Discovering Our Planet Together



# Galapagos Wildlife Photo Expedition

*The Ultimate Photography Encounter with the World's Most Wondrous Archipelago*

# Table of Contents

Trip Overview ..... 3

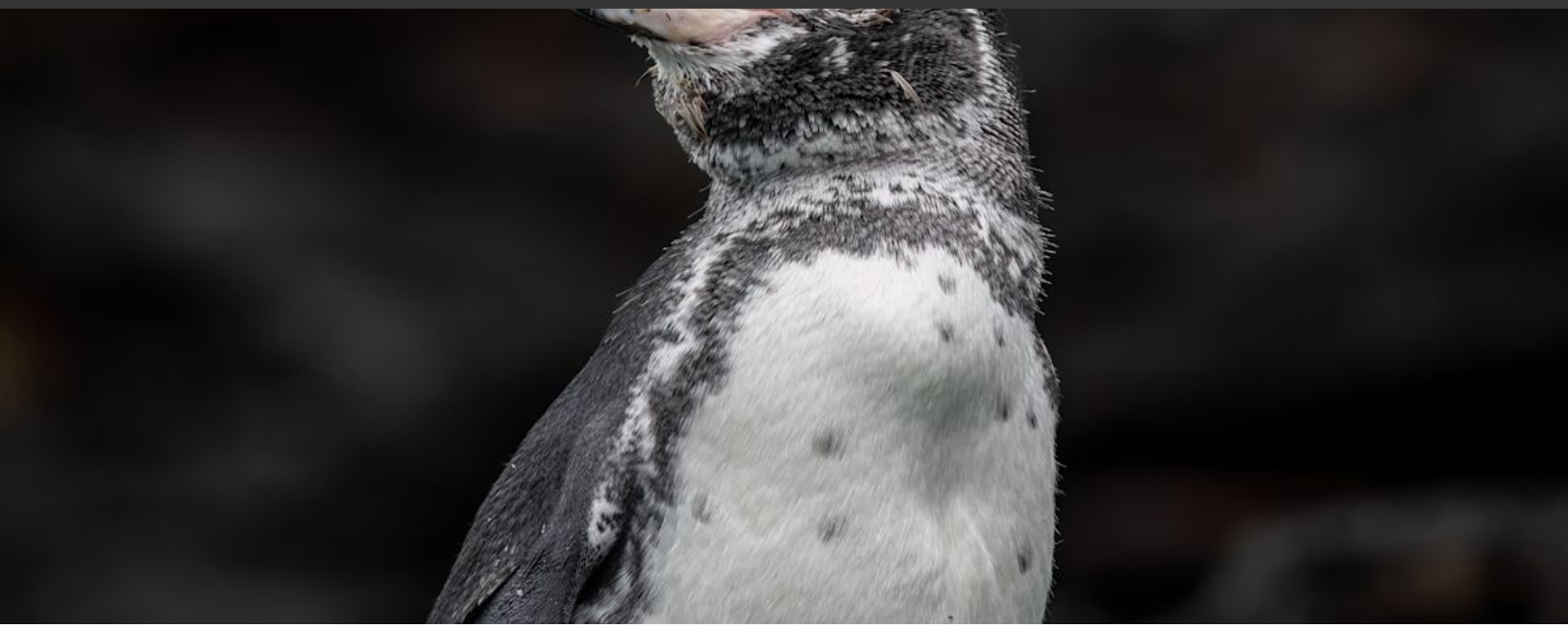
Itinerary ..... 4

Accommodations ..... 11

What Makes Nat Hab Different? ..... 13

Dates, Pricing & Info ..... 15

Extensions ..... 18



**Trip Details:**

**Days**
17 Days / Jun, Aug–Sep, Nov

**Price**
From $22995 (+Air/park fee)

# Galapagos Wildlife Photo Expedition

*The Ultimate Photography Encounter with the World's Most Wondrous Archipelago*

This is simply the most far-reaching and inspiring Galapagos photography adventure out there! Spend two full weeks cruising to every corner of the archipelago aboard our privately chartered luxury catamaran, the *Natural Habitat Petrel*—plus a full day of photography in historic Quito. The Galapagos is a matchless destination for wildlife photographers,. Nowhere else will you find this menagerie of unique animals that aren't the least bit fazed by humans. Walk the beach among sea lions lolling on the sand and marine iguanas dozing in the sun. Photograph blue-footed boobies and bright orange crabs on the black lava as we trace rugged shorelines by panga. Capture portraits of wizened giant tortoises in the highlands of Santa Cruz. And shoot underwater, too, as we snorkel with friendly sea lions, diving penguins, sea turtles, rays, and a vibrant array of fish. Get close to the creatures that so intrigued Darwin, sparking his theory of evolution, as you learn from Expedition Leaders who are expert naturalists and Galapagos wildlife photographers.

## Trip Highlights

### Visit 13 Different Islands, Each Unique

Explore a broad cross-section of the archipelago on our comprehensive itinerary, including less-visited islands, for the widest range of photo opportunities

### Stay at Nat Hab's Private Tortoise Camp

Cruise the islands from our luxury motor catamaran base, and spend a night ashore at our own Tortoise Camp to photograph wild giant tortoises

### Hone Your Craft with In-Depth Field Workshops

Travel with naturalist Expedition Leaders who are also photography pros, with in-the-field workshops on a range of topics, including editing.



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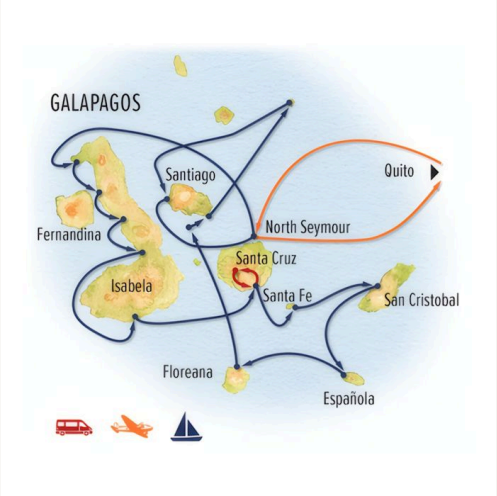


# Galapagos Wildlife Photo Expedition Itinerary

*The Ultimate Photography Encounter with the World's Most Wondrous Archipelago*

### Itinerary at a Glance

| | |
|---|---|
| **Day 1** | Quito |
| **Day 2** | Quito |
| **Day 3** | Baltra / North Seymour |
| **Day 4** | Isabela / Fernandina |
| **Day 5** | Isabela |
| **Day 6** | Isabela |
| **Day 7** | Isabela |
| **Day 8** | Santa Cruz |
| **Day 9** | Santa Cruz Highlands / Santa Fe |
| **Day 10** | Isla Lobos / San Cristobal |
| **Day 11** | Espanola |
| **Day 12** | Floreana |
| **Day 13** | Cerro Dragon / Bachas Beach |
| **Day 14** | Santiago / Bartolome |
| **Day 15** | Genovesa |
| **Day 16** | Santiago |
| **Day 17** | Santa Cruz / Quito |



Day 1

Quito

## Arrive in Ecuador's beautifully preserved colonial capital

- Check in to a boutique hotel in Quito's historic center
- Explore UNESCO-listed Old Town at your own pace

Upon arrival at the airport in Quito, you are met by our local guide and transferred to the city's historic center, about an hour away. Our boutique hotel is located in the heart of the well-preserved colonial quarter, with abundant photography opportunities right out the door. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening.

Day 2

Quito

## A photographer's introduction to colonial Quito

- Photograph La Compania's dazzling gold-leaf interior
- Gain special access to historic church cupolas for elevated views across Old Town
- Sample Ecuadorian chocolate during a guided artisanal tasting

After breakfast, embark on a full day of photography in Ecuador's capital. Heralded as Latin America's best-preserved colonial city, Quito's Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site filled with cobblestone lanes, elegant plazas and monuments, and ornate gilded churches. On a guided city tour, photograph a panorama of the city and surrounding volcanic peaks from Panecillo Hill, capture the baroque splendor of La Compañia Church with its gleaming gold-leaf interior, and survey Independence Plaza, the original center of Quito from which we view the Archbishop's Palace, Cathedral and Presidential Palace. With our Expedition Leader, gain access to cupolas high above the city for photogenic views of its sprawling rooftops. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner with your Expedition Leader.

Day 3

Baltra / North Seymour

## Board the Petrel and begin photographing the Galapagos

- Settle aboard the privately chartered Natural Habitat Petrel
- Encounter blue-footed boobies, frigatebirds and land iguanas on North Seymour
- Refine techniques for photographing wildlife from shore and aboard the ship

Depart early this morning for the Quito airport to meet our flight to the Galapago Islands, which includees short layover in Guayaquil en route. Landing on Baltra, meet our third Expedition Leader, who accompanies us to the pier where our private chartered motor catamaran, the *Natural Habitat Petrel,* awaits. Settle into your cabin, then join our guides for a safety briefing and orientation to the photography adventures ahead. After lunch on board, we sail away for a fortnight of adventures in Galapagos National Park. Our first landing is at North Seymour, a small geological uplift where we follow a trail among swallow-tailed gulls, common noddies, blue-footed boobies and endemic land iguanas, with more than 2,500 of them found on the island. North Seymour is also home to the Galapagos' largest colony of magnificent frigatebirds. As we stroll the beach, we usually see marine iguanas and sea lions bodysurfing the northerly swells—you may want to shoot some video, too.

Today, our Expedition Leaders will tell you about the photography workshops planned during our trip—intensive opportunities to work on best practices, discuss the ethics of wildlife photography, get coaching on underwater photography, and review and edit your images alongside our team of pros. They will also examine your camera equipment and become familiar with your set-up, in order to offer the best personalized guidance and assistance.



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Day 4

Isabela / Fernandina

## Penguins, marine iguanas and the youngest island in the Galapagos

- Cruise Punta Vicente Roca in search of penguins and flightless cormorants
- Watch for whales and dolphins while crossing the Bolivar Channel
- Explore Fernandina's recent lava flows alive with endemic wildlife

Isabela, the largest of the Galapagos Islands, is our destination today. Shaped like a seahorse, it was formed when six volcanoes flowed together. Beginning at Punta Vicente Roca, take a panga ride along a shoreline brimming with wildlife. Time permitting, we'll snorkel at a spot where we frequently see sea turtles. Chances are good to photograph Galapagos penguins, flightless cormorants, blue-footed boobies, brown noddies and Galapagos fur seals. After lunch, the *Natural Habitat Petrel* crosses the Bolivar Channel en route to Fernandina, the youngest of the Galapagos islands. From the deck, keep an eye out for whales and dolphins, often on view in the passage.

Fernandina has one of the most dynamic and pristine ecosystems on Earth, displaying vivid evidence of recent volcanic activity. Eruptions in 2018 sent lava flowing all the way to the sea, providing a stark black backdrop for wildlife photos. We land at Punta Espinoza, where a surprising variety of life flourishes on the rope-like pahoehoe lava: flightless cormorants nest on the rocks and huge colonies of marine iguanas bask in the sun, while Galapagos hawks soar overhead. Bright orange Sally Lightfoot crabs pepper the dark rocks at water's edge, contrasting with the turquoise sea. When conditions permit, a snorkeling excursion offers a chance to see sea turtles and submerged marine iguanas feeding on algae.

Day 5

Isabela

## Historic anchorages and uplifted shores on western Isabela

- Snorkel Tagus Cove alongside penguins and flightless cormorants
- Cruise beneath nesting blue-footed boobies by panga
- Search Urbina Bay for giant tortoises and land iguanas

Back on Isabela, spend the morning in Tagus Cove where we find graffiti dating to the 1800s when pirates and whalers carved their ship names into the rock above a historic anchorage. Look for flightless cormorants on the shoreline and Galapagos penguins below the surface as we snorkel. Take a panga ride to photograph blue-footed boobies perched on the cliff ledges, as well as brown pelicans, brown noddies and flightless cormorants. At Urbina Bay this afternoon, witness one of the best examples of geological uplift in the archipelago, a phenomenon that occurs when molten rock beneath the surface suddenly shifts. In 1954, the shoreline was heaved upward nearly 15 feet, exposing coral and stranding marine organisms above the water on what is now the shore. Urbina is home to nesting sea turtles and a colony of some of the islands' largest land iguanas. We also look for Galapagos tortoises and a variety of Darwin's finches, the birds that first sparked Darwin's theory of evolution, when he witnessed subtle differences in them from island to island.

Day 6

Isabela

## Mangrove lagoons and lava landscapes on southern Isabela

- Explore Elizabeth Bay's mangrove waterways by panga
- Walk young lava fields between Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul
- Look for flamingos in Punta Moreno's hidden lagoons

On the southern side of Isabela, *Petrel* enters Elizabeth Bay to explore a sprinkling of islets, a lagoon frequented by sea turtles, and surrounding red and black mangroves. On a panga ride, look for chances to photograph resting and feeding sea turtles along with lava herons, Galapagos penguins, rays and flightless cormorants. Sailing west to Punta Moreno, we observe several endemic species on the seemingly barren lava flows. The point is located between two volcanoes, Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul, and we step ashore to walk atop the hardened lava. At first glance, the corrugated rock landscape appears lifeless. However, the hard black surface is dotted with numerous shallow lagoons that harbor a wide variety of birdlife. Commonly seen species include flamingos, paint-billed crakes and white-cheeked pintails. We also see endemic Galapagos flora taking root on this young, barren lava flow, including giant candelabra cactus, Palo Santo trees, carob trees and lichens. The protected waters of Moreno Bay are surrounded by mangroves—ideal habitat for sea turtles, which we may spy as we snorkel.



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Day 7

Isabela

## Volcanic summits, coastal wetlands and highland birdlife

- Hike to the rim of Sierra Negra's immense caldera
- Or explore bird-rich wetlands near Puerto Villamil
- Watch for Darwin's finches and Galapagos hawks

Isabela, the largest island in the Galapagos archipelago, is also one of the youngest, and a marvelous world within itself. The laid-back island town of Puerto Villamil is our base for a choice of engaging activity options today. Wander trails through the wetlands located just outside town—a mosaic of lagoons, swamps and mangroves home to a variety of bird species such as common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintail ducks, gallinules and other shorebirds. For a more adventurous option, take a guided hike up Sierra Negra, a large shield volcano that is one of the most active in the Galapagos. From the rim, peer into the black expanse of the vast caldera, with the crater floor lying a thousand feet below. At six miles across, it's the second largest in the world. Along the trail, keep an eye out for Darwin's finches, flycatchers and mockingbirds, and if we're lucky, we might capture photos of a Galapagos hawk soaring on high.

Day 8

Santa Cruz

## Stay among wild tortoises at Nat Hab's exclusive highlands camp

- Visit the Fausto Llerena tortoise breeding center
- Explore the misty Scalesia forest
- Overnight at Nat Hab's exclusive Tortoise Camp

Arrive on Santa Cruz where our day begins in Puerto Ayora, the island's main town. Here, we visit the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, the world-famous tortoise-rearing site, managed in a partnership between Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Research Station. Learn about efforts by international scientists, guides, rangers and park managers to research and conserve the unique habitats and species of the UNESCO World Heritage Site that is the Galapagos. At the tortoise-rearing facility, photograph the protection pens where tiny hatchlings are bred to increase the depleted tortoise population, a central focus of the station's conservation mission. To date, more than 5,000 tortoises bred at the center have been released into the wild.

After time to explore this laid-back town, followed by lunch on board the *Petrel,* we travel by van into the misty highlands of Santa Cruz, ascending through the different vegetation zones until reach the Scalesia forest, one of the most important forms of endemic flora in the islands. The climate here is very different from other parts of the island, with steady moisture creating a favorable environment for bromeliads, orchids, mosses, lichens and many birds. Here, we find the famous vermillion flycatcher, eight different species of Darwin finch, and occasionally, short-eared owls. Soon, we arrive at Nat Hab's private Tortoise Camp. This exclusive setting offers a rare opportunity to spend a night in wild tortoise habitat, and these ancient, gentle reptiles that are the Galapagos' namesake often wander right through camp. Accommodations are in safari-style raised platform tents and treehouses with views of the ocean. While rustic, they offer comfortable amenities, including real beds and private en suite facilities—with matchless proximity for photographing wild tortoises in their natural habitat. Attracted to the area's lush vegetation, tortoises are most commonly seen in camp from July through February. From March to June, we make an excursion to a nearby tortoise reserve for closer views, as they migrate seasonally to a lower elevation.

*Please note: At times, Tortoise Camp may be closed due to poor weather conditions.*



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Day 9

Santa Cruz Highlands / Santa Fe

## Lava caves and Santa Fe's endemic wildlife

- Explore enormous volcanic lava tubes
- Search for Santa Fe land iguanas beneath giant prickly pear cacti
- Cruise sea caves frequented by turtles and sea lions

Adjacent to Tortoise Camp are Los Gemelos—"twin craters"—which are sink holes created when the volcanic roof of empty magma chambers collapsed from tectonic shifts and erosion over time. We spend the morning exploring this network of subterranean lava tubes and caverns; one lava tunnel is large enough for our whole group to assemble inside. Returning to the *Petrel,* we have lunch aboard as we sail for Santa Fe. Surrounded by a turquoise lagoon, this oldest of the Galapagos islands, dating back 4.5 million years, has one of the largest varieties of endemic species in the archipelago. It is the only place in the Galapagos where we find the opuntia cactus, as well as the Santa Fe land iguana, unique in the world. When we land on the beach, look for Galapagos hawks overhead. Then, on a short hike through a forest of giant prickly pear cacti, seek out the land iguanas that wait patiently underneath for fruit to drop. We explore a small islet surrounded by great reef diversity, then set out for a cruise along Santa Fe's coast. Along this expanse, large cliffs and sea caves are used by many seabird species for nesting and roosting, as well as by basking green sea turtles and sea lions.

Day 10

Isla Lobos / San Cristobal

## Frigatebirds, sea lions and San Cristobal's rugged coast

- Visit thriving frigatebird and sea lion colonies on Isla Lobos
- Hike Frigatebird Hill for sweeping coastal views
- Step ashore where Charles Darwin first landed in 1835

Land at Isla Lobos this morning, where we take a short panga ride along the shore to photograph a frigatebird colony and walk inland to capture shots of the resident sea lion colony and hopefully blue-footed boobies, which nest here seasonally. Isla Lobos is also home to lots of sea lions and marine iguanas. In the distance, we have a perfect shot of Kicker Rock. Continue to San Cristobal, where Charles Darwin landed in 1835 and where the first permanent settlements in the Galapagos were established. After lunch aboard, head to shore for a hike to the top of Frigatebird Hill where we're rewarded with spectacular views of the coast, Kicker Rock and the town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Seabirds soar overhead, and we're likely to see more frigatebirds, easily indentifiable by their bright red chests. Back on board the *Petrel,* sit down to dinner as we cruise off into the sunset.

Day 11

Espanola

## Waved albatross, sea lions and marine iguanas on Espanola

- Swim with sea lions off Gardner Bay's white-sand beach
- Watch the waved albatross courtship display at Punta Suarez
- Photograph Espanola's colorful Christmas marine iguanas

The island of Española is one of the most prolific wildlife sites in the Galapagos, and our landing at Gardner Bay is sure to be a highlight. Its long stretch of white sandy beach is home to a large sea lion colony—we can swim with them right from the beach! You're also likely to get photos of the curious Galapagos mockingbirds that like to peck at our sandals. Cruising around to the other side of the island, we go ashore at Punta Suarez, where we find the greatest number of endemic species in the entire archipelago. Have your tripod ready to photograph some of the many of birds found only in the Galapagos, and some only on Espanola, like the huge waved albatross, noted for its raucous mating ritual. Colonies of blue-footed boobies show off for potential mates while red-billed tropicbirds take shelter on the cliff walls. We also find Darwin's finches, Galapagos doves, Galapagos hawks, and a unique subspecies of red and green marine iguana endemic to this island, sometimes called the "Christmas" iguana because of its coloring.



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Day 12

Floreana

## Flamingo lagoons, reef life and pirate history

- Walk the Palo Santo trail to a lagoon of bright pink flamingos
- Drift-snorkel Devil's Crown with sea turtles, reef sharks and colorful fish
- Visit the historic Post Office Barrel left by British whalers

This morning we land at Punta Cormorant on Floreana, one of the four populated islands in the Galapagos. Following a trail through a Palo Santo forest to a brackish lagoon, we find pintail ducks, common stilts and bright pink flamingos. As we wind our way past a rich variety of plants, we reach a beach of fine sand where sea turtles lay eggs in the dunes and rays swim in the shallow water. Later, we snorkel at Devil's Crown, an eroded volcanic cone that is a roosting site for boobies, pelicans and frigatebirds. Put your underwater photography skills to practice as we drift-snorkel with the current above the sunken craters colonized by a brilliant array of corals and colorful fish. Rays, sea turtles and reef sharks are also frequent visitors. Floreana's rich human history is filled with intrigue, including tales of pirates who once hid out here. At Post Office Bay, we learn about a relic of this colorful past, the "Post Office Barrel." Established by British whalers in 1793, it's still a means for travelers to leave mail for personal delivery.

Day 13

Cerro Dragon / Bachas Beach

## Conservation success and sea turtle beaches on Santa Cruz

- Watch land iguanas roam Dragon Hill
- Look for flamingos and shorebirds beside coastal lagoons
- Walk Bachas Beach, an important sea turtle nesting site

Cerro Dragon, or Dragon Hill, is one of the few visitor sites in the islands directly established via a conservation initiative of the Charles Darwin Foundation and Galapagos National Park. In 1975, the land iguana populations in certain sectors of Santa Cruz and Isabela were decimated by feral dogs. A breeding and rearing program was launched at the Charles Darwin Research Station as an emergency response to the devastation. In addition, 38 land iguanas were released on the nearby islet of Venecia where soil was transferred from Santa Cruz to create an artificial nesting area, since the islet had no suitable nesting habitat of its own. The population has since thrived, providing iguanas to transfer regularly to Dragon Hill, where a visitor site was opened in 1993 to provide additional opportunities to observe land iguanas. As we follow the trail inland from shore, we pass two small saltwater lagoons where we sometimes see flamingos and other shorebirds. The trail then circles Dragon Hill where we can watch plentiful land iguanas and their many burrows on the hillside.

Later, we continue to Bachas Beach, a sandy white-coral beach that is a major nesting site for sea turtles, and which offers an appealing spot for swimming. We often spy flamingoes on the lagoon behind the first beach, along with white-cheeked pintail ducks and migratory birds.

Day 14

Santiago / Bartolome

## Young lava flows and panoramic views from Bartolome

- Walk a vast field of ropy pahoehoe lava at Sullivan Bay
- Snorkel with penguins, reef sharks and sea turtles
- Climb to Bartolome's summit overlooking Pinnacle Rock

Explore Santiago's Sullivan Bay, where we get a close-up look at a huge field of pahoehoe lava, a geologically very young flow from 1897. This is the "ropy" form of lava, which solidifies in a smooth, wavy pattern. While the magma flow was flat, the movement of underground lava, rapid cooling and subsequent eruptions led to breaks in many places, and today, we find a surface of corrugated expanses marked by cracks and breaks. *Petrel* then sails on to tiny Bartolome this afternoon, where some of the best snorkeling in the Galapagos awaits around the base of this ancient submerged volcano. It's an underwater playground that's home to huge schools of fish permanently under attack by Galapagos penguins, which we commonly find along with gentle white-tipped reef sharks, sea turtles and stingrays. A climb to the island's highest point offers 360-degree views as we pass intriguing geological formations such as spatter cones, tuff cones and lava tubes along the trail. From the summit, a panorama unfolds of the surrounding islands and Pinnacle Rock, famously shown in the 2003 film *Master and Commander.* Those who prefer not to hike can take a panga ride along the shoreline, watching for rays and reef sharks just below the surface.



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Day 15

Genovesa

## A flooded volcanic crater alive with seabirds

- Photograph red-footed boobies and frigatebirds at Darwin Bay
- Walk among Nazca boobies and storm petrels at Prince Philip's Steps
- Frame seabirds at close range throughout the flooded caldera

Genovesa Island, also called Tower, is a collapsed shield volcano whose flooded caldera attracts vast numbers of pelagic seabirds that gather here to breed and nest. Inside the submerged crater, thousands of great frigatebirds, red-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, Galapagos storm petrels and yellow-crowned night herons create a cacophony of squawks. We anchor at Darwin Bay, formed thousands of years ago after the collapse of the volcano's roof. Surrounded by vertical cliffs, the bay is an ideal breeding site for more than a million birds that congregate on Genovesa. Our second landing is at El Barranco, also known as Prince Philip's Steps. This steep path with stairs carved into the rock leads to a plateau full of birdlife within a Palo Santo forest. Walk among colonies of great frigatebirds and Nazca boobies to a lava field where storm petrels nest in underground lava tubes. We may also see Galapagos doves, mockingbirds and perhaps an endemic short-eared owl.

Day 16

Santiago

## Fur seals and pirate coves on Santiago

- Watch Galapagos fur seals among Puerto Egas' lava grottos
- Swim and snorkel with playful sea lions
- Explore Buccaneer Cove for turtles, rays and reef sharks

Returning to Santiago, we make an early-morning landing at Puerto Egas to explore a black sand beach with eroded rock formations. Following a trail across the dry interior, observe the remains of a salt mining enterprise before continuing along the coast. Birdlife abounds, with great blue herons, lava herons, oystercatchers, yellow-crowned night herons and seasonal shorebirds on display. In the lava grottos we find a colony of Galapagos fur seals, one of the only places in the Galapagos where we see these endemic animals from land. Afterward, there's time to swim or snorkel from the beach with the resident sea lions. Snorkeling at Buccaneer Cove, which was once a refuge for British pirates, offers a glimpse of underwater rock formations, sea turtles, rays and reef sharks.

Day 17

Santa Cruz / Quito

## Search Black Turtle Cove before returning to Quito

- Cruise mangrove waterways in search of reef sharks, rays and sea turtles
- Bid farewell to the Petrel before your flight back to Quito

Returning to Santa Cruz this morning, we visit Black Turtle Cove, a sheltered lagoon on the north coast of the island. Take a panga ride to explore the shimmering turquoise water, hoping to see white-tipped reef sharks, rays and sea turtles. Then, continue to nearby Baltra where must say farewell to the *Natural Habitat Petrel* 's captain and crew, as it's time to disembark and head to the airport for our flight back to the mainland. Upon arrival at the Quito airport, we transfer to our nearby hotel, just minutes away, where an overnight stay is included. A complimentary shuttle will return you to the airport for your homeward flight, or for onward travel on our extensions to the Amazon or Machu Picchu.

*Learn more about the seasonal variations of* ***Galapagos weather*** *and* ***wildlife viewing*** .



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# Galapagos Wildlife Photo Expedition Accommodations

*The Ultimate Photography Encounter with the World's Most Wondrous Archipelago*



## M/C Natural Habitat Petrel

This 115-foot motorized luxury catamaran for 16 guests is designed with contemporary flair and spares no comfort. Named after a seabird common to Galapagos, the *Petrel,* like its namesake, is elegant and swift at sea.



## Nat Hab's Tortoise Camp

Exclusively for Nat Hab guests! Perched high on a hillside overlooking the Pacific Ocean, our private camp features elevated safari-style tents and treehouses set amid native habitat for wild tortoises.



## Hotel Plaza Grande

Set on Quito's historic Plaza Grande, this elegant colonial mansion blends Old World grandeur with modern comforts, cathedral views, Ecuadorian cuisine and an intimate ambiance.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/galapagos/galapagos-photo-expedition/accommodations.



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# Simply the Best Galapagos Adventure for Serious Photographers

*Galapagos Wildlife Photo Expedition*

We've gone to great lengths to make this the absolute best Galapagos photography expedition offered anywhere. Learn more about this in-depth adventure, based aboard our privately chartered luxury catamaran and designed exclusively for photographers.

1 **You Won't Find a More Comprehensive Itinerary for Photographers**

Our 17-day adventure includes 13 different islands in the Galapagos archipelago! Most visitors hit just a few. You'll be assured of unhurried photography encounters with the widest possible variety of settings and species as we cruise our way through a large cross-section of the islands. going ashore on each.

2 **A Small Group Ensures Closer Wildlife Photography**

When you travel in a small group, you have a quieter and more intimate experience, with more opportunities to get closer to wildlife in a very low-impact setting. That means better photos!

3 **The Best Guide-to-Guest Ratio in the Galapagos**

We limit this photo expedition to just 15 travelers. And with two naturalist Expedition Leaders at the helm, including a highly accomplished photographer-instructor gifted at sharing techniques and approaches specific to island wildlife photography, you're sure to get the images you covet.

4 **Photograph Wild Giant Tortoises at Nat Hab's Private Camp**

An exclusive feature is an overnight stay at Nat Hab's private Tortoise Camp in the highlands of Santa Cruz, where wild tortoises roam freely over this private land. Accommodations are in raised safari-style canvas tents and elevated treehouses (all en suite), surrounded by nature. Step out your door and into wild tortoise terrain!

5 **Exceptional Snorkeling & Underwater Photography**

Snorkeling is a highlight for many Galapagos visitors, including photographers keen to capture images of the vibrant undersea world. Inquisitive sea lions, sea turtles, penguins and schools of bright tropical fish provide captivating subjects. In our small groups, away from larger ship crowds, marine life is front and center, and you're the sole audience.

6 **Intensive Editing Workshops in the Field**

Work alongside your fellow photographers and our Photo Expedition Leader on best practices and cutting-edge post-production techniques to create and hone superlative images. Find inspiration among avid peers as you spend time daily on topics that further the capture and presentation of amazing shots.

7 **Our Private Chartered Yacht is Your Home Base**

Rather than booking space on a larger ship with other travelers or sending you through a local ship owner who takes bookings from many sources, we run every element of our Galapagos trips, including chartering our own small luxury motor catamaran, the *Natural Habitat Petrel.* From meeting you on arrival in Quito until you're escored back to the airport for your homeward flight, you're taken care of by our team. Only by managing each step of our operations—including our private yacht—can we ensure that your photography expedition is superlative—and we don't settle for less!

**8** **Photograph Quito's Historic Old Town**

Tiny Ecuador is one of the world's most geographically and culturally diverse countries. As a complement to your Galapagos immersion, we include an overnight stay at an elegant boutique hotel in the heart of historic Quito, with a guided photography tour of its Old Town, the best-preserved colonial quarter in South America. It's a richer cultural experience than just flying in and out of Guayaquil, as most trips do. Photograph elegant Spanish architecture, grand plazas, extravagant churches, and European, Moorish and indigenous influences that have made the 16th-century Old Town a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**9** **The Finest Guides in the Galapagos**

Natural Habitat Adventures is known worldwide for employing the highest-quality guides in the industry. Our group of elite Galapagos Expedition Leaders, all with high-level certification from Galapagos National Park, averages more than 15 years' guiding experience each. Additionally, they receive training, resources and materials from WWF scientists. And our Photography Expedition Leader is a top-level specialist, an accomplished professional when it comes to capturing world-class images of Galapagos wildlife—and by your side at every turn with support and advice to help you do the same. We believe a nature adventure is only as good as the guide, so we simply must provide the best! See Expedition Leader bios and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

**10** **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Outstanding Galapagos Experience**

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive guarantee, clearly stating that we will meet the lofty expectations we set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. Read our important promise.

**11** **Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey**

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

**12** **Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner**

Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel as well as the exceptional quality of our worldwide adventures, World Wildlife Fund, the world's leading environmental conservation organization, has named Natural Habitat Adventures as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



**Dates & Pricing Summary:**

**Price**
From $22995 (+Air/park fee)

**Group Size**
Limited to 16 Travelers

# Galapagos Wildlife Photo Expedition Dates, Pricing & Info

*The Ultimate Photography Encounter with the World's Most Wondrous Archipelago*

## 2027 Departures

| Departure – Return | Pricing | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| **Aug 4 - Aug 20, 2027** | **From $22995** +internal air/park fee | Aboard Nat Hab's MC Petrel |
| **Sep 15 - Oct 1, 2027** | **From $22995** +internal air/park fee | Aboard Nat Hab's MC Petrel |
| **Nov 10 - Nov 26, 2027** | **From $22995** +internal air/park fee | Aboard Nat Hab's MC Petrel |

## 2028 Departures

| Departure – Return | Pricing | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| **Aug 2 - Aug 18, 2028** | **From $22995** +internal air/park fee | Aboard Nat Hab's MC Petrel |
| **Sep 13 - Sep 29, 2028** | **From $22995** +internal air/park fee | Aboard Nat Hab's MC Petrel |
| **Nov 8 - Nov 24, 2028** | **From $22995** +internal air/park fee | Aboard Nat Hab's MC Petrel |

## 2029 Departures

| Departure – Return | Pricing | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| Prices and dates not confirmed for 2029 | | |
| **Jun 20 - Jul 6, 2029** | **From $22995** +internal air/park fee | Aboard Nat Hab's MC Petrel |
| **Aug 1 - Aug 17, 2029** | **From $22995** +internal air/park fee | Aboard Nat Hab's MC Petrel |
| **Sep 12 - Sep 28, 2029** | **From $22995** +internal air/park fee | Aboard Nat Hab's MC Petrel |

See https://www.nathab.com/galapagos/galapagos-photo-expedition/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

## Included

**Trip price includes:** Accommodations including the *Petrel,* Nat Hab's deluxe private Tortoise Camp, and hotel on the mainland, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leaders, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through breakfast on final day, local beer and house wine with dinner aboard the ship, snorkeling gear and wetsuit, some gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes and service fees.

## Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, some alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

**Internal air:** Round-trip flights between Quito and the Galapagos (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

## Important Information About This Trip

There may be no more appropriate destination on Earth for Natural Habitat's nature-loving guests than the Galapagos Islands. With rare and amiable wildlife found at every turn, the islands provide a wonderland for nature travelers, which our Expedition Leaders unveil in a warm and intimate manner. The key to the success of our Galapagos adventures is our small group size. The *Petrel* holds a maximum of 16 guests and two Expedition Leaders. Once we step ashore, we divide up into even smaller groups. Splitting the group also allows our guests to move at varied paces, although all guests must be able to walk over uneven terrain up to two miles, as well as disembark the panga in sometimes-rough conditions. In addition to land excursions, we have the opportunity to snorkel almost every day while in the islands. Another important and exciting element of this trip is a unique opportunity (optional, but included) to stay in the highlands of Santa Cruz at our private Tortoise Camp, with accommodations in walk-in safari-style tents and treehouses overlooking the distant Pacific Ocean. On this private land, Galapagos tortoises roam freely in their natural habitat most months of the year, and often wander right into camp.

**Please note:** The itinerary provided is meant as a guideline and is subject to change without notice. On rare occasions, it may be necessary to deviate from our regular itinerary for reasons beyond our control. In these instances we will provide the best available alternative.



Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917

## Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

## Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Quito, and **you may arrive at any time on Day 1**.

**You may depart from Quito any time after 9 pm on the final day.**

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



# Galapagos Wildlife Photo Expedition Extensions

*The Ultimate Photography Encounter with the World's Most Wondrous Archipelago*



## Amazon Lodge Pre-Trip Extension

Explore Ecuador's Amazon Basin from a secluded jungle lodge and plumb the rich biodiversity of the rainforest on foot and by traditional dugout canoe.

**$2995 (+air)**



## Machu Picchu & the Sacred Valley

Unveil centuries of layered history as explore Peru's Lost City of the Incas on an in-depth encounter with this remarkable archaeological phenomenon—plus the rich Inca heritage of the Sacred Valley

**$6995 (+air)**

**Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together**

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WWF's membership travel program is operated by Natural Habitat Adventures (Nat Hab). To date, Nat Hab has provided more than $6 million in support of WWF's mission and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus $175,000 annually through 2028. WWF® and ©1986 Panda Symbol are owned by WWF. All rights reserved.