



Photo by Sharon Barnett



GALAPAGOS | CRUISE & SAFARI

HIKING, SNORKELING & NATURAL HISTORY with MARIN NATURE ADVENTURES

August 3 – 13, 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

- Three nights in the Ecuadorian capital city **Quito**. Straddle the equator line.
- Four days **interisland Galapagos cruising**, aboard M/V Galapagos Legend, with walking and snorkeling excursions every day. Dry and wet landings. Scrumptious meals.
- Four days of **on-island Galapagos lodging**: two nights on the beach and two nights at a luxury safari-style lodge in the highlands of Isla Isabela.
- Likely encounters with giant tortoises, marine iguanas, sea turtles, Galapagos sea lions, penguins, seabirds and flamingos. Slow paced daily hikes for **wildlife viewing**, birdwatching and **nature photography**.
- **Fine camaraderie** and cuisine with Sharon, Kevin, and a cheerful, light-hearted group of nature lovers. Free afternoons on Isla San Cristobal and Isla Isabela.

ABOUT YOUR NATURALIST LEADERS



Sharon and Kevin are energetic hikers and affable naturalists. Sharon is the naturalist hiking instructor for the College of Marin and a science teacher at Marin Country Day School. Kevin is a fishery observer for NOAA Fisheries. They have been leading Hiking & Natural History tours worldwide for over ten years. Both have traveled to Galapagos and are eager to share this experience with you. They are adept at spotting birds and wildlife and thoughtfully sharing the wonders of nature.

www.MarinNature.com

The Galapagos Islands are a unique treasure. Sharon & Kevin have designed this special Hiking & Natural History tour for you to experience these remote islands by land and sea. After a 4-day cruise, we'll veer off the beaten path for a safari-style experience in the highlands of Isla Isabela. We start and finish the tour in Quito, Ecuador.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

AUGUST 03 - QUITO

Welcome to Ecuador. Upon arrival, you will be met outside baggage claim and escorted to the modern Sheraton hotel in Quito. Kevin & Sharon will greet you and orient you to Ecuador's capital city. At 9,200' and ringed by volcanoes, Quito was the world's first city to be declared a UNESCO World Heritage site. Check in starts at 3 pm. *Overnight at Sheraton Hotel.*

AUGUST 04 - QUITO

After breakfast, meet your group for a program orientation. Ecuador is the jewel on the ring of Earth's equator. We'll start our day with a visit to the equator line and an open-air museum tour that touches on the wide diversity of this small country. Lunch together, then it's a free afternoon. Stretch your legs at Parque Carolina or rest up for tomorrow's big day. We'll enjoy dinner at the hotel restaurant and turn in early. *Overnight at Sheraton Hotel. (BLD)*

AUGUST 05 - ISLA NORTH SEYMOUR - CRUISE

We fly west over six hundred miles of the Pacific to touch down on Baltra Island. Our naturalist guides will greet us at the airport and transfer us to the luxurious 302' M/V Galapagos Legend. Built in Germany, 1962, the storied Legend served as a hospital ship during the Vietnam War. This is one of the most comfortable and esteemed vessels in the Galapagos cruising fleet. After lunch aboard the vessel, we'll settle into the flow of guided excursions - a dinghy ride to pristine islands for walking and snorkeling, surrounded by wildlife. This afternoon will be a rare opportunity to see both species of Frigatebirds. *Overnight aboard M/V Galapagos Legend. (BLD)*

AUGUST 06 - ISLA BARTOLOME & ISLA SANTIAGO - CRUISE

We begin our first full day in the archipelago on high note - ascending through volcanic landscape for the breathtaking vista of iconic Pinnacle Rock. Both dinghy excursions today feature walking and snorkeling as we experience the unique and beautiful archipelago. *Overnight aboard M/V Galapagos Legend. (BLD)*

AUGUST 07 - ISLA SAN CRISTOBAL - CRUISE

An overnight transit brings us to the north shore of San Cristobal Island where we'll have the chance to see all three species of Boobies. This morning's walk will be moderately strenuous over rocky terrain; there's a tempting alternative to stay aboard, enjoy a massage and soak in the jacuzzi. The afternoon walk is an easy stroll on the sand. *Overnight aboard M/V Galapagos Legend. (BLD)*

AUGUST 08 - ISLA SAN CRISTOBAL

Upon disembarking the Legend, we drive into the moist highlands to the Cerro Colorado giant tortoise breeding center. Spend time with these gentle giants and learn why breeding centers play an important role in their conservation. The afternoon will be unstructured in Puerto Baquerizo Merino, capital city of the Galapagos: explore the beach, walk the town or nearby trails, or surf the waves. Dinner is on your own, or with Sharon, at one of the local restaurants. *Overnight at Hotel Miconia. (B)*

AUGUST 09 - ISLA ISABELA

Today we will fly beyond the ordinary high-end Galapagos tour itinerary, to the extraordinary volcanically-active Isla Isabella. We'll land at the elegant Scalesia Galapagos Lodge and nestle into safari-style tents for two nights. Unique, statuesque scalesia trees cover the island uplands. In the afternoon, we'll either take a group hike or try our luck peddling bicycles. *Overnight at Scalesia Galapagos Lodge. (BD)*

AUGUST 10 - ISLA ISABELA

Two great options today: Push yourself on a moderately strenuous 6-hour hike to view volcanic craters - Sierra Negra and Volcan Chico. Or take a lazier approach to your final morning: relax at the beach, surf, or cruise a few miles on a comfortable bicycle. In the late afternoon, we'll paddle kayaks together hoping to see Galapagos penguins. *Overnight at Scalesia Galapagos Lodge. (BLD)*

AUGUST 11 - ISLA ISABELA - PUERTO VILLAMIL

Our final snorkeling opportunity today at one of Isla Isabella's spectacular National Park sites, Las Tintoreras islet. Free time this afternoon to relax, explore or look for flamingos in the nearby lagoons. Tonight's lodging is beachfront, and dinner will be on your own, or with Sharon, in the town of Puerto Villamil. *Overnight at Hotel Albemarle. (BL)*

AUGUST 12 - QUITO

Full of happiness, we'll carry fresh memories off the islands as we fly away to mainland Ecuador. A long day of air travel today returns us to Quito for a celebratory dinner together. If your international flight departs late tonight, airport transportation is provided. *Overnight at Sheraton Quito. (BD)*

AUGUST 13 - DEPARTURE

Breakfast, and transportation to Quito International Airport. Check out is at 12 pm. *(B)*

LAND COST

\$7,975 per person

Includes accommodations, meals and activities as indicated on the itinerary. Includes Galapagos National Park fees, private ground transportation, and internal flights. Includes local guides in each region for duration of the program, all gratuities, and bottled water on the bus. Does not include international airfare to or from Ecuador. Does not include alcoholic beverages or items of a personal nature.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; for a single room throughout the trip, add \$1,650 per person. A \$1,000 deposit and enrollment form are required to secure your space. The deposit is refundable minus a \$600 cancellation fee until April 30, 2024, at which time final non-refundable payment is due. Cancellations received after this date are not refundable. Pricing is based on a minimum of 9 participants. Itinerary is subject to change at discretion of leaders.

FOR MORE INFO OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/galapagosmna
or contact Sharon Barnett at
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