

Ecuador – Galapagos Land Based



Trip Summary

Snorkel with sharks, walk amongst giant Galapagos tortoises, and relax on the beach with sea lions on this 6 day adventure in the Galapagos! Experience the best of San Cristobal and Santa Cruz, including their beautiful landscapes, amazing wildlife, and laid-back beach towns. Then, get a taste for the remote as you visit two of the unpopulated islands of the Galapagos, all led by a top naturalist guide. Enjoy various and dynamic ways to access these wild sites by snorkeling, boating, hiking and more. End each night with exceptional service, comfort, and cuisine of the finest hotels in the Galapagos.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival / San Cristobal

Upon arrival at San Cristobal Airport from Quito or Guayaquil, you will be met by your local expert guide who will transfer you to your accommodation in time for an energizing lunch, introductions, and a short overview of the trip • Next we stop at the local interpretation center to learn about the unique wildlife, geology and natural history of the Galapagos • Our minds fresh with knowledge, we'll make our way to Frigate Hill where our relaxing walk reveals fauna, wildlife, and scenic views of the beach and sea cliffs below • On the way back stop for a refreshing snorkel at Carola beach and say hello to the sea turtles and sea lions • Return to the hotel for dinner and finish up your first day with a leisurely walk down the boardwalk • *Overnight Golden Bay Hotel & Spa (L, D)*

Day 2: San Cristobal

Today we take to the water with our snorkels and fins to meet some of San Cristobal's marine residents • Hug the coastline searching the coves and cliffs for sea turtles, sea lions, blue-footed boobies, spotted eagle rays, starfish, an abundance of tropical fish and more • Depending on park regulations, we may visit Leon Dormido (Kicker Rock) or Punta Pitt • After a full day spent exploring the seas, we head back to our hotel for a delicious gourmet dinner and a laid-back evening overlooking the bay • *Overnight Golden Bay Hotel & Spa (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Santa Cruz

A speedboat or internal flight takes us onward to Santa Cruz Island • After checking in, we head to the highlands of El Chato to walk with 100 year old giant tortoises, pintail ducks, Darwin's finches, frigate birds, egrets, and the vibrant vermilion flycatcher • Next we'll visit a group of cavernous lava tunnels once frequented by pirates, and was rumored to be the hiding spot for plundered Inca gold • Carry on to Los Gemelos, a pair of massive volcanic sinkholes at the high point of the island • Explore the surrounding forest of Scalesia trees home to the short-eared owl • In the afternoon we'll stop at the Charles Darwin Research Center where we'll learn about the ongoing conservation efforts to protect the future of the Galapagos • After a full day, we make our way back to the hotel, where we'll sit down to a delicious dinner and enjoy secluded views of the bay, coastline, and town • *Overnight Angermeyer Waterfront Inn (B, L, D)*



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Days 4 & 5: Plaza Islands / Bartolome Island / North Seymour Island

For the next two days we'll depart from Santa Cruz to explore two of the nearby small islands: Plazas, Bartolome, or North Seymour • On the Plaza Islands we'll snorkel and hike the crescent-shaped islands famous for the sea lion population, diverse flora and fauna, land iguanas, red-billed tropicbirds, and prickly pear cacti • Bartolome Island, a volcanic islet just off the east coast of Santiago Island, offers some of the most beautiful lava formations • Here we'll hike and snorkel with sharks, sea turtles, penguins, and thousands of tropical fish in the turquoise water • On North Seymour Island we'll observe the incredible birdlife, seeing how the blue-footed boobies hunt, interact, and engage in flamboyant mating rituals • Boats depart to different islands on a weekly schedule, so our destinations will depend on your days of travel • The boat rides should take between one to two hours each way • Each day we'll enjoy delicious breakfasts and dinners at our hotel and field lunches while exploring • *Overnight Angermeyer Waterfront Inn (B, L, D)*

Day 6: Departure / Guayaquil or Quito

Today it's time to bid a fond farewell as we transfer to Baltra Island for our return flight to the mainland • Your guest coordinator will facilitate your airport transfer • *No overnight (B)*

***Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather, ocean and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures and Neotropic Expeditions.*

Our Partner – Neotropic Expeditions

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with Neotropic Expeditions. Active for over 25 years, Neotropic Expeditions believes in sharing their passion for one-of-a-kind experiences with their guests. Founded by field leaders, they have vast knowledge of what adventurers expect in high-quality expeditions, and hire likeminded experts of nature and adventure to lead their trips. Their adventures cover the most inspiring and memorable locations in Ecuador, Galapagos, and Colombia.

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Activities

Hiking – 1 to 5 miles per hike, easy to challenging terrain.

Snorkeling – Equipment provided, no experience necessary.

Discovery – The rugged volcanic landscape of the Galápagos Islands offers truly exceptional encounters with wildlife. Venture out each day with a skilled naturalist by boat, foot, or snorkel to witness an astounding variety of exotic creatures that have never learned to fear human contact. Your guides will also share with you the history of the pirates, whalers and early settlers who took refuge on the islands of the Galápagos. Discover a land created by volcanic activity where lava fields still dominate the landscape, ash pockets remain untouched, and black sand covers many beaches. Did you know that with over 560 native species, the Galapagos has over 180 endemic species, found nowhere else on the planet? Discover the differences between the diverse and unique ecosystems on and between the Islands. Learn to tell apart the land iguana and the less colorful, but equally impressive marine iguana. Listen to stories of Charles Darwin and the infamous Darwin finches whose evolutionary discoveries led to many present day scientific theories. Seek out the incredibly vibrant marine life of the Islands, keeping a watchful eye out for sharks, sea lions, starfish, turtles, and a wide array of colorful fish. Find out just how blue a blue-footed booby's feet really are! Come explore the Galapagos Islands with the experts in adventure travel!

Our guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels.



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Distinctive Accommodations

Nights 1 & 2: Golden Bay Hotel & Spa

This 21-room ocean front property offers you unparalleled comfort and service on San Cristobal Island. Although contemporary in concept, its design is harmonious with the environmental demands of the Galapagos. Golden Bay Hotel & Spa is a Premium Class beachside property overlooking the spectacular bay that frames Puerto Baquerizo Moreno.

Amenities: Air conditioning, LED TV, telephone, safe, mini bar, free Wi-Fi, hair dryer, laundry room, breakfast, restaurant, spa services, and pool

Nights 3 – 5: Angermeyer Waterfront Inn

The Angermeyer Waterfront Inn, accessible only by water, is a Premium – Class hotel with a private location across the Puerto Ayora bay. Once you arrive in Santa Cruz, our hospitality team will take you by boat to our private pier. The main reception and lounge area is a historical site, the famous Angermeyer Cave, which was hand-built by the early settlers to the Galapagos Islands. The main buildings, uniquely constructed out of lava rock and driftwood from the area, are an authentic mix of natural highlights and modern comforts. The newly renovated rooms were designed with comfort in mind, and several even feature hot tubs. Our signature waterside restaurant overlooks the Galapagos' busiest bay and remains true to the Santa Cruz vibe.

Amenities: Cable TV, air conditioning, free Wi-Fi, hair dryer, breakfast, hot tubs, and restaurant

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. Meals are as included as indicated in the daily itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.

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Arrivals and Departures

Please arrive in Quito no later than the evening prior to your trip (we recommend arriving a minimum of two nights to allow for potential flight delays and misconnection). You will fly from Quito or Guayaquil to the Galapagos Islands, arriving between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm to San Cristobal airport, depending on your flight schedule. Upon arrival at San Cristobal airport, you will be greeted and escorted by a Neotropic Expeditions representative. Your trip ends with a drop-off at the Baltra airport, on time for your flight back to the mainland. From Quito or Guayaquil, you can make your post trip connections.

Trip Price

Trip pricing varies based on class of accommodation, please call for pricing

Trip Length

6 days/5 nights

2019 Dates

Departing weekly throughout the year; Call for availability

Host City

San Cristobal, Ecuador--Airport Code: SCY

Baltra, Ecuador – Airport Code: GPS

Quito, Ecuador – Airport Code: UIO

Guayaquil, Ecuador – Airport Code: GYE

Reservations & Availability

1.800.575.1540

*Enjoy the attractions of four very
different islands in only six days!*



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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A 20% deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and Holiday programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy rooms with private baths.
- All meals as listed in detailed itinerary & soft drinks during meals.
- Private bilingual Galapagos naturalist guide.
- All snorkeling gear and equipment.
- Transport and guide from Galapagos Airport to hotel and vice versa.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt & luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Entrance fee to Galapagos National Park (\$100 International visitors). Must be paid in cash.
- Control Visitor Card (\$20 per person). Must be paid in cash.
- Transportation Fee (\$5 per person) from Itabaca Channel to Baltra or vice versa.
- Air ticket to/from Galapagos (flight schedules / prices may vary).
- Gratuities.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge, referred to as a "single supplement." If you're traveling alone and wish to share a room, make the request at the time of booking. Austin Adventures will attempt to find a suitable roommate for you. If you book 90 days before the trip and we cannot find you a suitable roommate, we will take care of the single supplement. **some restrictions may apply*

Minimum Age

Family Adventures are suitable for children seven years old and up (six years and older for our Costa Rica and Yellowstone Family Adventures). Children who share a room with one or more adults receive reduced rates. The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 90 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 60-89 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 20% is refunded

Cancellation 45-59 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 50% is refunded

Cancellation 30-44 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 75% is refunded

Cancellation 0-29 days before trip departure – No refund is given

*** Itineraries including Hotel Golden Bay have a more strict deposit and cancellation policy than above. Please inquire with your Adventure Consultant for further details.*

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.