

# EXPEDITION CRUISES



TRAVEL


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# GALÁPAGOS

Nature's Greatest Showcase





 More Galápagos



# The inspiration behind a classic





Sometimes called a 'living laboratory,' the remote Galápagos Islands are a unique example of pristine nature, giving us insight into the very processes of life on Earth: evolution by natural selection, also known as 'survival of the fittest.' It was here that naturalist Charles Darwin set foot in 1835, and the experience led him to write his groundbreaking book about evolution, *On the Origin of Species*.

Our journey to these astonishing volcanic islands follows in Darwin's footsteps, bringing you right up close to the wildlife and sights that inspired him. In particular, we'll be looking out for most of the so-called 'Big 15'—the 15 most iconic animal species of Galápagos, including the giant tortoise, marine iguana, Waved Albatross, Blue-footed Booby, and others.

#### **Unique wildlife and ecology**

From the famous giant tortoises, which lumber around the greener parts of the islands, to the scaly marine iguanas that have evolved to graze on underwater vegetation, you'll see why Galápagos is such a special destination for nature lovers. Due to the uniqueness of each island, a vast range of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife flourishes in this haven of biodiversity.

Having evolved with no major predators, much of the wildlife is impervious to the presence of people and remains remarkably tame. Of course, we'll maintain a respectable distance, and take great care to never disturb the wildlife we see.

#### **A crucible of evolution**

Hidden away in the vastness of the Pacific Ocean, the Galápagos Archipelago started forming over 4.2 million years ago, when subsea eruptions pushed up a group of volcanic islands. The age of the Galápagos Islands varies from the oldest at 4.2 million years in the east to 700,000 years in the west.

Due to their remoteness, these islands were at first barren, but were soon colonized by animals from Central and South America floating on rafts of vegetation and seabirds traveling on strong winds.

Only the birds and reptiles could survive such a long voyage, and Galápagos became seeded with new arrivals. Each species was forced to adapt to the often very different island environments. This is where natural selection comes into play: Those who have traits that are best adapted to their environment are most likely to survive, reproduce, and pass down their suitable traits. You'll learn about Darwin's amazing scientific discoveries and more from the Expedition Team, during onboard lectures and on guided nature walks.

#### **Hurtigruten's expedition cruises**

At Hurtigruten Expeditions, we want to bring you to some of the most remote and beautiful places in the world, and do so in the most environmentally sensitive and sustainable way possible. The Expedition Team members accompanying you on this cruise have been exploring these islands for years and will enthusiastically share their knowledge, giving you the context you need to make the very most of this exciting—and fascinating—journey. With a focus on science and conservation, you'll learn all about the unique and fragile ecology of the Galápagos Islands and why protecting them is so important.

# 📍 Islands of the Galápagos

January 2023 – March 2024



## FERNANDINA ISLAND

### Fernandina Island

One of the youngest of the isles, Fernandina is rocky, arid and covered in cacti. It's one of the few places you can see the Flightless Cormorant and Galápagos Penguin.

### Santiago Island

One of the bigger islands, Santiago was once a haven for pirates but today it's better known for its Galápagos fur seals, land iguanas and sea lions.

## SANTIAGO ISLAND

## ISABELA ISLAND

### Isabela Island

The largest of the islands is also one of the most volcanically active and is comprised of six shield volcanoes. Isabela is rich in birdlife and is also home to Galápagos giant tortoises.

## THE EXPEDITION CRUISE FLEET

**MS Santa Cruz II**  
129 departures:  
January 2023 – March 2024

### Floreana Island

This small island was once visited by Charles Darwin, and its wildlife highlights include a very photogenic flamingo lagoon. While here, why not post a letter home from quirky Post Office Bay.



**Quito**

Ecuador's capital features beautiful UNESCO-protected architecture and has an eternal spring-like climate.

**ECUADOR**

**Genovesa Island**

Small and far-flung, little-visited Genovesa Island is a haven for birdlife – so much so that it's sometimes called 'bird island'. Look out for the rare Red-footed Booby here.



**Journey in Darwin's footsteps and discover the incredible beauty and biodiversity of the Galápagos Islands**

**North Seymour Island**

Home to silver-grey palo santo trees, numerous bird colonies and thousands of land iguanas.



**Baltra Island aka South Seymour Island**

A section of ocean floor blasted to the surface has made this flat island an ideal base from which to start exploration.

**South Plaza Island**

A stunning array of flora for such a small island, as well as a rare land/water hybrid iguana.

**Santa Fe Island**

White sand beaches, sea lion colonies lazing in the sun and the perfect island for a spot of snorkelling.



**San Cristóbal Island**

Visit the Cerro Colorado Tortoise Reserve and see these gentle giants lumbering around in their six-hectare protected forest.



**SANTA CRUZ ISLAND**

**Santa Cruz Island**

Home to the Charles Darwin Research Station, an optunia cactus forest, and the cool highlands where giant tortoises thrive.



**Española Island**

A wildlife haven with Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies and Galápagos Albatross, as well as marine iguanas and a famous blowhole.



**SAN CRISTÓBAL ISLAND**



## Wildlife of the Galápagos Islands

This cluster of islands is a haven for wildlife, with iconic species of giant tortoise, iguana, and so much more.

### **An open-air wildlife showcase**

Isolated for millions of years in the vastness of the Pacific Ocean, the iconic wildlife of Galápagos has evolved without any major predators. Giant tortoises lumber through forests of cacti, while iguanas—adapted to marine life—slip from the black volcanic rocks into the sea in search of food. Remarkable life thrives here.





### Evolution on display

The Galápagos Islands have a wide selection of endemic animal species that provide astonishing insight into how natural selection works. Charles Darwin's 1835 visit to Galápagos was key to his understanding of natural selection, the basis for the theory of evolution: Species could adapt to challenging and diverse conditions.

The hardest creatures who arrived at the islands from the mainland had to rapidly adapt to a new environment. Known as 'survival of the fittest,' those with traits best suited to the environment were most likely to survive, reproduce, and pass down their favorable traits to offspring.



### Integral to evolutionary-theory

**history** – Darwin realized that finches on specific islands had developed specialized beaks to enable them to eat the different-sized seeds across the diverse islands, leading him to consider the driving force behind these adaptations. He theorized that they had all descended from a common finch from the South America mainland, where each specific island population of finches evolved to adapt to the specific conditions and local food sources available.



### Adapting to swim underwater

Marine iguanas have evolved adaptations that allow them to swim underwater and graze submersed vegetation, making them the only reptile anywhere in the world with this ability. To do this, their hearts beat more slowly than their terrestrial cousins and the blood vessels under the skin constrict. Their snouts have shortened, and small tricuspid teeth have developed to facilitate nibbling algae from rocks. Furthermore, they possess enlarged supraorbital glands to extract salt from their blood, which they then forcibly sneeze out.



**Ol' blue feet** – The bright blue color of the Blue-footed Booby's webbed feet comes from carotenoid pigments obtained from its diet of fresh fish. This bright blue hue literally indicates good health, immunological state, and overall fertility, therefore a trait for sexual selection. Males display their feet in a clumsy, hilarious 'dance' during courtship rituals. In fact, the word 'booby' comes from the Spanish word 'bobo,' meaning 'foolish' or 'clown.'



# ADVENTURES AWAITING YOU IN THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Explore the vast archipelago of diverse volcanic islands as we take you on a guided expedition cruise around one of the planet's most beautiful and biodiverse destinations. From the rocky, arid islands dominated by cacti and iguanas, to the lush tropical highlands of Santa Cruz, where giant tortoises amble, you'll experience a range of habitats and climatic conditions.

Our onboard Expedition Team members are friendly Galápagos experts with many years of experience exploring these islands. They'll join you on shore landings and nature walks, sharing their knowledge of natural history and explaining conservation efforts.

Enjoy the wide range of approachable, active, and immersive adventures you can have in Galápagos that will enrich your journey and deepen your understanding of this most unique of places on our planet.



## **Kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding (SUP)**

Some places are ideally suited to exploration aboard a kayak. We have a number of sea kayaks on board for such a purpose, and they're perfect for paddling the waters around Santa Fe, Español, and Santa Cruz. Alternatively, why not try out SUP boarding – our expedition ship also carries a number of boards for your enjoyment.



9 days Santa Cruz II

Departures: Multiple departures August 3, 2022 - March 13, 2024

# GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS EXPEDITION – IN DARWIN’S FOOTSTEPS

Join us on a journey of ecological discovery as we voyage in Charles Darwin’s footsteps to explore the natural wonders of the Galápagos Islands.

Begin your adventure in Ecuador with two nights at a hotel in Quito. One of South America’s most charming capitals, this UNESCO World Heritage City of elegant Spanish colonial-era architecture is considered the best preserved in Latin America. The city is packed with cozy restaurants and small artisanal shops, and surrounded by mountains and volcanoes, sitting 9,350 feet above sea level high in the Andes. From Quito, we’ll drive to and admire an active volcano at Cotopaxi National Park and go on a nature walk in stunning surroundings. Then we’ll visit a vibrant, colorful, open-air market.

After we fly to Galápagos, you’ll embark the MS Santa Cruz II, our newly refurbished expedition ship ideally suited to bring to life the very best the UNESCO-protected Galápagos Islands have to offer.

English naturalist Charles Darwin’s 1835 visit to the Galápagos Islands was key to his understanding of natural selection—and the basis for his theory of evolution and his seminal work, *On the Origin of Species*. On this science-oriented expedition cruise, we’ll learn about Darwin’s discoveries, and make many discoveries of our own!

You’ll get right up close to extraordinary nature and wildlife on included activities that use our small panga boats, kayaks, snorkeling gear, and stand-up paddleboards (SUPs), and on guided hikes and nature walks with the Expedition Team. Safety and sustainability are always at the core of our operations, so the Expedition Team will guide you on all landings, and ensure we leave the smallest possible footprint wherever we go.





**INCLUDED ACTIVITIES**

- Lectures and talks
- Landings
- Guided hikes/ nature walks
- Snorkeling
- Kayaking
- Stand-up paddleboarding (SUP)
- Wildlife watching
- Glass-bottomed boat

Activities are subject to change.



**ITINERARY**

- Day 1: Quito
- Day 2: Quito
- Day 3: Galápagos
- Day 4: San Cristóbal Island
- Day 5: Santa Fé Island & South Plaza Island
- Day 6: Santa Cruz Island
- Day 7: Española Island
- Day 8: Santa Cruz Island & North Seymour Island
- Day 9: Baltra Island/Quito

Price from **USD \$11,227** per person, double occupancy  
 Booking codes: SCGAL2022US, SCGAL2324E

For all pricing, optional activities/ excursions, and inclusions, visit us online at **HURTIGRUTEN.COM**

Please note that all itineraries and planned landings are subject to weather conditions and may change.

## 11 days MS Santa Cruz II

Departures: Multiple departures January 10, 2023 - March 19, 2024

# GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS EXPEDITION CRUISE - NINE OF THE BEST ISLES

Join us on a journey of ecological discovery as we set out from Quito, Ecuador, to experience the natural wonders of the incomparable Galápagos Islands.

### Beautiful Quito and volcano adventure

Begin your adventure with two nights at a hotel in Quito, one of South America's most charming capitals. This UNESCO World Heritage City of graceful Spanish-era architecture is packed with cozy restaurants and small artisanal shops. From Quito, we'll drive to an active volcano at Cotopaxi National Park and go on a nature walk in stunning surroundings. Then we'll visit a vibrant, colorful, open-air market.

### Darwin's islands of evolution

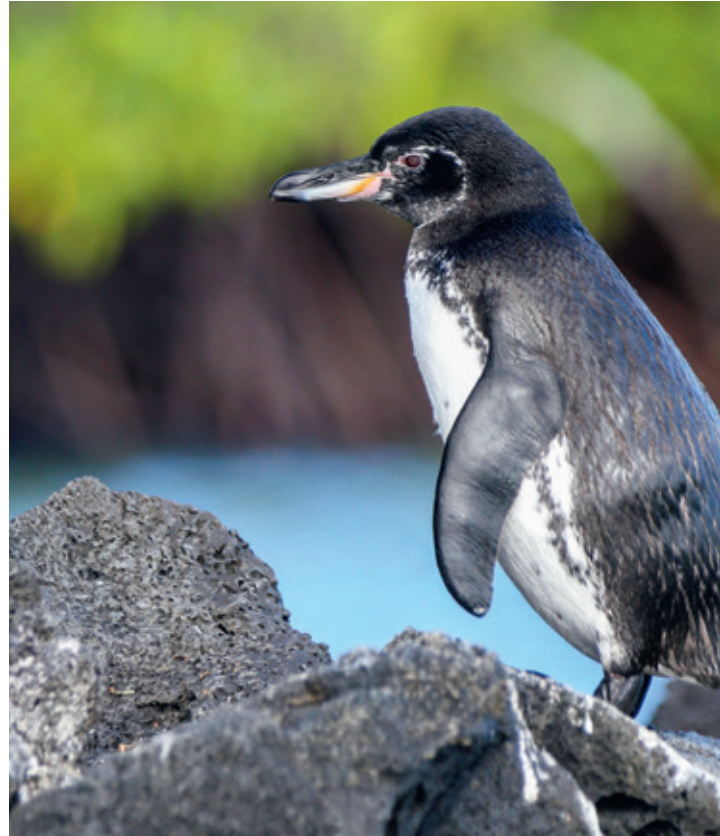
The Galápagos Islands are famed for their association with the evolutionary theorist Charles Darwin. Our comprehensive itinerary calls at the centrally-located Santa Cruz Island, the volcanic island of Fernandina, Isabela and Floreana - two of the four islands visited by Darwin - and balmy Baltra Island, before continuing to Santiago Island, the adjacent islands of Rábida and Bartolomé, and isolated Genovesa Island. The landings take in a wide variety of ecosystems and picturesque landscapes, and

provide great opportunities for seeing wildlife such as sea lions, turtles, marine iguanas, giant tortoises, flamingos, and Darwin's iconic finches.

### Your expedition ship - MS Santa Cruz II

MS Santa Cruz II's crafted itineraries give you some of the best island coverage and wildlife viewing opportunities in the Galápagos. Many excursions take place at exclusive visitor sites, meaning we'll often have entire areas to ourselves. Having multiple naturalist guides aboard MS Santa Cruz II also means you'll be able to choose from a wider range of activities each day.

You'll get right up close to extraordinary nature and wildlife on included activities that use our small panga boats, kayaks, snorkeling gear, and stand-up paddleboards (SUPs), and on guided hikes and nature walks with the Expedition Team. Safety and sustainability are always at the core of our operations, so the Expedition Team will guide you on all landings, and ensure we leave the smallest possible footprint wherever we go.

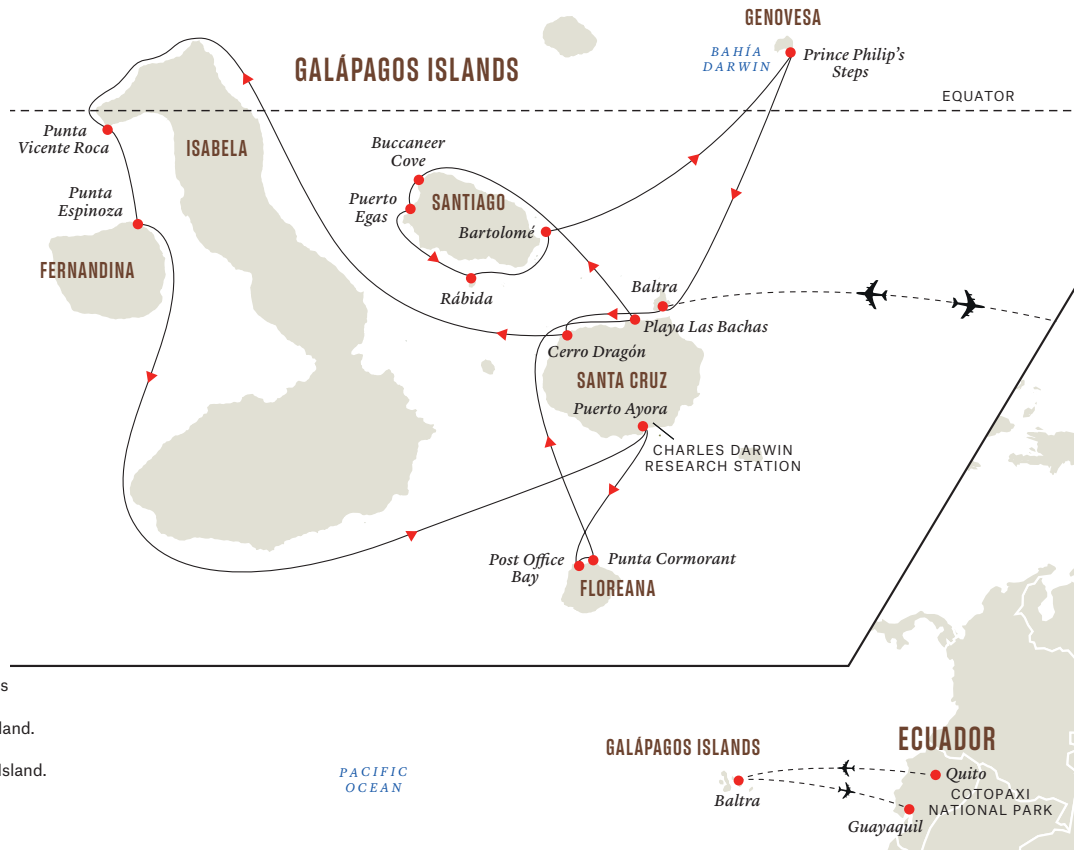


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Left:  
Galapagos penguin,  
Isabela Island.  
Below:  
Floreana Island.



#### INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Lectures and talks
- Landings
- Guided hikes/nature walks
- Snorkeling
- Kayaking
- Stand-up paddle-boarding (SUP)
- Wildlife watching
- Glass-bottomed boat

Activities are subject to change.

#### ITINERARY

- Day 1: Quito
- Day 2: Quito
- Day 3: Galapagos
- Day 4: Isabela & Fernandina Islands
- Day 5: Santa Cruz Island
- Day 6: Floreana Island
- Day 7: Galapagos
- Day 8: Santiago Island
- Day 9: Rábida & Bartolomé Islands
- Day 10: Genovesa Island
- Day 11: Santa Cruz & Baltra Islands/Guayaquil

Price from **USD \$14,242** per person, double occupancy  
Booking code: SCGAL2324WN

For all pricing, optional activities/excursions, and inclusions, visit us online at **HURTIGRUTEN.COM**

Please note that all itineraries and planned landings are subject to weather conditions and may change.

## 7 days MS Santa Cruz II

Departures: Multiple departures December 31, 2022 - April 23, 2024

# GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS - NATURE AND WILDLIFE EXPEDITION CRUISE

Join us on a journey of ecological discovery as we set out from Quito, Ecuador, to experience the natural wonders of the incomparable Galápagos Islands.

### Beautiful Quito and volcano adventure

Begin your adventure with two nights at a hotel in Quito, one of South America's most charming capitals. This UNESCO World Heritage City of graceful Spanish-era architecture is packed with cozy restaurants and small artisanal shops. From Quito, we'll drive to an active volcano at Cotopaxi National Park and go on a nature walk in stunning surroundings. Then we'll visit a vibrant, colorful, open-air market.

### Darwin's islands of evolution

The Galápagos Islands are famed for their association with the naturalist Charles Darwin. Our northern itinerary calls at Santiago Island, the adjacent islands of Rábida and Bartolomé, isolated Genovesa Island, and the centrally-located Santa Cruz Island. The landings take in a wide array of ecosystems, picturesque landscapes, and give great opportunities for seeing wildlife such as sea lions, turtles, marine iguanas, giant tortoises, flamingos, Nazca

and Red-footed Boobies, and Darwin's iconic finches.

### Your expedition ship - MS Santa Cruz II

MS Santa Cruz II's crafted itineraries give you some of the best island coverage and wildlife viewing opportunities in the Galápagos. Many excursions take place at exclusive visitor sites, meaning we'll often have entire areas to ourselves. Having multiple naturalist guides aboard MS Santa Cruz II also means you'll be able to choose from a wider range of activities each day.

You'll get right up close to extraordinary nature and wildlife on included activities that use our small panga boats, kayaks, snorkeling gear, and stand-up paddleboards (SUPs), and on guided hikes and nature walks with the Expedition Team. Safety and sustainability are always at the core of our operations, so the Expedition Team will guide you on all landings, and ensure we leave the smallest possible footprint wherever we go.



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## INCLUDED ACTIVITIES

- Lectures and talks
- Landings
- Guided hikes/ nature walks
- Snorkeling
- Kayaking
- Stand-up paddleboarding (SUP)
- Wildlife watching
- Glass-bottomed boat

Activities are subject to change.

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## ITINERARY

- Day 1: Quito
- Day 2: Quito
- Day 3: Galápagos
- Day 4: Santiago Island
- Day 5: Rábida & Bartolomé Islands
- Day 6: Genovesa Island
- Day 7: Santa Cruz & Baltra Islands/Guayaquil

Price from **USD \$8,685**  
per person, double occupancy  
Booking code: SCGAL2324N

For all pricing, optional activities/  
excursions, and inclusions,  
visit us online at  
**HURTIGRUTEN.COM**

Please note that all itineraries and planned landings are subject to weather conditions and may change.

Above:  
Marine iguana,  
Santiago Island.  
Left: Nature walk,  
Galápagos Islands.

## 7 days MS Santa Cruz II

Departures: Multiple departures January 10, 2023 - March 19, 2024

# GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS EXPEDITION CRUISE - ICONIC WILDLIFE & SUBLIME SCENERY

Join us on a journey of ecological discovery as we set out from Quito, Ecuador, to experience the natural wonders of the incomparable Galápagos Islands.

### Beautiful Quito and volcano adventure

Begin your adventure with two nights at a hotel in Quito, one of South America's most charming capitals. This UNESCO World Heritage City of graceful Spanish-era architecture is packed with cozy restaurants and small artisanal shops. From Quito, we'll drive to an active volcano at Cotopaxi National Park and go on a nature walk in stunning surroundings. Then we'll visit a vibrant, colorful, open-air market.

### Darwin's islands of evolution

The Galápagos Islands are famed for their association with the evolutionary theorist Charles Darwin. Our western itinerary calls at Isabela and Floreana, two of the four islands visited by the famous naturalist, at the volcanic island of Fernandina, and the centrally-located Santa Cruz Island. The landings take in a wide array of ecosystems, picturesque landscapes, and offer great opportunities for seeing wildlife such as sea lions, turtles, marine iguanas, giant tortoises, flamingos, Nazca

and Red-footed Boobies, and Darwin's iconic finches.

### Your expedition ship - MS Santa Cruz II

MS Santa Cruz II's crafted itineraries give you some of the best island coverage and wildlife viewing opportunities in the Galápagos. Many excursions take place at exclusive visitor sites, meaning we'll often have entire areas to ourselves. Having multiple naturalist guides aboard MS Santa Cruz II also means you'll be able to choose from a wider range of activities each day.

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**INCLUDED ACTIVITIES**

- Lectures and talks
- Landings
- Guided hikes/ nature walks
- Snorkeling
- Kayaking
- Stand-up paddle-boarding (SUP)
- Wildlife watching
- Glass-bottomed boat

Activities are subject to change.



**ITINERARY**

Day 1: Quito  
 Day 2: Quito  
 Day 3: Galápagos  
 Day 4: Isabela & Fernandina Islands  
 Day 5: Santa Cruz Island  
 Day 6: Floreana Island  
 Day 7: Baltra Island/ Guayaquil

Price from **USD \$8,685** per person, double occupancy  
 Booking code: SCGAL2324W

For all pricing, optional activities/ excursions, and inclusions, visit us online at **HURTIGRUTEN.COM**

Please note that all itineraries and planned landings are subject to weather conditions and may change.

Above: Marine iguanas, Fernandina Island.  
 Left: Red-footed Booby.

PACIFIC OCEAN





FOR RESERVATIONS  
CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL ADVISOR

Where's Walter Travel  
[info@whereswaltertravel.com](mailto:info@whereswaltertravel.com)  
407.989.0977  
[whereswaltertravel.com](http://whereswaltertravel.com)