

# GALAPAGOS NATURAL HISTORY AND PHOTO ADVENTURE

~ APRIL 10 TO 20, 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 Hugh Rose and outstanding Galapagos Guide Juan Manuel Salcedo. Fly into Quito and spend a day relaxing after your international flight, while also getting a mandatory Covid test needed before entry into the Galapagos. A short flight (included) takes us to the Galapagos Islands where we board the Samba for a 7 night/8-day cruise around the tropical island archipelago paradise of the Galapagos. 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.

-over-

## 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 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, and 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 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 when the action begins!

**LEADERS:** Hugh Rose and Juan Manuel Salcedo

**TRIP LENGTH:** 10 Days including estimated travel days

**GROUP SIZE:** 14 Passengers plus Hugh Rose

**Cost:** \$7295 per person double occupancy



**Condensed Itinerary Starting Sunday April 19:**

<b><u>DAYS</u></b>	<b><u>LOCATION</u></b>	<b><u>SCHEDULE:</u></b>
<b>SUN, April 10:</b>	Quito	Arrive on international flights, transfer to Quito Airport Wyndham
<b>MON, April 11:</b>	Quito	Relax at Quito Airport Wyndham after International flights
<b>TUE, April 12:</b>	Quito	Transfer to Quito Airport and flight to Baltra Island Galapagos



## **GALAPAGOS; NORTHERN, WESTERN AND SOUTHERN ISLANDS**

<b><u>DAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ISLAND(S)</u></b>	<b><u>VISITOR SITES</u></b>
<b>TUE, April 12:</b>	<b>Santa Cruz Islote Mosquera</b>	AM: Airport-Baltra PM: Mosquera landing and swim
<b>WED, April 13:</b>	<b>Genovesa</b>	AM: Darwin Bay (landing and snorkel) PM: Prince Philip's Steps (kayak and landing)
<b>THU, April 14:</b>	<b>Marchena</b>	AM: Punta Mejia snorkel PM: Playa Negra landing and snorkel
<b>FRI, April 15:</b>	<b>Isabela</b>	AM: Punta Albemarle (dawn kayak and landing) PM: Punta Vicente Roca (snorkel and landing)
<b>SAT, April 16:</b>	<b>Fernandina Isabela</b>	AM: Punta Espinosa (landing and swim) PM: Urbina Bay (landing and snorkel)
<b>SUN, April 17:</b>	<b>Fernandina Isabela</b>	AM: Punta Mangle (dawn kayak and snorkel) PM: Punta Moreno (landing and snorkel)
<b>MON, April 18:</b>	<b>Floreana</b>	AM: Post Office Bay/Baroness Lookout

**Santa Cruz**

PM: Devils Crown/navigation to Puerto Ayora

**TUE, April 19:**

**Santa Cruz**

AM: Los Gemelos and Highlands

PM: Transfer to Baltra airport and flight to Quito



Hugh Rose Photography

Friendly wildlife of the Galapagos

**TUE, April 19: Quito**

PM: Return flight to Quito arrive 5pm, overnight at Quito Airport Wyndham or fly home

**WED, April 20: Quito**

AM: Flights home or to another Ecuador or South America travel destination



Land Iguana

Blue-footed boobie

Frigate bird

Galapagos sea lion

## **Detailed Itinerary, Galapagos/Samba April 12- 19, 2022**

### **PRISTINE AND BORN OF FIRE: NORTH AND WEST ISLANDS:**

#### **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. 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.

After a light lunch the Samba will navigate for 45 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 makes for excellent swimming and 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



Great Blue Heron

Blue-footed boobie

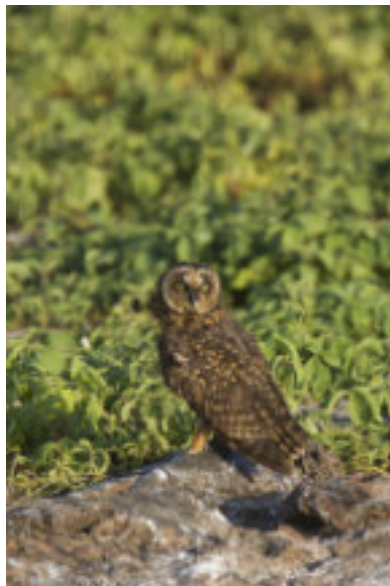
### **WEDNESDAY, TOWER (GENOVESA)**

AM: DARWIN BAY

PM: PRINCE PHILIP'S STEPS

After the 6–7-hour 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!

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 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 panorama of thousands of storm petrels 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

**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.



Hugh Rose Photography  
Snorkeling with Yellow-tailed surgeon fish

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 of 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 5–6-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, and was once an important 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 70 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 dikes, 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**

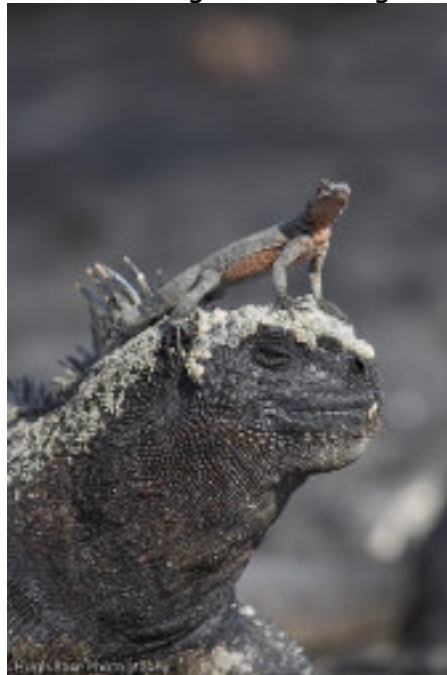
AM: PUNTA ESPINOZA, Fernandina Island

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 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



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 volcanically 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 brand-new land became perfect nesting terrain for the most beautiful of land dragons, the giant land iguanas of Isabela. The land iguanas of Isabela 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 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 descend into a lava tube that traverses many feet towards the ocean and is connected to salt water with the tide rising and falling in this unique geologic feature. 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 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 topic of a recent movie, "When the Devil Came to Eden"



Galapagos tortoise checks out a group member

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

PM: Baltra Airport return flight to Quito

This morning you will be departing the Samba and the Galapagos. An early start will give us time to explore our last destination of the trip, the **Santa Cruz highlands** and **Los Gemelos** (the twins). Breakfast will be served at 6:00 am and we will depart the boat at 7:00am. The 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 plants.

From the highlands the bus will descend northward (towards the Equator) and Baltra and the main Galapagos airport. Bid farewell to Juan and the rest of the passengers you shared the last week with, who are staying on board the Samba for the second week of the trip. Board the commercial flight back to Quito.



Upon arrival in Quito, we will be transported the short distance from the airport to Quito Airport Wyndham Hotel. It is possible to depart from Quito this evening on the late-night international flights or overnight at the Wyndham and depart the next morning. Covid testing is available at the Quito airport if required for returning to your home country.

**Wednesday, FLIGHTS HOME;**

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



**OUR VESSEL FOR THE WEEK**



**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 boasts a special stabilizing sail.
- 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.

We are committed to redefine your idea of quality of experience and excellence of service.

### **Accommodations**

Six air-conditioned double cabins and 1 exterior 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 CO<sup>2</sup> 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 of his experiences, Juan has maintained and nourished his love and passion for the world around him. He finished his undergraduate studies at the 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. And 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:\$7,295**

- Airport transfers on April 10<sup>th</sup> to Quito Wyndham Hotel, April 12 and 19 (for flights to and from the Galapagos) and April 20 for departures
- All accommodations at Quito Airport Wyndham Hotel (double occupancy) for the nights of April 10 and 11, and 19
- Breakfast in Quito on April 11, 12 and 20
- 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** (\$250/person)
- Tip to naturalist on board the **Samba** (Juan Manuel Salcedo, \$150/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**
- Money for purchases of souvenir items
- Dinner in Quito on April 10, 11 and 19
- Lunch on April 19 (in transit from Baltra to Quito)

### **PAYMENT SCHEDULE:**

- Deposit of \$1000 per person is due on booking trip
- Second payment of \$3,147.50 is due by October 1<sup>st</sup> 2021
- Final payment of \$3,147.50 is due by Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2022
- Cancellations are fully refundable until September 1<sup>st</sup> minus a \$150 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

- I highly recommend travel insurance that covers for “trip cancellation for any reason” Many good travel insurance companies exist, and they have been adopting to travel during the time of Covid-19. You can get a quote and excellent coverage at [www.goWanderwell.com](http://www.goWanderwell.com)



**- Finally, I will need some information from you as soon as you sign up for the trip**

- Passport number, with country of issue and date of expiration\*\*\*
- 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 at the present prices.

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