

# THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS





# THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS & WILDLIFE



**1 FERNANDINA (NARBOROUGH)**  
An active volcanic island with frequent eruptions. Its steep flanks, streaked with successive lava flows, are arid; marine iguanas gather in their thousands. There's an interesting shore-line trail.



**2 ISABELA (ALBEMARLE)**  
The island has five active volcanoes linked by arid, twisted lava flows. Its cliffs and bays are ideal for exploration by boat and for hikes, and snorkelling is top-notch here.



**3 RABIDA (JERVIS)**  
This small island has a red coral sand beach and a saltwater flamingo lagoon. It's studded with small volcanic craters along sharp slopes and cliffs. There's a bird-flecked trail leading inland.



**4 SANTIAGO (JAMES)**  
A favourite for pirates and whalers. There are outstanding opportunities for bird-spotting. Stroll around the rock pools or climb Sugar Loaf volcano for views from its summit.



**5 BARTOLOME (BARTHOLOMEW)**  
An extinct volcano, with beautiful landscapes of red, orange, green, and black volcanic formations which you can view from its easily-climbed cone. Swim with penguins and reef sharks.



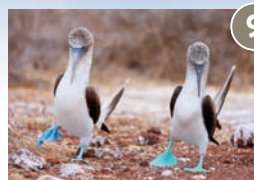
**6 SOMBRERO CHINO (CHINESE HAT)**  
The distinctive shape of this tiny volcanic cone island gave birth to its name. There's a trail around the shore where you can walk among hoards of marine iguanas.



**7 SANTA CRUZ (INDEFATIGABLE)**  
Over 12,000 residents live in Puerto Ayora with services for visitors who board cruise ships or stay in hotels and in the highlands. There are lava tunnels to explore and giant tortoises to spot roaming wild in the mountains.



**8 BALTRA (SOUTH SEYMOUR)**  
Baltra is a small island which hosts the islands' principal airport and offers public transport to Puerto Ayora by bus and ferry as well as private transfers for visitors.



**9 NORTH SEYMOUR**  
Covered with boulders and low bushy vegetation. You can watch the courting, mating and nesting rituals here of frigate birds and boobies; stroll on the beach or snorkel.



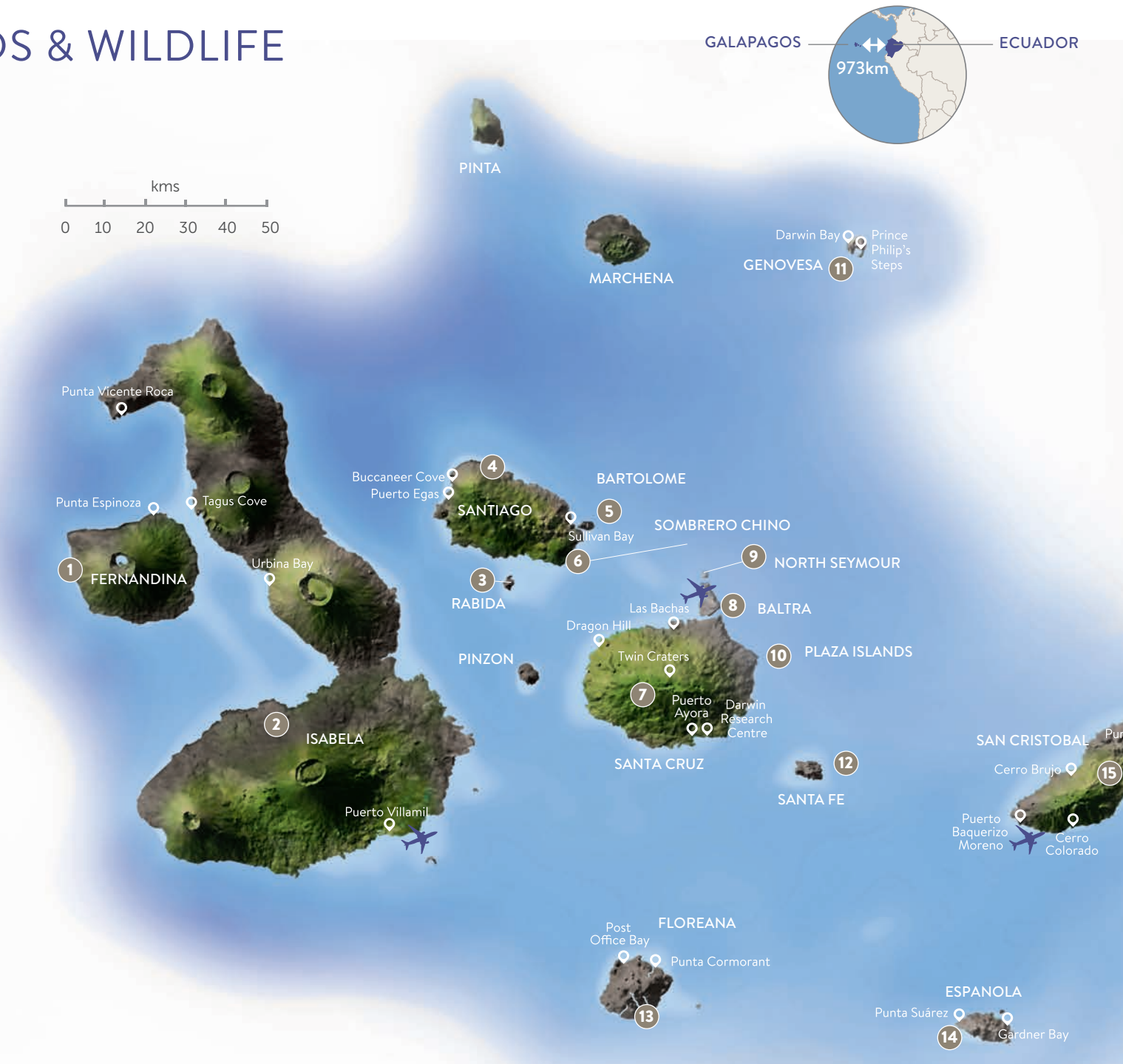
**10 PLAZA ISLANDS**  
There's a cactus forest populated by land iguanas and vegetation which changes colour from green in the rainy season to orange in the dry. Go hiking, birdwatching, swimming and snorkelling.



**14 ESPANOLA (HOOD)**  
There's a huge variety of birds and reptiles, nesting on the cliffs. Some species, like the waved albatross, aren't seen elsewhere. There's a spectacular blowhole: spray shoots 30m high.



**15 SAN CRISTOBAL (CHATHAM)**  
The Interpretation Centre, where you learn about the history of the islands, is in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the capital. Isla Lobos is a dramatic outcrop living up to its name "sea lion island".



GALAPAGOS ALBATROSS	BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY	NAZCA BOOBY	RED-FOOTED BOOBY	FLIGHTLESS CORMORANT
AMERICAN FLAMINGO	FRIGATEBIRDS	GALAPAGOS HAWK	LAND IGUANA	MARINE IGUANA
SANTA FE IGUANA	GALAPAGOS PENGUIN	GALAPAGOS SEA LION	GALAPAGOS FUR SEAL	GALAPAGOS GIANT TORTOISE



**11 GENOVESA (TOWER)**  
Inside the sunken caldera birds are visible in their thousands: you can hike along the rim. Snorkel with hammerhead sharks or cruise along the cliff ledges to rocky steps named after HRH Prince Philip.



**12 SANTA FE (BARRINGTON)**  
An exquisite island with a turquoise lagoon. Some of the giant cacti here grow 10m high. Some rocks are 4 million years old. A couple of trails lead past sea-lion colonies inland.



**13 FLOREANA ISLAND (CHARLES)**  
Pirates and whalers dropped anchor here. Visit Post Office Bay, where a barrel served as mailbox to send letters home and snorkel around Devil's Crown, a part-submerged crater.





The Galápagos Islands - there's something magical about the name. Known as the Enchanted Isles, they sit adrift in isolation in the Pacific Ocean, 1,000km from the coast of Ecuador. The clutch of 13 alternately sun-baked and misty islands and hundreds of islets of twisted lava, jagged cliffs and scrubby forest seem an unlikely habitat for wildlife. But a phenomenal array of trusting bird, mammal and reptile species, not to mention marine animals, have settled and evolved here, to the delight of visitors from Darwin onwards.



**As the UK's N°1 specialist in travel to Latin America, we've been creating award-winning holidays to every corner of the region for nearly 40 years. Our knowledge and passion for the area is unrivalled.**

This guide is designed to give a taste of just some of the experiences that await you as part of your Galápagos Islands holiday with Journey Latin America.

We include information about the islands, their history and wildlife as well as the practicalities of a visit, with advice based on the personal experiences of many of our staff. We also present a sample of our suggested holiday itineraries and small Escorted Group Tours to the archipelago. These can be booked exactly as they are, or may be used as the basis for a tailor-made trip designed according to your precise requirements.

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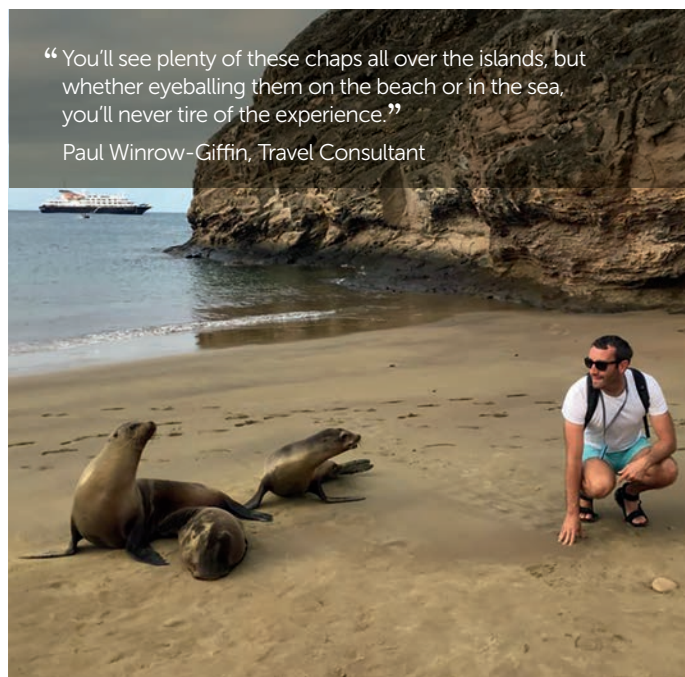
# WHY BOOK WITH JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA?

“No company has more first-hand knowledge of its subject than Journey Latin America.”

Condé Nast Traveller

## FOLLOW IN OUR FOOTSTEPS: CHOOSE JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA

In our care, you travel with the experts. Our holiday proposals are based on almost 40 years' experience in Latin America. Many of our staff have visited the Galápagos in person and, as well as experiencing the delights of the archipelago, have inspected dozens of expedition ships, lodges and hotels, so we can narrow the choice down to our favourites. Once booked, you'll have complete peace of mind, with well-presented and detailed travel documents, additional information on our Travel App - which you can access while on your trip - the support of our carefully selected local partners, and 24 hour emergency phone access. Relax and enjoy your holiday - your money is 100% protected.



“You'll see plenty of these chaps all over the islands, but whether eyeballing them on the beach or in the sea, you'll never tire of the experience.”

Paul Winrow-Giffin, Travel Consultant

## AND FURTHER AFIELD

You'll be travelling to Ecuador to fly to the islands. It's a long way, so it makes sense to combine your Galápagos trip with a visit to other regions of Latin America which are within easy reach. Here Journey Latin America comes into its own: there are really no corners of the region we have not explored. We are happy to make well-informed suggestions and devise a truly memorable holiday for you based on a vast resource of accumulated knowledge.

Don't just take our word for it - many of our guests come back time and time again...

“We were very impressed with the standard of service and efficiency from JLA when booking our trip and from all the guides and tour operators on the trip. We had an excellent and very memorable time, everything went very smoothly.”

PP, Barnes

“Sophie was professional and friendly. Her specific knowledge and interpretation of our needs was first class.”

RH, Ely

“Usually we organise our own travel so it was quite novel being looked after to the degree we were. We really can't fault you.”

BH, Guildford

**feefo**  ★★★★★  
4.8 / 5 Service Rating



“Sitting beside a hidden lagoon watching an entire flock of flamingos reminded me that there's just as much wildlife to see if you venture inland among the volcanic rocks and giant cacti.”

Kathryn Rhodes, Travel Consultant



“The courting dance of the Galápagos albatross is a bizarre honking, pecking, neck-waving, foot-slapping ritual. Humorous for the onlooker, but a serious event for the participants, who mate for life.”

Mary Anne Nelson,  
Travel Consultant



“Seeing the wild tortoises roaming around in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island has to be one of the highlights of the Galápagos Islands, is there anything more iconic to represent the archipelago?”

Jamie Swan, Travel Consultant

## OUR AWARDS



**GOLD TRUSTED SERVICE:** Feefo 2018

**TOP TEN SPECIALIST TOUR OPERATOR:** Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Awards 2017, 2018

**WINNER:** CIM Travel Marketing Awards for Best Website 2017








**WINNER:** Food and Travel Magazine Readers' Award for Tour Operator of the Year 2016, 2017

**WINNER:** Agents Choice Award Tour Operator to Latin America & the Caribbean, Selling Travel 2017

**WINNER:** Agents Choice Award Tour Operator to Latin America & the Caribbean, Selling Travel 2016

**TOP 10 TOUR OPERATOR:** Wanderlust Travel Awards 2009, 2010, 2015

## SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT:

-  Visit our website [journeylatinamerica.co.uk](http://journeylatinamerica.co.uk)
-  Speak to an expert consultant on **020 8747 8315**
-  Or email us at [tours@journeylatinamerica.co.uk](mailto:tours@journeylatinamerica.co.uk)
-  We'll send you a detailed proposal.
-  A deposit will secure your booking with full payment due 60 days before departure.
-  Alternatively, book your Escorted Group Tour or one of our suggested Private Journey itineraries online.
-  Communicate in real time with an expert on LiveChat.

## SIGN UP TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Follow the link on our website to keep up-to-date with our latest news, competitions and offers. We won't bombard you and will never share your information with any third parties.



“Returning to the Enchanted Isles after nearly 30 years was a wonderful experience. The standard of boats has vastly improved, yet the islands remain pretty much as I recalled them, and it still felt like a truly unique experience.”

Chris Rendell-Dunn,  
Travel Consultant




# GALLERY OF WILDLIFE

The approachable wildlife of the Galápagos Islands is perhaps the biggest draw for visitors. However long your visit you are bound to see a great range of birds, mammals, reptiles and sealife, often in large numbers. Here are some of our favourites.

**WAVED ALBATROSS**

With a wingspan of up to 2.5m, it's an impressive sight. The bird is only to be seen on Española, where the chicks fledge (Nov) and depart for Asia. They fly or sit on the sea for most of their lives, coming to land only to seek out their regular mate.




**DOLPHIN AND WHALE**

Dolphins of course are spotted all over the world but one never tires of watching them as they speed and frolic alongside a boat: bottlenecks are frequent visitors. From Jun-Sep several species of whale can be spotted; orcas, humpback and pilot whales among them.



**GIANT TORTOISE**

These guys really are huge (up to a hefty 250kg) and can live for over 100 years. Hunted almost to extinction, the species is now recovering: there are now around 20,000 individuals, many grazing in the highlands of Isabela and Santa Cruz, others in captivity. 2,000 now live wild on Española, 40% of which were sired by the heroic Diego.



**HAMMERHEAD SHARK**

It's a privilege to spot one of these strange, magnificent animals. The Galápagos Marine Reserve is one of the few places on Earth where scalloped hammerhead sharks can be seen gathering together in large schools of up to several hundred.

**LAND IGUANA**

This colourful species can be spotted throughout the archipelago. Its courtship season is Dec-May, when the males can be observed embarking on aggressive territorial displays to attract a mate.



**AMERICAN FLAMINGO**

There are several hundred of this tall and graceful bird, which inhabits brackish lagoons along the shoreline of the larger islands. Its rosy colour relates to its diet. It is notable for its impressive, intricate mating dance with cocked necks and displays of its feathers.

**MARINE IGUANA**

Thousands of marine iguanas sprawl across the shoreline lava, the black colour camouflaging their presence: this is the world's only sea-going lizard, it's been present on the archipelago for over 10 million years.



**FRIGATE BIRD**

There are two species of frigate bird existing side by side all over the islands: the great and the magnificent. Both are best known for the extraordinary bright red pouch which the male inflates in the courtship season to impress females. Other males try to spoil the party by puncturing their rivals' pouch causing it to deflate.



**GALAPAGOS PENGUIN**

The rarest and one of the smallest of all 18 species of penguin, it's the only equatorial one. With no set breeding season, its chicks can be hatched up to three times a year, lava tunnels being a preferred site for a nest.




**SEA LION**

Much loved by visitors, with whom it likes playfully to dive and swim, the sea lion can be spotted along the rocky shores of many islands. Pups can be seen throughout the year. Males jealously patrol their harems of up to 30 females on the beaches.



**BLUE-FOOTED BOOBY**

This easily identified bird can be spotted diving and plunging all around the islands. It knows that its feet are the main attraction: the male's mating dance has him strutting around showing them off – the darker the blue, the more likely it is he'll find a willing female.





# THINGS TO DO

## SPOT WILDLIFE

The Galápagos Islands are one of the world's top birding destinations and also, almost uniquely, you can observe from right up close. Watch cavorting blue and red-footed boobies, frigate birds flirting, and albatrosses coming in to land right alongside their mate after months at sea. Iguanas, giant tortoises and the underwater marine life add to the theatrical display.



“One day when we were sailing between islands, I was on the deck reading when out of nowhere a group of about twenty dolphins jumped up and swam alongside us. They were all showing off, leaping in and out of the water and followed us for quite a while: always have your camera handy!”

Mary Anne Nelson, Travel Consultant

## SNORKEL WITH SEA LIONS

You won't need any previous experience to snorkel here. From the beaches or a boat, just pop on your mask and join sea lion pups, reef-sharks, green sea turtles and tiny penguins.



## KAYAK ON THE OCEAN

Enjoy the islands from a different perspective: set off in a kayak or glass-bottomed boat, ride along the shore in a panga or try out the popular craze of stand-up paddle boarding. Get closer to the action as you interact with the sealife that surrounds you.

“A highlight was a gloriously peaceful early morning kayak, watching sea turtles delicately pop their heads above the surface, as hungry pelicans scooped their breakfast from the waves.”

Sarah Bradley, Managing Director



## EXPLORE VOLCANIC LANDSCAPES

This is one of the most active volcanic regions on the globe. It's like the earth's skeleton has been exposed. Climb an ash-shrouded volcano; scramble across twisted lava or head down into lava tunnels as high as a cathedral; watch a water spout in a fizzy display up to 30m high.

“We walked up Prince Philip's Steps on Genovesa Island to see the boobies and we were lucky enough to spot a tiny short-eared owl. The snorkelling here is fantastic – I saw about eight hammerhead sharks and a group of manta rays.”

Ben Line, Manager, Tailor-made holidays

## WALK ALONG THE TRAILS

Following the island paths is a highlight for all, with everything from gentle guided strolls to tougher hiking trails and mountain biking through volcanic landscapes.



“What impressed me about my Silver Galápagos cruise was the slick professionalism. An individual choice of brilliantly guided activities and shore excursions is complemented on board with deluxe facilities, gourmet food and even a butler service to make you feel special.”

Paul Winrow-Giffin, Travel Consultant

## UNCOVER THE HISTORY

The islands are far from the mainland but plenty has gone on here over the years – Darwin conceived his Theory of Evolution in the Galápagos and there are intriguing vestiges of human activity still to be seen. Check out the mail barrel at Post Office Bay and the Wall of Tears built by convicts on Isabela Island.



“I was escorted on a walking excursion where giant tortoises roamed – well, plodded – wild. The most memorable element was walking along a lava tube – It was enormous!”

Chris Parrott, Co-founder



## DISCOVER PRISTINE BEACHES

Enjoy the sun on unspoilt stretches of powder-white sand or stroll along the translucent, turquoise water's edge under a sea lion's watchful gaze.



## AND RELAX

With their balmy climate and tranquil landscapes, the islands invite you just to sit back and relax. Sink down in a hot tub, or watch a tangerine sunset with a cocktail in your hand on the sun deck of your cruise or the shaded terrace of your land-based lodgings.



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Wildlife thrives there; its unique adaptations left Darwin in thrall. But a lot of the Galápagos archipelago's terrain is rugged and arid and historically for humans it has been difficult to get around, let alone grow anything. However, the islands have a long human history. Over several centuries, motley groups of colonists have tried to make a living by farming, fishing, whaling or mining. Scientists and literary figures have dropped anchor at their shores. Others have spent time there less willingly: convicts, political prisoners, smugglers and pirates. Now it's conservationists and tourists who visit. Here's a brief overview of the history of our human relationship with the islands.

## 3-5 MILLION YEARS BC

The volcanic islands are "young" in geological time, born when plate movements caused magma to penetrate the earth's crust. Millions of years' worth of volcanic activity has created the main islands' and hundreds of islets' still active conical structures.



The first known map of the islands is published by Flemish cartographer Abraham Ortelius. He named them after the giant tortoises he saw there: Insulae de los Galopegos.

1574



The islands are annexed by Ecuador: soon the first settlement, Villamil, is set up on Isabela Island with a Governor General on Floreana, where forests are cleared and plantations established.

1832



Settlers arrive, hoping to make their fortunes – or at least a living – from cultivating coffee and sugar cane on San Cristóbal. Colonisation of Isabela proceeds.

1879



Norwegian colonists arrive in Floreana, followed by Germans, concentrating on farming and fishing. The gruesome fate of five German colonists, including a philandering Berlin doctor, his mistress and German baroness, remains unexplained to this day.

1925



The Charles Darwin Research Station is established to conduct scientific research and promote environmental education. In the same year 97% of the islands are designated as Ecuador's first national park (Parque Nacional Galápagos).

1959



In 1979, UNESCO designates the Galápagos Islands a world heritage site, a status it lost but regained in 2010.

1979



The Galápagos Conservation Law strengthens the protection of the Galápagos, expanding the area of protected waters around the Islands and banning industrial scale fishing.

1998

1535

The islands are discovered by chance by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Panama, Fray Tomás de Berlanga. The archipelago's animals had already spent thousands of years adapting and readapting to their isolated home.



1793

British naval officer James Colnett establishes the Post Office Barrel on Floreana Island.



1835

HM Beagle, with naturalist Charles Darwin aboard, arrives at the Galápagos. Darwin spends five weeks exploring the archipelago, the birthplace of his Theory of Evolution.



1935

An Ecuadorian constitutional amendment places several of the Galápagos Islands and most of the fauna under protection.



1980

Journey Latin America was established by Co-Founders Brian Williams and Chris Parrott. Their inaugural 'Albatross' Escorted Group Journey to the Galápagos, which still runs today, sets off for the archipelago in 1985.



2019

Strictly controlled eco-tourism has taken off in a big way. The local population of 30,000 is joined by 200,000 visitors annually. Many of the local people work in the service sector or as guides, a profession now limited to Galápagos residents.





# PLANNING YOUR TRIP



## WHO WILL ENJOY THE GALAPAGOS?

Lovers of the natural world, with a spirit of adventure, will be captivated by this unique destination. There is no age limit for holidays to the Galápagos. On a cruise you need to be sufficiently mobile to get in and out of a panga (small inflatable craft) and be comfortable strolling for an hour or two on leisurely guided walks on well-established trails. On a land-based holiday there is the flexibility to participate in the activities which suit your level of fitness.

Families with children, couples, solo travellers, honeymooners, groups of friends and those celebrating special occasions: there's something that suits everyone.



## THE BEST TIME TO GO

The Galápagos Islands are an all-year-round destination. Wildlife is ever-present and abundant.

Your choice may be influenced by the following factors:

**Dec-Jun:** This is the hotter (max around 30°C), wetter season (rain comes in short tropical showers) with clear skies, warm seas and good underwater visibility for swimming and snorkelling. Sea turtles nest Jan-May and iguanas Feb-May.

**Jul-Nov:** Still a good time to visit, this is a cooler season (max around 24°C) with fresher, choppy seas and occasional mist (garua). Humpback whales may be spotted Jun-Oct; waved albatross are present Apr-Nov and Jul-Dec is the sea lion breeding season.



## HOW LONG SHOULD YOU GO FOR

How long you spend in the Galápagos will depend on various factors: time, budget, and compatibility with other elements of your holiday. Whether you are travelling with us just to the Galápagos, or combining your trip with a visit to more of continental Latin America, we think a trip of a week or so in the islands is ideal - be it on a cruise, staying on land or doing a combination of both.

Permitted cruise itineraries range from 4 to 15 days. Cruises of four to five days are also very worthwhile - you should be able to see the majority of major wildlife species in this time, or you can combine shorter consecutive itineraries on the same boat to create a more comprehensive holiday.

Island hopping and other land-based trips also vary in length but again we suggest a week, staying on one or up to four different islands.

For a beach wind-down, you could stay at one of the hotels or lodges offering excursions and activities, a minimum of three nights is recommended.

On our Escorted Group Tours, the Albatross offers a cruise of seven nights and the Galápagos Hawk four nights (can be extended to nine).

## HOW YOU GET THERE

In all cases you fly to the islands by commercial jet from the Ecuadorian mainland - there are airports at Baltra and San Cristóbal. The flight time non-stop from Guayaquil on the coast is 1hr 50mins; from Quito it is up to 3hrs 30mins, depending on whether there is a touch-down in Guayaquil. Travelling with Journey Latin America, you will be met by a local representative and escorted to your cruise, lodge, tented camp or hotel. Then the adventure begins...



## LEAVE ONLY FOOTSTEPS

The unique environment of the Galápagos Islands is fragile. The wildlife has adapted to the environment here, so we all want to leave it as we find it.

The Ecuadorian authorities have for long protected the natural landscape and its wildlife, eradicating invasive species and re-introducing endangered ones. Income from the Galápagos National Park entrance fee you pay is channelled into these efforts.

The Park applies strict rules relating to economic development, fishing and tourism, restricting cruises to approved itineraries and regulating visitor numbers.

The charity Galápagos Climate Change aims to assess the impact of climate change and provide for ecological sustainability planning.

The British-based Galápagos Conservation Trust - of which we're a supporting partner - does important work in the scientific, educational and cultural fields. Book with us and we'll arrange complimentary membership of the organisation for you.

Book a Galapagos holiday with Journey Latin America and get complementary membership of the Galapagos Conservation Trust.





# HOW TO VISIT THE ISLANDS

## EXPEDITION CRUISE

Many people choose to visit the Galápagos Islands on a cruise, where you are based on a motor yacht and make daily landings to explore the various islands on the boat's itinerary. Offering you a real maritime experience, it's convenient: mostly you travel between the islands at night, awakening in the morning at anchor at an exciting new destination. You can settle in to your cabin for the whole journey, and get to know your like-minded fellow passengers and the crew.

There's a huge range of ships to choose from, accommodating from 12-100 guests and catering to a variety of budgets – small, intimate motor yachts, romantic retro ships, schooners and sleek luxurious expedition cruise ships. There are boats offering cruises especially appropriate for families, divers or photographers.

With our first-hand experience of the choices available, we can guide you to the right boat for you.

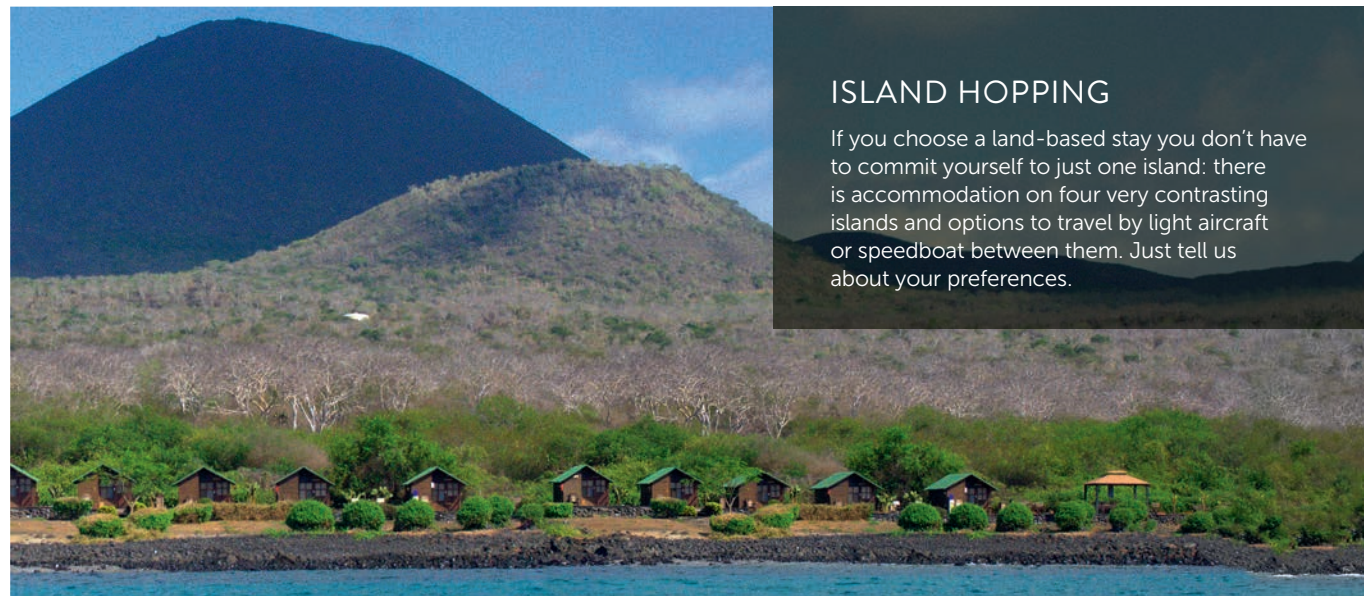


## LAND-BASED

Others might find sleeping on land more appealing, or would like to get to know one or two of the islands more intimately. Until recently there was not a lot of choice of accommodation in the archipelago, and what was there was relatively simple, offering a homely base for exploration.

Now there are a number of more upmarket hotels and good quality fixed-tented lodges on four islands, broadening the range of choice. Not only are you sleeping onshore but you can choose from an ever-expanding menu of activities including wildlife safaris, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking and day trips to other islands.

If you fancy sampling both experiences, you can add a stay on land to the beginning or end of your cruise: wind down or gear up to be a bit more active!



## ISLAND HOPPING

If you choose a land-based stay you don't have to commit yourself to just one island: there is accommodation on four very contrasting islands and options to travel by light aircraft or speedboat between them. Just tell us about your preferences.

## COMBINING THE GALAPAGOS WITH A HOLIDAY IN LATIN AMERICA

Visitors often include a trip to the Galápagos on a tailor-made holiday with time spent in mainland Ecuador, or neighbouring countries such as Peru, Colombia, Panama or Costa Rica.

Connecting flights between Ecuador and its neighbouring countries are frequent and relatively short: a direct flight from Lima, Bogotá and Panama City to Quito or Guayaquil takes around 1.5-2.5 hours. From San José in Costa Rica it's a bit longer – 4-5 hours as you have to change planes in Panama.

With complicated logistics it's not always easy to see the best way to make this work: we have the experience and expertise to create a tailor-made holiday that is exactly the right trip for you, which both works logistically and includes places you tell us you'd love to visit and maybe some you haven't thought of.

Alternatively, join one of our fixed itinerary Escorted Group Tours, which combine a Galápagos cruise with the top sights in Ecuador; or add a Galápagos extension – cruise or land-based – to one of our holidays to other countries, Peru being a popular choice.

Many people balance their wildlife experience with some aspects of Latin America's rich cultural heritage. One of the most attractive combinations will include Cusco, Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca and, for more wildlife, a few days in the Amazon jungle of Peru or Ecuador.

In Colombia, don't miss a visit to Cartagena, a colonial masterpiece on the Caribbean coast.

Costa Rica and Panama (which also has a wonderful cultural mix) offer you yet more wildlife spotting, this time in a tropical rain or cloud forest environment.

A few examples are featured on the following pages, there are many more options available – see our website or talk to us for inspiration.



## A TYPICAL DAY ON A GALAPAGOS CRUISE

By Sophie Barber, Travel Consultant

The day begins early with a wake-up call and then breakfast is served around 7am. No complaints – most visitors are keen to set off and explore the islands. The first shore excursion will leave around 8am on a panga (inflatable speed boat). You'll be advised in advance what to take (water, sun screen, suitable clothing) and whether the landing will be 'wet' (arriving at a sandy beach and wading ashore) or 'dry' (arriving at a rocky part of the island to dock and walk directly on the island).

On-shore guided walking excursions last two to three hours. Quite often however you'll set foot on a beach and be greeted by basking sea lions, marine iguanas or Sally Lightfoot crabs scooting along the sand.

The naturalist guides are well informed and have fascinating stories to tell, and before you know it, it's time to return to the boat for lunch. It's frequently during lunch the boat starts moving on to the next island. There's time for a siesta before the afternoon landing, which follows a similar pattern to the morning but every visit is unique: each site has its own flora and fauna and varied landscapes. Snorkelling, kayaking or stand-up paddle boarding may be offered, depending on your boat and National Park rules. Later, you return to the boat to freshen up for dinner.

Most evenings there will be briefings by the guides, or you can chat to fellow passengers and revisit some of the day's experiences. Just after dinner is when most boats set sail for the next island – captains opt to do the longer journeys overnight. You wake up the next morning to be greeted by a new island and new experiences.



# EXPEDITION VESSELS



Here we feature our best loved vessels, all of which we have inspected first hand. Some are sleek motor yachts, others a little retro, a few carry sails. All have deck space for relaxing, private facilities and air-conditioning. Service from guides and crew is excellent, informed and welcoming. Most have snorkelling gear and many have kayaks, paddle boards or glass-bottomed boats.

This is but a small selection: other ships, also highly recommended, are featured on our website, where you will find more details of all the craft. Speak to one of our Galápagos experts who will help you to make your personal choice.



**LARGER SHIPS** (around 100 guests)  
These are relatively stable and offer several cabin standards. They often have more amenities (some with library, gym, shop, Jacuzzi) and more spacious public areas. Mealtimes are never formal but generally have a greater choice of food options than smaller craft.

**MEDIUM-SIZED CRAFT** (around 40 guests)  
These combine the advantages of larger ships – stability and amenities – with the more intimate ambiance of small vessels, while offering a bit more privacy than the latter.

**SMALLER CRAFT** (16 guests or fewer)  
These can offer a more intimate and nautical experience where you can mingle at ease with all the other guests and crew. The level of comfort and range of food options can be equal to that on larger ships – it depends on the boats grade. The more economical may have smaller cabins, possibly with bunks.

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A SELECTION OF OUR CRUISE SHIPS. MORE CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.

## FIRST CLASS



**SILVER GALAPAGOS**  
100 GUESTS  
Expedition cruising in style. Spacious with butler service, open bar and a choice of excellent dining options.



**SANTA CRUZ II**  
90 GUESTS  
Comfortable, stable, family-friendly Galápagos cruise ship, with plenty of space to relax in when on board.



**LA PINTA**  
48 GUESTS  
Excellent facilities, service and cuisine. Spacious ship with picture windows in large, bright cabins.



**EVOLUTION**  
32 GUESTS  
1920s nostalgic elegance, spacious ship with nautical atmosphere. Friendly and personal service.



**ORIGIN & THEORY**  
20 GUESTS  
Sister ships built in 2016 and 2018. Sleek luxury motor yachts, large cabins, picture windows, open bar. Solo traveller friendly.



**GRACE**  
18 GUESTS  
Princess Grace of Monaco's royal honeymoon yacht. Elegant, prestigious and romantic.



**OCEAN SPRAY**  
16 GUESTS  
Smart, contemporary service-orientated, stable catamaran, large sun deck, spacious rooms with private balconies.



**PETREL**  
16 GUESTS  
Fast, stable, deluxe 2015 catamaran, spacious and smart cabins with private balcony, ample sun deck and lounge.



**CAMILLA**  
16 GUESTS  
A striking 2018 luxury trimaran; stability is a priority. 8 roomy cabins with balcony on each of two decks, Jacuzzi, smart lounge.



PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A SELECTION OF OUR CRUISE SHIPS. MORE CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.

## FIRST CLASS (CONTINUED)



**GALAPAGOS LEGEND**  
100 GUESTS

Stable ship, 5 accommodation grades, family-friendly, large range of activities and entertainment.



**SEA STAR JOURNEY**  
16 GUESTS

Sociable, large sun deck, bright cabins, comfy social areas. Used on Galápagos Hawk Group Tour. Solo traveller friendly.



**PASSION**  
12 GUESTS

Luxurious former private yacht; spacious vessel with just 12 guests: one of the most intimate in Galapagos. Solo traveller friendly.

## UPPER MID-RANGE



**TREASURE OF GALAPAGOS**  
18 GUESTS

Relaxed style with ample deck space, smart décor and private balconies. Solo traveller friendly. Refurbished 2017.



**MARY ANNE**  
24 GUESTS

Classic, intimate, romantic three-mast barquentine sailing ship with sea-faring atmosphere. Solo traveller friendly.



**LETTY**  
20 GUESTS

Popular eco-conscious yacht with sun deck and comfortable cabins. Professional and personal service. Solo traveller and family friendly.



**SEAMAN JOURNEY**  
16 GUESTS

Sociable service-orientated catamaran with roomy cabins; our choice for the Albatross Group Tour. Solo traveller friendly.



**GALAPAGOS ODYSSEY**  
16 GUESTS

Contemporary, spacious, bright cabins, with plenty of social areas and deck space. Solo traveller friendly.

### NEW BOATS

New boats will come in to service during the lifetime of this brochure.

Have a look at our website for the complete range.

## MID-RANGE



**CORAL I & II**  
20 & 36 GUESTS

Sociable, informal with compact cabins and interconnecting options for families, spacious restaurant, sun deck.



**SOLARIS**  
16 GUESTS

The swish 2019 boat features space and light. Cabins are family and solo traveller friendly.



**BELUGA**  
16 GUESTS

Sleek and intimate, with an informal dining room, saloon and sun deck. Solo traveller and family friendly.



**TIP TOP II**  
16 GUESTS

Modern, good-value, stable catamaran. Sun deck and shaded al fresco bar, cabins with picture windows.



**CACHALOTE EXPLORER**  
16 GUESTS

A small converted fishing boat, renovated in 2018, offering friendly, easy-going, economical cruises.



**ARCHIPEL I & II**  
16 GUESTS

Sister ships with twin cabins, all on the main deck, a sun deck with loungers; al fresco and interior dining.



**SAMBA**  
14 GUESTS

Small, friendly family-operated boat, with a rustic, nautical feel and two sun decks. One of the most intimate ships in Galapagos.

### SOLO TRAVELLERS

Going on holiday alone? A trip to the Galápagos will always be a sociable affair: whether on an expedition ship or land-based. Some boats offer cabin share, some charge no single supplement, others charge a reduced rate. Ask us and we will find you the best deal. Or join one of our friendly Galápagos Group Tours where, subject to availability, there is no supplement for a solo traveller willing to share a same-sex room.

### FAMILIES

If you are a group of friends or travelling as a family, the Galápagos is an excellent choice. Each one of you can choose to experience activities together or separately at your own pace, while enjoying each other's company overall. Children will love watching wildlife from an arm's length, swimming and snorkelling; and some cruises and lodges offer children's programmes.

### PRIVATE CHARTERS

If your group is large enough or if you want exclusivity, we have access to excellent rates should you wish to charter a boat in the Galápagos for your private use.



# ACCOMMODATION ON THE ISLANDS

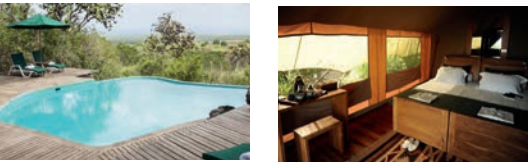
Hotels and safari-style tented camps can be found on four of the Galápagos Islands, and are well placed for those who fancy an island-hopping experience or prefer not to sleep aboard a cruise.

They also offer a great opportunity to spend a few extra nights relaxing at the end of your trip.

## SANTA CRUZ

### 1 GALAPAGOS SAFARI CAMP

Galápagos Safari Camp is an exquisite property which follows the example of Africa's luxury safari camps to offer true comfort under canvas.



“The camp is set in lovely grounds with fantastic views – and they make the most of this with the terrace area and viewing platform where they offer sunset drinks.”

Kathryn Rhodes, Tailor-made holidays.

### 2 GALAPAGOS MAGIC CAMP

Set in the highlands away from Santa Cruz's waterfront crowds the unique Galápagos Magic Tented Camp has raised safari tents and elevated tree houses with gorgeous views.

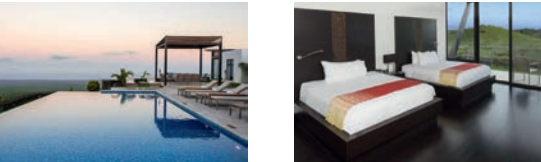


“Galapagos Magic Camp is complemented by a peaceful location, superb starry skies, wonderful dining and waking up with dozens of Galapagos giant tortoises roaming around the grounds.”

Chris Rendell-Dunn, Travel Consultant

### 3 PIKAIA LODGE

The most luxurious, super-chic hotel on the Galápagos offers exclusive accommodation, top quality guided activities and its own yacht to take you on trips to other islands.



“The infinity pool has to be seen to be believed, taking full advantage of the hotel's magnificent views. It feels very peaceful - a welcome change of pace from the busy town of Puerto Ayora.”

Ben Line, Manager, Tailor-made Holidays

## FERNANDINA

## SANTIAGO

## ISABELA

## SANTA CRUZ

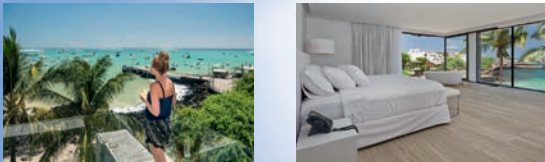
## FLOREANA

## SAN CRISTOBAL

## SAN CRISTOBAL

### 8 GOLDEN BAY HOTEL AND SPA

Golden Bay is a stunning, superior property perched on a white-powder beach you may share with a sea lion or two. Contemporary chic blends with the rustic landscape, and service comes with a welcoming smile.



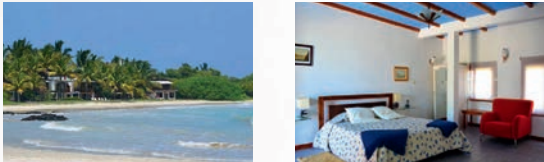
“A modern, stylish upper mid-range hotel with superlative service; its cool style contrasts with palm-fringed sea views.”

Hannah Waterhouse, Travel Consultant

## ISABELA

### 5 LA CASA DE MARITA

Family-run La Casa de Marita is a welcoming, homely hotel right on the shores of a beautiful white-sand beach and within easy reach of Isabela's main town, Puerto Villamil.

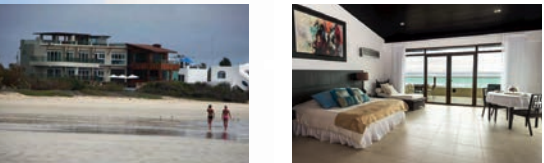


“The dining room and decking have comfortable hammocks to swing lazily in and enjoy the views and the ocean breeze.”

Laura Rendell-Dunn, PR and Business Development Manager

### 6 IGUANA CROSSING

Iguana Crossing is a beautifully appointed luxury hotel on a white-sand beach, combining a lean, contemporary mood with a remarkable natural setting.

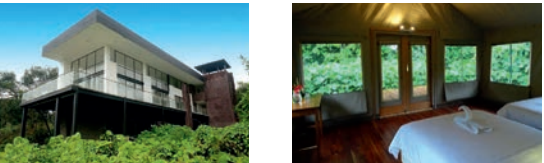


“The hotel's named after the marine iguanas which cross the beach right in front of it: watching them from the decking can be a great source of entertainment.”

Lina Fuller, Tailor-made Holidays

### 7 SCALESIA LODGE

Scalesia Lodge is an innovative property where you sleep in spacious and stylish safari-style tents enveloped by tropical forest and enjoy the restaurant and lounges in a smart, contemporary building with great views.

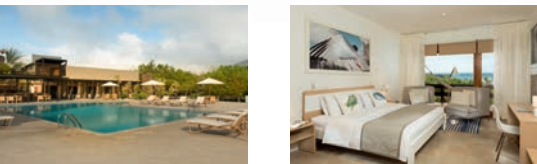


“This is an exciting concept for the Galápagos: your lounge, reading room and restaurant are in a striking new building while you sleep in foliage-shrouded tented structures fully in contact with the natural world.”

Isabelle Mazille, Product Manager

### 4 FINCH BAY

Finch Bay is a small beachfront hotel with an array of daily excursions and activities to choose from. A great alternative or complement to a cruise if you want to explore an island more intimately or a base to simply relax.



“You can just relax on the beach or in a hammock; choose short trips on their motor yacht, guided explorations by kayak or on foot, or pop into Puerto Ayora for a bit of nightlife.”

Sophie Barber, Travel Consultant

#### CLIENT COMMENT

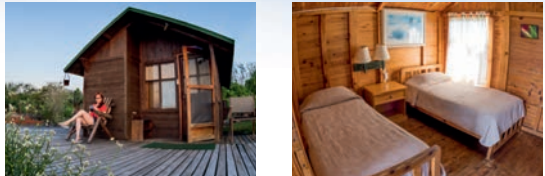
“This is a perfect choice to chill following a cruise... the staff were all attentive and keen to make your stay welcoming... and has a lovely swimming pool. A definite favourite.”

JC, Usk

## FLOREANA

### 9 FLOREANA LAVA LODGE

Floreana Lava Lodge is a unique hotel with a row of simple cabins on the dark volcanic shoreline, offering a magical sense of immersion in the natural environment.



“It's the spectacular location that provides the wow factor here, along with plenty of wildlife action right on your doorstep – from the turtles that frequent the beach right in front of the cabins to the lively sea lion colony beyond.”

Natalie Paiva, Travel Consultant

#### CLIENT COMMENT

“What a paradise right on the edge of the sea. To hear the water lapping is so relaxing. Breakfast along with Darwin's finches is another memory.”

HT, Conwy



# HOLIDAY INSPIRATION

## SUGGESTED ITINERARIES

You can travel exclusively to the Galápagos, flying in and out from Ecuador, or combine a visit with a holiday on the Latin American mainland. Our most popular combinations take you to Ecuador, Peru and Colombia.

### DESIGNED BY OUR EXPERTS

Below is a selection of our holiday ideas. Contact us or visit our website for more details, prices and other suggested itineraries.

\* Prices exclude international flights at the start and end of the holiday. Contact us for the best prices from your local airport.

## TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS

### CRAFTED JUST FOR YOU

Allow one of our experts to create a holiday according to your aspirations, time and budget. We will take into account your special interests, whether you are a solo traveller, couple, family or friends, and guide you to the best boat or land-based accommodation.

## ESCORTED GROUP TOURS



### SHARE THE JOY OF DISCOVERY

Join a small group of 4-16 like-minded travellers, an expert tour leader and local guides on your choice of three Escorted Group Tours following fixed itineraries with suggested extensions.

## 97% of clients rated their experience with Journey Latin America as Good or Excellent.

“ We were very pleased with Journey Latin America, for their specialist knowledge of the region and for their good choices of accommodation; also for the way they work with partner organisations in each country... they dealt with our complex itinerary requirements very flexibly and efficiently. Well done and thank you everyone! ”

EP, Glasgow

“ You made it easy for us to arrange and enjoy this trip. We were confident from past experience, that you knew the area, and would match arrangements to our wishes, and that arrangements made on our behalf would be carefully worked out and work faultlessly. ”

GG, Aberfeldy



### ECUADOR AND GALAPAGOS

#### SIGNATURE ECUADOR AND GALAPAGOS 15 days from £6,367pp\*

(incl. 5-night cruise on Galápagos Odyssey)

A top quality, comprehensive holiday with private services. Includes Quito, Otavalo market, the Avenue of the Volcanoes, a spectacular Andean train ride and a first class cruise.

#### VALUE ECUADOR AND LAND-BASED GALAPAGOS 9 days from £2,047pp\*

(incl. 4 nights on Santa Cruz Island)

A short, economical holiday including Ecuador's highlights: Quito, Otavalo and Cotopaxi volcano; and a four-day stay on Santa Cruz Island with full-day excursions by boat to visit neighbouring islands.

#### ALBATROSS ESCORTED GROUP JOURNEY 16 days from £5,525pp\*

(incl. 7-night cruise on Seaman Journey)

An exclusive guided Group Tour exploring Ecuador's Andean landscapes, history and cultural heritage; with a Galápagos cruise on a small, comfortable and friendly catamaran.



### PERU AND GALAPAGOS

#### VALUE GALAPAGOS AND PERU 13 days from £4,128pp\*

(incl. 4-night cruise on Archipel I)

A comprehensive, well-priced private holiday combining a Galápagos cruise with colonial Quito and the best of Peru: Machu Picchu, Cusco, and the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

#### LUXURY PERU AND GALAPAGOS 14 days from £8,311pp\*

(incl. 5-night cruise on Ocean Spray)

A relaxed, deluxe holiday with elegant hotels, discovering Peru's top sights: Lima, Cusco and Machu Picchu in comfort; plus attractive Quito and a first class Galápagos cruise.

#### GALAPAGOS HAWK ESCORTED GROUP JOURNEY 15 days from £5,195pp\*

(incl. 4-night cruise on Sea Star Journey)

A varied and captivating small group guided tour visiting Peru's highlights: Lima, Machu Picchu, Inca capital Cusco and Lake Titicaca; as well as a Galápagos motor yacht cruise.



### ECUADOR AND GALAPAGOS ON LAND

#### FAMILY ECUADOR AND GALAPAGOS 13 days from £6,058pp\*

(incl. 4 nights on Santa Cruz island)

An enriching holiday for children and adults alike exploring the Amazon rainforest on an adventurous riverboat cruise and the wildlife wonderland of the Galápagos with an island-based stay.

#### ECUADOR'S ANDES AND GALAPAGOS ISLAND HOP 12 days from £3,303pp\*

(incl. 6 nights on Santa Cruz and San Cristóbal Islands)

An excellent value itinerary from Quito to the Galápagos, including Cotopaxi volcano, Ecuador's famous Devil's Nose train journey and a twin-centre Galápagos Island stay where included excursions are balanced with time at leisure.

#### WALKING IN ECUADOR AND GALAPAGOS 12 days from £4,069pp

(incl. 2 nights on Santa Cruz and 2 nights on Isabela Islands)

An active holiday which offers the chance to discover off-the-radar-hikes in Ecuador's Andean countryside and the Galápagos Islands' wildlife-filled volcanic landscapes.



### 7-NIGHT GALAPAGOS

We always recommend spending a full week exploring the Galápagos Islands if you can.

The below trips illustrate four 10-day holiday options, each with 7 nights in the archipelago.

#### VALUE CRUISE from £3,866pp\*

(incl. 7-night cruise on MV Cachalote Explorer)

From the vibrant port Guayaquil, fly to Galápagos for a cruise on one of our best value, popular and informal mid-range small ships.

#### SIGNATURE CRUISE from £4,830pp\*

(incl. 7-night cruise on MY Letty)

Start in colonial Quito; then cruise the Galápagos Islands on board a superbly-run, eco-friendly and good value upper mid-range motor cruiser with excellent guides.

#### LUXURY CRUISE from £7,336pp\*

(incl. 7-night cruise on MV Grace)

Following a luxurious stay in Quito, spend a week on the most romantic, glamorous and sumptuous first class cruise in the Galápagos Islands.

#### ISLAND-HOPPING from £4,404pp\*

(incl. 7 nights on Santa Cruz and Isabela Islands)

From the Andean capital of Quito, split your time in the Galápagos between stylish Finch Bay Hotel and unique Scalesia Lodge tented camp, with a choice of daily activities by land and sea.





“Journey Latin America provided us with an itinerary which completely fulfilled our requirements. A superb and memorable holiday.”

JS, London

## GALAPAGOS HOLIDAYS - YOUR PEACE OF MIND

### ATOL

All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our website for our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.atol.org.uk/ATOLcertificate](http://www.atol.org.uk/ATOLcertificate)

### ABTA

Journey Latin America Ltd is a Member of ABTA with membership number V2522. ABTA and ABTA Members help holidaymakers to get the most from their travel and assist them when things do not go according to plan. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct.

For further information about ABTA, the Code of Conduct and the arbitration scheme available to you if you have a complaint, contact ABTA, 30 Park Street, London SE1 9EQ. Tel: 020 3117 0500 or [www.abta.com](http://www.abta.com)

For more information about our Privacy Policy please visit [www.journeylatinamerica.co.uk/information/privacy-policy](http://www.journeylatinamerica.co.uk/information/privacy-policy)

## THE AITO QUALITY CHARTER

### OUR CONSUMER PROMISE

AITO is the Association for independent and specialist holiday companies. Our member companies, usually owner-managed, strive to create overseas holidays with high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

### EXCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP

AITO sets criteria regarding ownership, finance and quality which must be satisfied before new companies are admitted to membership. All members are required to adhere to a Code of Business Practice which encourages high operational standards and conduct.

### FINANCIAL SECURITY

An AITO member is required to arrange financial protection for all holidays and other arrangements (including accommodation only) booked by customers with the member under the AITO logo. This financial protection applies to customers who are resident in the UK at the time of booking and to most overseas customers who have booked directly with the member. In doing so, the member must comply with UK government regulations. Members are required to submit details of their financial protection arrangements to AITO on a regular basis.

### ACCURATE BROCHURES AND WEBSITES

All members do their utmost to ensure that all their brochures and other publications, print or electronic, clearly and accurately describe the holidays and services offered.

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENTS

All members are committed to high standards of service and believe in regular and thorough training of employees. Members continually seek to review and improve their holidays. They listen to their customers and always welcome suggestions for improving standards.

### MONITORING STANDARDS

AITO endeavours to monitor quality standards regularly. All customers should receive a post-holiday questionnaire the results of which are scrutinised by the Association.

### SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

AITO members acknowledge the importance of AITO's Sustainable Tourism ethos, which recognises the social, economic and environmental responsibilities of tour operating.

### CUSTOMER RELATIONS

All members endeavour to deal swiftly and fairly with any issues their customers may raise. In the unlikely event that a dispute between an AITO member and a customer cannot be settled amicably, AITO's low-cost Independent Dispute Settlement Service may be called upon by either side to bring the matter to a speedy and acceptable conclusion.

Journey Latin America is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. To contact the Association, visit [www.aito.com](http://www.aito.com) or call 020 8744 9280.

## JOURNEY LATIN AMERICA

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### BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

