



THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS  
AN ALL-GAY CRUISE ABOARD THE CELEBRITY XPEDITION  
MAY 1-11, 2009

*A Romance Voyages Cruise*

DAY	DATES	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATIONS	MEALS
<b>2-Night Pre Cruise Hotel Stay in Quito, Ecuador</b>				
1	Fri May 1	FLY USA - Quito	J.W. Marriott	
2	Sat May 2	Quito	J.W. Marriott	B, L
<b>7-night Galapagos Cruise</b>				
3	Sun May 3	FLY Quito - Baltra	Celebrity Xpedition	B,L,D
4	Mon May 4	Isla San Cristobal & Isla Espanola	Celebrity Xpedition	B,L,D
5	Tue May 5	Isla Florena	Celebrity Xpedition	B,L,D
6	Wed May 6	Isla Santa Cruz & Isla San Salvador	Celebrity Xpedition	B,L,D
7	Thu May 7	Isla Isabela & Isla Fernandina	Celebrity Xpedition	B,L,D
8	Fri May 8	Isla San Salvador & Isla Santa Cruz	Celebrity Xpedition	B,L,D
9	Sat May 9	Isla Santa Cruz - Darwin Station	Celebrity Xpedition	B,L,D
<b>1-Night Post Cruise Hotel Stay in Quito</b>				
10	Sun May 10	Baltra - Quito	JW Marriott Hotel	B
11	Mon May 11	Quito - USA		B

**CODA INTERNATIONAL TOURS INC.**

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**Day 1 (Friday, May 1): Quito**

Upon arrival at Mariscal Sucre Airport in Quito, you will be met, just outside customs, by our representatives. Coaches will transport you to the J.W. Marriott.

The J.W. Marriott is one of Quito's finest hotels. Reminiscent of an Incan-stepped temple, the J.W. Marriott is modern and attractive, with a vast atrium lobby, two restaurants, and one of the finest sushi bars we have ever experienced. (In general, seafood in Ecuador is outstanding.) The hotel is elegant and yet country club in feel; there's no need for jackets or ties. Fresh roses are everywhere. There is a sundry shop, but it is best to bring the toiletries and other items you are used to. The outdoor pool area resembles a tropical lagoon. Rooms are spacious, with marbled baths and deep tubs, 110V power, and best of all, breathtaking views of the Andes.

Some tips: Bring comfortable, casual clothes, and good walking shoes. Be sure to brush your teeth with bottled water, since the water supply, while purified, may disagree with your system. The currency of Ecuador is the US dollar (so you will not need to exchange money), and the hotel has an ATM and a small upscale mall.

**Day 2 (Saturday, May 2): Quito Shore Excursion**

Our trip begins in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, surrounded by the peaks of the Andes. During our full-day tour, we will be chauffeured in air-conditioned, luxury coaches and escorted by professional, English-speaking guides. Lunch featuring local fare is included.

Almost due south from New York, Quito is about 15 miles from the Equator. Although the city is about 9,000 feet above sea level, this wanderer, who has the vices of smoking and some extra pounds, was pleasantly surprised that altitude sickness was nonexistent. Everyone is different, but allow yourself to acclimate, and, if you do not try to run a marathon the first day, you should be fine. The weather is also quite mild. Ecuadorians say they have only two seasons: rainy (October to early May) and dry (May through September). Both are temperate.

Quito was first settled in pre-Columbian times, when ancient Indians built an empire ultimately ruled by the Incas. Around 1526, the natives destroyed their own city rather than surrendering to the invading Spanish, and after the fires, the only remains were stone foundations of Incan temples, which the Spanish used to build their own churches, convents, and monasteries. Despite earthquakes, Quito is one of the best preserved Latin American cities, and our tour takes you to the best the city offers.

Quito is home to extraordinary colonial Spanish architecture referred to as Latin American Baroque. In Casco Colonial, the old town of Quito, historical multi-colored buildings, iron balconies, and red-tiled roofs offer examples of this beautiful style, which in part earned it World Historical Site status by the United Nations in 1978.

One of the finest examples of Latin Baroque is the 16th-century La Compañía de Jesús, a Jesuit church that took 163 years to build and is considered the most beautiful in South America. Its interior is coated in over a ton of pure gold leaf and lavishly painted with religious art, giving rise to its nickname, Quito's Sistine Chapel. We will also visit the historic Virgin of Quito and The Plaza and Monastery of San Francisco, as well as La Basílica, which was finished in the early 20th Century. Although one would not know by looking, the Basílica--decorated with hundreds of turtle-, iguana-, and dolphin-shaped gargoyles--is entirely concrete.

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Next, we will visit Mitad del Mundo (Middle of the World), where you can take the ubiquitous snapshot of yourself straddling the Equator, simultaneously standing in both hemispheres. The entire park is nestled at the foot of the immense Andes Mountains, so there are stunning views in every direction. The granite monument tower, topped with a brass globe, houses a museum and an observation deck, and the boulevard running down from the tower is lined with bronze busts of the French explorers who mapped the area in the 18th Century.

After our active day, we will retreat to the J.W. Marriott.

#### **Day 3 (Sunday, May 3): Quito - Air Transfer to Baltra & North Seymour**

Located 600 miles west of the coast of Ecuador, the 19 islands of the Galapagos Archipelago are famous for the window they provided into the workings of evolution. The youngest of the islands is estimated to be about four million years old, and the oldest, though now submerged, almost nine million years. Due to their complete isolation, the flora and fauna have evolved into species found nowhere else in the world, with unique adaptations to the individual environments of the islands. There are over 1,900 species of animals and plants endemic to the Galapagos. The most amazing result of this isolation is that the indigenous animals have no natural predators, and as a consequence, almost no fear of humans. You literally will be stepping over and around snoozing sea lions and nesting blue footed boobies as you hike the islands.

When Charles Darwin reached the archipelago from England in 1835 aboard HMS Beagle, the islands were deemed "worthless." Darwin and the crew surveyed the islands, creating maps so accurate they were used well into the 20th Century. This view into a unique, untouched evolutionary system spurred his evolutionary theory, which triumphed with his 1859 tome *The Origin of the Species*. The Galapagos Islands were placed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO in 1978.

Due to the sensitive ecosystem, Xpedition does not dock at any of the islands; you will be tendered by Zodiac. These small, comfortable, inflatable craft are equipped with high-powered engines and hold about 16 passengers. Tours are offered in three intensities depending on your physical ability. High-intensity tours are longer hikes, usually two or more miles, over the roughest terrain. Medium-intensity tours are shorter in length, but over the same rugged terrain, and low-intensity tours are usually beach walks or Zodiac tours around the islands. During our last visit, a woman in her eighties and walking with a cane completed the high intensity tours without much problem.

No one is allowed on the islands without a guided escort. All tours are limited to 16 people and are conducted by Galapagos National Park Naturalist-Guides. The guides are highly educated, having accredited biology degrees, and are experts in the flora and fauna of the Galapagos. They provide insight on the islands' history, animals, plants, and geology. The guides are some of the nicest people, with deep personal interest in the conservation and culture of the islands. Smoking and littering is forbidden on the islands. Once you see this unique, pristine land you will understand the motto, "Leave only footprints and take only memories".

The flight from mainland Ecuador lands on the island of Baltra, where we will be greeted by park guides and staff from Xpedition. (Luggage will be sent directly to the ship.) As you approach by air, observe the rocky plateau of Baltra emerging from the blue waters of the Pacific. The terrain is flat and arid, specked with red volcanic rock and sparse growth of cactus.

The airport is your first taste of the isolated, unspoiled, out-country--it's a former WW2 military airstrip set up by the US to guard the Panama Canal during the war. You will have

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some time to browse the small village's shops before one of island's three buses will pick you up for transfer to the Zodiacs, which will deliver you to Xpedition.

A short sail away is North Seymour, the first island we will visit. After lunch onboard while we reposition, we will be briefed on the afternoon's tours and head toward the Zodiacs awaiting you at the Beach Club deck aft. Don your life jacket, grab the bosun's arm with a sailor's handshake, and get comfortable for the short ride to shore.

At the rocky landing, we will climb a small cliff and be immediately immersed in the animals of the Galapagos. Sea Lions romp in the water and sun on the rocks. Female Blue-Footed Boobies will be nesting right along the trails, remarkably nonchalant about human presence. Galapagos Mockingbirds provide the music as you take it all in. Our guide will explain the mating rituals, and if we are lucky, the males will be strutting for the females. Male Frigate Birds pump their red throats to entice the ladies, while Blue-Footed Boobies wobble comically like circus clowns. Note: With all animals we encounter, WE need to step around them, NOT the other way around.

#### **Day 4 (Monday, May 4): Isla San Cristobal & Isla Espanola**

The island of San Cristóbal, also known as Chatham, is the easternmost island of the Galapagos. Its main town, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, is the administrative capital of the Galapagos province of Ecuador. There are a number of cafes and shops and a National Park Service interpretative center. Wildlife on San Cristobal includes the Chatham Mockingbird, the San Cristóbal Lava Lizard, elusive Red-Footed Boobies, Blue-Footed Boobies, Masked Boobies, and right on the beach in town you find the occasional Galapagos Sea Lions in the middle of a snooze. The highlight of today is the early morning zodiac ride to Kicker Rock a.k.a. Leon Dormido, located a few miles offshore. It is a spectacular volcanic rock formation that is not to be missed.

Known in English as Hood Island, Isla Espanola is the southernmost part of the Galapagos. The Zodiac will glide into a protected cove, and if we're lucky, Sea Lions will be bodysurfing in the waves and swimming around the boat to welcome us. On our last trip, one small pup was not happy to see us but lost interest and swam away after a lot of barking and posturing. The terrain across the island is highly diverse. The hike will begin on the jetty, where the immediate terrain is low, flat savannah, slightly sloping up from the shore, with low grasses and plants and sandy beaches dotted with smooth rocks. You will be amazed at the colorful Sally Lightfoot Crabs and sunning Marine Iguanas covering the rocks. The trail slowly is rockier toward the ocean side of the island, where enormous waves crash huge cliffs.

On Isla Espanola, Blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, Galapagos Hawks, and Warbler Finches are only a few of the birds we will encounter; the island also is home to the Waved Albatross. These birds can weigh as much as 40 pounds and are fantastic flyers. Their crash landings, however, are less than graceful--they come down like bags of soggy clothes thrown hard across the meadow. Farther around the island is its famous blowhole. The basalt rock at the sea edge has cracked, creating a fissure that, at high tide, fills with pressurized seawater. The resulting geyser can reach 75 feet in the air. Photo opportunities here are outstanding.

#### **Day 5 (Tuesday, May 5): Floreana: Cormorant Point & Baroness Outlook**

Floreana is the sixth-largest island. It is also one of the four in the archipelago that Darwin actually visited while sailing the HMS Beagle. This island was the first capital of the Galapagos during the 19th century.

The morning brings us to Cormorant Point. The beaches are laced with Olivine crystals, a pale green crystal similar to Peridot. Inland find a large brackish pond home to flamingos, stilts, and White Cheeked Pintail Ducks. Off the beach, look for small rays, turtles, and sharks.

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Champion, a small island close by, has excellent snorkeling to spot Spotted Eagle Rays, small sharks, Pacific Barracuda, and Pacific Green Sea Turtles

Champion is one of the few islands that support the Floreana Mocking Bird.

As the story goes, Baroness Outlook was the lookout used by an infamous Baroness (no one knows for sure if it was a real title or a self-proclaimed one) watching for visiting ships to arrive. She, her lovers, and a dentist planned to build a hotel on the island. The idea was not well received by their neighbors and oddly, one night, they all disappeared without a trace. To this day, no one has solved the mystery.

The waters around the Outlook are home to Pacific Green Sea Turtles and Golden Rays. On land, look for Spotted Eagles, Great Egrets, and Lava Herons. From the beach, you can climb the steep trail, about 300 feet, to the viewing platform that is the Baroness' Outlook.

**Day 6 (Wednesday, May 6): Santa Cruz: Las Bachas & San Salvador: Bartolome**

Las Bachas has a fine coralline beaches and not far away, two lagoons where Greater Flamingos, Pintail Ducks and Black Necked Stilts feed in the shallows. Along these beaches we find one of the largest nesting areas in Galapagos for the Pacific Green Sea Turtle. During the season females lay an average of 100 eggs. Incubation takes 55 to 60 days and the nests look only like mere indentations on the high part of the beach.

Bartolome is a volcanic island near the center of the Galapagos chain. Fissures in the ocean floor exploded and gradually rose, creating the land mass. The landscape is moon-like. Climb the volcanic cone 374 ft. for an amazing view of many of the islands. Below, you will see Pinnacle Rock. Here we find Galapagos Hawks, Galapagos Penguins (the only penguins found north of the Equator and surprisingly tolerant of humans), Marine Iguanas, Sally Lightfoot Crabs, sharks, and virgin lava fields.

**Day 7 (Thursday, May 7): Isla Isabela: Elizabeth Bay & Isla Fernandina: Punta Espinoza**

Isla Isabela is the largest island in the Galapagos. The island was born of five volcanoes that melded together over time to become a single land mass. The island is still volcanically active. The last eruption of the Sierra Negra Volcano occurred in October of 2005. Isabela is home to five different subspecies of giant tortoises.

Elizabeth Bay is a huge bay fed by the cold Pacific Cromwell Current. The current brings ocean water as cold as 50 degrees luring Galapagos Penguins, whales and Pacific Dolphin.

Fernandina Island is the youngest of the islands, a mere four million years old, and the most western. It too is still volcanically active; the last eruption was in May of 2005. Darwin said the island was, "covered with immense deluges of black naked lava."

Our destination is Punta Espinoza, on the northeast corner of the island. Hikes here pass a landscape of recent lava flows and thick mangrove mangels (forests). Here find Sea Lion colonies, the largest Marine Iguana colony within the Galapagos, and a nesting area of the indigenous Flightless Cormorants.

**Day 8 (Friday, May 8): San Salvador: Puerto Egas & Santa Cruz: Cerro Dragon**

San Salvador, also know as Isla Santiago and James Island, is the fourth largest island in the Archipelago. At one time there were an estimated 100,000 feral goats on Isla Santiago. All descendants of goats released onto the island by buccaneers, whalers, early fishermen and salt miners. They multiplied so quickly that they depleted the food source of the native Galapagos Tortoise, decimating the population.

Puerto Egas, south of James Bay on the west side of the island, has the remnants of a salt mining operation that existed up until the 1960's. There is a long, lava shoreline with black

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sand beaches and eroded rock formations. These rocks are home to Marine Iguanas, Land Iguanas, Oystercatchers, Sand Pipers, Yellow-Crowned Night Herons, Lava Herons, and Galapagos Hawks. Nearby tide pools contain Sally Lightfoot Crabs and are a playground for Galapagos Sea Lions and Galapagos Fur Seals.

Cerro Dragon, also called Dragon Hill, is found on the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island. The site takes its name from the population of Land Iguanas here. Feral dogs, cats and domestic animals brought by the first settlers preyed upon the iguanas bringing them to the brink of extinction. Darwin Station and the Galapagos National Park Service started breeding the iguanas in captivity and releasing them back into the wild, saving the population. The view from the top of the hill is stunning. On the hike up, the trail passes through the "white forest" composed of Palo Santo, or incense trees. The brackish lagoon below feeds flamingo and shore birds.

#### **Day 9 (Saturday, May 9): Isla Santa Cruz: Darwin Station**

After Darwin's studies and surveys, the Galapagos Archipelago remained untouched except for occasional landings for water and meager supplies mustered from the uninhabited islands. Many tortoises were taken for food and oil. Later, small human settlements sprouted. Unknowingly, these ships left behind non-indigenous animals like rats and cats. This, along with the human settlements introduction of non-indigenous animals like goats, pigs, and dogs, had a devastating effect on many native species. Once-domesticated animals escaped and became feral, and the islands suddenly were overrun with predators never seen before. They competed for available food, eating tortoise eggs, baby iguanas, and the plant base, which led to massive erosion and overall devastation of the habitats. The Galapagos tortoises are still in danger of extinction. Just ask "Lonesome George," the last of his particular species in the world, who's estimated to be 150 years old.

In 1930, an expedition from the US arrived to create a wildlife sanctuary for the entire archipelago, and finally, in 1935, the first laws were passed to protect these islands. In 1959, the Ecuadorian government declared the Galapagos a national park, the catalyst needed to promote scientific research, restoration, and preservation of the ecosystem.

#### **Day 10 (Sunday, May 10): Quito**

We will disembark the Expedition on Baltra, fly to Quito, and return to the J.W. Marriott for one last night. Relax by the pool sipping cocktails, snack on superb sushi, or enjoy a leisurely dinner. Perhaps do a little exploring on your own.

For those of you combining the Galapagos Adventure and the Machu Picchu Tour, you will depart today on the noon flight from Baltra. You will fly to Guayaquil where you will change planes for your flight to Lima. You will be escorted by Romance Voyages representatives and upon arrival in Lima; we will transfer to the Lima Marriott. This first hotel night in Lima is included in your package price. The afternoon and evening will be at your leisure and dinner is not included. Take time to explore the chic Miraflores district of Lima. This is Lima's most upscale area full of boutiques, theaters, great restaurants, bars and clubs; we here that the Downtown Vale Codo (Pasaje Los Pinos 160) is one of the most popular (and safe) clubs in the Miraflores district. Gay life in Lima and Peru is not "out" by US standards so a modicum of "caution" needs to be exercised.

#### **Day 11 (Monday, May 11): Quito**

Awake refreshed and enjoy the complimentary breakfast. Coaches will transfer you to the airport for your return flights home from this fantastic place.

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**ESSENTIALS**

**DATES** May 1-11, 2009

**DEPOSIT** A deposit of \$750 per person is required at the time of registration. Special Terms & Conditions apply to this trip. Payment terms and Cancellation terms are determined by Romance Voyages (operator of the cruise).

**FINAL PAYMENT** Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and is payable by personal check or credit card.

**TRAVEL DOCUMENTS** No visas are required for American and Canadian passport holders for this trip.

**SHOTS** None required or recommended. It is recommended you have your regular vaccinations up-to-date before traveling. For further information, visit the Center For Disease Control website.

**INT'L AIRFARE** American Airlines, Delta Airlines & Continental Airlines are among airlines that can be used for this trip. We recommend booking at least 7 months in advance if you want to try to use Frequent Flyer Miles for free tickets or upgrades or the American Express Platinum card 2-4-1 program.

**MINIMUMS** This departure is guaranteed.

**TOUR RATES** - 7 luxury ship nights and 20 meals, including wine with dinner.

<b>Categories &amp; Staterooms</b>	<b>Deck</b>	<b>Double Occupancy</b>
<b>XO</b> Oceanview Stateroom 145 sq. ft / Porthole	Lower	\$4,999
<b>XD</b> Deluxe Oceanview Stateroom 160 sq. ft / Porthole	Middle	\$5,299
<b>XP</b> Premium Oceanview Stateroom 160 sq. ft / Window	Middle	\$6,699
<b>XS</b> Xpedition Oceanview Suite 230 sq. ft / Window	Upper	\$9,199
<b>PS</b> Penthouse Suite with Balcony 460 sq.ft / Floor-to-ceiling Window	Upper	\$13,999

THE FINE PRINT: Minimum participation requirements apply. This is a whole-ship charter. Bookings made directly through the cruise line cannot be honored. All prices are in US dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, and do not include fees, charges, and taxes totaling \$450. Prices include hotel, cruise, all shore excursions, onboard meals, beverages, gratuities, and all intra-Ecuador transfers. Cabins sell

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quickly and all deals are subject to availability. Other restrictions may apply. Not responsible for errors or omissions.

**Single rate is 2 x the Double Occupancy rate. Ask about the limited "Guaranteed Share Program."**

Celebrity Xpedition      Ship Info  
Length: 296 ft.  
Width: 43 ft.  
Decks: 4  
Passengers: 98  
Ship's registry: Ecuador

**POLICIES**

Prices: All rates are in US dollars, per person, based on double occupancy (except single rates). Government taxes/fees of \$450 are not included. Prices and availability, as well as schedules and activities, are subject to change without notice. If international air is purchased from Coda Tours then airport transfers are included, otherwise an additional charge will be added to your booking if these services are required.

Payment Policy: A deposit of \$750.00 per person is required to secure a confirmed reservation. When more than one cruise is booked, deposit and payment policies apply per cruise. The final payment is due no later than 90 days prior to sailing. All reservations are subject to cancellation if payments are not received by the due date.

Payment Methods: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, money orders, and personal checks are acceptable forms of payment. Make money orders and checks payable to Coda International Tours.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations must be made in writing. Airfare generally is non-refundable. The following cancellation charges will be assessed for all written cancellation received prior to departure up to the scheduled time of departure:.

Point of Cancellation Charge  
(days before departure)  
120 days+ \$100pp  
119-75 days \$400.00pp  
74-60 days 50% of fare  
59-30 days 75% of fare  
29-0 (No-Show) 100% of fare

**NOT INCLUDED**

International airfare is not included. Coda Tour will be happy to assist with business, first or coach class airfares . If you are planning to use Frequent Flyer Miles for an upgrade or free ticket, we highly recommend booking your tour at least 7 months prior to departure.

Passport and visa expenses (if required). Please check our Travel Documents requirements for this trip. Always double check that your passport will remain valid for at least 6 months past your return to the U.S.and that you have sufficient empty pages in your passport to accommodate visa and entry/exit stamps. Always carry a copy of your passport packed separately from your travel documents and leave a copy with someone at home.

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Trip Cancellation & Interruption Insurance which is highly recommended to protect your travel investment in the unlikelyhood you would need to cancel or return home early. We recommend Travel Insured International and will send you an application form with confirmation of your trip. You may check the rates for insurance on their website at [www.travelinsured.com](http://www.travelinsured.com). We also recommend insuring any expense for airline tickets issued prior to the determination if a tour is guaranteed to operate. We cannot assume responsibility for losses incurred due to the cancellation of a tour.

Gratuities: Onboard gratuities are included with your cruise fare. Hotel gratuities or tips for services outside Xpedition are not included.

Personal Expenses such as phone calls, room service, alcoholic and bar beverages, laundry, airline excess luggage charges, vaccinations, visa fees (if applicable) and other optional incidental extras are not included and may be significant.

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**MACHU PICCHU**

**A Post-Trip Extension**

**May 10-17, 2008**

**7-Day Machu Picchu Adventure**

Our 7-day tour takes us to the sacred Inca temple of Machu Picchu. We spend two nights at the 5-star J.W. Marriott located along the cliff in the beautiful Miraflores neighborhood of Lima, three nights at the Monasterio Hotel Cusco, and one night at the Sanctuary Lodge in Machu Picchu. Highlights include a tour of Cusco, visits to the ancient Inca sites Sacsayhuaman and Tambomachay, the deluxe Hiram Bingham Train to Machu Picchu and an exclusive tour of the Lost Citadel. We also visit the Sacred Valley of Urubamba for its remarkable Incan fortress and native market.

DETAILED ITINERARY AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

Total Per Person

Double \$4,599

Single \$6,899

Taxes are additional and approximately \$100.00 per person. Internal Peru air is included. Air taxes are an additional \$60.00 per person.

Included:

Transfers mentioned in the program, guided tours, accommodations including breakfast daily and meals as mentioned, Cuzco tourist tax, tour to Machu Picchu includes: train fee, guided tour to the citadel, train journey to Machu Picchu, brunch, afternoon tea, cocktail dinner, water, coffee and tea, tour with entrance to Machu Picchu, round trip bus to the ruins, portage at airport and hotel during transfers, VAT.

Not included:

International and domestic airfare, International and domestic departure taxes. Personal expenses such as laundry, beverages, phone call, internet access.

Meals:

Included meals are indicated on the itinerary schedule.

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner

THE FINE PRINT: Minimum participation requirements apply. Prices are in US\$, per person, and based on double occupancy except where noted as a single rate. Additional airport taxes and departure fees are not included. Space sells quickly, and all deals are subject to availability. Prices cannot be guaranteed until a deposit has been accepted by ROMANCE VOYAGES (Operator of the tour). A \$100 per person administrative fee applies to all bookings cancelled 14 days after invoicing. Other restrictions may apply. Not responsible for errors or omissions. Full terms and conditions are available from Coda Tours.

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