

GALAPAGOS ISLAND HOPPING



30 WILDLAND
WILD YEARS ADVENTURES

Itinerary Overview

Combine a stay on two the most popular islands in the Galapagos with a stay at two of the most comfortable lodges in the archipelago. Your introduction to the Galapagos is Scalesia Lodge, with unique tented accommodations in the verdant highlands of giant Isabela Island, one of the youngest, and most geothermically active islands in the Galapagos. Pair with a stay at award-winning Finch Bay EcoHotel, perfectly located on a powder-white beach and sparkling Academy Bay on beautiful Santa Cruz Island. A broad selection of activities, visits to neighboring islands and sites await guests, along with exceptional naturalist guided tours that give each visitor a wide look at what the islands offer and what makes each so unique. These highly trained guides accompany you on each activity, giving a deeper understanding of why these islands remain one of the greatest destinations for wildlife enthusiasts throughout the world.

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTELS	MEALS	HIGHLIGHTS
1	QUITO	Patio Andaluz		Arrive to Quito, transfer to hotel
2	QUITO	Patio Andaluz	BL	Quito City Tour and Mitad del Mundo Equatorial Monument
3	ISABELA ISLAND	Scalesia Lodge	BLD	Fly to Baltra airport, connect to Isabela Island
4	ISABELA ISLAND	Scalesia Lodge	BLD	Sierra Negra Volcano, Tintoreras Islets, wetlands, or historic Wall of Tears
5	ISABELA ISLAND	Scalesia Lodge	BLD	Sierra Negra Volcano, Tintoreras Islets, wetlands, or historic Wall of Tears
6	SANTA CRUZ ISLAND	Finch Bay	BL	Flight to Santa Cruz Island, Los Gamelos, giant tortoise reserve
7	SANTA CRUZ ISLAND	Finch Bay	BL	Tortuga Bay, Charles Darwin Research Station
8	SANTA CRUZ ISLAND	Finch Bay	BL	Bartolome, South Plazas, North Seymour, or Santa Fe
9	SANTA CRUZ ISLAND	Finch Bay	BL	Bartolome, South Plazas, North Seymour, or Santa Fe
10	DEPARTURE		B	Transfer and flight to Quito, international departure

Itinerary in Detail

DAY 1: ARRIVE QUITO

Arrive in Quito and transfer to Patio Andaluz, a beautifully refurbished colonial mansion in the heart of the historic center. Overnight at **Patio Andaluz**.

DAY 2: QUITO CITY TOUR & MITAD DEL MUNDO

Begin your Ecuador vacation with a tour of colonial Quito, including the bustling Independence Plaza, the dazzling gold-leafed altars of La Compania Church, and the impressive San Francisco Church. Visit the Mitad del Mundo Equatorial marker and ethnographic village and museum for a fun and informative examination of the curiosities of life on the Equator. Enjoy lunch al fresco at a lively café in the colonial square. Overnight at **Patio Andaluz**. [BL]



DAY 3: ISABELA ISLAND & GIANT TORTOISES

Private transfer in the morning to the domestic airport for the flight to the Galapagos island of Baltra. From here, connect to your inter-island flight to Puerto Villamil on Isabela Island. Meet your guide at the airport and transfer to the beautiful highlands of Isabela for check-in at your hotel and lunch. Head out for your first afternoon of discovery, wetland lagoons, and a giant tortoise breeding center. Finish the day with a walk along the beach of Puerto Villamil, often considered the most beautiful site in the Galapagos, largely due to the expansive, palm-tree lined white coral beach stretching the length of the town and beyond. This is the perfect spot for viewing seabirds, iguanas, and many species of crabs. A visit to the town jetty will often turn up Galapagos penguins and blue-footed boobies as well. Just behind the settlement, brackish lagoons are home to brilliant pink flamingos, common stilts, whimbrels, white cheeked pintails, and gallinules to name only a few. Return to the Lodge for dinner. Overnight at **Scalesia Lodge**. [BLD]



DAYS 4-5: ISABELA ISLAND

The next two days are spent exploring Isabela Island, where the day of the week will determine 2 of 3 possible outings:

- The heights of Sierra Negra Volcano, considered the oldest and largest volcano on Isabela. A walk along the immense caldera rim allows visitors to see the geological evidence of recent eruptions (the last in 2005) and resulting formations. Keep an eye peeled for the vermilion flycatcher, Galapagos martins, whimbrels, egrets, Galapagos Hawks and possibly the dark-billed cuckoo. While a snack is packed for the hike, lunch will be taken at the Lodge. This is followed by beach time!
- A visit to El Muro de las Lagrimas (Wall of Tears), a rare combination of human and natural history in the Islands. A beautiful coastal trail combines two segments: Mangroves and brackish lagoons filled with wildlife such as brilliant flamingoes and waterbirds. Weaving through a fragrant Palo Santo forest, you arrive at the large wall of lava rock built by prisoners of a former penal colony on Isabela. Expect to see coastal Darwin finches, Galapagos doves, stilts, ducks, herons, and giant tortoises. Following lunch at Scalesia, a sunset walk takes us through the coastal wetlands of Isabela.



- Time may be spent snorkeling at Islet Tintoreras, named for a mesmerizing maze of reefs and islets, the large crevice with very clear, calm water in which white-tip sharks known as “tintoreras” come daily to rest on the bottom. You also observe penguins, sea lions, and marine iguanas and even snorkel with sharks as well as other colorful tropical fish. Overnight at **Scalesia Lodge**. [BLD]

DAY 6: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Return to the airport for the brief return flight to Baltra. Meet your guide for transfer across Itabaca Channel to the island of Santa Cruz, continuing into the highlands and walk to Los Gamelos, a natural volcanic formation, surrounded by a lush forest home of the brilliant vermilion flycatcher. After exploring a labyrinth of lava tunnels, you continue to the Galapagos tortoise reserve, a fantastic meeting of these giants in their natural habitat. Following lunch in the highlands, you make your way down to Academy Bay and to Finch Bay EcoHotel, located in a pedestrian-only neighborhood of Punta Estrada. Check-in and enjoy the pool or a walk along the beach. Dinner is on your own, enjoy the hotel’s own well-regarded restaurant or hop a water taxi for the quick ride across Academy Bay to Puerto Ayora and its many restaurants. Overnight at **Finch Bay EcoHotel**. [BL]

DAY 7: TORTUGA BAY

Depending on scheduling, today’s explorations will be to wildlife-rich Tortuga Bay, often remarked to be Ecuador’s most spectacular beach. The walk to the Bay, approximately one hour from the main town of Puerto Ayora, allows guests to understand the transition zones of the island. The path to the beach is excellent for spotting some of the iconic birds of the Galapagos Islands, including many of Darwin’s finches. The sparkling white sand beach here is home to the sea turtles who flock here to nest and lay their eggs. You may also observe pelicans, brilliant flamingos, and marine iguanas, as well as the ubiquitous and playful Galapagos sea lions. Swimming and snorkeling are excellent here. Be sure to bring sunscreen!



Following lunch at Finch Bay, you set off to the Charles Darwin Research Station, the headquarters for scientific research in the Galápagos Archipelago, and the site of critical conservation projects including the rearing program for endangered giant tortoises and land iguanas. The grounds of the Research Station are also a great site for birding since they provide the perfect habitat for several species of land birds in the midst of a fantastic deciduous forest and giant prickly pear cactus. Overnight at **Finch Bay EcoHotel**. [BL]

DAY 8: DAY TRIP TO SOUTH PLAZA, NORTH SEYMOUR, BARTOLOME OR SANTA FE

One of the smallest yet richest islands in the archipelago, South Plaza is a geological laboratory. Only 130 meters wide (426 feet), it was formed from uplifted seabed, giving it a tilted tabletop quality. The turquoise waters of the channel contrast brilliantly with the black lava of the shoreline, with rocks grown thick with green seaweed in places, speckled with bright orange “Sally light foot” crabs. Further up the shore a carpet of scarlet ice plant (Sesuvium) serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus. Yellow-gray land iguanas sit beneath, waiting patiently for pears to drop. The trail gradually follows the tilt of the island to the cliffs that overlook the ocean to the south, where swallow-tailed gulls nest. Red-billed tropic birds, Nazca and blue-footed boobies ride the windy currents. The overlook is a great place for spotting large marine life, including manta rays. Surf pounds an inlet at the western corner of the island, where a colony of male sea lions makes their home at what is referred to as a bachelor’s site. Overnight at **Finch Bay EcoHotel**. [BL]



DAY 9: DAY TRIP TO SOUTH PLAZA, NORTH SEYMOUR, BARTOLOME OR SANTA FE

Visiting Bartolome is reminiscent of walking on the moon. While inhospitable to most plants and animals, this young island is breathtaking in its stark beauty. After a dry landing, climb 30 minutes up stairs leading to the summit of a once active volcano. Along the way, you pause to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones, and cinder cones. From the top of the wooden stairs, gaze out across the island for a panoramic view of the island and iconic "Pinnacle Rock", an eroded tuff cone. Down below, crystal clear water is an invitation to snorkel from the beach or Zodiac with schools of tropical fish and Galapagos Penguins, tiny feathered torpedoes which flash by your mask in pursuit of prey. Overnight at **Finch Bay**

EcoHotel. [BL]

DAY 10: RETURN TO QUITO / INTERNATIONAL DEPARTURE

After breakfast and check-out, transfer to the Baltra airport for your return to Quito. Remain at the airport for international departures later this evening. **[B]**

END OF SERVICES

Actual routes, islands visited, scheduling and activities will vary, depending on when you begin your trip. Local trip coordinators reserve the right to change accommodations and activities to similar quality alternatives.

For 2018 Prices, [Click Here](#)

For 2018 Departures, [Click Here](#)

INCLUDED SERVICES

- All guided tours and excursions
- English-speaking certified naturalist guides
- Rain ponchos, rubber boots and trekking poles on Isabela / Snorkeling gear at Finch Bay
- Airport-hotel transfers, land and sea transportation
- 9 nights accommodation as indicated
- Meals as indicated [B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner]
- Wildland Adventures travel consultation and pre-departure services

NOT INCLUDED SERVICES

- International airfare
- Galapagos National Park fee – \$100 per person payable upon arrival to the Baltra Airport
- INGALA Ecuadorian transit fee - \$20 per person, payable at the Quito Airport
- Entrance fee to Puerto Villamil, Isabela – \$10 per person, payable at the Isabela airport upon arrival
- Tips and gratuities
- Drinks, alcoholic beverages, and meals other than listed above
- Personal expenses for extra services, optional activities, or changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control
- Travel insurance for trip cancellation, medical services, or evacuation
- Any other items not mentioned above

Accommodations



located nearby.

PATIO ANDALUZ, QUITO (OR SIMILAR)

Situated in the heart of Quito's colonial center, Patio Andaluz holds centuries of Ecuadorian history within its elegant walls. With a maximum capacity of 63 guests, the hotel retains an intimate atmosphere coupled with impeccable service and modern amenities. This lovely hotel provides 21 standard rooms and 11 suites all with luxury toiletries, hair dryers and in-room safes. The on-site restaurant, El Rincón de Cantuña, specializes in national and Spanish cuisine and classic international dishes. Enjoy your Ecuador holidays at the tapas bar, artisan shop or library as well. All of Quito's most popular highlights, including Independence Square, the Cathedral, and Carondelet Palace, are conveniently



SCALESIA LODGE - ISABELA HIGHLANDS

Located in the lush highlands of Isabela Island, this hideaway offers a serene atmosphere and spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and Isabela's rugged coastline. The lodge offers three inviting social areas for relaxation and getting to know your fellow guests, 16 comfortable and spacious (570 sq ft) luxury tents with private baths and veranda. Expert naturalist guides lead daily excursions throughout Isabela Island, and during your independent hours, the lodge offers optional mountain biking, kayaking, SCUBA, and surfing.



FINCH BAY ECO-HOTEL

Nestled on a point across Academy Bay from the bustling town of Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island, Finch Bay offers the best of all worlds. Enjoy peace and tranquility in this secluded setting, or hop a convenient water taxi for the 7 minute ride across the Bay to do some shopping at Puerto Ayora's many galleries and stores. You are just steps away from the Hotel's sparkling pool, or a few meters from the beautiful white sand beach. Join Finch Bay's excellent naturalist guides for day excursions to neighboring islands. Optional activities include mountain biking, SCUBA, kayaking and snorkeling.

THINGS TO KNOW

- Luggage weight restrictions apply to the internal island flights on EMTEBE between Baltra and Isabela. While mainland-to-Galapagos weight limits are 50lbs check-in and 17lbs carry-on, the EMETEBE flight limits are 20lbs for checked bags (the airline will allow an additional 5lbs @ \$2 per pound), 5lbs for carry-on
- It is possible to leave additional luggage with Finch Bay staff at the Baltra Airport before making your connections to Isabela. The luggage will be waiting for you upon your return on **Day 6**

NOTE: Please note that due to weather conditions, vessel operation, and Galapagos Park management, **cruise itineraries are subject to change**. All yacht operators reserve the right to change vessels prior to departure due to maintenance or replacement. On very rare occasions when this occurs passengers will be transferred to another vessel and cabin of comparable or better class (comfort, services, amenities, equipment, etc.) at no extra charge.

Booking your Wildland Adventure

HOW TO RESERVE A TRIP

You can book online using our [Reserve a Trip form](#) or by calling 1-800-345-4453. Your space on a trip is confirmed once we receive your reservation form and initial trip deposit. All travelers must sign and submit a [Release of Liability](#).

Deposit requirements are as follows:*

- 35% of your Galapagos package cost. This deposit is non-refundable.

*Some trips require additional non-refundable deposits, especially when yachts have been chartered, or if permits to visit archaeological or wildlife sites have been purchased in advance.

CUSTOM TRAVEL

This trip isn't exactly what you're looking for? We are happy to design a private custom itinerary to accommodate your travel dates, interests and style of accommodations. Call us at 1-800-345-4453, send an email to info@wildland.com, or use the Ask The Program Director button on our website.

PAYMENTS, CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Full payment of the trip balance is due 90 days prior to departure. If you must cancel before departure, money will be returned less the cancellation fees charged by WA Inc. plus any additional non-refundable cancellation fees and payments already advanced to airlines, hotels and local operators:

Wildland Adventures Cancellation Fees:

<u>Days Prior to Departure</u>	<u>Fee</u>
61 or more	Initial deposit amount
31-60 days	50% of costs
30 or less	100% of costs

No partial refunds are possible for any unused portion of your trip. Penalties on airline tickets are subject to the individual air carrier's rules and regulations. Departure is defined as the date of the first flight, or the trip departure date as indicated on our *Trip Schedule*, whichever comes first. Cancellation fees are based on the date your written notification is received at WA Inc.

PRE-DEPARTURE SERVICES

Upon receipt of your deposit and completed reservation form, we will send you a comprehensive Pre-departure Dossier. This contains important information to help you prepare including immunizations, visas, trip insurance, packing checklist, reading list, maps, cross-cultural information, optional trip extensions and more. You will receive a final trip packet including Final Reminders and local contact information in your destination 2-3 weeks prior to departure.

REFERENCES AND QUESTIONS

Have any questions or concerns? Call us a 1-800-345-4453 or email info@wildland.com. We're here to help and are happy to provide you with references from previous Wildland travelers.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Wildland Adventures, Inc. has arranged your trip utilizing the travel services of local in-country ground operators who are independent contractors. These local outfitters, lodges, hotels and other suppliers of your travel services will make every effort to conduct this trip as described in the itinerary. It is however possible that due to transportation schedule changes, weather, delays and unforeseeable acts of God, humans or nature, this itinerary may vary from what is described. Participants must assume all risks whether identified in advance or unforeseen. All optional activities are at your own risk. Extra costs due to unexpected changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control are not included. We highly recommend purchasing traveler's insurance for trip delay, trip cancellation, baggage, accident or sickness. Representatives are available for assistance at any time during your trip. If preferred hotels are not available, every attempt will be made to reserve alternative accommodations of similar quality. (If upgrade is necessary, higher rates may apply.) All information and services provided are subject to our [Terms and Conditions](#).