GALAPAGOS NATURAL HISTORY AND PHOTO ADVENTURE

~ APRIL 4 TO 17, 2027, 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 two nights with time to explore the local area. Join optional pre-Galapagos daytrip to visit a hummingbird preserve in the cloud forest of the Andes Mountains. A 2-hour flight (included) takes us to the Galapagos Islands where we board the Samba for a 10 night/11-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, friendly sea lions, miniature fur seals and the world's only tropical penguin! At the end of our voyage, we return to Quito where you can choose to either spend the night before flying home the next day or on to other destinations in Ecuador or fly

-over-

home that night on a red eye. Extension trips into the Amazonian jungle, cloud forest, and highlands of Ecuador can be arranged with a trusted partner.

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) pluck 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
- Spend two nights in Quito with its rich history, architecture, and culture
- Visit the Andean cloud forest and see dozens of hummingbirds up close on optional pre-trip daytrip

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

We have run tours in the Galapagos for over 20 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 return 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, bottled drinks,

and travel meals). 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: 14 Days including estimated travel days

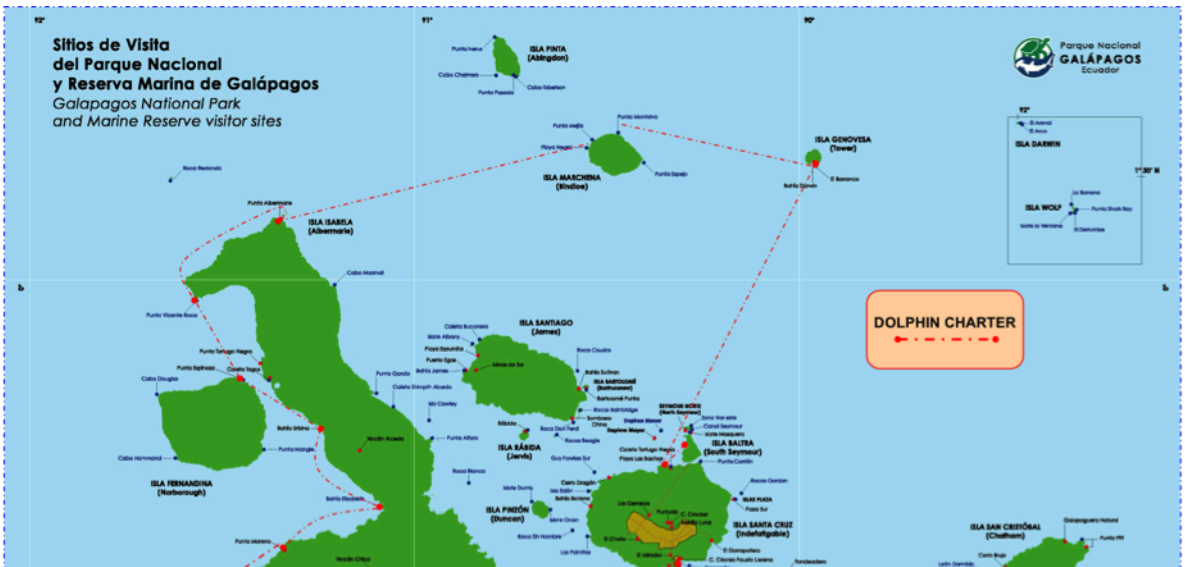
GROUP SIZE: 14 Passengers plus Hugh Rose

Cost: $10,195 per person double occupancy



Condensed Itinerary beginning Sunday April 23:

DAYS	LOCATION	SCHEDULE:
Sun, April 04:	Quito	Arrive on international flights transfer Quito Airport Holiday Inn
Mon, April 05:	Quito	Optional day-trip (additional cost of $180) to cloud forest hummingbird preserve “Bella Vista” with guided hike and lunch overnight Quito Airport Holiday Inn
Tue, April 06:	Quito	Transfer to Quito Airport and flight to Baltra Island Galapagos



GALAPAGOS; NORTHERN, WESTERN AND SOUTHERN ISLANDS

DAYS	ISLAND	VISITOR SITES
Tue, April 06:	**Islote Mosquera**	PM: Landing with beach walk and swim
Wed, April 07:	**Genovesa**	AM: Darwin Bay (landing and snorkel) PM: Prince Philip's Steps (kayak/SUP and landing)
Thu, April 08:	**Marchena**	AM: Punta Mejia snorkel PM: Playa Negra landing and snorkel, cruise for marine mammals
Fri, April 09:	**Isabela**	AM: Punta Albemarle (dawn kayak/SUP and landing) PM: Punta Vicente Roca (snorkel and zodiac ride)
Sat, April 10:	**Fernandina** **Isabela**	AM: Punta Espinosa (landing and snorkel) PM: Urbina Bay (landing and snorkel)
Sun, April 11:	**Fernandina** **Isabela**	AM: Punta Mangle (dawn kayak/SUP and snorkel) PM: Punta Moreno (landing and snorkel)
Mon, April 12:	**Floreana**	AM: Baroness's Lookout/Punta Cormorant landing snorkel at Devils Crown/Champion Islet PM: Post Office Bay/navigate to Pto Ayora
Tues, April 13:	**Santa Cruz** **Santa Cruz**	AM: Highlands, Los Gemelos / Tortoise preserve PM: Free afternoon to explore Pto Ayora
Wed, April 14:	**Espanola** **Espanola/Gardiner**	AM: Punta Suarez early AM walk PM: Gardner Bay snorkel and walk
Thu, April 15:	**Santa Fe** **South Plaza**	AM: Barrington Bay (landing and snorkel) PM: Snorkel and Walk
Fri, April 16:	**San Cristobal**	AM: Islas Lobos (landing), Leon Dormido (Kicker Rock, snorkeling) PM: Airport-San Cristobal return flight to Quito

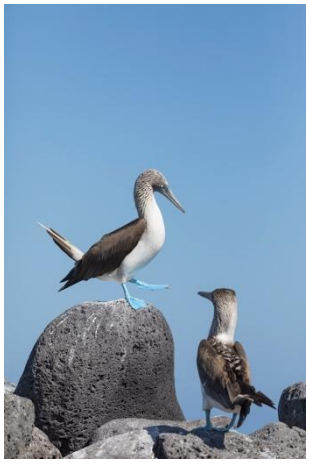


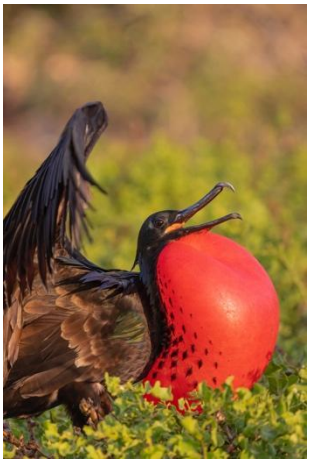
Friendly wildlife of the Galapagos

Fri, April 16: **Quito** PM: Return Quito overnight at Quito Airport Holiday Inn, or fly home

Sat, April 17: **Quito** AM: Flights home or continue to other Ecuador travel destinations


Land Iguana


Blue-footed boobie


Frigate bird


Galapagos sea lion

Detailed Itinerary, Galapagos/Samba April 4- 17, 2027

PRISTINE AND BORN OF FIRE: SOUTH, NORTH AND WEST ISLANDS:

Tuesday, Santa Cruz/Baltra
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 $200. 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

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 provides 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 swimming 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







Wednesday, Tower (Genovesa)
AM: DARWIN BAY
PM: PRINCE PHILIP'S STEPS

After the 6-hour (overnight) navigation from Ia Mosquera to Tower or “Genovesa” Island (all the Galapagos Islands have at least 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 as he seabird colony comes to life. 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!

After returning to the Samba, we will gear up for our first 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. After lunch as the light improves and wildlife activity picks up, we will do a panga ride and/or kayak/SUP, outing along the cliff walls

inside Darwin Bay as 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

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 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

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 deep oceanic water welling up against this submarine precipice. This upwelling brings cold, nutrient rich water to the surface and creates unusually 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 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 pangas, 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 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 lay **Urbina**

Bay. The landmass of the inlet was uplifted in 1954. More than ¾ of a mile of new shoreline were created, and many coral reef extensions where exposed to air, as the earthquake uplifted the seabed. This newly emerged land became perfect nesting terrain for the most beautiful 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 this afternoon!

Sunday, Fernandina and Isabela
AM: Punta Mangle
PM: PUNTA MORENO

Our morning outing will begin from the Samba on the Southeast shores of Fernandina Island, where you will have the choice of either riding a panga or paddling a kayak along the deserted volcanic coast to our destination, Punta Mangle. The mangrove ecosystem provides cover and protection for resting spotted eagle rays, stingrays, sharks, sea turtles and many species of juvenile fish and marine invertebrates. Juvenile sea lions cavort amongst the roots of the red mangrove, while sharks and rays glide beneath your kayak. Brown pelicans, nest in the protected branches of the mangrove and Galapagos hawks hunt for lava lizards on the exposed basalt. After returning to the Samba we will navigate south across the Bolivar Channel, an area that is rich with marine mammals (whales), back to the island of Isabela.

Isabela constitutes almost half of the entire surface of the Archipelago and is nearly 100 miles long with an amazing 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. Our landing this afternoon is on 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 possible snorkeling for 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 uses 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 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 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: 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, vermillion flycatcher, and a wonderful diversity of indigenous

plants. After visiting the highlands, we will stop at “El Chato” a private tortoise reserve to see the “dome back” giant tortoises migrating through upland forests of the island. After our visit to the highlands, we will return to the bustling port and capital of the Galapagos, Pto Ayora.. This town of roughly 15,000 people is the population center of the islands and is home to many shops and attractions. The local fish market is a favorite place to observe the interaction of humans and Galapagos under the watchful eyes of brown pelicans and Galapagos sea lions! If you want an opportunity to shop this is your place, with many stores that sell local handicrafts and fancier boutiques, which offer artwork from the Galapagos and mainland Ecuador. Or you can choose to simply enjoy a cold beer or coffee at one of the local craft breweries or cafes. At the end of the afternoon, we will board the Samba to begin our navigation to our landing destination for the following morning.

Wednesday, ESPAÑOLA (HOOD)

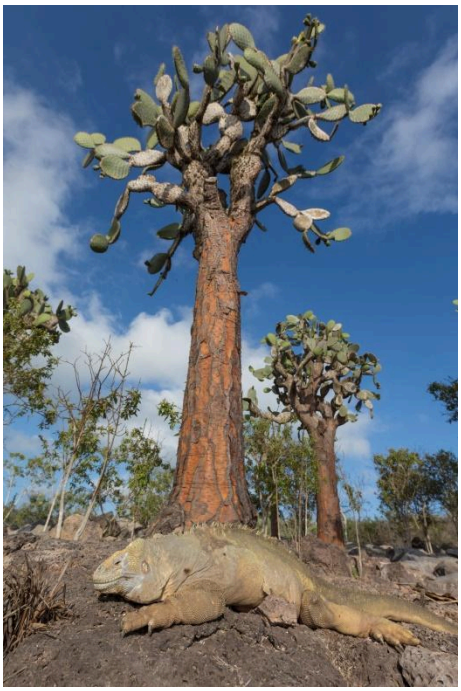
AM: PUNTA SUAREZ

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, we 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 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 or kayak 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!

Thursday, Santa Fe and South Plaza
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 into a deep turquoise color with a backdrop of gigantic prickly pear cactus growing on the peninsula that shelters the bay. Santa Fe is an extinct volcano and has been isolated from other islands 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 provides great opportunities to view and photograph the different species of rays against the sandy bottom.

While we eat lunch, a two-hour navigation north, brings us to **South Plaza** Island, where you will be greeted by friendly Galapagos Sea Lions at a landing pier. Immediately you will enter the colorful and scenic landscape of South Plaza Island, where more giant land iguanas lounge under a forest of stunted opuntia (prickly pear) cactus. You will watch as these fascinating reptiles wander amongst the cactus on a bright red carpet of portulaca. If rain arrives, bright yellow flowers decorate the portulaca plants and are a favorite snack of the iguanas. 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!

Friday, San Cristobal (Chatham)
AM: Islas Lobos and Kicker Rock
PM: San Cristobal airport and return flight to Quito

Chatham is the first island that Charles Darwin set foot on in the Galapagos. As we step off the dinghy at Islas Lobos (a small islet off the coast of San Cristobal), we will be summoning the spirit of one of the most famous naturalists of all times. At this beach we will be greeted by frigate birds perched in saltbushes displaying their red gular sacks and blue-footed boobies waving their blue feet. 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 should be dancing and showing their blue feet to potential mates during our visit!
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.
We will bid the Galapagos goodbye as we navigate the short distance to Pto. Bacuerizo Moreno, our disembarkation port from the Samba. After bidding the crew of the Samba

farewell a 5-minute bus ride brings us to the San Cristobal airport where we check in for the afternoon flight to Quito.
Upon arrival in Quito, we will be transported a short distance from the airport to Quito Airport Holiday Inn. It is possible to depart from Quito this evening on the late-night international flights or overnight at the Holiday Inn and depart the next morning.
Saturday, flights home or continue to an Ecuador extension;
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 kW for 110 V & 220V A/C and 12V & 24V D/C, Furuno Navnet Radar, Plotter and Sonar, GPS, VHF & SSB radios, two zodiacs 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^2 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. Additionally, his 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:$10,195

- Airport transfers: on April 4th to Quito Airport Holiday Inn from the Quito airport; on April 7th to Quito airport for flights to the Galapagos; on April 16th to Holiday Inn from Quito airport; on April 17th to Quito airport for departure flights

- All accommodations in Quito at the Quito Airport Holiday Inn for the nights of April 4th , 5th , and 16th (or swap April 16th for April 3rd) at Quito Airport Holiday Inn (double occupancy)
- Breakfast in Quito on April 5th 6th and 17th at Quito Airport Holiday Inn

- Roundtrip Airfare from Quito to the Galapagos on LATAM airlines

- $200 USD entrance fee into the Galapagos National Park
- $25 USD Galapagos Immigration Transit fee
- All on-board accommodation 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*** ($500pp)
- Tip to naturalist on board the ***Samba*** (Juan Manuel Salcedo) ($250)
- 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***
- Any snacks or meals during travel to/from the Galapagos
- Money for purchases of souvenir items
- Pre-Galapagos daytrip on April 5th to the cloud forest (Cost $180)
- Meals during travel days and dinner and lunch on April 5th

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

- Deposit of $1000 per person is due on booking trip
- Second payment of $4,597.50 is due by October 1st 2026
- Final payment of $4,597.50 is due by Jan 15th 2027
- Cancellations are refundable until September 1st minus a $500 cancellation fee (applicable to a future trip), after this date the $1000 deposit is nonrefundable, a (although if I can fill the spot on the trip, I will always return full payments less the $500 cancellation fee)
- 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 as soon as you sign up for the trip,

- Passport number, with country of issue and date of expiration***
- Shoe size for swim fins
- Birth date and name as it appears on your passport
- 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 a great adventure and fantastic photography while exploring the Galapagos with you!!