

The Insider's view of the Galapagos Islands

Wildlife and real life for the active traveller



Your exploration of the islands, the Galapagos National Park and the communities that live there is an opportunity to experience the other face of Galapagos. You'll come close to the famously tame wildlife, meet the Ecuadorians that call themselves Galapagueños and learn about the complex issues facing this extraordinary World Heritage environment.



Highlights

- Receive an informative introduction to the islands from a Galapagos National Park ranger
- Snorkel with colourful reef fish, marine turtles, sea lions and Galapagos sharks
- Prepare a fresh fish dinner in the home of a local food stall holder and her family
- Sight the famous Giant Galapagos Tortoise in the wild and learn about breeding programs underway to ensure their survival
- Mountain bike through the highlands
- Learn about alternative energy sources being adopted in the islands
- Hike to El Junco lake and around the rim of Sierra Negro volcano - special places only a privileged few get to visit
- Join the locals for a relaxing family BBQ lunch at an organic farm in the highlands of Santa Cruz island



Insider's Galapagos offers the following features:

- *Tour leader that accompanies the group throughout.*
You'll be free to relax and experience the very best that the Galapagos islands have to offer and let your tour leader take care of the day to day hassles of travel. In addition to your tour leader you will be led by a Galapagos National Park guide on all excursions into the national park.
- *Experience life in the islands from an insider's perspective.*
Our goal is to ensure that you get an insider's view of life in the Galapagos islands. You'll encounter the archipelago's famous wildlife up close on land, on the water, in the water, and in the air. Yet you'll go beyond the experience of most Galapagos visitors and into the world of the inhabitants that live their daily lives on the islands.
- *Quality, owner-operated tourist class hotels.*
You'll stay in small, friendly, family-run hotels chosen to enhance your insider perspective of Galapagos life. Rooms are modern, clean and comfortable yet simple. We've built special relationships with the local owners of the hotels where we have chosen to stay and you may well do so too.
- *Most breakfasts, lunches and dinners are included.*
At breakfast you'll enjoy the friendly, personalised service of your hosts. Depending on the days activities, lunch is either packed to eat on the go or you'll sample local fare at the pick of the local restaurants. Most dinners are in local eateries although one night you'll have a very special experience learning to cook a traditional meal while a dinner guest in the home of a local family.
- *Active days and comfortable nights.*
There's so much to see and do that you'll appreciate the full, active days followed by a restful nights sleep in a comfortable bed to recharge for the next day's experiences.
- *Fixed departures.*
The certainty and convenience of fixed departures is a far better alternative to waiting for confirmation of a particular date.
- *Operation by a Galapagos expert born in Galapagos.*
The high quality of your experience is assured by the direct involvement of a Galapagos native every step of the way. Our office in Quito is ready to provide you with service and support whether you're on the mainland or in the islands.
- *Commitment to sustainable tourism practices.*
Supporting locally-owned businesses. Offers an alternative to unsustainable fishing practices and encourages conservation of the flora, fauna and natural environment of the Galapagos.

Insider's Galapagos – 10 Days

Brief Itinerary

Day 1	Sunday	Arrive in Quito
Day 2	Monday	Hike and snorkel in Las Tijeretas bay
Day 3	Tuesday	Hike and bike in the highlands of San Cristobal island
Day 4	Wednesday	Snorkel and learn to cook a traditional meal
Day 5	Thursday	Snorkel and hike on Floreana & Isabela islands
Day 6	Friday	Hike up a volcano and snorkel with penguins
Day 7	Saturday	Visit Charles Darwin Research Station and swim in Tortuga Bay
Day 8	Sunday	Hike with Giant Tortises and enjoy a BBQ lunch with the locals
Day 9	Monday	Visit Los Gemelos and fly to Quito
Day 10	Tuesday	Depart Quito or discover more of Ecuador

Itinerary with just some of the wildlife you're likely to see each day

Day 1 Sunday Arrive in Quito

Your guide will be waiting to escort you from the airport to your hotel. Overnight stay in a Standard Boutique hotel.

Day 2 Monday Hike and snorkel in Las Tijeretas bay

Fly Quito-San Cristobal. Met by guide on arrival. Lunch. Walk to Galapagos National Park (GNP) Interpretation Centre for an intro talk by a GNP ranger. Continue hike to Las Tijeretas bay for snorkeling. O/n tourist class hotel.

Frigate birds, sea lions, variety of colorful reef fish

Day 3 Tuesday Hike and bike in the highlands of San Cristobal island

Enjoy a typical lunch at in the highlands. Hike to El Junco, a freshwater lake that attracts a wide variety of bird life. Bike past a newly installed wind farm providing a source of renewable energy on the island. Bike back down to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. O/n tourist class hotel.

Frigate birds, mocking birds, white-cheeked pintails, Darwin finches, Common Moor hens, Black-necked Stilts

Day 4 Wednesday Snorkel and learn to cook a traditional meal

Snorkel at Leon Dormido (aka Kicker Rock) and Isla Lobos. Return by launch to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Prepare a traditional fish dinner in the kitchen of Doña Cleo. O/n tourist class hotel.

Galapagos sharks, silky sharks, Hammerhead sharks, marine turtles, sea lions, eagle rays, golden rays, blue-footed boobies, tropic birds



Day 5 Thursday Snorkel and hike on Floreana & Isabela islands

AM. Launch to Floreana for snorkeling and hike. PM. Continue to Isabela. Visit *Galapagos Giant Tortoise* rearing centre, hike back through dry forest and mangroves passing a lake frequented by *pink flamingos*. O/n tourist class hotel.

Day 6 Friday Hike up a volcano and snorkel with penguins

AM. Hike to Sierra Negro volcano and Volcan Chico. PM. Snorkel and sight *penguins*. O/n tourist class hotel.

Lava lizards, marine iguanas, white-tipped sharks, flightless cormorants, Sally Lightfoot crabs.

Day 7 Saturday Visit Charles Darwin Research Station and swim in Tortuga Bay

AM. Launch to Santa Cruz to visit Charles Darwin Research Station. PM. Hike to Tortuga Bay for snorkeling and swimming. O/n tourist class hotel.

Giant tortoises, marine iguanas, white-tipped sharks, Lava gulls, Galapagos finches, Whimbrels and Ruddy Turnstone.

Day 8 Sunday Hike with Giant Tortises and enjoy a BBQ lunch with the locals

Hike in Las Primicias where *Giant Tortoises* can be seen in the wild. BBQ lunch at an organic fruit farm in the highlands where families from Puerto Ayora escape to on Sundays. Free time in the afternoon to relax or shop in Puerto Ayora. O/n tourist class hotel.

Day 9 Monday Visit Los Gemelos and fly to Quito

See Los Gemelos volcanic formation. Transfer to Baltra airport for your flight to Quito. On arrival in Quito your guide will be waiting for you to take you to your hotel.

Day 10 Tuesday Depart Quito or discover more of Ecuador

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or stay to explore a little more in the Andes and Amazon.

Price: \$2,850pp twin share. For Superior Boutique hotel upgrade in Quito add \$110pp.

Price includes: Flights Quito-San Cristobal and Baltra-Quito, GNP naturalist guide and tour leader throughout, all island hops aboard a private launch and land transport in private vehicles, 7 nights twin share accommodation in tourist class hotels, all meals from lunch Day 2 to breakfast Day 9 (plus breakfasts in Quito noted below), snorkeling equipment, mountain bikes.

Plus Quito VIP package: 2 nights twin share accommodation in a Standard Boutique hotel with breakfast and 4 private transfers for your international and Galapagos flights.

Not included: GNP entry fee (\$100*), Galapagos transit control card (\$10*), alcoholic drinks, tips, travel insurance, personal expenditure. * Subject to change without notice.