

## 6D THE GALAPAGOS LOOP

- A FULL EXPERIENCE TO ENJOY THE ISLANDS-  
From Sunday, 17 to Friday 22 (September 2017)



## DAY 1: SUNDAY - TRANSFER IN SANTA CRUZ - HIGHLANDS (L)



Arriving to Baltra we will take a shuttle thought out Santa Cruz Island journeying across the island into the **highlands**, visitors are delighted by the island's variety of life and geology. Beginning at the coast and traveling north along the road to Puerto Ayora, the road climbs through the agricultural zone and into the mist-covered forests of the highlands. Santa Cruz possesses all of the various life zones present in the archipelago, with wonderful birding opportunities. Whether it's the bright red feathers of a Vermilion Flycatcher or one of Darwin's finches almost every land

bird present in the islands can be found here. Continuing we will stop in one of the ranches, food is served in these ranches and the best part is that passenger will be able to explore the grounds in search of tortoises. Descending through the agricultural zone into the Transition Zone where the Tortoise Reserve is located, the introduced vegetation of the farmlands is replaced by native vegetation. After lunch continue to Puerto Ayora for rest of the afternoon at leisure. Accommodation in selected hotel

### OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY TORTUGA BAY (ONLY AVAILABLE FOR PASSENGERS ARRIVING IN FIRST FLIGHT)



The trail to Tortuga Bay starts from the main street in Puerto Ayora and takes about an hour walking. The trail goes through the arid zone and many land birds can be seen along the way. Arriving to Tortuga Bay beach you will find the first beach "Playa Brava" this beach is with open waters and strong under currents not recommendable for swimming, if you continue 20 minutes walking you will arrive to "Playa Mansa" ideal for sun bathing swimming and photo shooting, you will also find marine iguanas along the shore

DAY 1: SUPPLEMENT ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY	PER PAX
TORTUGA BAY	USD 95

## **DAY 2: MONDAY- TRANSFER TO FLOREANA ISLAND – SNORKELING AT LA LOBERIA (B)**



This morning after breakfast we will head to take our speed boat to Floreana Island for a 2h 30 minutes approx. Time. This Island gives place to the first inhabitants of the Galapagos Islands. Descendants of the original population of the Island still live here. In this island you will be encountered with history legends that will give you a full understanding of the population development in the Galapagos Islands. We will arrive to Floreana, after checking in in our lodge we will begin our

excursion with a walk for approximately 30 minutes towards la Loberia – A sea Lion breeding space- here we will start our first marine excursion in the bright turquoise water where you might able to swim with sea lions, marine turtles, manta rays and a variety of colorful coral fishes. In the afternoon we will return to hotel to relax in lodge where if possible, you can exchange experiences with the locals and eventually meet some members of the original families that arrived to the Islands. Accommodation in selected lodge/hotel

## **DAY 3: TUESDAY - HIGHLANDS FLOREANA – PIRATES’ CAVE – TORTOISE BREEDING CENTER – TRANSFER TO ISABELA (B)**



This day after breakfast, our guide will pick us up and we will get on board of a “Chiva”- Traditional old fashioned bus from the Island that will take us to the highlands of the Island. On the way our guide will and give us an idea of the colorful history of some of Floreana's first inhabitants, such as the Wittmers (whose descendants still live on the Island), the ‘Baroness’, and the pirates that once visited here. They will also tell you about the "Enigma of Floreana", involving the mysterious deaths of several of the Island’s inhabitants, a riddle that has never

been solved. Also our naturalist guide will point out the wildlife of this particular Island.



Once we reach the Highlands we will head to “Asilo de Paz”, we will take a low level hike, exploring pirate caves, and visit fresh water springs that provide fresh water to the islanders. Along this way we will also see Giant tortoise’s species from this island. Return to lowlands to take speed boat to Isabela this ride will take approx. 2h30 min. Arriving to Isabela you can have lunch and relax for the rest of the day in the pristine beaches of the biggest and one of the newest Islands.

### **OPTIONAL ACTIVITY WALL OF TEARS WITH BICYCLES:**

After lunch in Isabela upon arrival, our guide will give you the opportunity to help you renting bikes (Prices vary from USD 25-30 per person) so you can take advantage of the afternoon and head onto the “Wall of tears” on your own. If you decide to proceed with this excursion It is a 6-km ride (one-way) from the lagoon. About half way to the Wall, the trail passes a white sand beach with surrounding lagoons where all four species of mangroves that exist in Galapagos can be seen. The trail continues through the dry zone until reaching the Wall. A penal colony existed on Isabela from 1944 to 1959. The Wall of Tears was built by the prisoners to keep them busy. It stand 5-6 m high, 3 m wide and is approximately 100 m long. It is a testament to a period of cruelty and torture. Return for accommodation in selected hotel.

### **DAY 4: WEDNESDAY - SIERRA NEGRA AND CHICO VOLCANOES (B, BL)**



Breakfast. Today, we go by car until reaching the mountainsides of the Sierra Negra Volcano. We will have a walk of about 2 hours to reach the crater of the volcano. There we will have a wonderful view of the crater and with a little bit of luck, we will be able to see the sparrow hawk of the Galapagos. We will get to know the geology of the Sierra Negra Volcano. Most of the part of this island was formed by AA lava. We will have a box lunch and visit el Chico Volcano. Return to the hotel afternoon at leisure to enjoy marvelous coral sand and turquoise water beaches. Overnight in selected hotel.

## OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY AFTER SIERRA NEGRA: TINTORERAS ISLETS



The Tintoreras Islets, located a short distance from Puerto Villamil, is home to a great variety of wildlife. Its turquoise, crystalline waters are inhabited by white-tipped reef sharks, Galapagos penguins, marine turtles and sea lions. One of its beaches, surrounded by mangroves is one of the few sites where marine iguanas can reproduce successfully. Reaching the Isle of Tintoreras, we will get to know a lot of these species. Most of the part of this island is formed by AA lava. Return to the hotel

DAY 4: SUPPLEMENT ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY	PER PAX
TINTORERAS ISLETS	USD 65

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITY INSTEAD OF SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO:

### THE TUNNELS (B)



Today we will visit a unique place in the islands, “Los Tuneles”. Our path starts on board our speed boat on a 45 minutes trip. Our experienced captain will securely lead us across the waves that normally hide this treasure. The Tunnels were formed millions year ago when rivers of liquid lava ran across the island reaching the coast shore. The cold water froze their superficial layer isolating the interior while liquid lava kept flowing into the sea. When the eruption finished, a hollow structure was formed and its wall later broke allowing water to come inside and creating a tunnel. Our guide will join us along hundreds of tunnels while we snorkel and discover the marine life such as

sharks, lobsters, penguins, sea lions, boobies, marine turtles among other endemic species from Galapagos. A snack will be served on board our boat. If lucky enough, we will have the chance to witness giant mantarays feeding in open waters. Afternoon return to Isabella for accommodation in the selected hotel.

DAY 4: SUPPLEMENT INSTEAD OF SIERRA NEGRA	PER PAX
THE TUNNELS	USD 105

#### **DAY 5: THURSDAY - TORTOISE BREEDING CENTER + FLAMINGO'S LAGOON+ SANTA CRUZ (B)**



After breakfast, our guide will take us to visit the Flamingo's Lagoon. This is a approx. 2km trail where we will have explanation of the vegetation and geology of this young Island, Isabela Island. Arriving to the Flamingo lagoon we might be able to see Flamingos feeding in this lake. This is an artificial lake, due to the excavation for construction the lake was made up by the rain. After this we will continue to visit the Tortoise breeding center , in this place you will learn more about the reproduction and breeding of the Tortoises. Back to Puerto Villamil to take our boat and transfer to Santa Cruz. Rest of the afternoon at leisure in Puerto Ayora and accommodation in hotel..

#### **DAY 6: FRIDAY - CHARLES DARWIN STATION – TRANSFER AIRPORT FLIGHT BACK (B)**



After breakfast, we will head to the Charles Darwin Station. The center is a reservoir of information on habitats and local conservation, as well as other fascinating relevant statistics. The most striking attraction of this station is certainly the Tortoise Breeding Center, where it is possible to view tortoises of varied sizes and shapes. Travelers here can freely walk and get their photos clicked with the tortoises. Among other inhabitants at the center, you can see the land and marine iguanas and different species of birds. After that transfer to the airport.

#### **END OF SERVICES**

**\*\* REMARK:** If you are willing to cover all activities detailed as “optional/additional” (Tortuga Bay, Wall of tears in bicycles, Tintoreras Islets and the Tunnels) it is possible to do it and a supplement will apply and itinerary will be slightly modified.

## NET PRICE PER PAX:

PROGRAM	CATEGORY	HOTELS		NET PRICE PER PAX
<b>6D GALAPAGOS LOOP</b> (Santa Cruz- Floreana- Isabela)	STANDARD	The Blue Booby House Wittmer Hotel Volcano Hotel	ONLY BREAKFAST	\$ 800

## EXTENSIONS FOR ITINERARY:

### EXTENSION A

#### DAY 6 FRIDAY: FULL DAY TOUR BARTHOLOME ISLAND (B, L)

Early in the morning, transfer to Baltra to start our first navigable tour to Bartolome, breakfast on board. Bartolome is a small island located next to Santiago Island. One of the Islands' principal attractions is the "pinnacle rock" In order to see it properly will make a medium level hike for around an hour. In this excursion you will learn from the volcanic landscape of the island and see different species such as: lava lizard or cacti, once we reach the top will have a magnificent view of the Pinnacle rock in contrast with the volcanic landscape blended with the turquoise waters of the surrounding beaches. After the excursion we will proceed to do snorkeling in one of the coral beaches of the areas where if we are lucky we will see: Marine turtles, sea lions, multicolor fish and penguins. Lunch will be on board in the afternoon we will return to hotel. Accommodation in selected hotel.



## DAY 7: SATURDAY - FULL DAY TOUR NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND (B, L)



Enjoy a navigable tour to North Seymour, a 1.9 km<sup>2</sup> island located northbound from Baltra. The main fauna species of this island are Land Iguanas, the Magnificent Frigate bird with their incredible scarlet regular pouch, blue-footed boobies and their particular courtship dance and sea lions surfing across the waves. Lunch on board. After lunch we will do snorkeling in Bachas where you will be able to discover tones of different fish species and also swim with sea lions. Return to your hotel. Accommodation in selected hotel.

## DAY 8: SUNDAY - CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION + TRANSFER OUT (B)

After breakfast, we will head to the Charles Darwin Station. The center is a reservoir of information on habitats and local conservation, as well as other fascinating relevant statistics. The most striking attraction of this station is certainly the Tortoise Breeding Center, where it is possible to view tortoises of varied sizes and shapes. Travelers here can freely walk and get their photos clicked with the tortoises. Among other inhabitants at the center, you can see the land and marine iguanas and different species of birds. After that transfer to the airport.

	CATEGORY	HOTELS		SGL	DBL	TPL
<b>SUPLEMENT FOR EXTENSION A</b> 6D GALAPAGOS LOOP (Santa Cruz- Floreana- Isabela)	STANDARD	Isla Azul	ONLY BREAKFAST	\$ 532	\$ 532	\$ 532
			HALF BOARD	\$ 532	\$ 532	\$ 532
			FULL BOARD	\$ 577	\$ 577	\$ 577
	COMFORT	Isla Sol Interior	ONLY BREAKFAST	\$ 819	\$ 633	\$ 609
			HALF BOARD	\$ 819	\$ 633	\$ 609
			FULL BOARD	\$ 863	\$ 678	\$ 653



## **EXTENSION B**

### **DAY 6: FRIDAY - TRANSFER TO SAN CRISTOBAL-FRIGATE HILL & INTERPRETATION CENTER (B)**



Early in the morning transfer to San Cristobal Island on a speed boat. Arriving we will make check in hotel and we will visit San Cristobal Interpretation Center, where we will learn more about the origin of the archipelago, its fauna and flora, as well as the history and its first inhabitants. After that, we will hike for about 30 minutes until Frigate Hill where we will enjoy the endemic vegetation and a

beautiful view of the island and its surroundings. The main attraction here is the frigate birds. At the end of the day, we will visit Frigate Bay and do some snorkeling. Return to the hotel. Accommodation at the selected hotel

### **DAY 7: SATURDAY - LOBOS ISLAND (B, L)**

Breakfast. We will leave early in the morning to take the boat and visit the Lobos Island where we can do snorkeling with sea lions and observation of different kinds of birds like the blue footed boobies, after that we will visit the amazing beach Playa Ochoa. Lunch onboard and in the afternoon we will have our own spare time. In the afternoon return to San Cristobal for accommodation.



### **DAY 8: SUNDAY - TRANSFER OUT (B)**

We will have some leisure time in town to make some shopping, our guide will transfer you to the airport to take flight back to mainland Ecuador.

	CATEGORY	HOTELS		SGL	DBL	TPL
<b>SUPPLEMENT FOR EXTENSION B</b> 6D GALAPAGOS LOOP (Santa Cruz- Floreana- Isabela)	STANDARD	The Blue Marlin	ONLY BREAKFAST	\$406	\$379	\$353
			HALF BOARD	\$446	\$420	\$393
			FULL BOARD	\$491	\$464	\$438
	COMFORT	Casa Opuntia	ONLY BREAKFAST	\$537	\$391	\$370
			HALF BOARD	\$577	\$431	\$410
			FULL BOARD	\$622	\$476	\$455

## **EXTENSION C**

### **DAY 6: FRIDAY- FULL DAY TOUR BARTHOLOME ISLAND (B, L)**



Early in the morning, transfer to Baltra to start the navigable tour to Bartolome, breakfast on board. Bartolome is a small island located next to Santiago Island. One of the Islands' principal attractions is the "pinnacle rock" In order to see it properly will make a medium level hike for around an hour. In this excursion you will learn from the volcanic landscape of the island and see different species such as: lava lizard or cacti, once we reach the top will have a magnificent view of the Pinnacle rock in contrast with the volcanic landscape blended with the turquoise waters of the surrounding beaches. After

the excursion we will proceed to do snorkeling in one of the coral beaches of the areas where if we are lucky we will see: Marine turtles, sea lions, multicolor fish and penguins. Lunch will be on board in the afternoon we will return to hotel. Accommodation in selected hotel.

### **DAY 7: SATURDAY - FULL DAY TOUR NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND (B, L)**

Enjoy a navigable tour to North Seymour, a 1.9 km<sup>2</sup> island located northbound from Baltra. The main fauna species of this island are Land Iguanas, the Magnificent Frigate bird with their incredible scarlet regular pouch, blue-footed boobies and their particular courtship dance and sea lions surfing across the waves. Lunch on board. After lunch we will do snorkeling in Bachas where you will be able to discover tones of different fish species and also swim with sea lions. Return to your hotel. Accommodation in selected hotel.



## DAY 8: SUNDAY – INTERPRETATION CENTER – FRIGATE HILL – PUNTA CAROLA (B, L)



Breakfast, We will leave early in the morning to take the speed towards San Cristobal this journey will take about 2h30 minutes. Arriving to San Cristobal our guide will take us to the interpretation center opened to the public in 1998, the Galapagos National Park Visitor Center in San Cristóbal presents a complete and documented history of the Galapagos, its ecosystems, flora and fauna. The Center focuses primarily on the history of the archipelago, from its volcanic origins to the present. Two interpretation panels, representing the natural and cultural history of the archipelago, are linked together in chronological order. The center includes a small auditorium, meeting rooms, and audiovisual equipment for the entire community to enjoy, for activities such as theater, exhibitions, and workshops (dance, painting, etc.) The Visitor Center is about a 20-minute walk from town after this we will continue to the Frigate hill. A trail leading off from the Interpretation Center heads up Frigate bird Hill. Here it is possible to see Magnificent Frigate Birds and Great Frigate Birds in the same colony. This is the perfect place to compare and learn to distinguish them. Continue to Punta Carola to spend leisure time at the beach this beach you will be able to find sea lions sunbathing, enjoy picturesque white sand beach in San Cristobal, return to hotel for accommodation.

## DAY 9: MONDAY - TRANSFER OUT (B)

We will have some leisure time in town to make some shopping, our guide will transfer you to the airport to take flight back to mainland Ecuador.

CATEGORY				SGL	DBL	TPL
<b>SUPPLEMENT FOR EXTENSION C 6D GALAPAGOS LOOP</b> (Santa Cruz- Floreana- Isabela)	STANDARD	Isla Azul	ONLY BREAKFAST	\$760	\$746	\$733
			HALF BOARD	\$780	\$767	\$753
		The Blue Marlin	FULL BOARD	\$847	\$833	\$820
	COMFORT	Isla Sol Interior	ONLY BREAKFAST	\$1.111	\$853	\$818
			HALF BOARD	\$1.132	\$874	\$839
		Casa Opuntia	FULL BOARD	\$1.178	\$920	\$885

#### **INCLUDED:**

- Transfer Airport – Hotel – Airport
- Accommodation in the selected hotel with breakfast
- Meals noted (as per the program – depending at the meal it can be at the hotel, onboard or at local restaurant)
- Excursions mentioned in the itinerary (SIB)
- Bilingual Naturalist Guide in all Excursions
- Private sped boat for the passengers
- Snorkeling equipment
- Contribution to the local community

#### **NOT INCLUDED:**

- Airfare to/from Galapagos
- Entrance fee to the Galapagos National Park (US\$ 100 per person )
- Galapagos Migration Card (US\$ 20 per person)
- Optional excursions as supplement
- Drinks and not mentioned meals
- Tips (it is not mandatory)
- Extra expenses

#### **Optional flights**

##### **AME**

GYE GPS GYE \$466.31

EQ 191 Q 17SEP 7 GYEGPS DK1 0810 0900

EQ 192 Q 22SEP 5 GPSGYE DK1 1230 1520

GYE GPS UIO \$468.59

EQ 191 N 17SEP 7 GYEGPS DK1 0810 0900

EQ 192 N 22SEP 5 GPSUIO DK1 1230 1650

##### **AVIANCA**

GYE GPS GYE \$495.90

AV1632 Q 17SEP 7 GYEGPS DK1 0850 0945

AV1633 Q 22SEP 5 GPSGYE DK1 1005 1255

GYE GPS UIO \$500.49

AV1632 Q 17SEP 7 GYEGPS DK1 0850 0945

AV1685 Q 22SEP 5 GPSUIO DK1 1335 1640





LAN

GYEGPSGYE \$511.34

XL1411 V 17SEP 7 GYEGPS DK1 1105 1205

XL1414 V 22SEP 5 GPSGYE DK1 1025 1320

GYEGPSUIO \$529.56

XL1411 V 17SEP 7 GYEGPS DK1 1105 1205

XL1414 V 22SEP 5 GPSUIO DK1 1025 1455

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## WHAT TO BRING

- National Identity Card or Passport
- Sunscreen Lotion.
- Warm Jacket or Sweater for evening
- Light Clothes for morning
- Sport and comfortable footwear
- Hat or Cap
- Sunglasses
- Binoculars
- Cash (American Dollars)
- Personal belongings and any medicine you may need
- Raingear or Umbrella
- Camera with large storage memory and extra batteries

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is a limit per person of 20 kilograms to check in the aircraft plus a carry on. If you have excess weight to check in, it will be charged to you directly by the airline.



## GALAPAGOS WHAT TO BRING

- Sunscreen Lotion.
- Hat or Cap
- Insect Repellent
- Sunglasses
- Binoculars
- Cash (American Dollars)
- Personal belongings and any medicine you may need
- Small Day Pack for Excursions.
- Swimsuit
- Sport and comfortable footwear for trekking and wet landing
- Wetsuit (optional or you can rent)
- Snorkel, mask and fins (optional or you can rent)
- Raingear (for the rainy season).
- Shorts
- T-shirts

**PLEASE NOTE:** There is a limit per person of 20 kilograms to check in the aircraft plus a carry on. If you have excess weight to check in, it will be charged to you directly by the airline.



# RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING TRAVEL TO THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

## **TIME DIFFERENCE**

The time in Galapagos is six hours earlier than Europe and one hour earlier than the Ecuadorian mainland (GMT, -6).

## **DOCUMENTS**

Every tourist must travel with his/her original passport to Galapagos. In order for us to organize your trip, please send us the following information which is of utmost importance: your passport number, nationality, date of birth, full name and any special requirements. This information must be provided when you confirm your reservation.

## **WEATHER**

The Galapagos Islands are cool from June to November and hot from December to May. The temperature varies between 18 °C and 35 °C.

## **TAXES**

Tourists are required to pay three types of taxes: the Galapagos National Park charges \$80 and the Municipality charges \$20. Children pay half the adult rate. The transit control card costs \$10. There are no discounts for students, children or senior citizens. Tourists traveling from a country that is a member of the Andean Pact pay a special rate. Taxes are subject to change without previous notice and function according to national and local governmental regulations. The dock tax is \$5 on Isabela Island, and the airport tax is \$15 for flights between islands. Please reconfirm this information with our office before starting your trip.

## **AIRPORTS**

There are two intercontinental airports: one is on Baltra Island and the other is on San Cristobal Island and is also known as the Baquerizo Moreno Port. At this time, Geo Reisen operates from both airports. On Isabela Island there is a landing area available only to interisland flights for small planes.}

## **FLIGHTS**

The fastest way to reach the Islands is by air. TAME, AEROGAL and LAN are the airlines that fly to the Galapagos Islands. At present, there are several flights a day to the Islands. EMETEBE is another company that fly's between Baltra, San Cristobal and Isabela. This company is not an airline – it is an office that sells seats to individual passengers and charter flights in small planes (9 passenger limit) but does not guarantee service. It is possible to fly with SAEREO Company only with charters.





### **BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE**

In regard to luggage, airline regulations recommend traveling with a suitcase having a maximum weight of 20 kg. Plus one small lightweight carry-on bag (8kg). Trading boats (dock-to-dock) accept one 40-lb. suitcase plus one carry-on bag, and inter-island flights accept 20 lbs. plus a small carry-on bag.

### **WHAT TO TAKE ALONG:**

Remember that the Galapagos Islands are out of the mainland and include a number of very interesting activities such as walking, swimming, and snorkeling. Consequently, we recommend taking comfortable lightweight informal clothing appropriate for changes in the weather. We also suggest taking a bathing suit, T-shirts, shorts, sunglasses, hat or cap, insect repellent, sun block, sport shoes good for walking over lava and rocky surfaces, and sandals for walking in water. For the cool months, a water repellent jacket or poncho and lightweight pants (not jeans are essential)