



Galapagos Small Group Tour: The Grand Circuit! Hit all the highlights! FEB 10th -23rd , 2021

Day 1 FEB 10: Arrive to Guayaquil, Ecuador

Arrive to the airport and you will be met after baggage claim and customs and then transfer to hotel.

Depending on your arrival time there may be some free time to settle in and have lunch on your own at the hotel restaurant or nearby.

As soon as you arrive to the hotel, your trip host will greet you at the hotel and assist your check in (early check in has been requested but cannot be guaranteed).

There will be a short meet and greet to get to know your fellow travelers.

In the afternoon through the early evening, we will take a guided outside walking tour of Guayaquil to include parts of downtown, the famous Malecon, and Cerro Santa Ana with its church and lighthouse on top. Colorful walkways and side streets surround this hill that offers a great view of the entire city from the top of the lighthouse.

Rest of evening free

Overnight [Wyndham Guayaquil Hotel](#) (or similar downtown hotel)

***Please book your own intl flight to arrive today to Guayaquil (GYE). Morning to early afternoon arrivals are preferred but not required**

****If you need to arrive the night before- we can arrange the extra night at the hotel and airport pickup for you free of charge. In this case you will have breakfast today at the hotel and time at leisure until we meet up with all the others**

Day 2: Guayaquil to Santa Cruz- Highlands tour (B,L)

Breakfast at hotel.

Transfer to GYE airport and fly to Santa Cruz Island (Baltra). This flight is included in the trip.

After arrival, we pay the park entry fee, cross the canal on a ferry and then take private transport across Santa Cruz Island to the town of Puerto Aroya.

We will begin touring right away as we have scheduled stops along the way to tour the highlands of this island. You will see volcanoes, craters, giant tortoises, pass through several different ecological and vegetation zones and more. The sights we see include the Gemelos craters, Giant turtles in the wild, A local ranch, Lava tunnels we can walk inside, and more. A Galapagos style lunch is also included on today's tour. After, we continue to our hotel.

Arrive to our hotel to check in. Rest of day and evening free.





Tonight, Your trip host will take anyone interested on an excursion to the night fish market where the street is closed to traffic and the fresh catches of the day are cooked and served to you at dinner tables set up outside next to each restaurant. This is one of the best places in the Galapagos to get great seafood and try some local flavor.

Overnight at [Hotel Cucuve](#) Or similar

Day 3: Santa Cruz- Pinzon/Daphne/La Fey (B,L)

Breakfast at hotel.

Today we depart on the Pinzon/Daphne/La Fey beach tour with a chance to swim and snorkel with turtles, penguins, sharks and colorful marine life. There is also a stop at a beautiful beach with time for relaxing and swimming , more snorkeling if you desire, and lunch. This tour is one of the very best snorkel tours in the Galapagos. The shallow and crystal clear calm waters of Pinzon allow everyone to get up close and personal with Galapagos wildlife.

After tour is over, return to Puerto Aroya and rest of day is free.

Your trip host will take those interested on an afternoon guided outing to Tortugua bay which has one of the nicest beaches in the Galapagos and a beautiful nature walk through endemic vegetation to get there. We can often see marine Iguanas here swimming in the surf and will have a chance to swim in a calm bay or explore the almost 2 miles of white sand beaches here. Kayaks (extra charge) are also available for rent on the second beach.

Evening free. Dinner on your own. Overnight at Hotel Cucuve Or similar

Day 4: Santa Cruz- Seymour North (B,L)

After breakfast at the hotel, we will depart on the the following tour.

Seymour North Island Tour, the most famous island for birds (Boobies and Frigates) and wildlife. The tour includes a boat cruise, a guided nature walk on Seymour North, and a visit to a pristine undeveloped beach and nearby lagoon.

Lunch included

After returning from the tours, later this afternoon your trip host will take those interested to the Darwin center to the museum and giant tortoise breeding center.

Evening free. Dinner on your own. Overnight at Hotel Cucuve Or similar





Day 5: Santa Cruz to Isabella (B)

Please note: You will be able to leave most of your luggage at this hotel's storage as we will be back after 2 nights on Isabella island.

After the crossing to Isabella, we arrive and check in to the hotel. We will have a short sightseeing excursion of the town of Puerto Villamil. After, there will be time for you to have lunch on your own.

In the early afternoon we will proceed on a 3 hour Tintoreras Bay tour. This tour includes swimming with the chance to swim- possibly with Sea lions, snorkeling, and a short hike over easy terrain to see a variety of volcanic geology and land animals such as Iguanas, and also the diving marine Iguanas!

Later after the tour, your trip host can take those interested for optional swimming and snorkeling to the crystal waters of nearby Concha Perla (Pearl Shell Lagoon- with more chances to possibly swim with Penguins and Sea lions, etc) after the tour and/or play a game of beach volleyball by the main pier (sometimes the sea lions get involved!)

Rest of afternoon/evening free. Dinner on your own. Overnight at [La Casa De Marita](#) or similar

Day 6: Isabella- The Tunnels Tour, Fun Hike or Bike Ride (B,L)

Breakfast at hotel.

Today we will take the tunnels tour via boat. The Tunnels are lava bridges and tunnels along the coast if Isabella that we can visit by boat. This tour offers the opportunity to walk around on these formations and also to swim and snorkel up close with giant sea turtles, seahorses, and sometimes sharks and penguins. We will have lunch on the boat and return back to the hotel around 2pm.

Later this afternoon, you will have the chance to do an easy hike or mountain bike ride through an area named Las Humedades in the national park and along the coast. At the turnaround point there is a great viewpoint you can climb up to and also a memorial called La Muralla de Las Lagrimas (wall of tears) we will explore.

Rest of day/evening free. Dinner on your own. Overnight at La Casa de Marita (or similar)

Day 7: Isabella- Volcano Hike- Return to Santa Cruz (B)

Breakfast at hotel.

This morning will we take private transport up to the highlands of Isabella to do the famous volcano trek (this 9 mile trek is rated as easy) and will allow us to walk alongside a giant crater over 5 miles wide and then into some unique volcanic terrain and superb 360 degree views. A guide will explain the geology as we go. Breaks for snacks and photos as needed.



After the trek, we will return via private transport to the town where you can go back and change clothes and have lunch in town on your own.

Afterward, we will depart via speedboat back to Santa Cruz and check back into our hotel for two more nights. You can get the rest of your luggage out of the storage.

Evening free and dinner on your own. Overnight at Hotel Cucuve or similar

Day 8: Santa Cruz- Free day (B)

Breakfast at hotel.

Today will be a free day to explore on your own, relax at the beaches, or take an optional excursion at extra cost.

There are many optional tours available. Two suggestions we can organize for you are:

1. The Gordon Rocks diving tour for the certified scuba diver that offers one of the best dive sites in the Galapagos with chances to see hammerhead sharks, reef sharks, manta rays, giant turtles, and an assortment of macro and micro wildlife. Included- 2 dives, all gear needed, snacks and coffee.
2. A Day trip to Bartolome to view some quintessential landscapes and snorkel. This is one of the postcard views in all of the Galapagos and there is also a great snorkel stop included as well as lunch on the tour.

This evening we will meet in the hotel lobby (time TBD) and head out to enjoy your last evening on Santa Cruz Island at some of the nightlife spots in town.

Overnight at Hotel Cucuve Or similar

Day 9: Santa Cruz to San Cristobal (B)

Breakfast at hotel. AM ferry transfer to the island of San Cristobal. We travel from Santa Cruz to San Cristobal Island which is about 50 miles south east of Santa Cruz island. The charming town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno with its walking promenade and beautiful local beaches is the center of activity on this island and all excursions will leave from here.

After checking into the hotel and some free time for lunch. Your trip host will take you on an afternoon walking tour.

Include on this tour are visits to the island's museum and Interpretive center, Playa Mann, Punta Carolla, Cerro Tijeretas, and of course Muelle Tijeretas at the lagoon for swimming and snorkeling with the famous Galapagos wildlife. This tour involves some light hiking and use of scenic trails.



Return to the Hotel and beaches of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno for a wonderful sunset as we are situated to look due west over the bay.

Evening free and at leisure. Tonight your host will organize us all getting together and have some fun out at the nightlife of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno.

Overnight at [Hotel Casa Opuntia](#) or similar

Day 10- San Cristobal – Highlands tour (B,L)

Today we have breakfast at the hotel and then depart on a full day program to visit the highlights and interior of the the island of San Cristobal. There will be scenic views in the highlands, lagoons, local communities to explore, learn about agriculture on the Galapagos and see local farms, visit remote beaches on the east side of the island , a chance to swim with sea lions, and much more. Lunch is included in our program. Sights we visit include: El Junco, Galapaguera, Puerto Chino & La Loberia.

Evening free and at leisure.

Overnight at hotel Casa Opuntia or similar

Day 11 San Cristobal – Punta Pitt (B,L)

Breakfast at hotel. Today we tour to the famous Punta Pitt.

We will sail from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno to investigate the northwest side of San Cristobal Island. Our first stop will be in a place known as Pitt Islet, to get ready for our first snorkel of the day. After that, we will go for a panga ride and head to Pitt Point to snorkel for the second time. After this, we will continue sailing to Punta Pitt, where a trail will lead us to a natural viewpoint where will see spectacular landscapes and have the opportunity to observe the three different species of boobies that inhabit these islands: Nazca boobies, blue, and red-footed boobies, the least populated species among the three in the archipelago. The boobies, (in Spanish known as “piqueros” due to the way they eat) feed themselves by plunging into the sea in order to dive and catch fish. Even though they are agile while flying, they walk a little clumsily, which is why their name in English is boobies (in reference to the Spanish word “bobo,” which means “silly”).

*For Scuba diving in place of snorkeling- pls add \$95 (you will have 2 dives)

We will enjoy lunch aboard the boat,

Activities: Walking, swimming, snorkeling, and wildlife observation.

Wildlife: The only place to watch the three species of boobies together:

Red-Footed Boobies

Blue-Footed Boobies

Nazca Boobies AND frigates, pelicans, Darwin finches, San Cristobal cucuves, sea lions, seagulls, sea turtles, rays, tropical fish, among others.



Evening free and at leisure.

Overnight at hotel Casa Opuntia or similar

Day 12: San Cristobal – Free Day (B)

Today is a free day, you may explore the island at your own pace.

We can book the following optional excursion (at extra cost)

Kicker Rock.

Submerge in one of the most bio-diverse hot spots in Galapagos. This snorkel-focused tour takes you to Kicker Rock Islet (a.k.a Sleeping Lion) to swim along side hammerhead sharks, sea lions and manta rays. Spot Galapagos iconic birds such as Nazca boobies, blue-footed boobies and frigate birds which inhabit the rock formations. End your snorkeling adventure with a relaxing walk in one of the uninhabited beaches nearby.

*For Scuba diving in place of snorkeling- pls add \$95 (you will have 2 dives)

This is one of the iconic dive and snorkel sites in all the Galapagos. This tour is a great suggestion for your free day if you are a water lover!

Evening free and at leisure. We will all get together and have some fun out at the nightlife of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on our last night in the Galapagos!

Overnight at hotel Casa Opuntia or similar

Day 13 San Cristobal – Departure. Connect thru Guayaquil and fly home tonight OR spend one last night in Guayaquil if your intl flight departs the next day (B)

Breakfast at hotel. Free time until transfer to the airport for the flight back to Guayaquil.

From GYE airport, you will connect to your intl flight back home. Pls book for *9 pm or later* to ensure you can make your connection.

***NOTE: If you need an extra night at the hotel in Guayaquil if you plan on flying out the next day, pls advise us head of time and we will arrange this for you at no extra charge with the rt airport transfers included.**

Day 14 FEB 23- Arrive home (B)

After departing the night before and flying overnight OR heading out on a flight this morning. You will arrive home today either way. If you stayed the night in Guayaquil- Breakfast at hotel and transfer to airport.

“End of tour”

SMALL GROUP TRAVEL- max of 11 passengers per group



Included:

- Round trip internal flights between Guayaquil and Santa Cruz (Baltra) and then San Cristobal to Guayaquil for our trip dates
- 13-nights lodging as indicated in the itinerary in 1st class superior hotels and resorts (or similar) or 14 nights lodging if you arrive the day or evening before- no extra charge for this.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B,L,D)
- All airport transfers and all ground transport
- All tours as indicated in the itinerary
- All optional excursions offered and indicated in itinerary
- All entry fees associated with the scheduled tours and optional excursions
- Ferry/Speedboat inter-island crossings
- USA based host (company owner Erik Rasmussen) to accompany group for entire trip

Many of the very best Galapagos tours and most famous sights are included in the trip:

Seymour North Island and Las Bachas Beach

Pinzon/Daphne Islands and La Fey Beach

Gordon Rocks Diving

Volcano Trek on Isabella

The Tunnels Tour on Isabella

Highlands Tour of Santa Cruz

Tintoreras Bay Tour Isabella

Santa Cruz Guided hiking, more beach visits, snorkeling options, museums- Darwin center

Punta Pitt

Highlands Tour of San Cristobal with La Loberia

San Cristobal Guided hiking, more beach visits, snorkeling options, museums- San Cristobal Interpretive center

Fun Hike and Bike ride on Isabella

City Tour Guayaquil

Additional Tour Options for: Gordon Rocks Diving, Bartolome, Kicker Rock, AND MORE!

This Galapagos Vacation offers value

Compared to many more expensive tours to the Galapagos that include far less and avoid some or most of the best (above listed) tours found in the Galapagos. We also only use highly rated 1st class superior properties for all our hotels in the program.

Not Included:

- Galapagos national park entry fee (currently \$100 and payable in person cash \$US only on arrival)
- Airport departure taxes and/or tourist cards for Ecuador (currently \$20 and payable only in person in cash \$US at the airport at flight check in)
- International flights to and from Guayaquil, Ecuador
- Tips and Gratuities
- Anything not mentioned as included (ie- personal expenses, other meals, other drinks)
- TRAVEL INSURANCE

