



SALLY LIGHTFOOT CRABS BY REINIER MUNGUIA

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Exploring the Galápagos Islands by Land

10 DAYS | Choose your dates

About this trip

Named for the tortoises that roam the lush landscapes of this small archipelago, the Galápagos Islands have become world-renowned for endemic and highly specialized wildlife, including Darwin's finches, giant tortoises, marine iguanas, and more. Discover the native flora and fauna that make up this biodiversity hotspot through fun activities like snorkeling, hiking, kayaking, biking and stand-up paddleboarding. You'll also learn about the natural and human history of the islands during visits to Tortuga Bay, El Chato Tortoise Reserve, Las Tintoreras Islets, the Wall of Tears, the Charles Darwin Research Station, and a host of other highlights.

Your students will...

- Snorkel with sea lions, turtles, vibrant fish, gentle reef sharks, and other marine wildlife.
- Learn about tortoise conservation initiatives at the Charles Darwin Research Station.
- Discover the fascinating human heritage of the islands, from 17th century whalers and pirates to Charles Darwin's 1835 voyage, 20th century settlers, and today's inhabitants.
- Discuss the geological history of the islands while hiking to the edge of Sierra Negra, one of the Galápagos' largest and most active volcanoes.
- Take a guided tour of Quito, and straddle the equator at the Middle of the World Monument.

Educational Connections



Natural
History



Earth
Science



Environmental
Studies



Adventure
Learning

What's included?

- Bilingual local guides
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Private transportation
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting

Itinerary

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - QUITO

Upon arrival in Quito, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. *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. The city tour may be substituted 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 - FLOREANA ISLAND

This morning, transfer to the airport for your flight to the Galápagos Islands, where you will be met by your local guide. Transfer by speedboat to Floreana, the sixth largest island in the archipelago. It has a colorful history, with varying accounts of how the island was settled and how its first residents (German immigrants) mysteriously disappeared. The only family remaining from the original settlements are the Wittmers, who continue to live on the island. After lunch, enjoy a walking excursion to La Lobería to view Galápagos sea lions on the beach and a swim nearby in Lobería Bay. Hike along almost 3,000 feet of trail that goes through the Galápagos National Park where you can also see marine iguanas and sea turtles. Dinner at a local restaurant this evening. *Overnight at homestay. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - FLOREANA ISLAND

After breakfast, hike in the highlands of Floreana to Asilo de La Paz (Peace Haven), where caves used by pirates in the 17th and 18th centuries are located. Hike to the hilltop for views of the island and possibly see the endemic Medium Tree-Finch. After lunch at a local restaurant, kayak and SUP (stand-up paddleboard) in the Lava Lodge Bay. *Overnight at homestay. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - ISABELA ISLAND

Today, head to Isabela Island via speedboat. Upon arrival, check into the hotel, then visit the Interpretation Center to learn about the archipelago, including the natural history of the islands and the impact of humans on the ecosystem. After lunch, visit Las Tintoreras, with time for snorkeling. The Tintoreras Islets are across the bay from Puerto Villamil and feature a great variety of wildlife. Snorkel among small outcroppings of volcanic rock in the crystalline, turquoise waters, which are home to sea lions, marine turtles, Galápagos Penguins, marine iguanas, and the white-tipped reef sharks for which the islets are named. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Al Gran Tortuga. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - ISABELA ISLAND

Spend a full day hiking at Sierra Negra. Measuring over six miles across from north to south and more than five miles from east to west, Sierra Negra is one of the most impressive examples of a volcano in the archipelago. Hike up to the edge of the caldera, with a boxed lunch on site. At the completion of the hike, return to the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Al Gran Tortuga. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - ISABELA ISLAND

This morning, go kayaking in the bay. After lunch at a local restaurant, take an afternoon bike ride with a stop at the infamous Muro de las Lágrimas, or "Wall of Tears." This wall was erected in the 1940s and '50s when the island housed a penal colony. Numerous prisoners died in the course of building the stone wall, leading many locals to give it the now-famous name. According to lore, from time to time, it is possible to hear the convicts' cries in the vicinity of the wall. *Overnight at Hotel Al Gran Tortuga. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Early this morning, transfer to Puerto Ayora by speedboat. After breakfast, enjoy the breathtaking views of the archipelago at Cerro Mesa

and then continue on to Garrapatero Beach. Spend the afternoon snorkeling and enjoying the nice sandy beaches surrounded by mangroves. *Overnight at Hotel Deja Vú. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

In the morning, head to Tortuga Bay, one of the largest and most beautiful beaches in the Galápagos. Enjoy the spectacular white sand beach, where you can walk along the shore and swim among marine iguanas, sharks, and sea turtles. After lunch, head to the Santa Cruz highlands and go hiking in the densely forested areas of El Chato, a reserve where giant tortoises can often be seen cooling themselves in ponds. Tree and ground finches, Vermilion Flycatchers, and Cattle Egrets may also be seen along the walking trails. *Overnight at Hotel Deja Vú. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - QUITO/DEPART

After a morning visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station, transfer to Baltra for the flight back to mainland Ecuador. Stay at the airport to check in for your evening flight home. *(BL)*

Program pricing

\$4,095 (15 participants + 1 leader)

\$4,525 (14 participants + 2 leaders)

\$4,735 (8 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, flights within Ecuador (Quito-Baltra-Quito), private transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, local guides in each region for duration of program, and carbon offset.

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included.

Valid for travel in 2021.

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