

# Need to Know: Galápagos



## Bienvenido! (Welcome in Spanish!)

This guide includes important travel information about your Galápagos cruise—**please read it thoroughly**. During the voyage, direct any questions to your onboard hotel manager or expedition leader.

For guests extending their trip with the Machu Picchu post-cruise tour, we have included additional travel information about your land package.

### Travel Information For Cruise & Post-Cruise Extensions

#### Identification Forms

Submit Identification & Emergency Contact information for each traveler to our office via the Online Guest Form available on our Guest Portal at [UnCruise.com/guest-forms](http://UnCruise.com/guest-forms).

Guests need a legal government-issued photo ID to board the vessel. Passport and visa requirements are dependent on your travel destinations and nationality.

#### Passports / Visas

Passports are required. To enter Ecuador or Peru (Machu Picchu), passports must be valid for at least six months beyond the last day of travel.

**U.S. Citizens & Permanent Residents:** Visas are not required.

**Other Nationalities:** It's your responsibility to check with your local embassy or consulate of your destination to confirm visa requirements and obtain a proper visa.

**Galapagos Passport Stamp:** As part of Ecuador, passports are not stamped on arrival to the islands. However, you can get a special Galapagos passport stamp at the Charles Darwin Research Center. If you want a stamp, bring your passport on your center tour.

**Minors** (children under 18 years of age) travelling into or within Ecuador, unaccompanied by a legal guardian, have additional entry requirements. [Click here for more information](#).

**Health Insurance Requirement:** Ecuador law requires travelers have private or public health insurance for the duration of their stay. Immigration agents may ask for proof of insurance; without proof, agent may deny traveler's entry to the country

#### Homeland Security

Laws and procedures for all passengers boarding SOLAS vessels (Safety of Life at Sea):

- No one is allowed on board the vessels without prior permission or checking-in with the Captain.
- Untagged luggage will be searched. Properly tag your luggage, including carry-on bags. All luggage is subject to search.

#### Entrance Fees & Boarding Vouchers

Vouchers/tickets for services are not necessary—your name will appear on transfer and boarding manifests. **Galápagos National Park entrance tax & Transit Card (TCT) are included.**

#### Delays & Emergency Contacts

In case of travel delays to the ship or land extension, contact our Seattle office during business hours (7:00-5:00 PT/Monday-Friday; 7:00-3:00 PT/Saturday) at 888-862-8881.

After hours, call Metropolitan Touring: 011 593 9-9972-2941 or 011 593 9-9972-2942. When calling from an international location, add country code 001.

Family/friends can use these numbers for emergencies requiring you to be contacted during your voyage. Our Seattle staff will relay a message to the ship or our land operators.

#### Medical

If you have a physical disability, require on-going or frequent medical attention or take special medications, complete the Medical Needs section of your Online Guest Forms: [UnCruise.com/guest-forms](http://UnCruise.com/guest-forms).

**Tap water in Ecuador is NOT potable; use only bottled water.**

A doctor is on board *La Pinta* 24 hours/day. The ship is equipped with emergency first-aid supplies. The crew is trained in first aid.

Emergencies beyond the capability of the onboard doctor will be handled by motoring and/or air services to the nearest medical facility. Costs for emergency evacuations or services are the guest's responsibility.

#### Seasickness

*La Pinta* is stable in most sea conditions. If you are prone to motion sickness, bring what works for you. Seasickness medication provided on board is not recommended for children.

#### Vaccines

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all visitors be up to date on vaccinations. Travelers should consult their home country's state department for required vaccinations. Travelers from some countries may be required to show a certificate of yellow fever vaccination as a prerequisite for entry into Ecuador. For additional information: [CDC.gov/travel/](http://CDC.gov/travel/)

#### Luggage

ALL flights for Cruise/Land Extensions: It's your responsibility to check with airlines and airports for current regulations on prohibited items, luggage allowances, and charges.

ALL airports: UnCruise representatives will assist/transfer luggage once you exit customs/restricted areas. Baggage handling may be unavailable in restricted areas—it's a good rule to pack only what you can carry yourself. Due to reduced security in passenger areas at these airports, watch your belongings at all times.

#### Galápagos- Luggage restrictions:

Checked luggage: 1 piece per person; no more than 50lbs (23kg); no bigger than 62 linear inches (width+height+length).

Carry-on luggage: 1 piece per person, no more than 17lbs (8kg), no bigger than 43 linear inches (13 wide x 21 high x 9 long).

Excess luggage subject to added fees; check airlines for rates:

- Flights to/from Galápagos / [latam.com](http://latam.com) – Click *Travel Information*

#### Note:

- Carry essential items in your carry-on including medications.
- Make copies of important documents, including passports and travelers' checks. Leave a copy of your passport at home and carry one with you, separate from originals.
- Any snacks brought into the Galápagos must be sealed and commercially packaged.

#### Transfers

Roundtrip transfers between airport/hotel/ship in Guayaquil and in Galápagos are included on noted arrival and departure days.

# Need to Know: Galápagos



## Life on Board *La Pinta*

### Cruising Philosophy

Our intimate size gives us full access to the Galápagos experience both above and below the water.

### Activities

Throughout your voyage, activities may include guided hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, paddle boarding, and glass-bottom boat and skiff rides. You should be comfortable walking at least ½ mile at a time. A certain amount of agility is necessary boarding *La Pinta*, kayaks, and skiffs, or walking on uneven, rocky trails.

### Equipment

*La Pinta* carries inflatable skiffs for guest transfers to/from boat to shore and tandem kayaks. An exercise bike, stair stepper, or elliptical machine is available in the fitness room.

Masks, fins, and snorkels are available on board, though you may prefer to bring your own for best fit. Wet suits are also available.

### Gratuities

Settle Guayaquil gratuities before joining *La Pinta*. Settle Galapagos gratuities at the end of your cruise (U.S. cash preferred, or credit card). Suggested gratuities - \$190 per person:

- Guayaquil Airport Transfer Personnel (included)
- Guayaquil Hotel Staff (at your discretion)
- Galápagos Guides: \$70pp (shared guide gratuities)
- Galápagos Crew: \$105pp (shared crew gratuities)
- Barman: \$15pp (for entire cruise)

Guests who book the post-cruise, half-day Guayaquil city tour:

- City tour guide: \$9pp
- City tour driver: \$6pp

### Forms of Payment

For onboard purchases such as super premium spirits, apparel, sundries, and gratuities, credit cards or cash (USD) are accepted. Bring small bills (\$1/\$5/\$10/\$20) that are not torn or overly worn.

### Meals & Drinks

Meals and premium alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are included aboard at no additional charge. Charges apply only for super premium wines and spirits. Legal drinking age aboard is 21.

Most breakfasts and lunches are served buffet-style; dinners are plated. Specific mealtimes and daily entrée choices will be announced on board. If you have any food allergies or special diets, complete the Dietary Needs section of your Online Guest Forms: [UnCruise.com/guest-forms](http://UnCruise.com/guest-forms). [Click here](#) for a list of food items that are prohibited to bring to the islands.

### Photography

Crew take photos of guests, activities, wildlife during the cruise, which may later be used for marketing materials. Guests who do not want their image used should notify the expedition leader at embarkation. Guests who give photos to onboard team thereby give UnCruise permission to use them for promotional means.

### Drones

The use of drones is not allowed from our vessels. We travel in National Parks and remote, protected areas where the use of a drone is prohibited and/or not appropriate.

### Special Events

We're happy to help celebrate special events—a birthday, honeymoon, anniversary. Advise us as far in advance as possible on your Online Guest Forms: [UnCruise.com/guest-forms](http://UnCruise.com/guest-forms).

### Laundry

There are no guest laundry washing facilities; there is a dryer onboard. Same-day laundry service is available on arrival to Santa Cruz. Details will be provided by your Hotel Manager.

## About Your Ship

### *La Pinta*

209 feet long, 41 feet wide, has 27 crew members, 4 naturalist guides, and accommodates up to 48 passengers in 24 cabins.

### Cabins

All cabins are well-appointed, comfortable, and keyless. Cabins can be locked from within. Cabins offer full bathroom facilities with en suite shower. A collection of bath toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, body wash), towels, hair dryer, alarm clock/iPod docking station (with 30-pin connector) and safe deposit box are provided. Tap water is potable; we provide refillable bottles and water stations.

Standard 110v electrical outlets and 220v converters are available in all cabins for electronics, cell phones, cameras, and battery chargers. All outlets in Ecuador are 110v. Check your equipment to ensure that you have the required chargers, adapters and converters for safe operation.

Wifi is available in designated public areas. Satellite internet connectivity is variable and mainly suitable for email only.

### Communications

*La Pinta* is equipped with a modern navigation and communications system including a Global Positioning System (GPS), satellite phone, marine radio, and cellular phone. Guests may make or receive emergency calls on the satellite phone at a rate of \$3.50 (+ tax) per minute—times are rounded up to the next minute and charges must be paid prior to disembarkation. Please be aware that service may be unavailable when using either the cell phone or the ship's satellite phone.

### Public Areas

*La Pinta* has a main lounge, dining area, expedition room, covered patio deck, and open bow deck. An assortment of magazines, books, and games are available for your use. UnCruise's open bridge policy welcomes you to visit with your captain and crew.

### Smoking / Marijuana

Smoking & vaping is prohibited inside the vessel, during shore excursions, and on nature trails. Smoking or vaping is only allowed on outside aft decks away from doors and windows. Smoking materials should not be thrown overboard.

While marijuana is legal in many U.S. states, federal law supersedes state law. Marijuana is still a federally controlled substance and is prohibited aboard all vessels in all destinations.

(Maritime Drug Law Enforcement Act (MDLEA) 46 U.S.C. 70501-70507, prohibiting the illegal transportation of controlled substances by a vessel)

### **Special Note: Galápagos National Park Rules & Regulations**

We are careful to leave this pristine, fragile ecosystem exactly as we found it. Galápagos National Park rules & regulations are posted on our vessel, and during orientation, your guide will go over these with you. Visitors cannot legally go anywhere in the Park without a licensed guide escort. Rules are enforced by naturalist guides and park officials:

1. Drones and flash photography are not allowed
2. Use only authorized tour operators (such as UnCruise and *La Pinta*)
3. Do not introduce any foreign elements (plants or animals)
4. Only explore with an authorized Naturalist guide
5. Do not feed the wildlife
6. Dispose of all trash and/or recyclables in designated containers
7. Do not purchase products or souvenirs made from flora and fauna
8. No shore fishing or fishing from skiffs or *La Pinta*
9. Do not remove any elements from the ecosystem.
10. Camping is only allowed in designated areas with prior authorization
11. No smoking or fires on the islands.
12. Keep a distance of at least 6 feet (2 meters) from wildlife
13. No motorized aquatic recreational vehicles.
14. Stay within the marked trails at all times.

# Need to Know: Galápagos



## Machu Picchu Post-cruise Extension:

### Activities

Land extensions require equal physical fitness as noted for Galápagos.

### Gratuities

Suggested gratuities \$90 per person for exceptional service should be settled in U.S. cash at end of tour

- Peru/Machu Picchu Guide: \$60pp (\$10/day for your guide)
- Peru/Machu Picchu Driver: \$30pp (\$5/day for your driver)
- Quito, Lima, Cusco Arrival Personnel (included)
- Hotel Staff (at your discretion)
- Restaurant Staff (included, additional gratuities recommended when purchasing alcoholic beverages)

### Forms of Payment

Land operations handle U.S. cash only. Bring small bills (\$1/\$5/\$10/\$20) that are not torn or overly worn.

### Meals

Meals are provided as noted on the itinerary. Water/tea/coffee is included at breakfast. At lunch and dinner 1 soda, juice, domestic beer, or house wine and 1 coffee or tea are included. Charges apply to all additional drinks.

### Peru Flights – Luggage restrictions:

Checked luggage: 1 piece per person; no more than 50lbs (23kg); no bigger than 62 linear inches (width + height + length).

Carry-on luggage: 1 piece per person, no more than 17lbs (8kg), no bigger than 43 linear inches (13 wide x 21 high x 9 long).

Excess luggage subject to added fees; check airlines for rates:

- All flights are on LATAM / Visit [latam.com](http://latam.com) – Click *Travel Information*

**Note: Carry essential items with you in your hand luggage while traveling including any medications.**

### Transfers

All transfers between airport/boat/tour are included as noted in the itinerary.

### Machu Picchu Regulations-

- Backpacks cannot exceed 40 x 35 x 20cm (15 ½ x 13 ½ x 7 ½ inches) or have a capacity greater than 20liters. Park personnel regulate backpack size at the entrance of the citadel. If your pack exceeds the allowable limit, you can leave your pack in onsite storage for approximately \$2.
- Bring your own reusable water bottles. Single-use plastic bottles, bags, straws, or Styrofoam containers are forbidden.
- Walking sticks are required to have a rubber tip.
- Refer to your Machu Picchu itinerary for complete regulations

## About Your Accommodations

### Hotel Accommodations:

All accommodations are well-appointed and comfortable. All offer full en suite bathroom facilities, and a collection of bath toiletries (soap, shampoo, conditioner), hair dryer, and alarm clock are provided.

**Tap water in Peru is NOT potable; use only bottled water.**

Standard electrical outlets are 220v, with round plugs. Bring plug adapters if you'll need to recharge phones, cameras, batteries, etc. Note – most consumer electronics accommodate 110v-220v, be sure to check your devices to confirm.

### Guides and groups:

Extension includes 1 guide per 12 guests

### Daily Excursions:

Refer to your Machu Picchu itinerary for daily activities. Note: outside of your hotel, bathrooms may be very basic and rustic.

### Medical

Land extension guides are equipped with emergency first-aid supplies.

Emergencies beyond the capability of the land extension guides will be handled by motoring and/or air services to the nearest medical facility. Costs for emergency evacuations or services are the guest's responsibility.

### Altitude Sickness

High altitude affects most people. On arrival at Cusco, elev. 11,000', you may experience shortness of breath and/or slight headache. From Cusco, you will immediately transfer to the Sacred Valley, elev 9,400' to help acclimatize. Bring altitude medication, such as Diamox in case you experience altitude sickness. Staying hydrated helps alleviate symptoms—bring electrolyte powder (i.e. Gatorade or similar).

### Communications

Your guides carry cell phones, in the event there is an immediate guest need or emergency.

Wireless internet access is available at all hotels.

### Laundry

Laundry services are offered when 2 consecutive nights are spent at the same hotel.