

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Yacht La Pinta firmly believes in treading lightly in the pristine environment of the Galápagos Islands. We acknowledge the importance of protecting natural resources and the need of responsible operational standards. Yacht La Pinta highly values the concept of providing guests with a real **connection** with the unique Galápagos environment. Our guidelines of best practices will help us reach this goal faster.

The Galápagos Archipelago needs no background in terms of why to protect it. Nevertheless, it needs to have tour operators who understand what actions need to be implemented, in order to achieve two goals in the exploration business: protection of the environment and high-customer satisfaction.

With our years of operational excellence and our solid commitment to protect the Galápagos Islands, we provide our clients and guests with a new way of travelling – one that challenges their perceptions, delivers awareness, and enriches their souls.

YACHT LA PINTA'S ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

After analyzing the environmental elements comprised in all our fleet vessels, we have concluded that our best practices will positively impact three areas of our vessel:

- **Ship** (machinery, generators, solid infrastructure, etc)
- **Service** (hotel operations, staff, cleaning, etc)
- **Expedition** (outings, environmental interpretation, lectures, education, etc).

SHIP

- **Certificates & Documents of Compliance:** by adopting international and national regulations we actively contribute to operational safety, international compliance and guests' confidence. Our certificates include:
- **RINA Registered Vessel:** Royal Institution of Naval Architects, a

member of IACS- International Association of Classification Societies Ltd.

- **ISMC:** International Safety Management Code including all **SOLAS** Regulations (Safety of Life at Sea).
- **ISPS:** International Ship and Port Facility Security Code
- **MARPOL:** Certificate for Maritime Pollution
- **STCW:** Standards for Safety, Training Certification and Watchkeeping
- **SMART VOYAGER:** Sustainability Certification that incorporates community involvement, best environmental practices, and continuous improvement.
- **Electricity Generators:** Yacht Isabela II uses electronically-controlled injection which optimizes fuel requirements, while additional environmental benefits include low emission of CO and CO₂, less noise, and fuel-use efficiency. The environmental economics of these generators allow us to reduce fuel consumption by some 35,000 gallons of diesel per year, which represents not releasing into the atmosphere about 777,000 pounds of CO₂ per year (353,00 Kg/year). This reduction alone represents a cut in CO₂ emissions by 20%. Additionally, the use of special diesel-fuel additives has made the use of fuel more efficient; these additives have resulted in a decrease in consumption of approximately 800 gallons per week.
- **Water-treatment Plant:** sewage water is treated on board before being discharged. The HMX process (Hydro Maceration Oxidizer) eliminates releasing organic and inorganic components that may impact the ocean environment. Treated water is never discharged while anchored.
- **Outboard Motors:** for transportation of guests from mother ship to the island, our landing craft includes 4-stroke outboard motors. Not only these motors produce combustion with very little amounts of exhaust, but they are also very quiet. These motors are great enhancers of the beauty of natural resources on outings like whale watching and coastal exploration.
- **Outdoor Deck Lights:** as per environmental recommendation from the Charles Darwin Research Station, our yacht uses lights that do not attract nocturnal insects in great numbers. This measure decreases the chances of inter-island insect dispersal.
- **Solid Waste & Inorganic Refuse:** on board classification of

inorganic garbage (solid waste) is a practice of our company since 1998, after establishing Fundacion Galapagos-Ecuador. Materials we separate include: metals, glass, wood/cardboard, and plastics. Upon arrival to port, these materials go to the recycling centre for proper handling. As of March 2010, the recycling project has managed over 1,916,000 Kg of solid waste (4,215,000 pounds).

- **Burned Oils and By-products:** all used and burned oils are disembarked weekly and collected by a local company which uses some of them for lubrication of other in-town machinery (this eliminates the need of importing lubricants from the mainland). Most burned oils are shipped back to the mainland by local companies which we support via Fundación Galápagos-Ecuador.
- **Maintenance:** staff will permanently report any maintenance needs in order to foster preventive environmental actions as opposed to corrective environmental actions.
- **Hull Paint:** during regular maintenance painting works are consistently needed. We use environmentally-friendly tin-free paints, which is geared for the preservation of marine species.

SERVICE (hotel operations)

- **Food & Beverage**
- **Organic Refuse & Garbage:** we carefully separate in our food-handling areas (galley) organic refuse from other materials. Since organic matter can decompose in water, this refuse can go back to the ocean. To achieve this at a further level, we liquefy all this organic materials and dispose just liquids. This liquefying step of organic refuse increases decomposition by 20%.
- **Local Purchases:** we support local production in the islands by purchasing various types of vegetables, fruits, meats and other supplies. This business practice supports local farmers and eliminates the need of shipping fresh produce from the mainland, while effectively decreasing the risk of accidental introductions of harmful species in the Galápagos' environment.
- **Water Bottles:** for our guests' consumption of water, we motivate guests to use our refill stations in public areas. The use of fewer water bottles produces less solid waste.
- **Housekeeping Department / Cabins / Public Areas**

- **Towels & Linen:** onboard campaign for reduction of towel use and linen change, without sacrificing upscale standards. Amenity products include environmentally-friendly components.
- **Cleaning Agents:** all our cleaning products will be either biodegradable or will include environmentally-friendly components. All empty containers will be either reused or recycled. If they are considered garbage they will go to our plastic mill at Fundación Galápagos.
- **Faucet Fixtures:** fixtures include built-in aerators for efficiency in water consumption.
- **Indoor Lighting:** energy efficient lighting systems will be used throughout the vessel.

EXPEDITION

- **Natural History Lectures:** a trademark of ours has been our educational approach at this destination, where state-of-the-art equipment enhances natural history aspects, such as Geology, Oceanography, Evolution & Natural Selection, Conservation & Sustainability, and more. Our Expedition Staff will bring the destination alive by contributing with educational value to this trip.
- **Natural History Library:** as part of additional educational value, our library includes the most extensive selection of titles related to natural history and to Galápagos' subjects.
- **TV Monitor Screens:** as our way to minimize the use of paper in printed materials (i.e. printing of daily schedules for each cabin), we post everything in our closed circuit TV system, as well as in our bulletin boards. This initiative allows us to stop printing about 9,000 sheets of paper per year.
- **Guest Expedition Handbook:** our guest handbook includes natural history of the Galápagos, as well as islands' descriptions, wildlife checklists, etc. Guests are encouraged to take the handbook as a souvenir, but are welcome to return them to our Expedition Staff for reuse, if they wish to do so.
- **Selection of Naturalist Guides:** we strongly believe in the value of having the best Naturalists. They will not only interpret the destination well, but will share with guests their passion and understanding of the islands. By selecting the best Naturalists, we are assuring the best environmental interpretation.

- **Documenting the Expedition:** the use of land and underwater cameras allows our Expedition Staff to capture unique moments of the expedition, enhancing the educational value of such events. These can be replayed over and over, and can contribute to environmental interpretation of our natural resource.

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