



## Galapagos Family Experience: Nature & Wildlife - 8 Days (#20513)

**Note:** Price printed on this PDF is valid until **29-12-2024** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

### Overview

Experience in the company of your family the enchanted Galapagos Islands from the comfort of a land-based expedition! The islands offer endless opportunities to explore a unique abundance of life in a setting unlike any other on earth. The Galapagos form a natural sanctuary that preserves species, allowing them to evolve for countless millennia. This is one of the few places on earth that allows such intimate contact with so much wildlife. This holiday also provides flexible time to spend on your own and discover the wide sand beaches, well-signed trails in the Galapagos forest, and lots of wildlife.

This trip also benefits 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 areas in the world!

### Trip Highlights

Quito-Galapagos-Santa Cruz Island-Quito

### Detailed Itinerary



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

Welcome to Quito! The biggest, best-preserved colonial city of America was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978. The city is considered the Cultural Capital of South America and the second most important city of the old Inca Empire. Depending on arrival time, you can spend your day exploring the old town of Quito and the surrounding area. We can help you to organize a day trip.

In the evening, one of our trip leaders will meet you at the hotel for a welcome briefing and there will be plenty of time to discuss details and answer any questions you may have regarding the adventure. Our first day is an informational and acclimation day.

**Hotel:** Sheraton Quito Hotel or similar.

**Meal:** No Meal

**Day 02****Day 02: Arrival in Galapagos**

Today we get ready to explore the most amazing archipelago on 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 arrived, we head to the town of Puerto Ayora, the biggest town in the Galapagos. From here we will take a fast boat to Isabela, the largest island in the archipelago and the place where the most volcanic activity in the Galapagos is reported. The island is formed by six shield volcanoes, Alcedo, Cerra Azul, Darwin, Ecuador, Sierra Negra, and Wolf, five of them are still active, and therefore the island is one of the most volcanically active places on earth.

**Hotel:** Hotel Cally or similar.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Day 03****Day 03: Hike Sierra Negra Active Volcano**

After driving up from Puerto Villamil to the trailhead, we will prepare our backpacks and hike into a young forest ecosystem, a world of recent geological history. Our destination is the rim of Sierra Negra Crater, an active volcano that last erupted in October 2005. Upon arrival, we take in breathtaking views and explore the circumference of the massive, lava-filled crater, over six miles across at its widest point.



Enjoy the Afternoon a bit more relaxed by the beach or take your first snorkeling exploration at Concha Perla bay looking for sea lions, turtles, and more sea wildlife. You can also sign in for an optional surfing lesson in your free time.

**Hotel:** Hotel Cally or similar.

**Meal:** Breakfast and Lunch

**Day 04****Day 04: Breeding Centre, Flamingo Lagoon and Tintoreras - Isabela**

Today, we will head out on our mountain bikes to explore the beautiful coastline on an exclusive trail, taking us through an incredible ecosystem with a wide variety of wildlife. We start with a visit to the Wall of Tears, a massive wall built with lava rocks. This site dates back to the '50s, when Isabela was used as a penal colony, and prisoners were forced to build the wall to keep them from going mad, because of the isolation they experienced. As we continue our ride along the coast, we will explore pristine, white sand beaches, mangrove forests, and lagoons. This area is filled with birdlife, including American oystercatchers, herons, flamingos, finches, and many shore birds, as well as the ubiquitous sea lions and marine iguanas

The afternoon is time to refresh in the water going on board our kayaks and visiting Tintoreras Islet, located a short distance from Puerto Villamil and home to a great variety of wildlife. Its turquoise, crystalline waters are inhabited by white-tipped reef sharks, Galapagos Penguins, marine turtles, and sea lions. One of its beaches surrounded by mangroves is one of the few sites where marine iguanas can reproduce successfully.

**Hotel:** Hotel Cally or similar.

**Meal:** Breakfast and Lunch

**Day 05****Day 05: Charles Darwin Research Station**

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 'El Chato' reserve in the highlands of Santa Cruz, home to the famous Galapagos tortoises. Hiking through El Chato's 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. Afterward, return to Puerto Ayora to spend the evening in Galapagos' most populous town.



**Hotel:** La Casa de Judy or similar.

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 06

#### Day 06: Santa Cruz - Free Day - Optional Diving

Today, you can experience the Galapagos at your pace! As an option, you can go on a self-guided exploration walk through a dry forest to Tortuga Bay (about 3 ½ miles long), a beautiful white sand beach, and the nesting side to thousands of marine turtles. This beautiful place invites swimming or snorkelling. Alternatively, you can join any optional activities (at an extra cost), such as a trip to Floreana Island, Bartolome Island, or a scuba-diving day trip, just to mention a few.

**Hotel:** La Casa de Judy or similar.

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 07

#### Day 07: Flight back to Quito

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

**Hotel:** Sheraton Quito Hotel or similar

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 08

#### Day 08: 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: Airport transfers (national flights), sea transportation Santa Cruz – Isabela islands round trip, comfortable land transportation.

Accommodation based on double occupancy: 5\* hotel in Quito, 4+ star hotels in Galapagos.

Meals: 7 breakfasts and 2 box lunches.

Activities: Biking to Breeding centre and flamingos lagoon, kayak & snorkel in Tintoreras islet, Hike to Sierra Negra Active volcano, visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, hiking in Santa Cruz highlands.

Outdoor gear: Snorkelling mask and fins, life vest.

Trip Leader: Certified expert English-speaking adventure Trip Leader and naturalist local guides in Galapagos National Park.

### Exclusions

International flights.

Airfare Quito – Galapagos – Quito round trip.

Airport transfer (international flights).

Travel insurance (suggested).

Meals not described in the itinerary

INGALA transit card: AUD 48 per person, cash only (subject to change).

Galapagos National Park fee: AUD 485 per person, cash only (subject to change).

USD AUD 24 pier-use fee at Puerto Villamil.

Wetsuit for rent: AUD 24.

### Note

Unique Experiences:

Enjoy real time encounter with the most amazing wildlife up your finger tips and discover the power nature with the evolutionary changes of such a unique animals.

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

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

Private touring



## Periodic Departure

20 Dec, 2024 to 31 Dec, 2025

2-3 pax

AUD 5,748 P P twin share

AUD 7,464 P P single

ON REQUEST

4-5 pax

AUD 4,676 P P twin share

AUD 6,393 P P single

ON REQUEST

6 plus

AUD 4,344 P P twin share

AUD 6,061 P P single

ON REQUEST

