



Galapagos

Active & Wildlife Adventure

PIONEER EXPEDITIONS



ITINERARY

Galapagos • Active & Wildlife

7 DAYS • 6 NIGHTS

San Cristobal Island; Puerto Baquerizo Moreno
– **Isabela Island; Tintoreras, Puerto Villamil, Sierra Negra Volcano**
– **Santa Cruz Island; Tortuga Bay**
– **Baltra**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Unique Galapagos Wildlife
- Snorkel with sea lions, turtles, marine iguanas
- Mountain bike, kayak and hike
- Walk among giant tortoises
- Island based itineraries

TOUR ESSENTIALS

Tour Style	Multi Activity Adventure
Tour Start	San Cristobal Island
Tour End	Baltra
Accommodation	Hotels
Difficulty Level	Medium

ACTIVE & WILDLIFE



Discover the southern Islands of the Galapagos Archipelago on an active adventure! This Galapagos multi-activity adventure allows you to have more flexibility so you are able to choose where you want to eat and what activities you do. The land based has daily active excursions with excellent accommodation on offer. As you can kayak, mountain bike, trek or snorkel you will 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.



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GALAPAGOS ACTIVE & WILDLIFE *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



DAY 1: ARRIVAL AND START YOUR SAN CRISTOBAL KAYAK ADVENTURE

After a morning flight from the Ecuadorian mainland to San Cristobal Island, you will arrive at the airport and head to your hotel. You can explore the town and have lunch by yourself. Early in the afternoon, we give you a quick introduction to the island before heading to the coast, where our kayaks will be waiting for us at for our first taste of Galapagos magic. We paddle along the coastal bays and coves of San Cristobal's North coast, a world of comic-looking blue footed boobies, frigate birds, sea lions and sea turtles. If we're lucky, we may see rays underwater and marine iguanas perching on lava rocks. Back at the hotel, you will have some free time in which you can enjoy the island seafood specials in the port of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno.



Overnight:
Hotel



Distance:
Short Flight



Activity:
Travel + Kayak

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

Today's journey will take us to some incredible offshore snorkeling sites and along the best diving sites in the Galapagos!



In the company of our experienced guide, we will search nearby coves and cliffs for sea turtles, frigate birds, bluefooted boobies, and Nazca boobies. There's also the chance to get up close and personal with sea lions– the young pups are ever-curious and playful.

As we snorkel, we might spot eagle rays, golden rays, starfish, clams, and thousands of tropical fish. Additionally, with this being a known feeding area for sharks we might also get the chance to see Galapagos sharks and hammerhead sharks.

As the sun sets on our day under the waves, we return to the hotel for a relaxed evening at the coastal town.



Overnight:
Hotel



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Snorkeling

DAY 3: DISCOVER ISABELA'S BEACHES, LAGOONS AND ISLETS

After breakfast, we say goodbye to San Cristobal to board our small plane for a thrilling flight across the archipelago's azure waters and volcanic landscapes to Isabela Island. Amazingly, it is still in the throes of creation, formed by six active shield volcanoes. In fact, Isabela is one of the most volcanically active spots on the planet.



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Upon arrival, we head to the visitor site known as Tintoreras to explore this beautiful marine world by kayak, weaving between a set of small islets filled with hidden coves and beaches. Here, meet an unexpected denizen of the Tropics: the endemic Galapagos penguin. Spot reef sharks, sea turtles and sea lions as we paddle.

Seafood, Ecuadorian and international cuisine are all available in the small beach town of Puerto Villamil, meaning there is a lot to choose from when buying your lunch. You can grab a quick dip in the ocean, or a swing in a hammock, before our local guest experience coordinator briefs you on your next adventure: a self-guided bike ride through a succession of Isabela's white sand beaches, mangrove forests and brackish lagoons. The ride is fun and easy, and as ever in Galapagos, there are plenty of birds to spot and wonders to take in. You now have a free evening.



Overnight:
Hotel



Distance:
40 min flight



Activity:
Kayaking

DAY 4: HIKE ISABELA'S HIGHLANDS

From the coast, we join a naturalist guide and shared group to drive up the flanks of the mighty Sierra Negra volcano. Where road the peters out, we continue on foot. We hike through the intriguing highland ecosystem, which is at times smothered in dreamy clouds. At the top, at the volcano's rim, a surreal world of geological history unfolds before us, with incredible views of the surrounding volcanoes and ocean, a pristine other-worldly scene to savor. After a break to catch our breath and take in the views, we hike the rim of this enormous crater and, if the group is feeling energetic, continue on to the caldera of Volcan Chico ("little"), a surreal landscape of vibrant hues created by sulphur deposits. Here we can explore spectacular lava formations and even huffing fumaroles of vapor.



We return to the lowlands in time to spend our last afternoon on Isabela relaxing on the perfect beaches and soaking up the island-life atmosphere. You are now free to find your own dinner.



Overnight:
Hotel



Distance:
2-4 hours activity



Activity:
Hiking

DAY 5: CROSS TO SANTA CRUZ FOR A HIKE IN THE HIGHLANDS



We leave Isabela early aboard a public speed boat, for our ride east to Santa Cruz Island and Puerto Ayora, the archipelago's largest settlement. We meet you at the dock and head to the hotel. There's no time to lose as the famous Galapagos giant tortoises await. We drive up to the highlands where these lumbering creatures heave their way through their natural habitat. It is truly an honor to walk in the stately presence of these gentle giants. Spot pintail ducks, Darwin's finches, frigate birds, egrets and the vermilion flycatcher amid this lush, green ecosystem. Our next stop is the incredible lava tunnels, which made ideal hideouts for the pirates who once frequented the Galapagos. Legend has it that they were also used to hide Inca gold stolen from Spanish galleons. Lunch is served at a traditional hacienda in the highlands. If time permits, we can visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and the National Park's tortoise breeding program back in Puerto Ayora. You're free to enjoy the port's array of shops, restaurants and bars in the evening on your own.



Overnight:
Hotel



Distance:
2 hour boat



Activity:
Wildlife



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DAY 6: BAY TOUR, SNORKEL AND TORTUGA BAY ADVENTURE

A day dedicated to exploring Puerto Ayora's fascinating natural environment. After breakfast, we join a naturalist guide and shared group to make our way west from the port, stopping by the Lobería where sea lions can be observed. We come to an islet called Punta Camaño, a great place to put on our snorkels, masks and fins to meet sea lions and schools of fish. Passing through the romantically-named Canal del Amor, we disembark at Playa de los Perros, where, after a short walk, groups of jet-back marine iguanas bask beneath the sun's rays, occasionally slipping off into the sea to feed. Following lunch in Puerto Ayora on your own – where there are options aplenty for you to choose from – one of the world's most beautiful beaches lies a short hike from town: Tortuga Bay. If you feel energetic, at the first beach you come to you can rent a surf board, or at the second beach, a kayak. If you prefer to relax, the second beach is tranquil, hemmed by mangroves and ideal for observing birdlife or going for a swim.



Overnight:
Hotel



Distance:
Varies



Activity:
Snorkeling

DAY 7: TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

Finally, it's time bid a fond farewell to the Galapagos. We board a transport to take you north over Santa Cruz Island to the Itabaca Channel, where a short hop on a ferry and a short bus ride takes us to Baltra Island's Airport.



Overnight:
NA



Distance:
NA



Activity:
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



ACCOMMODATION, an overview

Comfort (included in price):

SAN CRISTOBAL

Casa Opuntia

<http://www.opuntiahotels.com/casa-opuntia/>



ISABELA

Casita de la Playa

<http://www.opuntiahotels.com/casita-de-la-playa/>



SANTA CRUZ

Fernandina

<http://www.hotelfernandinagalapagos.com/>

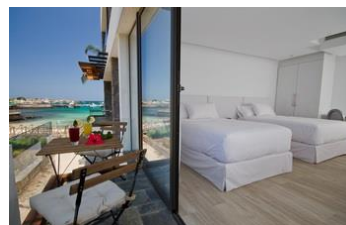


Premium (available at a surcharge - £800pp):

SAN CRISTOBAL

Golden Bay

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



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ISABELA

Iguana Crossing

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



SANTA CRUZ

Angermeyer

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



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

INCLUDED

- Accommodation in comfortable hotels
- All meals as described (B=breakfast, L=lunch, PL=Packed Lunch)
- Bilingual Galapagos naturalist guide
- Adventure and protective equipment
- Land and sea transportation

NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to/from Galapagos
- Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee
- Galapagos transit card
- Transportation fee Itabaca Channel – Baltra
- Upgrade to premium hotels
- Additional meals
- Hotel and beverages in restaurants
- Tips

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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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BOAT TRAVEL TIME	2 hours
SMALL AIRCRAFT FLIGHT TIME	40 min
ACTIVITY DURATION (Paddle, Bike, Hike, Snorkel)	2 to 4 hours per activity each day
SEASON	All year
ALTITUDE	0 - 3,700 ft (1,124 meters) above sea level
AVERAGE TEMPERATURES	January 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 are 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 have a monthly group departure, please see our website or contact us for a list of dates and availability. We are also able to arrange tailor-made or private departure to suit 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.

