



Natural Wonders of Galápagos Islands

Quito - San Cristobal Island - Española Island - Santa Cruz Island - South Plazas - Baltra Island - Guayaquil

March 10, 2018 - March 18, 2018



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Natural Wonders of Galápagos Islands

The history of Galápagos is central to our understanding of earthly life and a visit to the enchanted islands is a shining moment in any traveller's life.

Galápagos Islands hold a central position in modern history as the birthplace of the theory of evolution. Take your kids to join us for a wondrous educational journey to one of the most biologically unique places on earth in the Spring Break. Appreciate the diversity of life first-hand while observing the flightless cormorant, the Galapagos penguin, bluefooted boobies, giant tortoises, marine and land iguanas, and the famous "Darwin's finches". Swim with sea lions, and snorkel among colourful tropical fish and sea turtles.

Each island in this volcanic archipelago has species that are exquisitely adapted to the available food sources and surrounding environment. We will explore Isabela Island, the largest Island of the Galápagos archipelago and the lush, historic highlands of Santa Cruz Island, one of the first sites visited by Darwin. Take an excursion to visit remote coralline beaches and secluded inlets, such as South Plaza and Las Tintoreras.

AT A GLANCE

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1	Sat	Mar 10	2018	Arrive Quito
Arrive in Quito, overnight at the Airport hotel.				
Day 2	Sun	Mar 11	2018	Quito - San Cristobal
Fly to the Galápagos, visit the Interpretation Centre				
Day 3	Mon	Mar 12	2018	San Cristobal Island
Day trip to Española Island, see the Hood Giant Tortoise				
Day 4	Tue	Mar 13	2018	San Cristobal Island
Visit the Lagoon El Junco, La Galapaguera and Chino Beach				
Day 5	Wed	Mar 14	2018	Santa Cruz Island
Transfer to Santa Cruz Island, Charles Darwin Research Center				
Day 6	Thu	Mar 15	2018	Santa Cruz Island
Visit South Plaza, a large colony of Sea Lion and land iguanas				
Day 7	Fri	Mar 16	2018	Santa Cruz Island
Day at leisure				
Day 8	Sat	Mar 17	2018	Galápagos - Guayaquil
Leisurely morning at hotel, fly to Guayaquil				
Day 9	Sun	Mar 18	2018	Guayaquil - Home
Guayaquil departure flight home				



PRICING

(Land only)

	10 or more Guest		6-9 Guest	
	USD	CAD	USD	CAD
Adult twin sharing	\$2895	\$3695	\$3195	\$4095
Child (under 12)	\$2150	\$2750	\$2295	\$2900
Intertour Air from	USD \$530 (Adult) USD \$380 (Child)			
Quito - San Cristobal Island -- GPS Baltra Island - Guayaquil				

HIGHLIGHTS & SPECIAL FEATURES

- Tailor made trip for families during Spring break, with interconnecting room options, engaging activities, specially designed menus and mealtimes, and games for kids (a great way for youngsters to meet).
- First Class hotel accommodation in two islands including meals as stated and service charge and applicable government taxes
- Visit giant tortoise reserve, Charles Darwin Research Station; explore volcanic crater, South Plaza and Las Tintoreras.
- Swimming, snorkelling, and island exploring and leisure time to enjoy the beauty of the Galápagos.



ITINERARY

Mar 10, 2018 Arrive Quito

Upon arrival, check into your airport hotel for overnight.

Wyndham Quito Airport hotel or similar

March 11, 2018 Quito – San Cristobal Island (B)

Take a flight to San Cristobal and on arrival, transfer to the hotel.

Hotel Sea Side Inn or similar (standard room)

This afternoon, visit the Galapagos National Park Visitor Center to learn the history of Galapagos, its ecosystems, flora and fauna. The grounds of the Interpretation Centre are good to see the endemic Chatham mockingbird and San Cristóbal lava lizard. In the afternoon, hike 1.5 km to the Frigate Bird Hill (Cerro de las Tijeretas), to take in a good view of the town and the bay, and observe the magnificent frigate birds.



March 12, 2018 Day trip to Española Island (B/L)

Full day excursion to Española Island located at the southeastern edge of the archipelago and one of the oldest islands. Several unique species and subspecies have evolved here, including the Hood Giant Tortoise. Because of its great variety of sea birds Española is especially popular with birdwatchers. You can encounter masked and blue-footed boobies, Galapagos doves, red-billed tropicbird, mocking birds, swallowed-tailed gulls and, most important, the waved albatross.

March 13, 2018 San Cristobal Island (B)

Visit the only permanent freshwater lake in the Galapagos - Lake El Junco where we can normally see White-cheeked pintails, common gallinules and frigate birds gathering around the lagoon, surrounded by Miconia bushes and endemic tree ferns. In the highlands of San Cristobal, we will visit the “Galapaguera semi-natural”, where giant tortoises are brought to from their natural habitats in order to breed and raise their young in a more controlled environment. Along the trails around the Galapaguera, you will see typical vegetation and of course, giant tortoises found near the water holes and feeding stations.

Spend the rest of the day on the Beach Puerto Chino, enjoy swim, snorkel or just relax and observe at the same time pelicans and other birds.

March 14, 2018 San Cristobal Island - Santa Cruz Island (B/L)

This morning, travel by a speed boat to Santa Cruz Island and on arrival, a stop at the Twin Craters for you to see a lava tunnel and a short walk to observe the famous giant tortoise. This afternoon, we visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and learn how the conservation of the islands is conducted, the huge efforts that scientists, park rangers and park managers among others have to make to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Above all, the reduction of brought in animals is very important for the natural balance of the archipelago

Torre Isla Sol by Solyamar or similar



March 15, 2018 Santa Cruz Island (B/L)

Full day excursion by boat to visit South Plazas Island, where a large colony of sea lions lounges daily in the equatorial sun. This island also boasts excellent examples of typical Galapaganean flora such as the towering cacti “trees” that form the principal diet for both the land iguanas and the cactus finch. Other birds that may flutter by include lava gulls, yellow warblers and red-billed tropic birds with their elaborate tails.

March 16, 2018 Santa Cruz Island (B)

After breakfast you will have the rest of the day free for you to walk around or just try to relax and use the hotel facilities.

You may take a 45min-walk out of town to Tortuga Bay, one of the long white sandy beaches where with a little luck, marine iguanas and sea turtles could be seen and bird watchers will enjoy the migratory birds walking on the shore. A western rocky edge divides the beach, resulting in a calm small cove and beach surrounded by mangroves.

Las Grietas (“Cracks”) is a rocky bay surrounded by high cliffs which offers an amazing spot to snorkel with colorful fish as the water is crystal clear and shines in all shades of blue. It can be reached by a short water taxi ride and a 15-minute walk from the pier of Puerto Ayora. On the way you pass the “Playa de los Alemanes” (“Beach of the Germans”), where you can make a break in order to enjoy the sun and swim in the refreshing ocean

March 17, 2018 Baltra Island - Guayaquil (B)

In the morning, transfer to Baltra airport and flight to Guayaquil where you will be transferred from the airport to the hotel

Hotel Unipark or similar

March 18, 2018 Guayaquil - Home (B)

Fly home from Guayaquil.

