



GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

with Cindy Miller Hopkins & Sue Flood

April 8 - 19, 2021



Experience the enchantment of the Galápagos Islands aboard Coral 2 on this classic 12-day exploration with Cindy Miller Hopkins and Sue Flood. See firsthand why this geologically young archipelago is considered a refuge for some of the most interesting wildlife in the world, including sea lions, marine iguanas, and Waved Albatross. As you follow in Charles Darwin's footsteps, you'll discover the fascinating flora and fauna, stunning landscapes, and compelling geological formations that make the islands like nowhere else on Earth.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Come face-to-face with the iconic wildlife of the Galápagos, including Blue-footed Boobies, marine iguanas, Darwin's finches, and the Galápagos Penguin.
- Discover fascinating geological history while trekking volcanoes and lava fields.
- Hike to the summit on Bartolomé Island for spectacular views of Pinnacle Rock, the most photographed place in the Galápagos Islands.
- Snorkel with sea lions and other marine life.
- Shop for beautiful woven textiles and other handcrafted goods at the famous Otavalo Market on Ecuador's mainland.
- Learn about the islands from two naturalist guides on board the Coral 2.



ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

APRIL 8 - PUEMBO

Upon arrival in Quito you will be met and escorted to your hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening. *Overnight at Rincón de Puembo.*

APRIL 9 - PUEMBO

This morning enjoy a leisurely breakfast followed by program orientation. Depart for the city's central region to explore Quito, Ecuador's capital city and a historic UNESCO World Heritage Site. Learn about Quito's history from the pre-Hispanic times, through the Colonial Period, to the Republican Era. The architecture found in Quito's historical center is a great example of the Baroque style, which is a fusion of Spanish, Moorish, Flemish and Indigenous art. After lunch visit the Quito Botanical Gardens. The garden was created to conserve and exhibit the native flora of the Andes and has permanent exhibitions showcasing different ecosystems and plants from the high Andes, cloud forest, and dry forest habitats; the garden also displays a variety of ornamental plants. One of the main attractions of the garden is the orchid display, containing over 1,200 species of orchids. Return to the hotel for dinner this evening. *Overnight at Rincón de Puembo. (BLD)*

APRIL 10 - PUEMBO

After breakfast depart for Otavalo, located in the northern province of Imbabura. Upon arrival, venture on a cultural field trip to the Otavalo Market with an on-site discussion, "Otavaleños: Tradition and Globalization." The famed Otavalo Market dates back to pre-Inca times and to this day serves as a place where locals and visitors can buy or barter food, animals, basic necessities, and crafts. Otavaleños are well-known for their superior business skills, and examples of their craft can be found at this market and throughout stores in the country. Transfer to the small village of Peguche for a visit with an indigenous family, where you'll learn about their long-standing traditions in music, back-strap weaving, and herbal medicine. Head to a local restaurant for lunch and sample flavors of Andean cuisine, prepared with typical ingredients and products of the Ecuadorian highlands. Afterward, return to Quito, traveling through the scenic Imbabura Province. *Overnight at Rincón de Puembo. (BLD)*

APRIL 11 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast transfer to the airport for the flight to Baltra. Upon arrival in the Galápagos, transfer to the pier to board the Coral 2; receive an orientation and safety drill before setting sail. Afternoon Charles Darwin Research Station visit. *Overnight aboard Coral 2. (BLD)*

APRIL 12 - GALÁPAGOS

This morning visit Dragon Hill on Santa Cruz Island. Arriving to a small lava dock, your first encounters are with marine iguanas that blend in perfectly to the dark rock. As you walk past large prickly pear cacti, arrive to one end of a long, sickle-shaped, beach with Dragon Hill standing in the distance. Your walk takes you on a circular path past a shallow lake, where flamingoes frequently come to feed. Waders such as stilts, turnstones and sandpipers work the muddy edges frenetically looking for food as you continue inland to a dry forested habitat, where land iguanas nest and burrow. After lunch visit Bartolomé Island, considered the most iconic landscape of the entire archipelago. The view from the top of Bartolomé Island, overlooking the famous Pinnacle Rock and the austere Santiago Island beyond, is well worth the climb up the wooden boardwalk. This volcanic scene has often been likened to a lunar landscape. Your subsequent snorkel here might put you face to face with Galápagos penguins, white-tipped reef sharks, and playful sea lions. *Overnight aboard Coral 2. (BLD)*

APRIL 13 - GALÁPAGOS

This morning make a wet landing at Rábida Island's Buccaneer Cove. Dark red sand covers the unique beaches of this island and is home to multiple sea lion colonies. Rábida is considered the epicenter of the Galápagos Islands due to the diversity of its volcanic geology. Head out on a panga ride along marine cliffs to observe nesting seabirds, and then snorkel off the coast, where marine life is particularly active. Have lunch on the yacht, and then visit Espumilla Beach on Santiago Island—an amazing location that features the remains of an eroded shoreline, which is home to seabirds, fur seals, and sea lions. *Overnight aboard Coral 2. (BLD)*

APRIL 14 - GALÁPAGOS

Today visit Black Turtle Cove, where you can find four species of mangrove in the extensive tidal lagoon system that stretches for almost a mile inland. During your panga ride through the labyrinth, spot many turtles, herons of several species, sharks, and rays. The experience is otherworldly and seems to transport you back to the beginning of time. This afternoon explore the central highlands of Santa Cruz Island, where you have the best opportunity to interact in close quarters with wild Galápagos giant tortoises. A short walk among these huge 600-lb reptiles will also offer the chance to spot more highland species, especially several species of the famed finches. A visit to the collapsed twin sinkholes (Los Gemelos) puts you in a stunning forest of the endemic tree-forming *Scalesia*. Apart from the dramatic scenery, this area is well known for its diversity of passerine bird species. *Overnight aboard Coral 2. (BLD)*

APRIL 15 - GALÁPAGOS

Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela Island) is surrounded by immense cliffs of the eroded volcano. Studded with resting seabirds including Brown Noddy and Nazca Booby, enjoy them in close proximity from your dinghies. Snorkeling here is superb, with certain species of fish only found in the west of the archipelago. You will also have a very real chance of swimming with penguins and potentially a plethora of green turtles. This afternoon visit the youngest island of in the Galápagos and one of the most pristine in the world. Fernandina Island is simply the marine iguana capital of the world. This desolate volcanic backdrop is home to a huge concentration of these enigmatic reptiles. Incongruously sharing the same shoreline, you can find the diminutive Galápagos penguins. Here you will also have the exciting opportunity to snorkel with marine iguanas feeding



underwater, penguins, turtles, and the bizarre, endemic, flightless cormorants. *Overnight aboard Coral 2. (BLD)*

APRIL 16 - GALÁPAGOS

Today visit Urbina Bay (Isabela Island). At the far end of a long, level hike you arrive at a strange phenomenon, where large blocks of coral lie completely exposed after a dramatic geological uplift in 1954. Located at the western base of Alcedo Volcano you may run into a few very impressive land iguanas, as well as some of the volcano's endemic Galápagos giant tortoises during the wet season. This afternoon visit Tagus Cove, a well-known hideout and deep-water anchorage in the days of pirates. Tagus Cove was also one of the few sites visited by Charles Darwin and the HMS Beagle in 1835. A beautiful hike leads you past an overview of Darwin Lake and on to a stunning volcanic landscape revealing Isabela Island's dramatic northern volcanoes. Once back at sea level, the perfect activity is to snorkel along a submerged wall with turtles, penguins, a variety of fish, and potentially, flightless cormorants. You might even be tempted by a panga ride or kayak excursion! *Overnight aboard Coral 2. (BLD)*

APRIL 17 - GALÁPAGOS

On Santiago Island, Egas Port's black volcanic sand sets it apart from most beaches. It is best known for the dramatic shoreline, where you will meet a host of species that chose to live between land and sea. Particular among these are the endemic Galápagos fur seals which maintain a small colony at the end of your walk. Other species of note include American Oystercatcher, sea lions, waders, herons, lava lizards, and even Galápagos Hawk. An optional visit takes you to an abandoned salt mine famous in its day for supplying salt to mainland Ecuador. After lunch explore Sullivan Bay. When viewed from the sea, the site does not look especially interesting, and visitors are always enthralled by the amazing beds of pahoehoe lava from the recent flow on the island. It is a landscape and macro photographer's dream. The importance of pioneer plants such as the tiny *Mollugo* will be discussed as you hike over the lava. After your land visit you can enjoy a refreshing snorkel in the company of sea lions, turtles, and rays. *Overnight aboard Coral 2. (BLD)*

APRIL 18 - GUAYAQUIL

This morning end your adventure with a visit to Bachas Beach, named for some wrecked World War II barges whose ribs are still visible in the sand. This visitor site offers great swimming, a lovely walk along the shore, and a visit to a lagoon behind the high tide line with wading birds, marine iguanas, and sometimes even flamingoes. The two beaches are also favorite nesting sites for green turtles, which often leave tractor-like tracks in the sand. Afterward,

transfer to the Baltra Airport for your flight to Guayaquil. Time permitting, visit the Guayaquil malecón. Farewell dinner at the hotel this evening. *Overnight at Hotel Oro Verde. (BLD)*

APRIL 19 - FAREWELL!

Transfer to the airport after breakfast. (B)

Important 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.*



LAND PRICING

\$6,900 per person

Cost is based on a minimum of 18 participants, and includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, internal flights, local guides for the duration of the program, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, tips/gratuities, items of a personal nature, or the following optional items (rates per person subject to change):

Wet suit rental: \$50

Kayak rental: \$30 each use

Internet access on the boat: \$32 for 10 minutes

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.

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

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip, cost will be \$13,800 per person. A \$750 per person non-refundable deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. Final non-refundable payment is due September 25, 2020.

YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERTS



Sue Flood is an award-winning photographer and filmmaker, adventure travel leader and public speaker. Her work takes her all over the world but she has a special passion for the wildlife and icy beauty of Antarctica and is one of the very few women who chooses to return again and again to Earth's harshest and most demanding environment. Her first visit to the Poles happened more than 20 years ago while making nature television documentaries. A Durham University zoology graduate,

Sue spent 11 years with the BBC Natural History Unit, working on series including *The Blue Planet* and *Planet Earth* as well as the Disney nature movie *Earth* with Sir David Attenborough. Her adventures in the Arctic and Antarctic have included camping at -40°C in the Arctic winter, diving with leopard seals, working on Russian icebreakers on trips to the North Pole and Antarctica, living with Inuit hunters on the floe edge and camping for over a month in the Weddell Sea in the most southerly emperor penguin colony. Sue also thaws out occasionally by guiding safaris and other photography trips around the world, including Madagascar, the Galapagos, Zambia, Japan, Canada and Chester Zoo, and loves teaching others to make the most of their camera, whatever their experience level. Her new book *Emperor – The Perfect Penguin* with a foreword by Michael Palin, was published in September 2018 and was runner-up in the best Nature book category in the International Photography Awards. She has appeared on screen for the BBC, Discovery Channel and National Geographic; been featured on the series *Cameramen Who Dare* and has had images in National Geographic, BBC Wildlife, Geo and other distinguished publications. She has won multiple awards in competitions including Travel Photographer of the Year, International Photographer of the Year, International Garden Photographer of the Year, the International Conservation Photography Awards (Best of Festival), and a Royal Photographic Society Silver Medal. Sue is a member of the Explorers Club, a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and, in recognition of her photographic achievements, met Her Majesty The Queen during a special Adventurers and Explorers event held at Buckingham Palace. When she is not in some far-flung location, Sue lives with her husband Chris in North Wales.

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Cindy Miller Hopkins is a full-time travel, wildlife and conservation photographer with 20 years' experience and thousands of publications to her credit. Cindy is represented by two major photo agencies, one in the US and one based in London. Her images can be seen on the pages of thousands of text books, travel brochures, calendars, and other consumer products, as well as U.S. and international magazines and newspapers. Her freelance, assignment and workshop career has taken her to all seven continents and to over 140 countries. Some of her clients include National Geographic, National Geographic Traveler, Chester Zoo, Wells Fargo, American Express, Microsoft, AAA & Frommer's travel guides, Smithsonian Journeys, Collette Vacations, Princess Cruises, Quark Expeditions, Silversea Expeditions, Holland America, Blount Small Ship Adventures, BING homepage images and TV's Food Network. She has images on permanent display at Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian and the Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C. Cindy's 2018 rare image of FIVE different species of penguins all in one frame will be the lead image in a worldwide campaign to protect South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands in Antarctica. Along with her stock photography business, Cindy teaches digital photography classes and workshops, is a photo lecturer on expedition ships, and leads photo safaris around the world. On average, Cindy is out of the country over 200 days a year. When not traveling, which isn't often, she lives at home with her husband in Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

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