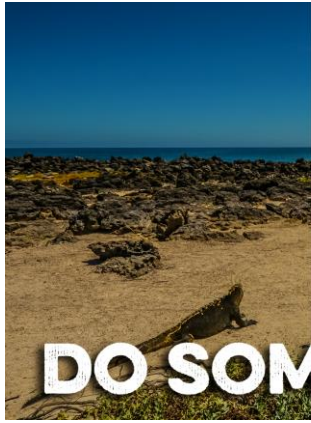




Galapagos

Wildlife Multisports Adventure

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



DO SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY...

ITINERARY

Galápagos • Wildlife Adventure

7 DAYS • 6 NIGHTS

San Cristobal Island – Tijeretas, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, Casa Opuntia – **Isabela Island** – El Muro de las Lagrimas, Tintoreras, Vlcán Sierra Negra, Volcano Chinco – **Santa Cruz Island** – El Chato, Los Gemelos, Punta Estrado, Divine Bay, Tortuga Bay – **Baltra**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Unique Galapagos wildlife
- Some of the most deserted beaches on earth
- Activity packed adventures
- Island based itineraries

TOUR ESSENTIALS

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Tour Style | Multi Activity Adventure |
| Tour Start | San Cristobal Island |
| Tour End | Baltra |
| Accommodation | Hotels |
| Included Meals | 6 Breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 Dinners |
| Difficulty Level | Medium |

MULTISPORT ADVENTURE



This premium tailor-made active program offers plentiful opportunities for incredibly close encounters with Galapagos wildlife. You will kayak through clear tropical waters with sea turtles, sharks, and sea lions; hike active volcanoes; snorkel waters alive with colour and movement; and lay on sandy beaches near to sea lions and marine iguanas. Your 3 island journey will be led by a team of certified naturalist and adventure guides and supported by the highest quality adventure gear. Combined with the highest quality accommodation, your private Galapagos experience will be second to none!

This itinerary can be tailored to suit your requirements



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THE GALAPAGOS *an overview*

A wildlife fanatic's dream; The Galapagos is an extraordinary cluster of volcanic Islands, each boasting their own distinctive landscape. Terrains alternate between barren black, volcanic rocks and an abundance of white sand beaches merging into the bluest of waters. Lusted over by many and known as an ultimate bucket list destination, the heavily protected and conservation-focused Galapagos Island is home to the most unusual wildlife, found nowhere else on the planet. Roaming ashore and snorkelling/ kayaking around the Earth's 3.5 million years old natural wonder, you can get up close to the playful Sea Lions, the fascinating Giant Tortoises, amusing blue-footed boobies, the indigenous marine Iguana, as well as the endemic Galápagos penguin, amongst many others. As well as being the 'melting pot' for its marine life, this heavily protected environmental haven is known for its extreme isolation, diverse environments, iconic native species and being the focal-point for Charles Darwin's evolution studies, all of which makes for an unrivalled experience.

WHY PIONEER EXPEDITIONS?

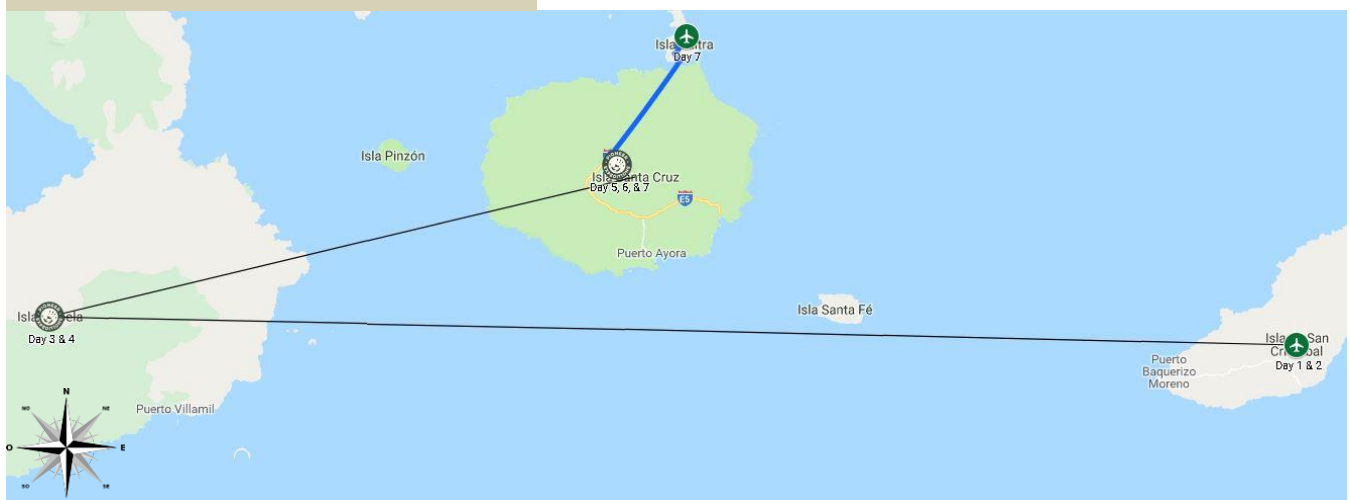
Pioneer Expeditions are one of the few specialists that really *do* off the beaten track and unique adventures. The team have a real passion for wildlife and adventure travel which we love to share with our clients. We delight in searching the world for new destinations, new experiences and creating the most incredible adventures.

We like to introduce our clients to unique, the different, and the incredible. Whether it is through wildlife tracking, sea kayaking, snorkelling, trekking, rafting, cycling or observing wildlife in its natural environment, we want to give you the real Pioneer experience.

From the moment you choose to travel with Pioneer Expeditions until you return back home, you are supported by our dedicated team. We listen to what you want and can create an itinerary around your specific needs, working with your budget and with a commitment to responsible travel.

ITINERARY

Galapagos • Wildlife Adventure



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DAY 1: TRANSFER AND HIKE ON THE ISLAND

After a morning flight to San Cristobal Island, we will meet you at the airport and you'll be given a briefing over lunch at our Hotel. We will begin our journey at the Interpretation Center to learn about the Galapagos' unique wildlife, geology, history, and social dynamics before hiking to Tijeretas along lava rock trails.

Along the way, our naturalist guide will explain all about the Galapagos cotton, palo santo, acacia, and cacti you encounter. You will also spot blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, pelicans, herons, gulls, warblers, mockingbirds, and finches amongst the vegetation and sea cliffs. In addition to unique species, the hike provides marvellous views of the rugged coastline and the tranquil town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno.

On the way back, we stop for a refreshing snorkel or swim at post-card worthy Carola Beach. Here, you will find sea turtles, sea lions, and marine iguanas. After a gorgeous sunset and dinner, we explore the friendly and laid-back town. We recommend you take a 5-minute walk from the hotel down the boardwalk to view the immense colony of endemic Galapagos sea lions.



Overnight:
Golden Bay Hotel



Meals:
L, D



Activities:
Hiking and wildlife

DAY 2: DAY 2: KAYAK AND SNORKEL IN SAN CRISTOBAL'S NORTHERN COAST

The morning is spent kayaking coastal bays and coves full of wildlife. You will see blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, sea lions, and sea turtles. We may visit Leon Dormido (Kicker Rock), Punta Pitt or Cerro Brujo. The visiting site will depend on the week day and Galapagos National Park regulations.

Here we will snorkel with marine iguanas, sea lions, and countless reef fish. We will swim with spotted eagle rays, golden rays, Galapagos sharks, starfish, clams, and fish of every shape, size, and colour. If you are lucky, you may even see hammerhead sharks! After a full day exploring the seas, head back to the Golden Bay for a gourmet dinner and a well-earned rest.



Overnight:
Golden Bay Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Activities:
Sea Kayaking & Snorkelling

DAY 3: MOUNTAIN BIKE THE COASTLINE / EXPLORE TINTORERAS ISLETS

After breakfast, we take a short plane ride over to Isabela Island. This is the largest island in the Galapagos and is still being formed by 6 shield volcanoes. Hence, Isabela is one of the most volcanically active spots on the planet.

This morning, we embark on the most scenically-varied bike ride in the Galapagos. Along our ride, we will pass through white sand beaches, mangrove forests and brackish lagoons and a lava tube cave. The area is filled with giant tortoises and birdlife including flamingos. We end our ride at El Muro de las Lagrimas (Wall of Tears). When Isabela was used as a penal colony, prisoners constructed a towering wall of lava rocks for no other purpose than to keep them distracted from the madness of isolation. After lunch, we explore Tintoreras, a set of small islets filled with hidden coves and beaches. Here, we will find the endemic Galapagos penguin as well as reef sharks, sea turtles, and sea lions. At the end of the day, retire to our hotel. After a gourmet dinner, feel free to take a stroll down the seemingly endless beach or down the sand streets of this idyllic beach town.



Overnight:
Iguana Crossing Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Activities:
Mountain Biking



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DAY 4: VOLCANO HIKING IN ISABELA'S HIGHLANDS

This morning, we drive up to the highlands until the road ends. Here, we don our daypacks and hike into a world of recent geological history. On the hike up, admire the incredible views of the surrounding volcanoes and sea. However, when you arrive at the rim of Volcano Sierra Negra, your jaw will drop. This is the second largest active caldera on the planet. You will walk along the rim of this enormous 30 square mile crater, and if feeling energetic, continue your hike into the caldera of Volcano Chico. Volcano Chico is an otherworldly landscape with endless hues of oranges, reds, blacks, and yellows. Here, you can explore puffing fumaroles and spectacular lava formations. After a stop at an idyllic tortoise reserve for lunch, we'll head back to the lowlands in time to spend our last afternoon on Isabela relaxing on the perfect beaches and soaking up the island-life atmosphere.



Overnight:
Iguana Crossing Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Activities:
Hiking

DAY 5: TORTOISES, PIRATES, LAVA TUNNELS AND VOLCANIC SINKHOLES

After breakfast, we take a speedboat (or internal flight) to Santa Cruz Island. Along the way we may see whales and dolphins. Upon arrival, we head to El Chato in the Santa Cruz highlands to find the giant tortoise in its natural habitat. It is truly an honour to hike amongst these fascinating giants, who can live to be over 175 years old. You will also see pintail ducks, finches, frigate birds, egrets, and hopefully the vermilion flycatcher - a red jewel of a bird.

We will then explore some incredible lava tunnels in which pirates frequented and perhaps hid Inca gold. We then carry on to Los Gemelos, two deep volcanic sinkholes at the top of the island. We will hike through a forest of endemic scalesia trees, where we will be on the lookout for the short-eared owl. The trees are covered with ferns and epiphytes and exude an almost eerie feel.



Overnight:
Angermeyer Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Activities:
Wildlife

DAY 6: KAYAK IN LAVA WALL CHANNELS / HIKE TO TORTUGA BAY

This morning, we take to sea kayaks again to explore a different landscape, Punta Estrada and Divine Bay. We paddle through serene turquoise waters that meander through towering lava channel walls. Below the clear waters, you should be able to see rays and white-tipped reef sharks. You can also paddle right up to the fearless blue-footed boobies, lava gulls, herons, sally light-footed crabs, and marine iguanas perched along the cliffs.

After lunch, we take a 40 minute hike to Tortuga Bay through a unique dry forest. Along the hike, you will find many birds and interesting plants. When you reach the beach, you will hardly believe your eyes, as this is one of the most beautiful beaches in the Galapagos. Take time to relax on its fine sands or in its turquoise waters. Return to Puerto Ayora to enjoy your last evening on the Galapagos.

If there is enough time we'll stop for a visit at the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn from local scientist about the ongoing conservation efforts on these enchanted islands.



Overnight:
Angermeyer Hotel



Meals:
B, L, D



Activities:
Kayaking



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DAY 7: TRANSFER TO BALTRA ISLAND & RETURN FLIGHT

We transfer to Baltra Island for our return flight to the mainland. End of expedition.



Overnight:
N/A



Meals:
B



Activities:
Travel

WHAT OUR CLIENTS HAVE SAID

"I had an amazing time on this once in a lifetime trip, please could you send my thanks to all the people who made my trip so incredible"

-M. Walter

"Some wonderful memories, I would not hesitate to recommend it to a friend. Well organised and very enjoyable! I recommend extending your holiday by 1 day and scuba dive. It shouldn't be missed. If you want REAL close encounter with sea lions too, it is a MUST DO!"

-A. Jancsek

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLUDED

- Accommodations in premium hotels (twin/double share basis)
- Meals (B= Breakfast, L= Lunch, S = Snacks/light lunch; D= Dinner) as specified on the itinerary
- Adventure & Safety Equipment
- Professional bilingual Galapagos naturalist guide
- Professional English speaking adventure guide
- All sea, land and inter-island air transportation

NOT INCLUDED

- Flights to and from Galapagos
- Entrance fee to Galapagos National Park
- Galapagos transit card
- Tips
- Beverages
- Personal expenses

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



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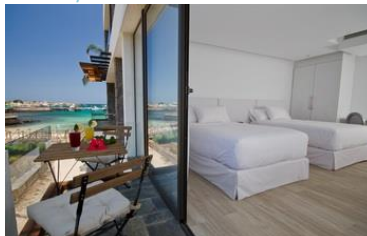
ACCOMMODATION *at a glance*

Subject to availability:

SAN CRISTOBAL

Golden Bay

<http://www.goldenbay.com.ec/>



ISABELA

Iguana Crossing

<http://www.iguanacrossing.com.ec/en/>



SANTA CRUZ

Angermeyer

<http://angermeyerwaterfrontinn.com-hotel.com/>



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| BOAT TRAVEL TIME | 2-3 hours |
| SMALL AIRCRAFT FLIGHT TIME | 50 min |
| PADDLE, HIKING, OR ACTIVITY DURATION | 2 to 4 hours per activity each day |
| SEASON | All year |
| AVERAGE TEMPERTATURES | December to May: 80°F to 90°F / 25°C to 30°C. June to September: 60°F to 70°F / 15°C to 20°C. October to December: 70°F to 80°F / 15°C to 25°C. |
| WATER TEMPERATURE | The waters of the Galapagos Islands are a unique mixture of warm and cold water, ranging between 65°F and 85°F. |
| SUGGESTED ITEMS TO PACK | Hiking shoes, water sandals, rain jacket, flashlight, water bottle, non-cotton trekking gear, sun block, hat, and mosquito repellent. |
| DIFFICULTY LEVEL | Our grades have been designated based on our perception of the degree of physical activity you're likely to require to enjoy the adventure. These are only a guideline. This itinerary has a 'medium difficulty level' (2-5 hours of activities per day). This means that you will need an average level of fitness. |
| EXPEDITION SCHEDULE | We run this trip as a tailor-made or private departure to suit your requirements, as well as extensions within Ecuador. |

THE PIONEER BOOKING PROCESS

Where do you go from here? Well, you can feel free to email us at info@pioneerexpeditions.com if you're interested in this trip, or any of our other expeditions from around the world. Visit our website www.pioneerexpeditions.com to unearth all of our other equally amazing trips and destinations.

1. Contact us -

We will be happy to answer any questions or enquiries you may have. From here we will begin to plan and put together your dream adventure holiday! Alternatively, on our website you will find our booking and enquiry forms; once filled in, we will be notified of your enquiry and will get back to you ASAP.

2. Leave everything to us -

Everything will be arranged and booked by us, but we will make sure to keep you updated every step of the way. In addition, we can arrange your international flights if needed, as we have access to competitive airfares. We can also arrange any additional tours or additional night's accommodation.

3. Wait for your adventure to begin -

Sit back and count down the days until your trip of a lifetime with Pioneer Expeditions. We'll handle all of the last minute preparations and provide you with everything you need. All practical information will be sent out to you, prior to your trip.

If you feel like altering this itinerary to suit your personal preferences, we can arrange all of that and more – just get in contact with us and let us know your requirements and wishes. From here, we can simply tailor-make your dream holiday.

