

# GALAPAGOS

## Land Based Tour - March 9-18, 2015

Explore the magic of the Enchanted Isles with this unique land based tour which includes three daily boat trips to the islands and an overnight stay in Isabela. Your home base will be the recently inaugurated Galapagos House in Puerto Ayora. From there you'll embark on several trips around Santa Cruz to enjoy the magnificent wildlife of the island and study its geological history.

On this tour you'll be accompanied by two guides. Jaime Dominguez is a certified naturalist III guide with over 25 years of experience leading tours in the Galapagos, and an excellent photographer. Reinier Munguia is a seasoned visitor of the islands and has led three live-onboard tour of the islands. He's an avid naturalist and award-winning photographer.

This trip was designed to offer excellent wildlife opportunities for those who can't live on-board or prefer the quality and comfort of a hotel.

### Travel Logistics

This trip starts with your flight from Orlando International (MCO) to Guayaquil, Ecuador (GYE). You'll stay at a local hotel near the airport. The next morning we'll board our 1 hr flight to Baltra (GPS). After clearing customs and getting our National Park Pass we'll meet our naturalist guide to start our adventure. We'll then board a bus that will take us to the Itabaca Channel where a ferry will take us to the main island of Santa Cruz. At the end of our stay in the Galapagos islands, we'll go back to the airport to catch our flight to mainland Ecuador. The following day we board our flight back to Orlando International (MCO).

### Pricing

**Land price** **\$2,900 pp**

(Based on Double Occupancy)

The above cost includes hotel accommodations (2 nights in Guayaquil-7 nights in Galapagos), meals (BLD- Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner) while in Galapagos. Also included are the National Park Pass and transit card (\$110), naturalist guide fees, and all land and maritime transportation within the Galapagos Islands (See itinerary for destinations)

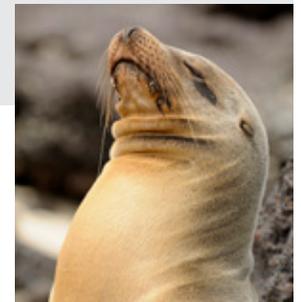
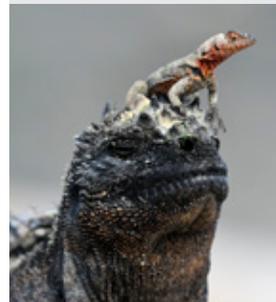
### Estimated airfare

Note that until these flights are booked prices may vary. Price is based on roundtrip.

**MCO-GYE** **\$750 pp**

**GYE-GPS** **\$420 pp**

**TOTAL COST** **\$4,070 pp**



## DAY 1 RANCHO PRIMICIAS - TORTOISE HATCHERY

This private preserve offers perhaps the best opportunity to see and photograph the Galapagos giant tortoises as they forage or dip in the ponds to cool off. Some of the bird species that can be seen include the Galapagos flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Galapagos Dove and a variety of Galapagos finches. A short hike on the trails of this working ranch leads to a series of ponds used by the tortoises and the Bahamian White-cheek Pintails. On this day you will also visit a tortoise captive breeding facility.



## DAY 2 NORTH SEYMOUR - BACHAS BEACH

North Seymour is one of the most impressive bird rookeries in the archipelago. Greater Frigatebirds, Blue-footed boobies and Nazca boobies can all be seen nesting next to each other. The activity and the sounds of thousands of birds will keep you busy as you'll have countless of opportunities to capture up-close pictures of the birds. The island is also home to the Galapagos Land Iguana, a giant vegetarian that can be seen trying its best to climb the Palo Santo trees to reach its leaves. Sea lions patrol the coastline and can be seen resting or playing on the sandy beaches.



## DAY 3 TURTLE BAY - CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION

Turtle Bay as the name implies is a beach where many Sea Turtles come to lay their eggs almost all-year-round. This white sandy beach is home to many wild residents such as the marine iguanas and the Galapagos sea lions. Bachas Beach offers great snorkeling opportunities and a great place to see Greater Flamingos on the nearby lagoon. On this day you'll also visit the Charles Darwin Research Station where hundreds of tortoises are raised in captivity to be re-introduced to the wild. Learn the importance of this project and how much we have learned about these legendary reptiles.



## DAY 4 BARTOLOME ISLAND - SULLIVAN BAY

Today we sail to Bartolome Is. to visit Pinnacle Rock, a very impressive and iconic rock formation. This island offers a panoramic view of Santiago and its volcanic landscape. Later we'll move over to Sullivan Bay and explore the beach in search of the Lava Heron and the easy to find Sally Lightfoot Crabs. This is a great location to spot the Lava Lizard and the occasional Galapagos Penguins. This bay offers great opportunities to swim with sea turtles and sharks.



## DAY 5 SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND - PUNTA CARRION

The Plazas are two islands not too far off shore from Santa Cruz offering great views of nesting seabirds such as the Swallow-tailed Gull, Audubon's Shearwater and the best site to photograph the Red-billed Tropicbird. Swallow-tailed Gulls are plentiful and fly close to the trail for easy flight shots. South Plaza is beautifully carpeted with Sesuvium, a colorful succulent plant. Galapagos Land Iguanas are easily photographed in this location as they forage for the flowers of the sea pursalane and other flowering plants that grow on this island.



## DAY 6 ISABELA - VOLCAN SIERRA NEGRA (Overnight in Isabela)

We depart early this morning on a 2hr boat ride to nearby Isabela Island. This is one of the youngest islands, with several active volcanoes and endless opportunities to observe wildlife. Upon arrival to Puerto Villamil you'll be welcomed by Marine Iguanas and Blue-footed Boobies diving on the bay. Along the rocks there's the opportunity to find the tiny Galapagos penguins. A trip to Sierra Negra Volcano in on the schedule for the day. Here you'll have the opportunity to see Sierra Negra Tortoises with their saddlebag shaped carapace.



## DAY 7 ISLA SANTA FE

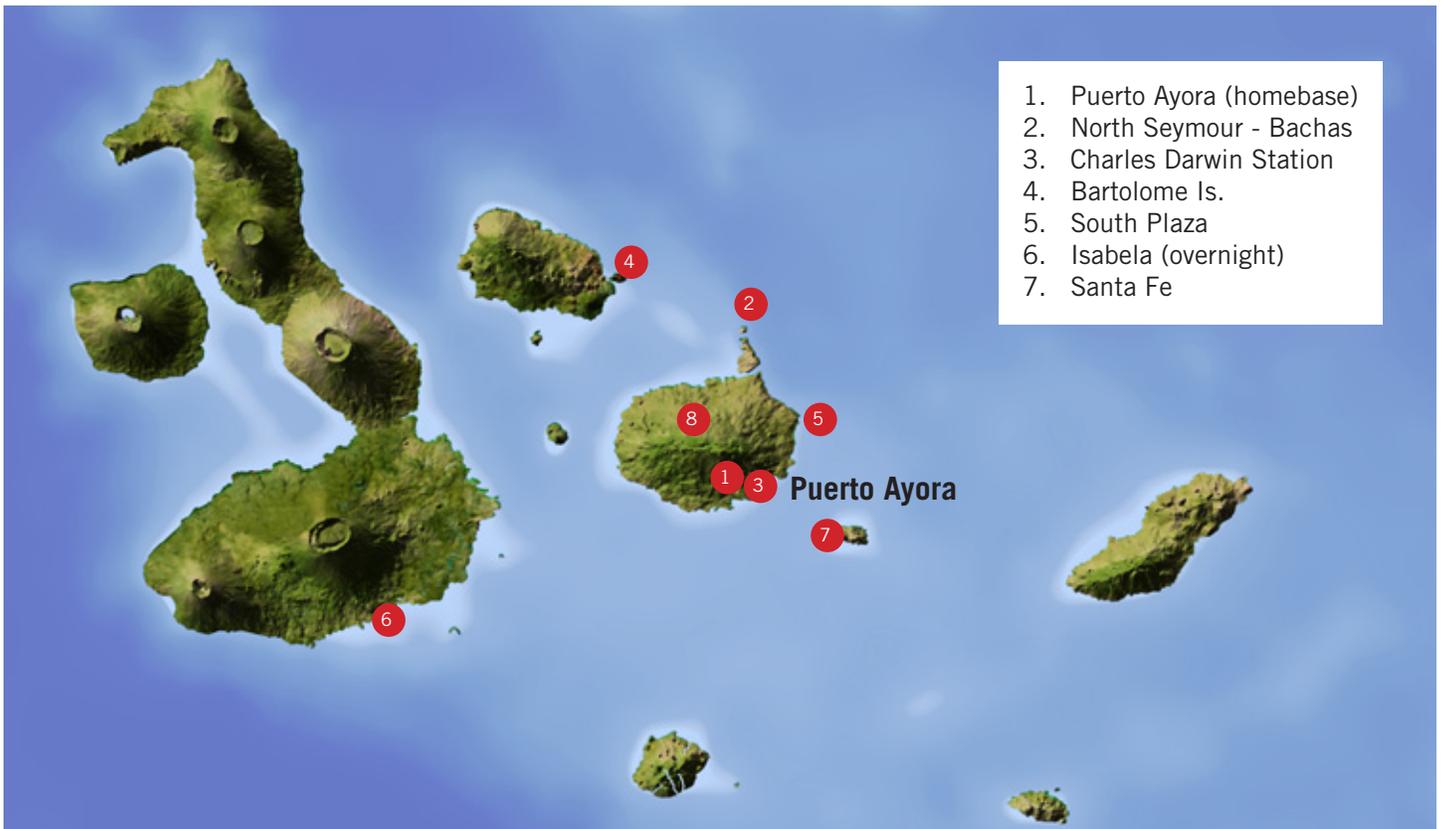
Today we'll visit Santa Fe island on our way back to Santa Cruz. The walking trail takes you through an Opuntia Cactus forest where mockingbirds and finches are seen flying around. There's a big chance we will see the Galapagos Hawk and the Galapagos Doves as we walk the trail. The beach offers great opportunities to study sea lions and their pups. Land iguanas are common here too. The landscape is mainly composed of lava rocks



## DAY 8 LOS GEMELOS - TRAFER OUT

Today is your last day on the islands. On the way to the airport to catch our flight to Guayaquil we'll stop by Los Gemelos, two pit craters surrounded by Scalesia forest. There you'll have a chance to see the Short-eared Owl and the Vermillion Flycatcher and perhaps get a glimpse of the Woodpecker Finch.



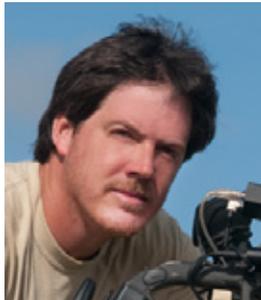


1. Puerto Ayora (homebase)
2. North Seymour - Bachas
3. Charles Darwin Station
4. Bartolome Is.
5. South Plaza
6. Isabela (overnight)
7. Santa Fe

## ABOUT YOUR LEADERS

### Reinier Munguia

Reinier Munguia is a commercial and nature photographer with a strong education and conservation vision. His work has appeared in several publications including textbooks and magazines. His passion for nature has taken him to become an advocate for causes related to the protection of species. Educating people about nature has become his most important goal. Reinier has also taken on the role of vice-president of education for the Lake Region Audubon, where he has been doing multiple presentations as well as leading conservation and outreach programs. Over the years he has presented at large nature and photography events such as the Space Coast Birding Festival. Wanting to explore more of the natural world has led Reinier to lead photography and birding trips through the United States, as well as other countries including Costa Rica, Ecuador and Puerto Rico. As the President and instructor of the Polk County Camera Club, he has been educating amateur photographers as well as professionals the art of creating images.



### Jaime Dominguez

Jaime was born in Ecuador and has been leading Galapagos tours for 25 years. He's not only an amazing naturalist, but an avid photographer as well. He is well versed in the geological and biological history of the islands and will keep you up-to-date in the latest conservation efforts and struggles to protect the islands from human impact.



His work has appeared on countless publications and postcards depicting the natural beauty of the Galapagos Islands. He's currently the owner and general manager of the Galapagos House which he runs with the help of his sons. Among his goals is the establishment of a Galapagos based tour company to provide the best tour services in an economical yet sustainable way.

# The Galapagos House



The Galapagos House offers a unique setting for your base camp. This enchanting house is located in the town of Puerto Ayora and is a short walk from the best shops and restaurants in Santa Cruz. The house is fully equipped and the staff will ensure you're always comfortable and well taken care of. The chef is a recent graduate of a renowned culinary school in Guayaquil. Food will be served in a family style buffet right in the family dining room and all food is prepared using the freshest ingredients. The Galapagos House offers the best of traditional Ecuadorian cuisine with a fusion twist.

