

GALAPAGOS NATURAL HISTORY AND PHOTO ADVENTURE

~ APRIL 10 TO APRIL 27, 2022, EXPLORE AND PHOTOGRAPH THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS
ABOARD THE SAMBA WITH JUAN MANUEL SALCEDO~

Galapagos Natural History and Photography Voyage



TRIP OVERVIEW

Explore and Photograph in the enchanted Galapagos Islands aboard the yacht Samba with photographer/naturalist Hugh Rose and outstanding Galapagos Guide Juan Manuel Salcedo. Fly into Quito where you will be tested for Covid-19 (required before entering the Galapagos Islands) and spend two nights in a comfortable hotel near the Quito Airport. An early morning short flight (included) takes us to the Galapagos Islands where we board the Samba for a 14 night/15-day cruise around the tropical island archipelago paradise of the Galapagos one of a few places in the world where the Covid vaccination rate is 100%. Daily visits to land, allow you to observe and photograph the abundant terrestrial wildlife that has no fear of humans, while daily snorkel outings take you into the marine ecosystem to be surrounded by tropical fish, and marine wildlife such as, sea turtles, dolphins, and friendly sea lions. At the end of your voyage return to Quito where you can be tested for Covid-19 before departing on your flight home. Either spend a night at a hotel located adjacent to the airport and fly home the next day or take a red eye flight home this night after testing. If you plan on visiting

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another destination in Ecuador or South America accommodations can be organized near the Quito Airport.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the same Islands and walk the same beaches where Charles Darwin spent time in 1835, observing the unique creatures of the Galapagos, which eventually led him to formulate his theory of evolution and write the historical scientific work "The Origin of the Species".
- Watch as blue-footed boobies perform their courtship dance and display their blue feet to each other
- Sit quietly as a wild giant tortoise that may be so old it was roaming the Islands when Darwin visited in 1835, lumbers past you on a forest trail
- Snorkel with friendly Galapagos sea lions and hundreds of pacific green sea turtles!
- Watch from underwater as the world's only tropical penguin (the Galapagos penguin) plucks small fish from the water inches from your mask
- Watch the world's only marine lizard, (the Galapagos marine iguana) both on land basking in the sun and in the water while snorkeling, grazing on algae
- Watch for the elusive "Green Flash" at sunset as you enjoy an end of the day cocktail on the deck of the Samba
- Encounter a blue whale, the largest vertebrate to ever roam the planet
- Experience the magic and tranquility of this tropical archipelago on a small boat far away from any crowds

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

We have run tours in the Galapagos for over 15 years and worked with many boats and guides. Based on this experience we have found the absolute best Galapagos guide, combined with the perfect boat for cruising the Islands. My long-term relationship with the Juan allows us more freedom during landings to give you the maximum time with the wildlife in the best possible light. We are up and onshore at sunrise, when the light is the best, the wildlife most active and the temperatures most pleasant, then returning to the Samba for breakfast and a morning snorkel, when other groups are just starting to land. We maximize snorkeling time during the mid-day hours when the sun is directly overhead and return to land late in the afternoon as temperatures cool, wildlife activity picks up and the magic of sunset light begins. We include EVERYTHING in the price of our tour, all domestic flights, park entrance fees, rental of snorkeling gear and

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wetsuits and the tips to the boat crew and local guide (the only thing not included is alcohol and bottled drinks). And lastly, we understand the wildlife and its behavior! This allows us to have you in the right place, with the best light as the action begins!

LEADERS: Hugh Rose and Juan Manuel Salcedo

TRIP LENGTH: 17 Days including estimated travel days

GROUP SIZE: 14 Passengers plus Hugh Rose

Covid Vaccination is Required to participate in this trip

Cost: (\$11,495 for the 17-day Grand Tour per person double occupancy



Starting Sunday April 10:

<u>DAYS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SCHEDULE:</u>
SUN, April 10:	Quito	Arrive on international flight receive Covid-19 test at testing center located at Quito International Airport, short transfer to Wyndham International Hotel for overnight
MON, April 11:	Quito	Relax and rest after your international flight while awaiting negative Covid-19 test results, overnight at Quito Wyndham
TUE, April 12:	Quito	Transfer to Quito Airport and flight to Baltra Island Galapagos

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	Isabela	PM: Punta Moreno (landing and snorkel)
Mon, April 18:	Floreana	AM: Post Office Bay/Kayak /SUP Baroness Lookout PM: Devils Crown/navigation to Puerto Ayora

End of Week 1 and Beginning of Week 2

Tue, April 19:	Santa Cruz	AM: Santa Cruz Highlands/ Transport to Baltra airport for return flight to Quito, people fly in for second week of the trip
	Pto Ayora	PM: El Chato Private Tortoise reserve/Highlands Free time in Pto Ayora
Wed, April 20:	Floreana	AM: Punta Cormorant PM: Champion
Thu, April 21:	Espanola	AM: Punta Suarez PM: Gardner Bay
Fri, April 22:	San Cristóbal	AM: Punta Pitt PM: Islas Lobos/Kicker Rock
Sat, April 23:	Santa Fe Plazas Santa Cruz	AM: Barrington Bay PM: South Plaza Island PM: Punta Carrion
Sun, April 24:	Santiago	AM: Chinese Hat/Bahia Sullivan PM: Bartolome
Mon, April 25:	Santiago	AM: James Bay PM: Rabida
Tue, April 26:	North Seymour PTO Ayora	AM: North Seymour Island PM: Transfer to Baltra, return flight to Quito, Covid-19 test and transfer to Wyndham Hotel, Quito
Tue, April 26:	Quito	Overnight at Quito Airport Wyndham or take red-eye flight home
Wed, April 27:	Quito	Flights home or to other Ecuador or South America travel destinations

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Friendly wildlife of the Galapagos



Land Iguana



Blue-footed boobie



Frigate bird



Galápagos sea Lion

Detailed Itinerary, Quito/Samba April 10-20, 2022

PRISTINE AND BORN OF FIRE: NORTH AND WEST ISLANDS:

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TUESDAY, SANTA CRUZ

AM: BALTRA AIRPORT

PM: ISLOTE MOSQUERA,

On arrival at **Baltra Airport** all visitors will get their hand luggage checked through the quarantine system run by the Galapagos National Park Service and everyone will register and pay the National Park entrance fee of \$100. Additionally, proof of a negative Covid-19 test, and vaccination will be confirmed by park officials. We will then be met by Juan Manuel Salcedo, who will assist with our luggage collection and accompany us on the short bus ride to the harbor where we board the Samba. All crew members of the Samba are vaccinated for Covid-19 in fact all residents of the Galapagos islands are vaccinated, making it one of the only places in the world where everyone is vaccinated.

After a light lunch the Samba will navigate for 25 minutes to **Islote Mosquera**. This small islet is dominated by organic white sand beaches and is located off the northern tip of Santa Cruz Island. Clear tropical waters drop almost straight down to 3,000 feet in depth, just off the east shore of this islet, making it a prime feeding area for many marine creatures, due to strong upwellings. The tranquil deserted beaches of Mosquera are an ideal primer for our Galapagos cruise. Here we can wander at will, swim, and lounge with the many friendly Galapagos sea lions that use this island as a haul-out and rookery. The gentle surf allows for excellent swimming, while abundant wildlife provide great photographic subjects. On the beach we will encounter marine iguanas, sally light foot crabs, with blue footed boobies and brown pelicans diving just offshore. Patrolling frigate birds, always looking for a meal, watch for movement in the sands, which may indicate Green Pacific Sea turtles are just beginning to hatch in their nests buried deep in the sand and will be an easy meal for the hungry "pirates of the sky". This tranquil beach offers a good introduction to snorkeling in the Galapagos and everyone is welcome to swim from the beach. We will have a few hours to swim, wander, photograph and watch the sun set before setting sail on an overnight navigation to our next destination

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Great Blue Heron

Blue-footed boobie

WEDNESDAY, TOWER (GENOVESA)

AM: DARWIN BAY

PM: PRINCE PHILIP'S STEPS

After the 6-hour (overnight) navigation from la Mosquera to Tower or “Genovesa” Island (all the Galapagos Islands have two names, one in English and the other in Spanish), we will wake up to the beautiful cacophony of one of the largest tropical sea bird colonies on the planet. The cliff tops are decorated with frigate birds, red-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, swallow tailed gulls, tropic birds, and many other pelagic species. **Darwin Bay**, where we will be landing at first light is home to thousands of nesting sea birds. After an early breakfast we will land at a small beach to take advantage of early morning light and greater wildlife activity. Red-footed boobies will be displaying for potential mates as they collect nesting materials, while great frigate birds perched in nearby trees inflate their gular sacks hoping to attract a female. Simultaneously, other frigates will be playing their favorite game; piracy, stealing nesting material from red-footed boobies. Darwin’s finches, Galapagos doves and mockingbirds hop about on the ground looking for seeds and insects. The red mangroves, cactus and saltbushes contrast with the blue sky and the dark basaltic walls, making this location a photographer’s paradise!

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Following lunch, we will snorkel below the cliff face in the protected waters inside the bay. Snorkeling at Genovesa offers a view of a wide variety of tropical fish and creatures. Later in the afternoon as the light gets better and wildlife activity picks up we will do a panga ride and/or kayak/standup paddle board (SUP) outing along the cliff walls inside Darwin Bay as the seabirds that nest in the cliffs begin to wake up and become active. The kayaking/panga ride will be followed by a dry landing at the base of **Prince Philip's Steps**. A steep climb up the steps takes us 100 feet above sea level, to the top of the cliffs that ring the Bay and from this vantage point we can watch the aerobatic displays of red billed tropic birds and Galapagos shearwater from above. Both bird species display astounding flight skills as they zoom past the cliff edge below our feet! A lava rock trail takes us through an endemic dwarf incense tree (palo santo) forest, where we will find more red-footed and, Nazca boobies, nesting. The Palo Santo Forest is dormant most of the year but awakens in the rainy season to leaf and fill the air with a refreshing aroma. After a 15-minute walk, we come to the edge of the Palo Santo Forest, where we are greeted by a lava plain where thousands of storm petrels are flying erratically above lava flows as they return to their nesting burrows to feed their young. This is a perfect scenario for one of the Galapagos avian predators, the short-eared owl, to make a successful kill. Known elsewhere around the world as a nocturnal predator, on Genovesa it hunts in broad daylight, and we have an excellent chance of seeing them at work! More cat than owl, it waits patiently on the lava flows, outside lava tunnels and crevasses to capture the storm petrels as they exit their nesting burrows after feeding their young. We will enjoy sunset while watching and photographing the non-stop bird activity before us!



Short-eared owl at Genovesa Island

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THURSDAY, MARCHENA (BINDLOE)

AM: PUNTA MEJIA

PM: PLAYA NEGRA

All other tour boats that sail in the Galapagos will sail back south after visiting Tower Island, not the Samba! We are the only boat that sails west-northwest toward the island of Marchena after departing Genovesa. The Galapagos National Park Service granted us the chance of using Marchena's magical shorelines to snorkel, panga ride and kayak. In recent times, only scientists have reached the land of Marchena, where forbidding endless and untouched lava flows combine with no fresh water and very little precious soil, to make a foreboding, but beautiful landscape. The serenity of Bindloe is only disturbed by the murmur and surge of the Pacific swells and musical argument of the cavorting sea lions. **Punta Mejía** is one of the best sites in the Archipelago to snorkel. The calm and clear deep blue water of the north-west coast, and the dark hostile background topography of the island give the sensation of witnessing the beginning of our planet and its underwater world. Apart from great fish diversity, when we snorkel, we often see rays, hammerhead sharks and sea turtles.



Snorkeling with Yellow-tailed surgeon fish

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Navigating southwest for 45 minutes to **Playa Negra** is always an exciting experience, where we often encounter bottle nosed dolphins, and orcas. An early afternoon snorkel around a recently formed lava grotto where marine iguanas feed and sea lions lounge offers a great opportunity to spend time in the water with Galapagos fur seals. The water in this protected collapsed lava tube is calm and often warmer than the open water, and pups from a small colony of fur seals found in this grotto are curious about these rare human visitors often venturing over to check us out! The Galapagos fur seal is the smallest of all the seal species in the world and evolved with no human predators, so they have no fear of us. The young seals love to swim around snorkelers coming up to our masks where they blow bubbles in our faces! After returning to the Samba, we begin a 5 to 6-hour sail to the west. As we navigate west and away from the island, the sea floor drops off dramatically and we cross a 3,000-foot underwater cliff! The Cromwell current flows from the open Pacific to the west and brings oceanic deep water welling up against this submarine precipice. This upwelling brings cold, nutrient rich water to the surface and creates unusually food rich, productive water. As a result, the ocean we transit on this navigation attracts many marine creatures and birds to feed on this abundance of food and we make the navigation during the afternoon to be able to watch for large cetaceans and other oceanic wanderers.



Friendly Galapagos fur seal at Marchena Island

FRIDAY, ISABELA (ALBEMARLE)

AM: PUNTA ALBEMARLE

PM: PUNTA VICENTE ROCA

Human history has left its footprint on this small corner of the Galapagos. **Punta Albemarle**, is the farthest north point of Isabela Island, which was once an important

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US radar installation built and manned during WW II to watch for a potential Japanese naval attack on the Panama Canal. All that remains of the radar station is a small, deteriorated shack which serves as a reminder of the long boring watches that young US naval officers spent in the isolated, but unique environment of the Galapagos Islands. The sailors worked monotonous, three-week shifts and fortunately, never saw any action. We will start the morning with a sunrise kayak/standup paddle board outing to a protected lava cove on this deserted coastline, where we may see ocean sunfish (mola molas) and sea lions that have learned to hunt large tuna by herding them into the dead-end cove. After breakfast back on board the Samba we will land and spend the morning ashore at Punta Albemarle. This landing is best known for its Galapagos flightless cormorants, and marine iguanas. The recent lava flows are the nesting ground of the only flightless cormorant in the world and the basking terrain of the largest marine iguanas of Galapagos. The cormorants, which are normally very shy birds, display and build their bulky nests from seaweed, with total indifference to human presence at this location, because very few boats and tourists visit this site. As the morning advances and the cold-blooded marine iguanas warm, they give a show of adaptation as they wander into shallow water to feed on green and red algae. In this fantastic historic setting, you are reminded that the only constant of the Islands is change, as the wildlife of the Galapagos reclaims the shoreline inhabited by US military personnel 80 years ago!

Our afternoon destination, **Punta Vicente Roca**, offers a diversity of volcanic formations that will excite even the non-geologists of the group! Located on the southwest end of Ecuador Volcano (Isabela Island) and only a few miles south of latitude 0°, the area displays outstanding examples of how the Islands were formed and how volcanic processes have transformed the landscape. At Vicente Roca there are textbook examples of tuff cones and lava dykes, and the volcanic ground is constantly eroding and experiencing rockslides. We will look at these dramatic geologic structures from our dinghies, as we enjoy watching the Galapagos penguins, brown noddies, blue-footed boobies and other marine life. If the water is calm enough, we will snorkel along the submarine volcanic cliff face, where huge schools of tropical fish are herded around by playful Galapagos sea lions. The walls of the tuff cone are full of colorful invertebrates and rich algae blooms, which gives us a great chance of watching numerous sea turtles feeding and if we are lucky Galapagos penguins darting along the submarine wall as they herd schools of small fish.

SATURDAY, FERNANDINA (NARBOROUGH) AND ISABELA

AM: PUNTA ESPINOZA, Fernandina Island

PM: URBINA BAY, Isabela Island

Only 30,000-100,000 years old, Fernandina is the youngest island of the Archipelago and has experienced major eruptions in the last five years. This immature shield volcano represents only an instant in geological time! Not even your wildest imagination can give you a better setting to experience the start of life on an island. The entire Island is covered by hostile barren lava, however, at our morning landing site, **Punta**

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Espinoza the shoreline is teeming with life. Reptiles, birds and mammals all coexist at this location, going about their daily routines of eating, sleeping, singing, fighting and mating. It is a living museum with piles of marine iguanas, playful sea lions, hard-working flightless cormorants, dwarf penguins, and busy Sally light-foot crabs. Don't forget to look up because the Galapagos Hawk is always on the hunt. We will spend the morning ashore doing an approximately one mile walk with plenty of stops to photograph and observe the activity. Snorkeling with sea lions, turtles, iguanas, cormorants and plenty of fish is a great way to refresh after the morning lava walk.



Marine Iguanas basking

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Lava Lizard hunting insects from the head of a marine iguana

The hotspot under the Galapagos is active today, constantly adding new land mass to the archipelago through volcanic activity. The western islands are the youngest and most active of the Islands. Located in the center of Isabela, Alcedo Volcano is a reminder of how volatile these Islands are. On the west shoreline of Alcedo lays **Urbina Bay**. The landmass of the inlet was uplifted in 1954. More than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of new shoreline were created, and many coral reef extensions were exposed to air, as the earthquake uplifted the seabed. This newly emerged land became perfect nesting terrain for the most beautiful of land dragons, the giant land iguanas of Isabela. These giant land iguanas are the largest in the Galapagos and in Urbina the colorful population offers a great example of their potential to grow to enormous sizes. The impressive yellow, orange/brown iguanas roam the lowlands looking for flowers, fruits, leaves and shoots of their favorite plants. Also, during the time of our visit at the end of the rainy season it is possible to see giant tortoises sharing the land with these massive iguanas. Urbina Bay is a snapshot in miniature of what the earth was like during the Jurassic time period. We will land at a small organic sand beach and do a walk through the sixty-year-old forest, looking for both the giant tortoise and land iguana. Snorkeling may be an option at this beach depending on waves and water clarity, but as always, we will try hard to get a snorkel in this afternoon!

SUNDAY, ISABELA

AM: ELIZABETH BAY

PM: PUNTA MORENO

Isabela Island constitutes almost half of the entire surface of the Archipelago. It is nearly 100 miles long and offers a remarkable diversity of habitats. The island is formed

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by five active and connected volcanoes oriented in a north south line. Shaped like a seahorse, and with volcanic highlands reaching over 5000 feet in elevation, it is also the home to vast mangrove forests on its coastline. **Elizabeth Bay** is the only place on Earth where old growth tropical mangrove forests and penguins can be photographed in the same frame. The ecosystem is also the residence of spotted eagle rays, sea turtles and a nursery for fish and marine invertebrates. We will spend the morning kayaking amid the mangrove or riding on a zodiac through this serene environment with the outboards off and using only our oars for propulsion. The morning zodiac ride/kayak offers great opportunities to photograph the penguins and other birds such as the striated heron and yellow-crowned night heron. After returning from the early morning outing there may be an opportunity to snorkel along a reef where sharks are a common sight!

In the afternoon, following a short navigation, we will land at the desolate lava wasteland of **Punta Moreno**. When you set foot here you will understand why the Spanish Bishop Fray Tomas de Berlanga who accidentally discovered the Islands in 1535 and was the first European to set foot in the archipelago said: "It was as if God had decided to rain stones". When Fray first walked on the lava with sailors from his ship desperate to find water (their ship had just exhausted its supply) he struggled to find fresh water and in desperation was forced to chew on cactus pads to quench his thirst. More than three centuries later the young naturalist, Charles Darwin saw beyond the lava and was amazed by the colonization of plants and the beginning of new life in this terrain. He theorized the processes at work in establishing life in the Galapagos could easily compare to the origin of life on the earth. At Punta Moreno we will do a roughly 1.5 mile walk across the lava fields and see the first pioneers of life taking hold on the blistering hot infertile lava. The pioneer lava cactus, seemingly growing directly from the rock, is contrasted with a stunning oasis, we walk to, where lava tunnel roofs have collapsed, allowing brackish water to accumulate, and give life to greater flamingoes, moorhens, black-necked stilts and Galapagos Martins. After the walk a snorkel along the shore at Punta Moreno often includes frolics with penguins and flightless cormorants as well as sea turtles and sea horses.

MONDAY, FLOREANA

AM: Post Office Bay and Baroness's Lookout

PM: Snorkel at Devil's Crown

Charles, Floreana and Santa Maria are all official names of this Island that holds an overwhelmingly rich human history compared to other islands in the archipelago. After breakfast we land at **Post Office Bay**, home to the mailbox that has been in use since the early 1800's when Nantucket whalers would leave mail to be taken back home by whaling vessels returning after multi-year whaling expeditions in the South Pacific. For the more adventuresome we can climb into a lava tube that descends toward the ocean eventually connecting to salt water, which is tidal. After departing Post Office Bay, we will kayak, SUP or dinghy ride to the beach below the **Baroness's Lookout**. On top of this eroded spatter cone, we will hear the fascinating stories of the three families that

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settled on Floreana in the late 1920's and early 1930's (the Wittmer family, Dr. Ritter and his mistress Dore and the famous Baroness and her three lovers). Juan Manuel will spin the tale of conflict, murder and mystery that ensued in one of the great mysteries of the Galapagos Islands and now the subject of a recent movie, "When the Devil Came to Eden"



Our afternoon adventure will take us to the "Devils Crown" a flooded spatter cone that now hosts a great diversity of marine creatures and is one of the best places for snorkeling in the islands. After the snorkeling through the Devils Crown, we will depart Floreana and begin navigating north towards Santa Cruz Island and Puerto Ayora our anchorage for the night. This navigation takes us through waters rich with marine mammals so we will be watching for whales along the way!

TUESDAY, SANTA CRUZ

AM: HIGHLANDS; LOS GEMELOS; BALTRA AIRPORT FOR QUITO FLIGHT
PM: ACADEMY BAY; EXPLORE PTO AYORA

Our morning adventure will take us to the Highlands of Santa Cruz. The road climbs to the highest point on the Island, where at 1800 feet we enter an example of a Galapagos mature forest. Trees belonging to the genus *Scalesia* (closely related to the daisy) decorate a couple of extraordinary geological formations, known as "Los Gemelos", (the twins). These collapse craters and their surroundings are the home of many of Darwin's finches, mockingbirds, vermilion flycatcher, and a wonderful diversity of indigenous

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plants. After the walk through the highlands around the “twins” the bus will continue across the island where anyone departing after the first week of the trip will take the short ferry ride over the Itabaca Channel to Baltra Island where the airport is located. All guests joining the second week of the trip will arrive on the flight that departing guests will board for the journey back to Quito.

Note: For all guests departing after the first week, my friend and agent in Quito will be meeting you at the Quito airport to facilitate covid-19 testing and transfers to your hotel for the night. For all visitors arriving for the second week of the trip you will arrive in Quito on Sunday April 17, (two days prior) and be met by my agent who will help facilitate Covid-19 testing and getting you checked into your hotel for the two-night stay prior to flying to Baltra on Tuesday April 19.

Oceanic Forces and Enchanted Land: South, East & Central Itinerary:

TUESDAY, SANTA CRUZ

AM: BALTRA AIRPORT

PM: Free afternoon to explore Pto Ayora/Charles Darwin Center

On arrival at **Baltra Airport** all visitors will get their hand luggage checked through the quarantine system run by the Galapagos National Park Service. We will then be met by Juan Manuel Salcedo, who will assist us with our luggage collection and accompany us on the short bus ride to the harbor where we board the Samba.

A short bus ride brings you to the Itabaca Channel and a 5-minute ferry ride that delivers you to a bus, waiting to take you across Santa Cruz Island to Pto Ayora. All bags of new arrivals will be delivered to the Samba and both groups will meet for lunch at El Chato a private tortoise reserve. After lunch we will walk through the private tortoise reserve, where migrating giant tortoises pass through on their way to the lowlands to mate and lay eggs at the end of the rainy season. During April we may see as many as 20 or 30 giant tortoises slowly making their way through the forest. You will have time to sit and watch the tortoises as they lumber past at a glacial pace! Upon departing El Chato we will drive to Pto Ayora where everyone will have some free time to wander the largest town in the Galapagos before we reboard the Samba for a welcome dinner for our newly arriving shipmates.

WEDNESDAY, FLOREANA (CHARLES)

AM: PUNTA CORMORANT

PM: CHAMPION

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Following a four-hour navigation south from Puerto Ayora, we will arrive at **Punta Cormorant** on the coast of **Floreana Island**. For your first morning in the Galapagos, we will do an early morning wet landing on the beach of Punta Cormorant, which is composed of olivine crystals of volcanic origin, giving it a green hue. This beach lies on the northern shore of the Island of Floreana and is an excellent place to view and photograph greater flamingos and sea turtles. Near the landing beach there is a brackish lagoon where flamingos nest and feed in shallow water adjacent to the trail. Whimbrels, herons, and stilts to name a few of the shore found here, are other common birds found in this productive wetland. A short walk across the island through Galapagos endemic vegetation takes us to a white sand beach where sea turtles use every inch of the upper beach dune area for laying their eggs. We typically see many stingrays and reef sharks in the shallow surf zone and if we are lucky turtles basking. Turtle hatchlings are an excellent food source for some of the predatory sea birds such as magnificent frigatebirds. These “pirates of the sky” are often seen cruising this beach looking for the telltale signs of sand moving as newly hatched turtles start climbing from their sand nest holes. If the baby turtles move during the daylight hours causing sand to shift, the frigatebirds see this movement and descend on the nest to dine on turtle hatchlings.

After returning to the Samba, we will sail for 25 minutes to the islet of **Champion** where we will snorkel, followed by a panga/kayak/SUP ride. This small islet is one of two places where the Floreana mocking bird has survived after its extinction on the main Island of Floreana. While trying to find the rare bird from our pangas, we will enjoy a beautiful landscape full of fairy tale cactus and terracotta rock formations. Soon sea lions will invite us to jump into the water. The snorkeling around the island is extraordinary, with many types of tropical fish, rays, sharks and of course the playful Galapagos sea lions!

THURSDAY, ESPAÑOLA (HOOD)

AM: PUNTA SUAREZ

PM: GARDNER BAY & GARDNER ISLAND

Hood is the oldest of the Galapagos Islands, and due to the forces of plate tectonics, has traveled over 100 miles from the volcanic hotspot over which it was formed. We will land at Espanola’s western tip, at **Punta Suárez**, on a protected breakwater. As you become adjusted to the surroundings you will realize that the breakwater is covered by brightly colored marine iguanas and sally lightfoot crabs. As we carefully walk through the iguanas to the beach you will be greeted by more friendly sea lions, while blue-footed boobies and frigate birds circle overhead. The roughly one mile walk across weathered lava plains and through an ancient palo santo forest, will lead us to a magnificent seabird colony perched on a cliff high above the crashing surf. These south facing cliffs were shaped by eons of wave action battering the ancient lava flows of Espanola and are home to the only tropical nesting albatross in the world, the waved albatross. The waved albatross is a mythic and elegant glider that shares this precipice with many other sea birds, such as tropicbirds, swallow-tailed gulls and nazca boobies. We will be visiting these cliffs during the courtship season of the waved albatross and hope to observe the elegant display of these huge birds as they search

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for mates and solidify pair bonds. Watching these birds as they go through their courtship displays is one of the most memorable wildlife displays found in the Galapagos!



Depending on weather conditions, either at the end of the morning walk or early in the afternoon we will snorkel, kayak or SUP around Gardner Island. Its calm waters and attractive landscape give you a great experience above and below the water! Later in the afternoon we will land on the famous sandy beach of Gardner Bay. Located on the north coast of Espanola Island, Gardner Bay has a half mile long white sand beach perfect for walking, swimming, and lounging with the many playful resident Galapagos sea lions and friendly Hood Mockingbirds



Friendly Galapagos Sea Lions!

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FRIDAY, SAN CRISTOBAL (CHATHAM)

AM: PUNTA PITT

PM: ISLA LOBOS & KICKER ROCK

Chatham is the first island that Charles Darwin set foot on in the Galapagos. As we step off the dinghy onto the golden sand at **Punta Pitt**, we will be summoning the spirit of one of the most famous naturalists of all times. At this beach we will be greeted by a mind-blowing landscape of eroding tuff cones that decorate the basaltic landscape. A protected cove in front of Punta Pitt offers a great opportunity for kayaking, paddling a SUP or taking a dinghy ride

After a 3-hour navigation during lunch we will make a dry landing on Islas Lobos, where we will walk over rocky terrain to a frigate bird colony. At the end of the short walk, we will be greeted by red balloons decorating the saltbushes (the inflated gular sacks of Magnificent and Great frigatebirds). Isla Lobos is a nesting colony for both species of frigate birds and this visitor location will give you the opportunity to photograph and observe these pirates of the sky at close-range! The island is also the nesting grounds for blue-footed boobies, which may be dancing and showing their blue feet to potential mates during our visit! A snorkel around the island will give us the chance to play with sea lions, where they are most at home, in the water!

Afterwards we navigate a short distance to a dramatic tuff cone formation named Kicker Rock. The eroded structure has vertical walls of over 450 feet and is festooned with nesting and loafing sea birds! We will circumnavigate the rock to enjoy the views and photograph the abundant bird life, after which we will plunge into the clear waters at its base and enjoy the underwater world of Galapagos sharks, sea turtles, eagle rays' invertebrates and schools of colorful tropical fish!



SATURDAY, SANTA FE & PLAZAS

AM: BARRINGTON BAY



PM: SOUTH PLAZA & PUNTA CARRION

Barrington Bay is one of the most picturesque inlets of all visitor sites in the Galapagos. White sand on the seabed reflects sunlight to turn the calm waters a deep turquoise color with a backdrop of gigantic prickly pear cactus growing on the peninsula that shelters the bay. Santa Fe is yet another ancient extinct volcano and has been isolated from other islands

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long enough to evolve its own endemic land iguana. Paler in color than its relatives on other islands, the Barrington terrestrial iguanas are found lounging outside their burrows. Galapagos Hawks, mockingbirds, finches, and endemic rice rats are company to this yellowish land monster! Snorkeling in the clear waters around Barrington Bay provide great opportunities to view and photograph the different species of rays against the sandy bottom.

A two-hour navigation north will take us to **South Plaza** Island. After lunch, a dry landing will take us into the colorful and scenic landscape of South Plaza. We will be greeted by Galapagos Sea Lions on the landing platform and more giant Land iguanas. A short walk from the landing takes us to a forest of stunted, but large opuntia (prickly pear) cactus with massive land iguanas wandering amongst the cactus on a bright red carpet of portulaca, eating flowers if the rains have arrived and allowed the plants to flower. A one mile walk over gently sloping terrain takes us to a seabird nesting cliff, where Swallow tailed gulls' nest and red-billed tropicbirds perform an aerobatic show at eye level. Audubon shearwaters zoom along the cliff face, over Nazca and blue-footed boobies, while great blue and striated herons wait patiently for prey to come close enough to snatch up for lunch!

If we have enough time and good weather, we will swim or snorkel in **Punta Carrion**. A great way to end an active day!

SUNDAY, SANTIAGO & BARTOLOME

AM: CHINESE HAT

PM: BARTOLOME

The volcanic origin of the Galapagos Islands is easy to see at **Chinese Hat**. The coiled shiny structures of the pahoe-hoe lava appear as if they were erupted just yesterday, but, the slow to weather basalt rock is one hundred forty years old! Located on the east shores of **James Island** (Santiago) this lava flow has intact dribble cones and many other volcanic structures and was extruded onto a landscape of much older cinder cones and flows. We will walk through this fantastic landscape of volcanic features formed from the quiet eruption of Basaltic magmas. Opportunities to photograph the weird shapes and colors as well as the pioneer plants trying to make a living on the hot and sterile lava plains, will abound. After our shore excursion we will snorkel along the face of the lava flow where it spilled into the ocean. This is an excellent place to view

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the underwater antics of the Galapagos penguin as well as many tropical fish, Galapagos sea lions and sharks!

Landing on **Bartolome Island** located a short distance from James Island gives us the opportunity to walk in a landscape formed from the more explosive volcanic eruption of a tuff cone. We will climb 270 feet up a winding staircase to admire dramatic spatter cones and a scenic view of Pinnacle Rock. Views across the fantastic volcanic landscape of Santiago are excellent and photo opportunities are excellent from the top of Bartolome. Later, we will walk on magical golden beaches where sea turtle nest, and snorkel with penguins in the shallow clear water at the base of Pinnacle Rock

MONDAY, RABIDA & JAMES

AM: RABIDA

PM: JAMES BAY

The Galapagos offers a diversity of geological formations and landscapes without boundaries. The island of **Rábida** shows more of this diversity with lavas rich in iron that after millions of years of exposure to air, have weathered to a brilliant red. The rusted volcanic rocks have eroded to form a beautiful crimson sand beach, which is on fire during sunrise light! The protected shore of Rabida provides excellent conditions for a Galapagos sea lion nursery, while brown pelicans use the nearby saltbushes as a resting and nesting area. Hawks and mockingbirds are common visitors to the lowlands. Snorkeling from the beach is excellent with the chance to swim with sharks, rays, many colorful fish and the ubiquitous Galapagos sea lion.

A two-hour sail to the northwest will bring us to our next landing site at **Puerto Egas** also known as **James Bay**, located on **Santiago Island** (the same Island we visited at Sullivan Bay the day before). The magical shorelines on the west side of Santiago Island are a combination of tuff cone, lava flows and organic light-colored sand. This rocky coast with a gently sloped rock shelf of tidal pools is used by a great number of shore birds and reptiles. Oystercatchers, whimbrels, sanderlings, turnstones, tattlers, and other waders, mix with marine iguanas and bright colored sally lightfoot crabs to feed in the rich littoral zone, providing many great photographic moments! We will walk for a mile from the landing beach, over flat terrain along this rocky shore to a network of large partially collapsed lava tunnels. These grottos provide shade from the merciless sun of the Galapagos and are home to Galapagos fur sea lions. Sitting on the edge of the "fur seal grotto" and watching the antics of young pups in the protected lava tubes is always a highlight. We will end the day with a snorkel from the beach that can be one of the best in the archipelago. Sea turtles feeding, parrot fishes, damsel fishes, white tipped reef sharks and more...

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Galapagos tortoise checks out a group member

TUESDAY, NORTH SEYMOUR & BALTRA AIRPORT

AM: NORTH SEYMOUR

AM: BALTRA AIRPORT

A visit to **North Seymour** is a fantastic way of saying goodbye to the Galapagos. Following a dry landing at sunrise we will walk amongst the largest blue-footed booby colony of the Islands. If enough food is available and the boobies are breeding, you will be treated to their dancing, singing, and waving their blue feet to find a mate. Close to the boobies we find both great and magnificent frigate birds nesting and possibly displaying. The males will inflate their “gular sacks” to attract the ladies that fly above them. Swallow tailed gulls and tropicbirds are scattered across the large basaltic walls of the island. This is the perfect final landing spot for our 15-day adventure in the Enchanted Islands! After getting back on board the Samba and eating breakfast, we will make the navigation to Baltra while preparing to disembark the Samba for our flight back to mainland Ecuador.

It is always a good idea to do most of your packing the previous night so you can have a pleasant last early morning visit and a relaxed breakfast. We will board our flight back to Quito and bid the Galapagos farewell!

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Snorkeling with a ray

Upon arrival in Quito, we will be transported from the airport to Quito Airport Wyndham Hotel.

WEDNESDAY, FLIGHTS HOME OR TO QUITO FOR ECUADOR EXTENSION.

After breakfast at the hotel a transfer shuttle will take us to the airport for flights home or on to travel extensions in Mainland Ecuador.



OUR VESSEL FOR THE WEEK

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M/Y Samba - A graceful 78-foot motor yacht of European vintage

Tourist Superior

- To experience the mystical isolation that shaped the life of the Galapagos, this sturdy, stately and very comfortable motor-vessel is your best choice. The SAMBA is a true European Dutch classic and best in her class.
- A great ocean-going vessel with her specially designed high bow, she provides safe crossings and utilizes special stabilizing sails.
- Her main salon and aft dining facilities make her socially versatile while top-side settees and a flush and ample forward deck provide great getaways or extra space for group activities such as stargazing, whale watching or simply sunbathing.
- The SAMBA accommodates 14 guests, a perfect number to enjoy the magic of the Islands with privacy and flexibility. Its professional, experienced and friendly crew and naturalist guide are devoted to go the extra mile to make your journey a trip of a lifetime.
- She is a graceful, top-quality craft and very environmentally friendly as well as socially responsible. She is locally owned and all the crewmembers are from the Galapagos.

The Samba is committed to redefine your idea of quality of experience and excellence of service.

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Accommodations

Six air-conditioned double cabins and 1 upper deck double bed cabin, all with private bathrooms and hot water.

Equipment

Very efficient Twin DAV diesel engines 280 HP-CUMMINS that only use a remarkable 6 gallons of diesel per hour! Two generators each of 21 & 12.5 kW for 110 V & 220V A/C and 12V & 24V D/C, Furuno Navnet Radar, Plotter and Sonar, GPS, VHF & SSB radios, two tenders with outboard motors, 32" High Definition LCD TV, DVD video equipment.

Specifications

Length: L.O.A.* 78 feet / 23 meters

Beam: 18 feet / 5.4 meters

Tonnage: 134 tons

Speed: 8.5 knots

Range: 2,500 miles

Sail: Steadying sails

Water capacity: 1,500 gallons and water maker

Electric Power Supply: 110V & 220V (A/C)

*L.O.A.: length overall

Safety equipment:

One self-contained 20-passenger life raft, EPIRB (Emergency Positioning Indicating Radio Beacon), two bi-directional VHF emergency-radios, one VHF (Motorola) wide-range radio, VHF and HF radios and one cell-phone communication system, life jackets, fire extinguishers, safety smoke and fire detectors and overhead sprinkler systems, A.B.C fire-control system and CO² bank for the engine room.

YOUR NATURALIST

Juan Manuel Salcedo was born in the Galápagos Islands. He grew up in Puerto Ayora, on Santa Cruz Island, living and learning in the outdoor evolutionary lab of the Galápagos. Outside of school, Juan spent time sailing on his father's boat where he developed his love and passion for observing and interpreting the wildlife of the archipelago. He moved to Quito to finish high school and begin his academic studies.

Juan Manuel spent a year in Los Angeles studying sailing and navigation to gain a skipper certificate. Through all his experiences, Juan has maintained and nourished his love and passion for the world around him. He finished his undergraduate studies at the

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University of San Francisco, Quito where he studied Applied Ecology with minor degrees in Biology and Geology. He has been involved in Environmental Education projects in the Galápagos Islands and on mainland Ecuador.

Juan holds the top-level credentials for a Galapagos guide. I have worked with Juan on many trips and know him to be the best guide I have ever worked with in the Galapagos! Juan makes it possible for us to be on shore early in the morning before the heat and when the light is best for photography and late in the day as the last rays of sunset light illuminate our subjects and wildlife is at its most active. Juan's passion and enthusiasm for everything Galapagos is contagious and makes him the top naturalist in the Islands. Juan's boundless enthusiasm carries over to the underwater world of the Galapagos, so he is always ready to snorkel or jump in the water with passing whales at a moment's notice!

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP PRICE:\$11,495

- Airport transfers on April 10th, April 12th and 26th (for flights to and from the Galapagos) and April 27th for departures
- All accommodations at the Quito Airport Wyndham Hotel (double occupancy)
- for the nights of April 10th, 11th , and April 26th
- Breakfast in Quito on April 10th, 11th and 26th
- Roundtrip Airfare from Quito to the Galapagos
- \$100 USD entrance fee into the Galapagos National Park
- \$25 USD Galapagos Immigration Transit fee
- All on-board accommodations on the Yacht **Samba**, all meals (B,L,D), island excursions including all Galapagos bus-fares and any additional guides qualified by the Galapagos National Park.
- Tips to 6 crew members of the **Samba** (\$500/person)
- Tip to naturalist on board the **Samba** (Juan Manuel Salcedo) (\$300/person)
- Rental of all snorkeling gear on board the **Samba** including wet suits, mask, snorkel and fins

NOT INCLUDED:

- Flights to and from your home and Quito Ecuador
- Alcoholic beverages and bottled drinks on mainland Ecuador and on board the **Samba**
- Dinners in Quito on April 10th 11th and 26th
- Lunch on April 26th while in transit from Galapagos to Quito
- Money for purchases of souvenir items

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

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- Deposit of \$1000 per person is due on booking trip (\$500 of this deposit is non-refundable after booking, but may be used as payment for another Hugh Rose Photography Tour within the next calendar year in the event of cancellation)
- Second payment of \$5,247.50 is due by October 1st 2021
- Final payment of \$5,247.50 is due by Jan 1st 2022
- Cancellations are fully refundable until September 1st minus the \$500 non-refundable cancellation fee, after this date the \$1000 deposit is nonrefundable (although if I can fill the spot on the trip I will always return full deposit less any change fees for airline tickets)
- If cancellations are made after November 1st I will make every effort to get the remainder of your deposit and payment money back to you. This is dependent on filling the vacated spaces on the trip. I do maintain a waitlist for the trip, but as the departure date nears it becomes more difficult to fill vacated spaces. For this reason, I would recommend trip insurance if you believe that there is any chance you may have to make a last minute cancellation.



- Finally; I will need some information from you when you sign up for the trip,

- Passport number, with country of issue and date of expiration***

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- Shoe size for swim fins
- Size for wetsuit
- Flight arrival and departure information as soon as you have it, so I can arrange airport transfers
- A completed medical dietary form, to access the form visit my website at: <https://hughrosephotography.com/waiver-galapagos/> and fill in the online form

*** This is very important that I get as soon as possible so I can purchase the airline tickets from Quito to the Galapagos and please make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond the Ecuador travel dates.

Thank You and I look forward to exploring one of the greatest tropical island archipelagos on earth with you!

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