



PROJECT DOSSIER AND PRE-DEPARTURE DETAILS

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS *BALTRA to BALTRA* 5 days or 8 days

Ecuador

The Galapagos Archipelago is an isolated group of volcanic islands lying on the Equator, 970 km west of the Ecuadorian coast and consisting of 2 main islands, San Cristobal and Santa Cruz, 12 smaller islands and over 40 small islets. They were discovered by accident in 1535, when Tomas de Berlanga, the Bishop of Panama, drifted off course while sailing from Panama to Peru. The bishop reported his discovery to King Charles of Spain and included in his report a description of the giant *galapago* (tortoise) from which the islands received their name. The islands' most famous visitor was Charles Darwin, who arrived in 1835 and stayed for five weeks, making notes and wildlife collections that provided important evidence for his theory of evolution, which he was just beginning to develop.

The Galapagos have never been connected with the continent and gradually over many hundreds of thousands of years, animals and plants from over the seas, have adapted themselves to Galapagos conditions and come to differ more and more from their continental ancestors. Thus the islands have become famous for their unique wildlife. A quarter of the species of shore fish, half of the plants and almost all the reptiles are



found nowhere else. Two most spectacular species to be seen are the giant tortoise and the marine iguana, (the only sea-going lizard in the world). There is also a phenomenal amount of bird life, and you will see among many others; swallow-tailed gulls, magnificent frigate birds, blue-footed boobies and the albatross.

Where else could you swim with sea lions, float eye-to-eye with a penguin or watch a giant 200 kg tortoise lumbering through a cactus forest, while trying to avoid stepping on the iguanas scurrying over the lava. If you are interested in natural history, a visit to the Galapagos is the highlight of a trip to Ecuador.

Itinerary Guideline and Highlights

A 5 day or 8 day escorted boat trip around the islands can be arranged by Encounter for anyone joining a project starting or ending in Quito. The cruises start/end in Baltra on Fridays or Tuesdays.

"Tip Top III" 8 Days/7 Nights

Day 1: Arrive Baltra and transfer to the yacht

- for mid-day departure. Visit to South Plaza Island – good snorkelling place.
- Day 2:** Visit Santa Cruz Island and Charles Darwin Research Station at Academy Bay, the archipelago's most important human settlement, and the nearby highlands, a lush, humid area with many species of endemic flora.
- Day 3:** Punta Cormorant on Floreana Island. Flamingo's inhabiting a secluded lagoon are the island's colourful star attraction. Snorkelling at the reef of Devil's Crown, renowned for its spectacular underwater scenery. Also visit Post Office Bay and Black Beach.
- Day 4:** Punta Suarez and Gardner Bay on Espanola Island, home of tame mockingbirds, marine iguanas and colonies of blue-footed boobies and albatross.
- Day 5:** North Seymour Island where sea lions waddle along the shore and magnificent frigate birds display their brilliant red pouches in their mating ritual. Return to Baltra and then on to Rabida Island. Nine species of Darwin's Finch have been reported here, and sea lions frequent its red-sand beaches.
- Day 6:** Darwin Bay and Prince Philip's Steps on Genovesa Island, the Galapagos's most dramatic complete bird island, with its population of frigate birds, boobies, noddy tern, lava gulls, doves and thousands of storm petrels.
- Day 7:** James Bay on Santiago Island, where a colony of fur seals is at home on the black lava rocks. Then Bartolome Island where you can climb to the 359-foot summit for a splendid panoramic view. Here are also lovely sandy beaches for swimming and snorkeling.
- Day 8:** Sail around Daphne Islands which offer good views of these partly eroded tuff formations. Return to Baltra Island and transfer to airport for flight back to Guayaquil or Quito.

"Tip Top II" 8 Days/7 Nights

- Day 1:** Arrive Baltra and transfer to the yacht for mid-day departure. Visit to South Plaza Island – good snorkelling place.
- Day 2:** Punta Suarez and Gardner Bay on Espanola Island, home of tame

mockingbirds, marine iguanas and colonies of blue-footed boobies and albatross.

- Day 3:** Punta Cormorant on Floreana Island. Flamingo's inhabiting a secluded lagoon, are the island's colourful star attraction. Snorkelling at the reef of Devil's Crown, renowned for its spectacular underwater scenery. Also visit Post Office Bay and Black Beach.
- Day 4:** Visit Santa Cruz Island and Charles Darwin Research Station at Academy Bay, the archipelago's most important human settlement and the nearby highlands, a lush, humid area with many species of endemic flora.
- Day 5:** North Seymour Island where sea lions waddle along the shore and magnificent frigate birds display their brilliant red pouches in their mating ritual. Return to Baltra, and then on to Bartolome Island, where you can climb to the 359-foot summit for a splendid panoramic view. Here are also lovely sandy beaches for swimming and snorkelling.
- Day 6:** Full day on Genovesa, the Galapagos's most dramatic complete bird island, with its population of frigate birds, boobies, noddy tern, lava gulls, doves and thousands of storm petrels.
- Day 7:** James Bay on Santiago Island, where a colony of fur seals is at home on the black lava rocks. Then on to Rabida Island. Nine species of Darwin's Finch have been reported here, and sea lions frequent its red-sand beaches.
- Day 8:** Panga ride around the inlets of Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz Island, where you may see several pairs of mating marine turtles, white-tipped sharks, spotted-eagle rays and beautiful yellow cow-nosed rays. Return to Baltra Island and transfer to airport for flight back to Guayaquil or Quito.

"Tip Top III" 5 Days/4 Nights

- Day 1:** Arrive Baltra and transfer to the yacht for mid-day departure. Visit to South Plaza Island – good snorkelling place.
- Day 2:** Visit Santa Cruz Island and Charles Darwin Research Station at Academy Bay, the archipelago's most important human settlement, and the nearby

highlands, a lush, humid area with many species of endemic flora.

- Day 3:** Punta Cormorant on Floreana Island. Flamingo's inhabiting a secluded lagoon are the island's colourful star attraction. Snorkelling at the reef of Devil's Crown, renowned for its spectacular underwater scenery. Also visit Post Office Bay and Black Beach.
- Day 4:** Punta Suarez and Gardner Bay on Espanola Island, home of tame mockingbirds, marine iguanas and colonies of blue-footed boobies and albatross.
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PLEASE NOTE

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Readjustment of National Park Policies, seasonal changes, safety reasons and weather conditions may dictate slight schedule changes without prior notice. These decisions are orientated in terms of passengers safety and in the interest of the islands conservation.

GROUP SIZES

16/18 passengers in 8/10 double cabins plus 6/8 crew.

INCLUDED IN PROJECT COST

Accommodation in double occupancy cabins. Single supplement is 50% over cabin rates. All meals on board. Visits to the islands accompanied by multilingual naturalist guides who are authorised and qualified by the Galapagos National Park.

PROJECT COST DOES NOT COVER

Airfare Quito/Guayaquil Baltra Guayaquil/Quito and departure tax US \$25, Galapagos National Park Tax US \$100, alcoholic beverages, tips and personal expenses.

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED

Mask, flippers and snorkels are available on board although passengers may bring their own equipment. Diving equipment on diving charters.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BRING

Casual, comfortable clothes plus walking shoes/trainers, a light jacket or windbreaker, a light sweater, long sleeved shirts, a raincoat, shorts, a wide brimmed hat, bathing suits, sunglasses, binoculars, sunscreen, repellent, eye drops, sea sickness medication. Please note that a maximum of 20 kilos (one piece of luggage) is allowed on flights to the Galapagos Islands.

ON BOARD

"Tip Top III"

116 foot steel hull motor yacht, built in Holland, reconditioned in Guayaquil, Ecuador (1994/5). It is equipped with life jackets and other emergency safety equipment. Cruising speed 12 knots.

Accommodation: 18 passengers in 10 double cabins. 6 cabins with 2 single lower berths and 4 cabins with double lower berth and single upper berth. Each cabin with private bathroom

(toilet, wash basin and shower); Bar saloon; dining room; library; sun deck.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner are all served aboard (continental cuisine).

Crew: Captain; engineer; multilingual guide; international cook; steward; barman and 2 sailors in separate accommodation.

“Tip Top II”

70 feet, steel hull motor yacht, built in Guayaquil, Ecuador. It is equipped with life jackets and other emergency safety equipment. Cruising speed 8 knots.

Accommodation: 16 passengers in 8 double cabins with U/L berths each with private bathroom (toilet, wash basin and shower); bar saloon; dining room; sun deck.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner are all served aboard (continental cuisine).

Crew: Captain; multilingual guide; international cook; steward, and 2 sailors in separate accommodation.

Briefings: Daily briefings and discussions on the day’s shore visit, as well as a preview of the island landing for the following day, will be given daily by the naturalist guide on board both yachts.

PASSPORTS & VISAS

You will need a passport that is valid for not less than 6 months after the end of the project, and which contains at least 2 blank pages. Ecuadorian visa requirements are subject to change but at the moment no visas are required for brief ‘tourist visits’.

INSURANCE

You must have personal Travel Insurance to cover Adventure Travel and it must cover all the aspects described on p60 of the brochure. Please bring a copy of your policy with you.

MEDICAL & VACCINATIONS

All vaccination requirements are the same as for travelling on Ecuadorian mainland.

ARRIVING AT START OF THE PROJECT

Passengers will be checked on flight from the mainland by the travel agent and will be met by the naturalist guide on arrival to the island of Baltra. A bus meets the plane and transfers the cruise party the short distance to the yacht.

ROLF WITTMER TURISMO GALAPAGOS

Rolf Wittmer was one of the first promoters and initiators of eco-tourism which has been developed on the Galapagos Islands, and started operating yacht charters in 1969. Rolf Wittmer Turismo Galapagos was founded in 1982.

PAYMENT

Payment, depending on the formal quotation supplied, is made directly to the Operator (not to Encounter). This is best made by bank transfer to the Miami Bank – details and conditions supplied on booking.

Rates for the yachts follow on page 5.

PRICES (rates in US\$\$ dollars) –Guideline only and subject to change

LOW SEASON: MAY, JUNE, SEPTEMBER

HIGH SEASON: JAN, FEB, MARCH, APRIL, JULY, AUG, OCT, NOV, DEC

<u>“TIP TOP III”</u>				
	<u>8 days</u> <u>7 nights</u>		<u>5 days</u> <u>4 nights</u>	
	<u>Low Season</u>	<u>High Season</u>	<u>Low Season</u>	<u>High Season</u>
Accommodation				
Upper Deck	1,440	1,600	900	1,000
Lower Deck	1,368	1,520	855	950
<u>DIVING RATES</u>				
Accommodation				
Upper Deck	2,000	2,000	1,250	1,250
Lower Deck	1,900	1,900	1,188	1,188

<u>“TIP TOP II”</u>				
	<u>8 days</u> <u>7 nights</u>		<u>5 days</u> <u>4 nights</u>	
	<u>Low Season</u>	<u>High Season</u>	<u>Low Season</u>	<u>High Season</u>
Accommodation				
Upper Deck	1,296	1,440	810	900
Lower Deck	1,224	1,360	765	850
<u>DIVING RATES</u>				
Accommodation				
Upper Deck	1,800	1800	1,125	1,125
Lower Deck	1,710	1,710	1,070	1,070

The information in this dossier has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However, it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and Encounter Overland Ltd.