



Photos by Reinier Munguia



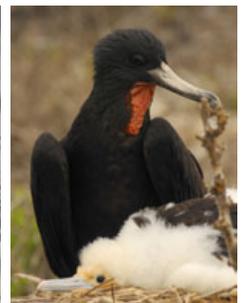
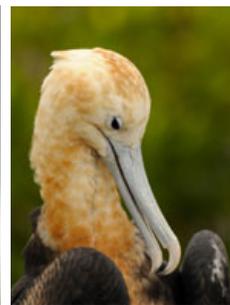
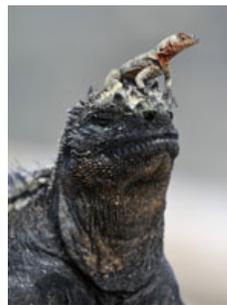
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS with Reinier Munguia July 3-13, 2015

ABOUT YOUR LEADER



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, The Big "O" and the First Coast Nature & Photo Fest among others. Wanting to explore more of the natural world has led Reinier to lead photography and birding trips though the United States, as well as other countries including Costa Rica, Ecuador and Puerto Rico. As the President and teacher of the Polk County Camera Club, he has been educating amateur photographers not only in the proper use of their equipment but also in the ability to self-evaluate their work.



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JULY 3 - QUITO

Upon arrival in Quito you will be met and escorted to the hotel. *Overnight at Rincon de Puembo.*

JULY 4 - QUITO

Early morning transfer to Guango Lodge (8,856 ft) located on Ecuador's eastern slope. This zone of humid temperate forest is home to a large variety of hummingbirds including Long-tailed Sylphs, Mountain Velvetbreasts, Collared Incas, White-bellied Woodstars, Sword-billed and Speckled Hummingbirds, Tourmaline Sunangels, Buff-tailed Coronets, Glowing Pufflegs, Green Violetears, and Tyrian Metaltails. Be on the lookout for Monked, Glossy, and White-sided Flowerpiercers that commonly frequent the area. After lunch enjoy some time at Papallacta thermal hot springs (if desired) before returning to Puembo for dinner. *Overnight at Rincon de Puembo. (BLD)*

JULY 5 - GALÁPAGOS

This morning you will be escorted to the airport for your flight to the Galápagos Islands. Upon arrival you will be met by your naturalist guide and transferred to the M/Y Yolita II. Your adventure begins with a visit to North Seymour, home to a large population of the archipelago's iconic Blue-footed Boobies. *Overnight aboard M/Y Yolita II. (BLD)*

JULY 6 - GALÁPAGOS

Visit León Dormido for optional swimming and snorkeling. León Dormido, also known as Kicker Rock, is a small distinctive island off the coast of San Cristóbal and a great site for snorkeling. You may even encounter hammerhead sharks if you're lucky. Later in the morning is a wet landing at Cerro Brujo, an ideal spot for watching lake and coastal birds. Cerro Brujo offers an excellent landscape, combining views of Kicker Rock, the southern part of Upper San Cristóbal, and the coast adjacent to Cerro Brujo. This afternoon continue to Isla Lobos where a small population of Blue-footed Boobies and Common Frigatebirds nest. You can also observe the two species of sea lions present in the archipelago. During a panga tour you may see Brown Pelicans and several species of shorebirds. While snorkeling here it's common to see juvenile sea lions, manta rays, and sea turtles. *Overnight aboard M/Y Yolita II. (BLD)*

JULY 7 - GALÁPAGOS

Early morning visit to Gardner Bay (part of Española Island) for a beach walk, followed by a panga ride around Gardner and Osborn islets. Española is the southernmost island in the Galápagos and is best known as the nesting place of the rare Waved Albatross. Playful sea lions abound on Española Island. While swimming and snorkeling you may spot many Galápagos marine species such as King Angelfish, creole fish, damselfish, parrotfish, manta rays, and white-tipped reef sharks. This afternoon visit Punta Suarez on Española to learn about lava terrain and cross the inactive lava fields. Besides the sea lion colonies, this is one of the most important sites for birdwatching. Many species can be viewed closely here, including the Hood Mockingbird and Red-billed Tropicbird. Past the nesting grounds is the world's largest colony of Waved Albatross. Your adventure is not complete without a stop at the famous blowhole, where water shoots 23 m (75 ft) into the air. *Overnight aboard M/Y Yolita II. (BLD)*

JULY 8 - GALÁPAGOS

Disembark at Santa Fé Island, one of the best locations for swimming with sea lions and a great place to catch a glimpse of the Galápagos white-tipped reef shark and sea turtles. A field trip to the cactus forest provides a chance to learn about some of the tallest *Opuntia* cacti on the islands through observation and an on-site lecture. Hike a trail into the highlands of Santa Fé Island to the only place in the Galápagos where the elusive Santa Fé land iguana can be found. Later is a dry landing on Plaza Sur Island (South Plaza Island) to visit a cactus forest where land iguanas can be observed closely in their natural habitat. Continue hiking in search of local sea lion colonies. This small island is known as a great place to watch seabirds in flight, and a walk along the cliff top provides perfect views of Red-billed Tropicbirds, frigatebirds, pelicans, Swallow-tailed Gulls, and others. *Overnight aboard M/Y Yolita II. (BLD)*

JULY 9 - GALÁPAGOS

This morning stop at the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about the conservation efforts throughout the islands. The CDRS has a team of over 100 scientists, educators, and volunteers, whose mission is to conduct scientific research and environmental education for conservation. Observe giant tortoises at all stages of growth, from just a few days to almost 100 years old! After lunch head to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island, the most important island in the Galápagos in many respects. It is the second largest island, the most populated, and acts as the administrative center for the islands. The National Park Service is also based here. Giant tortoises can be spotted on Santa Cruz, in addition to several species of Darwin's finches. As you pass through the trails on the island, notice the dramatic change in vegetation as altitude increases. This afternoon includes stops at the twin pit craters and Cerro Chato. *Overnight aboard M/Y Yolita II. (BLD)*

JULY 10 - GALÁPAGOS

Hike from black mangrove beds to a lagoon. This large, brackish lagoon holds one of the largest flamingo populations in the Galápagos. Floreana Island is best known for its endemic plant life like the Galápagos millwort, passion flower, and button mangrove. Later, take a dinghy ride along the coast to observe Blue-footed Boobies, sea lions, marine iguanas, and Swallow-tailed Gulls. You can also take part in deep water snorkeling to swim in a natural aquarium with colorful fishes, tame sharks, and rays. Later this morning is a chance to snorkel or swim at Devil's Crown. Continue at Post Office Bay, so named because in 1793 Captain James Colnett installed an empty barrel which served as an informal post box for sailors passing through the Galápagos, taking the letters with them. Stop at Mirador de la Baronesa in La Olla Bay, a basaltic tuff formation between Cormorant Point and Post Office Bay. *Overnight aboard M/Y Yolita II. (BLD)*

JULY 11 - GALÁPAGOS

The voyage continues at Whale Bay, a cove of green sand at the base of Dragon Hill on the west coast of Santa Cruz Island. The beach contains a large amount of olivine crystals, the same that originate from volcanic materials. After a dry landing on Dragon Hill, walk to a saltwater lagoon often visited by flamingos. Hike up Dragon Hill for a beautiful view of the bay. The area is a nesting site for numerous reintroduced land iguanas and has a peculiar scalesia tree forest. *Overnight aboard M/Y Yolita II. (BLD)*

JULY 12 - QUITO

This morning stop at Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz Island for a dinghy ride through the mangroves. The motor will be turned off to allow close observation of marine life. Disembark on Baltra Island and transfer to the airport for the flight to Quito with lunch during the flight. Afternoon at leisure followed by a farewell dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Rincon de Puembo. (BLD)*

JULY 13 - QUITO

Begin the rest of your trip with Reinier in the highlands. (B)

PROGRAM PRICING

\$4,325 (16 participants)

\$4,575 (9 participants)

International airfare (estimated at \$850 from Orlando) and gratuities are not included.

THE FINE PRINT

Please note that there is a weight limit of 44 pounds on the internal flights and bags should be packed accordingly. Cost is based on double occupancy. Single rooms may be available for an additional \$300 per person. A \$350 per person deposit and enrollment form is required to hold your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable (excluding a \$100 cancellation fee) until February 3, 2015. Non-refundable final payment is due March 30, 2015. Traveltrip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

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