



ADVENTURE ASSOCIATES

www.AdventureAssociates.net

PO Box 16304 • Seattle WA 98116 • 206-932-8352

info@AdventureAssociates.net



GALAPAGOS ISLANDS ISLAND HOPPING MULTI-SPORT ADVENTURE

Discover the southern Islands of the Galapagos Archipelago in ways you never thought possible. This multi-sport adventure combines daily kayaking, mountain biking, trekking, and snorkeling in the rugged and unspoiled natural beauty of this marine paradise. It is also an ideal supplement to a weeklong Galapagos Cruise. On this adventure, the jewels of the Galapagos are yours to discover by land and by sea.

Trip Dates: Year Round Departures

Land Costs: \$2185

DAY 1 *Transfer and Hike in San Cristobal*

Transfer from your cruise or mainland Ecuador to San Cristobal Island. You are met and transferred to your hotel for check-in. Enjoy a welcome lunch and orientation at a local restaurant then hike out of town to visit the San Cristóbal Interpretation Center to learn about island formation, volcanoes, evolution and natural history. Today we will explore dry forest: cacti, acacia, palo santo, Galapagos cotton and more as we hike towards Frigate Hill along trails of lava rock featuring splendid views of the coastline and Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Enjoy encounters with local birdlife such as great frigate birds, blue footed boobies, brown pelicans, gulls, herons, Darwin finches, warblers and mockingbirds. On our way back we may stop for a refreshing swim at Carola Beach or Mann Beach. In the evening, explore town and dine at a local restaurant. Overnight: San Cristobal Island lodging. (B, L)

DAY 2 *Sea Kayak Playa Ochoa and Snorkel at Leon Dormido*

After breakfast, slip into an ocean kayak and spend the morning paddling along the coast, going north exploring bays and coves teeming with wildlife. Paddle to Darwin Bay, where the Beagle landed for the first time, and where sea lions, marine turtles, blue footed boobies and frigate birds play. Continue past Playa Ochoa to nearby Isla Lobos on the lookout for marine iguanas. We'll stop for a swim to enjoy the best sea lion encounters in the entire archipelago, and continue

until we reach Leon Dormido, the jagged remains of an old tuff cone whose flanks are home to thousands of sea birds. Leon Dormido offers excellent snorkeling, and for certified divers, one of the best dives in the Islands. There is a good chance of seeing hammerhead and white tipped sharks, eagle and golden rays, as well as dozens of species of tropical fish, clams, starfish and marine invertebrates. In the afternoon we return to our hotel for our last evening on San Cristobal. (B, L)

DAY 3 *Mountain Bike in the Santa Cruz Highlands*

After breakfast, we take a fast boat from San Cristobal to the Santa Cruz Islands, where we transfer to El Chato reserve, the natural habitat of the Galapagos land tortoise. As we explore this area, we may also come across pintail ducks, egrets, flycatchers, finches and frigate birds bathing in fresh water lakes. Explore lava caves featuring incredible volcanic tunnel formations, and on a clear day we may see Media Luna, an old collapsed crater at the top of Santa Cruz Island. After lunch, drive to Cerro Mesa in the highlands of Santa Cruz. From there, get fitted to your mountain bike and after a brief safety talk, enjoy a (mostly downhill) ride through rural farmland, Bellavista village, and our final destination, Puerto Ayora. This ride is about 12½ miles (20km) on dirt and paved roads. After the ride, we spend the night at a local hotel. (B, L)

DAY 4 *Hike and Sea Kayak in Santa Cruz*

After breakfast, we pick up our kayaks again to travel around Divine Bay and Punta Estrada, paddling through lava channels of calm, turquoise waters. Within the channels, white tipped sharks and rays patrol beneath the waves, while colonies of blue footed-boobies, tropical birds, herons and marine iguanas perch along the jagged cliffs. Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about conservation and management efforts in the archipelago. Afterwards, enjoy an optional 4-mile round trip hike to Tortuga Bay. One of the most beautiful white sand beaches in the Archipelago, this is a self-guided trail through dry forest habitat. Return to Puerto Ayora for a free evening in the Galapagos' most populous town: relax or sample the local nightlife! (B, L)

DAY 5 *Hike and Explore Isabela*

This morning, board another fast boat for Puerto Villamil on 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. Here, we visit the Galapagos Rearing Center and learn about tortoise development and conservation. We explore the bay in search of the endemic Galapagos penguin and follow a trail along the coastline to observe dramatic lava formations and to meet a large colony of sea lions. The local mangroves and salty lagoons feature the mangrove finch, indigenous to Isabela. We can also spot American oystercatchers, herons, flamingos and many other shore birds. In the afternoon, relax on white sandy beaches. The evening is spent in the tranquil port town of Puerto Villamil. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 *Sierra Negra Hike*

From Puerto Villamil, we head up to the highlands. This hike takes us up through trails to the rim of the Sierra Negra volcano. Sierra Negra is the second largest caldera in the world. From the top you have a fantastic view of the 6 x 5 mile-wide caldera, the other volcanoes and the Perry Isthmus beyond. Views of the Chico

Volcano with its puffing fumaroles and striking lava formations are spectacular examples of the dramatic geological events that have forged the Galapagos Islands over millennia. In the afternoon, we return to Puerto Villamil". (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Isabela – Santa Cruz and Transfer Out

After breakfast, return to Santa Cruz Island and transfer by bus to Baltra Island for your flight back to the mainland, or remain in the islands for a Galapagos Cruise. (B)

| Land Costs (min. 5) | Deposit | In-country Flight | 2 Hotel nights, 2 Breakfasts, 4 Airport Shuttles | Galapagos Park Fee + Tourist Card | Trip Dates | Difficulty | Activities |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|---|
| \$2185 | \$500 (\$200 non-refundable) | Seasonal \$352-\$408 | Max. \$204 pp | \$100 pp + \$10 pp | Year Round | Moderate | Kayaking, Biking, Wildlife, Snorkeling, Swimming, |

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

A FEW IMPORTANT DETAILS ABOUT YOUR TRIP...Read carefully

Included in your Trip Fee: All meals as indicated on itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=dinner); Six (6) nights lodging on islands; expert naturalist guide; all activity & safety equipment; overland transport; inter-island transport; 4 airport transfers.

Not Included in your Trip Fee: International airfare; In-country airfare Quito/Galapagos/Quito; airport departure tax, \$100 Galapagos National Park Fee; \$10 Tourist Card; tips and gratuities; any meals not indicated on itinerary; alcoholic drinks; travel, medical and evacuation insurance; items of a personal nature.

Special Note: Depending on your flight origin in the USA, you may need to depart one day earlier than scheduled, making the trip 1 day longer. Some flight routes, primarily from the West Coast, may require an overnight in Miami, Florida.

Weather Conditions: The Galapagos is a sub-tropical destination and most all of the seabirds and reptiles nest year round. You can see courtship, mating, chicks hatching and rearing at any time of the year. There are two seasons, both of which have some precipitation. The Galapagos get an average of ten inches of rain per year, so it is never considered "rainy". During the months of December to May, the cooling currents subside, temperatures rise and the climate is warm and sunny with occasional showers. In June, the trend begins towards cooler temperatures with moderate breezes, which continue through November. This period is often referred to as the "garua" (pron. Gah-ru-ah) season, which means "mist" in Spanish.

Continued...

Temperature Chart

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| MAXIMUM AIR TEMP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 84 | 86 | 88 | 86 | 82 | 78 | 76 | 74 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 80 |
| MINIMUM AIR TEMP | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 70 | 74 | 74 | 72 | 72 | 68 | 66 | 64 | 62 | 64 | 66 | 68 |
| AVERAGE SEA TEMPERATURE | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 74 | 76 | 76 | 76 | 74 | 74 | 72 | 66 | 68 | 70 | 72 | 74 |
| AVERAGE RAINFALL (in inches) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 0.75 | 0.25 | 0.5 | 0.25 | 0.5 | 0.25 | 0.5 | 0.5 |

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.

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.

