

**ADVENTURE**



**ASSOCIATES**

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## **GALAPAGOS ISLANDS**

### **ISLAND HOPPING MULTI-SPORT ADVENTURE**

**WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS, SEA KAYAKING, HIKING, SNORKELING, MOUNTAIN BIKING AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING**

Discover the southern Islands of the Galapagos Archipelago in ways you never thought possible. This multi-sport adventure combines daily kayaking, mountain biking, trekking, snorkeling, and horseback riding with the rugged and unspoiled natural beauty of this marine paradise. experience incredible close encounters with sea lions, iguanas, giant tortoises, boobies, rays, a myriad of tropical fish, and even sharks! This is a socially and environmentally responsible tour that provides many benefits to local Island communities. It is also an ideal supplement to a weeklong Galapagos Cruise. Learn and enjoy from top adventure and naturalist guides that will immerse you in the realm of natural history and evolution. On this adventure, the jewels of the Galapagos are yours to discover by land and by sea.

**Trip Dates: Year Round Departures**

**Land Costs: TBA**

Effort: Moderate

Lodging: Tourist & Tourist Superior Hotels & Lodges

Trip highlights:

- \* Sea kayak with sea lions, penguins and marine turtles
- \* Discover perfect white sand beaches by mountain bike
- \* Snorkel with Galapagos sharks, rays, and hundreds of tropical fish
- \* Meet blue-footed boobies, finches, and other famed birds
- \* Get to know Lonesome George, the last giant tortoise of his species
- \* Relax in perfect white sand beaches
- \* Spend more time on land for more wildlife encounters
- \* Top-notch adventure and nature guides will accompany you every step of your journey
- \* Support the local communities through this sustainable land program
- \* Effortless inter-island transfers include one flight and one boat crossing

**DAY 1:** Travel day to Quito Ecuador. Lodging and transfers TBA.

**DAY 2: HIKE IN FRIGATE HILL AND SNORKEL IN DARWIN BAY**

We board a morning flight from Quito to San Cristobal Island. Once we arrive we have a welcome lunch and a briefing before the adventure begins. We will hike out of town and visit the San Cristobal Interpretation Center to learn about the island's creation and natural history. We continue on a lava trail to explore a unique dry forest where we identify cacti, acacia, palo santo, and Galapagos cotton. We reach Frigate Hill to enjoy our first encounters with local wildlife, since the hill is often visited by Galapagos wildlife such as the magnificent and great frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, brown pelicans, gulls, herons and lots of land birds including Darwin finches, warblers and mockingbirds. We return to Carola Beach with splendid views of the coastline for swimming and a perfect sunset. The evening is open for guests to choose dining options and explore town. (L)

**DAY 3: KAYAK AND SNORKEL IN ISLA LOBOS AND LEON DORMIDO – SAN CRISTOBAL**

We set up our ocean kayaks and spend the morning paddling along the northern coast, exploring bays and coves full of wildlife. We visit Darwin Bay, the site of the first landing of the HMS Beagle. We continue paddling north as we encounter marine turtles, rays, blue-footed boobies and frigate birds. Once we reach Playa Ochoa, we continue on to nearby Isla Lobos on the lookout for marine iguanas and sea lions. This is a fantastic snorkeling site where we are nearly guaranteed to enjoy the best sea lion encounters of the entire archipelago. We continue on to Leon Dormido, the jagged remains of an old tuff cone whose flanks are home to thousands of sea birds. Leon Dormido is an exceptional snorkelling and diving site frequented by Galapagos sharks, eagle and golden rays, as well as dozens of species of tropical fish, clams, starfish and marine invertebrates. There are good opportunities to swim next to hammerhead and white-tipped sharks! In the afternoon we return to our hotel for our last evening in San Cristobal Island. (B, L)

**DAY 4: MOUNTAIN BIKE AND EXPLORE TINTORERAS - ISABELA**

In the morning we board a small plane for an inter-island flight from San Cristobal to Isabela Island. Isabela is the largest Island in the archipelago, formed by 6 shield volcanoes - Alcedo, Cerro Azul, Darwin, Ecuador, Sierra Negra and Wolf. All of these volcanoes except one remain active, making this island one of the most volcanically active places on earth. When we arrive we set up our mountain bikes to explore the beautiful coastline for its scenery and wildlife treasures. We begin with a visit to El Muro de las Lagrimas which translates Wall of Tears, a historic site that dates back between 1946 and 1959 when Isabela Island was used as a penal colony. The wall was built with lava blocks and had no other purpose than that of keeping prisoners busy from the madness of isolation. We continue riding along the coast as we explore expansive white sand beaches, mangroves and brackish lagoons. This area is filled with birdlife such as american oyster catchers, herons, flamingos, finches and many shore birds, as well as sea lions and marine iguanas. In the afternoon we visit Tintoreras, a set of small Islets within Isabela bay. These Islets are filled with wildlife and are home to the Galapagos Penguin, the only penguin that lives in equatorial region. We will also see sharks, marine turtles, sea lions and much more wildlife as we explore its many small coves and beaches. (B, L, D)

**DAY 5: VOLCANO DISCOVERY HIKE IN THE ISABELA HIGHLANDS- ISABELA**

From Puerto Villamil, we drive to the Isabela highlands. We reach our trail and prepare our day packs to enter a world of recent geological history. We arrive to rim of the Sierra Negra volcano, an active volcano which last erupted in October 2005. We explore along the circumference of the massive 6x5 mile-wide (9x8 kilometer) lava-filled crater. We may also get views to the other Isabela volcanoes and the Perry Isthmus and beyond. Based on conditions we may continue our hike all the way to Volcano Chico, a smaller crater that offers puffing fumaroles and extraordinary lava formations. These are great examples of the dramatic geological events that

have forged the Galapagos Islands over millennia. In the afternoon, we return to Puerto Villamil for our last afternoon in its exotic white sand beaches. (B, L, D)

**DAY 6: HIKE WITH THE GIANT TORTOISE AND EXPLORE LOS GEMELOS**

In the morning we embark on a fast boat from Isabela to Santa Cruz Islands. Once we arrive, we transfer to El Chato reserve in the Santa Cruz highlands which is the natural habitat of the Galapagos tortoise. We hike in this reserve to learn about these lumbering giants. We come across highland wildlife such as pintail ducks, egrets, flycatchers, finches, and frigate birds bathing in freshwater lakes. We also explore some amazing volcanic tunnels that were created by flowing lava. As we walk in these underground geological formations we revive tales of buccaneers hiding Inca gold. We continue to Los Gemelos, two volcanic craters near the top of the Island. We walk around these deep craters through a beautiful Scalesia forest covered with epiphytes and ferns. In this habitat we will seek for the short-eared owl, one of the two owls that live in the Islands. We return to town in the afternoon. This evening is free to dine at any of the Island restaurants. (B, L)

**DAY 7: KAYAK IN PUNTA ESTRADA & HIKE TO TORTUGA BAY- SANTA CRUZ**

In the morning we take our kayaks and paddle around Divine Bay and Punta Estrada. We kayak through calm turquoise waters that wind through high-walled lava channels. Within the channels, white-tipped sharks and rays tour beneath the clear water, while colonies of blue-footed boobies, tropic birds, herons, crabs and marine iguanas perch along the jagged cliffs. In the afternoon, we hike to Tortuga Bay, a beautiful white sand beach area, nesting site to thousands of marine turtles. This trail is 3½ miles (6 kilometers) long and crosses through a dry forest lava habitat home to hundreds of iguanas. We return to Puerto Ayora to spend the evening at leisure in Galapagos' most populous town. (B, L)

**DAY 8: TRANSFER TO BALTRA AND RETURN FLIGHT**

In the morning we visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about conservation and management efforts in the archipelago. We also get to meet Lonesome George, the last giant tortoise of his species and the efforts maintained to try to save it from extinction. We finally transfer to Baltra Island for our airport connection back to the continent. (B) End of service or choose an extension. Overnight lodging TBA.

**Day 9: Travel day – Return to USA**

**IMPORTANT:** This itinerary is subject to change without previous notice due to seasonal changes, last minute weather conditions and adjustment of Galapagos National Park policy.

<b>Land Costs (min. 5)</b>	<b>Deposit</b>	<b>In-country Flight</b>	<b>2 Hotel nights, 2 Breakfasts, 4 Airport Shuttles</b>	<b>Galapagos Park Fee &amp; Tourist Card</b>	<b>Trip Dates</b>	<b>Difficulty</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>\$TBA</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>Approx. \$535 Quito</b>	<b>Approx. \$215pp based on hotels</b>	<b>\$100 pp + \$20 pp</b>	<b>Year Round</b>	<b>No Experience Needed</b>	<b>Kayaking, Biking, Wildlife, Snorkeling, Swimming</b>

\*Air Rates and schedules are subject to change at any time.

\* Note: You will be joining other travelers, so the group size depends on registered participants.

## IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR TRIP...Read carefully

**Included in your Trip Fee:** Six (6) nights lodging in Galapagos islands in standard or tourist superior hotels; All meals as indicated on itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=dinner); expert English speaking adventure and naturalist guide; all adventure activity & safety equipment; inter-island transport; 4 airport transfers.

**Not Included in your Trip Fee:** International airfare; In-country airfare Quito/Galapagos/Quito approx \$535; Arrival and departure hotels and transfers on mainland, airport departure tax, \$100 Galapagos National Park Fee; \$20 Migration Tourist Card; meals not indicated on itinerary; alcoholic drinks; travel, medical and evacuation insurance; items of a personal nature. Single supplement \$465. We do match travelers for room share.

**Special Note:** Depending on your flight origin in the USA, you may need to depart one day earlier than scheduled, making the trip one day longer. Some flight routes, primarily West Coast, may require an overnight in Miami, Florida.

**Transportation/Flight Arrangements:** Please consult with Adventure Associates as you prepare your flight arrangements for the best time of arrival/departure.

**Trip & Travel Insurance:** We strongly recommend that travel insurance be purchased immediately following your registration. The insurance protects you and your money from late cancellations, accidents or illness in remote areas, emergency evacuation, and loss of baggage, airline flight changes and other unexpected delays. The particular program we recommend (Access America) will cover "preexisting" conditions if you purchase full coverage within fourteen (14) days following your registration. Information available upon request.

**How to Register:** If you have not downloaded an application form, please contact our office for a complete registration packet. Complete the application form and return it to our office along with the appropriate deposit. Upon receipt of your application, we will send you a confirmation and details about your pre-trip preparation.

**Payment Schedule:** We accept checks, Visa, MasterCard and Amex payments for the deposit. Cash or check for balance or \$80 service fee for credit card payment.

Deposit: \$500 (\$200 non-refundable)

Final payment due: 90 days prior to departure

**Cancellation Policy:** If you must cancel prior to departure, the following fee will be assessed based upon our receipt of your written cancellation request:

Days Prior to Departure (trip destination)	
90 or more .....	\$200
60 to 89 .....	\$500
45 to 59 .....	50% fee
1 to 44 .....	100% fee

No partial refunds are possible for any unused portion of your trip.

Penalties on airline tickets are subject to the individual air carrier's rules and regulations. Departure is defined as the date of the first flight, or the trip departure date as indicated on our Trip Schedule, whichever comes first. Once a trip has been confirmed, medical circumstances will not be considered as exceptions to our cancellation policy. However, if you have purchased a comprehensive Travel Insurance plan that covers cancellation, you may be able to retrieve some of the funds.

## ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES OF WA, INC.

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