



SEA LIONS BY ERIC LINDBERG

# GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

## Expedition aboard M/C Tip Top II or V (East)

11 DAYS | Choose your dates

### About this trip

Endemic flora and fauna, geological activity, volcanic terrain, and unique marine environments make the Galápagos Islands a living classroom. Stunning formations like saw-toothed Kicker Rock, sandy beaches, teeming lagoons and volcanic craters play host to unique wildlife such as the Blue-footed Booby, white-tipped sharks, marine iguanas and turtles, yellow cow-nosed rays, and more. Examine topics of biodiversity, natural selection, ecological specialization, and conservation. Students will also learn about the islands' sparse but dramatic human history, a tale of buccaneers, penal colonists, and hardy settlers.

### Your students will...

- Learn about important conservation efforts at the Charles Darwin Research Station.
- Come face-to-face with iconic wildlife including Blue-footed Boobies, flamingos, sea lions, and Waved Albatross.
- Walk through the incredible cactus forest on Santa Fe Island and observe colonies of land iguanas.
- Snorkel around Champion Islet, one of the most beautiful snorkeling sites in the islands.
- Sail around Kicker Rock, massive tuff rock that juts almost 500 feet above the ocean surface and which serves as a nesting place for many sea birds.

### Educational Connections



Interdisciplinary  
Studies



Biology



Earth  
Science



Adventure  
Learning

### What's included?

- Internal flights
- Galápagos National Park fee
- Bilingual local guide
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation with driver
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting

*Please note: This itinerary is subject to change without prior notice due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. weather) or at the discretion of the captain, guide, or the Galápagos National Park.*

# Itinerary

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

## DAY 1 - QUITO

Upon arrival in Quito, after clearing customs and immigration, you will be met and escorted to your hotel. Arrival into Quito should be on a Wednesday for the Friday cruise departure. *Overnight at Hotel Cruz Loma.*

## DAY 2 - QUITO

After breakfast this morning take a city tour of Quito, including a visit to the Middle of the World Monument. Enjoy traditional Ecuadorian food at a local restaurant for lunch. Please note you may substitute the city tour and visit to the monument with a full day excursion to Otavalo market, Cotopaxi National Park, Antisana Reserve, or Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve for an additional cost. *Overnight at Hotel Cruz Loma. (BLD)*

## DAY 3 - GALÁPAGOS

Fly from mainland Ecuador to Baltra. After boarding M/C Tip Top II or V, attend your first orientation and have a light snack. Disembark and visit a flamingo lagoon at Playa Las Bachas, a beach that was used by the U.S. Army during World War II. Optional time is offered each day for swimming, snorkeling and/or kayaking. Attend an evening orientation about the origin and evolution of the Galápagos Islands, and enjoy a welcome cocktail with the entire crew, followed by dinner. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II or V. (BLD)*

## DAY 4 - GALÁPAGOS

Today go for a panga boat ride and then land on Genovesa Island at Prince Philip's Steps (El Barranco), a steep, naturally formed path that leads up to a cliff face. Walk and observe the interesting lives of the birds here, such as the Red-footed Booby, Galápagos Short-eared Owl, Galápagos Doves, and storm petrels. Return to the boat for lunch. Later in the afternoon, visit Darwin Bay, home to frigatebirds, herons, mockingbirds, boobies, shore birds, turtles, marine iguanas, and more. After dinner, attend an evening orientation to learn about conservation efforts to protect the islands. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II or V. (BLD)*

## DAY 5 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, go ashore at South Plaza Island, where a walk through a cactus forest allows you to observe land iguanas and many species of tropical birds. Return to the yacht for lunch and sail to Santa Fé Island to check out a different colony of land iguanas native to the island. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II or V. (BLD)*

## DAY 6 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, disembark to take the bus to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island for a visit to the native forests in El Chato Reserve, then go to a farm to search for giant tortoises in the wild. After lunch on the farm return to Puerto Ayora to visit the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center and Interpretation Center inside the Charles Darwin Research Station. Return to the yacht for dinner and nightly orientation. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II or V. (BLD)*

## DAY 7 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, disembark on Floreana Island and walk to Baroness Viewpoint, named for the Baroness Eloise von Wagner Bosquet. Enjoy the beautiful landscape and see the ruins of her house, then continue to Post Office Bay. In the 18th century, whalers placed a wooden barrel at this site to use as an informal post office, and today, visitors continue the tradition by leaving their own postcards in the barrel. Return to the yacht for lunch. In the afternoon, disembark at Cormorant Point and take a short walk to the Flamingo Lagoon. Continue the walk to La Picona beach for the chance to see marine turtles and their nesting grounds. Afterwards, visit Champion Islet for a snorkeling excursion. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II or V. (BLD)*

## DAY 8 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, visit Punta Suárez on Española Island to walk along lava beds and observe unique colonies of marine birds. From April to December, this is one of the best places in the world to see the Waved Albatross, which nests primarily on this island. In the afternoon visit

Gardner Bay for a walk on the beach and observe a colony of sea lions, which inhabit the beach in great quantity during the breeding season. Then take a panga ride around Osborn Islet and the islets of Gardner. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II or V. (BLD)*

## DAY 9 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, disembark at Baquerizo Moreno Port on San Cristóbal Island and drive to the Jacinto Gordillo Tortoise Breeding Center, where you'll learn about the tortoise reproductive process and the programs to maintain the species. Drive back to the port to visit the Interpretation Center, which features exhibits on conservation and on the geological and human history of the islands. After lunch, visit Cerro Brujo to walk on a white sand beach and observe sea lions, Brown Pelicans, marine iguanas, and Blue-footed Boobies. Later sail around Kicker Rock (León Dormido), a massive tuff rock that juts almost 500 feet above the ocean surface and which serves as a nesting place for many sea birds. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II or V. (BLD)*

## DAY 10 - QUITO

After breakfast take one last panga ride around Black Turtle Cove, a series of coves and islets surrounded by mangroves, where you can observe white-tipped reef sharks, marine turtles, spotted eagle rays, and yellow cow-nosed rays. Return to the boat and disembark on the pier to take the bus directly to the airport in Baltra for your flight to Quito. A snack will be served on the flight. This afternoon is at leisure. A farewell dinner will be served at the hotel. *Overnight at Rincón de Puembo. (BD)*

## DAY 11 - DEPARTURE

Today you will transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

## Program pricing

**\$5,195** (15 participants + 1 leader)

**\$5,595** (14 participants + 2 leaders)

**\$5,695** (8 participants + 1 leader)

*Price includes flights within Ecuador (Quito-Baltra-Quito). International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included. Valid for travel in 2020.*

## Travel protection

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants. 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

*Rates are based on double occupancy for participants; complimentary leader accommodations may be single or double occupancy based on availability. International airfare is included for complimentary leaders. Holiday surcharges may apply. A \$350 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking. This deposit is refundable until 150 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are non-refundable.*



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