



THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

& AMAZON RAIN FOREST

with KNKX host Bellamy Pailthorp!

October 31 - November 10, 2026

You're invited!

Join me, your KNKX host, Bellamy Pailthorp, on an unforgettable journey to Ecuador – one of the most biodiverse countries on Earth, home to over 1,600 species of birds. Together, we'll explore two of its most awe-inspiring natural treasures: the legendary Galápagos Islands and the lush, vibrant Amazon rainforest. Walk among giant tortoises, snorkel with playful sea lions, and immerse yourself in the world's most extraordinary ecosystems – all in the company of expert guides and fellow curious travelers. Get ready for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure filled with discovery, connection, and wonder.

TRIP AT A GLANCE

3 Nights Quito
2 Nights Casa del Suizo – Amazon rainforest
5 Nights Galápagos Islands



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.
P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA
Tel: 206.842.9775
www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Amazon rainforest ♦ Explore the Galápagos Islands for five full days with trained naturalists ♦ Charles Darwin Research Station ♦ Unequalled diversity of wildlife ♦ Snorkeling with marine life ♦ Opportunities for short hikes on the Galápagos Islands ♦ Historic walking tour of the old colonial town of Quito, a World Heritage Site ♦ Knowledgeable, experienced local guides ♦ Local dining experiences ♦ A full day excursion to local markets and hot springs ♦ Travel with like-minded public radio listeners

IT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ With KNKX host Bellamy Pailthorp
- ✓ Full-time bilingual tour guide and naturalist
- ✓ Airport and hotel transfers in Ecuador with professional guides and drivers
- ✓ Six days of island hopping and exploration in the Galápagos Islands
- ✓ Three days in the Amazon rainforest
- ✓ Domestic flights to/from the Galápagos Islands
- ✓ Accommodation in hand selected, 4-star hotels and lodges
- ✓ All breakfasts plus 14 additional multi-course meals
- ✓ Galápagos National Park Maps
- ✓ Gratuities for your tour guide and drivers are included. Additional tips for hotel staff, naturalists, and local drivers are always appreciated and may be given at your discretion.
- ✓ Pre-tour suggested reading list
- ✓ Alumni appreciation discounts applied toward future expeditions
- ✓ A small, fun group of soon-to-be friends!

TRIP FACTS:

11 Days/ 10 Nights

\$7,995 per person based on double occupancy

\$2,395 single supplement

Trip begins in Quito, Ecuador on Oct 31, 2026

Trip ends in Quito on November 10

NOT INCLUDED:

Round-trip air from the USA to Ecuador * Travel Insurance * Any items not listed in your custom KNKX itinerary * \$200 Galápagos Islands National Park entrance fee



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Spend 5 Nights in the Galápagos Islands

YOUR KNKX ADVENTURE BEGINS ...

Meal Key: B = Breakfast / L = Lunch / D = Dinner

DAY 1: Saturday, October 31 - Depart for Quito, Ecuador

Your exciting expedition to Ecuador begins today as you board your flight. After a late evening arrival in Quito, meet your local tour director at the airport and transfer to your deluxe hotel in central Quito. *Overnight in Quito*

DAY 2: Sunday, November 1 - Discover Historic Quito

On a guided mid-morning tour of Quito, you'll learn about its colonial past, history and culture. Visit the old town and see the Church of San Francisco, the first religious building constructed in South America by the Spaniards. See the facade of La Compania, the city's most ornate church. Admire the spectacular views of the Valley of Tumbaco. On a clear day, you can see the impressive volcanoes surrounding the city. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Afterwards we will tour one of the city's fantastic museums.

Overnight in Quito (B, L)

DAY 3: Monday, November 2 - East to the Amazon

After breakfast, transfer by bus to La Punta Ahuano on the Napo River where you will board a canoe that will take you to your Amazon lodge. Enjoy the tranquility of the lodge and prepare to be amazed by both the wildlife and the Amazon culture. In the afternoon, visit Ahuano village for the opportunity to meet a local Quechua family and learn about their way of life before returning to the lodge.

Overnight in the Amazon rainforest at Casa del Suizo (B, L, D)



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La Casa del Suizo Lodge, Amazon Rainforest

DAY 4: Tuesday, November 3 - Explore a Private Amazon Reserve

Begin the day with a peaceful canoe ride into the Misicocha Private Nature Reserve, where a guided hike brings you up close to the Amazon's vibrant plants and wildlife. Walk suspended bridges, spot tropical creatures, and glide through the forest on a short zip-line basket ride. Later, enjoy a relaxing float on a traditional balsa log raft. The afternoon is yours to unwind or join optional excursions like the Animal Rescue Center or Canopy Adventure Park. End the day with a group dinner at your Amazon lodge.

Overnight in the Amazon Rainforest at Casa del Suizo (B, L, D)

DAY 5: Wednesday, November 4 - Cloud Forests and Hot Springs of the Andes

After breakfast, return by canoe and travel through charming villages to Tena for lunch. Then it's off to the Papallacta Hot Springs, nestled high in the Andes, for a relaxing soak. Later, continue to your hotel near Quito's airport for dinner and rest before tomorrow's flight to the Galápagos. *Overnight at the Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel (B, L, D)*

DAY 6: Thursday, November 5 - Welcome to the Galápagos

Fly west to the Galápagos Islands, where your adventure begins! After landing in Baltra, travel to Santa Cruz Island, passing through striking ecological zones. Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about conservation efforts in this unique UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy lunch on your own, followed by a special welcome dinner with the group. *Overnight in Puerto Ayora (B, D)*



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Snorkel, swim & Experience the best of the Galapagos



DAY 7, 8 & 9: Explore the Galapagos Islands

Over the course of the next four days you'll enjoy full-day boat excursions to many of the nearby islands. Each of these islands has its own unique beauty to offer. North Seymour is a flat island and home to magnificent frigate birds like the Blue-Footed-Boobies. South Plaza Island is home to a large colony of sea lions and offers excellent examples of the typical flora like towering cacti "trees" which form the principal diet for land iguanas and cactus finch.

Bartholomew Island is a tiny island which boasts one of the most spectacular views of the archipelago from Pinnacle Rock. Climb to the 375-foot peak to enjoy this stunning view. Santa Fe is one of the oldest islands of the Galápagos and in its tranquil bay, one can find green sea turtles and spotted eagle rays while sea lions bask in sun on the beach.

Overnight in Puerto Ayora (B, L)

DAY 10: Monday, November 9 - Relax on Santa Cruz Island

Today explore Tortuga Bay and a local beach near the town of Santa Cruz. Here you can just enjoy the beach and have a relaxing time. There is also the option to rent a kayak here. Later this morning, transfer by a local boat to the pier where a bus will be waiting to take us to the highlands of Santa Cruz. Along the way there is lunch at a local ranch, a visit to a lava tunnel, and visit to see the famous giant tortoises in their natural environment. Return to the hotel in time for a farewell dinner. *Overnight in Puerto Ayora (B, L, D)*



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Over 1,660 bird species have been recorded in Ecuador

DAY 11: Tuesday, November 10 - Fly from the Galapagos to Quito

This morning is at your leisure. Later, transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito.

Upon arrival in Quito, you'll be met and transferred to a nearby 4-star hotel. Relax, rest, and enjoy dinner at the hotel before returning to the airport for your international flight home. Generally flights to the US depart at approximately midnight from Quito and arrive back in the USA the following day. (B, D)

- Itinerary Subject to Change -



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DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE ISLAND HOPPING

This list is intended as a sampling of the islands that will be visited while in the Galápagos archipelago. The exact itinerary will depend on weather conditions and National Park permits.



volcano and a variety of red, orange, green, and glistening black volcanic formations. Bartolomé has a volcanic cone that is easy to climb and provides great views of the other islands. Bartolomé is famous for its Pinnacle Rock, which is the distinctive characteristic of this island, and the most representative landmark of the Galápagos.

It has two visitor sites. At the first one, one may swim and snorkel around Pinnacle Rock; the underwater world there is really impressive. Snorkelers are in the water with the penguins, marine turtles, white-tipped reef sharks, and other tropical fish. The bay is also an excellent place to go swimming. The twin bays are separated by a narrow isthmus. Galápagos penguins are frequently seen and a small cave behind Pinnacle Rock houses a breeding colony. Seasonally, Bartolomé is the mating and nesting site for the green turtles. The herons use the gentler beaches.

NORTH SEYMORE

The endemic plant of this island is the lignum vitae tree, an icon of the site. In the summertime they look like dead trees, but after the winter rains, they become green overnight giving the island a very special appearance. Other plant species abundant in the area are the Opuntia cactus, Croton, Castile and Sesuvium. Sometimes you can watch green iguanas taking shade under bushes. These animals were introduced in Seymour to test whether they can survive another landscape as they are found usually in Baltra. Frigates can be observed along the walking trail along with other species such as lava gulls, sea lions, brown terns, pelicans, tropical birds.

BARTOLOMÉ ISLAND

Bartolomé is one of the "younger" islands in the Galápagos archipelago. This island, and Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island, are named after naturalist and lifelong friend of Charles Darwin, Sir Bartolome James Sullivan, who was a lieutenant aboard HMS Beagle. With a total land area of just .5 square miles, this island offers some of the most beautiful landscapes in the archipelago. The island consists of an extinct

ISLA SANTA FE

Santa Fe Island, also called Barrington Island after Admiral Samuel Barrington, is a small island of 9 mi² which lies in the center of the Galápagos archipelago. Geologically it is one of the oldest, since volcanic rocks of about 4 million years old have been found here. The vegetation of the island is characterized by brush, palo santo trees and stands of a large variety of the prickly pear cactus *opuntia echios*.

The visitor sites are Barrington Bay on the northeastern side. There is great snorkeling with white tip sharks, sea turtles, rays, and colorful fish. Large numbers of sea lions are found in the bay.

PLAZA ISLANDS

Just east of Santa Cruz Island, the Plaza Islands are distinct for their native populations of flora and fauna, but only South Plaza Island has a landing site. As you cross the jet-black lava rock, you will see one of the largest populations of land iguanas in the Galápagos Islands and one of the most unique. It's here where male marine iguanas have bred with female land iguanas to create the only hybrid land/marine iguanas in the archipelago. The remaining land iguanas, though smaller in size than other island populations, feature vibrant yellows and reds and enjoy the local delicacies of Opuntia cacti and the indigenous Sesuvium. Visitors will also see several big groups of sea lions, including one significant bachelor colony.



QUESTIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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Meet Your KNKX Host!



Bellamy Pailthorp covers the KNKX environment beat with an emphasis on climate justice, human health and food sovereignty. Bellamy likes reporting stories about how we will power our future while maintaining healthy cultures and livable cities. Fluent in German, Bellamy worked in Berlin and has a masters in journalism from Columbia University. She joined KNKX (then KPLU) in 1999. From 2000-2012, she covered the business and labor beat for KNKX. Outside work, she practices yoga, enjoys tasting new foods and is frequently on the water with her rowing team.

About Earthbound Expeditions:

Founded in 1997 by veteran world travelers and guides, Matthew and Danna Brumley, Earthbound Expeditions lovingly creates tailor-made journeys that inspire curiosity and discovery. Led by expert local guides, travelers explore history, art, food, gardens, and culture in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Each trip encourages deep learning and engagement, turning every destination into a classroom of wonder. Guests return not just with memories, but with insights, appreciation, and a renewed sense of curiosity for the world.



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Know Before You Go!

Reservations and Deposits: A \$1,000 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is also non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

Not Included: International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for hotel staff or ship crew, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

Active Days on Shore and at Sea - Physical Requirements

This journey includes transportation by boat (in the islands) and motorized canoe (in the Amazon). Walking tours/hikes may last 2-3 hours and could include gentle walks of up to two miles, often on uneven or cobblestone surfaces. Now is the time to prepare by ensuring you're comfortable being on your feet for extended periods. You're always welcome to relax at a café or opt out of any activity. Additionally, there may be times when you need to handle your own luggage so pack light and make sure your bags are easy to carry. A little preparation will go a long way in making your Ecuador adventure comfortable and enjoyable!

It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. [Click here](#) to read "Is an Earthbound trip right for you?" or call the Earthbound office for more details.

Travel Insurance: Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

Events and Hosted Journeys: If a planned event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents, and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

Terms & Conditions: [Click here](#) to read the full terms and conditions