Cruise Details

Name:	Galapagos: Wildlife Wonderland
Reference:	TAUCKYG202721122027
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Tauck Santa Cruz II
Regions:	Pacific
Departs On:	21 Dec 27
Departs From:	Quito
Arrives On:	28 Dec 27
Arrives At:	Baltra Island, Galápagos
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

Itinerary

Day 1: Quito (Ecuador)

Tour begins: Hilton Colon Quito. A transfer is included from Mariscal Sucre International Airport to the Hilton Colon Quito.

Arrives On: 21 Dec 27

Day 2: Quito (Ecuador)

Quito is not only 9,200 feet above "seal" level, it's also on the Equator... the "middle of the world." Take the opportunity to stand on both the northern and southern hemispheres at the same time, and learn more about Quito's unique geography at the Inti Ñan Museum before enjoying an Ecuadorian lunch near a volcanic crater. Explore centuries-old Colonial Quito on a guided tour. Join us tonight for our welcome reception and dinner at your hotel, then get a good night's sleep so you'll be rested and ready for your family's unforgettable Galápagos experience tomorrow.

Arrives On: 22 Dec 27

Day 3: Quito (Ecuador)

Your family's Galápagos tour and cruise* commences today when you fly from Quito to the volcanic island of Baltra and board your new expedition ship, Santa Cruz II. Your first shore excursion features a ride ashore on a panga to the island of Santa Cruz, and a wet landing on Las Bachas Beach (named for the US military barges, referred to as "bachas," that were beached and abandoned there after WWII) – an important nesting area for the green sea turtle. On a guided hike around a saltwater lagoon today, look for flamingos, pintail ducks, sandpipers and stilts; join our expert naturalists for an informative briefing back aboard ship this evening, prior to the Captain's welcome reception followed by dinner.

Arrives On: 23 Dec 27

Day 4: Puerto Egas (Ecuador)

Start the day with a morning boat ride off Buccaneer's Cove on Santiago (James) Island – once a favorite haunt of pirates and whalers – to observe seabirds like frigates, pelicans and boobies, and go snorkeling off the panga. After lunch aboard ship, a wet landing at Puerto Egas on Santiago provides even more opportunities to see seabirds, along with a colony of sea lions and marine iguanas; enjoy a swim and a snorkel from the beach before returning to the ship. Weather permitting, enjoy star gazing on the top deck this evening.

Arrives On: 24 Dec 27

Day 5: Puerto Ayora, Isla Santa Cruz (Ecuador)

Meet Darwin's finches and other rare birds today after a wet landing on Rabida (Jervis) Island, with its red-colored beaches. Experience both wet and dry landings on your excursion to Bartolomé Island; hike up to the summit and drink in amazing vistas of its volcanic features and the neighboring islands. Ride a panga around Pinnacle Rock, and view sea lions, sea turtles and tiny tropical Galápagos penguins in a panorama of life found only here. Tonight you'll find out more about the Galápagos Islands with our shipboard naturalists.

Arrives On: 25 Dec 27

Day 6: Genovesa Island, Galápagos (Ecuador)

Explore Genovesa (Tower) Island by panga and a dry landing; climb up Prince Philip's steps for a hike across the island, where you'll see masked boobies, frigate birds, storm petrels and more. An afternoon cruise and a wet landing at Darwin Bay offers more amazing views of thousands of rare birds, including red-footed boobies, gulls, mockingbirds, herons and finches, as well as an optional walk across volcanic terrain. Back aboard the ship, celebrate the end of your cruise – and your family's most unforgettable Galápagos tour – at our Captain's farewell dinner.

Arrives On: 26 Dec 27

Day 7: Baltra Island, Galápagos (Ecuador)

Disembark Santa Cruz II on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, and visit a tortoise reserve to observe in the wild one of the rarest forms of wildlife that continue to thrive here on the Galápagos Islands – the giant tortoise – and efforts being made by the Ecuadorian National Park Service to preserve and protect life on the islands for future generations. Late morning, travel to the airport for your flight to Guayaquil on the mainland, and an overnight at the Wyndham Guayaquil. Join us this evening for a poolside farewell party at your hotel as your family's Ecuador and Galápagos tour comes to a close.

Arrives On: 27 Dec 27

Day 8: Baltra Island, Galápagos (Ecuador)

Tour ends: Guayaquil. A transfer from the Wyndham Guayaquil to José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport is included. You should allow a minimum of 3 hours for flight check-in.

Arrives On: 28 Dec 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.
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