

Galapagos April 7-19, 2024

Charles Darwin called it “a little world within itself”. Sailors referred to it as “Las Encantadas”, the Enchanted Islands. Lying on the eastern Pacific Ocean, straddling the equator off the west coast of South America, the Galápagos is the most pristine archipelago to be found anywhere in the tropics. It is so remote, so untouched, that the act of wading ashore can make you feel like you are the first to do so.

Join us on this wonderful journey.



April 7. Flight to Quito. Transfer to hotel. Overnight in Quito area.

April 8. Breakfast and transfer to the Airport. We will take a flight to San Cristóbal Island, and from there in a short ride, check in at Opuntia Hotel. We will have lunch at San Cristóbal town. After lunch, visit the Interpretation Center, and do a wonderful coastal hike to Tijeretas Bay. Sea Lions, Frigatebirds, Gulls and other great biodiversity will be seen on the trails.

Dinner on your own at San Cristóbal town.

Hotel Opuntia (B, L)

April 9. After a great breakfast observing Galapagos Finches, we will walk to the dock. For the one's more adventurous, take a sea-kayak to have a close encounter with sea lions. After an hour, we will take a boat that will travel to the Sleeping Lion rock, a great place for snorkeling. We will have our lunch onboard, and in the afternoon, chance to enjoy the beach on this remote part of San Cristóbal. Return to our hotel. Dinner on your own at San Cristóbal.

Hotel Opuntia (B, L)

This day also we can switch to visit Española Island.

April 10. We will have a breakfast to go, and walk to the dock, where we will take a boat, to travel to Santa Cruz Island. Check in at DejaVu Hotel, and from there we will travel by bus to the Rancho Primicias, where we will explore the grounds looking for wild Galapagos Tortoises. Great chance to learn about the conservation of these magnificent reptiles. Traditional lunch at the farm. In the afternoon we will return to Santa Cruz town, and hike on the trails that goes to Tortuga Bay. Enjoy the ocean with the Marine Iguanas, and other great endemic species. Travel back by boat to our hotel. Dinner on your own at Santa Cruz.

Hotel DejaVu (B, L)

April 11. Early breakfast and travel by bus over the mountains of Santa Cruz to get Puerto Ayora. There, we will take a boat to travel to Bartolomé and Santiago Island. A majestic view of the Islands, in a place that was used as a location for the famous Russel Crowe's movie Master and Commander. Lunch onboard, and afternoon free time to snorkel on the coast of Santiago. Sealions and maybe penguins. Return to Santa Cruz. Time to explore the shopping centers. Dinner on your own at Santa Cruz.

Hotel Dejavu. (B, L)

April 12. After a great breakfast, walk to Charles Darwin Center. This wonderful facility will explain the multiple efforts by Ecuador government and the NGO to protect the fragile biodiversity of the Islands. Lunch in Santa Cruz town and take a boat to travel to Isabela Island. Check in at Hotel Casita de la Playa. Dinner on your own at Isabela town.

Hotel Cormorant o similar (B, L)

April 13. Breakfast at hotel. We will drive in a traditional Isabela bus to the highlands of Sierra Negra Volcano. A hike on the National Park to reach the peak of this mountain. If the weather helps, we will see that impressive "big caldera", one of the craters of this volcano. After the hike we will visit a local farm, where we will have a great traditional lunch, with products from the farm. Free afternoon to enjoy the Island. Optional hike to the dock along the coast. Dinner on your own at Isabela town.

Hotel Cormorant o similar (B, L)

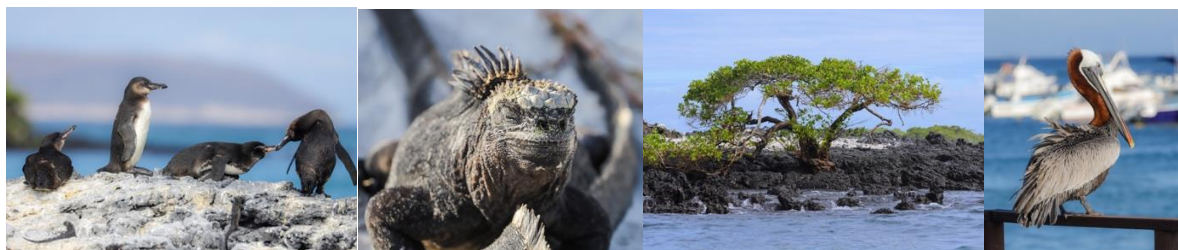
April 14. Breakfast at Hotel. Short drive to visit Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center, to learn about the efforts to maintain the population of native tortoises of the island. After this visit, we will walk back to Isabela, through a wetland, where the native Flamingos can be observed.

Lunch at Isabela. In the afternoon we will take a small boat to visit Tintoreras island, good chances to see White-tipped Reef Sharks. Snorkeling on this wonderful reef, where normally penguins can be spotted. That night we will have dinner together to celebrate the last night at the Archipelago.

Hotel Cormorant or similar (B, L, D)

April 15. Breakfast at hotel and travel to dock to travel by boat to Santa Cruz. Travel by bus to Puerto Ayora and the Baltra Airport, to take the flight to Quito. Transfer to hotel in Quito. Farewell dinner.

Hotel in Quito. (B, D)



Apr 16. Breakfast at hotel. For the ones that return home, available transfer to the Airport.

For the ones that will continue the adventure, after breakfast, we will take a bus to travel to Mindo. This small valley on the west of the Andes, is home to an extraordinary biodiversity, including over 50 species of hummingbirds. Stop at Alambi Hummingbird Feeders to enjoy these wonderful creatures. Lunch at Nanegalito town. Continue to Mindo and check in at Sachatamia Hotel. Afternoon optional hike at Sachatamia forest. Dinner at Sachatamia.

Hotel Sachatamia (B, L, D)

April 17. Breakfast to go. An early wake-up to visit Reserva Paz de las Aves, a wonderful local project to observe the Cock of the Rock, Antpittas, Toucan Barbet, Quetzal, and other emblematic birds of this region of Ecuador. Traditional brunch at Angel Paz. Return to Sachatamia for lunch and departure to Quito. On the way back stop at La Mitad del Mundo, a monument that sign the point of the Ecuador line. Check in at República Hotel in Quito. Dinner on your own.

Hotel República (B, L)

April 18. Breakfast at hotel. For this day we have 2 options, depending on your interests.

Option 1. This morning we will drive north of Quito, to the indigenous town of Otavalo, famous for the artisan's market. This drive will take us for flower farms, and wonderful views of the Volcanoes on this area of Ecuador. At Otavalo, we will have enough time to explore the market. Lunch at San Pablo, next to the lake. Return to Hotel República.

Option 2. Drive to Antisana Reserve, on the slope of Antisana Volcano. This wonderful, protected area is home of the Spectacled Bear and the Andean Condor. Also protects the Páramo, the highest tropical ecosystem, and all the species that inhabit there. Traditional lunch at Tambo Cóndor. Return to Hotel República.

Dinner at Hotel República.

Hotel República (B, L)

April 19. After breakfast, transfer to Airport.