



GUEST
HANDBOOK

Galápagos, the Enchanted Islands

M/V Santa Cruz

M/V Santa Cruz

Guest Handbook

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Welcome aboard!



Metropolitan Touring has the pleasure of welcoming you to one of the most extraordinary places in the world: the Galápagos Islands. We believe that destinations like these islands should be stimulating, worth admiring, and life enriching. Since 1953, we are committed to provide you with a new way of discovering Ecuador, a way that allows you to feel a destination closer and right at your fingertips. Over time, we have designed and improved our services, and will continue to do so, as part of our leadership in the discovery business.

The staff of the *M/V Santa Cruz* will do their utmost to make your voyage safe, educational, and comfortable. Their training and years of experience will be a welcome addition to the success of your adventure. For this, we have migrated from the cruise concept, and ventured in the real discovery of this magical place; that is the Expedition approach. During our voyage, the protection of both, the islands' wildlife and its landscapes, will deserve first priority, as part of our commitment to the preservation of this heritage, but of course, we will devote our efforts to provide you with an out of the ordinary expedition.

Use this Expedition Handbook as an introduction to our philosophy, services, and amenities. Then, feel free to take it home with you as a memento of your visit to this enchanted land. We invite you to discover these islands next to a wonderful group of fellow guests, and together with the most professional crew.

Fair winds, fair weather,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roque Sevilla'.

Roque Sevilla

Chairman

Metropolitan Touring

Natural History of the Galápagos Islands

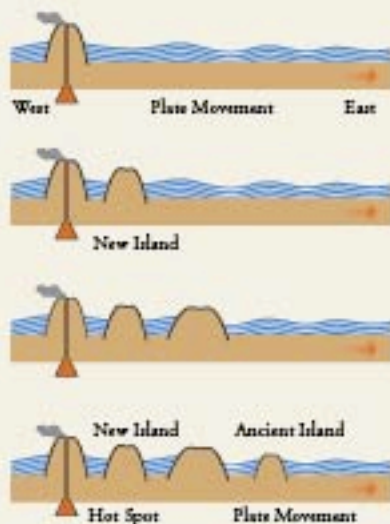
General Introduction and Environmental Setting

The Galápagos Archipelago is a volcanic group of islands that lies in the East Pacific Ocean, and includes thirteen major islands (larger than 10Km²), six smaller islands, forty islets and some two hundred rocks. The islands are well isolated from the mainland; the closest distance to a continent (South America) is about 1,000 Km (612 miles). About 97% of the islands' land area (8,000 Km²) comprise the Galápagos National Park, which is surrounded by a Marine Reserve that covers a vast area of 45,000 Km². The Galápagos Marine Resources Reserve is the world's second largest, after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and the largest reserve in America.

Geology

The volcanic set up of the Galápagos can be explained by looking at the theories of Plate Tectonics and the Hot Spot. The platform where the islands started their volcanic growth lies right on top of the Nazca Plate. This plate, neighbors with the Cocos and Pacific Plates, moves towards the South American continent at a rate (call it island speed) of about 7 cm/year, "carrying" the islands on top.

Underneath certain plates there are concentrations of molten rock, called Hot Spots. These spots allow the liquid rock (magma) to percolate towards the plate filling up all cracks, crevices and in some cases reaching from below the bottom of the ocean, and eventually breaking the surface of the water. These forces create islands in the middle of the ocean, as is the case of Iceland, Azores, Canary, and the closest example, Hawaii.



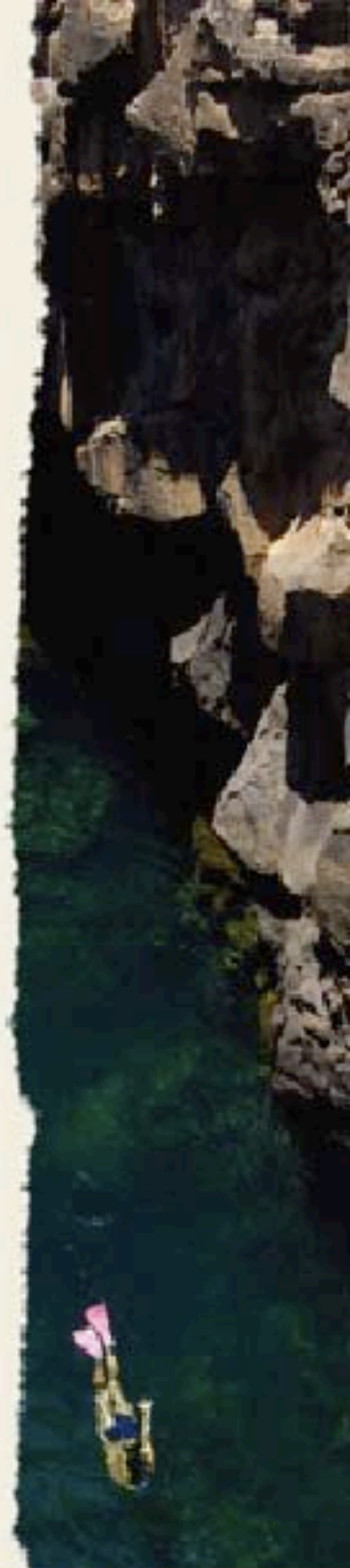
As the plates move in one direction, and over time, a chain of islands will be formed. These islands will all be different from each other in terms of age, altitude, and other physical factors like erosion, colonization, etc. In Galápagos, the islands to the east are older than those to the west; this implies that the Galápagos Hot Spot is right under Isabela and Fernandina, the westernmost islands. As you visit the islands, you will notice how different landscapes are, and more so if you see the opposite islands from east to west. The islands continue on being active, and any new eruptions, will occur most likely in the west of the archipelago.

The ages of the varied islands differ a lot; Española (Hood), Santa Fe (Barrington) and Floreana (Charles) belong to the group of older islands with ages that range 4-5 million years. Islands within the middle range date anywhere between 2-3 million years, like Santiago (James), Santa Cruz (Indefatigable) and Bartolomé. To the west, we find the youngest rocks on both Isabela (Albermarle) and Fernandina (Narborough); these barely reach a million years. The most recent volcanic activity took place on Isabela Island in July 2008. Constant seismic activity and fumaroles are signs of ongoing volcanic processes.

Oceanography and Weather

Marine Currents

The islands are located right in tropical latitudes, and are bathed by a group of ocean currents that are not tropical by design. The movement of these currents along the year is what drives our weather pattern. Since wildlife follows such changes for their reproductive affairs, at each species convenience, there is activity all year round. Therefore, no matter when you come to the islands, natural changes and adaptations are always happening. The cool masses of water carry a nutrient-rich content that provides abundant food for all sea birds, propitiating a condition that activates their readiness to continue their legacy through reproduction. The pattern is rather logical: reproduce when conditions are optimum.





1. Panama (El Niño) Flow
2. North Equatorial Countercurrent
3. South Equatorial Current
4. Equatorial (Cromwell) Countercurrent
5. Peru Coastal (Humboldt Current).

Understanding the connection between the local weather and animal and plant life, is a key to appreciate more this unique land. The south-east trade winds drive along the southwestern coast of South America, pushing the cold and nutrient-laden water from temperate to subtropical and tropical latitudes. This is the Peru Coastal Current (also known as the Humboldt Current), which about 10° south of the equator shifts direction towards the west, mixes up with few other masses of water that come from the north, and forms the South Equatorial Current. This impressive body of water reaching equatorial latitudes has one non-tropical condition: it is not tropical in temperature. There is another current, a submarine one. As it moves in opposite direction – from west to east- quite deep in the equatorial waters, it finds a giant obstacle, called the Galápagos platform. As this abrupt encounter happens, water of very cool temperatures is rapidly forced upward to the surface. This phenomenon, called upwelling, gives the western islands, and some of the central ones, a very different environmental setting than the rest of the islands. This current is called Cromwell Current.

When the south east trade winds reduce speed and force, all the warmer waters from the Gulf of Panama and Central America, flow southward and eventually bathe the islands. These waters are far more tropical than its counterpart, and have a high rate of evaporation, forming beautiful gigantic cumulus clouds in the sky. These clouds provide most of the rain the islands get (scarce rainfall from drizzles occur in the cool season). All animal and plant life faces these changes, and must cope with them in order to survive this ever-changing environment. These unique conditions explain the presence of both, temperate and tropical weather species: sea lions and tropical fish, albatrosses and land iguanas, and a most bizarre example, penguins and flamingos; opposite by weather design, yet sharing the Galápagos environment.



Climate

The weather seasons of the Galápagos Islands are set and defined entirely by the arrival or departure of the currents that surround them. The Hot Season starts in December and gradually works its way until May. Here, conditions are really tropical, as the waters from the Panama Current bathe the islands. Seas are generally calm, and occasional tropical showers are expected to take place, turning the islands green and lush. Temperatures are hot and humid and range anywhere from 26°C-30°C (79°F-85°F), while that of the water marks a balmy average of 26°C (79°F). This is the time when swimmers and snorkelers will experience a true tropical environment. Days are sunny and warm.

From June to November, a desert spreads gradually in this tropical paradise. As the southeast trade winds push the cooler water, evaporation decreases and this forms a thin layer of clouds that throughout the day opens and closes. This is known as the Dry Season, and it is here when the seas will show more wave action due to the strong prevailing winds. The fact that there is hardly any rain, has given the islands the category of one of the driest places in the tropics. Sea temperatures drop to 19°C-23°C (67°F-72°F), cooling the air temperatures to 23°C-26°C (72°F-79°F). The use of a short wet suit is recommended.

Regarding Galápagos weather, one thing is for sure: there is no bad weather ever. Many of our guests, who plan to return to the islands, should know that our advice is to do so at a different time of the year than your first voyage. Then you will see the islands from another perspective that will bring many more enchanting surprises.

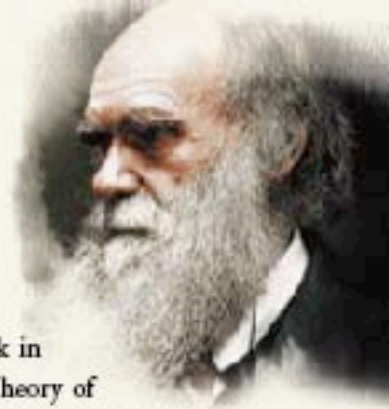


Galápagos Weather Oddities In The Tropics

	max. air temp.		min. air temp.		hrs. clear skies	sea temp.		wind -(1-10)+	navigation -(1-10)+
	°C	°F	°C	°F		°C	°F		
January	28.0	82.4	22.8	73.0	5.3	24.4	75.9	3	2
February	29.6	85.2	23.2	73.7	7.5	25.2	77.3	2	1
March	30.6	87.0	22.7	72.8	6.0	24.9	76.8	1	1
April	29.5	85.1	22.7	72.8	7.5	25.0	77.0	2	1
May	27.9	82.2	22.1	71.7	5.2	24.5	76.1	3	2
June	26.0	78.8	19.1	66.3	4.4	23.1	73.5	4	2
July	24.6	76.2	19.8	67.6	2.8	22.0	71.6	5	3
August	24.2	75.5	19.1	66.3	3.3	21.5	70.7	6	4
September	24.3	75.7	19.6	67.2	2.9	21.8	71.2	7	4
October	25.3	77.5	19.5	67.1	3.8	22.3	72.1	6	3
November	25.8	78.4	20.4	68.7	3.5	23.0	73.4	5	3
December	26.7	80.0	20.9	69.6	4.0	23.3	73.9	4	2

Arrival and Establishment

The Galápagos Islands are the summits of giant submarine volcanoes that four million years ago broke the surface and turned into islands. These types of new and barren outcrops became the potential hosts to anything that naturally travels, whether by air, wind, water, or attached to something else. Those "natural travelers" include spores, seeds, entire plants, animals, invertebrates, etc. The hardship of natural arrivals to the islands is understood as we figure how, ages ago, some species arrived and succeeded in settling in such harsh and barren environment. We will never know how many arrivals made it, and didn't succeed at establishing, but what we do know is that the ancestors of the species living here now, went through a double process of survival: one, its arrival, and second, its establishment.



Evolution

A voyage in the Galápagos Islands is like going back in time. The inspiration for the development of the Theory of Natural Selection, proposed by Charles Darwin in 1835, was in many places in the world, but none like the observations and conclusions stated by Darwin as the voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle continued. The young Naturalist was amazed by the fact that physical change went beyond erosion, earthquakes, and landslides; it could happen among living organisms. More so, such changes could produce more and more species.

A key factor in understanding island evolution is that isolation from the mainland prevents species from going back to their origins, besides; there is a great deal of inter-island isolation. The species that succeed in establishing, therefore, remain fixed to the islands' environmental forces, going through adaptations - and eventually mutations - across countless generations until becoming physiologically different, enough to develop into new species; these unique species are called endemic (found nowhere else on Earth). When Darwin saw these species, he was puzzled to notice resemblance with continental forms of the mainland, yet with striking differences: he was seeing something that was once a different species, and now a new species. It is not surprising that Charles Darwin was so impressed by the amount of diversity he encountered on this archipelago.



Evolutionary processes are found in species such as: Darwin's finches, the Galápagos mockingbirds, the giant tortoises, the flightless cormorants, the Galápagos penguins, cacti from the genus *Opuntia*, plants from the genus *Scalesia*, and more. These species are endemic to the islands; their uniqueness is expressed by the extraordinary features they developed over time. This is why it is properly said that the Galápagos Islands are the "living laboratory of evolution".

Feeding Ecology of Darwin's Finches



* Cocos Finch not included



Responsible Tourism

Metropolitan Touring constantly seeks to leave a positive environmental footprint in the communities it works with, as well as contributing to preserve the integrity of ecosystems. We motivate the company's clients, guests and staff on environmental awareness with practical actions that are tangible and quantifiable. Our environmental performance is aimed at enhancing the experiences of our guests and the daily work practices of our staff members, and to promote a full circle of environmental improvement, especially when these practices are taken to their homes.

Metropolitan Touring has incorporated an Environmental Policy to its company philosophy to be followed by staff members on their daily business and operational practices. It constitutes a set of practices that, over time, improves our environmental footprint. While we still have a lot to accomplish on the long road toward sustainability, we strongly believe that we are headed in the right direction. As a leader in the travel industry, this is where our Commitment starts.





Environmental Policy

At Metropolitan Touring we view the environment as “the relationship between human beings and their natural and cultural surroundings. It is everything around us, where we walk, what we see, what we breathe, where we live, and where we work.”

Metropolitan Touring applies administration practices, operations and technologies oriented to the reduction of environmental impact. The development of new products is based on sustainability principles, preservation and social support. Our team members are encouraged to apply best environmental practices, both at home and also at work. We continuously measure our environmental performance, and communicate our results.

In order to achieve our goals we:

- Promote among our employees a culture of learning and commitment to environmental issues that will also transcend to their daily lives.
- Reduce the use of non-renewable resources in all our operations, as well as solid waste and pollution.
- Execute programs and projects that provide support to social development and environmental protection in the areas where we operate.
- Motivate suppliers to develop sustainable environmental practices aligned to our environmental policy.
- Invest in specialized technology assuring the lowest levels of environmental impact.
- Optimize the use of the present to guarantee a better future.

Rules of the National Park

Our environmental policy, allow us to generate in our guests conscience towards protection of the ecosystems we visit. The M/V Santa Cruz expedition staff will motivate guests to follow the good environmental practices of our operation.

The Galápagos National Park Service regulates all visitor activities within the park's boundaries, including the vessels itineraries. Visits both within the National Park sites and the Marine Reserve, are led by licensed Naturalist Guides. By following these common-sense rules, you are directly contributing to the ongoing preservation efforts of local institutions. Take only photographs and wonderful memories; leave only footprints.

- Please stay on the trails.
- Please do not disturb any wildlife or remove any native plant or rock material.
- Please make sure you do not accidentally transport any live material to the islands, or from island to island. Insular ecosystems are fragile biological units.
- Please be cautious at approaching wildlife, and always follow your Naturalists' advice.
- Animals are not to be fed by humans. Particular attention should be given to water bottles.
- It is prohibited to bring food to the visitor's sites.
- Please do not startle or chase any animal from its resting or nesting area.
- Smoking is not allowed on the islands, nor is it in any boat (dinghy) during your visits. The use of cellular phones is prohibited on the visitor's sites.
- Please do not buy any souvenirs made from native Galápagos species (except for wood).
- Conservation is everyone's business. Please do not hesitate to show your conservationist attitude. Become a Galápagos supporter and ask us about our conservation programs that support sustainability on the islands.

Shipboard Information

Cabin Features

The M/V SANTA CRUZ has accommodations for 90 guests in 44 comfortable cabins, all of them with full private facilities, permanent hot and cold water; sufficient closet space and central control panel for room temperature, loud speaker volume and lights; all cabins are fully carpeted and air-conditioned throughout. The four public decks include spacious lounge-bar, library, and dining room with capacity for all guests in one seating, office and boutique, ample sun deck with a Jacuzzi, exercise equipment and observation deck.

Vessel Particulars

NAME	M/V Santa Cruz
CALL SIGN:	HCSZ
REGISTRY:	Guayaquil, Ecuador
NATIONALITY:	Ecuador
TYPE OF SHIP:	Expedition Passenger Ship
SHIP BUILT:	Bilbao, Spain, 1978
CONVERTED:	Takahuano, Chile, 1998
TECHNICAL MANAGERS:	Empresa Turística Internacional C.A. (E.T.I.C.A.) Calle Isla Santa Cruz No.103 y Av. de las Américas, Guayaquil, Ecuador
ENGINES:	Propulsion units: 2 SULZER Swiss engines of 1,620 BHP each.
COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS:	Inmarsat Std B
Satellite Phone:	(874) 373-505910
Satellite Fax:	(874) 373-505911
CLASS & REGULATIONS:	American Bureau of Shipping; A1 (E) passenger service + AMS; Certificate SOLAS 1960; Construction (SLC); Equipment (SLE) and Radio (SRL); IMCO 1973 for passenger ships that offer special services.
TONNAGE:	Gross 1,675
LANDING CRAFT:	6 Inflatable Boats, plus a Glass-Bottom Boat for underwater viewing.



Dimensions

Length Overall: 72.35 M
 Breadth: 11.85 M
 Maximum Draft: 3.7 M
 Cruising Speed: 13.0 Knots

Total Capacity

Guests: 90
 Naturalist Guides: 6 (Plus Expedition Leader)
 Crew: 60

Seating Capacity

Dining Room: 98
 Main Lounge: 92

Boat Deck

19 cabins in the Boat Deck,
 including 4 standard triple cabins
 1 single cabin
 2 Junior suites
 2 master suites

Upper Deck

12 cabins in the upper deck

Main Deck

13 cabins in the Main deck.



M/V Santa Cruz Facilities and Services

The following information is provided with the hope that it will answer many of your questions. However, always feel free to ask any officer, staff, or crew anything that will make your voyage more enjoyable.



Air Conditioning

Air temperature is controlled ship wide by the Engine Department. The control knob at the ceiling of your cabin regulates airflow only. If you need any further assistance please notify the Hotel Manager or staff at the reception desk.



Bar Hours

The ship's bar is open from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. and from 5:00 P.M. to midnight. All drinks, including those ordered in the dining room, are charged to each guest shipboard account.



Boots, Shoes and Walking Gear

The continuously changing Galápagos environment can bring at times adverse conditions to easy traveling. We may find rain, dirt, mud (mostly up in the highlands), water, sea lions droppings, etc, and we kindly request our visitors to properly clean all shoes before entering your cabin or any indoor public area. For your convenience, we have fresh-water hoses at the sun deck; you may rinse/clean your shoes with such. Remember, the islands are all volcanic in origin, and so their terrain is uneven. The kind of shoe attire for walking depends entirely on the day's activities. We always recommend for any walk, tennis shoes (good sole grip is important).



Bulletin Board

Digital screens as well as bulletin boards, conveniently located right before entering the Bar Lounge, next to the Reception and by the coffee station before entering the dining room contain the daily program, as well as natural history information regarding Galápagos subjects, announcements, and news.



Communications

Internet, WiFi wireless internet, telephone and fax services are available on board. During the welcome briefing, you will receive information about these services. Charges will be added to your shipboard account. Additionally, each cabin is equipped with a telephone unit that can be used to communicate with the entire world. There are two satellite-linked public pay phones (credit card use) by the Reception lounge in the Upper Deck.

For your entertainment, each cabin is provided with speakers for your portable media player (Ipod). Any questions you may have, please contact the Hotel manager.



Crew Areas

Areas that are for crew only (work areas and living quarters) are clearly posted. All other areas are open. The bridge has an open policy, and you are most welcome to visit, especially during navigation time.



Deck Chairs

Lazy Chairs and observation chairs are available in the Sun Deck. These are free of charge, and are not to be reserved by guests.



Dining Room

There will be open seating for all meals, with tables unassigned. Meal hours will vary depending of the program each day, and will be announced and posted daily on the digital screens and bulletin board. Guests are kindly requested to observe the established meal hours. There is just one seating service.

Breakfast and lunch are served buffet style, while dinner is served directly at your table by our waiters. Coffee, tea, snacks and cookies are always available in the counter at the Bar. If you have any special requirements regarding meals, please contact the Hotel Manager. Our meals always feature vegetarian options. Please note that the entire dining room is designated as a non-smoking area.



Dress Code

It is informal at all times. For dinner and evening programs, women will find casual outfits entirely suitable. Men will be comfortable in shirts and slacks. Please, no bathing suits or bare-feet in the dining room at any time. Also, guests are kindly requested not to enter the public areas or cabins with wet or dirty shoes.



Electrical Current

It is provided by 3 General Motors Generators of 320 KW each. The electrical outlets in the cabins are 110V. Outlets in the bathrooms are American-European type and the outlet in the cabin panel is American type (110 Volts). Guests are requested not to plug electrical equipment in other areas of the ship without consulting a ship's officer about the voltage of the outlets in public areas. Special outlets for 220V are located at the Reception area. If you need a hair dryer, please ask at the Reception.



Emergency Button

There is an emergency button in your cabin, above the P.A. and music system controls. Pressing the button signals an alarm on the bridge, whereupon a crew or staff member will immediately come to your cabin to assist. Please note this is not a room service button. **PLEASE USE IT FOR EMERGENCIES ONLY.**



Expedition Plan

Please remember that in remote areas or when weather conditions vary, the day's events and timing may be altered. Flexibility is a must and a benefit of being on a Metropolitan Touring Voyage. If plans must be changed, you will be notified via the public address (PA) system.

Every evening our team of Naturalists will inform you about the details of the next days' outings and activities. The official program will be also posted in the ship's digital screens and bulletin board.



Gift Shop

Our gift shop is located on the Upper Deck, next to the Reception. Opening hours of the boutique will be found posted on the bulletin board. All purchases are added to your shipboard account.



Guest Book

For an everlasting souvenir of your presence on board, kindly sign the Cruise Guest book which will be found in the lounge.



Housekeeping

We provide you with three full services per day. We tend to do all cabins while you are enjoying your outing, but if for some reason you decide to stay on board, we will not interrupt. Just let us have access at a later reasonable time.



Ice

You may request it at the Bar. For your convenience, an ice maker machine is also located on the Boat Deck at the midship staircase. Your cabin is provided with a pitcher and glasses.



Jacuzzi

For a nice relaxing time you can use this facility, located in our sun deck. Read the safety instructions, open from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M., and by request after dinner.



Keys

Metropolitan Touring does not issue keys to the cabins. For your convenience all cabins are equipped with a safe, located within the closet.



Landings

The shores of the islands, and the access to visiting sites, can have rocky surfaces or beaches. Landings may be dry or wet. Dry landings are easily performed, as we find a flat rocky surface for proper docking with our dinghies, or sometimes a real pier as a landing place. When a beach is the only way of accessing a visitor site, we have to perform a wet landing. These are also quite simple, since you just remove your shoes & socks, proceed to the front of the boat, and while swinging your legs out, you gently wet yourself no higher than knee level. Afterwards, dry your feet, put your shoes on, and you're ready to go. Since you will leave your towel at the beach, please remember to bring it back on board. From time to time, we may find rougher swells than the usual ones, and so the wet landing may require extra caution. At any landing, however, follow the instructions of the staff in charge.



Luggage Storage

Your cabin has been designed so that luggage may be stored under your bed. There is sufficient space in each cabin to hang and store clothing. Over sized luggage may be accommodated in other areas of the ship. Please inquire at the Reception.



Mail

Mailing postcards is possible in Galápagos (Santa Cruz Island, Baltra Island and San Cristóbal Island). The Ecuadorian postal service in the mainland, however, will be definitely faster. We are not responsible for postal delays incurred by the local postal system.



Medical Services

There is a physician on board who provides services free of charge, at any time, and who will gladly assist you, when the need comes. A medical form will be found in your cabin. Please fill it out as promptly as possible, and turn it in at the reception. At any point of the trip, if you need the services from our medical facility, please don't hesitate contacting the Hotel Manager or Host/ess for an appointment.



Natural History Library

Our Natural History Library is located on the Upper Deck, right next to the Bar. Please check with the naturalists for books to read during the voyage. After reading, guests are kindly requested to please return the books to the library. A wonderful selection of general subject books and natural history books are found, but for anything related to Natural History of Galápagos, please ask the Expedition Staff for advice. In the lounge you will also find a TV Set (NTSC system), where interesting documentaries, movies, etc. are shown.



Public Address:

All announcements can be heard on the public address system in your cabin.



Reception Desk

Hotel Manager has an office at the reception area. If there is an urgent matter, just notify any member of the staff or crew and they will be glad to assist you.



Ship's Staff

We are here to serve and help you. All officers, expedition staff and crew members will be happy to assist you in every possible way. Guests will be most closely associated with the Captain, Hotel Manager, Host/ess, Expedition leader, Naturalist Guides, Cabin Stewards, Dining Room Staff and Zodiac Operators.



Shipboard Charges and Gratuities

The official currency in Ecuador is the U.S. dollar. The "sign-in" system is used for all shipboard purchases such as gift shop items, alcoholic beverages, special medicines, internet, phone and fax. If you wish to leave a gratuity you may enclose cash or traveler's checks and deposit it in the gratuity box provided. Guidelines will be mentioned at the end of the voyage. Based on current market practices, our recommended gratuities per/guest - per/day are the following: Crew US\$ 10.00, Guide, US\$ 7.00 & Barman As per Bar consumption. Please note that shipboard expenses and gratuities may also be charged to American Express, Visa, or Mastercard. We regret that personal checks cannot be accepted.



Shower

The shower in your cabin is equipped with dual controls, for both hot and cold water. If you have any questions about the shower, please don't hesitate to ask the Hotel Manager. Since we convert salt water into fresh water (desalination), water conservation is always a concern of ours. It uses valuable natural resources. Whenever possible, please save water. Please make sure toilet paper and body-waste, are the ONLY items flushed.



At times, when flushing, you may notice a sudden drop in pressure; this happens when the majority of guests are using the facilities at the same time. Towels are changed according to our environmental policy: towels lying on the floor, will be the ones changed. Guests' attitude can be the most adequate contribution to the environment. We thank you for your cooperation.



Smoking Policy

For the consideration of non smoking fellow guests, please note that only the outside decks area smoking areas. All indoor areas, except the above mentioned, are non smoking. Thank you for your help. Please refrain from smoking on shore, in shore excursion vehicles and in Zodiacs

Please do not throw your cigarettes overboard, as it is a violation of international maritime pollution laws and they can easily be blown back onto the ship. There are ashtrays placed in specific exterior deck areas.



Special Beach Towels

Special Beach Towels will be found in your cabin. Please do not take other towels to the beach. Details will be explained during the informative welcome briefing.



Tax and Service Charge

Because the M/V Santa Cruz is an Ecuadorian flagged ship operating in Ecuadorian waters, it is subject to Ecuadorian tax laws. All purchases in the Gift Shop as well as Bar charges are subject to the 12% IVA or Impuesto Valor Agregado (Value Added Tax). Additionally, the law requires a 10% Service Charge on purchases of all beverages.



Water

We are self-supplied with water. Equipped with two reverse osmosis desalinating plants, we produce sufficient potable water for an ample daily consumption. You will find water bottles in your cabins, as well as a refilling station in the Bar.



Zodiacs

An asset to our operation in the Galápagos is our Zodiacs, recognized as the safest and most versatile small boats afloat. The Zodiacs we use are 19 1/2 feet long and powered by four-stroke outboard engines, and accommodates 16 guests plus crew.

Safety Management

Emergency Procedure on board of M/V Santa Cruz in the case of a general alarm

The GENERAL ALARM is the means used on board to inform all guests to evacuate immediately to the Assembly / Muster station and for the crew to assist to their designated drill areas. The signal or the GENERAL ALARM consists of seven short and one long blasts-rings given by the ship's whistle and alarm bells.

GENERAL ALARM: seven short blasts, then one long blast

If you hear this signal at any time during the voyage, you must go to your cabin, and bring the personal life jacket provided in your closet. Then we ask you to proceed quickly but calmly to your muster point in the Assembly/Muster station which is the Sun Deck (Outdoor Bar).

You will be kept well informed over the ship's P.A. system or via the officers and crew who will be stationed with VHF radios in all companionways and staircases to assist your exit. An emergency information panel is posted at the back of your cabin door; please read it carefully and memorize the quickest route to your muster station.

Within the first 24 hours of your stay on board, you will have a briefing, where you will learn about the safety procedures used on board; you are welcome to ask any questions.

Emergency procedures in the event of man overboard

IF YOU OBSERVE ANYONE FALL OVERBOARD, PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Throw him/her the closest lifebuoy, which can be found on the railings of all outer decks.
- Shout, "MAN OVERBOARD" and ask any other person in your vicinity to inform the Bridge of the incident, while you keep watch of the person in the water. This will help the recovery operation.

Ship's action

- The captain or officer in charge will immediately record the geographical coordinates by means of the GPS and alert the rescue boat crew. Additional lookouts will be posted to keep watch of the person in the water. If need be, lifebuoys with smoke and light signals will be dropped.
- A "Williamson Turn" will be initiated. This maneuver is designed to bring the vessel back onto the spot where the person fell. In the meantime the rescue boat will be prepared for launching.
- Once the turn has been completed, the rescue boat will be launched to proceed with the recovery operation.

If you fall overboard:

- Do not panic.
- Do not struggle and waste necessary energy. Try to conserve energy.
- Remain calm and look for the lifebuoy. Once sighted, swim slowly towards the closest lifebuoy.
- Pass the buoy over your shoulders - this will support your weight.
- Stay with the lifebuoy, as it is a reference point for the rescue boat; float with as little movement as possible. Keep your legs together and breathe easily.
- If you cannot find the lifebuoy, float as above but keep your elbows close to your side with your arms folded across your chest.
- Once located, do not swim toward the rescue boat. Remain calm and save your energy

If you fall overboard from an outing boat:

- Do not panic. Your life jacket will keep you afloat.
- Stay calm and stay where you are. Do not swim towards the Zodiac, let the driver maneuver to pick you up.
- The boat will move to a position upwind of you and drift towards you; as it gets close, grab a lifeline attached along the sides.
- Do not attempt to climb in yourself. You will be assisted into the zodiac.
- Never approach the Zodiac from the stern. This is to avoid serious injury from the propeller.



Guest Safety Guidelines for shore excursions

One of the primary objectives of your Metropolitan Touring Expedition in Galápagos Islands is to place guests ashore at locations that are normally accessible only by our small inflatable Zodiac boats and special landing techniques. Our well-trained crew members are extremely safety conscious, but need your cooperation for your personal safety; that is why it is important that you familiarize yourself with the following instructions.

By regulation, a disembarking lifejacket (different from the emergency lifejackets, which are more buoyant and weather resistant) is required to be worn by all guests and employees **AT ALL TIMES** while in a Zodiac. These lifejackets will be handed to guests right before disembarking.

You must always have both hands free for boarding and disembarking from the Zodiac boats. A backpack or fanny pack will prove helpful for carrying loose items. All hand held items must be handed to the crew members who will be on hand to assist you in stepping into and out of the Zodiacs. You may wish to place your camera in a plastic bag before placing it into your pack, to protect against getting wet.

Step into the boat quickly and carefully, and accept all assistance offered by crewmembers who are there to assist you. **DO NOT** hold a helper's hand; instead, grip each other by the forearm, which permits a firmer grip and leaves hands free in case of a slip. **NEVER** jump into a boat. Please remember to always take three steps: the platform, the pontoon and the extra step when entering and exiting the Zodiacs.

Remain seated in the boat until directed. Always hold the nearest grab line. When the Zodiac is tying up to the platform, please watch your hands and backs.

DO NOT step over the stern at the boat where the motor is mounted. Wave action may lift the boat and the motor may come down on your foot.



Please do not keep the boat waiting at the water's edge. The boat may be difficult to hold in position and you may delay other guests. When boarding a Zodiac from the beach, always remember to sit on the pontoon first, then swing your legs over the side, otherwise you may fall.

You are advised against walking ashore alone. In most areas, it is obligatory to remain with your group due to National Park rules. Always remain within the designated trails, both for your safety and the protection of the environment.

Please be punctual for boarding the boats to return to the ship. A delay in departure will result in reduced time at the next destination.

**YOUR COMPLIANCE WITH THESE
GUIDELINES WILL BE GREATLY
APPRECIATED, WE INVITE YOU TO DIRECT
ANY QUESTIONS TO THE SHIP'S OFFICERS,
CREW OR THE EXPEDITION STAFF.**

Snorkeling Activities

The three primary concerns of our snorkeling operation in order of importance are:

- 1) SAFETY
- 2) SENSITIVITY TO THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
- 3) EDUCATION AND INSPIRATION

Metropolitan Touring will always provide qualified staff for supervision, informative briefings, and recap interpretation. Masks, snorkels, fins and floatation devices will be available on the ship.

Guidelines for Snorkeling

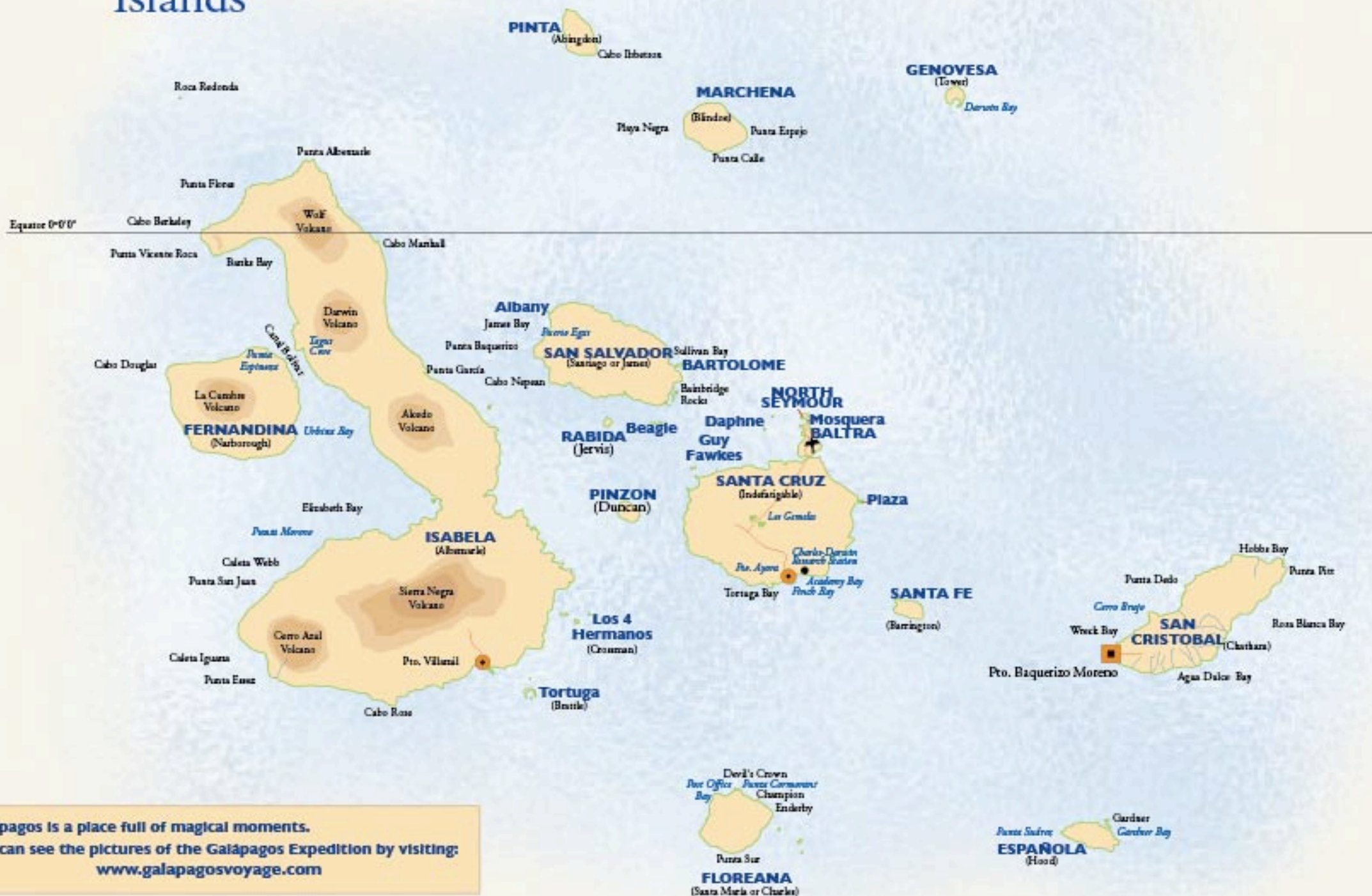
Anyone who wishes to participate in snorkeling must fill out a snorkeling release form. Please hand it to any Naturalist prior to snorkeling. No one shall be permitted to snorkel unless this requirement has been met.

The snorkeling outing may be cancelled or modify, taking safety conditions is consideration.

Procedures for boarding Zodiacs and transferring to the snorkeling site should be reviewed. Guests are advised to bring their own supply of water, sunscreen, a hat, and a shirt to warm up after snorkeling. We kindly ask snorkelers to rinse off their equipment before returning to the ship.

Once at the site, the lifejackets may be removed. Inexperienced snorkelers are encouraged to wear the inflatable buoyancy aids, which will be provided on board the ship.

The Galápagos Islands



Galápagos is a place full of magical moments.
 You can see the pictures of the Galápagos Expedition by visiting:
www.galapagosvoyage.com



SAFE SNORKELING PRACTICES

- Before jumping into the water, please make sure there are no snorkelers in your way.
- At times, currents can be very strong, so listen to instructions about local conditions. A Zodiac will always follow along with the group of snorkelers.
- If you swim or snorkel from the shore or from a Zodiac be very careful around the rocks. Never stand on the rocks as this might be hazardous to you or to the environment.
- When you are ready to board the Zodiacs from the water, signal to the driver to pick you up. Only approach the Zodiacs if you are sure the driver has seen you and never approach from the rear.
- Please leave nature in its place. Do not pick up anything; some species of invertebrates can sting badly. National Park rules about touching flora and fauna and collecting items also apply in the water.
- The sun can be very harmful. It is a good idea to wear a t-shirt when swimming or snorkeling. Personal limitations are something everyone should be aware of. If you are feeling tired and cold it is advisable to rest up and then try again when recovered.
- Most damage to corals and marine life is inadvertent, caused by ignorance or inexperience. Please be extra cautious about hitting things with your fins, avoid standing on rocky bottoms and avoid stirring up silt, which also kills filter-feeding animals.

SNORKEL EQUIPMENT

- Snorkeling with a buoyancy aid is encouraged and recommended for the inexperienced.
- Mask, snorkels, and fins for your use are carried on board. However, if you have your own equipment and are happy with the fit, it would be a good idea to use your own.
- The water can be chilly; if you brought a wet suit you may want to use it. (June-November)
- Keep the equipment in your cabin for the entire expedition. Please note that mesh bags have a tag with a number. Remember it for proper identification of equipment.
- A crew member will receive you on the loading platform with a hose to rinse your feet upon returning to the ship, after beach activities. Equipment should be returned to the ship after your last snorkeling day. A convenient time will be announced accordingly.



Outings and Activities

Expedition leader

The person, who is in charge of planning all guest-related activities, while ashore, and in some occasions on board, is the Expedition Leader. He/She will be your direct link between the islands and you, between the staff and you. He/She manages a team of Naturalists that lead our daily excursions.

Overall Planning

Before a hike you will be informed of the type of landing, the difficulty of the hike, type of terrain, recommended clothing, and any other pertinent information.

Please take part in preserving the area and pick up any litter that you encounter, returning this to the ship for disposal. Stay on designated trails to avoid damage to the surrounding ecosystems and to comply with National Park rules. A naturalist will explain all National Park rules during our introductory briefing.

We are aware that our guests may have different abilities or fields of interest, for which reason we offer different options.

Always make sure that you have chosen an option within your physical abilities: once embarking on an option, you cannot turn back, as Park rules dictate that you must be with a group, led by a naturalist, at all times. If in doubt whether a particular option suits you, please consult the Expedition Leader or a naturalist guide.

No food or drinks may be taken onto the islands, with the exception of water, which we strongly recommend you bring at all times. Water bottles are provided for you, which you may refill in designated areas. Being in such a pristine area, there are no restroom facilities on the islands.



Galápagos Students Aboard Program

Metropolitan Touring is always looking for new possibilities that can provide the local communities where we lightly tread, a specific benefit of our presence. Such operators are the ones who make a difference in the destinations people travel to; and also important, they leave a great attitude in the local community. In 1998, we launched a program which high school students are taken on expeditions and partnered with naturalist mentors - for development in the islands. The Park and Charles Darwin Station agreed that it was far more important that the high school students in Galápagos get to know the islands, Galápagos National Park, and the role that tourism can play in conservation and education, so that the students can bring this knowledge into the classrooms.

The primary objectives for the students are:

- To experience the Galápagos Islands and Galápagos National Park, which most students never see beyond their own communities.
- To learn about the visitors, and the reasons that people come to visit the Galápagos Islands.
- To learn about the role that tourism can play in environmental education and conservation support in the Galápagos Islands.
- To take the knowledge and experience they gain and bring it back into the classroom to share with their classmates and teachers.

The students come on board at the beginning of the expedition along with the other guests. They participate in all of the briefings, lectures, and shore excursions, as well as sharing dinner with the other international guests. Language is often a barrier, since English is the operating language on our ship and few of the students speak English. However, the Naturalists are all familiar with the objectives of the program, and play an important role in translating and ensuring that the students have the desired experience. The students also learn a great deal from their interaction with the ship's officers and crew, who provide them with different perspectives on tourism in Galápagos National Park.

Aside from the obvious benefits to the community and environmental education system, working with local students has had a significant benefit for Metropolitan Touring in their standing and perception in the local community. The students extend their experience into the classroom, which transmits into the community. Local people then view our guests, and our operation, as a positive and desired entity working for their future in Galápagos, rather than isolated foreign tourists. Our guests further benefit directly from the Students Aboard program in their extended exposure to people from the local community, and in-depth insight into the local education system.

Wildlife Checklist

The wildlife of the Galápagos is quite varied, and keeping track of all the wonderful things you observe is not an easy task. We hope these lists are helpful, and for details regarding such wildlife encounters ask the Expedition Staff.

RESIDENT SEA BIRDS	
<input type="checkbox"/> *Galápagos Penguin	<i>Spheniscus mendiculus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> *Waved Albatross	<i>Phoebastria irroata</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> *Galápagos petrel	<i>Pterodroma phaeopygia</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> *Galápagos shearwater	<i>Puffinus subalaris</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> White vented storm petrel	<i>Oceanites gracilis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Band-rumped storm petrel	<i>Oceanodroma castro</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wedge-rumped storm petrel	<i>Oceanodroma tethys</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Red billed tropic bird	<i>Phaeton aethereus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Blue footed booby	<i>Sula nebouxi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Nazca booby	<i>Sula granti</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Red footed booby	<i>Sula sula</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> *Flightless cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax harrisi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Magnificent frigate bird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Great frigate bird	<i>Fregata minor</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> *Lava gull	<i>Larus fuliginosus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> *Swallow tailed gull	<i>Creagrus furcatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Brown noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>

Notes

RESIDENT LAGOON AND SHORE BIRDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Great blue heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Striated heron	<i>Butorides striata.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow- crowned night heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	White- cheeked pintail duck	<i>Anas bahamensis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common gallinule	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	American oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black-necked stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>

COMMON MIGRANT BIRDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	Semi- palmated plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ruddy turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotted sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Least sandpiper	<i>Erolia minutilla</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wandering tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern phalarope	<i>Lobipes lobatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Franklin gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>



Wildlife Checklist

RESIDENT LAND BIRDS

<input type="checkbox"/>	*Galápagos hawk	<i>Buteo galapagoensis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Galápagos rail	<i>Latenallus spilonotus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paint-billed crake	<i>Neocrex erythrops</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Galápagos dove	<i>Zenaida galapagoensis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dark-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus melacoryphus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Smooth-billed ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vermillion flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Large billed flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus magnirostris</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Galápagos martin	<i>Progne modesta</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Galápagos mockingbird	<i>Nesomimus parvulus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Floreana mockingbird	<i>Nesomimus trifasciatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Española mockingbird	<i>Nesomimus macdonaldi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*San Cristóbal mockingbird	<i>Nesomimus melanotis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Small ground finch	<i>Geospiza fuliginosa</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Medium ground finch	<i>Geospiza fortis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Large ground finch	<i>Geospiza magnirostris</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Sharp-beaked ground finch	<i>Geospiza difficilis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Cactus finch	<i>Geospiza scandens</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Large cactus finch	<i>Geospiza conirostris</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Vegetarian finch	<i>Phyllispiza crassirostris</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Small tree finch	<i>Camarhynchus parvulus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Medium tree finch	<i>Camarhynchus pauper</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Large tree finch	<i>Camarhynchus psittacula</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Woodpecker finch	<i>Camarhynchus pallidus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Mangrove finch	<i>Camarhynchus heliobates</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Green warbler finch	<i>Certhidea olivacea</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Gray warbler finch	<i>Certhidea fusca</i>

* = Galápagos endemic species

RESIDENT LAND-MARINE MAMMALS

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Galápagos fur seal | <i>Arctocephalus galapagoensis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Galápagos sea lion | <i>Zalophus wollebaeki</i> |

INFREQUENTLY SEEN MARINE MAMMALS

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fin whale | <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sei whale | <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brydes whale | <i>Balaenoptera edeni</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minke whale | <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humpback whale | <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sperm whale | <i>Physeter catodon</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orca (Killer whale) | <i>Orcinus orca</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> False killer whale | <i>Pseudorca crassidens</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Short finned pilot whale | <i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue whale | <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Melon headed whale | <i>Peponocephala electra</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pygmy killer whale | <i>Feresa attenuata</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pilot whale | <i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bottle nose dolphins | <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common dolphins | <i>Delphinus delphis</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Striped dolphin | <i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Risso's dolphin | <i>Grampus griseus</i> |

Notes



GALÁPAGOS FISH

<input type="checkbox"/>	King angelfish	<i>Holocanthus passer</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barberfish	<i>Johnrandallia nigrivrostris</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Threebanded butterflyfish	<i>Chaetodon humeralis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellowtailed surgeonfish	<i>Prionurus laticlavus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Goldrimmed surgeonfish	<i>Acanthurus nigricans</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moorish idol	<i>Zanclus cornutus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Steel pompano	<i>Trachinotus stilbe</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Indo-pacific bonito	<i>Sarda orientalis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pelican Barracuda	<i>Sphynaena idiasies</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cortez chub	<i>Kyphosus elegans</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dusky chub	<i>Girella freminvillii</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow tailed mullet	<i>Mugil rammelsbergi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Halfbeak	<i>Hyporthamphus unifasciatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Golden eye grunt	<i>Haemulon scudderii</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Galápagos grunt	<i>Orthopristis forbesi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow tailed grunt	<i>Anisotremus interruptus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black stripped salema	<i>Xenocys jessiae</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	White salema	<i>Xenichthys agassizi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue stripped snapper	<i>Lutjanus viridis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dog snapper	<i>Lutjanus novemfasciatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow snapper	<i>Lutjanus argentiventris</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Giant damselfish	<i>Microspathodon dorsalis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bumphead damselfish	<i>Microspathodon bairdii</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	White tailed damselfish	<i>Stegastes leucorus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow tailed damselfish	<i>Stegastes arcifrons</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Panamic sergeant major	<i>Abudefduf troschelii</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brown chromis	<i>Chromis atrilobata</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Panamic graysbee	<i>Epinephelus panamensis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Flag cabrilla	<i>Epinephelus labriformis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leather bass	<i>Dermatolepis dermatolepis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Barred serrano	<i>Serranus fasciatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creole fish	<i>Paranibias colonus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bumphead parrotfish	<i>Scarus perrio</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blue chin parrotfish	<i>Scarus ghobban</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bicolor parrotfish	<i>Scarus rubroviolaceus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Azure parrotfish	<i>Scarus compressus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Loosetooth parrotfish	<i>Nicholsina denticulata</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rainbow wrasse	<i>Thalassoma lucasanum</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chameleon wrasse	<i>Halichoeres dispilus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sunset wrasse	<i>Thalassoma grammaticum</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spinster wrasse	<i>Halichoeres nichoki</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Streamer hogfish	<i>Bodianus diplotaena</i>



Galápagos FISH

<input type="checkbox"/>	Galápagos barnacle blenny	<i>Acanthemblemaria castroi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large banded blenny	<i>Ophioblennius steindachner</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sabertooth blenny	<i>Plagiotremus azaleus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bravo clinid	<i>Labrisomus dendriticus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	*Galápagos blue-banded goby	<i>Lytrypnus gilbert</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Leopard flounder	<i>Bothus leopardus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stone scorpion fish	<i>Scorpaena plumieri</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hieroglyphic hogfish	<i>Cirrhinus rivulatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bullseye puffer	<i>Sphoeroides annulatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Guineafowl puffer	<i>Arothron meleagris</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotted porcupinefish	<i>Diodon hystrix</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Balloonfish	<i>Diodon holocanthus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pacific burrfish	<i>Chylomycterus affinis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow-bellied triggerfish	<i>Sufflamen verres</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Finescale triggerfish	<i>Balistes polyleps</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scrawled filefish	<i>Aluterus scripta</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pacific beakfish	<i>Oplegnathus insignis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yellow-tailed goatfish (Mexican goat fish)	<i>Mulloidichthys dentatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trumpetfish	<i>Aulostomus chinensis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reef cornetfish	<i>Fistularia commersonii</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tiger snake eel	<i>Myrichthys tigrinus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Galápagos snake eel	<i>Quassiremus evionthas</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Zebra moray	<i>Gymnomuraena zebra</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fine spotted moray	<i>Gymnothorax doyii</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeweled moray	<i>Muraena lentiginosa</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hornshark	<i>Heterodontus quoyi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Galápagos shark	<i>Carcharhinus galapagensis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blacktip shark	<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Whitetip reef shark	<i>Triaenodon obesus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scalloped hammerhead	<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marbled ray	<i>Taeniura meyeri</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diamond stingray	<i>Dasyatis brevis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pacific cownose ray (Golden cownose ray)	<i>Rhinoptera steindachneri</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spotted eagle ray	<i>Aetobatus narinari</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Manta ray	<i>Manta hamiltoni</i>

* = Galápagos endemic species



RESIDENT REPTILES

Giant Tortoises

<input type="checkbox"/> Española	<i>Geochelone hoodensis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Sta Cruz	<i>G. porteri</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> San Cristóbal	<i>G. chathamensis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Santiago	<i>G. darwini</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Pinta	<i>G. abingdoni</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Isabela Cero Azul	<i>G. vicina</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Isabela Wolf	<i>G. becki</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Isabela Alcedo	<i>G. vandemburghi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Isabela Darwin	<i>G. microphyes</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Isabela Sierra Negra	<i>G. guntheri</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Pinzón	<i>G. ephippium</i>

*Green sea turtles *Chelonia mydas agassizii*

Marine iguana *Amblyrhynchus cristatus*

6 subspecies (races):

<input type="checkbox"/> Española marine iguana	<i>ssp. venustissimus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Sta Cruz marine iguana	<i>ssp. bassi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Genovesa marine iguana	<i>ssp. nanus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Isabela marine iguana	<i>ssp. albemarlensis</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Fernandina marine iguana	<i>ssp. cristatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Santiago marine iguana	<i>ssp. mertensi</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Land iguana	<i>Conolophus subcristatus</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fe land iguana	<i>Conolophus pallidus</i>

Lava lizards *Microlophus spp.*

*Española lava lizard *Microlophus delanonis*

*San Cristóbal lava lizard *Microlophus bivittatus*

*Floreana lava lizards *Microlophus grayii*

*Galápagos lava lizard *Microlophus albemarlensis*

* = Galápagos endemic species

San Cristóbal island



Area: 558 Km² (215 mi²); **Height:** 730 m (2,395 ft)

Description: A large eastern island, where the provincial capital of Galápagos is found (Puerto Baquerizo Moreno).

Wildlife highlights: Colony of Galápagos sea lions, Darwin's finches, vermilion flycatchers, marine iguanas, lava lizards.

Unique features: San Cristóbal mockingbird, San Cristóbal lava lizard, coralline beaches.

VISITOR SITE

Cerro Brujo: Wet landing. Length of the walk: 1km (0.6 miles). Walking is mostly along a coralline beach. Cerro Brujo includes an excellent combination of natural highlights for a rewarding introduction to Galápagos. Great beach for swimming. Sunsets here are outstanding since the famous Kicker Rock can be seen in the horizon.



North Seymour island

Area: 1.9 Km² (0.7 mi²); **Height:** 45 m (140 ft)

Description: A central flat island, uplifted from the sea bed, with two vegetation zones: littoral and arid.

Wildlife highlights: Nesting colony of magnificent frigate birds, swallow-tail gulls, Galápagos sea lions, marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies.



Unique features: Land iguanas, white coral heads along the shore, endemic Palo Santo trees, sunset overlooks most of the central islands.

Landing: Dry. Length of walk: 2 Km (1.7 mi).

Walking conditions: one half is easy walking along the beach, while the other half is over boulders. Good traction footwear needed. Advanced snorkeling when conditions permit.

Española island (*Hood*)

*Punta
Suárez*



Area: 60 Km² (23mi²); **Height:** 206 m (675 ft)

Description: The most southeastern island, quite eroded, with an amazing cliff-side landscape.

VISITOR SITE

Punta Suárez: dry landing. Length of walk: 3 Km (1.9 mi). Boulder hike where good balance is required throughout most of the way. This site does not have snorkeling or swimming areas.

Wildlife highlights: Galápagos sea lions, lava lizards, Nazca boobies, blue-footed boobies, red & black marine iguanas, Darwin's finches, yellow warblers.

Unique features: largest nesting colony of blue-footed boobies, only island with a waved albatross colony, mockingbird and lava lizard endemic to Española, famous "blowhole".



Floreana (*Charles or Santa María*)

Area: 173 Km² (67 mi²); **Height:** 640 m (2,100 ft)

Description: an island in the south dotted with parasitic cones, evidence of continuous and prolonged volcanic activity of a not-so-distant past.

Wildlife highlights: lagoon birds (stilts, whimbrels, ducks, egrets, and flamingos), sea turtles, rays, Galápagos flycatchers.

Unique features: volcanic parasitic cones, greater flamingos, endemic Floreana mockingbird, endemic "hairy" *Scalesia* plant, flour beach, snorkeling (beginners and advanced)

VISITOR SITE

Punta Cormoranti: wet landing. Length of walk: 1 Km (0.6 mi). Beach and gravel walk. Good beach for swimming.



Santa Cruz island (*Indefatigable*)

Area: 986 Km² (380 mi²); **Height:** 864 m (2,835 ft)

Description: the second largest island of the Galápagos group with all seven vegetation zones. The largest human population lives on this island. Many urban features are found here: bank, ATM machine, taxis, pubs and cafeterias.



Wildlife highlights: Darwin's finches, giant tortoises, Galápagos mockingbirds, vermilion flycatchers, herons, egrets, ducks, stilts.

Unique features: giant tortoises in the wild, giant tortoises at the Charles Darwin Research Station (young & adult), vegetation of the highlands including the giant daisy tree of the *Scalesia* genus, a variety of nature-active options and sport activities (hiking, scuba diving, mountain biking, kayaking, etc).

VISITOR SITES

Charles Darwin Research

Station: dry landing. Length of walk: 2 Km (1.3 mi).



Gravel and paved road walking. Main highlight is the rearing in captivity program for the giant tortoises.

The Highlands and the giant tortoise reserve. Transportation: Bus ride. Length of walk: 3-4 Km (1.9-2.5 mi). Walking under open ground with mostly irregular terrain (some small boulders covered by vegetation). Could be muddy and wet. The highlands are great for birdwatching, and for walking in an island cloud forest.

Los Gemelos (Pit Craters): Transportation: Bus ride. Length of walk: 2 Km (1.3 mi). Walking under open ground with mostly irregular terrain (some small boulders covered by vegetation). Could be muddy and wet. The pit craters are large depressions of volcanic material that were formed at the time of a mechanical sinking process. Amidst the giant *Scalesia* forest many epiphytes, mosses, ferns, and even orchids can be observed.

Isabela island (*Albermarle*)

Area: 4,588 Km² (1,771 mi²); **Height:** 1,707 m (5,600 ft)

Description:

Western island and largest of all. It is made of six large shield volcanoes fused into one island (Ecuador Volcano, Wolf, Darwin, Alcedo, Sierra Negra & Cerro Azul). Highest point in Galápagos is found at Wolf Volcano (1,707 m; 5,600 ft).

Wildlife highlights:

Galápagos penguins, flightless cormorants, sea turtles, marine iguanas, volcanic landscape.



VISITOR SITE

Punta Vicente Roca: Site for coastal exploration (not a landing site). Tuff- stone cliffs, lava flows from Ecuador Volcano, sills, dikes, Galápagos penguins, marine iguanas, blue- footed boobies, dramatic volcanic landscape, sea turtles, sea lions and fur seals. Snorkeling at this location will depend on sea conditions (current, visibility, etc)



Rábida (*Jervis*)

Area: 4.9 Km² (1.9 mi²); **Height:** 367 m (1,203 ft)

Description: Rábida is a central island exposed to the western upwelling- marine currents. Some exposure also occurs to the central marine currents. Rábidas's most impressive distinct red colour, is due to the oxidation of iron rich volcanic material.

Wildlife highlights: sea lion colony, brown pelicans, Darwin's finches, Galápagos mockingbirds, doves, coastal and arid zone vegetation.

Unique features: its reddish coloration, red beach, nesting colony of brown pelicans, excellent snorkelling site.



Fernandina island (*Narborough*)



Area: 642 Km² (248 mi²); **Height:** 1,494 m (4,900 ft)

Description: the most western and youngest of all the islands. This massive large-shield volcano is the home of continuous volcanic activity via fumaroles, and seismic processes. From time to time an eruption may be witnessed too.

both "pahoehoe" and "AA" lava, give you astonishing views of the only sea-going lizard while feeding upon algae. Intertidal pools bloom with marine life. Snorkeling is not permitted on this island.

Wildlife highlights: densest colonies of marine iguanas, sea lions, nesting colony of flightless cormorants and penguins, Galápagos snakes, intertidal pools.

Unique features: Fernandina Island may be rated as one of the most pristine islands in the world, due to the absence of introduced mammals. Amazing recent black lava flows with evidence of

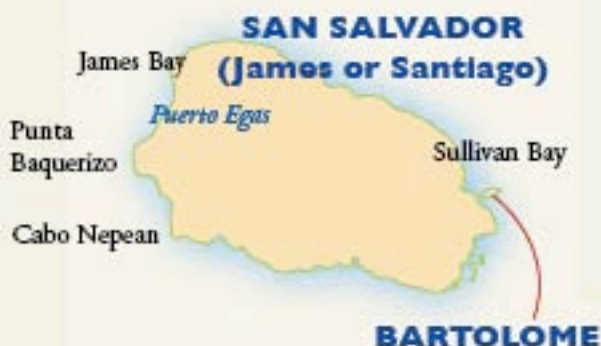


Punta Espinoza: dry landing. Length of walk: 1.5 Km (0.9 mi). Wet lava near the shore tends to be slippery due to algae growth. Also, please watch where you walk, since marine iguanas blend in the black lava. Every corner of the island has something for the senses...enjoy that.

San Salvador island (*James or Santiago*)

Area: 585 Km² (226 mi²); **Height:** 907 m (2974 ft)

Description: This former large shield volcano looks more like a mountain range with hills, valleys and plenty of parasitic cones. An Ecuadorian group settled here within the 1960's for a salt-mining related business. The island is now uninhabited.



Wildlife highlights: the most diverse shorebird activity (many unusual migrants and unique records have occurred here), Galápagos fur seals, hawks, finches, mockingbirds and doves.

Unique features: a rugged and well eroded coastline made of tuff stone lies above a dark black lava flow. Such tuff stone was probably the result of a gigantic phreatomagmatic explosion (abrupt contact of water and magma) that even included base surge. Within the actual coastline, the most incredible habitat will host intertidal life, next to Galápagos fur seals.



VISITOR SITE

Puerto Egas: wet landing. Length of walk: 1.5 Km (0.9 mi). Wet lava near the shore tends to be slippery due to algae growth. Take your time to carefully watch crevices and cracks on the lava, since fur seals prefer shaded and cooler areas. Snorkeling from the beach is an incredible opportunity to get in touch with the Marine Reserve (sea turtles, rays, white-tip reef sharks, a wild aquarium, sea lions, etc).

Bartolomé island (*Bartholomew*)



Area: 1.2 Km² (0.5 mi²); **Height:** 114 m (359 ft)

Description: a very small island teemed with great views and wildlife next to its neighbor San Salvador (James) island. The most photographed view of the islands is seen here, the famous Pinnacle Rock and the distant islands. A wooden staircase allows us to gradually ascend to the top of this large cone, without adding physical damage (erosion) to the path itself. This small island offers plenty of rewarding activities.

Wildlife highlights: Being a young island, it allows only pioneer species to conquer and thrive here. However, it is the ocean that offers great diversity, especially while snorkeling next to tropical and subtropical fish, occasionally a Galápagos penguin and sea lions.

Unique features: Pinnacle Rock is by all means the best photographic attraction, and more so if it's dotted with penguins along its base. Behind the landing beach there is another sandy area that faces the windward side, and occasionally you can see here sharks, rays and sea turtles (to avoid disturbance of these creatures water activities are not permitted here).

VISITOR SITES

Bartolomé's Walk: dry landing. Length of walk: 1 Km (0.6 mi). Not a long walk, but one where you will be using a wooden staircase in order to reach the top of the island. Views of neighboring islands are magnificent, as well as volcanic features, like spatter cones, lava tubes and tuff cones.

Bartolomé's Beach: wet landing. Length of walk: 300 m (330 yards). Easy sandy walk that takes you to the other side of this dune-like area. Sand could be hot. The landing beach is the official swimming and snorkeling area.



Nautical Terms

Life aboard ship is different than at home. Therefore, the terminology we use differs from the one we are used to. These nautical terms will help you understand how life onboard is spoken.

Aft : Near, toward, or in the rear of the ship

Amidships: In or toward the middle of the ship

Beam: The width of the ship

Berth: The bed in a guest cabin

Boat Drill: Name to an emergency procedure aboard a ship

Bow : Toward the front of the ship

Bow Thruster: Transversal propeller used for moving the ship sideways

Bridge: Navigational and command control center of the ship

Cabin: Stateroom on board a ship

Companionway: Interior stairway on the ship

Deck: The base or floor of every level aboard a ship

Dock: Pier or quay

Draft: The vertical measurement of ship below the waterline

Gangway: The opening through the ship's bulwarks (side) and the

ramp for embarking and disembarking

Gross Registered Ton: A measure of enclosed revenue-earning space within a ship; the unit is the gross ton, equivalent to 100 cubic feet

Knot: A unit of speed equal to 1 nautical mile (6,080.2 feet) per hour

Manifest: A list or invoice of ship's guests, crew, or cargo

Panga: Local name used for any landing craft (Zodiac, Boston Whaler)

Port side: The left side of the ship when facing toward the bow

Registry: Country whose laws the ship and its owners comply with

Rudder: A fin-like device for steering the ship, it is located astern and below the waterline

Stairway: Exterior stairs on the ship

Starboard: The right side of the ship when facing the bow

Stern: The extreme rear of the ship; toward the rear

Fundación Galápagos Ecuador



In 1998 we established Fundación Galápagos-Ecuador, the first ever initiative by tourism's private sector for helping the Galápagos Islands to preserve its fragile island ecosystems. Its mission started as, and continues to be, waste management of the islands, particularly Santa Cruz Island where most inhabitants reside. If we think of a sensible way of acting upon current realities of the islands, it is the presence of humans that need the most actions and awareness. A clean and well-managed environment, can guarantee a better handling of the present situation, allowing future generations to enjoy the Galápagos Islands.

Currently, we concentrate our efforts in four major aspects of the islands:

Environmental Education: volunteers conduct a local door-to-door campaign that teaches locals the benefits of classifying and recycling garbage. Local radio and TV campaigns are also a common practice. Additionally, local students are invited to join our expedition voyages for a better understanding of the islands' complex ecosystems. These experiences will give them a broad perspective of the archipelago's importance, while providing them with solid background for making the right future decisions.

Solid-waste Recycling: on Santa Cruz Island, and in cooperation with the Municipality of Santa Cruz Island and the Galápagos National Park, we have developed the Fabricio Valverde Center for managing solid waste. Here, plastics and cardboard are compacted and shipped, at our own expense, back to the mainland for reprocessing and remanufacturing. Also, glass is milled and then becomes material for making patio blocks that now cover parks and sidewalks on the island. Over 2,000,000 pounds of solid waste have been already recycled at our facility, and these are not part of the local landfill.

www.fundaciongalapagos.org



Coastal Clean-Up: the shores of the islands become the ending trip for floating debris unfortunately discarded in the ocean hundreds of miles away from here. With local fishermen and volunteers, we recollect these materials and process them at the recycling facility. So far, over 130,000 pounds of solid debris have been collected from the islands' shores. As part of the project, fishermen receive an economic incentive which allows them to leave fishing activities and connects them with natural resources protection.

Community Social Projects: The social component is a priority under the umbrella of sustainability. Thus, it is important to get involved directly with the local community, and contribute to their well being and their income generation. If we believe in the local community's improvement, we must incorporate them in our business scenario. Entrepreneurship with environmental attributes is what we promote in the local community. Currently, two projects are key at providing a sustainable future for the local community.

- FUN Galápagos, which involves a local women's cooperative: Manos Mágicas. Women, with great sewing skills and motivated to improve the quality of the islands, as well as improving their own quality of life, make Galápagos'-related rag souvenirs filled with milled plastics from our recycling center. Sales of these support the project itself.
- The project "Bread for the Future", a local bakery where fishermen's wives, that belong to the women's cooperative Perla del Pacífico, produce and supply the bread needs from our tour vessels. Our direct contribution to the project is transferring our bread needs to them, and now our ships serve Galápagos bread bought locally. This initiative was launched by ASOGAL, the Association of Galápagos Tour Operators.



None of these efforts make sense if we don't address sustainability matters to our guests. We share our contributions with you, the islands' realities, and a clear message on how sustainability works. It is critical that visitors to the islands realize tourism is responsible for generating some impact, but this impact is being carefully managed, and it unfolds into a positive one. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Expedition staff, crew or officer on board to make possible your participation. This is a great opportunity to join efforts and leave a positive footprint in one of the most inspired places in our planet. This alone will make visitors aware their travel choice has made a difference.

Gestión Ambiental Metropolitan Touring
www.fundaciongalapagos.org

*Help us preserve the islands
so the future generations
may enjoy them as well.*

M/V Santa Cruz



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