



MARINE IGUANAS BY ALTON BIGGS

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Adventure Galápagos: Active Exploration of the Islands by Land

11 DAYS | Choose your dates | Best season to travel: OCT - AUG

The Galápagos Islands were Charles Darwin's "Living Laboratory of Evolution," named for the tortoises that roam the lush landscapes of the small archipelago. This active learning adventure is an opportunity to experience the islands' unique environments in a way that most visitors to the Galápagos seldom do – through fun activities like snorkeling, hiking, kayaking, biking and stand-up paddleboarding. The Galápagos have become world-renowned for vast wildlife, which includes sea lions, turtles, marine iguanas, and more. You'll learn about the natural history of the Islands during visits to Tortuga Bay, El Chato Tortoise Reserve, Tintorerías Islets, the Wall of Tears, the Charles Darwin Research Station, and a host of other highlights of the Enchanted Islands.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Snorkel the archipelago's turquoise waters for the chance to view sea lions, Galápagos Penguins, marine iguanas, sea turtles, white-tipped reef sharks, and more.
- Hike, kayak, bike, and stand-up paddleboard your way through the islands.
- Discover the human history of the islands, from 17th century whalers and pirates to Charles Darwin's 1835 voyage, 20th century settlers, and today's inhabitants.
- Hike up to the edge of Sierra Negra, one of the Galápagos' largest and most active volcanoes.
- See the iconic Galápagos giant tortoises in their natural habitat, the densely forested areas of Santa Cruz.



TORTUGA BAY BY DOLMA ALONSO



PADDLE BOARDING BY PELIN KARACA

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - QUITO

Upon arrival in Quito, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Quito.*

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 Quito. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - FLOREANA

This morning transfer to the airport for your flight to the Galápagos Islands, where you will be met by your local guide. Travel 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. Here, you can view Galápagos sea lions on the beach and swim nearby in Lobería Bay. Hike along almost 3,000 feet of trail going through the Galápagos National Park, where you can also see marine iguanas and sea turtles. Dinner at a local restaurant this evening. *Overnight at Lava Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 4 - FLOREANA

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 to possibly see the endemic Medium Tree-Finch. After lunch at a local restaurant, kayak and SUP (stand-up paddleboard) off the white sand beach of Post Office Bay. *Overnight at Lava Lodge. (BLD)*

DAY 5 - ISABELA

Today head to Isabela Island via speedboat. Upon arrival, check into the hotel and visit the Interpretation Center to learn about the fascinating archipelago, including the natural history of the islands as well as the impact of humans on the ecosystem. After lunch, visit Las Tintoreras with time for snorkeling. The Tintoreras Islets are located 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, 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 Isa Mar Hotel. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - ISABELA

Spend a full day hiking at Sierra Negra. As one of the most impressive examples of a volcano in the archipelago, Sierra Negra Volcano measures over six miles across from north to south and more than five miles from east to west. Hike up to the edge of the second largest caldera in the world with a boxed lunch on-site. At the completion of the hike return to the hotel. *Overnight at Isa Mar Hotel. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - ISABELA

Kayak in the bay this morning, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Next, set out on a bike ride, starting on the Wetlands Visitor Site trails and continuing with a stop at the infamous Muro de las Lagrimas, or "Wall of Tears." This wall was erected by convicts back in the days 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 local lore, it is possible to hear the convicts' cries emanating from the area from time to time. *Overnight at Isa Mar Hotel. (BLD)*

DAY 8 - SANTA CRUZ

Early 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 sandy beaches surrounded by mangroves. *Overnight at Mainao hotel. (BLD)*

DAY 9 - SANTA CRUZ

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, transfer to the highlands for tortoise viewing at El Chato. Hike among densely forested areas in the highlands of Santa Cruz in El Chato, a reserve for the giant tortoises. They can often be seen in the ponds cooling themselves. Tree and ground finches, Vermilion Flycatchers, and Cattle Egrets all inhabit the area of the walking trails. *Overnight at Mainao hotel. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - QUITO

After a morning visit to the Charles Darwin Research Center, transfer to Baltra for the return flight back to mainland Ecuador. Upon arrival in Quito you will be met and transferred to the hotel for overnight. Enjoy a farewell dinner at the hotel this evening. *Overnight at Rincón de Puenbo. (BLD)*

DAY 11 - DEPARTURE

This morning, transfer to the airport for your flight to the USA. (B)

PROGRAM PRICING

\$4,550 (15 participants + 1 leader)

\$4,995 (14 participants + 2 leaders)

\$5,150 (8 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes internal flights, bilingual local guide, accommodations, activities, private transportation, meals, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, and carbon offsetting. 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 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

A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 95 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.



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