



Photo by John Winnie Jr.



GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

ABOARD TIP TOP III

August 15 - 25, 2018

Discover firsthand the fascinating biodiversity, volcanic terrain, and geological history that make the Galápagos Islands so compelling. This 11-day small group cruise expedition to the western islands includes visits to landmarks like Pinnacle Rock, Chinese Hat, and Dragon Hill, plus the chance to see native and endemic wildlife. Accompanied by an expert naturalist guide, you'll learn about the forces, both natural and human, that have shaped the archipelago through the years.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover fascinating geological history while trekking volcanoes and lava fields.
- Come face-to-face with the iconic wildlife of the Galápagos, including Blue-footed Boobies, marine iguanas, Darwin's finches, Galápagos Penguins, and Flightless Cormorants.
- Visit a local farm to look for giant tortoises in the wild.
- Experience dramatic landscapes, such as the red sand beaches of Rábida Island, Chinese Hat, Dragon Hill, and the iconic Pinnacle Rock.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

AUGUST 15 - QUITO

Upon arrival at the Quito International Airport, after clearing customs and collecting your luggage, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. *Overnight at Rincón de Puembo.*

AUGUST 16 - QUITO

After a leisurely morning, you will meet your guide in the lobby to set off for a visit to the Quito Botanical Garden, and enjoy a late lunch at a local restaurant after your time at the garden. This evening there will be free time to get ready for your early transfer to the airport the next morning. *Overnight at Rincón de Puembo. (BL)*

AUGUST 17 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

This morning you will be transferred to the Quito Airport for your flight to Baltra, Galápagos on Avianca Airlines, which arrives at approximately 9:20 am. Meet your local naturalist-guide and transfer to the yacht. As the crew weighs anchor, you'll receive a brief orientation and have a light snack. After lunch, make an early wet landing on Mosquera Islet, a reef of rocks and coral (the result of an uprising) and a great white sand beach and tide pools. Observe colonies of sea lions, Brown Pelicans, Blue-footed Boobies, and Sally Lightfoot crabs; the contrast between the bright red and blue of the crabs atop the black lava is stunning. There is time for swimming and snorkeling for those who would like. In the evening, attend an orientation to the origin and evolution of the Galápagos Islands, followed by a welcome cocktail with the entire crew, and then dinner. Each evening after dinner, review the day's photography take (see the separate trip overviews). *Overnight aboard Tip Top III. (BD)*

AUGUST 18 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

After breakfast make a wet landing at Sullivan Bay, a perfect place to get a feel for the volcanic origin of the islands. Optional: time for those who would like to snorkel. Return to the boat for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, make a wet landing at Rábida Island to walk and observe marine iguanas and sea lions, Brown Pelicans, Blue-footed Boobies, and Masked Boobies. After a short walk, arrive to a small saltwater lagoon where you can see Galápagos Flamingos. Return to the yacht for dinner and your nightly orientation and photography de-briefing. *Overnight aboard Tip Top III. (BLD)*

AUGUST 19 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

After breakfast, make a dry landing at Espinoza Point to observe and see a large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, Flightless Cormorants, and clumps of lava cactus. Go back on board for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, take a panga boat ride around the islets of Elizabeth Bay to see marine iguanas, penguins, marine turtles, sea birds and shore birds, herons and Blue-footed Boobies. Optional: time for those who would like to snorkel or kayak. Dinner on the yacht, then your orientation about conservation efforts made to protect the islands. *Overnight at aboard Tip Top III. (BLD)*



AUGUST 20 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

After breakfast, make a wet landing at Urbina Bay to take a walk and observe a coral area, land iguanas, Flightless Cormorants, and giant tortoises. Optional: time for those who would like to snorkel. Return to the boat for lunch. In the afternoon, take a panga boat ride in Tagus Cove, a cove between the shoulders of two volcanic craters, which protect it from the open sea; observe marine iguanas, sea lions, and a variety of birds including penguins, Flightless Cormorants, and Blue-footed Boobies. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel, or kayak. Return to the yacht for dinner and nightly orientation. *Overnight aboard Tip Top III. (BLD)*

AUGUST 21 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

After breakfast, make a wet landing at James Bay (Puerto Egas) to walk and observe sponges, snails, hermit crabs, a variety of shore birds, barnacles and the endemic four-eyed blenny, marine iguanas and sea lions. Optional: time for those who would like to swim or snorkel. Return to the boat for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, make a dry landing on Bartolomé Island and hike to the summit; during the hike, you can observe colonies of marine iguanas and lava lizards. On the summit we'll see an impressive

view of the surrounding islands, including the eroded tuff cone of Pinnacle Rock. Optional: time for those who would like to swim or snorkel. Return to the yacht for a delicious dinner and nightly orientation. *Overnight aboard Tip Top III. (BLD)*

AUGUST 22 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

After breakfast, make a wet landing on Chinese Hat (Sombrero Chino), a small island off the coast of Santiago Island. On the rocky shoreline you can observe Galápagos Penguins, eagle rays, sea lions, and marine iguanas. This is an excellent snorkeling site. Optional: time for those who would like to swim, snorkel or kayak. Return to the boat for lunch. Later in the afternoon, make a dry landing on Dragon Hill, where you can see land iguanas. Walk to a hypersaline lagoon (saltier than the ocean), where you can observe flamingos, Common Stilts, White-cheeked Pintails, and other bird species. Return to the boat for dinner and nightly orientation. *Overnight aboard Tip Top III. (BLD)*

AUGUST 23 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

After breakfast, disembark and drive to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island for a visit to the native forests and the Twin Craters, two formations caused by the collapse of surface material caused by underground fissures. Then, visit a local farm where you can see giant tortoises in the wild and have lunch. Return to Puerto Ayora and visit the Fausto Llerena Interpretation Center inside the Charles Darwin Research Station. Return to the boat for dinner and nightly orientation. *Overnight aboard Tip Top III. (BLD)*

AUGUST 24 - QUITO

After breakfast make an early dry landing for a walk along the coast and the interior of North Seymour Island, a low, flat island that was uplifted from the sea by underground seismic activity. Observe Blue-footed Boobies (they nest from May to November), marine iguanas, pelicans, Magnificent Frigatebirds, shore birds, sea lions, and endemic palo santo trees. Return to the boat and disembark on the pier at 9 am to be transferred to the Baltra airport for your flight back to Quito. Upon arrival, after collecting your luggage, you'll be met and transferred back to your hotel in Puenbo. Early this evening, have a farewell dinner. If your flight home departs late this evening, you will be transferred back to the airport after dinner. Otherwise, spend the night at the hotel. *Overnight at Rincón de Puenbo. (BD)*

AUGUST 25 - DEPARTURE

Early this morning you will be transferred to the Quito International Airport for your flight home. *(B)*

LAND PRICING

\$4,955

Cost includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, local guides in each region, Galapagos National park fee and tax, all tips/ gratuities, carbon offset and departure tax.

Does not include international airfare, alcoholic beverages, or items of a personal nature.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Refer to the Plan Document for more details.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room on the mainland add \$210 per person. A \$350 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until May 12, 2018, at which time non-refundable final payment is due.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travelgps-tiptop18 or contact Sandy Schmidt at 800-451-7111 ext. 379 or schmidt@holbrooktravel.com

PHOTOS BY John Winnie Jr.