



GALAPAGOS NATURALIST SAILING MULTI-SPORT

Itinerary



MEETING PLACE:	Mariscal Sucre International Airport—Quito, Ecuador
MEETING TIME:	Morning of Day 2 (Flight information will be confirmed prior to your trip)
RETURN TIME:	Approximately 5:00 PM on Day 9, Quito, Ecuador
MINIMUM AGE:	10
TRIP LENGTH:	10 days/9 nights, including arrival and departure
ACTIVITIES:	Hiking, snorkeling, sea kayaking, mountain biking, surfing

Sailing through the Galápagos Archipelago is the ultimate way to see this incredible region. The shallow beam and spacious deck space on our wide and stable catamaran is noticeable to those who have spent time on traditional ships. The catamaran is equipped with twin diesel engines for efficiency but there is nothing more romantic and rewarding than being under sail in these turquoise waters. Sailboats leave a much smaller footprint on the environment and our unique itinerary seeks to minimize impact by allowing small and intimate groups to visit sites that are not on the main routes.

The sailboat serves as a vehicle of access to the wonders of these enchanted islands. Mooring each night in different locations, our special permit allows guests to experience the best the Galápagos has to offer. Island hopping by catamaran allows us to easily access places the bigger ships may not. Our small group size is far more intimate and allows us to spend time observing the wildlife and enjoying the active nature of our vacation rather than loading and unloading from a cruise ship.

AWARD-WINNING NATURE-BASED ADVENTURES SINCE 1969

O.A.R.S. has been in business for over 40 years and that is no accident. Great trips on some of the world's best rivers and coastlines are the recipe for this success. Always focused on our clients and their vacations, it is our genuine belief that river trips and nature-based adventures are extremely valuable life experiences. With that as our foundation, we have committed ourselves over the years to providing the best trips available, always with an eye on improvement.

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 Baltra and board the Catamaran, 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 sailing catamaran 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 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 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 Cerro Brujo, Kicker Rock and Isla de los Lobos

- We awake to new scenery this morning on the north side of San Cristobal Island at Cerro Brujo. Here we are greeted by sea lions, blue-footed boobies, pelicans, egrets and marine iguanas.
- We cruise to Leon Dormido or Kicker Rock, keeping our eyes peeled along the way for sea turtles, manta rays and birds overhead. This volcanic tuff cone rises almost 500 feet out of the ocean and provides a wonderland for marine life. If the currents are in our favor, we will don our snorkeling gear and explore this popular dive site. Drift along, allowing big schools of fish to pass and try to keep track of all the species you see; there are over 450 of them in Galapagos!
- Our snorkeling works up an appetite and we re-fuel our bodies with a delicious lunch before jumping right off our catamaran and back into the ocean to swim with the playful sea lions for which Isla los Lobos was named. The island is a haven for these playful creatures and the more you mimic their aquatic acrobatics the better performance they put on for us!
- After dinner we cruise on to our next spot in paradise! B, L, D)

Day 5 Espanola and Gardner Bay

- This morning we arrive at Espanola, the oldest and most southern of the Galapagos Islands. We take to the land and walk along the islands coast to Punta Suarez admiring the wildlife all the way. The coast is lined with marine iguanas, a species found nowhere else on earth. This provides fantastic photo opportunities as we watch them pile up on the shore to sunbathe and excrete the salt out of their nostrils after feasting on the algae that grows under the sea. Espanola is also the only place in the world that the stunning waved albatross, with its 7-8 foot wingspan, touches land. This is their nesting ground and provides the hatchlings a practice area until their first flight, which will take them all the way to Patagonia. Boobies, tropic birds and Swallow-tailed gulls also breed here. If the tide is right, watch as a blowhole shoots water high into the air in a spectacular show of power.
- We return to the boat and enjoy lunch on our way to Gardner Bay. Here we find two brilliant white beaches separated by a rocky outcrop. We will take our time here and let the wonders of Galapagos surround us. The inquisitive Hood mockingbird and Galapagos hawk may approach you and you may see the tank-like tracks of nesting sea turtles in the nesting season (January to April). As we snorkel through the crystal clear water we may see these turtles among the beautiful fish and sea lions. We watch the sun set over this idyllic bay before we return to the boat for the evening. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Floreana Island and Post Office Bay

- We take our panga (zodiac raft) to Punta Cormorant and disembark onto a beach like no other in Galapagos—the green sand is due to olivine. The Palo Santo forest leads us to a brackish lagoon that hosts

flamingos and then on to a white sand beach known as 'flour beach' due to the fineness of the sand. Watch the rays flutter in the shallow water, or if you have unshakable nerves, shuffle into the ocean and watch them swim around your feet. This beach is also a popular nesting area for sea turtles and we may see turtles mating in the waves rolling into shore.

- Next, we move back into our underwater world and drift with the flow of the current as it carries us past steep walls and volcanic formations. This deep blue sea is teeming with large schools of colorful fish—watch for Parrotfish, Sergeant Majors, Damselfish, and even gentle white-tipped sharks.
- Moving back onto the land, we learn about the stranger-than-fiction history of Floreana, complete with pirates, whalers, convicts and colonists. We will visit Post Office Bay established 1792, but no need for stamps here! Sort through the piles of post cards and letters left by past visitors of the island and if you find a letter addressed to someone close to your home, take it with you and deliver it by hand, keeping with this long standing tradition. (B, L, D)

Day 7 Isla Santa Fe and South Plaza

- We visit the northeastern corner of Santa Fe in a sheltered bay where the shallow area often allows for viewing rays and turtles in the clear water. Santa Fe is noted for its large colony of sea lions and we will navigate past the cows and pups being careful not to disturb the bull male who is overseeing his harem. We follow a trail winding its way through prickly pear, cotton bush and Heller's Scalesia to the top of a cliff with a dramatic overlook of the bay. Here we watch for endemic Santa Fe land iguana feasting on cactus fruit below the trees and Galapagos hawks soaring above searching for food.
- We'll set sail next to South Plaza just off the eastern tip of Santa Cruz. This is one of the most concentrated wildlife sites in the whole archipelago. We follow a trail from the small dock up past sea lions and prickly pear cacti to the cliff where we often spot the endemic Yellow-Tailed Mullet. This is an excellent place to photograph the Swallow-tailed gull and the Red-tailed tropicbird (both breed here). We'll return to the boat and may have a chance to jump in the water for some snorkeling before beginning our next evening cruise north. (B, L, D)

Day 8 Sombrero Chino and Bartolome

- Sombrero Chino, or 'Chinese Hat' will be easy to identify and will also mark our first snorkeling spot for the day. There are often a group of curious penguins here and they have been known to gaze at their reflection in our snorkel masks, then rocket away with impressive speed.
- Once again aboard the boat, we lunch as we sail to Bartolome Island, one of the most picturesque and iconic sites of our visit. The hike to the top provides many great examples to help us understand how this unique volcanic landscape was formed. At the summit we take in the stunning view of our boat below and Santiago Island to the north. Back in our panga, we drift past the penguins perched on the rocks along shore and then head into the water to snorkel along Pinnacle Rock amazed by the incredible marine life once again!
- We head back to the catamaran for the night and let the gentle rock of the boat lull us to sleep after another satisfying dinner as we start our journey back to Santa Cruz. (B, L, D)

Day 9 Isla Santa Cruz and return to Quito

- 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. But first, a tranquil journey through the still waters and beautiful mazes of mangroves called Black Turtle Cove. Marvel at this wild aquarium with spotted eagle rays, turtles and baby sharks swimming around our boat in the quiet still of our last morning in Galapagos.
- Tonight you may choose to regroup with other travelers in Quito for a farewell dinner to share memories and laughs before retiring to your overnight accommodations. Guests flying home on Delta may depart this evening from Quito (B)

Day 10 Departure (Monday)

- 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

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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