

MULTI-SPORT

- Something for everyone! Increasingly popular with our repeat travelers, our multi-sport adventures are an easygoing way to explore; combining sailing and hiking with other fun-filled activities that take advantage of the best this region has to offer. Activities on the Galápagos Naturalist Sailing Multi-Sport include: sailing, snorkeling, hiking, sea kayaking, surfing, mountain biking and plenty of time for relaxing on your own agenda.

WILDLIFE

- Galápagos is one of those rare destinations where you become accustomed to being surprised. Nothing quite compares to the joy of observing animals in the wild here, or the sense of wonder and privilege felt while spending time with creatures that don't run or fly away when humans approach. Galápagos is home to many endemic animals, most of which are fearless because of their lack of natural predators.
- From the world's only seagoing lizards to flightless cormorants and penguins, flamingos, inflatable frigate birds, wave albatrosses, clownish boobies, patriarchal giant tortoises, and 13 species of Darwin finches, you can enjoy thrilling encounters with animals—up close and in large numbers—who are completely at ease among human visitors.
- There are extraordinary opportunities to swim with marine mammals such as sea lions, fur seals, dolphins, and manta, eagle, and golden rays, as well as thousands of the 300 species of colorful fish. The more adventurous may relish the chance to snorkel with the friendly Galápagos sharks or even hammerheads and white-tipped reef sharks. Marine turtles and whales are commonplace and simply add to the magic.
- Ironically, no species has done more to upset the delicately balanced ecosystem of the Galápagos than *Homo sapiens*. Almost all extinctions of native species began with and followed the arrival of the first recorded visitor to the archipelago in 1535. The islands are now safeguarded by the Galápagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Research Station.

FLORA

- The plants of Galápagos are equally fascinating. Many species of indigenous *Scalesia* ("tree daisies") as well as tree ferns, bromeliads, and orchids are found in the highlands. Giant prickly pear and candelabra cacti abound on the coast while tiny *Brachycereus* cacti grow on barren lava flows. Vivid morning glories and mats of bright red sesuvium blanket the shores. Galápagos also has its very own native species of cotton, tomato, pepper, guava, and passionflower. Many kinds of plants, particularly those belonging to the daisy family, have evolved into whole arrays of endemic species on the different islands, providing scientists with classic examples of adaptive radiation.

Sample Itinerary

We pride ourselves in running a relaxed and always flexible schedule. Every trip is different depending upon the group, other trips in the area and sometimes the weather. (*Important:* The itinerary is subject to change as it is dependent on weather and participants' ability. Our daily distances can fluctuate depending on weather, activities, and National Park notices). On this sailing adventure, our special permit allows us to visit these protected sites. The following is a sample of what your trip might be like.

Day 1 Arrive Quito, Ecuador (Saturday)

- Upon arrival in Quito, you will take a short taxi ride to your hotel. Your hotel arrangements and flight details will be confirmed for you prior to departure.

Day 2 Flight to Santa Cruz and snorkel at Bachas Beach

- After breakfast, take a taxi back to the airport for your flight to Galápagos. The domestic terminal is small but you will want to arrive at least 1.5 hours prior to your flight from Quito to Baltra (which is adjacent to Santa Cruz). Once in Galápagos, your guide will meet you at the terminal and take you to our yacht moored in the harbor. You'll check in to your cabins and then regroup to enjoy a delicious lunch. Soon after we will sail to Bachas Beach where you will have an opportunity to unwind, explore the beach and test your snorkeling gear (which is provided for you). The name is Spanglish for "barges" which were wrecked offshore during World War II. A common first landing site, there is a delightful swimming beach and lagoon.

This lagoon hosts great blue herons and small waders such as sanderlings and semi-palmated plovers. The beach is a nesting area for green sea turtles, especially November to February. The expansive white sands here are also home to sea lions and flocks of blue-footed boobies demonstrating their acrobatic dives. Pelicans, tropicbirds and herons may also be a part of the mix. Later in the day we'll gather for the first in a series of congenial onboard dinners as we get to know our fellow travelers and navigate our way to Santa Cruz. (B, L, D)

Day 3 Surfing, hiking or biking—Santa Cruz Island and Charles Darwin Station

- After a glorious oceanside breakfast, we will explore the island of Santa Cruz. This morning you have the option of hiking to Tortuga Beach for surfing or body surfing in the waves. We have both long and short boards available and your ROAM guide can teach you the basics of surfing. Once you ride your first wave you will be addicted! For those not up to a morning at the beach, we will visit Los Gemelos (the twins) and hike through the unique vegetation rich with birdlife. Biking may also be an option to explore the highlands. In the afternoon we will visit the world famous Charles Darwin Research Station where most of the efforts to protect and preserve the native flora and fauna are developed. The center also has giant tortoise rearing programs and is home to Lonesome George, the last of his species. Tonight we will dine while we navigate to Isabela Island. (B, L, D)

Day 4 Hiking and snorkeling—Isabela Island and Punta Moreno

- Located on the western shore of Isabela, Punta Moreno is a place where the forces of the Galápagos have joined to create a work of art. Our exploration starts with a panga ride along the beautiful rocky shores where Galápagos penguins and shore birds are frequently seen. After a dry landing, the path traverses through jagged black lava rock. As the swirling black lava flow gave way to form craters, crystal tide pools formed—some surrounded by mangroves. These small blue lagoons are a magnet for pink flamingos, blue herons, and Bahama pintail ducks. Brown pelicans can be seen nesting in the green leaves of the mangroves. You can walk to the edge of the lava to look straight down on these pools including the occasional green sea turtle, white-tipped shark and puffer fish. We will have time to snorkel before lunch and then navigate to Urbina Bay.
- Lying at the foot of Alcedo Volcano, south of Tagus Cove, Urbina Bay (Urbina Bay) is one of the best and the most recent examples of geological uplift in the Galápagos. Uplift occurs when the molten materials beneath the surface shift. In 1954 the shoreline was uplifted nearly 15 feet (4 meters). The coastline was driven three quarters of a mile further out to sea, exposing giant coral heads and stranding marine organisms on what was now on shore. A Disney film crew visited the site shortly afterwards and discovered skeletons of sharks, sea turtles and lobsters unable to find the ocean from the rapidly rising land. Schools of fish were found stranded in newly formed tide pools. Boulder-sized coral heads can be seen near the area that once was the beach. The uplifting of Urbina Bay was followed by an eruption of Alcedo a few weeks later.
- Seasonally Urbina Bay provides a nesting area for many of the Galápagos creatures. Female tortoises journey down from Alcedo to lay their eggs in the sand. Galápagos penguins, flightless cormorants and brown pelicans nest in the area as well. The visit begins with a wet landing on the white sand beach. The difficulty of the route varies by season as the trail ranges from stark and easily passable during the dry season to mildly challenging requiring wading to pass during the rainy season. Visitors cross the uplifted region learning about this geological wonder, then reach the sandy area that was once the beach. Shorter visits return to the landing point on the same path, while longer visits continue past the coral heads and new beach.
- Other highlights of this site include marine iguanas, some of the largest land iguanas in the islands and Galápagos Cotton, an endemic plant which historians believe the Incas brought to the islands, while naturalists theorize it floated across from Peru. Tonight we will dine en route to Tagus Cove. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Snorkeling at Tagus Cove and Fernandina Island Punta Espinoza

- Tagus Cove is situated directly east of Fernandina Island on the west coast of Isabela Island. It is a beautiful, well-protected cove sheltered by the shoulders of two volcanic craters and has been used as an anchorage for over 300 years. A nature trail here ascends through the typical dry vegetation zone and offers spectacular views of Darwin Lake, a saltwater crater lake, and the long narrow inlet that appears to

connect with it. At the top of the trail it is possible to observe the different vegetation zones, catch a glimpse of Darwin and Wolf volcanoes, and observe Galápagos penguins, flightless cormorants and pelicans. We will have an opportunity to snorkel before sailing to Fernandina.

- Fernandina Island is the youngest and most active volcano in the Galápagos, with eruptions taking place every few years. The flat lava of Punta Espinosa offers a stark and barren landscape, but here flightless cormorants build their nests on the point, sea lions sprawl on the beach or play in the tide pools and large numbers of marine iguanas dot the sand. We also will have the opportunity to compare a`a and pahoehoe lava types here. After dinner we'll navigate to Santiago. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Hiking and snorkeling—Santiago Island, Puerto Egas and Espumilla Beach

- A visit to Puerto Egas begins with a wet landing on the dark sand beaches of James Bay. Here we walk along the rocky coast giving visitors the opportunity to view some of the Galapagos Island's best tide pools. Sponges, snails, hermit crabs, barnacles and fish including the endemic four-eyed blenny can be seen. The walk also presents a variety of shore birds, marine iguanas, sally light foot crabs and sea lions.
- There are two interesting excursions at Puerto Egas. The first is a short walk from the landing site to the site of one of the Galapagos' first entrepreneurial endeavors. For decades salt was extracted from a local salt crater. The industry was abandoned in the 1950's leaving behind a variety of rusted old machines and parts of buildings. The trail follows the path once used by wagon trains to the crater cone. The steep trail is easy, but can often seem one of the hottest hikes in the islands. Feral goats prune the arid vegetation, which lines the trail. The goats feed on any leaves within reach leaving little left for the endemic island creatures. Bird lovers will be delighted with the opportunity to catch a glimpse of one of Darwin's finch, the endemic Galapagos hawk, or the colorful vermilion flycatcher. The crater rim presents an incredible vista. Salt water seeps into the crater creating a small salt lake and the sun evaporates the water, leaving the salt that many have tried to mine without success. Looking away from the crater are the older orange lava fields which support vegetation and the younger desolate black lava fields.
- The second excursion is to a fur seal grotto. Fur seals and sea lions can be seen swimming in the rocky lava ringed pools. This is the best opportunity we have to see and swim with fur seals, which were once hunted to near extinction for their coats. The Galapagos Fur Seal is the smallest of the fur seals found in the southern hemisphere, and now compare in numbers with the sea lions. During the day they hide from the hot equatorial sun in shelves or caves of the rocky lava cliffs. At night they feed on squid and fish, avoiding the sharks—their natural predator. The crystal clear water, volcanic bridges, fur seals and sea lions make this a magnificent place for swimming and snorkeling.
- Visitors who now come to Espumilla Beach come in search of birds rather than water. A short walk inland takes visitors through a mangrove forest normally inhabited by the common stilt. Sea turtles also visit these mangroves to nest. Beyond the mangroves is a brackish lagoon where flocks of pink flamingos and white cheeked pintails can be seen. The trail makes a loop heading over a knob into a sparsely forested area then back to the beach. Along the way those with a watchful eye may spot a variety of Darwin finches or a vermilion fly catcher. Once back at the beach visitors may have the chance to swim or snorkel, time permitting.
- Less than an hour north of Puerto Egas, Buccaneers Cove served as a safe haven for pirates, sailors and whalers during the 18th and 19th century. Anchoring in the protected bay they were able to make much needed repairs to their ships while other men went a shore to stock up on salt, tortoises, fresh water and firewood. Several years ago ceramic jars were found at the bottom of the bay, the discarded cargo of some mariner from years gone by. Inside the jars were supplies of wine and marmalade. Few boats stop at Buccaneers Cove today, though many cruise by at a slow speed giving visitors the opportunity to view the steep cliffs made of tuff formations and the dark reddish-purple sand beach. This dramatic landscape is made all the more impressive by the hundreds of seabirds perched atop the cliffs. Two of the more recognizable rock formations are known as the "monk" and "elephant rock". A large population of feral goats now frequents Buccaneers Cove and this portion of Santiago. The National Park Service has fenced off part of the area to protect the native vegetation from the destructive eating habits of this introduced species. A wet landing on the large coffee-colored sand beach is just north of the prized fresh water supply that once attracted pirates and whalers. Later we will have dinner and head on to Rabida. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Rabida Island and Sullivan Bay

- One of the special features of Rabida Island is its remarkable red color, which is a result of the high percentage of oxidized iron in the composition of lava. Here we will witness the nine varieties of finches and also large-billed flycatchers and brown pelicans. Greater Flamingos can be seen in a small salt-water lagoon and there is a beautiful colony of sea lions. The main attraction of Sullivan Bay is the broad pahoehoe or rope lava flow. It is one of the most incredible places to compare the lava flows and their characteristics. After dinner we move on toward Genovesa. (B, L, D)

Day 8 Hiking volcanoes—Genovesa Island, El Barranco and Darwin Bay

- Genovesa is also known as the Bird Island. El Barranco, or the Prince Phillip Steps, requires a demanding walk up a steep cliff, where tropicbirds, red-footed boobies and other nesting seabirds can be found. We follow the trail through a palo santo forest to a storm petrel colony passing boobies and great frigate bird along the way. Darwin Bay is the caldera of a collapsed volcano and has a small coral beach where we can land for an easier walk. This will allow for stunning views from the cliffs and an opportunity to photograph the amazing bird life such as swallow-tailed gulls, red-footed booby, nazca booby, large ground finch, large cactus finch, sharp-billed ground finch, small marine iguanas and great frigate bird. Tonight we navigate to Daphne. (B, L, D)

Day 9 Daphne Major and Baltra

- Birdlife abounds as the morning sunrise lights up the pink skies. Soon after, reality sinks in that it is time to leave this island paradise and make our way to the airport at Baltra. Tonight you may choose to regroup with other travelers in Quito for a farewell dinner to share memories and laughs before retiring to our overnight accommodations. (B)

Day 10 (Monday) Departure

- After an early breakfast at the hotel, take a taxi to the airport to catch flights home or get ready for your next adventure in Ecuador. (B)

What's Included?

- Skilled professional guide service
- Fully crewed sail boat with English speaking Ecuadorian naturalist
- 2 nights lodging in Quito / 7 nights lodging on catamaran (based on double occupancy)
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary
- All activities and equipment as outlined in the itinerary and trip planner
- Round trip flights from Quito to Galápagos

What's Not Included?

- Transportation to/from Quito, Ecuador
- Pre- and post-trip accommodations and meals
- Meals not covered in the itinerary
- Quito airport transfers
- Galápagos National Park entrance fee US\$100 per person, US\$50 per child under 12, cash only
- Single supplement – by choice or circumstance (\$2000)
- Insurance of any kind, including travel and **mandatory** medical and evacuation insurance
- Cost of medical immunizations
- Alcohol and beverages
- Items of personal nature (a complete packing list will be provided)
- Gratuities

Contact Information:

- For more information on this or any of our over 75 rafting, sea kayaking or multi-sport adventures, please call 1-800-346-6277 in the USA or Canada or 1-209-736-4677 if outside the USA or Canada or email us at info@oars.com and one of our knowledgeable adventure consultants will be happy to help you.

A Few Important Details

Reservations & Deposit

- An \$800/person deposit is required at the time of reservation. The balance is due 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations & Refunds

- If you find it necessary to cancel your trip, notify us as soon as possible. All payments are nonrefundable and we regret that we cannot make exceptions for personal emergencies. For this reason, we strongly urge our participants to investigate trip cancellation insurance (see Insurance).

Medical

- Under most circumstances, if you are of an adventurous spirit and in reasonably good health, you should have no problem enjoying this trip. People with medical conditions, including pregnancy, should have a physician's approval before taking an adventure travel trip.

Insurance

- Although every effort is made to insure a safe trip for all, **we require that you purchase medical evacuation insurance to participate in this expedition.** Call Travel Insurance Services at 800-937-1387 or visit their website at www.travelinsure.com/what/imedhigh.htm?32635 for inexpensive options that cover this requirement. We also strongly recommend that you protect yourself, your belongings, and your vacation through the purchase of a short-term traveler's policy. A trip cancellation policy covers your non-refundable payments in most cases, should you have to cancel your trip at the last minute due to illness or injury, as well as including the coverage required above. Trip participants should realize that in the event of illness or injury on a river trip, evacuation could be prolonged, difficult, and expensive. Personal belongings and cameras are carried entirely at the owner's risk, and we accept no responsibility for lost, damaged, delayed, or stolen property.

Liability Waiver

- Everyone is required to sign a standard liability release before the trip, acknowledging awareness that some risks are associated with the trip. Safety is of the utmost concern on our trips. However, due to the nature of the activities, a condition of your participation is that you will sign this form before the trip begins. Anyone who refuses to sign the form will not be allowed to participate and consistent with R.O.A.M. cancellation policy, there will be no refund of the trip fees at that time.

Responsibility – An Important Notice

- ROAM Adventures Inc., R.O.A.M., Inc., Latin Tour and cooperating agencies act only in the capacity of agent for the participants in all matters relating to transportation and/or all other related travel services, and assume no responsibility however caused for injury, loss or damage to person or property in connection with any service, including but not limited to that resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays, and expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, theft, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or change in transit over which they have no control. Reasonable changes in itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the participants, including cancellation due to water fluctuation, insufficient bookings, and other factors. There is risk in boating and kayaking. Rafts and kayaks do capsize. You could be swept overboard. Your guide will make every attempt to assist, but you must be strong and agile enough to "self-help" without further endangering yourself or others. We reserve the right not to accept passengers weighing more than 260 pounds or with a waist/chest size more than 56 inches. We may decide, at any time, to exclude any person or group for any reason we feel is related to safety on our trips. We are experienced at accommodating people with various disabilities. Please give us an opportunity to make you feel welcome. We need to discuss requirements ahead of time. On advancement of deposit the depositor agrees to be bound by the above recited terms and conditions. Prices and itinerary are subject to change without notice.

Latin Tour:

- Latin Tour, a partner of ROAM Adventures Inc. is the operator of this trip. These staff members are the very best and will strive to ensure your complete satisfaction.

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