



Photo by John Winnie Jr.



# GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR with JOHN WINNIE JR.

July 25 - August 4, 2019

*Experience firsthand the endemic wildlife and volcanic landscapes that make the Galápagos unique among the world's archipelagos. On this 11-day cruise expedition you'll photograph and learn about the Islands' diverse flora, fauna, and geologic features in the company of an expert naturalist guide, and biologist and award-winning photographer John Winnie Jr. Along the way, you'll explore iconic places like Tagus Cove, Chinese Hat and the red sand beach of Rábida Island, as well as visit less well-known sites, all while learning about the natural forces that have shaped the islands and their inhabitants over millennia.*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Come face-to-face with the iconic wildlife of the Galápagos, including marine iguanas, sea lions, Galápagos penguins and Galápagos flightless cormorants.
- Learn about the Galápagos' fascinating geologic history while trekking volcanoes and lava fields.
- Step into and experience the dramatic landscapes of Rábida Island, Tagus Cove, Chinese Hat, and Dragon Hill.
- Enjoy photography above and below the water with the chance to capture Galápagos tortoises, marine and land iguanas, sea turtles, rays, penguins, a wide range of land and sea birds, as well as dramatic sea- and landscapes.

# ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## JULY 25 - PUEMBO

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.*

## JULY 26 - PUEMBO

This morning visit Puembo Birding Garden for photography opportunities followed by a late lunch at the garden. This evening will be free time to get ready for your early transfer to the airport the next morning. *Overnight at Rincón de Puembo. (BL)*

## JULY 27 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Early this morning transfer to the Quito airport for your flight to the Galápagos. Once you arrive in Baltra your guide will be waiting for you. Transfer to Santa Cruz Island, cross the Itabaca Chanel (this takes around 15 minutes from airport), after this you take a private bus to Puerto Ayora. Once you arrive to Puerto Ayora, go direct to Galaxy Yacht. After lunch, go for a hike in the highlands of Santa Cruz to learn about and photograph Galápagos tortoises in their natural habitat. For this visit we recommend the use of sport shoes, long pants, raincoat, hat, and sun block. After your trek, return to the vessel for a welcome cocktail and the formal presentation of your crew by the Captain. You will also receive a briefing for the next day. *\*Itineraries are subject to change without prior notice for various factors including, but not limited to: safety, weather, unforeseen emergencies, and the discretion of the Captain, Guide, and/or the Galápagos National Park. Overnight aboard Galaxy I. (BLD)*

## JULY 28 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Early this morning you will visit Tintoreras, which is located in the bay of Puerto Villamil, this small island is surrounded by calm turquoise waters where you can enjoy your first snorkeling opportunity. The island has an easy trail with great landscapes and very interesting fauna. Along the trail you'll have the opportunity to photograph and observe marine iguanas basking in the sun, lava lizards, herons, gulls and sea lions. Sea Turtles, rays, a wide range of tropical fish and even penguins are often encountered while snorkeling in the coves, making for excellent underwater photo opportunities. Among the many cracks and channels in the coast sometimes we can see White-tipped Reef Sharks (in Spanish "Tintoreras"). After the visit, you will return to the boat and begin the navigation to the next point. After lunch, you will disembark in Moreno Point which is located near Elizabeth Bay on the west coast of Isabela Island. The plethora of birds seen during a dinghy ride along the striking rocky shores or a hike along path through lava rock leading to tide pools and mangroves create a birdwatcher's delight. In the tide pools, green sea turtles or white-tip sharks can be spotted. *Overnight aboard Galaxy I. (BLD)*

## JULY 29 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Today you will visit Elizabeth Bay, one of the island's breeding sites for penguins. Located on the west coast of Isabela, Elizabeth Point is a marine visitor site. You will take a panga ride to view the red mangrove cove, most likely seeing brown pelicans, flightless cormorants, spotted eagle rays, golden rays, and sea lions. After lunch, make a wet landing on Urbina Bay, with some time to snorkel and work on capturing underwater images, followed by a hike along the base of Alcedo Volcano. The trail is about 2 miles, along which you may observe and photograph land iguanas, hawks and tortoises. *Overnight aboard Galaxy I. (BLD)*

## JULY 30 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

This morning you will visit Tagus Cove, located on Isabela Island west of Darwin Volcano. Enjoy snorkeling in the area, with the chance of encountering Galápagos Penguins. Following your time in the water, walk along the trails in the area where you'll find 200 to 300 year old inscriptions left by pirates and other passing mariners, as well as get a nice view of hyper-saline Darwin Lake. After lunch, you'll visit Espinoza Point on nearby Fernandina Island. Here you'll find big colonies of marine iguanas and possibly see flightless cormorants, Galápagos penguins, Galápagos hawks and other endemic species including Galápagos Racers, a type of non-poisonous snake. Following your walk, go snorkeling with the chance of seeing and photographing Galápagos Penguins and sea lions underwater. *Overnight aboard Galaxy I. (BLD)*

## JULY 31 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Today you'll visit the black sand beach at Egas Port on Isla Santiago. While exploring the old lava flows near shore you will likely



encounter marine iguanas, colorful Sally lightfoot crabs, hunting lava herons, and sea lions, all cooperative photographic subjects. Return to the vessel for lunch and then visit Espumilla Beach for snorkeling. The beach is an important nesting site for sea turtles and they are often encountered in the adjacent water. *Overnight aboard Galaxy I. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 1 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

This morning you will visit Daphne Major, which is a volcanic tuff cone, formed by successive explosions produced by the mixture of lava and water. Galaxy will navigate around the Island, as there are no visitor sites; it is only accessed by scientists for research purposes. Or you can visit Dragon Hill, on Isla Santa Cruz (weather dependent). The visitor's site at Dragon Hill consists of a trail that runs through three different environments in just one mile. It gets its name because in 1975, it was one of the only places in the Santa Cruz Island where there were land iguanas (*Conolophus subcristatus*) in a healthy state. That same year, the Galápagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Foundation initiated a program to conserve land iguanas. The lagoons at this site are home to small shrimp whose populations periodically explode, attracting large numbers of flamingos. After lunch visit Black Turtle Cove. This bay is surrounded by mangroves and is accessible by panga only. The cove is a refuge and nursery for marine life and black-tip reef sharks, turtles, and rays are often spotted here.. *Overnight aboard Galaxy I. (BLD)*

## AUGUST 2 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

After breakfast, visit the red sand beach of Rábida Island. Hike a 1.1 km loop trail and visit the island's small coastal lagoon where flamingoes and a variety of wading birds are sometimes seen. The

main attractions here are the beautiful red sand beach, several native and endemic species including Galápagos doves and mockingbirds, pelicans, basking sea lions, and excellent snorkeling and underwater photography opportunities. This afternoon visit Chinese Hat, a small islet located near the southeast coast of Santiago. It's shaped like a Chinese hat when seen from afar. It is an island consisting of a cone type "splatter" (lava ejected as drops and falls close to where it came from, which forms a cone inclined) that forms the summit and many lava tubes that go down to the coast. On the west you can see pillow-type lava formations, which are indicators that the flows were formed under the sea and have been raised upward, which is why coral heads are found on the lava. This visit provides an excellent opportunity for the interpretation of geological features such as lava tubes and lava flows. It also has a beautiful white sand beach to enjoy snorkeling/swimming. If you would like, walk the short trail which is less than ½ a mile. *Overnight aboard Galaxy I. (BLD)*

### AUGUST 3 - PUEMBO

This morning visit North Seymour Island, home to the largest nesting colony of Magnificent frigatebirds in the Galápagos, as well as nesting Blue-footed boobies, and numerous land iguanas. After your visit to North Seymour, navigate to Baltra where you'll transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito. Upon arrival, after collecting your luggage, you'll be met and transferred back to your hotel in Puembo. Early this evening, you'll have a Farewell Dinner. If your flight home departs late this evening, you will be transferred back to the airport after dinner. Otherwise, you will overnight at Rincon de Puembo. . *Overnight at Rincón de Puembo. (BD)*

### AUGUST 4 - DEPARTURE

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



## 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.

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.

## ABOUT YOUR LEADER



**John Winnie Jr.** is an award-winning wildlife and landscape photographer whose work has been widely published in books, magazines, calendars, posters and postcards, including in Smithsonian,

Canadian Geographic, National Wildlife, Discover, Montana Outdoors, Wildlife Conservation, and American Birds magazines. In addition, he authored and made the photos for the book, "High Life, Animals of the Alpine World," and was co-photographer for the book, "The Rockies: Canada's Magnificent Wilderness." His work, including photos from many of the places his Holbrook tours will be visiting, can be seen at: <http://www.johnwinniejr.com>.

John is also a conservation ecologist and Associate Teaching Professor in the Ecology Department at Montana State University in Bozeman. He teaches a wide variety of subjects ranging from introductory biology, to upper division and graduate ecology, to intensive field biology classes. John's students consistently rate him among the top professors at MSU, earning him a Teaching Merit Award in 2015. His conservation work and research have taken him from the remote Wakhan Corridor in Afghanistan while working for USAID and the Wildlife Conservation Society, to Tajikistan working for Panthera, to the wilds of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. Nature photography allows John to merge his two passions, photography and gaining understanding of the natural world, and these tours let him share these passions with you.

## LAND PRICING

**\$5,670** (14 participants)

Cost includes meals and non-alcoholic beverages, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, internal flights, local guides in each region, bottled water on bus, Galápagos National park fee and tax, carbon offset and departure tax.

Does not include international airfare, tips/gratuities, or items of a personal nature.

## THE FINE PRINT

*Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room on the mainland add \$200 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 February 25, 2019 at which time non-refundable final payment is due.*



*This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at [holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe](http://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)*



**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL**

Visit [holbrook.travell/winnie-gps19](http://holbrook.travell/winnie-gps19) or contact Sandy Schmidt at 800-451-7111 ext. 379 or [schmidt@holbrooktravel.com](mailto:schmidt@holbrooktravel.com)

**PHOTOS BY John Winnie Jr.**