

M/Y ORIGIN | THEORY | EVOLVE



The identical Origin, Theory and Evolve yachts are some of the most luxurious in the Galapagos and run by prestigious Relais & Chateaux. The ships were custom built using the latest technology and specially designed for speed, fuel efficiency, superior stability and comfort. The plush and spacious interiors feature a dining room, a large lounge area, an indoor bar and a library. There is also a small boutique onboard and a gym with a treadmill, yoga mats, exercise balls and free weights. There are 10 deluxe staterooms which all feature tall panoramic windows and luxury amenities. Meals are sometimes served alfresco on the sun deck and the trained chefs often perform live cooking demonstrations. The sun deck also features a bar, jacuzzi, day beds and hammocks. Daily excursions are led by the two highly qualified naturalist guides in two groups of ten passengers for a more personalised experience. With the best crew to guest ratio in the Galapagos, these three yachts provide outstanding service from one of the most experienced crews.

"The identical sister yachts the Origin, Theory and Evolve have fast become the leading boutique luxury cruises in the Galapagos."

YOUR GALAPAGOS CRUISE



**Safe
travels**

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M/Y ORIGIN | THEORY | EVOLVE - DECK PLANS

INTRODUCTION

Discover intimate adventure on these luxury expedition yachts for just 20 guests, whose ten spacious staterooms afford panoramic views of the passing sea. Lounge in your light-filled spacious stateroom during the day and retreat here in the evenings. The gentle churning of the pacific will lull you to sleep, enjoy the fine bed linens, climate controls and both memory foam mattresses as well as soft pillows that will ensure a comfortable night's sleep.

INTERIOR AREAS

Our ships' interior social areas also include a comfortable lounge for evening briefings and enriching lectures provided by our naturalists. A scholarly library features shelves filled with texts dedicated to the exploration of the Galápagos Islands and the ground breaking works of Charles Darwin, while our high-end boutique sells travellers everything from local handicrafts to essential sundries and souvenirs. Dine at marble-top tables in our dining room. At the stylish bar, mingle with guests over hand-crafted cocktails, red, white and sparkling wines, local beer and fresh juices.

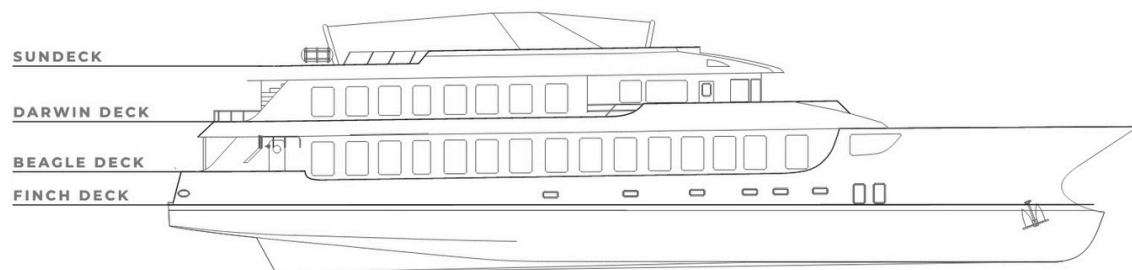
EXTERIOR AREAS

On the sundeck, unwind on daybeds and chaise lounges or cool off in the outdoor shower after enjoying an al fresco lunch or smoky barbecue and drinks from the wet bar. There's also a Jacuzzi hot tub—perfect for sunny afternoons— and shaded areas for escaping the equatorial sun. The onboard experience is matched only by the incomparable beauty of the islands we visit.

SPECS

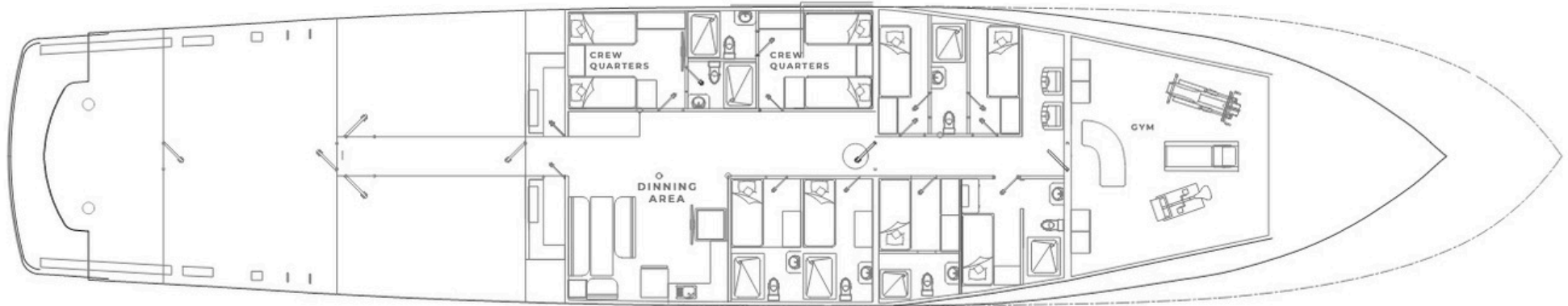
- L.O.A.:** 142,16 feet / 43,33 meters
- BEAM:** 27,43 feet / 8,36 meters
- CRUISING SPEED:** 12 knots
- FUEL CAPACITY:** 6,340 gallons
- ENGINE:** 454HP at 1800RPM
- WATER CAPACITY:** 4,891 gallons / 18,514 liters
- DESALINATOR PRODUCTION:** 4,500 gallons per day
- COMPRESSORS:** Two low pressure
- VOLTAGE:** 110 and 220 volts
- NAVIGATIONAL AIDS:** VHF and HI-SUB radios, GMDSS, color radar, echo sounder, Furuno GPS

LONGITUDINAL VIEW

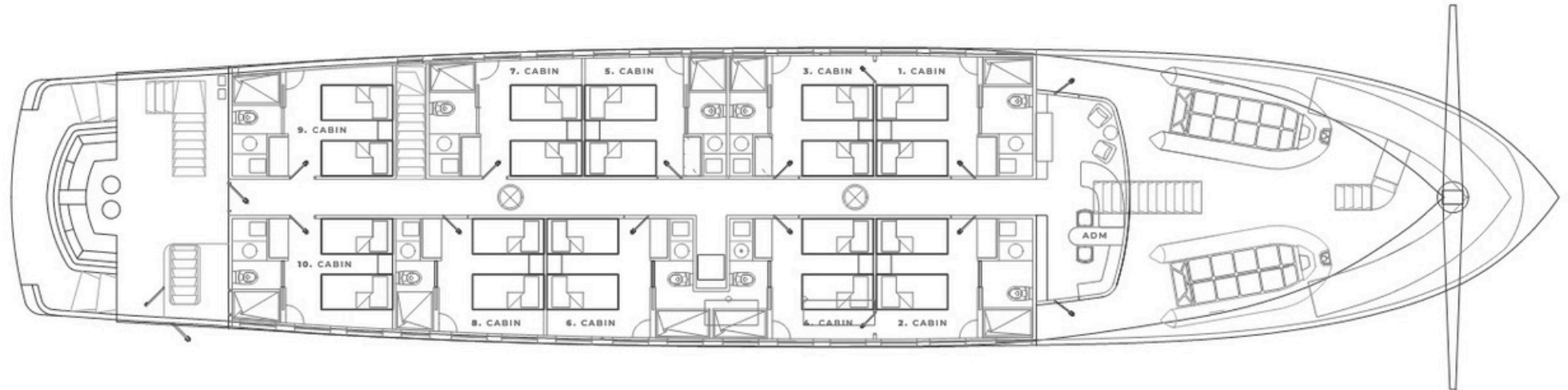




FINCH DECK

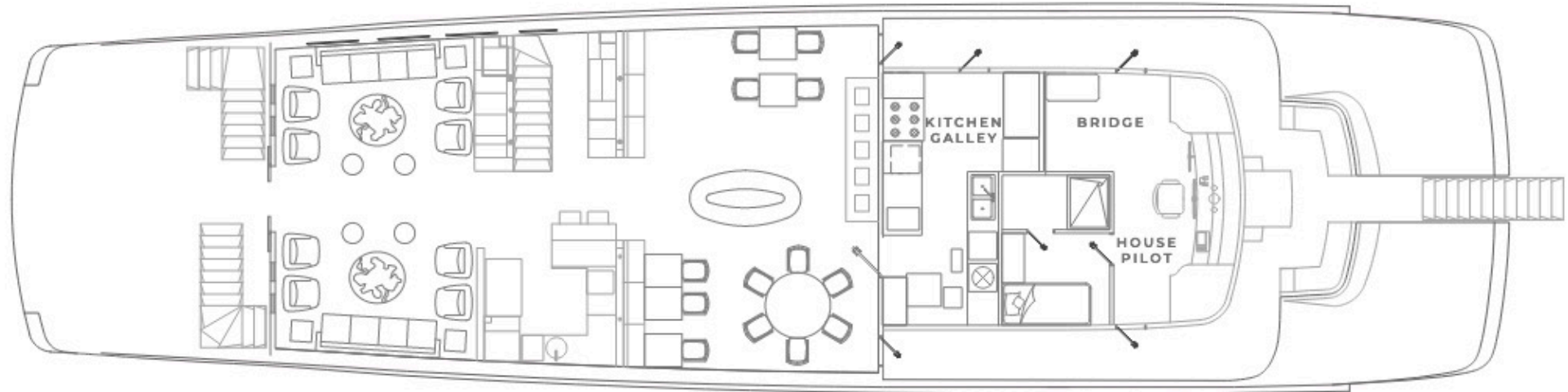


BEAGLE DECK

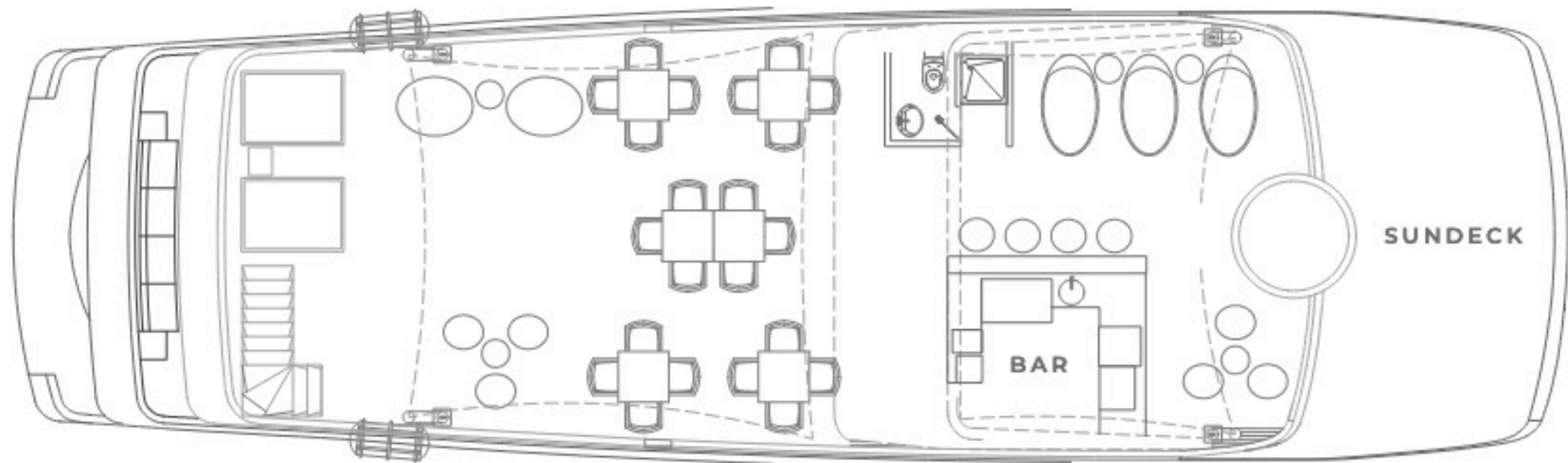




DARWIN DECK



SUN DECK





TO NOTE

- ✓ Open air jacuzzi
- ✓ Luxury cabins
- ✓ Gourmet dining
- ✓ Large panoramic windows

FACILITIES

- ✓ 10 cabins, 20 passengers
- ✓ 14 crew
- ✓ Open bar - house alcohol included
- ✓ Small gym
- ✓ Kayaks and paddle boards included
- ✓ Apple TV with pre-loaded films
- ✓ Wetsuits and snorkels included
- ✓ Library and small boutique
- ✓ Wifi (extra cost)



STATEROOM DOUBLE



STATEROOM TRIPLE



STATEROOM TWIN



BATHROOM



DINING AREA



LOUNGE



JACUZZI



M/Y ORIGIN | THEORY | EVOLVE - THE BOATS



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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 - SUNDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT & LEON DORMIDO (SAN CRISTOBAL)

Upon arrival in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno Airport on San Cristobal Island, our guides will be waiting for you to escort you to the right vessel. After a short bus ride and Zodiac transfer to the yacht anchored in the bay, you'll get your cabin assignment and be treated to a delicious buffet lunch. You will be required to participate in a brief safety drill and pick your snorkel equipment. As the yacht sets sail, choose from a selection of guide books or fiction in the library, or climb to the top deck for a circumnavigation around "Kicker Rock" (Leon Dormido = Sleeping Lion), an ancient volcanic rock, which was shaped by the erosion throughout thousands of years, that sticks out of the open ocean. Join your guide on deck for an exploration of the Southern skies full of stars if weather permits.

At the visitor centre, you'll have a chance to learn about the evolution of tortoises and the threats they face, from invasive species to habitat loss. Along the trail, your first exposure to Galapagos wildlife may include the San Cristobal mockingbird and Calandrinia plant, both endemic to this island. Back on either yacht, after a briefing, the captain and crew will welcome you with a cocktail reception and a briefing of the next day's activities. With the small number of passengers on your yacht, you'll have an opportunity to dine with the captain later in the week. But for tonight, enjoy meeting your fellow passengers as our kitchen staff treats you to a multi-course dinner complete with complimentary wine.

IMPORTANT NOTE: All Galapagos itineraries described are subject to weather conditions at the time and may be altered by the Captain whose decision is final.

 **Meals Included:** Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT

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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 2 - MONDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

SAIL TO PUNTA PITT & CERRO BRUJO (SAN CRISTOBAL)

You'll start your exploration today with a Zodiac ride to look for wildlife at Cerro Brujo, which translates to Wizard Hill. Your guide will point out the wide variety of birds soaring around you, from brown pelicans and brown noddly terns to blue-footed boobies dive-bombing the water around you as they fish. Look for different colour patterns that indicate age - for example, a brown pelican will have a white neck when it's mature. Sally light-foot crabs, black when they're young but extremely colourful once fully grown, scurry all over the rocks. Your guides will also point out unusual geological formations, including the Cathedral, jokingly called Darwin's Pants. After the Zodiac tour, you'll be able to take in the gorgeous coral sand beach at your own pace. Take a peaceful walk along the beach, swim with sea lions or you have the option to paddle board or kayak. Paddle boards are beginner-friendly; with the option to kneel if you aren't comfortable standing. This is a good opportunity to become familiar with your snorkelling gear from the beach before snorkelling in deep-water. Your guides will teach you about the various species of fish you've encountered so far. If you'd like help identifying any of the fish in your photos, they'll be happy to lend their expertise.

Return to the yacht for a BBQ lunch served on the sun deck (weather permitting) before going ashore at Punta Pitt for a hike - parts of the trail are rocky, and there is some climbing involved. This is considered one of the best sites for bird-watching, primarily because it is the only place where you'll see all three species of boobies: the blue-footed, the red-footed, and the Nazca. Look for baby blue-footed boobies, fully grown after just a couple of months but fluffy and white until their feathers come in. Your guides will also point out frigates, swallow-tailed gulls, storm petrels, brown pelicans. At Pitt Rock, we can snorkel with sea lions and colourful fish such as King Angel and Surgeon fish. A Zodiac will transfer you back to the boat for a briefing and dinner. As the yacht sets sail, choose from a selection of guide books or fiction in the library, or climb to the top deck for a distant view of "Sleeping Lion". Join your guide on deck for an exploration of the Southern skies full of stars if weather permits.

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DAY 3 - TUESDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

PUNTA SUAREZ, OSBORN ISLET, GARDNER BAY & ISLET (ESPANOLA)

This morning you'll land at Punta Suarez on Española (Hood) Island. Your guides will point out the large number of endemic species living here, such as the waved albatross. These gorgeous birds spend the first several years of their lives in the open ocean and return to land to mate. If your visit is between April and December, you will witness the well-known courtship dance. As you walk, take care not to step on the marine iguanas sunbathing on the dark rocks. These iguanas are usually black but acquire bright red and green coloration during mating season from the algae they eat. Follow the trail to the dramatic ocean blow hole, watch for colourful sally light-foot crabs crawling along the shoreline. We also find Darwin's Finches, Hood mockingbird, Galapagos Doves, red-billed tropicbirds, Galápagos Hawks, Nazca boobies and swallow-tailed gulls, the only nocturnal gull in the world.

Return to the yacht for a BBQ lunch served on deck (weather permitting) and a cooking demonstration on how to make Ecuadorian ceviche. After lunch, you'll have the option to snorkel at Tortuga Rock and explore the caves covered with invertebrates. Disembark at Gardner Bay, site of a beautiful white-sand beach where colonies of sea lions dot the shoreline. The dominant males of a sea lion colony keep watch over their harems to keep them safe. Here you'll have the option to snorkel from the beach, kayak or paddle-board, or simply walk along the beach, sunbathe or explore the Darwin Finches, Espanola mockingbird and Galápagos hawks. After the activities, return to the yacht for a briefing and dinner.

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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

PUNTA CORMORANT, DEVIL'S CROWN, POST OFFICE BAY & BARONESS POINT (FLOREANA)

Step ashore at Punta Cormorant's olive-sand beach with the sounds of sea lions, lava herons, yellow-crowned night herons and blue-footed boobies as you walk around Floreana (Charles) Island. The green mineral you'll see on the beach is caused by a high concentration of iron and manganese from the same basaltic lava found in Hawaii. As you walk to a brackish lagoon, home to Bahama ducks, common stilts, Galápagos flycatchers and bright pink flamingos, the guides will point out the rich variety of plant life, including morning glories, cut-leaf daisies, mangroves (black, red and white), palo verde and Scalesia. The trail leads to a beach where sea turtles lay their eggs in the powdery sand dunes and sting rays swim in the shallow water. Don't miss the opportunity to snorkel at Devil's Crown or Champion Islet, a shallow sunken crater colonised by a brilliant array of colourful fish and coral, white-tipped sharks, sea turtles, spotted eagle rays and sea stars.

Return to the yacht for lunch and a brief history of the human history of Galápagos and explain the fascinating story of why this island is sometimes called the Island of Mysteries. In the afternoon, you'll be able to participate in a thrilling Galápagos tradition - Floreana is home to Post Office Bay, the site where English whaling vessels erected a post barrel in the late 18th century. When you drop a postcard in the barrel, no postage is required. You'll search through the postcards left by previous visitors, and if you see one addressed to a location near your home, you may choose to take it with you and deliver it in person. Similarly, your note will be delivered by future visitors. Postcards will be provided on board by your guides. Take a Zodiac excursion at Baroness Point to look for sea turtles and rays. If you have an underwater camera, you'll be busy snapping photos of sea stars and a brilliant array of colourful fish. Return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner and a fun filled entertaining pirate themed party – participation is optional.

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DAY 5 - THURSDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

CONTINUE TO TORTOISE RESERVE & HIGHLANDS, CHARLES DARWIN STATION & PUERTO AYORA (SANTA CRUZ)

When you look outside this morning, your view will be completely different from the last few days. A harbour full of boats is bustling with activity at Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, a town with a population of 24,000. You'll travel by bus to a higher altitude with beautiful geological formations including the lava tunnels at El Mirador and Los Gemelos (The Twins), a pair of massive craters. Your guides will explain how they were formed.

The highlight of the morning is a visit to a privately-owned ranch where tortoises roam free. These slow-moving giants can grow to be over 500 pounds! Lunch will be served back on board the yacht, and in the afternoon you'll learn about the most famous visitor to the Galapagos - Charles Darwin - as well as current conservation efforts, when you visit the Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena and Charles Darwin Research Station. Visit the exhibit honouring Lonesome George, whose death marked the extinction of his species of tortoise from Santa Cruz Island. There's another story with a happier ending: Diego, a tortoise from the San Diego zoo, who brought his species back from the brink of extinction by fathering hundreds of offspring. You'll have free time to explore the town as you walk back to the main dock, the distance of about a mile. If you're looking for a souvenir, this is the perfect time. Stop at the artisan chocolate shop to select a truffle, with dozens of flavour options, or visit an art gallery for a painting or ceramic piece. Along the way there will be cafes with coffee, ice cream and internet. You'll have the option to stay on land for dinner with transfers provided by Zodiac. Otherwise, return to the yacht for the usual delicious multi-course dinner. Today's daily briefing will be held in the afternoon to allow for extra time in the evening.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 6 - FRIDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

SAIL ON TO SOMBRERO CHINO (CHINESE HAT), LAS BACHAS OR BLACK TURTLE COVE (BARTOLOME)

When you wake up this morning, you'll be in solitude once again, with no other boats in sight. You'll have two options for a morning activity. Today's hike is a challenge, with about 400 wooden steps winding around Bartolomé island, ending in a gorgeous panoramic view of Pinnacle Rock. Your guide will stop along the way to describe the geology of the landscape - mini lava cones and bombs formed by flowing magma from past volcanic eruptions. If you'd rather skip the hike, enjoy a Zodiac ride around the island and look for penguins. You'll see these adorable animals - the second smallest type of penguin - swimming and diving playfully or grooming themselves on rocks. Crystal clear water beckons you to wade in from the beach. Snorkel with schools of tropical fish, white-tipped reef sharks and Galapagos Penguins.

Return to the vessel for a BBQ lunch served on the sundeck (weather permitting). The itinerary for the remainder of your day will vary depending on your yacht, but all visitors will enjoy lovely views and some of the Galápagos' renowned wildlife. Guests on the Origin go ashore at Sombrero Chino (Chinese Hat), a small island off the southern tip of Santiago that owes its name to its shape. Sea lions await on the beach, and as you explore, you'll see marine iguanas and oystercatchers. Along the trail, you'll see remnants of the island's geological history, with volcanic rubble and cracked lava formations. Guests on Theory visit Playa Las Bachas, (Spanish for barges) on the northern side of Santa Cruz. You'll also have a wonderful opportunity for snorkelling after exploring interior lagoons with vivid flamingos. Guests on the Letty have a Zodiac excursion at Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove) through a series of coves and inlets surrounded by mangroves. You'll navigate slowly along the shoreline, listening for the telltale deep inhale of a sea turtle and watching for the wings of a school of golden rays. Your guide will offer an enrichment lecture tonight after dinner.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 7 - SATURDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

EXPLORE SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND & NORTH SEYMOUR

This morning you'll start out at South Plazas, a small islet with tall cliffs and a trail with a variety of plants and animals. This island's species of "Opuntia" or prickly pear cactus has been decimated by invasive species, so you'll see young plants surrounded by nets to protect them. Look for nests for a variety of birds, such as swallow-tailed gulls, shearwaters, small ground finches, and red-billed tropicbirds. This geological uplift is home to a colony of bachelor sea lions, with dominant bulls in various stages of recovery from battles over prime beach territory. You'll also have the opportunity to see land iguanas up close, and your guides will describe what differentiates them from marine iguanas. During lunch, you'll sail to North Seymour Island, where a spectacular sight awaits: frigate birds with red sacs on their chests inflated, seeking mates. At the height of mating season, you'll be surrounded by dozens, but no matter what time of year you visit, there will be individuals seeking mates. The Galápagos Islands are home to two different species of frigates, Great and Magnificent, and your guides will teach you to identify the difference. You'll have a final opportunity to snorkel in deeper water. Look for sharks, sea lions, and starfish, along with a variety of tropical fish.

Before dinner, the captain and crew join you for a champagne toast to celebrate a wonderful week during the Captain's farewell party. During the briefing you'll receive detailed instructions for disembarking the next morning. After dinner, there is a special presentation from your guides as you come to realise your week in paradise has almost come to an end!

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 8 - SUNDAY

DATE TBC

 **END**

INTERPRETATION CENTRE IN SAN CRISTOBAL & FLIGHT TO THE MAINLAND

This morning you'll disembark the yacht after breakfast. As a perfect way to sum up the trip, you'll visit the Interpretation Center on San Cristobal (1) to discover more about the human history of the Galapagos Islands. There's also a paved trail where you can enjoy a brief walk before a bus ride to town.

You'll have some free time for last-minute photos before your transfer to the airport. It's a quick flight back to the mainland, but you'll be bringing lifelong memories with you!

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast.



YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 - SUNDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT & LEON DORMIDO (SAN CRISTOBAL)

When you land at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (SCY) on SAN CRISTOBAL Island, our guides will be there to greet you and escort you to your yacht by bus and Zodiac. Once you've boarded, you'll have a welcome briefing and a short safety drill. As the yacht sets sail, climb to the top deck and enjoy a drink from our sun deck bar to get ready for a circumnavigation at sunset around "Kicker Rock". Named "Leon Dormido" in Spanish (Sleeping Lion), it is a geological formation; an off shore tuff volcanic cone to be precise. Its highest peak reaches about 500 feet, and so is its deepest point surrounding the rock.

We find here an array of birds nesting and resting on this rock. Furthermore, we find sea lions on the rock's flatter side basking under the sun. As we interpret things differently depending on the language we speak, we have given two names to the rock. "Leon Dormido" in Spanish, as it resembles a sleeping lion, and "Kicker Rock" in English as it also looks like a boot. An elegant multi-course dinner, prepared by our accomplished chefs and accompanied by wine, will be served, and you'll set sail for Genovesa Island.

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 **Meals Included:** Lunch & Dinner.

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DAY 2 - MONDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

PRINCE PHILIP'S STEPS & DARWIN BAY (GENOVESA)

In the morning, you'll land at Prince Philip's Steps, Genovesa (Tower) Island is one of the most spectacular places in Galápagos for birdwatching because of its diversity of species. Throughout the day, you'll want to have your camera ready. Your guides will point out red-footed boobies nesting in palo santo trees, Nazca boobies nesting near the trail, and storm petrels gathering in large numbers in an open lava field. With luck, you may even get to see the elusive short-eared owl. After a BBQ lunch on the yacht's sun deck and a demonstration on how to make Ecuadorian ceviche, you'll have the option to explore the cliffs up close, either by kayak or stand-up paddle-board, or on a deep-water snorkelling excursion from the Zodiac. Look for the red-billed tropic bird hiding in the crevices of the rock.

Later in the afternoon, you'll land at Darwin Bay, a gorgeous coral sand beach. Here, you'll see both swallow-tailed gulls and lava gulls gathered near the tide pools. A forest of Opuntia cactus and mangroves provide shelter for Great frigate birds. Males looking to attract a mate inflate a red pouch on their chests. Round out the afternoon by relaxing on the beach, or choose to swim with friendly, playful sea lions in these warmer northern waters. When you return to the yacht, you'll have a short briefing followed by a delicious dinner. If the night is clear, take a stroll on the deck and enjoy the sky full of bright stars

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DAY 3 - TUESDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

LAS BACHAS OR BLACK TURTLE COVE & CERRO DRAGON (SANTA CRUZ)

This morning you'll visit Las Bachas, (Spanish for barges) on the northern side of Santa Cruz. Dozens of bright pink flamingos feed on the interior lagoons, and a long white sand beach is a beautiful site for a stroll. Before returning to the yacht for lunch, you'll have time to snorkel from the beach.

In the afternoon, when you step ashore on Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill), you'll have a magnificent panoramic view of the bay and island landscape. You may see flamingos in the brackish lagoon, along with a variety of plants, including opuntia cactus, Palo Santo and Muyuyo trees (Cordia letea). As you walk the trail, look for Darwin's finches, Galápagos flycatchers, yellow warblers, and Audubon shearwaters. The guides will also pause to point out birds such as stilts, pintail ducks and sandpipers. Scan the path for yellow Land iguanas, strikingly different from their marine cousins, resting in the sun. These iguanas, which are endemic to the Galapagos, were once part of the Station's breeding program. After walking the trail, you'll return to the yacht for a briefing and dinner.

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DAY 4 - WEDNESDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

PUNTA VICENTE ROCA OR ELIZABETH BAY & URBINA BAY (ISABELA)

Begin your morning with a Zodiac ride at Punta Vicente Roca. Your skilled driver will navigate you through the wave-sculpted caves and bring you up close to the tuff walls covered in colourful Sally light-foot crabs. Don't miss the opportunity to snorkel here, with penguins diving playfully in the water or grooming themselves on rock formations. Look for sea turtles poking their heads above water before swimming gracefully beneath the surface. After lunch, take a seat on the sun deck to enjoy the scenery as we sail through the Bolivar Channel. In addition to the dramatic scenery, you might get to see whales riding the bow wave or dolphins jumping in graceful arcs. You may even spot the Mola-Mola, an odd-looking giant sun fish with triangular fins on the top and bottom and a short, stubby tail fin. In the afternoon, you'll disembark at Urbina Bay on Isabela Island and see some surprising evidence of volcanic activity.

Four files of coastal seabed were exposed due to a dramatic uplift during an eruption in 1954, and some of the remaining coral skeletons still stand several feet high. A diverse collection of animal species await on the island as well, including Galápagos land iguanas, marine iguanas, Darwin's finches, brown pelicans, flightless cormorants, and the occasional giant Galápagos tortoise. When you're finished exploring, you'll return to the vessel for your nightly briefing and dinner. After dessert, step outside and observe the pale glow of the Milky Way. As we cross the Equator, you may get a visit from King Neptune himself! Guests of all ages will enjoy this fun filled evening and maritime ritual, our crew dress as pirates and guest participation is optional.

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DAY 5 - THURSDAY

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GALAPAGOS

PUNTA ESPINOSA, (FERNANDINA) & TAGUS COVE (ISABELA)

This morning you're in for another geological wonder. Stop at Punta Espinoza on Fernandina, the youngest and most pristine Island in Galápagos, formed by active volcanoes that stretch around the coast. With no introduced animals on this island, you can observe the ecosystem at its most pristine. Sea lion harems lie on the beach, with resident bulls carefully guarding their territory and keeping a lookout for sharks that threaten the colony's pups. Hundreds of marine iguanas, forming the largest colony in Galapagos, warm themselves along the rugged shoreline, blending in with the dark rocks. Out on the point, your guide will show you the nests of flightless cormorants, which stay close to shore since they lost their ability to fly. You'll have an opportunity to snorkel here, in the company of the large sea turtles that frequent the area. Return to the yacht for a BBQ lunch served on the sundeck where you'll have a prime view for whale watching.

Your guide will offer an enrichment lecture about Charles Darwin and his Theory of evolution as well as social/environmental projects that benefit the Galápagos. After lunch, you'll get to see some of the human history of the Galapagos when you go ashore on Tagus Cove. This was a favourite stopping point for pirates and whalers for centuries, and sections of the rocky cliffs are covered in graffiti from as far back as the 1800s. Hike at a faster pace to a saltwater lagoon and scenic overview, and take in the ocean, lava fields, and volcanic formations. You may choose to explore the shoreline of the secluded cove by kayak or paddle board. There are many animals to see, including Galápagos penguins, boobies, pelicans and other seabirds.

Tonight, as we sail toward the geographic center of the archipelago, we'll cross the equator for the third and final time.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT

M/V ORIGIN | THEORY | EVOLVE



These three identical 20 passenger capacity yachts are some of the most luxurious in the Galapagos run by one of the most experienced crews.

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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 6 - FRIDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

RABIDA ISLAND, PUERTO EGAS & SANTIAGO OR BLACK TURTLE COVE

This morning, you'll disembark on the dark red beach of Rabida (Jervis) Island. This small island is considered the geographic centre of the Galápagos because its volcanic rocks are the most diversified in the archipelago. A short trail will lead you to a saltwater lagoon filled with greater flamingos. Along the way, look for marine iguanas, mockingbirds and yellow warblers. You may also see Darwin's finches. Over a dozen species of finches live on the islands and observing them contributed to Charles Darwin's ideas that formed the basis for his theory of evolution. If you choose to snorkel this morning, you may be able to see a colony of sea lions or rays. Several species of rays live on the Galápagos, but golden rays and spotted eagle rays are the most common.

Guests on the Theory and Letty visit Puerto Egas on Santiago (James) Island, where you'll stroll along the shoreline looking for octopus, starfish and other sea life caught in the tide pools. Watch out for great blue herons, lava herons, American oystercatchers and yellow-crowned night herons. At low tide, catch a glimpse of marine iguanas as they feed on exposed green algae. During mating season, green and red algae give the usually black marine iguanas beautiful coloration. The walk ends at the grottos, deep pools of clear water where you'll encounter fur sea lions once on the verge of extinction. Before returning to the yacht, take the opportunity to snorkel from the beach. As you sail after lunch, take a seat on deck to view the dramatic landscape and dolphins that are often spotted here. Guests on the Origin have a Zodiac excursion at Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove) through a series of peaceful coves and inlets surrounded by mangroves whose large roots rise out of the water. View pairs of mating sea turtles (Sept to Feb), white-tipped reef sharks and golden cow-nosed rays. We return to the vessel for the Captain's Farewell cocktail with the crew, and dinner as well as a special presentation by your guides.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 7 - SATURDAY

DATE TBC

GALAPAGOS

CCFL (DARWIN STATION) & HIGHLANDS OF SANTA CRUZ

When you wake up this morning, your yacht will be one of dozens of boats anchored in the lively harbour of Academy Bay. You'll disembark at Puerto Ayora, Sta Cruz Island, the social heart of the Galápagos, with a population of 24,000 residents. This morning, we visit the breeding centre Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena and Charles Darwin Research Station where we learn about ongoing conservation efforts from exhibits set up along the wooden trail. You'll see hatchlings and miniature tortoises that will be repatriated by the National Park when grown. The newest exhibit honours Lonesome George, the last surviving tortoise from Pinta Island that tragically died of natural causes. With his species now extinct, Lonesome George has become a worldwide icon, emphasising the importance of efforts to preserve and protect endangered wildlife. A more hopeful story is Diego, a saddleback tortoise whose species was reduced to 14 individuals before he was transported from the San Diego Zoo and who has since fathered hundreds of descendants. Afterwards, you'll learn about the history of the settlers of this Island on a guided tour through the back streets of Puerto Ayora. Stroll through town to shop for handmade souvenirs, Ecuadorian chocolate ice cream or coffee grown in Galápagos.

Return to the yacht for lunch and later board a bus for a short ride to a lava tunnel, a hollow formation created when lava on the earth's surface cools and hardens while molten lava continues to flow in the middle. Your next stop will be Los Gemelos (The Twins), a pair of large, deep craters with vibrant plant life at higher elevation. Next stop is at a privately-owned hacienda, where giant tortoises roam freely – some weighing over 500 pounds – in their natural habitat, feeding or resting in shallow pools. Return to the yacht for dinner or, if you wish, remain ashore on your own at a local restaurant. Your guides or concierge will be glad to provide a recommendation. Zodiac shuttles from the yachts to the main dock will be offered throughout the evening for your convenience.

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner.

OVERNIGHT

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YOUR DETAILED DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

DAY 8 - SUNDAY

DATE TBC

 **END**

INTERPRETATION CENTRE IN SAN CRISTOBAL & FLIGHT TO THE MAINLAND

On your last morning in the Galapagos we disembark after breakfast. As a perfect way to sum up the trip, you'll visit the Interpretation Center on San Cristobal to discover more about the human history of the Galapagos Islands. There's also a paved trail where you can enjoy a brief walk before a bus ride to town. Guests on the Letty will have an early morning visit to Isla Lobos. Before your flight back to the mainland, you'll have time for any last-minute photos or shopping. A short bus ride will get you to the airport with plenty of time for check in.

You'll have some free time for last-minute photos before your transfer to the airport. It's a quick flight back to the mainland, but you'll be bringing lifelong memories with you!

 **Meals Included:** Breakfast.

