



HIKING AT SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Adventure Galápagos: Active Exploration of the Islands by Land

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

Arising from the remote reaches of the Pacific Ocean and forged in fire, the Galápagos Islands are primed for adventure.

Experience the unique and varied environments in a way that most visitors seldom do—through fun activities like snorkeling, hiking, kayaking, biking, and stand-up paddleboarding. Gain a deeper understanding of this natural wonderland, delighting in the curious and unafraid wildlife that thrives here. As you learn about the natural and human forces that have shaped the archipelago, daily excursions to a host of highlights are rewarded with comfortable stays in boutique accommodations on Santa Cruz and Isabela Islands.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike up to the edge of the Sierra Negra caldera, one of the Galápagos' largest and most active volcanoes.
- Snorkel the turquoise depths of Las Tintoreras for the chance to view white-tipped reef sharks, Galápagos Penguins, marine iguanas, sea turtles, and sea lions.
- Walk among the densely forested highlands of El Chato, a reserve where giant tortoises roam freely.
- Kayak and SUP (stand-up paddleboard) the calm waters of the archipelago's bays and channels.
- Bike to the Wall of Tears, a massive stone structure built by prisoners of a penal colony in the mid-20th century.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Bilingual local guides
- Driver
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Internal flights
- Meals
- Beverages with meals
- Carbon offsetting



STAND-UP PADDLEBOARDING BY PELIN KARACA



ISABELA ISLAND BY LEON BROCARD

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

DAY 1 - GUAYAQUIL

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

DAY 2 - GUAYAQUIL

After breakfast and a program orientation this morning, head to Laguna Eco Park, located 16 miles outside of the city of Guayaquil. Enjoy kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) on the tranquil waters of La Laguna, which is surrounded by the Cerro Blanco dry forest. The forest is dominated by towering ceiba and pigio trees that shelter a variety of birds and other animals. Enjoy lunch before returning to Guayaquil for a short walking city tour. *Overnight at Hotel Oro Verde. (BLD)*

DAY 3 - SANTA CRUZ

This morning, transfer to the airport for your early morning flight to the Galápagos Islands. (Please note: There is a 50-pound weight limit for checked luggage on the flights to Galápagos. Excess luggage can be stored at the hotel in Guayaquil.) Upon arrival, immediately transfer a short distance to the dock to board a boat and begin kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding. Explore the waters of the Itabaca Channel to look for wildlife including Blue-footed Boobies, sea lions, Brown Pelicans, herons, and white-tipped reef sharks. Wear a swimsuit and pack

a day bag with sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat. Towels will be provided. Afterwards, dry off and transfer to Puerto Ayora in time for lunch and hotel check-in. Later, take a short walk to the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS), a biological research station operated by the Charles Darwin Foundation. The objective of the CDRS is to conduct scientific research and environmental education to promote conservation of the islands' unique environments. The station has a team of over 100 scientists, educators, volunteers, research students, and support staff from all over the world. *Overnight at Hotel Silberstein. (BLD)*



GALÁPAGOS GIANT TORTOISE BY JILL RICHMOND

DAY 4 - SANTA CRUZ

Today, take a day trip to North Seymour. This small island, created by volcanic uplift, attracts many shore birds and has one of the largest populations of sea lions. The landscape is generally flat and strewn with boulders. Hike along the trail and look for Blue-footed Boobies; it's also quite common to witness the Magnificent and Great Frigatebirds display their brilliant red pouches among the trees in their attempts to attract a mate. The rocky shoreline is littered with Sally Lightfoot crabs, as well as Swallow-tailed Gulls taking a break from their hunt for fish. Despite the tremendous surf, sea lions are often found here together with marine iguanas along the island's rocky shore. Return to Santa Cruz in the afternoon. Dinner is on own this evening. *Overnight at Hotel Silberstein. (BL)*

DAY 5 - 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, white-tipped reef sharks, and sea turtles. After lunch, transfer to the highlands of Santa Cruz for the chance to view giant tortoises in the wild. Hike amid lush, densely forested areas to El Chato, a giant tortoise reserve, where 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 Hotel Silberstein. (BLD)*

DAY 6 - ISABELA

Today head to Isabela Island via speedboat. Upon arrival, check in at the hotel and visit the Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding 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. Have dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Isa Mar Hotel. (BLD)*

DAY 7 - ISABELA

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. Later, return to the hotel.

Overnight at Isa Mar Hotel. (BLD)



DAY 8 - 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 Lágrimas, 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 9 - GUAYAQUIL

Early this morning, transfer to Puerto Ayora by speedboat. Have breakfast at a local restaurant and transfer to Baltra in time for your afternoon flight back to Guayaquil. This evening, explore Guayaquil's Malecón boardwalk and enjoy a farewell dinner. *Overnight at Hotel Oro Verde. (BLD)*

DAY 10 - DEPART

This morning you will be met and transferred to the airport for your flight back to the US. (B)



PROGRAM PRICING

\$4,595 (15 participants + 1 leader)

\$5,095 (14 participants + 2 leaders)

\$5,175 (8 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, Galápagos National Park fee, flights within Ecuador (Guayaquil-Baltra-Guayaquil), private vehicle transportation unless otherwise noted in itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages with meals, 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

A \$350 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to secure your reservation. This deposit is refundable until 180 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final non-refundable payments are due no later than 180 days prior to departure.



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



WHITE-TIPPED REEF SHARK BY JILL RICHMOND



ACTIVITY LEVEL

4

MODERATE-STRENUOUS

WHAT TO EXPECT

This light adventure is considered a land exploration because you stay overnight in local hotels, using privately chartered speedboats to transfer between the islands. Your main focus is the Galapagos' natural splendor, but you'll also delve into Ecuador's cultural heritage with a choice of tours from Quito, and forays to historic Galapagos settlements. Enjoy a wide array of daily activities like swimming, snorkeling, hiking, kayaking, biking, and stand-up paddleboarding. Hikes cover mostly flat but occasionally muddy gravel paths; in the Floreana and Isabela highlands, trails are steeper. Bike paths follow hilly, gravel tracks. Being below the Equator, seasons are reversed: Between November and April (late spring and summer to early fall), air temperatures range between 86°–92°F, with waters between 72°–80°F and mostly calm seas. From May to October (late fall and winter to spring), temperatures range between 78°–84°F, with frequent drizzling garua rain; and water temperatures between 64°–70°F and occasionally rough seas.

Transportation includes roundtrip flights between the mainland and Galapagos; and 1.5 to 2.5-hour inter-island speedboat transfers. The order of activities and islands visited may change based on local conditions.



LAND IGUANA BY DAIN VAN SCHOYCK

