

BE•XPRT

GALAPAGOS EXPERTS



HISTORY

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

were declared a World
Heritage Site in 1978
by UNESCO.

TRAVEL PLANNER

Map and technical information
to promote the Galapagos.
Information about permits, flights,
special conditions,
hotels and cruises.

GALAPAGOS



MAP

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

On the inhabited islands you
can cycle, ride horses
and kayak.



+INFORMATION



COUNTRY

ECUADOR



LOCATION

928 km / 501 nautical miles from San Cristobal Island to mainland Ecuador.



DISTANCE
FROM
MAINLAND

8,010 km² / 3,090 square miles of land dispersed over **45,000 km² / 17,000 square miles** of ocean, which cover a total area of 138,000km² in the Pacific Ocean.

TIME ZONE

UTC (GMT) -6

AREA

The islands are located on both sides of the equator; in the northern and southern hemispheres. The Galapagos archipelago consist of **13 large islands** (< 10 km²), 5 medium-sized islands (between 1 and 10 km²), and 215 islets.

CLIMATE



From December to June:
Hot tropical rainy season

Air temperatures can climb up to 36 - 40 ° C / 96 - 104° F during the day. Water temperatures are warm, with an average of 23 - 27° C / 73 - 80+° F.



July to November:
Sub-tropical dry season

20 - 24° C / 68 - 75° F during the day and 17 - 20° C / 64 - 70° F at night. Water temperatures are between 18 - 20° C / 65 - 70° F



POPULATION

26,640 (2012).



FLIGHT
TIME

The flight time between **Quito and Guayaquil** is **40 minutes**.

There is a 40 minute stayover in Jose Joaquin del Olmedo airport for all flights.

The flight time from **Guayaquil to the islands** is **1h40**.

There are two airports on the islands; one on Baltra and the other on San Cristobal.



ADDITIONAL
FEES

The Galapagos transit card costs **\$20 (TCT)** and must be paid in cash before check-in.

The entrance fee for the National Park must be paid in cash upon arrival at the airport in Baltra.

FOREIGN VISITORS - Adults

\$100 - Children \$50 and are valid for the duration of your stay.

Credit cards are not accepted. All visitors must comply with migratory controls and procedures, and the rules and regulations regarding the introduction of species **SICGAL**.



ACTIVITIES

Observe wildlife on a walk, snorkel, scuba dive, kayak, go on a boat ride, swim at the beaches, go on a glass-bottom boat ride and more depending on the operator and infrastructure.



CLOTHING

Shirts, shorts, zip-off at the knee cargo pants, swimwear, outdoor shoes (trainers, hiking shoes), long trousers for evenings, a couple of button-up shirts, hat, sunglasses, a lot of sunscreen, camera, small backpack for daily walks, water bottle, and windbreaker.

FLIGHTS AND CONNECTIONS TO THE GALAPAGOS



AIRLINES: **AV** Avianca / Aerogal, **EQ** Tame **XL** Lan Ecuador.
Flights and schedules are subject to change by the airline.

Quito - Baltra (Galapagos) Scales				
Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight	Scale
Sunday	6:35	9:00	Av1638	GYE
Exc. Mon - Wed	6:35	9:00	EQ191	GYE
Monday	6:55	9:20	AV1632	GYE
Tues - Wed - Sat	6:55	8:05	XL1557	0
Wed - Tues - Thurs	7:05	9:30	AV1632	GYE
Sunday	7:20	9:45	AV1632	GYE
Saturday	7:25	9:50	AV1638	GYE
Friday	7:25	9:50	AV1632	GYE
Daily	9:00	11:30	EQ193	GYE
Sunday	9:05	10:15	XL1557	0
Exc. Friday	9:25	12:05	XL1553	GYE
Sunday	10:15	11:20	AV1686	0
Saturday	10:20	12:50	AV1634	GYE
Thurs - Friday	10:25	12:50	AV1684	GYE
Mon - Tuesday	12:35	13:40	AV1688	0

Baltra - Quito				
Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight	Scale
Sunday	8:40	11:50	XL1556	0
Exc. Mon - Wed	9:40	14:05	AV1639	GYE
Monday	10:00	14:30	EQ190	GYE
Tues - Wed - Sat	10:00	14:25	AV1633	GYE
Wed - Tues - Thurs	10:10	14:35	AV1633	GYE
Sunday	10:25	14:50	AV1633	GYE
Saturday	10:30	14:55	AV1633	GYE
Friday	10:30	14:55	AV1639	GYE
Daily	11:20	15:55	XL1550	GYE
Sunday	12:00	15:05	AV1697	0
Exc. Friday	12:30	17:00	EQ192	GYE
Sunday	12:45	17:20	XL1552	GYE
Saturday	13:30	16:35	AV1685	0

Quito - San Cristóbal (Galapagos)				
Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight	Scale
Saturday	7:30	9:50	EQ195	GYE
Saturday	8:05	10:40	XL1561	GYE
Sat - Sun	9:00	11:30	AV1636	GYE
Tues - Friday	9:30	11:40	EQ195	GYE
Friday	9:40	12:15	XL1561	GYE
Exc. Sat - Sun	10:10	12:40	AV1630	GYE
Tues - Sun	10:35	13:10	XL1561	GYE

San Cristóbal - Quito				
Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight	Scale
Saturday	10:50	15:00	EQ194	GYE
Saturday	11:20	15:50	XL1560	GYE
Sat - Sun	12:30	17:00	AV1637	GYE
Tues - Friday	12:40	16:50	EQ194	GYE
Friday	12:55	17:30	XL1560	GYE
Exc. Sat - Sun	13:20	17:45	AV1631	GYE
Tues - Sun	13:45	18:15	XL1560	GYE

ANNUAL TEMPERATURES



Variations in the tropical climate of the Galapagos									
	°C	°F	°C	°F		°C	°F		
	Maximum air temperature		Minimum air		Hours of clear sky	Sea Temperature		Wind	Navigation
January	tempera- ture	Hours clear sky	Sea tempera- ture	Wind	Navigation	24.4	75.9	3	2
February	29.6	85.2	23.2	73.7	7.5	25.2	77.3	2	1
March	30.6	87.0	22.7	72.8	6.0	24.9	76.8	1	1
April	29.5	85.1	22.7	72.8	7.5	25.0	77.0	2	1
May	27.9	82.2	22.1	71.7	5.2	24.5	76.1	3	2
June	26.0	78.8	19.1	66.3	4.4	23.1	73.5	4	2
July	24.6	76.2	19.8	67.6	2.8	22.0	71.6	5	3
August	24.2	75.5	19.1	66.3	3.3	21.5	70.7	6	4
September	24.3	75.7	19.6	67.2	2.9	21.8	71.2	7	4
October	25.3	77.5	19.5	67.1	3.8	22.3	72.1	6	3
November	25.8	78.4	20.4	68.7	3.5	23.0	73.4	5	3
December	26.7	80.0	20.9	69.6	4.0	23.3	73.9	4	2

THE HISTORY OF THE GALAPAGOS

Written by: Francisco Dousdebés / Galapagos Expert



Places of interest:

- Places of interest:
- Charles Darwin Station,
- Puerto Ayora, Isla Santa Cruz
- Post Office Bay, Isla Floreana
- Punta Pitt, San Cristóbal.



<http://boredomfiles.com/>



The most famous explorer in the Galapagos Islands was Charles Darwin. His journey aboard the HMS Beagle was a true world-class adventure and once on the islands, his great powers of observation kept him very busy taking notes on everything he could find. These observations would leave a deep impression on Darwin, and would be the basis for his masterpiece 25 years later, his book "The Origin of Species". Darwin's masterpiece would not have made any sense if the Galapagos hadn't been part of the HMS Beagle's planned voyage.

The Galapagos became the most enigmatic tropical desert of the entire trip. How could a place with tropical vegetation also have penguins? How was it possible for the sea temperature to be so tepid while the equatorial line crossed the islands from east to west? It was these observations that left Darwin

intrigued; just as a present day visitor is excited to snorkel with penguins, explore the upper reaches of the islands in search of giant tortoises, and marvel at the marine iguanas going out to sea in search of algae on the rocks or diving to great depths in search of food.

The islands have many stories to tell, and today each visitor writes his own. Many, for example, remain in silence to watch the courting ritual of blue-footed boobies, or the gathering of huge cetaceans in the waters of Canal Bolivar in the west of the Archipelago. Every day the Galapagos tells a story and does so with full force and deep sincerity. It is these stories that made many explorers feel deeply connected to the islands. In the early 40s, the United States leased Baltra Island to use as a military base because it is strategically positioned to protect the famous Panama Canal during World War II.



John Garate



John Garate

Two hundred years ago, the Galapagos had already been explored, and although it was discovered by accident in 1535, it was the buccaneers, pirates and whalers who took advantage of the economic possibilities the islands had to offer.

This reality demonstrated to all past explorers the strategic value in visiting the Islands. It was precisely those first buccaneers and whalers who found, in the emblematic giant tortoise a great source of food, and as a result their numbers

dropped drastically. Today, thanks to the efforts of the Galapagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Research Station, the numbers and state of the surviving populations are success stories. The methods used in the Galapagos have been utilized by other countries to develop other conservation programmes. In very little time, the Galapagos Islands have become a driving example for everyone.

Ninety-five percent of the Galapagos Islands' biodiversity remains intact. In other words, the presence of man on the islands has only caused a 5% loss of original biodiversity. This reality makes the Galapagos the best conservation model of oceanic islands.

There's no doubt that Darwin's finches are a group of birds that may seem simple because they are not particularly attention-grabbing. However, modern studies of natural selection and evolutionary biology base their research on these groups of birds in order to prove their principles. When exploring any island in the Galapagos, it is well-worth taking the time to appreciate these birds. Some islands are perfect for understanding the differences between the 13 species of finches.

Islands such as Santa Cruz, San Cristobal, to Española, Isabela and Genovesa allow you not only see different species of finches but also marked differences in the size of the beaks and feeding behaviour of each. This unique bird

has been an example of evolution that Darwin observed and draw for ours and days. The key to observe these creatures is a good pair of binoculars and careful attention to details. The different beak sizes fit perfectly with the idea of different tools that serve several functions.

This is the basis of natural selection: different available niches have been occupied by various adaptations of the original forms. This is the magical world we see and appreciate on the Galapagos islands.

These islands are of course a national park, but they are also a marine reserve. The marine habitat supports most of the species we see on land since their survival is dependent on the ocean. It is in the sea where albatrosses, boobies, frigate birds, penguins, cormorants, sea lions, seagulls, herons, and many more feed. And it is on land where we see the entirety of these species.

The colours of the islands come from the tropical equatorial light and the extensive volcanic eruptions from different volcanic islands. The tuff is a series of layers of compacted ash that forms when magma comes into sudden contact with sea water at a shallow depth. The colours of these formations range from yellowy-brown, dark brown, orange, to dark red and their respective ranges. These, mixed with the light from sunrise or sunset will make any visitor fall in love with the Galapagos islands.

The Galapagos experience can be very rewarding underwater too. To see a variety of different species, such as penguins together with tropical fish, sea lions with sea turtles, and more, are unique and unimaginable elsewhere in the world. The integrity of the Galapagos Marine Reserve plays a vital role in the survival of the species on land.

GALAPAGOS HOTELS

Written by: Francisco Dousdebés/Galapagos Expert



The populated areas of the islands have developed an important hotel base with broad accommodation options. The vast majority of these have programs that give access to different areas of the island they are based on, and some hotels have developed marine operations providing yacht tours that explore different sites of the Galapagos National Park. Visitors are always recommended to ask for as much

information as possible about the activities available, and to clarify which activities are and which activities are not included in the price of their trip.

The inhabited islands have a large selection of local tour operators that offer a range of excursions: long walks, beaches, surfing, kayaking, cycling, snorkeling, and scuba diving among others.

The natural resources of the inhabited islands are almost always complemented by the wealth of human resources. Nowadays, the interest in the human history of the islands is increasing more and more. The islands are a permanent source of enigmas, stories, mysteries and great tales. Let's not forget that the islands were officially discovered in 1535, but it wasn't until 1832 that they maintained a permanent population after being declared a territory of the Republic of Ecuador.



INFO

INHABITED ISLANDS



SAN CRISTÓBAL

Puerto Baquerizo
Moreno

5,600 inhabitants



SANTA CRUZ

Puerto Ayora

15,000 inhabitants



ISABELA

Puerto Villamil

2,200 inhabitants



FLOREANA

Floreana

100 inhabitants

This offer allows the modern-day visitor to have a very fulfilling experience while enjoying the natural beauty of the surroundings. We must not forget that the Galapagos community also has a large contingent of artists and artisans who have developed art galleries, souvenir shops, paintings, and handcrafts. And if we were to discuss food, the islands and its marine culture have a range of specialties and delicacies that will delight the most discerning palate.

These attractions invite the visitors to carefully consider the idea of expanding their itinerary in the Galapagos with

respect to the inhabited islands. A cruise-hotel combination is one of the best ways to experience both islands' worlds

For those who are looking to maintain contact with the world, the inhabited islands also have several businesses specializing in clothing, as well as cafés, ice cream shops, banks, ATMs, internet cafés and more. Being in the Galapagos can make you feel isolated. The inhabited islands allow us to be connected with to the rest of the planet.

The visitor decides how isolated from the world he/she wishes to be.

**To see all the hotels, please
see the tourism directory:**

trade.allyouneedisecuador.travel

GALAPAGOS CRUISES

Written by: Francisco Dousdebés / Galapagos Expert



The most famous and popular method of traveling in the archipelago is on a cruise. The concept is to have the ease of a floating hotel that sails primarily at night, allowing the traveler to truly move from island to island.

There are yachts, sailboats and yacht expedition cruises. The maximum operating capacity is 100 passengers. There are some ships in the range of 80 – 90, expedition yachts range between 40 – 50, some with a capacity of 20 and finally, a range of small boats that accommodate between 8 and 16 passengers. The offers are very diverse and a successful trip goes beyond simply choosing the best price. It is a trip of a lifetime and

should generate a wealth of memories for those who visit the islands.

While it is not easy to decide whether a boat or a small yacht expedition is the right choice, the important thing is to understand the real differences between the different cruise options. Cruise ships and expedition yachts are both suitable for groups.

On-board facilities include spacious cabins, wall-to-wall windows, balconies, air-conditioning, hot showers with constant pressure, desalination facilities, treatments facilities for grey and black water, high-tech equipment, rooms for scientific conferences, Internet & wi-fi access, various food services,



Tierra Verde Tours



Klein Tours



Andando Tours



Klein Tour



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EVERYTHING ABOUT CRUISES



GUIDANCE

1 nature guide for every 16 visitors, who maintains the environmental standard



ITINERARIES

Ships are permitted to take you to the popular sites within the 138,000 km2 area of the islands.



CRUISES

There are cruises for 6 to 100 passengers.

a la carte and more. On small yachts, passengers are able to get to know each other better given the small group numbers and, in most cases, there is only one activity that takes place at a time.

A small yacht will experience a greater impact from ocean waves and passengers will feel

these much more than a big ship.

These are important facts to consider when choosing a boat on which to explore the islands. This is another reason to ask all the necessary questions to travel agents and operators beforehand. The more questions that are asked and answered beforehand, the better the experience will be.

The success of the routes assigned to each operator by the Galapagos National Park, is based on creating the best experience for the visitor while ensuring the lowest environmental impact. Since 2012, the idea has been to provide an operational patent with a 15-day itinerary divided into shorter sub-itineraries.

What you need to know

■ All the information about cruises can be found on the Tourism Directory.



GALAPAGOS COMMUNITY

The first question we ask ourselves is how can a paradise like the Galapagos maintain sustainable tourism over time. The key is proper natural resource management, caring for the environment and preventing the impact that populations and tourism generate. There is a plan for the Environmental Management of the Galapagos Islands and a Governing Council of the Special Administration of the Galapagos. This council is responsible for the administration of the province, planning and land use planning, resource management and organization of the activities carried out in the Galapagos to ensure the conservation of the natural heritage of the islands as well as the community. Within this organization is

the Galapagos National Park which is responsible for the conservation of the ecological integrity and biodiversity of the islands and marine ecosystems in the protected areas of the archipelago, as well as the use of the goods and services they generate for the community. This entity is in charge of regulating the tourist sites and quotas of tourists visiting each island with all cruises, hotels and tour operators in the Galapagos.

Then there are the foundations that perform specific protection tasks such as the Charles Darwin Foundation that has provided solutions to the Galapagos islands for over 50 years. It has put forward ideas through scientific research in order to ensure the conservation



John Garate

**VOLUNTEERING**

ESPECIAL PROGRAMS

**CLEANING
THE COAST**www.facebook.com/fundaciongalapagos**COMMUNITY
SERVICE**www.gobiernogalapagos.gob.ec**CHARLES DARWIN
FOUNDATION**www.darwinfoundation.org

and biodiversity of the environment. Its programs target controlling invasive species, researching sustainability, and effective conservation management.

We cannot fail to mention their hard work in protecting turtles, penguins, and cormorants in the research centre in Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island. The legendary Lonesome George has lived there for many decades, and the efforts to save its specie were countless.

In the archipelago, there is cooperation between the municipality of Santa Cruz, the Galapagos National Park, the WWF and the Galapagos Foundation, developing projects to solve current problems such as urban and coastal pollution, while seeking to generate awareness of environmental conservation.

They have thus created initiatives to clean up the coast through the collection and sorting of hundreds of tons of solid waste

pollution in which the community actively participates. Since 2000, in the garbage recycling plant "Fabricio Valverde" on Santa Cruz Island, about 50 tons of plastic, glass and paper products, and 60 tons of organic material are recycled every month.

Furthermore, the population is educated on how to separate garbage. Thus, Santa Cruz Island has become an example to the world in the processing of solid waste.

On February 11, 2015 the Assembly of the Governing Council of the Administration for the Galapagos promoted responsible consumption of disposable plastic by regulating their marketing and distribution in the Galapagos. August 10, 2015 is the deadline for adopting the use of alternative products and not to market or distribute plastic bags or foam type packaging. All of this organization and public/private cooperation makes the Galapagos a global example of sustainable resource management.

The Galapagos Islands awaken the senses; the colours, the breeze, the wildlife, the sun's energy, the force of the sea, and the mixture of sensations. There are beautiful destinations in the world, but the Galapagos is a unique trip of a lifetime. Those who have the opportunity to take this trip, understand the importance of protecting both flora and fauna.

Sites Of Interest:

- Charles Darwin Station,
- Puerto Ayora / Santa Cruz
- Galapagos Foundation,
- Puerto Ayora / Santa Cruz
- WWF, Puerto Ayora / Santa Cruz

GALAPAGOS

WHAT'S NEW

Written by: Francisco Dousdebés / Galapagos Expert

In the 60s and 70s, the Galapagos explorer sought a simple destination. He/she was an explorer of nature and did not demand the sophistication of services and perhaps was less demanding in his/her expectations. This was the reality for travelers at that time. Today, the nature explorer has more experience with travel than those from the past. The world is more accessible and easier to discover, and technological developments make destinations seem much closer than they really are.

Today's nature explorer wants to share his/her world on social media as soon as possible. That is, it has redefined the word "instant". The use of digital cameras has turned many people into instant professional photographers. It is this combination of realities which has transformed the modern nature explorer. The positive benefit of these changes is the behaviour of visitors to the Galapagos; making them more discerning observers, and making them more willing to protect the resources. This is good because it means that we haven't lost the essence of the Galapagos. On the other hand, excellent international promotional efforts have opened Ecuador and the Galapagos to new markets, while also strengthening its presence in traditional ones, and the visitor numbers speak for themselves. Today's Galapagos nature explorer is also more demanding regarding food.

He/She likes to explore flavours, seasonings, the textures of fruit, and the combination of colours, etc. This fact should motivate us to develop creative cuisine on boats, yachts, and hotels in the Galapagos. It is the perfect moment to promote more of the Ecuadorian cuisine and make it part of the culture and identity of the country. The modern nature explorer



demonstrates many positive characteristics.

For example, there are travelers who enjoy practicing their artistic skills with watercolour while birdwatching.

There are also travelers who enjoy a nice glass of champagne before lunch and in the evening, are delighted to observe the stars in the night sky. Who has never met someone searching for a five star experience while also surfing at Turtle Bay or Playa Carola or at El Garrapatero?

We hope that the lessons and messages of the islands motivate visitors to make this world more peaceful

We hope the lessons and messages that the islands leave on visitors become the best motivators to make them more peaceful, more understanding and more convinced to leave a better planet for the future generations.



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ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW



MONEY

Since the year 2000, the official currency throughout Ecuador is the US dollar.



NEW AIRPORT

Ecological Baltra Island Airport



SAFETY

Streets, parks and nature walks in populated areas are possible at any time



HEALTH

Clínica Hiperbárica in Puerto Ayora, Isla Santa Cruz.



Pikala Lodge



John Garate



John Garate

and understanding, leaving future generations a better planet. The world of the modern explorer is very diverse and so should be the offers of tour operators. The Galapagos is a very interesting place to develop diversity and niche destinations. Some Galapagos explorers seek the best of both worlds, land and sea.

The explorer seeks cruise ships and hotel stays. This allows them to observe and assimilate the Galapagos from different perspectives. In some areas travelers wish to scuba dive or to do physically demanding activities that are impossible to do on cruise ships such as trekking, recreational cycling, kayaking, etc. There are also avid scuba divers who would prefer to exclusively dive for 1 or 2 weeks. Others prefer more social activities within the community and others still are interested in nightlife. This shows us that the modern traveler is

more diverse than in the past.

Therefore, their expectations are much higher. If these expectations are to be fulfilled or even bettered, these explorers will be the best marketing tool to promote the natural beauty and social development of the Galapagos Islands.

Finally, the experience of the islands awakens the senses; the colours, the breeze, the wildlife, the sun's energy, the force of the sea, and the combination of sensations are what give meaning to this trip of a lifetime. There are beautiful places in the world, but Galapagos is unique among those unforgettable destinations.

Those who visit the islands understand the importance of protecting the integrity of the natural resources and the need to raise awareness about the world in which we live.

A TRAVELLER TO GALAPAGOS

Year after year, the Galapagos becomes more coveted by travellers who want to experience pristine and untouched nature. A place lost in the Pacific Ocean, where animals trust humans, where you can observe sea lions, boobies, iguanas, and giant tortoises just a few meters away without frightening them. It seems as though the animals are the ones observing and studying humans because for decades the people have respected and cared for them as a treasure of humanity.

The traveler who has experienced a wonderful trip, is one who loves nature; its stunning volcanic landscape, with its great number of animals and their friendly

attitude. They will have a transformative trip in the Galapagos that will be life changing; not just because of the stunning landscapes of the islands, but also the experience of swimming with sea lions, Galapagos penguins, and sea turtles among schools of colourful fish. Not to mention the scuba diving experience in Galapagos which is one of the best in the world, classified by experts as the top destination in many cases. This is due to the possibility of diving near turtles and hammerhead sharks, as well as larger species like whale sharks in Darwin and Wolf Bay, among others.

Until the 2000s most tourists were retirees from the USA and Europe, but in the last 15



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BE N XPERT

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW



FOOD
You cannot eat at visitor's sites due to the possibility of contaminating the environment with the introduction of invasive species



DRINKS
The bottle of water provided to each visitor at the beginning of their trip, must be refilled to avoid polluting.



THE ISLANDS
Non-inhabited islands can only be visited until 18:00



years there has been a notable increase in the number of families with children ages 8 and older; they are active people who want to do more adventurous activities. For them, we recommend a tour combining a cruise and hotels. It is important that travellers are aware of their impact on the islands and only walk on the trails and not touch the animals.

These rules help preserve these wonderful islands for all future generations. Your contribution at the National Park Entrance is to help keep this Natural Heritage Site as pristine as it was thousands of years ago.

It is a true laboratory of life, it is a gift for all travellers of all future generations.

For travelers arriving with a partner, families of 4 or groups of 3 to 6 people, it is important to know the pace and style of vacation they want in order to decide between a cruise for 100 people or 40, a small family-sized yacht or even hotels. The average stay is 7 days, and this experience can be combined with hundreds of attractions available. mainland Ecuador.

What You Need To Know

■ www.galapagospark.org

