



Galapagos Islands itinerary A & Guayaquil Ecuador Day-by-day detailed itinerary (9 nights)

SATURDAY: Upon arrival to Guayaquil, shuttle transfer to the Hotel Oro Verde. Guayaquil is the country's largest city and gateway to the Galapagos Islands. With its dynamic seaport, is the industrial capital of Ecuador and of the Guayas Province.

Hotel Oro Verde is located in the heart of the commercial and banking district, the Hotel Oro Verde is the only member hotel of *The Leading Hotels of the World* in Ecuador. The guest rooms and suites are appointed with cable TV, internet connection, direct dial telephones, mini bar and safety boxes. There are three restaurants; Le Gourmet, La Fondue and El Patio Café, and gourmet deli, El Capitan bar, international casino, gym Oro Fit, sauna and swimming pool. The Oro Verde is a locally owned and operated hotel and recipient of the World Travel Award for Ecuador's Leading Hotel. Oro Verde is the first hotel certified by SmartVoyager in Ecuador. Overnight Hotel Oro Verde.

SUNDAY: SUNDAY: Buffet breakfast is provided at the Hotel Oro Verde. There is a shuttle provided by the hotel for your transfer to the airport for AVIANCA flight 1636 departing Guayaquil at 10:35AM and arriving to Galapagos at 11:30AM. Upon arrival to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **SAN CRISTOBAL**, our crew is waiting at the airport to escort you by bus to the main deck and then by zodiac to your yacht anchored in the bay. After the welcome briefing and safety drill, a delicious buffet lunch is served. We travel by bus to **Cerro Tijeretas or “Frigatebird Hill”** is situated just outside town near to “La Predial” a fishing community present from 1952 to 1960. It is one of two sites where you can spot nesting colonies of both species of Frigatebirds (Great and Magnificent). The trail leads to Playa Mann where there are vistas of beautiful scenery. We return to the yacht and cruise around **Leon Dormido or Kicker Rock**, a vertical tuff cone formation that rises abruptly almost 500 feet out of the ocean. On the cliffs, we spot Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies and Magnificent Frigate birds. Join your fellow yacht mates this evening for your island briefing followed by our Captain's welcome cocktail party and dinner prepared by our well-trained chefs.

MONDAY: We arrive to **Cerro Brujo**, a breathtaking white coral beach, considered one of the most spectacular in Galapagos and perfect for a peaceful walk with expansive views and good bird watching. We have an opportunity to snorkel or kayak from the beach or swim with sea lions as well as a Zodiac ride. During lunch, we cruise toward the northeastern tip of **SAN CRISTOBAL** to **Punta Pitt**, a tuff formation that serves as a nesting site for many sea birds including all three types of boobies: Blue footed, Nazca and Red-footed boobies, both Frigate species, swallow-tailed gulls, Storm petrels and a colony of sea lions. Punta Pitt is considered to be a first class site for birds and on par with Genovesa (Tower) Island. We return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner.

TUESDAY: We disembark at **Punta Suarez, ESPANOLA (Hood)**, where we witness the highest rate of endemic species in Galapagos. Sea lions noisily greet us as we land on their beach. Curious Hood mockingbirds peck at our shoelaces. From April to December, the waved albatross, found only on Espanola, perform their wild mating ritual. Colonies of blue-footed boobies engage in “sky-pointing” to show off for potential mates. Nazca boobies busily care for their young. Stunning

swallow-tailed gulls are the only nocturnal gulls in the world and fish at night. Red-billed tropicbirds take shelter under the cliffs. We also find Darwin's Finches, Galapagos Doves and Galapagos Hawks. Observe a unique specie of marine iguana identified with traces of red and green colorings. Colorful sally light-foot crabs crawl along the shoreline near to the famous "blow hole". After lunch we have a wet landing on **Gardner Bay, ESPANOLA (Hood)**, walk along seemingly endless stretch of this white sandy beach where you'll find large colonies of sea lions. There is no trail to follow so this is a chance to explore or take a long walk. You may find a Galapagos Hawk, Darwin's Finches or Hood Mockingbird. Swim with sea lions right from the beach, explore the bay and islets by kayak or just relax on the beach. There's an excellent snorkeling site off Gardner Islet with a colorful diversity of sea life near Tortuga Rock. Explore caves by Zodiac covered with invertebrates. We return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner.

WEDNESDAY: Step ashore at **Punta Cormorant, FLOREANA (Charles)**, one of the few populated islands in the Galapagos. Floreana presents a rich human history with mystery and intrigue. Set foot on a green-sand beach alive with the sounds of sea lions. Follow a trail to a brackish lagoon, home of the pintail ducks, common stilts, and the Greater Flamingos, the pinkest in the world. Wind your way past a rich variety of plants including Morning Glory, Cut Leaf Daisies, Palo Verdes and Scalesia leading to a beach with power soft sand. Sea turtles lay their eggs in the sand dunes and rays swim in the shallow water. After the walk, we have an opportunity to snorkel at **Devil's Crown or Champion**, a shallow sunken crater colonized by a brilliant array of colorful fish and coral. Choose to have a picnic lunch on deck or dine inside. After lunch, we visit **Post office Bay**, not the most scenic, but one of the most famous sites in Galapagos. Here is where a post barrel was erected and put into use in the late 18th Century by English whaling vessels. You are invited to leave a post card and to pick up any mail from your home area. We return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner.

THURSDAY: We travel by bus to the **highlands** of **SANTA CRUZ** Island. The scenery gradually changes as we wind our way through all seven vegetation zones found in Galapagos. Here, we visit the tortoise reserve at "Las Primicias" one of the private farms in the highlands where we encounter giant tortoises in their natural habitat. We stop at "the tunnels", the largest lava tubes found in Galapagos. We visit *Los Gemelos*, Spanish for "The Twins", a pair of large pit craters where we find the bright red male vermillion flycatcher. After lunch, we visit the **Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena** (aka the Charles Darwin Research Station). See all three tortoise corals and the breeding center with new hatchlings and miniature tortoises not yet ready to be repatriated. Scientists from all over the globe work at the station and conduct biological research from anatomy to zoology. We stop at Van Straelen Hall where there are exhibits and a presentation. Visitors can see the tortoise and land iguana corrals. Puerto Ayora is the social heart of the islands with the largest population of 24,000. This evening you have the option to return to your yacht for a buffet dinner or remain in town on your own account. Those who return to the yacht will be provided zodiacs to return to town to shop for souvenirs or stop in at an internet café. Zodiacs will be provided for your return to your yacht.

FRIDAY: We disembark at **BARTOLOME**, where it seems like we are walking on the moon. This young Island is inhospitable to most plants and animals. After a dry landing, climb 30 minutes up stairs leading to the summit of a once active volcano. Along the way, we pause to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones and cinder cones. From the top of the wooden stairs, we can gaze out across the island for a panoramic view of the island and "Pinnacle Rock", an eroded tuff cone. Crystal clear water is an invitation to snorkel from the beach with schools of tropical fish and Galapagos

Penguins or take a Zodiac ride. After lunch, we visit **Las Bachas**, (Spanish for “barges”). There is a long stretch of a soft white sand beach and interior lagoons where we find the Greater Flamingo. There is also a wonderful chance to snorkel here from the beach. Located off the Southern tip of Santiago is **Sombrero Chino** aka **Chinese Hat** that owes its name to its shape. After a wet beach landing with sea lion colonies, the trail gives way to a primeval landscape of volcanic rubble including cracked lava formations and lava tubes. We find marine iguanas and pairs of oystercatchers. You can choose to snorkel at a site that is frequented by Galapagos penguins. There is a briefing followed by dinner while we anchor in a calm protected area.

SATURDAY: Today we visit **SOUTH PLAZA**, a small geological uplift with tall cliffs offering spectacular views. After a dry landing, the trail leads us through Prickly Pear or Opuntia and Sesuvium. Here we can find the Galapagos Land Iguana feeding on the cactus leaves. Toward the end of the hill, we encounter a colony of bachelor sea lions. The dominant bulls are in various stages of recovery from battles lost over prime beach territory. We also find Swallow tailed gulls, Shearwaters and Red-billed tropicbirds who build their nests along the cliffs. After lunch, we have a dry landing at **North Seymour**, a small geological uplift. We follow a trail that leads us to Swallow-tailed gulls, Blue-footed boobies and the endemic Land iguanas. Visit the largest colony of Magnificent Frigate birds found in Galapagos. As we stroll along the beach, we find Marine Iguanas and sea lions body surf the northern swells. We return to the yacht for the Captain’s Farewell cocktail party and dinner as well as a special slide show presentation by your guides.

SUNDAY: We visit the Interpretation Center opened on San Cristobal Island in 1999 by bus. Here we gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the Islands. Afterwards, we spend time in port before heading to the airport for our flight back to the mainland departing before noon time on Avianca Flight 1637. Upon arrival to Guayaquil, we transfer to the Hotel Oro Verde for overnight.

MONDAY: Buffet breakfast is provided by the hotel.

Shuttle transfer to the airport for your return flight home is provided.

Option:

Depart Sunday evening on night flight –

SUNDAY: Shuttle transfer in upon arrival at 3:25PM, enjoy the amenities of the Hotel Oro Verde including pool, gym, restaurants and spa. Shuttle transfer provided to return to the airport for your evening flight.

Includes: Hotel accommodations for a day use at Hotel Oro Verde in Guayaquil including hotel tax and dinner voucher with a value of \$22.50 per person (no cash value).

2016 rates: Galapagos Islands & Guayaquil Ecuador (9 nights)

\$ 4300.00 Iguana deck cabin 7 night Galapagos cruise

(upgrade to Booby \$4775 or Dolphin deck \$5150 available)

\$ 443.00 airfare Gye-Scy-Gye (\$476 in July & Aug)

\$ 120.00 Galapagos park tax + transit card fee

\$ 176.00 Guayaquil extension 2 nights

Total = \$ 5039.00 per person based on 2 guests in a double room

Rates include:

Cabin accommodation with private bath on the first class 20-passenger M/Y ERIC or LETTY for 7 nights including all meals and snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, purified water, guided shore excursions, Captain's welcome and farewell parties, wine and beer with dinner, use of snorkeling equipment, wet suits and sea kayaks and transfers in the Islands between the airport to dock.

Roundtrip airfare on AVIANCA Airlines from Guayaquil to Galapagos

Galapagos National Park entrance fee \$100 and transit card fee \$20

Hotel accommodations for (2) nights at Hotel Oro Verde in Guayaquil including: taxes, buffet breakfast and welcome beverage and airport transfers provided by the hotel's shuttle service including baggage handling.

Rates do not include:

International airfare from your hometown to Ecuador

Gratuities for guides and crew \$250-300 suggested per person

Dinner in Guayaquil

Option: Add one additional night in Guayaquil (before the cruise)

FRIDAY: Upon arrival to Guayaquil, transfer to the Hotel Oro Verde. Guayaquil is the country's largest city and gateway to the Galapagos Islands. With its dynamic seaport, is the industrial capital of Ecuador and of the Guayas Province.

SATURDAY: Buffet breakfast is provided at the Hotel Oro Verde. This morning we visit the *Parque Historico* or *Historial Park*, an in situ museum of the region's history and culture. Here you'll find a wildlife park with the flora and fauna that once populated the area including parrots, tapirs and deer, a historic zone that recreates Guayaquil from the early 1900s, and an area that celebrates the indigenous cultures complete with recreated haciendas and people in native dress. Our next stop is *Malecon 2000*, an 80 million dollar riverside complex built along a two-mile stretch of the Guayas River. The waterfront boardwalk features a myriad of restaurants, cafes and shops, museums with art exhibitions and weekend jazz and classical music concerts. We stop at the Simon Bolivar Park with its tree iguanas, La Rotonda, Watchtower and *Las Penas and Santa Ana Hill*, a charming colonial section filled with art studios, cafes and 400-year old houses. Overnight at the Hotel Oro Verde.

Additional night in Guayaquil + tour for \$224.00

Includes: Hotel accommodations for (1) additional night at Hotel Oro Verde in Guayaquil including taxes and buffet breakfast. Full day tour of Guayaquil combined with Parque Historico with English speaking guide and private vehicle and driver.

Does not include lunch or dinner.