with a pisco sour in hand whilst listening to the finest jazz musicians.

Why we like it

- A restored 16th-century monastery, the hotel is renowned for its magnificent architecture and impressive art collection
- Discover the origins of Peru's national drink, pisco, and enjoy tasting several varieties
- Take a tour of vibrant San Pedro Market before taking part in an action-packed cookery class

Dates & Pricing

Prices are in AUD, per person, based on double occupancy

Aug 11, 2024 - Aug 22, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$26,490 pp	AU\$12,300	Included	Call for Availability

Aug 25, 2024 - Sep 5, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$26,490 pp	AU\$12,300	Included	Call for Availability

Sep 8, 2024 - Sep 19, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$26,490 pp	AU\$12,300	Included	Call for Availability

Sep 22, 2024 - Oct 3, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$26,490 pp	AU\$12,300	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 6, 2024 - Oct 17, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$26,490 pp	AU\$12,300	Included	Call for Availability

Oct 20, 2024 - Oct 31, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$26,490 pp	AU\$12,300	Included	Call for Availability

Nov 3, 2024 - Nov 14, 2024

Price	Single Supplement	Internal Air (From)	Availability
AU\$26,490 pp	AU\$12,300	Included	Call for Availability

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