



## **The Best of Galapagos Adventure**

**Note:** Price printed on this PDF is valid until **02-05-2025** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

### **Escorted Experience**

- 24-Hour Local Assistance
- Fixed Dates
- Modern Airconditioned Vehicle
- Small Group Tour
- First Class Hotels

### **Tour Guide**

Local English only guide

### Detailed Itinerary

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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. This will be the best snorkelling opportunity with all these beautiful animals, including the curious Galapagos penguin 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.

#### **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 breathe 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.

#### **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.

## **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.

## **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"!

### **Inclusion**

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.

### **Exclusion**

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.**

## Tour Dates & Pricing

### 2-3 pax

21 Nov 2024 **Till** 31 Dec 2025

AU\$7,275 Per Single  
AU\$5,847 Per Twin

**On-Request**

### 4-5 pax

21 Nov 2024 **Till** 31 Dec 2025

AU\$6,070 Per Single  
AU\$4,642 Per Twin

**On-Request**

### 6 plus

21 Nov 2024 **Till** 31 Dec 2025

AU\$5,736 Per Single  
AU\$4,308 Per Twin

**On-Request**

