



GALAPAGOS ADVENTURE

A Multi-activity Cruise in Nature's Paradise

ECUADOR ~ MULTISPORT ~ 11 DAYS

TRIP DETAILS

11 days

*Cruising, sea kayaking,
hiking, snorkeling,
wildlife-watching and
photography.*

*3 nights boutique hotel
accommodation in Quito
7 nights luxury
accommodation aboard the
best vessel in its class.*

2008 DATES

May 29 — June 8

October 23 — November 2

November 13 — 23

2009 DATES

May 14—24

May 28—June 7

LAND COST

\$4190 US per person

*Luxurious owner's state
room is available for a
couple for a surcharge of
\$600 US per person.*

*Single Sup.: \$550 US
(single accommodation
space is limited)*

*From: Quito
Group Size: 15*

The Galapagos Islands are on nearly every committed traveler's life list of places therefore after much deliberation, and with input from naturalists and guests, we have tailored a unique Galapagos adventure that no-one else offers. These islands where creatures have never learned fear of humans offer an authentically unique experience that will forever change the way you think of wildlife. To explore this natural paradise that Charles Darwin called "a little world within itself" we charter a small yacht (only 15 passengers) that combines comfort and flexibility of route. We bring along kayaks to add the dimension of intimate exploration that paddling silently close to shore provides. Traveling from island to island we'll disembark everyday to hike otherworldly volcanic landscapes and have amazing up-close (really up-close) encounters with wildlife. In the water we'll explore by kayak and snorkel turquoise water with penguins, sea turtles and playful sea lions. We feel that history, culture and science are all important for truly understanding the islands so we've added a very special VIP tours of Quito's Old Town (the Islands and the Old Town are both UNESCO World Heritage Sites) and the Charles Darwin Research Station.

"You walk among clattering four-foot marine iguanas heaped on the shore... You swim with penguins; you watch flightless cormorants dance beside you, ignoring you, waving the black nubs of their useless wings. There is always some creature going about its beautiful business...The animals are tame. They have not been persecuted, and show no fear of man. You pass among them as though you were wind, spindrift, sunlight, leaves."

- Annie Dillard, - Life on the Rocks: the Galapagos

ITINERARY

DAY 1 ~ Arrive on Quito

Arrive at Quito International Airport and check into the Hotel Patio Andaluz (hotelpatioandaluz.com) in Quito's Old Town. Unesco declared the Old Town a World Heritage site in 1978 and visitors are charmed by the cobbled streets and colonial architecture.

DAY 2 Quito (B,L,D)

After breakfast we take a "Hidden Places of Old Quito" walking tour with our esteemed and highly knowledgeable local guide. After lunch in a café, the afternoon is free to explore on your own. We meet in the evening for a welcome dinner and discussion of trip details.

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DAY 3 ~ Arrive on Galapagos Islands, South Plaza Island (B,L,D)

We arrive on San Cristobal and board our mother-ship. While we settle into our cabins, enjoy lunch and meet our naturalist guide, Reina Silvia sets sail for our first destination, the small island of South Plaza Island, just off the eastern coast of Santa Cruz. South Plaza is an ideal introduction to the Galapagos, hosting a large colony of sea lions which are so unafraid of man we may have to walk around them as we go ashore! Not far from the landing point we encounter land iguanas wandering among the tree cacti. A short walk takes us to the edge of surf-sprayed cliffs, where Swallow-tailed Gulls, Audubon's Shearwaters and Red-billed Tropic birds wheel above us.

DAY 4 ~ Genovesa Island (B,L,D)

We cross the Equator during our overnight cruise to Genovesa Island, and in the early morning anchor in Darwin Bay, which is formed by the submerged caldera of an extinct volcano. Going ashore by kayak or dingy, we encounter a huge colony of Great Frigate Birds. It is an unforgettable sight, especially if we are lucky enough to see the male frigate birds inflating their red pouches to attract females flying overhead. We also view Red-footed Boobies and thousands of Storm Petrels. We spend the day observing the enchanting wildlife on foot, by kayak and, as an option, by snorkeling along the island's submerged crater walls where angelfish and parrot fish are in abundance.

DAY 5 ~ Fernandina Island (B,L,D)

Heading westward, we cross the Equator once more to reach Fernandina, one of the most volcanically active islands in the archipelago. With luck, as we approach the island we might see huge clouds of steam rising from the surface of the ocean, the result of submarine lava eruptions. By kayak we explore a mangrove-lined bay and small inlets formed by black lava flows. Here we find some of the wonders of nature: Flightless Cormorants, marine iguanas, Galapagos Penguins - the second smallest and most northern in the world - and Blue-footed Boobies in risky diving maneuvers. We can go ashore to walk on relatively recent lava flows, and we can also snorkel, perhaps in the company of a marine iguana or a sea turtle. In the late afternoon, from the deck of our mother-ship we keep a sharp lookout for the sperm whales that are often spotted in these waters.

DAY 6 ~ Santiago Island and Bartolome Island (B,L,D)

Today we reach James Bay, situated on the western side of Santiago Island. By kayak or on foot we explore the intricate shoreline, looking for fur seals in the intricate grottoes and caves, and sea lion colonies on the beaches. We encounter a variety of herons, and with luck we spot the Galapagos Hawk. In the afternoon we cruise to Bartolome Island, where we can take an easy hike to the 600 ft. summit for some great views and photography. As an option, we can enjoy the great snorkeling on the shores of Bartolome, with the chance of swimming with Galapagos Penguins.

DAY 7 ~ Puerto Ayora and the highlands of Santa Cruz Island (B,L,D)

During the night, Reina Silvia reaches Academy Bay, the port of the village of Puerto Ayora. Here we visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station to observe different species of giant tortoises and learn about the Station's breeding and rearing programs. After lunch a bus takes us from the dry coastal areas to the lush greenery of the highlands of Santa Cruz, where we hike and look for giant tortoises, Woodpecker Finches and other specialties of the area

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DAY 8 ~ Floreana Island (B,L,D)

On Floreana Island we walk along a beautiful beach to a lagoon, observing flamingoes and other wading birds and, with luck, green turtles on the sand and sting rays in the shallow waters. Next we visit Devil's Crown, a half-submerged crater with crystal clear waters. It's a paradise for snorkeling, with huge schools of multi-hued fish, sea turtles and, perhaps, a shy hammerhead in the depths. Our naturalist will have told us some of the intriguing human history of Floreana and in the afternoon we will visit the legendary Post Office Bay where the Wittmer family resides. In Post Office Bay is a wooden barrel, which was placed there in the 18th century by the crew of a whaling ship. Since then, it has been used by whalers, yachtsmen and tourists alike as a post office. If you find a letter or postcard in the box that is addressed to someone living near your next destination, take it with you and continue an ancient tradition.

DAY 9 ~ Espanola Island (B,L,D)

From our anchorage in a protected bay on the north eastern shore of Espanola Island, we paddle to a beautiful white sandy beach dotted with hundreds of basking sea lions. After lunch we cruise along the northern shores of Española to Punta Suarez. Here we hike past marine iguanas sunbathing on the rocks, through large colonies of Blue-footed and Masked Boobies, and up to the edge of steep cliffs which are the mating and nesting area of Waved Albatrosses. These huge birds have wing spans of over seven feet and they joyfully soar above us on the air currents – a fitting finale to a magical week!

DAY 10 ~ Return to Quito (B,D)

After breakfast, transfer to San Cristobal for the return flight to Quito. After checking into the Hotel Patio Andaluz there will be time to explore and shop in Old Town before getting together for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 11 ~ Fly Home (B)

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The trip starts with arrival in Quito on the first scheduled day of the trip and finishes with the return flight to North America on the final scheduled day. There are several international carriers servicing Ecuador. Contact us about reserving domestic air to San Cristobal.

LAND COST

\$4190 US per person

Rates are per person, based on sharing double accommodations and do not include the park entrance fee (\$100 US) and the domestic flight between Quito and the Islands - approximately \$400.

The luxurious owner's state room is available for a couple for a surcharge of \$600 US per person and is, "worth every penny of the surcharge", according to several previous guests.

Single Supplement: \$550 US (single accommodation space is limited)

THE NEXT STEP

Ready to go? Registering is easy!

Just call us at 1-800-677-0877 and reserve your spot! You can also book a reservation online at our website (www.tofino.com).

Leave the Rest to Us

Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including clothing recommendations, suggested reading lists, up-to-date health advice and other details.

Why Tofino Expeditions?

We have more than 20 years of experience as an expedition guide service, are leaders in sea-kayak instruction and have an industry wide reputation for safety, service and great food. We have guided thousands of paddlers on wilderness trips and are thrilled that so many guests become repeat clientele. Our trips are physically satisfying vacations that are designed to be relaxing, safe, thought-provoking and fun

Our Commitment to Conservation

Tofino Expeditions has always been at the forefront of minimum impact camping technique and we have been formally recognized for our responsible expedition methods and management. We actively support a range of organizations that share our commitment to wilderness preservation including the Charles Darwin Foundation that conducts scientific research and environmental education about conservation and natural resource management in the Galapagos archipelago and its surrounding Marine Reserve.

References

Don't take our word for how great our trips are. We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

Questions?

Feel free to call us at 1-800-677-0877 if you still have any questions or concerns. We're here to help you. You can also check out our website at www.tofino.com.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Questions?

Please don't hesitate to call us if you have questions or concerns. We're here to help you. You can also find answers to many questions on our website (www.tofino.com)

To Register:

If you would like to reserve a space on one of our expeditions, you can either call (800-677-0877), fax (503-364-5326), email us (info@tofino.com) or register online at our website (www.tofino.com). We accept Visa and Mastercard for deposits and trip costs. If you have any questions about our trips please contact our office.

Deposits and Payment

At time of reservation: \$500 non-refundable deposit

120 days prior to departure: \$1000 second deposit

90 days prior to departure: Balance of land cost

If your deposit is made by credit card we will process the second deposit of \$1000 at 120 days and the balance 90 days prior to departure unless notified to do otherwise. Due to the nature of international operations, prices are subject to change.

Inclusive Services

The information package for each trip contains a comprehensive list of equipment and services which are included in the trip cost. Please read these carefully and call our office if you require further information.

Not included

Airfares: international flights, domestic flights (approx. US \$400), park fees (US \$100), beverages, gratuities, insurances, Medical costs, costs of hospitalization, evacuation by helicopter or any other means are not covered in the trip cost.

Cancellations

A significant portion of our expenses are committed long before departure. At the time we receive written notice that you must cancel your trip, the following fees will apply (all dates are from departure date):

— From time of reservation until 120 days prior to departure: \$500

— 119 to 90 days prior to departure: 25% of Land Cost

— 89 days or less prior to departure: 100% of Land Cost