

Galapagos  
Islands.com

# The Galapagos & Ecuador Travel Guide

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW TO PLAN  
YOUR GALAPAGOS AND ECUADOR TRIP

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Galapagos  
Travel Center

*Book direct with the experts*

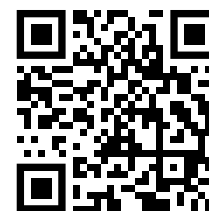


# The World's #1 Direct Seller of Galapagos Tours

Choose how you want to experience the Islands! Explore the Galapagos Islands with one of our amazing tours. Cruise, dive, island hop or stay in a hotel and explore nearby islands. Don't forget, Galapagos Travel Center is here to help you customize your perfect trip.

## ***Why Choose GalapagosIslands.com?***

- ✓ More than 20 Years of Experience
- ✓ 24/7 Customer Support
- ✓ #1 Online Seller of Galapagos Tours
- ✓ Expert Galapagos Trip Advisors
- ✓ Best Price Guaranteed
- ✓ Free Customized Tour Planning





# Welcome to the Galapagos

The enchanted archipelago is part of the country of Ecuador. It is renowned as an iconic tourist destination and with good reason! It features some of the world's most unique and endemic wildlife species and wonderful beaches that continually rank among the world's best.

This living laboratory will offer its visitors a spectacle to be admired. A trip to the Islands will be the journey of a lifetime. The archipelago is blessed with pleasant weather all year round, so there is no "best" time to visit.

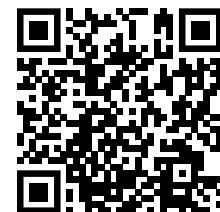






# Galapagos Wildlife

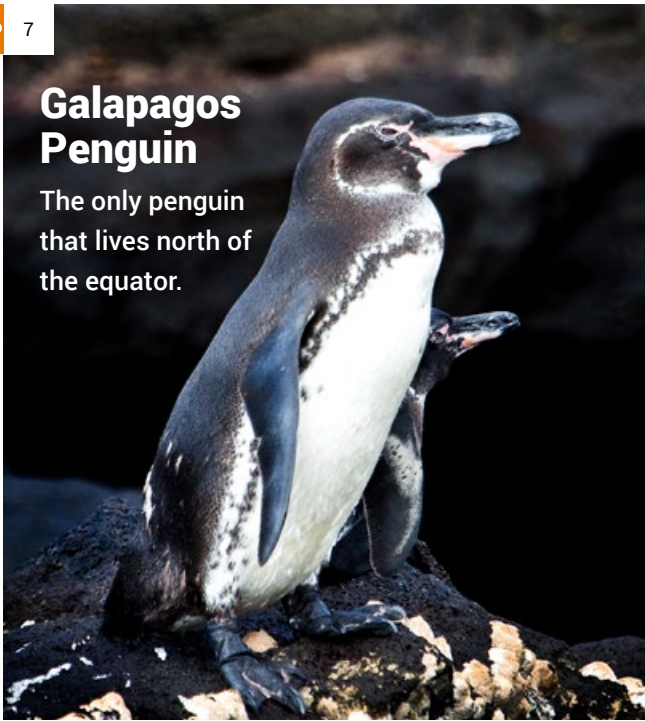
Many theories exist regarding the unique nature of the flora and fauna on the Galapagos Islands. A popularly held belief is that the original species that evolved into the unique Galapagos variety found their way to the islands on flotation rafts of vegetation and other waste and were carried to the island via wind and sea currents.





## Galapagos Penguin

The only penguin that lives north of the equator.



# TOP 5 GALAPAGOS ANIMALS

## Galapagos Giant Tortoise

The largest tortoise on the planet.



## Sea Lion

The most social and playful mammal in the Archipelago.



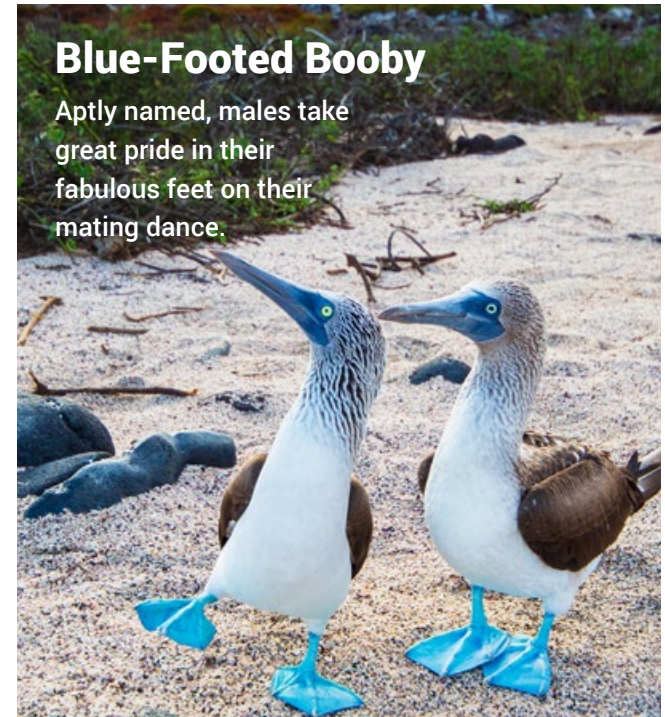
## Marine Iguana

Unique among modern lizards with the ability to forage in the sea.



## Blue-Footed Booby

Aptly named, males take great pride in their fabulous feet on their mating dance.





Waved Albatross



Blue-footed Booby



Pink Flamingo

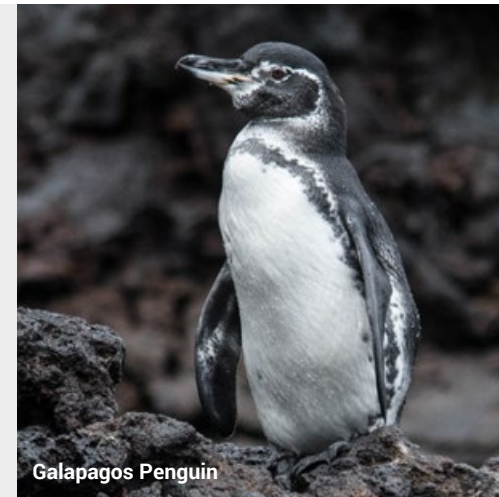


Frigatebird

# Galapagos Birds

Bird life in the Galapagos is much more abundant and varied simply for the fact that it was much easier for birds to reach the islands than reptiles or mammals.

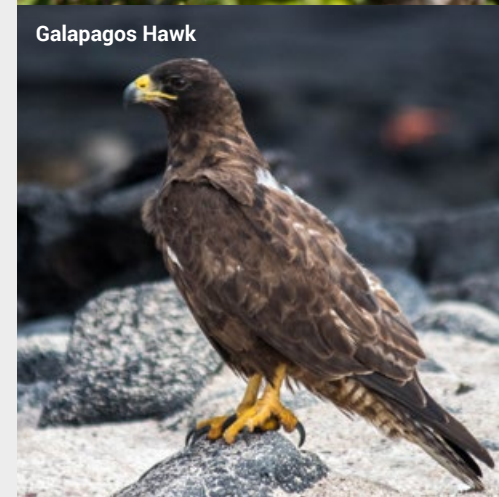
Birds could fly to and from the Galapagos relatively easy. Even smaller species such as finches could be carried out to the Islands by strong storms. Today, it's generally these smaller Galapagos species that have adapted enough to become endemic.



Galapagos Penguin



Galapagos Finch



Galapagos Hawk





Giant Tortoise

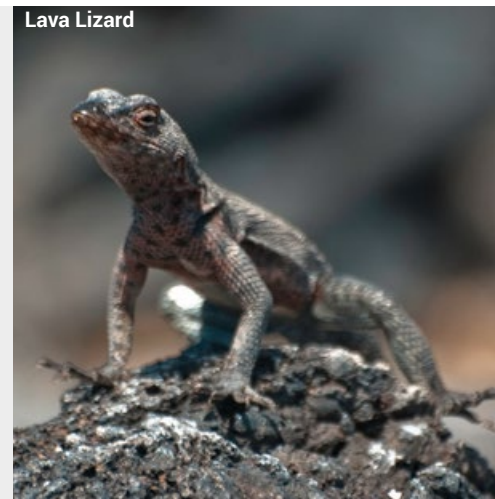
# Galapagos Reptiles

The ideal conditions of the Galapagos make it a perfect paradise for iguanas, lizards, and tortoises, among others.

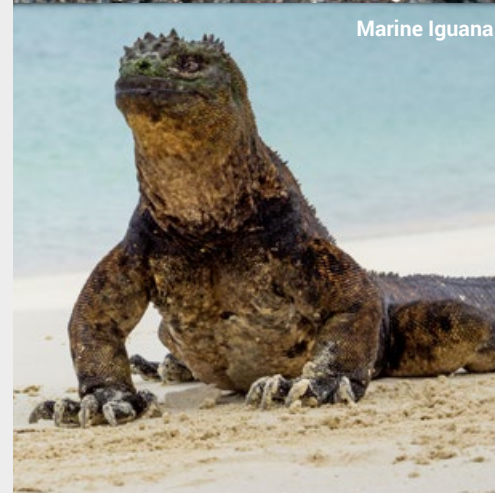
Reptiles historically have had an advantage over mammals when it came to arriving on the Islands. Once they arrived, reptiles soon began to thrive and adapt themselves to the available ecological niches.

Over the millennia, these reptiles have changed so much that they no longer resemble their ancestors who arrived at the Islands so long ago. The Galapagos reptiles have evolved in remarkable ways. Most reptiles found on the Islands are now considered endemic, meaning they are not found anywhere else in the world.

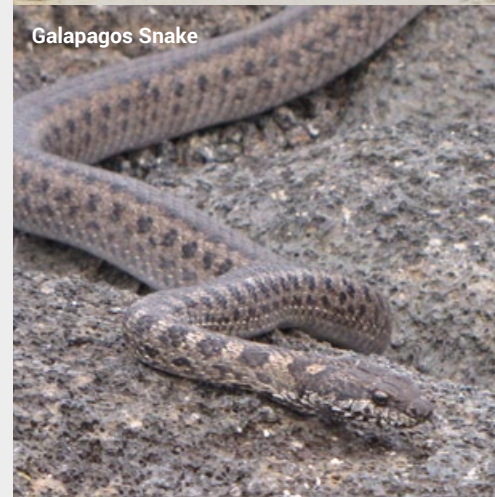
Lava Lizard



Marine Iguana

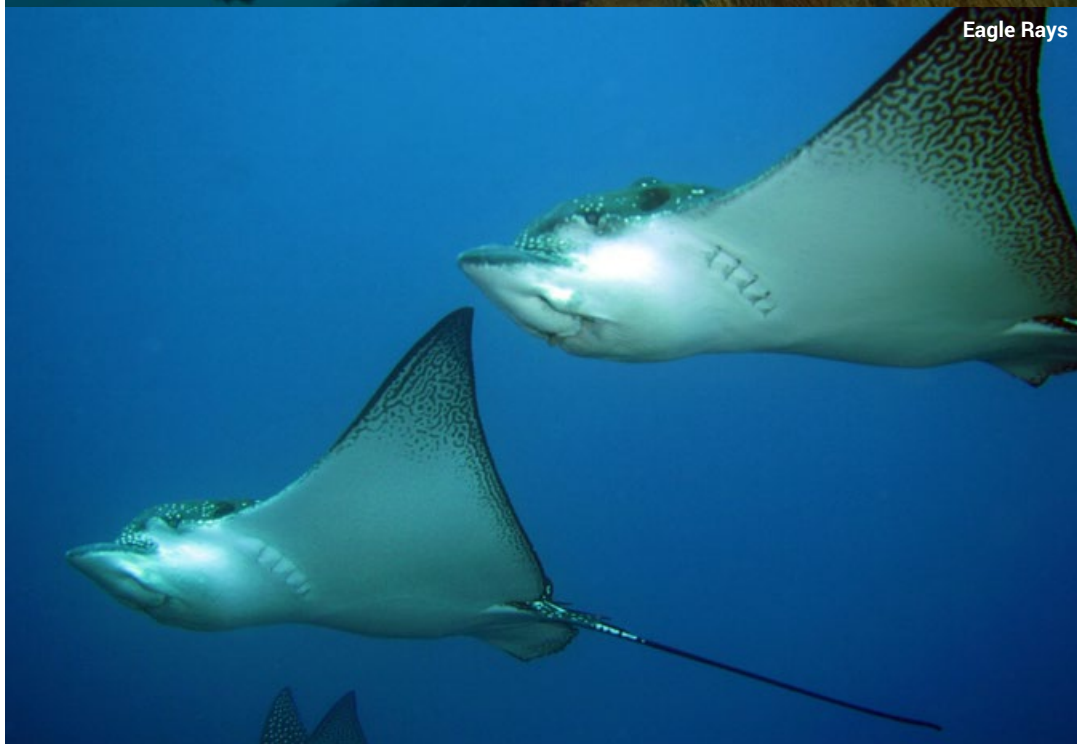


Galapagos Snake





Marine Turtle



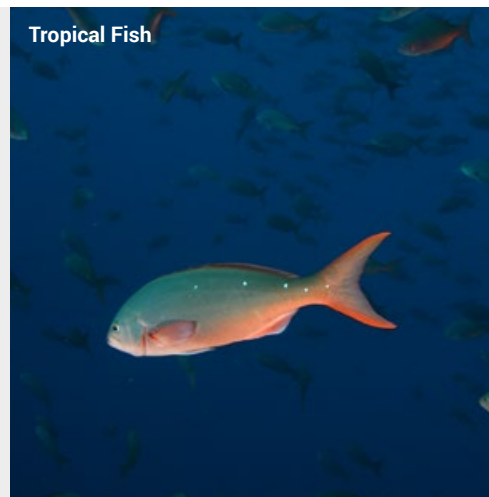
Eagle Rays

# Marine Wildlife

One of the highlights when visiting the Galapagos is the chance to strap on mask, jump in and snorkel with some amazing marine life!

The Galapagos Islands are a world class snorkeling and diving destination and every year thousands of visitors enjoy spending quality time with the local marine life.

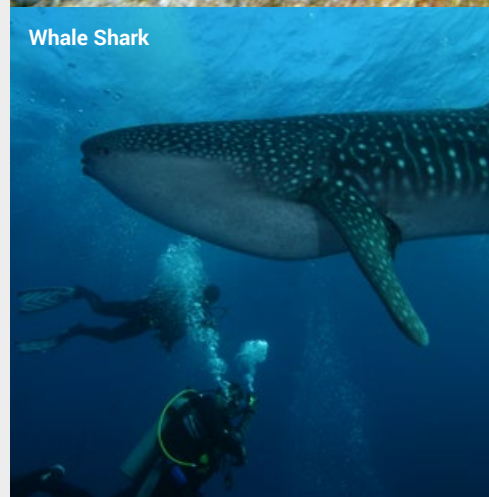
There are a variety of snorkeling sites on the Islands: from easy trips from the beach to some more advanced explorations with stronger currents.



Tropical Fish



Galapagos White-tipped Reef Shark



Whale Shark



Galapagos Sea Lion

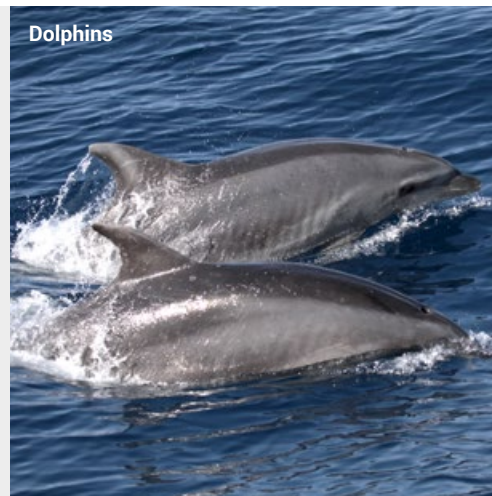


Humpback Whale

# Galapagos Mammals

The mammals that came to the Galapagos needed to adapt to their new, harsh environment to survive. Like mammals everywhere, the Galapagos species have cycles of mating, reproduction, migrating, hunting for food, etc. Mammals cannot fly so all of them got there by some other means.

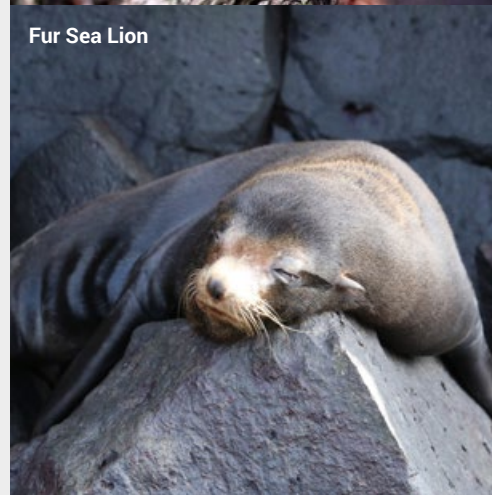
Living off the coast of South America, the modern-day sea lions are ancestors who were most likely brought over by a fierce storm where they have learned to adapt and thrive. Today, many other mammals live in the Galapagos such as goats, dogs, pigs, donkeys, and cows which were all brought by humans.



Dolphins



Galapagos Red Bat



Fur Sea Lion



# Galapagos Travel

All the tips and information you need for your Galapagos Islands vacation. From packing lists to finding the best time for you to visit and everything in between; you'll find everything you need for your perfect Galapagos getaway here.





# How to Get to the Islands

## International Flights

There are no direct international flights to the Galapagos. You must arrive in the cities of either Quito or Guayaquil to start your adventure. We suggest that clients arrive in the country 48 hours prior to your departure to avoid any kind of loss due to flight delays or bad weather.

Galapagos Travel Center does not sell international flights as you will be able to find an excellent deal directly on the internet.



## Galapagos Flights

It is recommended that passengers book their Galapagos flight together with their cruise to guarantee that they do not miss their cruise departure. Every cruise is operated with specific flights. Most flights that are used depart from Quito, stop in Guayaquil where you won't get off the plane, and continue to the Galapagos Islands.

Buying tickets separately does not ensure an on time arrival for the cruise departure and there is a fee for not buying flights with the cruise. In the case that flights are bought separately, the cruise operator cannot promise that they will wait for passengers to board who arrive late due to flight delays. This could result in extra costs to catch the cruise.



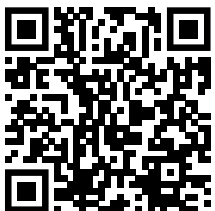
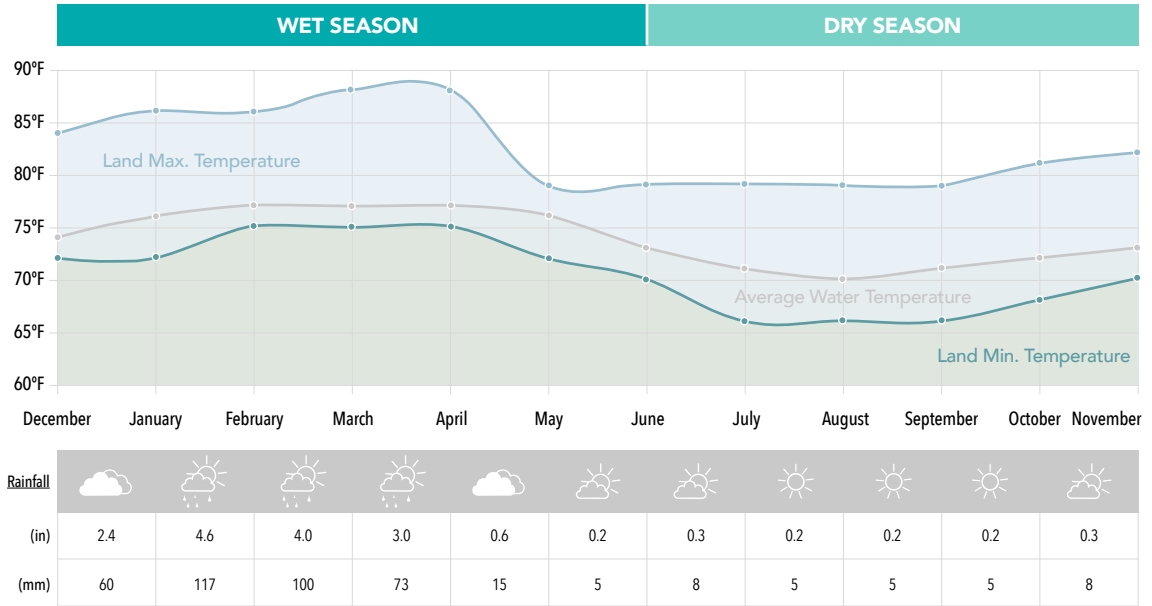


# When to Travel to the Galapagos

There is no “wrong” time to visit Galapagos: different times of the year have different things to see and do. The birds, tortoises and dazzling marine life are always there, waiting for their photos to be taken.

Its geographical location, right on the equator, makes the temperature variation minimum through the year.

## Galapagos Travel Seasons





## Galapagos Dry Season

From June until December, the southern trade winds bring the cooler Humboldt Current north towards the Islands. This means that the water is cooler, and a layer of high atmospheric mist pervades the island skies.

In effect, the highlands of the larger islands are kept green and lush, while the sea level islands and shorelines have little precipitation. Thus, June to December is generally called the “dry season” which is known for its blue skies and midday showers.

Due to the ideal water temperature during the season, it makes it the perfect time for diving as well as observing many different species of animals. Some animals known to be seen around the islands include giant tortoises, humpback whales, blue-footed boobies, cormorants, oystercatchers, lava lizards, Galapagos hawks, masked boobies, and SO MUCH MORE.



## Galapagos Wet Season

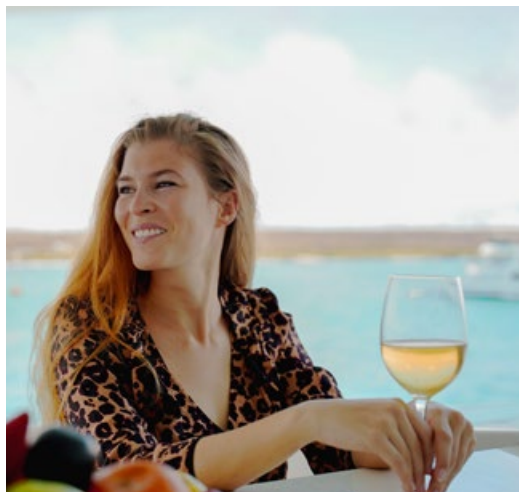
The time period between December and May is considered the “wet (warm) season.” During this warmer season, the Galapagos’ climate is more tropical with daily rain and cloudier skies. Also, the ocean temperature is warmer for swimming and snorkeling.

During this season the tourists may observe a large number of species around the islands such as marine iguanas, sea turtles, land iguanas, flamingos, white-cheeked pintails, masked boobies, marine iguanas, albatrosses, and blue-footed boobies.

Since the water is warmer, snorkeling is highly recommended during these months.



# When is the Best Time to Buy



The number one suggestion is to always try to buy early. There are a lot of people who want to visit the Galapagos National Park and space is limited.

Christmas and New Year's are the most popular times to travel to the Galapagos Islands. Most people who plan their trips for this time of year are planning their trips more than a year in advance, as these spaces are usually the first to go for the whole year.

During these holidays is a great time of year to go, as you have more free time with family and friends and the weather in the Galapagos is starting to get warmer. This is a great time to see tons of animals wandering around visitor sites and the land and water temperatures are perfect.

The summer months are also a very popular time for families (with kids) to visit the Galapagos.

During these months, life on the Islands is booming! Birds are nesting and are much more visible at visitor sites as well as migrating whales. Don't forget your binoculars!

So, we recommend the same planning and booking schedule for Christmas and New Years, but with a little more flexibility since the timeframe here is a little larger.

Work with our travel experts to get the most up-to-date information and to participate in any current discounts or promotions available.

There are usually good promotions for cruises in September which is considered to be the low season.


Having flexibility really broadens your options and you're more likely to score an exclusive Galapagos deal. If you're open to traveling when you can get a great deal, great news for you! Since the islands are located on the equator, there is animal activity year round and there's really not a bad time to visit the Galapagos Islands.


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Don't lose your spot! **CONTACT US** to start planning your trip now!





# Ecuador & Galapagos Facts


 **Language:** Spanish is the official language of Ecuador. Most of the hotel staff and boat crew also speak some of fluent English. Your guide(s) will also speak both English and Spanish.


 **Flights:** There are no direct flights to the Galapagos. No matter where you are flying from, you will need to book an international flight to either Guayaquil or to Quito, Ecuador. Reason being that the Islands are a protected National Park and there are flight regulations that must be upheld. The only two international airports in Ecuador are in these two cities.


 **Time zone:** Quito and Guayaquil are located in the Eastern Standard Time zone, and the Galapagos Islands are 1 hour behind.

 **Currency:** In 2000 Ecuador adopted the US dollar as its official currency. We suggest that you have sufficient cash on hand to pay. Do not bring any large bills including 50s and 100s with you as they are NOT accepted in most places throughout the Galapagos and mainland Ecuador and are very hard to exchange (even at banks).


 **Tips:** In Ecuador there is no established amount for tipping. However, based on our clients' experiences and if you think the service has been excellent, we recommend for tours; between US\$8 - US\$15 per person, per day. Usually, the crew will divide their tips equally amongst themselves plus any additional you'd like to give to the guide.


 **Electric outlets:** There are 110v (2 flat prongs, like the ones used in the US) on all ships and on the mainland. On some of the ships there are 220v in the social areas, but we recommend that you bring your own adapter just in case.


 **Gear:** Some boats provide onboard snorkeling gear, kayaking, and /or paddle boards. If you prefer to bring your own goggles, snorkeling gear, or wetsuits, you are welcome to do so.

 **Weather:** There are two seasons: December to May is warm and wet and June to December is cooler and dry. Annual rainfall in the lower region is 2-4 in. (60-100mm) and the air temperature varies between 69-84°F / 21-29°C. The Island's climate is determined by ocean currents; the convergence of three major oceanic currents brings an incredible mix of marine life to the Galapagos.

Despite being in the tropics, the Islands' micro-climate is curiously dry. During the cool season, the Humboldt Current brings relatively cold water, which produces thermal inversions that impede rainfall. During this time, a fine mist called "garua" is formed as cool, moist air just above the water, meeting a higher layer of air which is warmed by the hot sun.

 **Phone / Internet:** There is limited phone coverage in the Galapagos, but you can purchase a SIM card that will work in the main towns. Once you start sailing, cellphone reception will be very limited or nonexistent. Very few cruise options offer internet service. The telephone code for Ecuador is +593.

 **Alcoholic beverages:** On board the plane, passengers are allowed to take up to five liters (5 L) of alcohol with alcohol contents between 24% and 70% per person, as checked luggage. On board a cruise, the amount depends on the boat, however, most allow passengers to bring one (1) bottle of an alcoholic drink per cabin.

 **Physical requirements:** Trekking over rocky, uneven terrain can present physical challenges. Wet landings can also be tricky due to the motion of the waves. Snorkeling is one of the greatest activities to do in the Galapagos and if you don't have experience, don't worry! Your guide will be there to help.

Most activities on the cruises / tours are not demanding, however, all activities are optional. Travelers are not required to participate in any excursions and may choose to remain on the boat if they feel unable to participate or just want to relax instead.



# Galapagos Packing List



## Clothes

For the daytime in the Galapagos, you will most likely want to be in shorts and a loose comfortable t-shirt or tank top. A wide-brimmed or long-billed hat and a pair of sunglasses are essentials for protecting face, eyes, ears and neck from the bright and scorching equatorial sun. For the evenings on some boats, particularly cruise ships, dinner can be a bit more formal, so a dress shirt or a simple sun dress might be a good idea. Most boats do not have any sort of dress code, and your daytime clothes will be fine. Consider bringing only one or two pairs of light pants to the Galapagos. They will be too warm usually, but you might want them for the plane and perhaps at night to enjoy the ocean nights. Don't forget a light sweater or jacket so you can stay warm while enjoying the nightly stargazing.

You must pass through Quito which is also on the equator, but high in the mountains with a cooler climate. Arriving at the airport dressed for cooler weather is wise. It's good to have a waterproof jacket that can double as a raincoat on the Islands.

## Footwear

Without a doubt, Teva-style sandals are the most useful footwear you can bring to the island. They can be worn during dry or wet landing on the islands, protect your feet from the hot, harsh volcanic landscape and keep them cool. You might want the protection and support of tennis shoes or sneakers, but we would recommend that you bring your older broken-in pair than a new pair that will suffer the damage of saltwater, volcanic rock, and sand.

## For the Water

A swimsuit or two is ideal to bring-the sun will dry them quickly and they are great for lounging around on the decks. If you have your own snorkeling equipment, you are more than welcome to bring it with you. It's often better to bring your own that you are more comfortable with however, it is possible to rent from the local shops in Quito. For those that like to spend hours snorkeling and diving deep, you might want to consider a shorty wet suit for the deeper, cooler waters (18-23°C.).



## Photography

Say “Cheese!” The Galapagos is one large photo op after another, and you will return from your trip with photos that can never be replicated. For this reason, anticipate taking more photos than usual so we suggest that you bring an extra memory card. Frames will quickly fill with all the rarities, wildlife and of the crystal waters you could only dream of. However, if you run out of memory card space, getting more can be expensive or difficult. For those that have quality digital cameras, bringing a wide-angle/macro lens and a 70-210mm zoom lens is advisable.

The zoom lens will let you frame animals at any variety of distances and reduce the amount of camera equipment you bring to the Islands.

A polarizing filter will reduce the glare of the sunlight on the water and make the dolphins more visible as well as helping with sunset shots. If you do not have an underwater camera, (as most people do not), Kodak, Konica and Fujifilm all make disposable ones. They work surprisingly well and let you take photos of the sea lions you befriend or the sharks that make you look twice. In the case you want to bring all of your camera gear, while adding more bulky weight and worry; it also means that you will be able to capture some amazing moments. If you bring a tripod, make a lightweight, non-bulky one as you'll have to hike with it.

## Sunscreen

We list sunscreen as its own section because it's so important. The sun hits the equator hard and can burn you before you know it. We recommend using a waterproof sunscreen with a minimum of SPF 45. Don't forget the tops of your feet! A bad sunburn can be debilitating, and you wouldn't want to miss out on all the fun!

## Accessories

Some other items that you might want to consider bringing are binoculars (7 x 25 is recommended) as well as extra camera batteries or chargers.

## Money

The official currency on mainland Ecuador and in the Galapagos is the US dollar. It would be wise to bring some dollars in cash with you prior to your departure. You will want to have some cash on you while you are on board or in port to buy souvenirs or a refreshing beverage. Both airports in Quito and Guayaquil, as well as the major hotels will have money exchange facilities. There is a bank in Puerto Ayora (a typical stop on your itinerary) that can exchange traveler's checks, give cash advances on most credit cards, and ATM cardholders can take cash out. Carry your money, credit cards and such in a money pouch close to your body.

## Medication

First Aid kits are provided on all boats, but may not be complete or provide for those with special needs. Always travel with all prescription medicines that you may need. Special medicines you should consider bringing along are motion sickness medication (if your sea legs don't develop quickly), and aloe-vera gel (in case you forget our advice about sunscreen). Quito is at 9,500 feet, (3,000m) and some people experience symptoms of altitude sickness. Most cases can be remedied by drinking lots of water, getting lots of rest (which can be difficult when travelling), taking aspirin, or if you experience symptoms of mild headaches, DIAMOX, a drug that increases oxygen profussion is readily available in Quito pharmacies. If you experience severe headaches or respiratory problems, consult a doctor immediately.

## What Else?

Think about what other items you would consider bringing on board a boat trip to equatorial islands for a week. Remember that you are on an isolated boat, on isolated islands, 600 miles from the nearest mainland. So, if there is something you cannot do without and /or are unsure if you can find it here, bring it.

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For more information on preparing your Galapagos trip, [contact us](#).



# Galapagos Tours

Unsure of which tour is best for you? For your next vacation, Galapagos Travel Center offers you a great variety of tour options to the Islands as well as on the mainland of Ecuador.



# Cruise or Hotel Based Tour?

**Cruises** are a great option for those who desire the full Galapagos experience and who have relatively few physical limitations. Most cruises offer very impressive itineraries, visiting not only major sites but also remote islets in the archipelago. Because most of the navigation takes place at night, you are able to spend more time visiting the islands and doing activities during the day.

On a cruise, a naturalist guide leads all of your tours and an experienced crew attends to your needs onboard. As well as providing a place to relax on deck and enjoy the sunset with a cocktail, most cruises also offer evening presentations about conservation, cultural history, or important Galapagos information. If you are prone to seasickness, larger cruises tend to be the most stable, followed by catamarans, and finally other smaller vessels.



**Hotel-based tours** offer four options: land based, diving, multisport or island hopping. Located on the islands of Florena, Isabela, San Cristobal and Santa Cruz are multiple accommodations, from budget friendly to luxury hotels and everything in between. Staying on one of the Islands provides the opportunity to spend time in ports, browse the shops and eat out at one of the many restaurants as well as get to know the local communities.

The hotel-based options also offer a wide range of activities to suit all interests, thus allowing visitors the flexibility to build their own schedule. However, as only four of the major islands have hotels, programs and visiting options may be limited, as day visits to some islands may be impractical due to navigation time to and from the nearest hosting island.





# Galapagos Cruises

Cruises are the most popular choice to tour the Galapagos Islands. Galapagos tour cruises range from economy class to luxury class yachts.

Galapagos cruise availability can change quickly due to the great demand to visit the islands and limited supply of yacht spaces. If you have a particular interest in any option once your travel agent sends you these, and if you need more time before making a final decision, please let your travel agent know so we can temporarily hold your preferred spaces for a few days so you don't lose them.

**Contact us** to plan your trip now!



# Natural Paradise



# Galapagos Sea Star



A luxury yacht customized to carry adventures in comfort and safety through the Galapagos. Featuring standard cabins with windows, a spacious sundeck, large suites, and private balconies (available to the upper deck suites only).

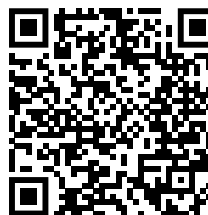
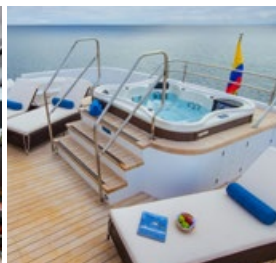
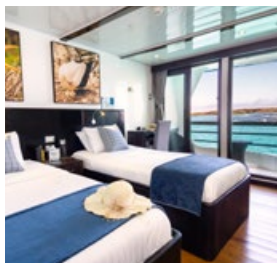
- ✓ *Excellent Itineraries*
- ✓ *Large Suites*
- ✓ *Private Balconies*
- ✓ *Spacious Sundeck*

<b>Year built:</b>	2016
<b>Type:</b>	Motor Yacht
<b>Category:</b>	Luxury
<b>Length:</b>	111ft (34m)
<b>Beam:</b>	26ft (8m)
<b>Capacity:</b>	16 passengers
<b>Accom.:</b>	Lower Deck: 2 Standard Main Deck: 1 Junior Suite, 2 Standard Upper Deck: 2 Junior Suites, 2 Suites

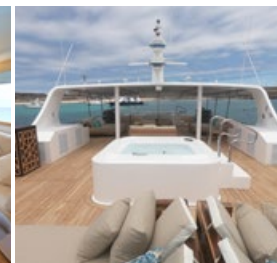
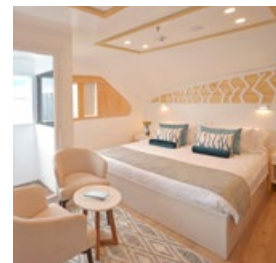
Eco-friendly, spacious, and comfortable! This yacht offers spacious suites equipped with panoramic windows, individual attention, and excellent service with a high level of environmental and social responsibility.

- ✓ *Interconnected cabins*
- ✓ *Kayaks on board*
- ✓ *Glass bottom boat*
- ✓ *Ecofriendly amenities*

<b>Year built:</b>	2011
<b>Type:</b>	Motor Yacht
<b>Category:</b>	Luxury
<b>Length:</b>	42m
<b>Beam:</b>	9m
<b>Capacity:</b>	16 passengers
<b>Accom.:</b>	Main Deck: 4 Balcony Suites Upper Deck: 1 Sea Star Suite, 3 Galapagos Suites



[galapagosislands.com/cruises/](http://galapagosislands.com/cruises/)



[galapagosislands.com/cruises/](http://galapagosislands.com/cruises/)



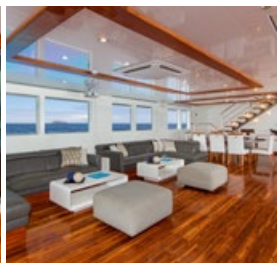
# Infinity



Comfortable yacht with ample cabins, all with a balcony. Spacious social areas, bar, lounge, jacuzzi, al fresco dining and sun deck.

- ✓ *Huge Staterooms*
- ✓ *2 National Park Guides*
- ✓ *Private Balconies*
- ✓ *Interconnected Cabins*

<b>Year built:</b>	2018
<b>Type:</b>	Motor Yacht
<b>Category:</b>	Luxury
<b>Length:</b>	161ft (49m)
<b>Beam:</b>	33ft (10m)
<b>Capacity:</b>	20 passengers
<b>Accom.:</b>	Main Deck: 6 Staterooms  Upper Deck: 2 Staterooms, 2 Suites, 1 Standard



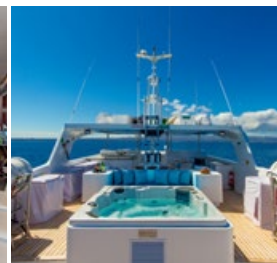
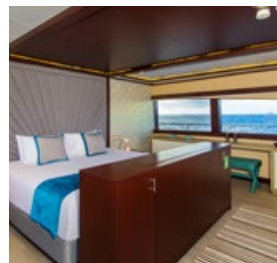
# Grand Majestic



This sporty yacht is known for its outstanding service and attention to detail due to its dedicated staff and crew. Considered to be the fastest yacht in the Galapagos making you travel faster from island to island!

- ✓ *Ideal for private charters*
- ✓ *Modern Galapagos charter yacht*
- ✓ *The fastest in the Islands*
- ✓ *Large master suite available*

<b>Year built:</b>	2018
<b>Type:</b>	Motor Yacht
<b>Category:</b>	Luxury
<b>Length:</b>	127' (39 m)
<b>Beam:</b>	24' (7.30 m)
<b>Capacity:</b>	16 passengers
<b>Accom.:</b>	Lower Deck: 6 Staterooms  Main Deck: 1 State-room, 1 Master Suite with his and her bathrooms







# Cormorant II



# Galapagos Legend



The Cormorant II is a brand new luxury mega-catamaran equipped with ample cabins and the most sophisticated design to provide the smoothest of sailings.

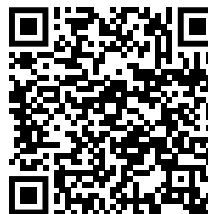
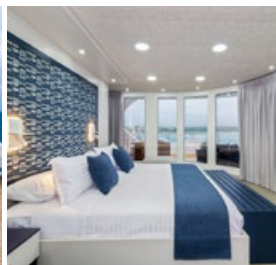
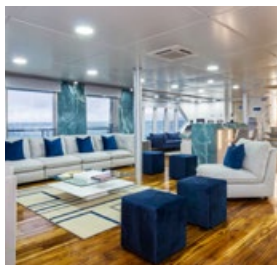
- ✓ *Newest Catamaran in Galapagos*
- ✓ *Premium Suites w/private jacuzzies*
- ✓ *Onboard internet service*
- ✓ *All suites with private balconies*
- ✓ *Gym/Spa onboard*

<b>Year built:</b>	2023
<b>Type:</b>	Catamaran
<b>Category:</b>	Luxury
<b>Length:</b>	148ft (45m)
<b>Beam:</b>	44ft (14m)
<b>Capacity:</b>	16 passengers
<b>Accom.:</b>	Main Deck: 4 Interconnected Suites Upper Deck: 2 Premium Suites and 3 Suites

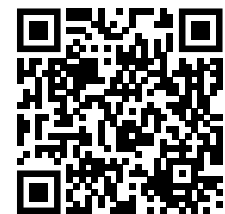
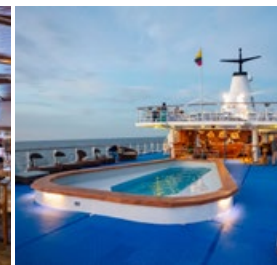
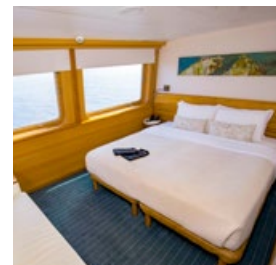
Experience on board this comfortable and luxurious expedition ship. Offering high-quality services and various activities in its spacious open decks and a pool. Internet available for additional charge.

- ✓ *Excellence and quality*
- ✓ *Exceptional cuisine*
- ✓ *Panoramic windows*
- ✓ *Six multilingual naturalist guides*

<b>Year built:</b>	2002
<b>Type:</b>	Cruise Ship
<b>Category:</b>	Luxury
<b>Length:</b>	301ft (92m)
<b>Beam:</b>	47ft (15m)
<b>Capacity:</b>	100 passengers
<b>Accom.:</b>	Earth Deck: 28 suites, 5 standard Moon Deck: 10 suites Sea Deck: 5 Standard Plus Sky Deck: 8 suites



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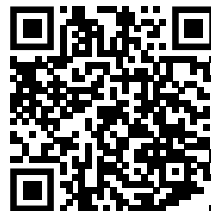
## Calipso



The Calipso allows you to explore the Islands with both the naturalist and diving itineraries. Calipso boasts a spacious lounge, dining area, a fantastic dive deck, a sundeck with a jacuzzi and 10 comfortable cabins.

- ✓ *Naturalist and Diving Cruises*
- ✓ *Brand new and beautiful cabins*
- ✓ *Recently Refurbished*
- ✓ *Excellent Itineraries*

<b>Year built:</b>	1991, rebuild 2019
<b>Type:</b>	Motor Yacht
<b>Category:</b>	First Class
<b>Length:</b>	115 ft / 35 m
<b>Beam:</b>	24 ft / 7.3 m
<b>Capacity:</b>	16 passengers
<b>Accom.:</b>	Main Deck: 2 Cabins (Twin beds) Upper Deck: 6 Cabins (Twin beds)



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## Eco Galaxy



Enjoy the best that the Galapagos have to offer, with unmatched high quality service, delicious food, knowledgeable and helpful guides and professional crew.

- ✓ *Built based on ecological parameters.*
- ✓ *Safe deposit box*
- ✓ *Educational experiences*

<b>Year built:</b>	2014
<b>Type:</b>	Catamaran
<b>Category:</b>	First Class
<b>Length:</b>	27m
<b>Beam:</b>	10.50m
<b>Capacity:</b>	16 passengers
<b>Accom.:</b>	Main Deck: 4 Standard Upper Deck: 4 Standard



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# Coral I & II



The sister ships Coral I and Coral II are the perfect combination of classic beauty and exquisite style. Every cabin features handsome wood decoration, air-conditioning, a private bathroom and safe deposit box.

- ✓ Fully air conditioned rooms
- ✓ 3 Large sundecks and jacuzzi
- ✓ Knowledgeable naturalist guide
- ✓ Beautiful, handcrafted woodwork

<b>Year built:</b>	2004
<b>Type:</b>	Motor Yacht
<b>Category:</b>	First Class
<b>Length:</b>	131ft (40m)
<b>Beam:</b>	28ft (9m)
<b>Capacity:</b>	36 passengers
<b>Accom.:</b>	Earth Deck: 2 Junior Suites Sky Deck: 6 Junior Suites Sea Deck: 2 Standard, 8 Standard Plus

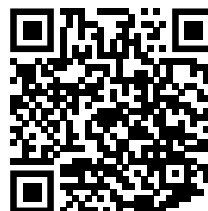
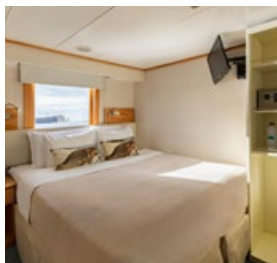
# Monserrat



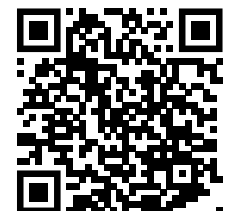
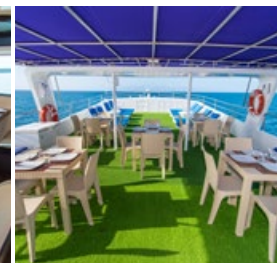
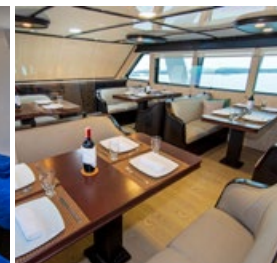
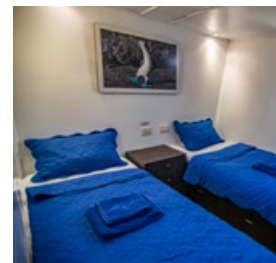
Monserrat was designed to complement an unforgettable excursion to the Galapagos. Guests are comfortably accommodated in eight, fully air conditioned, double cabins with low beds and private bathrooms.

- ✓ Fully air-conditioned
- ✓ Elegant attention to detail
- ✓ Multilingual naturalist guide
- ✓ Generous social areas

<b>Year built:</b>	2005
<b>Type:</b>	Motor Yacht
<b>Category:</b>	First Class
<b>Length:</b>	91ft (28m)
<b>Beam:</b>	22ft ( 7m)
<b>Capacity:</b>	20 passengers
<b>Accom.:</b>	Main Deck: 4 Standard Upper Deck: 6 Standard



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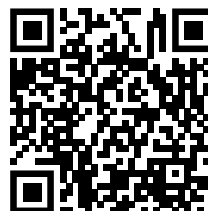
# Bonita



This yacht accommodates 16 guests and features three decks of spacious staterooms. Quarters include ten handsomely decorated double cabins; each furnished with two twin beds or one double bed.

- ✓ *Adventurous activities*
- ✓ *The best features of her class*
- ✓ *Triple cabin accommodation*
- ✓ *Totally renewed in 2019*

<b>Year built:</b>	1991
<b>Type:</b>	Motor Yacht
<b>Category:</b>	Mid-range
<b>Length:</b>	83 ft (25 m)
<b>Beam:</b>	22 ft (6 m)
<b>Capacity:</b>	16 passengers
<b>Accom.:</b>	Lower Deck: 4 Standard Main Deck: 2 Standard Upper Deck: 4 Standard



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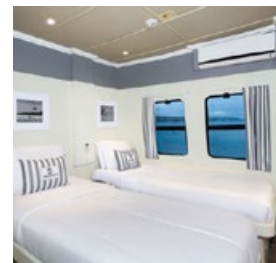
# Archipell I



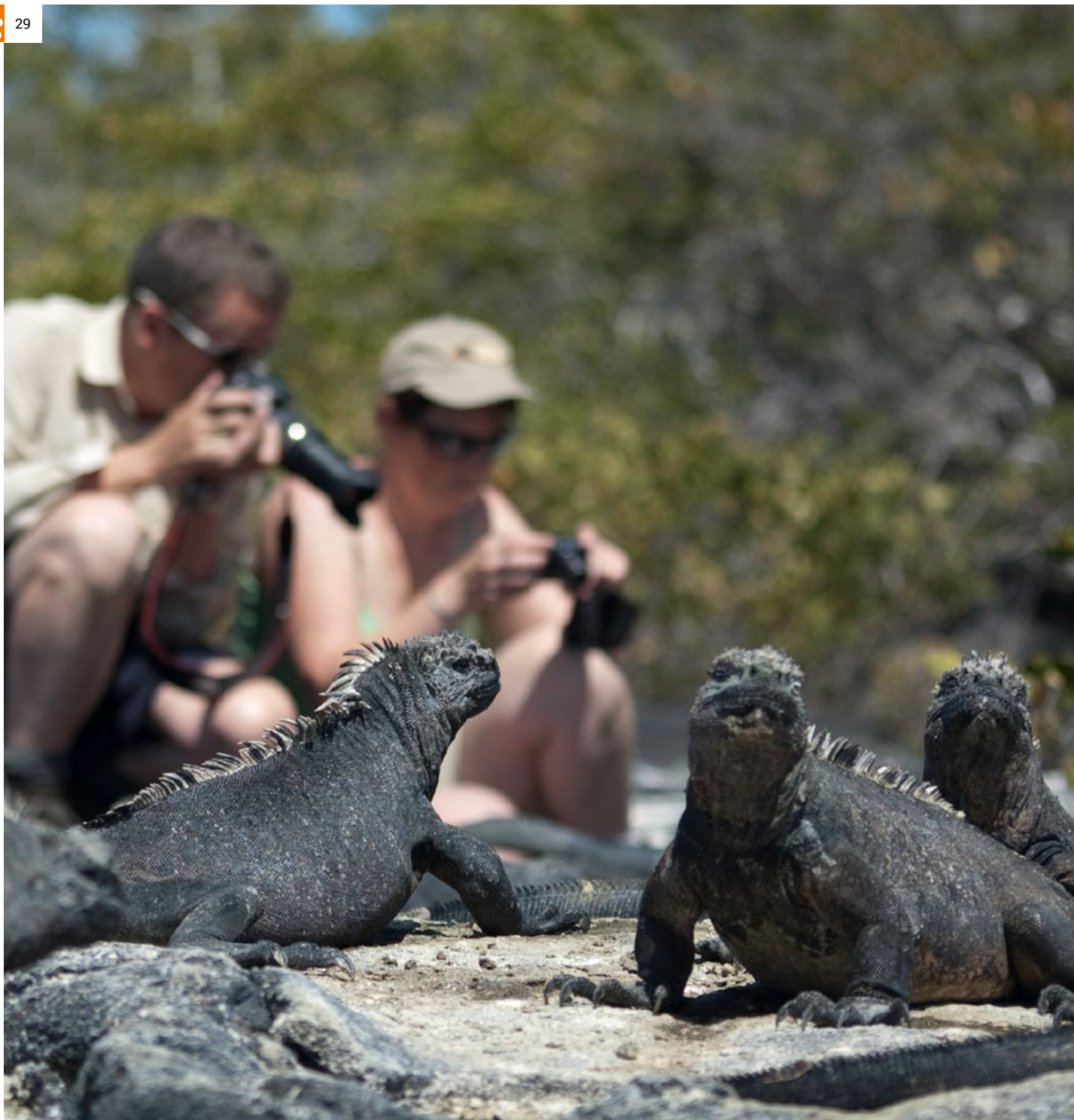
The stability and speed of the Archipell I make for a fast yet comfortable ride that makes it a perfect partner for the adventure of discovering the Galapagos Islands.

- ✓ *Spacious cabins with lower berths*
- ✓ *Private facilities*
- ✓ *Intimate atmosphere*
- ✓ *Continuous entertainment*
- ✓ *International standard service*

<b>Year built:</b>	2005
<b>Type:</b>	Catamaran
<b>Category:</b>	Mid-range
<b>Length:</b>	88ft (27m)
<b>Beam:</b>	36ft (11m)
<b>Capacity:</b>	16 passengers
<b>Accom.:</b>	Main Deck: 8 Standard cabins



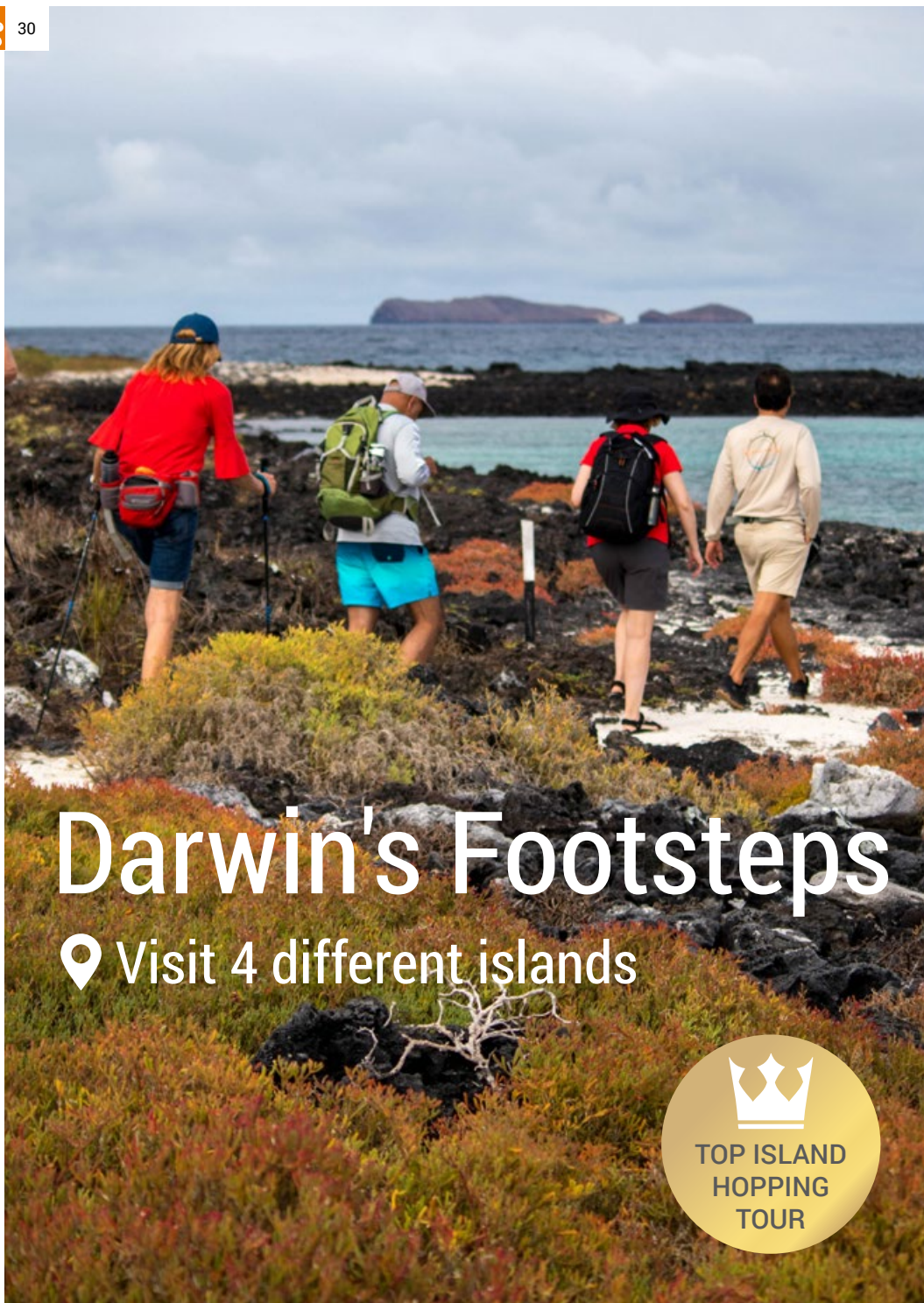
[galapagosislands.com/cruises/](http://galapagosislands.com/cruises/)



# Galapagos Land-Based Tours

Interested in an island-hopping adventure or an active multisport expedition? Check out the packages we offer and search hotels by category or by island. Not sure which package suits you? Inquire with our trip advisors for a tailor-made itinerary suiting your specific needs.





# Darwin's Footsteps

📍 Visit 4 different islands



## ITINERARY

DAY 1	AM	<b>Baltra Island:</b> Transfer to airport then to the hotel in Santa Cruz.
	PM	<b>Santa Cruz Island:</b> Tortuga Bay: the white-sand beach gets its name from the black sea turtles that lay their eggs here. Other species to be seen include white-tip sharks and marine iguanas. The salt lagoon behind the mangroves is often frequented by flamingos. The site is excellent for bird watching and for enjoying a relaxing swim.
DAY 2	AM	<b>Santa Cruz Island:</b> The Highlands: a lush and beautiful, deep green area that is dominated by the Scalesia trees. Contrasting this beauty are the underground, half-mile long lava tubes that give a surreal experience to all who come. Highlights: Lava tunnels, wild turtles, tortoises breeding center. <b>Santa Cruz Island:</b> Cerro Mesa provides an impressive view of the archipelago. It is an excellent location to observe numerous endemic plants as well as up to 7 species of finch and the vermilion flycatcher.
	PM	<b>Santa Cruz Island:</b> Garrapatero Beach is a gorgeous, sandy beach with pristine waters surrounded by mangroves. A freshwater lake behind the beach is home to flamingos, herons, stilts and other shore birds. The beautiful turquoise waters provide a good opportunity for swimming and snorkeling.
DAY 3	<i>Day tour by yacht to one of the following destinations: *</i>	
	AM/PM	<b>South Plaza Island:</b> Small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colorful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is the Sesuvium. <b>North Seymour Island:</b> Sea lions, blue-footed boobies and magnificent frigatebirds are abundant on North Seymour Island. The island was formed by a series of submarine lavas containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone. <b>Santa Fe Island:</b> Home to the small picturesque bay and anchorage on the island's northeast coast. The bay has two visitor trails; one leading to a scenic viewpoint atop a cliff, and the other spanning from a small beach to a tall prickly pear cactus forest. <b>Bartholomew Island:</b> There's more to it than what's on the surface. Look below and discover a whole other world with various types of fish, turtles and other amazing sea life. Don't forget to check out the cool lava and rock formations too!
DAY 4	AM/PM	<i>Day tour by yacht to one of the following destinations: *</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Plaza Island</li> <li>• North Seymour Island</li> <li>• Santa Fe Island</li> <li>• Bartholomew Island</li> </ul>



DAY 5	AM	<p><b>Santa Cruz Island:</b> Charles Darwin Station / Tortoise Breeding Center</p> <p>The Charles Darwin Research Station is home to tortoises. Sub-species of tortoises interact with one another and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans, stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years old and strong enough to survive on their own.</p> <p>The Fausto Llerena Tortoise Center, a long-term program run jointly by the Galapagos National Park Directorate and the Charles Darwin Foundation, began in 1965 to save the giant tortoise population on Pinzon.</p> <p>At the Tortoise Center, visitors can observe a variety of tortoises, including hatchlings, juveniles, and full-grown individuals.</p>
	PM	<p><i>Transfer to Isabela Island via speed boat</i></p> <p><b>Isabela Island:</b> Flamingos Lake houses an impressive variety of costal and sea birds. Here, visitors can also find the largest concentration of flamingos on the Galapagos.</p>
	AM	<p><b>Isabela Island:</b> The Sierra Negra Volcano boasts the largest basaltic caldera in the Galapagos at 9 x 10 km! The site offers impressive views and the opportunity to observe up to 7 different species of finches and a rich display of vegetation.</p>
DAY 6	PM	<p><b>Isabela Island:</b> Concha de Perla: The bay's calm, shallow, and clear waters are ideal for observing the incredible array of marine life. Visitors can swim and snorkel alongside tropical fish, sea lions, penguins and turtles and it is also possible to observe up to 20 bird species.</p>
	AM	<p><b>Isabela Island:</b> The Wall of Tears: a penal colony hosted prisoners who were forced to build this wall, stone by stone, in isolation.</p> <p>This now historical site (El Muro de las Lágrimas), towering at 65 feet (25m) high, took the lives of thousands during its construction. Locals claim to hear cries emanating from the heavy energy surrounding the site.</p>
DAY 7	AM	<p><b>Isabela Island:</b> The Wetlands consist of lagoons, swamps, and mangroves and are home to a variety of unique bird species such as common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintails, and gallinules. The Wetlands can be visited on foot via a path that winds through the swamps.</p>
	PM	<p><b>Isabela Island:</b> Las Tintoreras is home to a great variety of wildlife. Its turquoise, crystalline waters are inhabited by white-tipped reef sharks, Galapagos penguins, marine turtles and sea lions.</p> <p>One of its beaches, surrounded by mangroves, is one of the few sites where marine iguanas can reproduce successfully.</p>
DAY 8	AM	<p><i>Transfer by speed boat from Isabela Island</i></p> <p>Transfer to the Baltra Airport</p>



\* Subject to availability

**Contact us** to start planning your trip now!



# Tour Extensions

Besides Galapagos cruises, we also offer a full range of travel experiences in the region. Ecuador is a very rich country, and we encourage you to visit other magical places such as the Amazon, the Cloud Forest near Mindo, the Andes Mountains and the coast in extensions that can be done before or after your Galapagos cruise!

Let our travel experts help you plan your tailor-made expedition to the highlights of South America.



Peru



South America



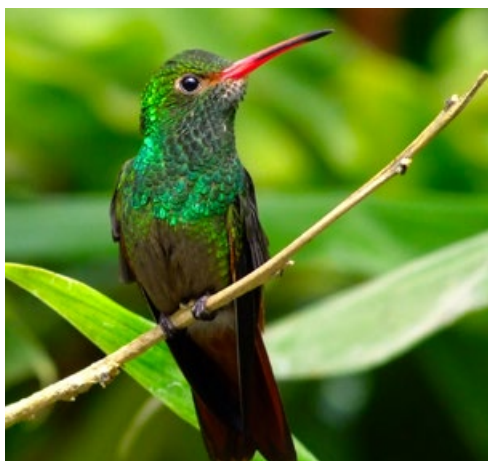


# Best Day Tours from Quito



## Colonial City tour + “Middle of the World” Full Day Tour

Starting in the old town of Quito, this tour includes visits to colonial churches and the Virgin of Quito located on the top of Panecillo Hill. Afterwards, you will be taken 40 miles north of Quito to the “Middle of the World” monument and Intiñan Solar Museum, which is both entertaining and educational.



## Mindo Cloud Forest Full Day Tour

100 miles from Quito on the western slope of the Andean Mountains, you can find the last remains of the Choco Cloud Forest. Mindo is a perfect place for seeing butterflies, bird-watching, and visiting the artisan chocolate factory.



## Cotopaxi Full Day Tour

This full day Cotopaxi tour takes you through the Andean mountain range known as the “Avenue of Volcanoes”. You will visit Cotopaxi National Park and continue to admire the scenery of the Andes at Limpiopungo Lake.



## Avenue of the Volcanoes & Cuenca

Day	Activity	Overnight	Meals	Highlights
1	Quito-Cotopaxi National Park	Riobamba	L	Limpiopungo Lake Cotopaxi National Park
2	Riobamba-Ingapirca-Cuenca	Cuenca	B-L	Chimborazo Reserve (optional visit) Ingapirca archaeological site
3	Tour of Cuenca	Cuenca	B-L	Old town Panama hat factory
4	Transfer out / Flight to Quito or Guayaquil	N/A	B	Transfer in at arrival

**N/A:** Not Available; **B:** Breakfast; **BL:** Box Lunch; **L:** Lunch; **D:** Dinner

\* Price per person based on 2 guests

\*\* Per person based on 2 guests hosted in first class hotels





## Kontiki Wayra Cruise



### Ecuador Coast Cruise Extension

Come explore and experience costal Ecuador at your own pace on this luxury yacht.

- ✓ Visit pristine beaches & ecological reserves
- ✓ All meals, beverages and snacks included
- ✓ Two expert naturalist guides
- ✓ Jacuzzi, fitness center, sunbeds



[galapagosislands.com/ecuador/hotels/kontiki-coast-cruise/](https://galapagosislands.com/ecuador/hotels/kontiki-coast-cruise/)



## La Selva Amazon Ecolodge



### Amazon Jungle Extension

The perfect opportunity to experience the culture and wildlife of the Amazon Jungle.

- ✓ Canoe rides
- ✓ Kichwa community visit
- ✓ Amazon observation tower
- ✓ Professional local guides



[galapagosislands.com/ecuador/hotels/amazon-jungle/](https://galapagosislands.com/ecuador/hotels/amazon-jungle/)



# Peru Tour Extension



## Lima, Cuzco and Machu Picchu Tour

Day	Location	Activity
1	LIMA	Meet on arrival at the airport and transfer to selected hotel. Overnight
2	LIMA/ CUZCO	Breakfast. Transfer to the airport for flight to Cuzco. Upon arrival, meet and transfer to the selected hotel. Afternoon tour of the city including the best of Cuzco: the Koricancha Temple and the Cathedral with its magnificent chapels, altars and paintings from the Cuzquenian School. Tour includes the surrounding ruins: The Fortress of Sacsayhuaman, the Inca Bath of Tambomachay, Puca Pukara and the Amphitheatre of Kenko (Private services). Overnight.
3	CUZCO / MACHU PICCHU / CUZCO	Breakfast 06:00 Early transfer to the train station in Poroy (20 minutes) 07:35 Departure by Vistadome train ride across the Andes to Aguas Calientes (2400 m / 7500 ft) at the foot of the mountains. 10:52 Arrival and short transportation to the entrance of the ruins where the guided tour of the Lost City will start. (Local guide: 5 hrs) Buffet lunch at Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge Restaurant. 17:23 Take the Vistadome train back to Poroy train station. 20:52 Arrival and transfer to your hotel (20minutes). Overnight
4	CUZCO/ LIMA/OUT	Breakfast. Transfer to the airport for flight back to Lima. Arrival and connection with international flight.

\*Price per person in double basis First Class hotels.

Request your travel agent for additional transfers to/from airport and hotel nights in Ecuador or Peru

**Contact us** to start planning your trip now!



# Ecuador, Galapagos & Peru Travel Requirements

## 1. Passport:

Please note that you must bring your original passport with you, a photo copy is not accepted. In order to avoid any hassle make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after the date you will leave Ecuador.

## 2. COVID related entry requirements:

### ECUADOR AND GALAPAGOS ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- All passengers over 3 years old must present a vaccination certificate with the complete doses (the last dose should have been received at least 14 days prior to the arrival) OR a negative RT-PCR/antigen test taken a maximum of 72 hours before boarding your Ecuador and your Galapagos flight.
- To enter Ecuador, all travelers need a passport that is valid for at least six months.
- Travel and Health insurance are mandatory.

\*Passenger is solely responsible for complying with all travel requirements.

## 3. Visas:

It is not necessary for US, UK and most other European citizens travelling to Ecuador or Peru to have a visa. Please verify with your embassy and consulate if you need a visa to come to Ecuador or Peru. If you are not a citizen of the countries listed above, please check with your local authorities regarding documents required for your entry.

## 4. Travel insurance:

Mandatory, as it will protect you against unforeseen problems with your flight connections and the possibility of missing your cruise/tour.

\*Travel insurance with Covid, or CFAR (cancel for any reason) coverage is strongly recommended.

## 5. Health Insurance:

Since health insurance is mandatory from your country of residence prior to your departure. We recommend a “cancel for any reason” (CFAR) type of insurance.

## Peru entry requirements:

- You will need to present an original passport (valid for at least 6 months).
- All international passengers must present the COVID-19 vaccination card with the complete doses only (final dose must have been taken at least 14 days before traveling).
- For tourists 40 years and older, you must have 2 doses plus a booster shot (a total of 3 doses).
- Present the health form which must be filled out per passenger. <https://djsaludviajero.minsa.gob.pe/dj-salud/>
- Travelers must have health insurance against COVID-19 or any other type of pandemic.
- Use of a mask is mandatory in any public or open space. Additionally, use of a face shield is required for train rides. If clients wear a KN95 mask, you will only need one (1) mask.

\*Passenger is solely responsible for complying with all travel requirements.



# Terms & Conditions



## Payment Policy

A 30% deposit is required to confirm your reservation. The remaining balance (70%) is required 90 days prior to the departure date. In the event that you book your trip within 90 days of the departure, payment in full is required for confirmation.

You should receive confirmations with every payment you make. Your trip advisor will also send you a pre-trip information pack containing useful information to help prepare yourself for your trip. Everything from the details of your arrival into Ecuador, who you will meet, transfers to hotels, and more.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Payment policies regarding cruises may change according to each boat operator. Please contact your trip advisor for specific cruise policies.

## Cancellation Policy

- If a cancellation is received more than 60 days prior to the tour departure date a penalty of 30% of the payment will be retained as a cancellation fee.
- For cancellations less than 60 days prior to the cruise departure date, the full amount of the cruise is charged with no refund.
- Cancellation penalties for land services that involve guides, hotel or third-party reservations will be evaluated depending on the policy of each service provider.
- **TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE:** Galapagos Travel Center recommends looking at options for trip cancellation insurance. If you have questions about such insurance, please contact a trip advisor who can assist you in deciding on the right provider.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Cancelling policies regarding cruises may change according to each boat operator. Please contact your trip advisor for specific cruise policies.


Full details of galapagosislands.com terms and conditions can be found at:

[galapagosislands.com/documents/full-terms-and-conditions-gicom.pdf](https://galapagosislands.com/documents/full-terms-and-conditions-gicom.pdf)




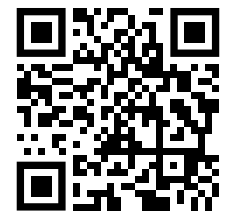
 1-877-260-5552  593-2-6009-554

 1-877-667-7445  593-2-2554-336

 [info@galapagosislands.com](mailto:info@galapagosislands.com)

 **WhatsApp:** Chat with Us

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