

Adventure to the Galapagos Islands – 7 Day 6 Night Trip

Dates: December 8 – December 14, 2024

Group Size: 15 Traveler Limit

Difficulty: Easy

Staff: Amazonia Tour Leader Edward Yount

Trip Overview:

The Galapagos Islands are a nature lover's paradise and visiting them is the world's greatest experience for close-up wildlife encounters. Follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin and other great explorers to experience the legendary biodiversity that these incredible, remote islands have to offer. Discover the islands' famous wildlife including Giant Tortoises, Galapagos Sea Lions, Galapagos Penguins, Marine Iguanas, Blue-Footed Boobies, Magnificent Frigatebirds, and more. Not only will we experience the island's legendary biodiversity, but we will also have the chance to learn about the unique history of these incredible islands.

Why Travel with Amazonia to the Galapagos Islands?

1. We work with small & local Galapagos owned businesses. Unfortunately, over the past several years there has been a large push from large international corporations entering the tourism market with huge cruise ships & chain hotels which has been to the detriment of small locally run operators & the fragile environment. By traveling with us you can ensure you are visiting the islands in the most sustainable way for the local people & the environment.
2. Our Galapagos tours allow you to explore the best of the Galapagos Islands during the day and sleep on dry land in comfortable, eco-lodges at night. Here we will have home-cooked local meals made to our liking and experience the incredible hospitality of the Galapagos people.
3. The trip is wildlife focused, we will be working with some of the best naturalist guides on the island and we always keep in mind to try and see the best wildlife and target species on the islands. This is not a "luxury" trip, but you are still seeing the best that the Galapagos Islands has to offer at an excellent quality and price.

Accommodations:

Suyamar Ecolodge: a family run ecolodge located in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island in the peaceful community of Bellavista. This community is one of the oldest of the original settlements on the Island of Santa Cruz. Located approximately only 6 km from the tourist center of Puerto Ayora.

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08 December – Baltra Arrival – Tortoise Reserve & Lava Tunnels

Arrival to Baltra Airport – Galapagos (GPS). You will meet our staff at airport exit area (outside baggage claim). Here you will begin the transfer to our local ecolodge located on Santa Cruz Island. Arrive at the lodge for lunch and time for a short rest or to explore the local area.

After lunch we take a visit to the **Twin Craters**, these are geological formations, craters of volcanic origin. Take a short walk through the native Scaevola Forest to see the Craters. Several species of birds can potentially be found here, including the Witch Bird (Darwin's Flycatcher) Woodpecker Finch, Galapagos Mockingbird, etc.

Tortoise Reserve & Lava Tunnels – after visiting the craters we head over to a Tortoise Reserve of 150 acres, adjacent to the territories of the Galapagos National Park. Giant tortoises migrate from the park to this property in certain seasons. Here, can observe Giant Tortoises in their natural environment. On the property there is also a **Lava Tunnel** nearly 300 meters long which we can explore.

Accommodation: Suymar Ecolodge

Meals Included: Lunch, Dinner

09 December November – Santa Fe Island – Hidden Beach

Morning transfer to Puerto Ayora for an appx. 1.5-hour navigation to Santa Fe Island. As we navigate near the island's huge precipices, we can observe a forest of giant endemic cactus and colonies of seabirds, including Galapagos Brown Pelicans, **Blue-footed Boobies**, Nazca Boobies, Swallow-tailed Gulls & Lava Gulls. On the north end of the island, we will arrive to a calm turquoise bay, inhabited by a large number of sea lions. This is an ideal place to snorkel, swim with sea lions, tropical fish, and occasionally observe and swim with sea turtles.

Lunch on board. After lunch we will visit the Hidden Beach where we can enjoy the marine iguana population on the beach and explore this unique coastal ecosystem.

Accommodation: Suymar Ecolodge.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

10 December – Pinzon Island

Morning transfer to the port for an appx. 2-hour navigation to Pinzon Island. One of the more isolated and less frequently visited islands in all of Galapagos. Snorkeling will take place in the calm bay on the eastern end of the island. This is an ideal place to snorkel, swim with sea lions, sea turtles, tropical fish, white tipped reef sharks. Lunch on board. After lunch, visit La Fe Beach, an isolated and picturesque beach cradled by mangroves and rocky terrain, here we can continue to snorkel and view an array of captivating

marine life from sea turtles to small sharks and colorful fish. Return to the ecolodge in the evening for dinner.

Accommodation: Suymar Ecolodge.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

11 December – North Seymour Island

Morning bus transfer to Itabaca for an appx. 1.5-hour navigation to North Seymour Island, which is a great place for hiking. Here there is a circular path about 2 miles long that crosses through the interior of the island and takes us to explore its unique ecology. This trail will take you through some of the largest seabird colonies in the Galapagos Islands. Here you may have the opportunity to observe the courtship behavior **Magnificent Frigatebirds** inflating their balloon-like gular sacs & if you are lucky the courtship dance of Blue-footed Boobies. These are some of the more curious attractions of the Galapagos. Lunch on board. After lunch, we have the chance to snorkel at a nearby bay which is frequented by sea turtles. Return to the ecolodge in the evening for dinner.

Accommodation: Suymar Ecolodge.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

12 December – Bartolome Island – Sullivan Bay

Early morning bus transfer to Itabaca Canal to board the yacht that will take us on the tour of this island with turquoise waters and beautiful white sand beaches. Leave early in the morning (breakfast & lunch on board) with approximately 2-hour navigation to reach the volcanic shores of Bartolome. This is one of the youngest islands of the Galapagos Archipelago where we can see fascinating formations of lava flows, lava bombs and volcanic cones. Upon arrival, climb a staircase and from the top, you will see a spectacular landscape of two beautiful bays. This is one of the most representative images of the Galapagos archipelago. Near Pinnacle Rock you can also see two beautiful beaches in the form of a crescent.

After hiking, we will have the opportunity to snorkel in the bay, where we can hopefully observe sea turtles, sharks, white tip reef sharks, tropical fish, sea lions and many other unique marine species. Also, this is the perfect area to observe the **Galapagos Penguins**. Return to ecolodge in the evening for dinner.

Accommodation: Suymar Ecolodge

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

13 December – Garrapatero Beach & Research Station

Breakfast and visit to **Garrapatero Beach** one of the more isolated beaches in the area, appx. 38km from Puerto Ayora. Native forests of trees called manzanillo & eucalyptus dominate the area. Visit a saltwater lagoon where pink flamingos, finches and migratory

birds arrive. We have some free time to explore the beach and enjoy the area. If time permits, en route we can stop to sample some famous Galapagos Coffee. Return to lodge for Lunch.

In the afternoon we will visit the **Charles Darwin Research Station**. Founded in 1964 as a base for research on the islands. The Charles Darwin Station has a remit to study the environment and ecosystems of the Galapagos Islands and to understand the biodiversity there. This includes reviewing conservation on the islands, and where necessary taking care of endangered or injured creatures, preparing them for release into the wild. Found on the property are some nature trails which we can explore. After visiting the area near the Research Station, we will have some free time to explore the boardwalk of nearby Puerto Ayora. Evening farewell dinner in Puerto Ayora and time to buy any last-minute souvenirs.

Accommodation: Suymar Ecolodge

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

14 December – Return to Baltra Airport

Breakfast and morning departure from Suymar Ecolodge to Baltra Airport (GPS) in time for your departing flight.

Included: Breakfast

END OF TOUR

Pricing:

Booking Deposit: USD \$100.00 per person

Total Cost: USD \$3095.00 per person in double occupancy room

Single in room add USD \$500.00

Included:

- Accommodations
- All transfers in Galapagos
- Daily tours as listed on itinerary
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner as listed on itinerary
- Local Naturalist Guides (English speaking)
- Shuttle (Lobito) costs from Galapagos Airport to Ferry
- Baltra Ferry Fees

Not Included:

- Air Ticket to Galapagos
- Entrance Fee to Galapagos National Park – USD \$100.00 per person (subject to change)
- Tourism (INGALA) Transit Control Card – USD \$20.00 per person
- Optional Expenses:
 - Tips for Guides, Boat Crew, Hotel Staff,
 - Extra Meals & Drinks – beer, sodas, wine
 - Other Personal Expenses

- Any extra activities not listed on the itinerary

Notes on Daily Boat Tours:

All boat tours are on a shared basis. Capacity for boats to Bartolome Island, North Seymour Island are between 16-20 passengers. Capacity for smaller boats to Pinzon or Santa Fe Island are from 10-12 passengers.

Daily Boat Tours on Santa Cruz will include:

- English Speaking Naturalist Guide
- Snorkeling Gear – Mask, Snorkel, Fins
- Snacks
- Drinks
- Towels
- Lunch

Note:

The itinerary is subject to changes only if out of our control. Example: changes/delays to flights, changes in boat schedules, changes due to weather/marine conditions, and/or changes in conservation policies of the Galapagos National Park for the protection of the islands.