



# The Best of Galapagos Adventure - 7 Days (#20161)

**Note:** Price printed on this PDF is valid until **15-01-2025** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

## Overview

Discover the enchanted Galapagos Islands through this island-hopping tour! The islands offer endless opportunities to witness a unique abundance of wildlife in a setting unlike any other on the planet. Due to its isolation, the Galapagos formed a natural sanctuary that preserves species, allowing them to evolve over countless millennia. This is one of the few places on earth that allows such close and intimate contact with the wildlife. The tour also provides many benefits to local communities and is socially and environmentally responsible. Be part of an educational and inspirational journey of a lifetime in one of the most fiercely protected marine wilderness' in the world!

Departure on Sundays.

## Trip Highlights

Quito-Isabela Island-Santa Cruz-Quito

## Detailed Itinerary



**Day 01****Day 01: Arrive Quito**

Welcome to Quito! The largest, best-preserved colonial city of America – declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978. The city is considered the Cultural Capital of South America and is located on the equator in a valley at the foothills of the Pichincha volcano. Depending on arrival time, you can spend your day exploring the old town of Quito and the surrounding area. GGTS can help you to organize a day trip (please request in advance). In the evening, one of our trip leaders will meet you at the hotel's lobby for a welcome briefing at 18:00 hours. At this time, we will discuss the details and questions you may have regarding the adventure. Our first day is an acclimation and information day.

**Meal:** No Meal

**Day 02****Day 02: Galapagos-Isabela Island**

Today we get ready to explore the most amazing archipelago in the Pacific coast and the place where Charles Darwin based his theory on the evolution of species. We will board a morning flight from Quito to the island of Baltra. Once we arrive, we head to the town of Puerto Ayora, the largest town in the Galapagos. From here we will take a quick boat to the largest island in the archipelago and where most of the volcanic activity in the Galapagos is reported. The island was formed by six shield volcanoes, Alcedo, Cerra Azul, Darwin, Ecuador, Sierra Negra and Wolf; five of them are still active which makes the island one of the most volcanically active places on earth. Galapagos Islands are located 600 miles (965.6 km) from the coast of Ecuador, it is really important to understand that you will have to take air, road and sea transportation to get there.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 03****Day 03: Snorkelling at Lava Tunnels**

Explore the amazing formations of lava created by the last eruptions of the volcanic island along the seashore. This magical place has historically been filmed by BBC and National Geographic for their documentaries. It is a labyrinth of lava arches comprised of crystal-clear water full of sea turtles, eagle rays, sea lions, sharks and more. The turtles navigate their own highway from the mangroves to the open sea through "Los Tuneles". Here, we will have the best snorkelling opportunity with all these beautiful animals, including the curious Galapagos penguins playing around. In the afternoon, we return to Puerto Villamil to go kayaking in Tintoreras to observe sea lions, penguins, turtles and marine iguanas.

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playing around. Before or after the trip, you can enjoy some optional activities such as biking or just relax on the exotic white-sand beaches of Isabela Island. We recommend you take some time to visit the giant tortoise breeding centre located walking distance from the hotel.

Boat ride to the Lava Tunnels time: 1 hour each way

Snorkelling time: 2 times of 1 hour each.

What to wear today: shorts, water long sleeve t-shirt, sandals or tennis shoes, bathing suit, hat or baseball cap, sun cream, mosquito repellent, buff.

**Meal:** Breakfast and Lunch

## Day 04

### Day 04: Hike Sierra Negra - Kayak in Tintoreras - Snorkel at Concha Y Perla

After breakfast, at around 08h00, you will depart to Sierra Negra Volcano. You will drive to the highlands of Isabela where you would normally start hiking. The volcano, with its height of around 1,500 meters and an outer diameter of approximately nine kilometres, is the second biggest lava dome in the world. You will have lunch at a local restaurant in the highlands at around 13h00, a beautiful organic farm whose owners prepare their food with vegetables and fruits grown locally at the farm. Prepared at a lava rock-grill, enjoy a delicious meal and after lunch take a walk among the fruit trails or just take a nap in one of their hammocks and breath the clean air above a big Mango tree.

We then make our way back to the pier, arriving at 14h30, where, after a short briefing we will start kayaking at the bay where we can enjoy the local wildlife. On the way we can observe penguins, blue-footed boobies, pelicans, iguanas Marinas, sea turtles, sea lions, eagle rays and sometimes Sharks "Tintoreras" juveniles. To finish this day, at 16h30 we will have a short visit to Concha & Perla, a small beach in Puerto Villamil where we will snorkel. A short, beautiful walk through the mangroves on a boardwalk will lead you to the spot with turquoise waters and wildlife galore! You can expect to see plenty of other tourists alongside colourful fish, sea lions, sea turtles, pelicans, mockingbirds and maybe even marine iguanas!

Hiking time: 4 hours both ways

Hiking distance: 6 miles (9.6 km) (10 miles -16 km- optional to Volcan Chico)

Hiking elevation gain: 950 feet (289.5 meters)

Maximum elevation while hiking: 3687 feet (1124 meters)

Kayaking time: 2 hours

Snorkelling time: 1 hour

What to wear today for hiking: shorts, t-shirt, tennis shoes, rain jacket, hat, buff, sun cream, mosquito repellent.

What to wear today for kayaking and snorkelling: sandals, shorts, water long sleeve t-shirt, bathing suit, hat, sun cream, mosquito repellent.



**Meal:** Breakfast and Lunch

**Day 05****Day 05: Charles Darwin Station - Highlands**

In the morning, traverse from Isabela to Santa Cruz Island to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. Once we arrive, we will check in at the hotel. We will then visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn more about many of the endemic species seen in the wild, as well as the ongoing conservation and management efforts on the Galapagos Islands. In the afternoon, we will head to the 'Primicias' reserve in the highlands of Santa Cruz, home to the famous Galapagos tortoises. Hiking through Primicias' beautiful landscape with these lumbering giants is an unforgettable experience! We will also see other highland wildlife, such as pintail ducks, egrets, flycatchers, finches and frigatebirds, which gather to wash the salt off their feathers at a freshwater lake. Afterwards, return to Puerto Ayora to spend the evening in Galapagos' most populous town.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 06****Day 06: Flight back to Quito**

After our final breakfast on the Galapagos Island and the last photos taken of sea lions, we have a transfer to Baltra's airport in time to catch the flight back to the mainland.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 07****Day 07: Departure**

Today our trip will end and you will have your International departures. Take with you your memories and photos and leave a piece of your heart, as you will want to return to Ecuador soon to experience more of this enchanted land. We wish you a "Buen viaje"!

**Meal:** Breakfast

## Inclusions



Transportation: Comfortable land and sea transportation; speed boat Santa Cruz – Isabela – Santa Cruz.

Accommodation based in double occupancy: 5\* hotel in Quito, 3+ star hotels in Galapagos.

Meals: 6 Breakfasts & 2 lunches.

Activities: Snorkeling in the Lava Tunnels, Trekking to the top of Sierra Negra active volcano, snorkeling, and kayaking in Tintoreras, visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, hiking in Santa Cruz highlands.

Gear: Snorkeling mask and fins, life vest.

Trip Leader: Certified expert English-speaking adventure leader and local guides.

## Exclusions

Airfare Quito – Galapagos – Quito round trip.

International flights.

Airport transfer (international flights).

Travel insurance (suggested).

Meals not described in the itinerary – estimated budget AUD 414.

INGALA transit card: AUD 46 per person, cash only (subject to change).

Galapagos National Park fee: AUD 460 per person, cash only (subject to change).

USD AUD 23 pier-use fee at Puerto Villamil.

Wetsuit for rent: AUD 23.

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Tips for guides and drivers – estimated budget AUD 276.

## Note

Hotels Used OR Similar

Quito - Sheraton Quito Hotel.

Isabela Island - Albemarle or similar.

Santa Cruz - La Isla or similar.

Unique Experiences: Snorkel through lava formations with sea turtles, penguins, sea horses, sea lions and sharks at Lava Tunnels.

Hike to the top of Sierra Negra Volcano on Isabela Island and admire the surrounding moon-like landscapes.

Departure on Sundays.



Please note that the prices are starting from and that upon sending a new request with specific date we will send the applicable rate and availability.

## Program Touring / Guide

Small group tour

## Periodic Departure

**21 Nov, 2024 to 31 Dec, 2025**

4-5 pax

AUD 4,642 P P twin share

AUD 6,070 P P single

ON REQUEST

6 plus

AUD 4,308 P P twin share

AUD 5,736 P P single

ON REQUEST

2-3 pax

AUD 5,847 P P twin share

AUD 7,275 P P single

ON REQUEST

