

10-DAY GALAPAGOS ISLANDS ADVENTURE

DAY 1 – SATURDAY - U. S. / GUAYAQUIL

Upon arrival in Guayaquil, Ecuador, a representative will meet and escort you to your overnight accommodations at the Hotel Oro Verde.

DAY 2 – SUNDAY - GUAYAQUIL / SAN CRISTOBAL, GALAPAGOS

Following breakfast you board the flight to the Galapagos Islands. Upon arrival at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on San Cristobal Island you are escorted to your luxurious 83-foot, 20 passenger motor yacht. Your accommodations on board are in double outside cabins each with a large private bathroom, hot and cold, fresh water shower, separate climate controls and intercom. In the afternoon you stop at Playa Ochoa. Here you go ashore and walk to a nice sandy beach where you may swim and get your first introduction to the exotic wildlife of the Galapagos Islands. As the sun sets you cruise past Kicker Rock (Leon Dormido), a vertical tuff cone formation that abruptly juts up almost 500 feet out of the ocean. Here you are welcomed to the islands by the Brown Pelicans, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Blue-footed Boobies and other sea birds that soar overhead. B/L/D

DAY 3 – MONDAY- TOWER ISLAND

During the night you cruise to Tower Island and anchor in Darwin Bay. After breakfast you make a “wet” landing and follow a trail past tide pools frequented by Swallow-tailed and Lava Gulls. The trail enters a forest of salt bush, which provides nesting sites for Masked Boobies and Great Frigatebirds. The trail ends at a cliff face from which there is a majestic view of the bay. This is an excellent place to swim, snorkel and sea kayak. In the afternoon you board a panga (small boat) and ride to a rocky outcropping known as Prince Phillip’s Steps. Thousands of Storm Petrels, Audubon’s Shearwaters, Brown Noddies, Red-tailed Tropicbirds and Swallow-tailed Gulls crowd the cliff face and wheel overhead. In the nearby groves of Palo Santo trees you should be able to find Short-eared Owls and nesting Red-footed Boobies (Tower is the only island where these are found). Following a full day of nature related activities you return to your yacht for dinner and to overnight. B/L/D

DAY 4 – TUESDAY- FERNANDINA/ ISABELA

Six volcanoes flowed together to form Isabela, the largest of the Galapagos Islands. Following breakfast you visit Tagus Cove and walk inland to a saltwater lagoon where there are some interesting volcanic formations. You then go in search of Galapagos Penguins and other marine life. In the afternoon you make a “dry” landing at Punta Espinosa on Fernandina Island, the westernmost island of the archipelago. Despite frequent visits during the whaling heyday of the 19th century, no exotic species of plants or animals were introduced here. Accordingly it is one of the most pristine locations in the Galapagos. From your landing point you walk onto a patch of rough lava. The largest colony of marine iguanas in the Galapagos is found here. As you proceed down the beach you see egg shells and bleached mangrove trunks, silent reminders of recent volcanic activity. Sea Lion females and pups frolic and dive in the tide pools along the rocky shoreline, while the larger males patrol their territories and spar with each other. At the tip of the point is a large nesting colony of Flightless Cormorants and you should be on the lookout for the brilliantly colored Vermilion Flycatchers and the Galapagos Hawk. B/L/D

DAY 5 – WEDNESDAY: SANTIAGO ISLAND

After breakfast you search the tide pools along the shore of Puerto Egas, Santiago (James) Island looking for octopus, starfish and other sea life. Great Blue, Lava, Yellow Crowned Night Herons and Oyster Catchers are a few of the birds you may see and you should be on the lookout for soaring Galapagos Hawks and Galapagos Doves and Mockingbirds roosting in the low bushes. If the tide is out you may see Marine Iguanas grazing on exposed algae. Your destination is the famous Fur Seal grottos. Fur Seals were once on the verge of extinction but under protection are now fairly numerous. A wealth of marine life teems in these tidal pools. Brightly colored Sally Lightfoot Crabs, crawl over Marine Iguanas while herons, oyster catchers and sandpipers stalk the shorelines. During lunch you yacht motors to a site known as Sombrero Chino (Chinese hat). After a wet landing amongst colonies of sea lions, the trail gives way to a primeval landscape of volcanic rubble including cracked lava formations and lava tubes. Marine iguanas and oystercatchers provide good photo opps. B/L/D

DAY 6 – THURSDAY - BARTOLOME ISLAND / NORTH SEYMOUR

After breakfast you make a “dry” landing on Bartolome where it may seem as if you are on the surface of the moon. One of the newest of the islands, it is still largely inhospitable to plants and animals. The volcanic formations here include lava bombs in addition to spatter and cinder cones. After climbing up a steep slope to the summit of a once active volcano, you get a panoramic view of the bay and “Pinnacle Rock”, an eroded tuff cone. After walking back to the shore you may swim and snorkel amongst colorful schools of fish. Sea turtles may sometimes be found on the beach and peaceful White-tipped Sharks frequent the shallows. In the afternoon you make a dry landing at **North Seymour** and follow a trail

to swallow-tailed gulls, blue-footed boobies and endemic land iguanas. You also visit the largest colony of Magnificent Frigate birds in Galapagos. You have an opportunity to snorkel in deep water before returning to your yacht. B/L/D

DAY 7 - FRIDAY - PUERTO AYORA & HIGHLANDS OF SANTA CRUZ

In the morning you step ashore onto Santa Cruz Island, board a bus and ride upward, through the seven vegetation zones found in the Galapagos, into the humid Scalesia Zone above Santa Rosa. Here amongst the lush ferns orchids and moss-laden shrubs is one of the few remaining free ranging and “wild” populations of Galapagos Giant Tortoises. Here also are the largest lava tubes in the Galapagos and a good place to see Vermilion Flycatchers. In the afternoon you visit the famous Charles Darwin Research Station where scientists are working on biological research and conservation projects. One of these is the tortoise-rearing project, where a breeding facility is working to restore the badly depleted giant tortoise populations. Later in the afternoon you stroll through the town of Puerto Ayora to purchase souvenirs, mail postcards and take in some of the local color of this island community. B/L/D

DAY 8 - SATURDAY - GARDNER BAY, ESPANOLA ISLAND / PUNTA SUAREZ, ESPANOLA ISLAND

At sunrise you find yourself anchored off the coast of Espanola (Hood) Island. After breakfast you step ashore and walk along stretches of sandy beach which teem with colonies of Sea Lions. Here you have the opportunity to swim and snorkel with the sea lions and enjoy the colorful diversity of sea life near Gardner Islet. In the afternoon, you disembark at Punta Suarez. Sea Lions noisily greet you as you land on their beach and curious mockingbirds peck at your shoelaces. A bit further inland is the world’s only nesting site (April –December) of the magnificent waved albatross. Colonies of Blue-footed Boobies engage in “sky-pointing” while Masked Boobies busily care for their young. Red-billed Tropicbirds take shelter under the cliffs and this is one of the best places to see some of Darwin’s finches. Galapagos Doves, Galapagos Hawks and Swallow-tailed Gulls are quite common. One of the most colorful subspecies of Galapagos Marine Iguana plus brilliantly colored Sally Light-foot Crabs frequent the lava boulders next to the famous “blow hole”. This afternoon will be one of your last opportunities to swim and snorkel amongst the abundant Galapagos marine life. B/L/D

DAY 9 – SUNDAY - SAN CRISTOBAL / GUAYAQUIL

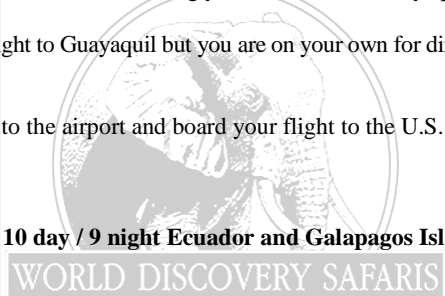
In the morning you drop anchor at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **San Cristobal**. The National Park has established a breeding program for Galapagos Tortoises here and set up a visitor information center. Here you see terrestrial tortoises living in their natural habitat and learn about their origin, evolution and the threats posed to them by introduced animals and other factors. From the visitors center you drive to the airport, bid farewell to the Galapagos Islands and board your flight back to the mainland. Following your arrival at the Guayaquil Airport you transfer to your rooms at the Hotel Oro Verde. B

Please note: Lunch is served on board the return flight to Guayaquil but you are on your own for dinner for this last day.

DAY 10 – MONDAY - GUAYAQUIL / U.S.

After an early breakfast at your hotel you transfer to the airport and board your flight to the U.S.

B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner



2010 COSTS: for World Discovery Safaris 10 day / 9 night Ecuador and Galapagos Islands program (subject to availability at the time of booking)

7 NIGHTS	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	SINGLE
<u>IGUANA DECK</u>	\$ 3495.00	\$3395.00	\$4895.00
<u>BOOBY DECK</u>	\$ 3775.00		
<u>DOLPHIN DECK</u>	\$ 4125.00		

Program costs include: Service of World Discovery Safaris, two night at the Hotel Oro Verde in Guayaquil, round trip air between Guayaquil and San Cristobal, cabin accommodation (see above), all meals and snacks as listed in the itinerary, non-alcoholic beverages, mineral water, Captain’s welcome and farewell cocktail, guide services, shore excursions, use of wet suits, snorkeling equipment and sea kayaks, transfers in the Islands and between the airport and dock.

Program costs do not include: International Air, Galapagos entrance fees (park tax), or transit card, alcoholic beverages, purchases made on board, immunizations, excess baggage charges, trip insurance and items of a personal nature, such as drinks, laundry, telephone, and gratuities to guides and crew.

Individual departures and customized itineraries are available upon request. Please contact us for more details and costs at wds2830@bellsouth.net or call World Discovery Safaris at 205-972-8733

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