



# GALÁPAGOS

## Pure Galápagos: Perspectives by Land and Sea

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

*Explore Charles Darwin's "Living Laboratory of Evolution" from distinct perspectives on this combined land and cruise adventure. First, embark on the new Tip Top V, a deluxe 16-passenger catamaran, and sail among pristine, uninhabited islands home to specially adapted flora and fauna. Next, spend three nights at Scalesia Eco-Lodge, a luxury tented camp in the highlands of Isabela, the perfect base for exploring the geology and biodiversity of the archipelago's largest island. Enjoy the best of both worlds as you learn about the threats to these fragile ecosystems and the work being done to protect them. You'll come away with a deeper understanding and appreciation for this extraordinary place and its people.*

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Climb Prince Philip's Steps and observe nesting colonies of frigatebirds, boobies, gulls, and other seabirds on Genovesa Island.
- Walk among the tall Opuntia cactus forests on Santa Fé, looking for the pale yellow land iguana species found only on this island.
- Visit Los Humedales, where the sheltered sandy beaches, rocky shores, and mangroves provide a nursery for young marine animals.
- Spend a full day hiking at Sierra Negra Volcano and enjoy expansive views of the caldera and surroundings.
- Learn how the Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center is working to ensure the survival of the islands' endangered giant tortoises.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

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





SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND BY JILL RICHMOND

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### DAY 1 - GUAYAQUIL

Upon arrival at the José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport in Guayaquil, after clearing customs and immigration, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. Most flights arrive in the late evening. Arrival into Guayaquil should be on a Wednesday for the Friday cruise departure. *Overnight at Hotel Oro Verde.*

### DAY 2 - GUAYAQUIL

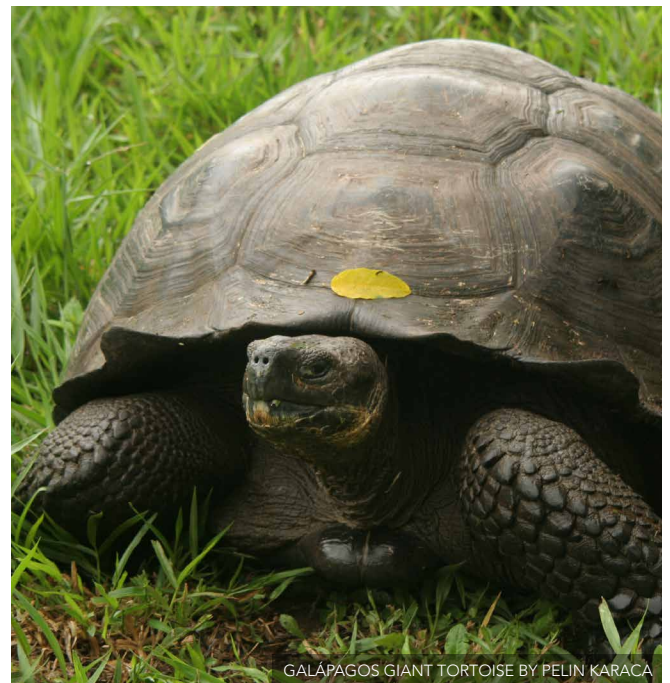
This morning, have a leisurely breakfast and then explore the area on a walk to Parque Seminario—also known as Iguana Park for the abundant iguanas that reside in this plaza—and the Malecón waterfront, a world-recognized urban renewal project complete with museums, restaurants, bars, and shopping areas. Have lunch along the Malecón, and then continue to Santa Ana Hill for a bird’s-eye view of the city. Return to Oro Verde with time to relax before dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Oro Verde. (BLD)*

### DAY 3 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, head to the airport for the morning flight to Baltra Island in the Galápagos. (Please note: There is a luggage weight limit of 50 pounds per person. Luggage over 50 pounds is subject to additional fees.) Upon arrival, transfer to the Tip Top V, a new first-class catamaran. Get settled in and have lunch. In the afternoon, visit Bachas Beach on the northern end of Santa Cruz Island. This quiet little beach, famous for its two abandoned World War II-era barges, is a great place to see wildlife. Highlights include the rare and endangered Lava Gull (total population is less than 600), Small and Medium Ground-Finches, Galápagos Mockingbird, and American Flamingo. White-tipped reef sharks, rays, and sea turtles swim close to shore. Later in the day, return to the ship for dinner. *Overnight aboard Tip Top V. (BLD)*

### DAY 4 - GALÁPAGOS

Today, explore Genovesa Island, which has developed a reputation as the “Bird Island” for its rich and abundant bird life. Visit two very different sites on the island, Prince Philip’s Steps and Darwin Bay. Named for Prince Philip, who visited the Galápagos in 1965 and again in 1981, the “steps” are a steep stairway on a rock face covered in nesting seabirds, primarily Nazca and Red-footed Boobies, with a small colony of fur seals near the landing site. At the top, the trail leads inland onto a plateau passing more booby nests and ends near a lava plain with Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels flitting in every direction. Keep an eye out for Short-eared Owls, which stalk these small seabirds. Other birds include Galápagos Dove, Red-billed Tropicbird, Galápagos Mockingbird, and several endemic songbirds: Gray Warbler-Finch, Large Ground-Finch, Genovesa



GALÁPAGOS GIANT TORTOISE BY PELIN KARACA

Ground-Finch, and Genovesa Cactus-Finch. In contrast, Darwin's Beach is a small sand and coral rubble beach. A short trail cuts in west along a tidal lagoon; here, look for nesting Swallow-tailed Gull, Lava Gull, and Lava (Striated) Heron. The trail continues uphill and into scrub full of palo santo trees, Opuntia cacti, and saltbush. Watch and photograph nesting Great Frigatebirds and more Red-footed Boobies. Marine iguanas are the only reptile on Genovesa, and the ones that live here are the smallest in the archipelago. *Overnight aboard Tip Top V. (BLD)*

## DAY 5 - GALÁPAGOS

Cruise to the east end of Santa Cruz Island to explore South Plaza Island. One of the smaller islands in the archipelago, South Plaza still supports a large diversity of plants and animals. Here, see marine and land iguanas, and maybe a hybrid of the two as you hike trails through a landscape with scattered prickly pear cactus trees. Other wildlife includes sea lions, seabirds, Small Ground-Finch, Common Cactus-Finch, and more. In the afternoon, visit Santa Fé, one of the oldest islands in the Galápagos. Take the trails through dense stands of Santa Fe Opuntia cactus and look for Santa Fe land iguanas and Galápagos Hawks. *Overnight aboard Tip Top V. (BLD)*

## DAY 6 - GALÁPAGOS

This morning, disembark from the Tip Top V in Santa Cruz's Puerto Ayora, and then transfer to Isabela Island by speedboat. Isabela is the largest island in the archipelago, greater in size than all the other islands combined. It is also one of the youngest islands, formed by the merger of six shield volcanoes, five of which are still active. Upon arrival, check in, and then take a short hike through native habitat to the Arnaldo Tupiza Tortoise Breeding Center, where you can see five different subspecies of Galápagos giant tortoise and learn about their natural history and the conservation issues affecting them. Birds possible along the way include White-cheeked Pintail, American Flamingo, Black-necked Stilt, and Galápagos (Yellow) Warbler. Return to the hotel for dinner. Located in Isabela's highlands, the lodge grounds hold birds like Smooth-billed Ani, Dark-billed Cuckoo, and more of Darwin's finches: Green Warbler-Finch, Woodpecker Finch, and Small and Large Tree-Finches. *Overnight at Scalesia Lodge. (BLD)*

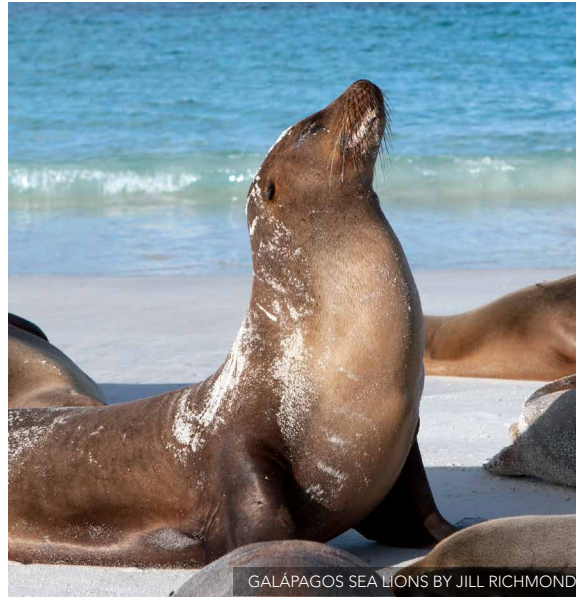
## DAY 7 - GALÁPAGOS

This morning, visit a small group of islets just offshore from Puerto Villamil known as Las Tintoreras. The islets create a sheltered bay with calm, turquoise water that provides habitat for sea lions, sea turtles, marine iguanas, rays, and the endangered Galápagos Penguin. Check out the shallow crevices for sharks that rest there

during the day. A short loop trail stretches across rough (a'a) lava rock, where you can see marine iguanas and lava lizards. After lunch, explore Los Humedales ("the wetlands"). The mix of sandy beaches, rocky shoreline, lagoons, and dense mangroves is an important nursery for young marine animals and one of the best sites in the archipelago for migratory shorebirds such as Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Whimbrel, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and Short-billed Dowitcher. Dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Scalesia Lodge. (BLD)*

## DAY 8 - GALÁPAGOS

Enjoy a full day of hiking at Sierra Negra. Measuring nearly 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. The trail to the top passes through fantastic lunar-like landscapes and habitat rich in plants and animals. Possibilities include Galápagos Hawk, Vermilion and Galápagos Flycatchers, Galápagos Martin, Galápagos Mockingbird, and many Darwin's finches: Green Warbler-Finch, Vegetarian Finch, Woodpecker Finch, Small and Large Tree-Finches, and Small and Medium Ground-Finches. Hike to the edge of the caldera and have a boxed lunch. Enjoy the incredible vista of the caldera and other volcanoes on Isabela as well as the neighboring island, Fernandina. Later, return to the hotel. *Overnight at Scalesia Lodge. (BLD)*



GALÁPAGOS SEA LIONS BY JILL RICHMOND

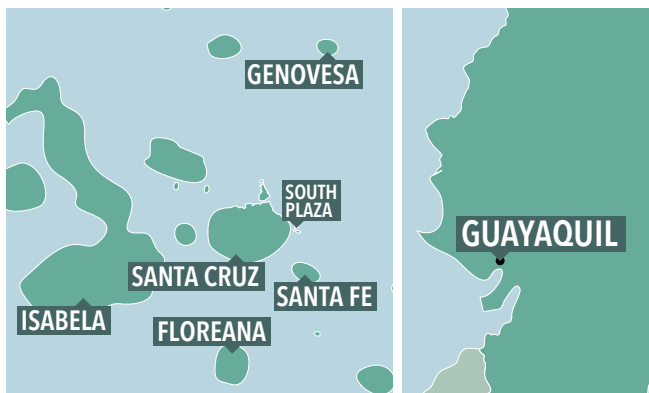
## DAY 9 - GUAYAQUIL

After breakfast, depart Isabela Island by boat and transfer to Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island. From there, travel across the island by vehicle. Santa Cruz is the second largest island and located in the center of the archipelago. It has experienced a long history of human settlement and agriculture, but still maintains many of its native ecosystems; most of the archipelago's endemic birds are found here and with luck, seeing a wild giant tortoise is possible on the drive north. Once on the north end, take the ferry across the Itabaca Channel to Baltra Island. Continue to the airport for the flight back to Guayaquil. Transfer to the hotel for dinner and time to rest. Most flights depart late at night or very early in the morning. *Overnight at Hotel Oro Verde. (BLD)*

## DAY 10 - DEPART

Arrive home following your overnight flight.

*\*Important note: Cruise itineraries are subject to change without prior notice due to various factors including, but not limited to: safety, weather, unforeseen circumstances, or at the discretion of the Captain, Guide, or the Galápagos National Park.*



MAP NOT TO SCALE



SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO BY PELIN KARACA



SCALESIA LODGE



TIP TOP V

## LAND PRICING

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

**\$4,795** (14 participants + 2 leaders)

**\$4,995** (10 participants + 1 leader)

Price includes accommodations, meals, entrance fees, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, Galápagos National Park fee, internal flights (Guayaquil-Baltra-Guayaquil), private 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 150 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Non-refundable final payment is due at 95 days prior to departure.*

## MORE FROM HOLBROOK

Holbrook was founded on the principle that travel fosters a greater understanding of our world's cultural and natural treasures and that these experiences allow individuals to become agents for global change. We hope that your experiences in Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands will remain with you forever and will challenge you to make a difference in the world we share!

Please join our Facebook page and share photos of your program. Visit us at [www.facebook.com/holbrooktravel](http://www.facebook.com/holbrooktravel). We hope to hear from you.



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