

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. 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: March 24 – April 1, 2012

Land Package: \$2985 (see Inclusions and Payment Schedule)

March 24: Travel day. Depart USA to Quito, Ecuador. Overnight.

March 25 DAY 1 HIKE IN FRIGATE HILL AND SNORKEL IN DARWIN BAY

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. (BL)

March 26 DAY 2 KAYAK AND SNORKEL IN ISLA LOBOS AND LEON DORMIDO – SAN CRISTOBAL

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. (BL)

March 27 DAY 3 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 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. (BLD)

March 28 DAY 4 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 Isabelavolcanoes 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. (BLD)

March 29 DAY 5 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. (BL)

March 30 DAY 6 SEA KAYAK IN PUNTA ESTRADA AND 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 31/2 miles (6 kilometers) long and crosses through a dry forest lava habitat home to hundreds of iguanas. Return to Puerto Ayora to spend the evening at leisure in Galapagos’ most populous town. (BL)

March 31 DAY 7 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)

Package Land Costs (min. 5)	Deposit	In-country Flight	2 Hotel nights, 2 Breakfasts, 4 Airport Shuttles	Galapagos Park Fee	Trip Dates	Difficulty	Activities
\$2985	\$500	Seasonal \$433	Approx. \$175 pp based on hotels	\$100 pp + \$10 pp	Year Round	No Experience Needed	Kayaking, Biking, Wildlife, Snorkeling, Swimming,

*Air Rates and schedules are subject to change at any time. Read Payment Schedule below. We accept credit card payments for the deposit only.

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

Included in your package land Fee: All meals as indicated on itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=dinner); Six (6) nights lodging on islands; Two nights lodging Quito; In-country airfare Quito/Galapagos/Quito; expert naturalist guide; \$100 Galapagos National Park Fee; \$10 Tourist Card; all activity & safety equipment; inter-island transport; 4 airport transfers.

Not Included in your Trip Fee: International airfare; airport departure tax; any meals not indicated on itinerary; alcoholic drinks; travel, medical and evacuation insurance; items of a personal nature. Single supplement \$430. We do try to 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 eleven days instead of ten days. Some flight routes, primarily 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 for the deposit payment only. The balance of the trip is cash payment. If you choose to pay by credit card for the remaining balance there will be an administrative fee of \$100.

- Deposit: \$500 (\$200 non-refundable)
- Second payment due six months out: \$1200
- 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.

