Galapagos
ESSENTIALS

OVERVIEW

Experience the Galapagos Islands from the comfort of a land-based expedition! The islands offer endless opportunities to witness a unique abundance of wildlife in a setting unlike any other on the planet. This is one of the few places on earth that allows such close and intimate contact with wildlife. The Galapagos form a natural sanctuary that preserves species, allowing them to evolve their unique features over countless millennia. This vacation also provides flexible time to spend on your own and explore the sandy beaches, trails in the Galapagos forest, and wildlife. The tour also offers many benefits for local communities and is socially and environmentally responsible. Be part of an educational and inspirational journey of a lifetime in one of the most fiercely protected marine wildernesses in the world!

Unique Experiences:

- Enjoy real-time encounters with the most amazing wildlife at your fingertips and discover the power of nature with the evolutionary changes of such unique animals.
- Snorkel with sea turtles, seahorses, sea lions, and sharks.

Day 1. Quito arrival day

Meet your trip leader and group at 18:00 pm. Welcome to Quito! The largest, best-preserved colonial city of America – declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978.

The city is considered the Cultural Capital of South America and is located on the equator in a valley at the foothills of the Pichincha volcano.Depending on arrival time, you can spend your day exploring the old town of Quito and the surrounding area.

We can help you to organize a day trip (please request in advance). In the evening, one of our trip leaders will meet you at the hotel's lobby for a welcome briefing at 18:00 hours.

SERVICES INCLUDES

Accomodation Sheraton Quito Hotel or similar.

Meals included None.

At this time we will discuss the details and questions you may have regarding the adventure. Our first day is an acclimation and information day.

Day 2. Arrive in Galapagos

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to the Island of Baltra in the Galapagos Islands. On arrival, you will be picked up and transferred to Santa Cruz, a nearby island, crossing the narrow Itabaca Channel by ferry.

From here, we will continue by car to our first stop in the highlands of Santa Cruz. The highlands are home to the iconic giant Galapagos tortoises.

You will visit a private ranch where lunch will be served before heading out for a walk in search of these gentle giants. During the visit, you'll also explore lava tubes—natural formations created by flowing lava beneath hardened surfaces.

SERVICES INCLUDES

Accomodation La Isla or similar.

Meals included Breakfast, Lunch

After this tour, you'll continue by private vehicle to your hotel. In the evening, meet your local guide who will go over the itinerary for the next day. Enjoy the rest of the evening at leisure as you settle into this incredible island environment.

Day 3. Bay Tour Excursion

Today after breakfast you will enjoy a half-day tour of Academy Bay. Be sure to pack everything you need for this trip. Optional snorkel equipment will be provided free of charge to anyone who wishes to use it.

During the tour, you will take a boat to Academy Bay where you can swim and snorkel with all kinds of exotic fish and marine life, as well as the famous sea lions; they are very curious animals and like to swim next to you underwater. Here you can also see the sought after blue-footed boobies.

Afterward, climb to a nearby viewpoint, and if you are lucky, you can see white-tipped reef sharks swimming in the ocean below.

Afterwards, take a walk along the Playa de los Perros, where many sea iguanas are found basking in the sun.

SERVICES INCLUDES

Accomodation La Isla or similar.

Meals included Breakfast, Lunch

Afterward, climb to a nearby viewpoint, and if you are lucky, you can see white-tipped reef sharks swimming in the ocean below.

Afterwards, take a walk along the Playa de los Perros, where many sea iguanas are found basking in the sun. The enormous cacti, the deep, red color of the rocks and the turquoise, sparkling ocean make for great photo opportunities.

Day 4. Charles Darwin Research Station

In the morning we will visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn more about many of the endemic species seen in the wild, as well as the ongoing conservation and management efforts on the Galapagos Islands.

In the afternoon, you will travel by speedboat to San Cristobal Island. Once we arrive, we will check in at the hotel.

SERVICES INCLUDES

Accomodation Casa Opuntia or similar.

Meals included Breakfast

Day 5. Isla Lobos Excursion

Today after breakfast you will be met and transferred to a dock where you will take a quick boat ride to the nearby Isla Lobos.

During this boat trip, observe many marine animals before even setting foot on the island. Upon arrival, enjoy a guided tour where you will have the chance to observe frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, manta, sea lions, and sometimes sharks that all inhabit the island and its surrounding waters.

The white coral beaches of San Cristóbal are great to walk around, relax and swim in before you return back to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno.

SERVICES INCLUDES

Accomodation Casa Opuntia or similar.

Meals included Breakfast, Lunch.

Day 6. Flight back to Quito

Enjoy some more free time this morning before transferring to the airport of San Cristóbal. From here, you will take a flight back to Ecuador's mainland. Upon arrival in Quito, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel for one more evening at leisure before saying goodbye.

SERVICES INCLUDES

Accomodation Sheraton Quito Hotel or similar.

Meals included Breakfast

Day 7. Departure

Today our trip will end and you will have your International departures. Take with you your memories and photos and leave a piece of your heart, as you will want to return to Ecuador soon to experience more of this enchanted land. We wish you a "buen viaje"!

SERVICES INCLUDES

Meals included Breakfast

IMPORTANT TRAVEL TIPS

It is our intention to adhere to the itinerary described; however, due to our travel style, on occasions it may be necessary or desirable to make small changes.

Weather conditions and unpredictable local circumstances may lead us to make alterations to the route and/or travel times.

Hotels and flight schedules might change according to availability. Any mention to specific wildlife in the itinerary or trip details is not a guarantee that it will be seen during the trip.

FLIGHT TIME
2h 45min each way from Quito to Galapagos. Regular size aircraft. About 140 passengers.

DRIVING TIME
45 min Airport transfers in Quito.
45 min Airport trasnfers in Galapagos.

BOAT TRAVEL TIME
2 hours from Santa Cruz to San Cristobal
45 minutes each way - Lava Tunnels
45 minutes each way - Isla Lobos

SEASON
All year

ALTITUDE
From sea level to 600m (1900 ft).

AVG. TEMP.
Day 15-34ºC / 59-93ºF - Night 12-17ºC /53-62ºF

HIKING TIME
Short hikes 1 hour average.

SNORKELING TIME
Canal del amor 1 hour.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL

Moderate to easy there are short hikes in El Chato, Academy day tour, ISla Lobos snorkelling is easy.

ACCOMMODATION

All prices are based on double-occupancy. If you are traveling solo, you will be matched with another participant of your same sex. If you prefer to have a single room, please contact AJ prior to your departure to arrange your accommodation at an extra cost.

IMPORTANT TRAVEL TIPS

MEALS

Traveling with us you will have the possibility to experience and taste local food and snacks. Your guide will help you identify typical food and suggest the best places to enjoy it.

Some meals are not included in order to give you some flexibility about where, what and with whom to eat. You have the option to share these meals with the group, however there is no obligation to do this.

If you have any allergies or food restrictions, please inform AJ prior to your departure. Vegetarians, Vegans and Gluten Free people are very welcome in our trip, our guides are always ready to coordinate with chefs and restaurants for substitute meals for them, as Ecuador is very well known for its great diversity of gastronomy.

YOUR TRIP LEADERS AND GUIDES

All guides and trip leaders are highly experienced, licensed from the Tourism University to operate in Ecuador and certified as Wilderness Adventure First Aid respondents. They all have approved several extra training courses for kayaking, rafting, biking and horse riding, besides this they all are Ecuadorian and have a fantastic personality.

We always carry a complete first aid kit in our trips. In some locations and for some activities, local guides join the trip leaders to provide an added service and make sure we practice sustainable tourism involving local indigenous people in our operation.

SUSTAINABLE ECO AND CULTURAL TOURISM

Clients receive interpretation and education about the ecology and conservation of the Andes, Amazon rain forest and Galápagos Islands, and learn about the factors that threaten it. We aim to promote long-term conservation of both local people cultural
identity and the environment.

We transport out and recycle all non-organic garbage and we prefer to work with local suppliers. Your visit will encourage the local communities to support responsible eco-tourism as a sustainable alternative for their living.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Please inform us of any existing medical conditions (i.e. pregnancy, diabetes, etc). Yellow fever, Hepatitis B vaccination and Malaria Medication are recommended when traveling to the tropics. Please ask your doctor for advice.

DETAILS

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- **Transportation:** Speed boat Santa Cruz – San Cristobal, comfortable land transportation.
- **Accommodation based on double occupancy:** 5* hotel in Quito, 3* hotels in Galapagos.
- **Meals:** 6 breakfasts and 3 lunches.
- **Activities:** Hiking in Santa Cruz highlands, Snorkeling, Isla Lobos, Academy Bay day tour.
- **Gear:** Snorkeling mask and fins, life vest.
- **Trip Leader:** Certified expert English-speaking adventure leader and naturalist local guides in Galapagos National Park.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

- My Own Room supplement.
- Airfare International flights.
- Airport transfer (international flights).
- Airfare Quito – Galapagos – Quito round trip.
- Travel insurance (suggested).
- Meals not described in the itinerary.
- INGALA transit card: USD $20 per person, cash only (subject to change).
- Galapagos National Park fee: USD $200 per person, cash only (subject to change).
- Wetsuit for rent: USD $10.
- Tips for guides and drivers.

DEPARTURE DAY

DEPARTURE DATES 2027 07 Days - Galapagos Essentials		
MONTH	**DATE 1**	**DATE 2**
JANUARY	SATURDAY 9	SATURDAY 23
FEBRUARY	SATURDAY 6	SATURDAY 20
MARCH	SUNDAY 14	SUNDAY 28
APRIL	SUNDAY 25	-
MAY	SUNDAY 2	SUNDAY 9
MAY	SUNDAY 16	SUNDAY 23
MAY	SUNDAY 30	-
JUNE	SUNDAY 6	SUNDAY 13
JULY	SATURDAY 3	SATURDAY 17
AUGUST	SUNDAY 8	SUNDAY 15
AUGUST	SUNDAY 22	SUNDAY 29
SEPTEMBER	SUNDAY 5	SUNDAY 12
SEPTEMBER	SUNDAY 19	SUNDAY 26
OCTOBER	SUNDAY 3	SUNDAY 17
OCTOBER	SUNDAY 24	SUNDAY 31
NOVEMBER	SUNDAY 7	SATURDAY 20
DECEMBER	SATURDAY 11	SATURDAY 25