

LIVING ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

ENDEAVOUR II IN THE GALAPAGOS

I'm just going to share with you that this is a trip with the best ratio between learning, adventure and people-to-people connection. Like everything in life, you get what you put into it. As a guest you can tell that the crew truly loves their job, from the kitchen to the hotel management to the zodiac drivers and naturalists - I could see how seeing an awe-struck face regularly can be infectious and feed your soul.

I suggest your guests get to know the crew as they'll get to be their best friends while onboard and will be sure to take care of them even if they're not the type.

The crew learned guests' dietary quirks within the first few meals (this is information you can provide as you complete registration details) and they will be sure to bring you your coffee just as you like it when you sit down to breakfast. Going on land for the exploratory portion of the trip is an unmatched experience to anything you've ever had before, unless you've been with Lindblad before then you know what to expect. Face-to-face encounters (from a safe distance of course) with everything from marine iguanas, to Galapagos sea lions, to Super Diego (photo below!) at the Charles Darwin Research Center to so much more. The Lindblad naturalists have honed-in their skills and can talk to you about the endemic creatures and fauna for as long as you're willing to hear about it. The guests' safety is their number one priority no matter how much fun you're having.



You can rest assured that Lindblad Expeditions is committed to keeping all activities accessible to everyone no matter their mobility. They will do whatever is in their hands to ensure all guests can enjoy the explorations available while on expedition. Most travelers aboard the *Endeavor II* were much older than me and they had no issues participating in the hikes, Naturalists are great at keeping a pace to accommodate everyone in the group. The land expeditions are broken up into small groups so it's easy to keep track of everyone and for them to not lose their voice trying to speak to a big group. Walking groups were kept to a maximum of 12 whenever we went on land.



For the water activities like snorkeling and stand-up paddle, Naturalists will do lessons if necessary. I for one had never snorkeled before, I'm a strong swimmer but they recommended I do the snorkeling lesson, and good thing I did. During the lesson and even throughout my many snorkel adventures I had my share of Galapagos ocean water.

After booking the cruise, be sure the log-in portal is accessed so that all documentation is provided prior to departure. It makes for a smoother process, then a couple weeks before departure you will get boarding pass, a small travel bag and luggage tags arrive.