



**CRUISE GUIDE TABLE OF CONTENTS UPDATED MARCH 2020,**

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**Recommendations before Departure:**

- Remember to bring your C cards, your Nitrox cards and your original, signed waivers.
- Download & set up the [SharkCount.org](http://SharkCount.org) app prior to travel. Help protect sharks with your sightings!
- Use your photos to ID whalesharks. Learn how at [whaleshark.org](http://whaleshark.org)
- Nautilus Lifeline manual (click support) at [NautilusLifeline.com](http://NautilusLifeline.com).
- Review the FAQs on our website: [calipsodive.com](http://calipsodive.com). We have a lot of information there.

# INTRODUCTION TO GALAPAGOS

The Galapagos were the first ever site designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Marine Reserve covers 51,000 square miles / 133,000 square kilometers. The Galapagos Islands are located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador. Currency, both money and electricity, is the same as the US. The Galapagos are 1 hour behind mainland Ecuador.

Swept by both the cold waters of Antarctica and warm currents from the tropical Pacific, the Galapagos' colorful and incredibly abundant marine life embodies an unusual mixture of species. It's where polar meets tropical: Penguins and Sea Lions swim with tropical fish. Endemic marine iguanas are the only iguanas in the world who dive to feed.

The northern islands of Darwin and Wolf are literally the sharkiest place on the planet. There are 17.5 tons of sharks per square hectare (2.47 acres). Cocos comes in second with half that many. The most commonly sighted species of sharks in Galapagos are Hammerheads, Galapagos sharks, Whale sharks, Silky sharks, White Tipped reef sharks, Galapagos Bullhead sharks and Black Tip sharks. No one ever forgets the massive schools of hammerheads so common in our northern islands. And unlike elsewhere in the world, around 99% of our whale sharks are huge adult females averaging between 12 and 18 m long (40-60 ft). Most aggregations of whale sharks elsewhere are younger males.

In addition to sharks, expect to see Eagle Rays, Giant Manta Rays, Golden Cowrays, Stingrays and Marbled Rays in abundance. The Galapagos has many varieties of eels, including colonies of garden eels. Everywhere are large schools of tropical and pelagic fish, sometimes in the tens of thousands, sometimes in the millions. Some unusual critters include the Red-Lipped Batfish and the giant Pacific Sea Horse. The marine animals exhibit the same bold curiosity and lack of fear characteristic of terrestrial wildlife. You rapidly begin to take for granted Turtles, Sea Lions and other species that alone might be the highlight for the week anywhere else. Year after year in polls, Galapagos takes the Top Spot in the Pacific for pelagic diving and for healthiest marine life. Galapagos has 2700 known marine species.

Galapagos waters are cool even though the archipelago straddles the equator. The polar Humboldt current and western Cromwell current as well as upwellings can produce thermoclines as low as 54°F / 13C although the average surface temperature is 70 F - 74 F / 21C - 24C, often warmer at Darwin because it's influenced by the tropical Panama current. Air temps are warmer Dec-May and cooler June-Nov. Visibility often averages 75ft / 23m, but can range from a few feet / meters to more than 100 ft / 30 m, depending on conditions.

In addition to all of this, the topside isn't too shabby either! In fact, it's the reason most visitors come to the Galapagos. Blue Footed Boobies, Magnificent Frigates, Sea Lions, Marine Iguanas and more have not yet learned there is any reason to be afraid of man and so they don't mind you close to them for only-in-the-Galapagos photo-ops. Add to this the memorable land-before-time vista and it all adds up to what most who visit proclaim to be the best vacation of their entire lives without diving!





# CITIZEN SCIENCE

As divers, we all know the rate at which sharks are being killed. The sad reality is that 90% of larger marine species have already been wiped out. Galapagos is one of the few places on earth with the level of protection our sharks we have, but the moment they migrate outside of the Galapagos Marine Reserve, they are no longer protected in international waters.

You can help us protect our sharks just by taking the time to send note your sightings or by sending in your whale shark photos in other words, by sharing your incredible trip in Galapagos!

**SHARKCOUNT.ORG:** Visit the site, download the free app for your mobile device, set up your account before you leave home and then use it after each dive at Darwin and Wolf to help scientists know what you know.

Shark Count is a user-friendly tool that allows divers visiting Galapagos to help monitor marine life in the Galapagos Marine Reserve. Using Shark Count, divers become “citizen scientists” and make important contributions to our understanding of Galapagos marine ecosystems by recording the sharks, sea turtles, rays and ocean sunfish they encounter during their dives.

The Shark Count app displays individual reports contributed from divers at the top 20 dive sites around the archipelago. Charts and maps show the number of species observed during each dive and the best sites and times to see each species.

All data is shared with the Galapagos National Park Directorate and will benefit research and management decisions focused on protecting the Reserve’s incredible marine life.



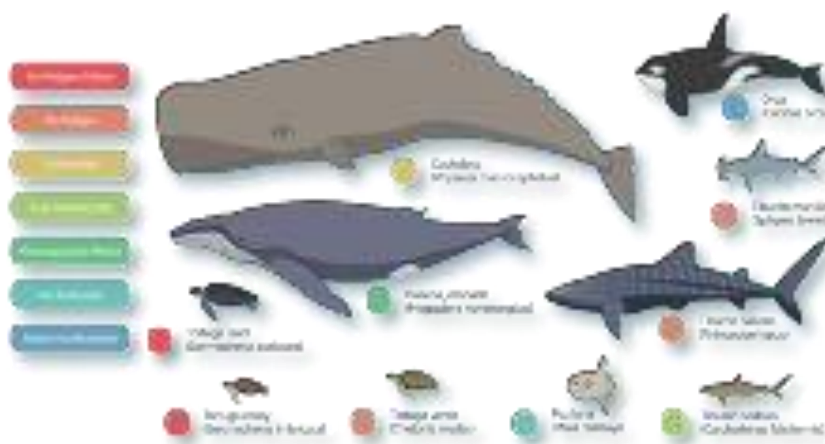
**WHALESHARK.ORG:** The whale shark is listed as vulnerable to extinction in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Photographs showing the distinctive patterning and scarring on whale sharks are used to uniquely identify individuals for long-term, mark-recapture analysis. Resulting population models can be used by local, regional, and international conservation and management authorities to understand the pressures on this species and to take specific action to protect them.

Visit whaleshark.org before you travel to Galapagos to learn how to take photos that can be used to identify the whalesharks you see while in Galapagos.



**MIGRAMAR.ORG:** With a long term goal of protecting the migratory routes of pelagic species (whales, hammerheads, orcas, whale sharks, mola molas, turtles, etc) especially in the Eastern Pacific, Migramar has embarked on very important work including the first ever expedition between Galapagos and Cocos to gather research to support the need for protected migratory routes.

Migratory swimways take our pelagic species through international waters full of fishing vessels. The routes are in dire need of protection. On their homepage, you can download an e-book to learn more about MigraMar. Hover over the Migramar menu at the top and under About Migramar, start with ‘Why We Exist’ and explore from there. Please visit their website and learn more about what they are doing and how you can help.



## GALAPAGOS MONTHLY TEMPERATURES AND RAINFALL (INCHES)

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>AIR TEMPERATURE HIGHS</b>											
84F	86F	88F	86F	82F	78F	76F	74F	76F	77F	78F	80F
28C	30C	32C	30C	28C	26C	24C	23C	24C	25C	26C	27C
<b>AIR TEMPERATURE LOWS</b>											
70F	74F	74F	72F	72F	68F	66F	64F	62F	64F	66F	68F
22C	23C	23C	22C	22C	20C	19C	18C	17C	18C	19C	20C
<b>AVERAGE SEA TEMPERATURES (Note: These are surface temps. Thermoclines may be as low as 54 F / 13 C)</b>											
76F	78F	76F	74F	72F	72F	64-72F	64-72F	65-66F	68F	70F	74F
24C	26C	24C	23C	22C	22C	18-22C	18-22C	18-19C	20C	21C	23C
<b>AVERAGE RAIN IN INCHES</b>											
1	1	2	1.5	.75	.25	.50	.25	.50	.25	.50	.50

### GALAPAGOS NATIONAL PARK RULES:

1. Please do not disturb or remove any native plant, rock or animal on land or in the water.
2. Be careful not to transport any live material or sand to the islands.
3. Do not take any food or drink, except water, to the uninhabited islands.
4. Please do not touch, pet or feed the animals. Remain at least 2 meters away at all times.
5. Please do not startle or chase any animal from its nesting place.
6. Please do not leave any trash on the Islands or throw any litter overboard.
7. Please follow the marked trails at all times and do not walk out of their limits.
8. Please stay with your naturalist guide who must accompany all groups on all dives or trails.
9. Please do not buy souvenirs of objects made from native Galapagos products, especially black coral, sea lion's teeth and Galapagos tortoise shell.
10. Do not smoke on the islands.
11. Drones and underwater propulsion vehicles are prohibited without a special permit.
12. Fishing is strictly prohibited from liveboards.

## BASIC GALAPAGOS INFORMATION

**CURRENCY:** Currency, both money and electricity is the same in Ecuador as it is in the US. Ecuador uses the US dollar for currency. Even US coins may be used. For outlets, we use the 110 v Type B plug. We do have some 220 V outlets onboard with Type F & G plugs. All cabins have USB outlets for charging phones, etc.

**TIME ZONE:** -6 GMT. No daylight savings time. Half the year, Ecuador is the same as Central Time in the US (Chicago), the other half of the year it is on Eastern Time (NY). The Galapagos are 1 hour behind the mainland.

**LANGUAGE:** Spanish is the official language of Ecuador, although in Galapagos, many people do speak English. Onboard, most likely your dive guides will be the only ones who speak English, so if you ever have an issue, please speak with your guides.

**PASSPORT:** No visa is necessary from most countries, only the following: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Senegal and Somalia. This is always subject to change, so best to check the Ecuador Embassy website in your home country. You are allowed to stay up to 90 days in any 12 month period.

Your passport must have 6 months prior to expiration at the time you enter Ecuador. You must have a round trip (return) ticket to enter Galapagos. You may have to have proof of health insurance coverage for the time of your stay in Ecuador though this is not a policy yet enforced.

**TRAVEL ADVISORIES:** No malaria shots or yellow fever vaccinations are necessary for entry, however, please do check your foreign travel office to see whether you need any vaccinations to return to your country and especially if you are traveling to another country in South America or Central America after Ecuador. In Galapagos on land, dengue can be a concern. Stay in the breeze, wear long sleeves, long pants and use an insect repellent with Deet.

**WEATHER:** Dec - May is our warm season with more sunshine and higher temps. Feb and March are the hottest months. June - Nov is the cooler season. Garua, a light mist, is often present, creating overcast days. Winds can create choppy seas.

**SEA CONDITIONS:** Dec - May: Visibility is better during these months and water is warmer. June - Nov: The Humboldt current comes in from Antarctica to bring nutrients and cold water during garua season. Expect diminished visibility, but more marine life. Darwin is the warmest dive site in Galapagos. Currents may be 3 knots or stronger at any time of year.

**BANKING & ATMS:** Banking hours are from 09:00 to 16:00 Monday thru Friday. ATM machines are located in the mainland airports and in the San Cristobal and Santa Cruz ports. Our guides will help you if you need assistance.

**CASH, CREDIT CARDS & TRAVELERS CHECKS:** Visa and MasterCard are usually accepted at restaurants, hotels and shops in tourist areas. Amex is less accepted than other cards in the islands. We accept Visa and MasterCard onboard. Please note that if you must pay onboard with a credit card, we strongly recommend you bring cash for tips. Otherwise, the tip will be less than what you intended as the processing fees will be deducted from the final pay out.

Bring smaller USD denominations ranging from \$1s to \$20s if you are spending time on the islands. Taxis, etc rarely have change. Travelers' checks are not recommended in Galapagos islands as almost no one accepts them.

## PACKING FOR YOUR CALIPSO GALAPAGOS DIVE SAFARI

**NOTES ON PACKING** Please DO NOT over-pack. We strongly recommend soft sided luggage rather than hard cases. It's much easier to handle and store. You need almost nothing while on the boat diving. If you are packing more than a medium-sized duffel bag (in addition to your dive gear), you have probably over-packed.

You should pack necessities in a carry on bag so you can manage in case it is not be possible to retrieve your luggage prior to departure. Suggestions include a bathing suit, a change of clothes, a brush or comb and essential dive (computer and mask) or camera gear.

### DOCUMENTATION TO BRING:

Passport with visa, if necessary.  
Certification card (highest level) and Nitrox Certification card.  
Your original, signed waiver to present to your dive guide when you board.  
Dive insurance is mandatory. We recommend Divers Alert Network. Bring proof. Travel insurance (including health insurance while in Ecuador) is recommended.



### PERSONAL ITEMS TO BRING:

A reusable water bottle to help us end single plastic waste.  
A tote or bag for shopping and other uses as plastic bags are banned in Galapagos.  
Any medications you may need, both prescription and over the counter.  
Tooth brush and toothpaste.  
All toiletries should be biodegradable. Sunscreen should not contain oxybenzone, octinoxate, octocrylene, 4MBC, or butylparaben.  
Extra batteries for your cameras, battery chargers and a dry bag for your cameras.

**CLOTHING RECOMMENDATIONS:** June - November: In spite of being on the equator, it is not as warm as most assume. It can be rather chilly. Do bring a fleece top, sweatshirt or jacket to use after dives. Light-weight long pants and long sleeve shirts. Some are glad they brought scarves onboard. Bear in mind, much of your time you will be on a boat exposed to wind in cooler temperatures. Athletic pants and a light sweatshirt are perfect for the evenings. Crocs, neoprene shoes, flip-flops or slippers are appropriate footwear onboard. We do encourage you leave your 'street' shoes on our dive deck before going indoors.

December - May: It is much warmer, so shorts, light weight clothing and serious sun protection is in order. Feb, March and April can be extremely hot. Be sure you also bring a hat, bandana or Buff for neck protection against the sun. Dive skins are great to prevent wetsuit rash and as a sunblock when you are out of the water.

**EXPOSURE PROTECTION:** We recommend a 7mm wetsuit, hood and gloves with reinforced palms for protection from sharp barnacles, not warmth. Water temps are warmer at Darwin than other sites, however, dives at Darwin often entail as much as 25 minutes of stationary time so it's easier to feel cooler than when you are in motion. You descend through current, grab hold of rocks on the platform and watch the show as it passes by except when chasing whale sharks. The rocks you grab often have barnacles which will cut your hands if you're not wearing gloves. We recommend 1.5 - 2mm gloves with reinforced (not neoprene) palms to protect against the barnacle cuts.

**DIVE KIT:** It is always best to bring your own gear as you know it well and know it fits you well. You should bring: BCD, 7 mm wetsuit, hood, fins, 5 mm booties and mask. Your regulator should have a console with a submersible pressure gauge (SPG) and an analog depth gauge. Your regulator should have an octopus or alt air source. Computers are mandatory.

**OTHER DIVE GEAR:** We have some tools aboard, but please bring your own replacement parts: spare computer batteries, extra masks/straps, special O rings, weight pockets, LP or HP hoses, etc.

Though noisemakers are prohibited to use for sightings, we recommend the Trident/Aquacraft underwater aluminum shaker/ noisemaker as a piece of safety equipment. The slender size easily fits inside your wetsuit sleeve and has the wrist lanyard. It is only to be used should you require assistance underwater. It is not to be used for sightings. A noisemaker for sighting purposes is only to be used by our dive guides.



We do not recommend diving with a snorkel as strong currents can pull an affixed snorkel and cause mask leaks. If you wish to dive with a snorkel, we recommend the type that folds up and fits in your BC pocket. We also recommend you bring a small mesh bag to store items at your dive station. If you need it, a small dry bag, too.

**DIVE GEAR WE PROVIDE:** We provide weights, weight belts, tanks, Dive Alerts, SMBs and Nautilus Lifelines.

Weights are solid, no soft weights are available. Each 'plomo' weighs approximately 1.8 kilos / 3.96 pounds. We do have a limited number of .9 kilo / 2 pound weights available. Weight belts are standard webbing with stainless steel buckles.

Tanks are Catalina AL 80 - 80 cubic feet / 11.1 litres with Yoke valves. We have DIN adapters. We have Catalina 6 AL 100 tanks (100 cubic feet / 13.2 litres) available to rent for \$100 per week. We also have smaller AL63 tanks.

We have a selection of Dive Alerts that should accommodate most dive kits, but if you have any doubts, please bring your own. By National Park regulation, it is mandatory to dive with a Dive Alert.



The SMB we use is a flag with a fold-up pole that will clip onto your BCD while diving. If you prefer the inflatable or have your own SMB, please bring it. By National Park regulations, it is mandatory to dive with an SMB.

We provide each diver with a Nautilus Lifeline, a Personal Locator Beacon, for safety. Though you will have a briefing onboard, we do recommend you visit [NautilusLifeline.com](http://NautilusLifeline.com) and read through the manual located under Support if you wish to be well acquainted with it's use prior to arrival. If you are bringing your own Nautilus Lifeline, our MMSI number is 735023481.



We also provide 2 Nitrox Analyzers onboard for shared use. Before each dive, you are required to analyze your tank and confirm your tank analysis on a clipboard. Our Nitrox mix is 32%.

**Rental Gear:** We carry a full range of ScubaPro gear onboard should you need to rent equipment. BCs are jacket style Pilot. Wetsuits are 7mm Everflex or OneFlex. Regulators are MK2 EVO / R095. Hoods are 3 mm Everflex. Computer are wrist style Aladin One Matrix. Fins are Wake and booties are 5mm Delta. For sizing purposes or information, google ScubaPro and these models. See p. 13 for pricing.





## FLIGHTS

**ARRIVAL INTO ECUADOR:** Most international flight arrivals require an overnight stay in either Guayaquil or Quito prior to flying out to the Galapagos the next morning. The only exception is if you are flying in on a red-eye that arrives very early in the morning in which case you may wait a few hours in the airport prior to boarding your flight to Galapagos.

The Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel is the only hotel at the Mariscal Sucre International Airport Quito (airport code UIO). The airport is over an hour outside of Quito. The Airport Center is located across from the departures area and has shopping, restaurants and other services including Layover Stay Quito. If you only have a few hours between flights, it has recliners, internet, snacks and even showers.

In the José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport Guayaquil (airport code GYE), there are restaurants and limited shopping. Downstairs there is a coffee shop, a pharmacy and a place where you can safely store your luggage for a fee. There is a Holiday Inn at the GYE Airport and most hotels are within a 10-15 minute drive from the airport.

On your return, if your international flight departs in the evening or at night, you probably won't need a mainland hotel, however, if your international flight departs in the morning, you will need to overnight on the mainland.

Please note it is best to pre-arrange transfers with your hotel. Taxi crime is not as prevalent as it once was, nevertheless, it is best to take precautions. Also, please note that the Quito airport sits at an altitude of 2850 meters / 9350 feet. If you are prone to altitude sickness, please consider flying into Guayaquil instead of Quito. Guayaquil is at sea level. The altitude will make even those who are not prone to altitude sickness rather tired. Stay hydrated and take it easy until you acclimate.

**GALAPAGOS FLIGHTS:** All flights to Galapagos are in the morning. All flights from Galapagos are late morning to early afternoon. All flights from Quito route through Guayaquil with a short layover during which time you do not deplane.

There are 2 airports in Galapagos, San Cristobal (SCY) and Baltra (GPS). It is very important you fly into the correct one. Some who stay on in Galapagos for extensions may fly into one airport and out of the other.

Calipso departs from SCY on Thursday. 3 airlines fly into San Cristobal on Thursday: Avianca Airlines, LATAM Airlines and TAME Airlines.

PLEASE be certain you fly into the correct airport - San Cristobal (SCY). If you fly into the wrong airport (Baltra -GPS), you cannot get to San Cristobal on the same day.

**CHECKING IN FOR GALAPAGOS FLIGHTS IN QUITO:** You need to arrive to the airport 2 hours prior to your flight departure time. You enter at the first door upon arrival, Salidas Nacionales. As soon as you enter, to your right you will see an area especially for "Pasajeros a Galapagos" (Passengers to Galapagos). Our representative will be in this area with a Calipso Galapagos sign to assist you with check-in for your Galapagos Flights.



1) You will need to first check-in at the Consejo de Gobierno window, present your passport, pay your \$20 TCT card fee (in US cash only, no credit cards or other currencies) and receive your TCT cards. Sometimes, there is a line waiting to get to the window. Keep the TCT card safe as you will need to present it when you depart Galapagos and failure to do so could cause a delay.

2) Next you pass through the 'Passengers to Galapagos' door and scan your luggage. They will tag it once through the scan so it is cleared to fly to Galapagos. No open organic material is permitted. You may be bring commercially sealed food items as long as you have no plants that contain stems or seeds. No meats are permitted. This is to prevent the spread of invasive species.

**CHECKING IN FOR GALAPAGOS FLIGHTS IN GUAYAQUIL:** You need to arrive to the airport 2 hours prior to your flight departure time. You enter at the first door upon arrival, Salidas Nacionales. You need to go to the upper 2nd floor and almost directly in front of where the escalator ends is the area to check in for your flight to Galapagos. This is where you will find our representative with a Calipso Galapagos sign that has our logo on it.



1) You will need to first check-in at the Consejo de Gobierno window, present your passport, pay your \$20 TCT card fee (in US cash only, no credit cards or other currencies) and receive your TCT cards. Sometimes, there is a line waiting to get to the window.

2) Next you will scan your luggage. They will tag it once through the scan so it is cleared to fly to Galapagos. No open organic material is permitted. You may bring commercially sealed food items as long as you have no plants that contain stems or seeds. No meats are permitted. This is to prevent the spread of invasive species.

3) Now you are ready to go to your airline counter to check in as normal for your flight. Proceed into the Domestic Departures Area, have your bags x-rayed again at the security check point and locate your gate. Please note that if you need cash, the ATMs are located to the right of the Domestic Departures Entry BEFORE you enter the gate area.

## ARRIVAL INTO GALAPAGOS



**TCT Card**

Upon arrival into San Cristobal, you will go through Customs, (International Visitors line) present the customs form you received on the plane, your passport and pay the \$100 pp National Park Entrance Fee in cash, US dollars. They return to you part of the TCT card. Keep it safe. You will need it when you depart and failure to present it may cause a delay. I recommend putting it in your passport

Once through customs, your carry-on items are scanned and then you are free to collect your luggage at baggage claim in the same room. Our dive guides will be waiting for you at the doors of the baggage claim area. There is only one door you can exit. Look for our Calipso sign.



If you are already in Galapagos, please be at the Hammerhead Dock / Martillo Muelle at 13:00 PM / 1:00 PM. There is a wooden sign above the dock with 2 hammerheads carved into it. Across the street is the Midori sushi bar and cafe. If you arrive early, it's a good place to sit and wait. It also has Wi-Fi.

Typically, the group pulls up in a small bus or taxis (trucks). If, by chance, you are still waiting at 1:45 PM, you can often find an official on the dock who can radio Calipso to send a panga to pick you up OR just take a water taxi to Calipso which should cost no more than \$2 pp.



# CALIPSO GALAPAGOS - THE YACHT

**SUNDECK:** You can access the sundeck from the stairs at the back of the dive deck. If you are wet, please use these stairs. On the sundeck we have the jacuzzi, a BBQ, a bar, al fresco dining and lounge chairs as well as cushioned bench seating areas.

**UPPER DECK:** The upper deck may be accessed from the stairs in the salon or the stairs on the dive deck. Cabins 1 - 6 are located on the upper deck. The Bridge and the captain's quarters are also on the upper deck. In front of the bridge is a small outdoor bench seating area.

**MAIN DECK:** Our air conditioned salon has seating areas with a large TV where you will have briefings. You take meals in the dining area. Food is laid out on the buffet table and will be self-service. We have a 24 hour coffee and tea station. We also have a bar behind the salon. Behind the dining area is a space for using and charging computers.

Cabins 7 and 8 are towards the bow on the main deck. Though the aft doors is the dive deck. Just outside the doors on the dive deck is where you will refill your water bottles.

The dive deck has a large 3 level stainless steel camera table, a large camera rinse tank with a shallow side for GoPros, a dry battery charging area, diver stations, 4 hot water showers, a bathroom and racks for hanging your wetsuits.

**LOWER DECK:** The lower deck has the galley, the crew's quarters and machine rooms. Cabins 9 & 10 are on the lower deck along with the galley.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** We have Wi-Fi via satellite as well as a satellite phone for emergencies.

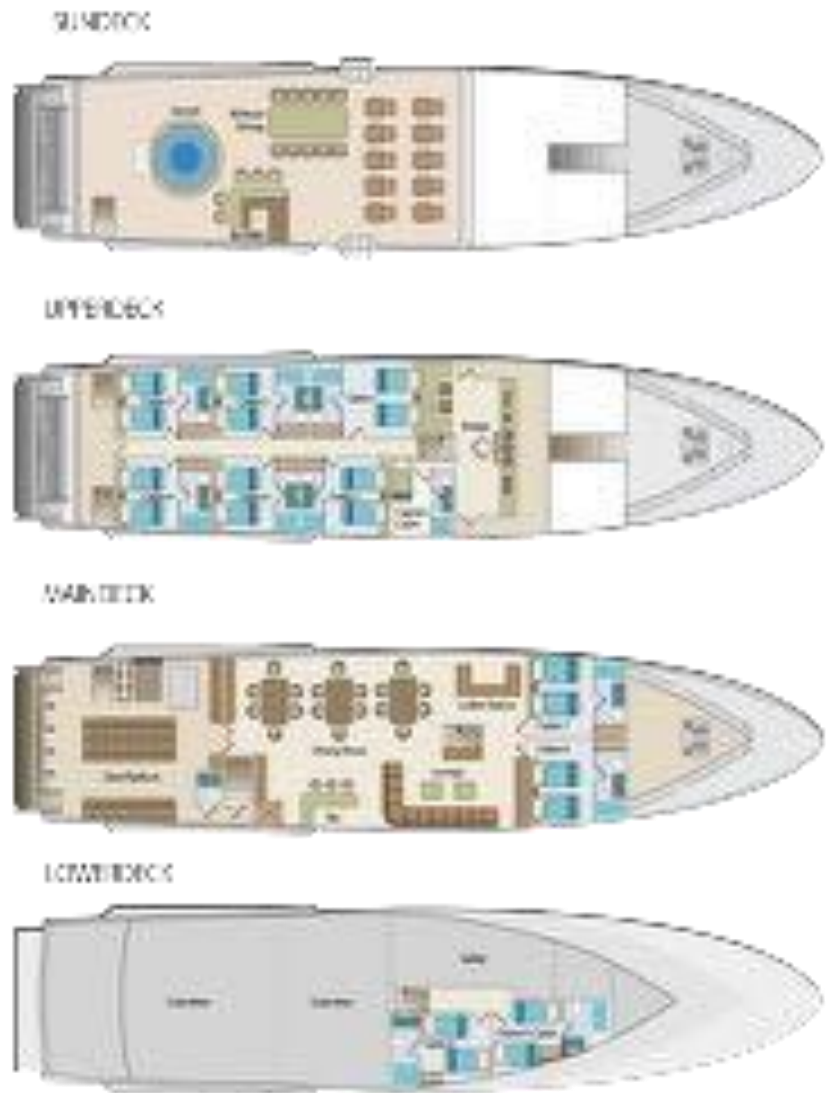
**ENTERTAINMENT:** All cabins have TVs with on-demand entertainment, both video and audio. The sundeck has speakers for music. The salon has a large TV for briefings and movies. And we have a special treat - we can livestream the marine life below us at anchor into the salon TV.

**FOOD ONBOARD:** Coffee, tea, water, soda and snacks are available 24/7. We have a coffee / tea service before your first dive along with a light Continental breakfast. After your first dive, a full breakfast is served. Mid-day lunch and early evening dinner are both served buffet style. After each dive, hot beverages and snacks will be served on the dive deck.

We utilize local, organic freshly sourced ingredients in preparing all of our foods. The majority of it will come from Galapagos though some things will need to be shipped in from the mainland, especially items necessary to accommodate dietary restrictions (Gluten free, vegan, etc). You can expect fresh soups, salads, vegetables, side dishes and main dish courses of meat, chicken and seafood as well as delicious desserts. Ecuadorian and international dishes are served. Meals are served with fresh juices or sodas. Beer, wine and cocktails are available, however, are not included in your cruise rate.

**BAR:** Wine, beer and liquor are available at the bar for an extra charge. You may bring your own bottles onboard. Corkage fees are \$10 for wine and \$15 for liquors. Alcohol prices vary by brand. Glasses of wine: \$6-\$7. Bottles of wine: \$30-\$55. Beer: \$4.50-\$6. Cocktails: \$5 -\$12. There is a price list at the bar onboard. We will run a tab for you payable on the final full day. Please remember that there is no drinking and diving in Galapagos. Once you have a drink, you are done diving for the day.

**SAFETY & SECURITY:** We are well equipped with multiple safety features including smoke / temperature alarms, a sprinkler system throughout, multiple fire extinguishers on each level, emergency lighting, bilge pump system, searchlights, horns, life jackets and life rafts as well as first aid kits, oxygen kits, neck brace, stretcher and 2 defibrillators. Our crew is trained and certified to handle emergencies. All cabins have safety deposit boxes for your peace of mind.



**CABINS:** Your cabin will be serviced multiple times daily. Please help us cut down on water and detergent use. If you hang your towels on the hooks or rack, that will signal to us that you will continue to use them. If you throw your towel on the floor, that will tell us to bring you a fresh towel.

Sheets will be changed only once during the week, on Sunday, however, if at any time you want to have your sheets changed, just let your cabin attendant know and it will be taken care of.

Our zero carbon emission water maker onboard provides clean water, so feel free to use the faucet water when brushing your teeth. Drinking water is provided in coolers. And please note, we do not put toilet paper in the toilet in Ecuador anywhere and onboard is no different. It goes into a closed wastebasket beside the toilet. The bags we use are biodegradable. This will be collected several times a day from your cabin.

**DIVE DECK:** Each diver will have an individual dive station. Warm towels distributed after each dive will be embroidered with numbers. For hygienic continuity, please use only the towel number that corresponds with your cabin number. Please do not take these towels back to your cabin. They are only for use on the dive deck.

## WELCOME ABOARD!!

Once onboard, your bags will be delivered to your cabin. Lunch will be served onboard. The guides will need to see your Certification card, your Nitrox certification card and will collect your waiver. We will have general boat safety briefings, drills, dive gear briefings and general dive briefings. Anyone who has rental equipment will be able to try on gear and everyone who brought their own gear will set up their individual diver stations.

### DIVE PREP:

1. PAY CLOSE ATTENTION to the dive briefings and follow your guide's dive plan. Please don't be late for the briefings as they do not begin until everyone is there. Be considerate and don't hold up your fellow divers. Ask questions! Understand!

2. In Galapagos, we dive from pangas (tenders/ Zodiacs). You will board with your BC and tanks on. Fins and cameras will be handed to you.

3. Your dive guide will walk you through a few unique things to keep in mind when diving from pangas, very important for safety and comfort:

- a. When stepping from the yacht into the panga, your grip should be hand to arm, not hand to hand.
- b. ONLY roll into the water on the count. If you are late, WAIT. You don't want to go a moment late and hit someone with a full tank, especially on the head. Trust me...it hurts.
- c. After surfacing, don't try to get in with your equipment on. The ladders aren't built for that.



The proper method to get back into the panga after ascent is as follows:

- a. If you have a camera, hand the camera up before anything else.
- b. Hand up your weight belt or weight pockets.
- c. Dump some air out of your BC to make it easier to remove, then unfasten it and then take it off.
- d. Keep your tank and BC steady while the crew pulls it up and your tank out of the water.
- e. Last, hand up your fins then climb the ladder into the panga.

4. Be a good buddy. Galapagos diving doesn't entail formal buddy checks, so that's up to you to do. Please check your buddy's equipment and have your buddy check your equipment. Know what your signals are. This is especially important if you are traveling alone and dive with an 'insta-buddy'.

5. We dive in 2 groups of 8 divers. 1 guide goes out with each group on a rotational basis.

6. Our Nitrox mix is 32%. We provide 2 Nitrox Analyzers for shared use. There will be a clipboard with daily sheets for you to confirm your Nitrox mix and sign off for the dive.

7. Stay well hydrated. Dehydration contributes to DCS. You don't want DCS. You can refill your water bottle on the dive deck or near the bar in the salon.

8. All dives are no decompression dives. No exceptions.

9. When you take your first drink of alcohol, you are done diving for the day. No exceptions.

## CALIPSO GALAPAGOS ITINERARY

A typical day begin with an early wake up call following by a briefing. A light continental breakfast is available. Full breakfast is after the first dive. Then you have a 2nd dive in the AM. Lunch is usually served between dives 2 and 3. Dinner is served early evening. Hot beverages and snacks are served on the dive deck after each dive. Warm towels will also be waiting for you after each dive.

**Day 1 Thursday:** Fly to Galapagos. Board Calipso. Briefings. Check Dive. Sail overnight to Marchena.

**Isla Lobos:** In the afternoon, we will cruise to Isla Lobos for your check dive. It's a shallow sandy bottom where you can check out your equipment to make sure everything is in order and enjoy watching playful sea lion acrobatics under the water. Sea lions always seem to love divers. In Spanish, sea lions are known as lobos - wolves.

**Day 2 Friday:** 3 dives at Punta Carrion / Seymour. Sail overnight to Wolf.

**Punta Carrion / Seymour:** A great first dive to acclimate to Galapagos water, sightings may include Galapagos sharks, multiple species of reef fish and if you're lucky, mola molas. Seymour has often been declared divers' favorite site in the central islands as the marine life is diverse and often includes mobulas, black and white tipped sharks, Hammerheads, Galapagos sharks, turtles, eagle rays and more.

**Day 3 Saturday:** 4 dives at Wolf. Sail during the night to Darwin.

**Wolf:** This small island located more than 100 kilometers to the northwest of the main Galapagos Islands chain and is only visited by divers. Sightings include: large schools of Hammerhead sharks, Galapagos sharks, Eagle Rays, Sea Lions, Mantas, Turtles, Jacks, Trumpetfish, Butterfly fish, Moorish Idols, Moray Eels, Dolphins and, in season, Whale sharks. Wolf Island is also prolific in corals and reef life, with more than 8 species of corals, and the greatest diversity of tropical fish in the islands. Some of Wolf's dive sites are Shark Bay, The Landslide, La Banana and Islote La Ventana. Wolf is also a great experience above water. It is home to literally hundreds of thousands of seabirds such as Blue Footed boobies, Red footed boobies, Nazca boobies (also known as masked boobies), frigates, pelicans, red billed tropic birds and gulls.

**Day 4 Sunday:** 4 dives at Darwin. Night at anchor.

**Darwin:** Considered by most to be the best dive site on the planet, Darwin is the northernmost island in Galapagos. Like Wolf, this site is only visited by divers. Sightings include large schools of Hammerheads, free swimming morays, Galapagos sharks, Dolphins, Puffers and Porcupine fish, huge schools of Jacks and, of course, Whale Sharks between June and Nov. This is the only place on the planet where you can swim with 40+ ft / 12+ mt adult female whale sharks. Their abdomens are so extended, it's hard not to assume they are all pregnant females, however, science has not yet been able to prove that. The island itself is home to countless sea birds. Fur seal colonies also make Darwin their home. And, of course, there is the world-renowned Darwin's Arch to provide a memorable photo-op.

**Day 5 Monday:** AM: 2 dives Darwin. PM: 2 dives Wolf. Overnight sail to western site.

**Day 6 Tuesday:** 4 dives Cabo Marshall or AM: 2 Dives Cabo Douglas. PM: 2 dives Punta Vicente Roca. Overnight sail to Cousins.

**Jan - May: Cabo Marshall:** Giant mantas, schools of barracudas, Galapagos sharks, sea lions, flightless cormorants, etc.

**June - Dec: AM - Cabo Douglas:** Marine iguanas feeding, penguins feeding, Galapagos sharks and sometimes Orcas or whales.

**PM - Punta Vicente Roca:** Mola molas, penguins, black striped salemas, sea turtles, Peruvian grunts, sea lions, Pacific sea horse, Red Lipped Batfish and the Galapagos Bullhead shark. Punta Vicente Roca has more coral than most other sites in Galapagos.

**Day 7 Wednesday:** AM: 2 dives at Cousins Rock. PM: Santa Cruz Highlands. Darwin Station. Puerto Ayora. Overnight sail to San Cristobal.

**AM - Cousins Rock.** Sea lions, fur seals, nudibranchs, frogfish,,sea horses, manta, eagle ray and hammerheads. PM: Santa Cruz Highlands. We go to a private reserve to see the giant tortoises in their natural habitat. We have our farewell dinner in port.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you plan to disembark and remain in Santa Cruz, you must take all of your belongings when we disembark for the Highlands. It will be kept in the bus for you until we drop you at your hotel.

**Day 8 Thursday:** After breakfast, you will disembark and visit the Interpretation Center. After a walk back to the dock, you will collect your bags and be taken to the airport where we will assist you with checking in for your flight.



## NOTES

**HEALTH & SAFETY:** Onboard, our water is completely safe to use to brush your teeth, however, in Galapagos hotels, we recommend using bottle water for that. We recommend that you do not eat street food as many can get sick. Galapagos is very safe, nevertheless, you should not leave your belongings unattended.

As noted before in this guide, Quito is at an altitude of almost 10,000 ft / 3000 m. So, if you have any tendencies towards altitude sickness, it is best to fly into Guayaquil. Even those who are not prone to altitude sickness often feel tired and a bit short of breath, so take it easy upon arrival and stay well hydrated. Hydration is always important when diving. It diminishes the possibility of DCS, so please, pay attention to your intake and always stay well hydrated.

Some pre-cruise extensions may be risky. Please plan accordingly. It is better to plan mountain biking and certain other activities for after your dive cruise. Accidents are rare, but they do happen and they do cause divers to miss their cruise.

**DIETARY RESTRICTIONS AND FOOD:** For those with dietary restrictions, please note that if you wish to bring ingredients for our chef to use, you may do so. Commercially packaged and sealed items are permitted into Galapagos. Fresh items or items in bulk are not permitted. If you have any questions about what you can and cannot bring, please don't hesitate to ask us.

**TIPS:** On the final full day, you will receive an envelope in your cabin in which you may leave your tip for the crew. Tips are discretionary and based on services rendered, but it is an important part of the crew's income. On all cruises in Galapagos, both dive and naturalist cruises, the recommended amount is 10% of the cost of your cruise. The dive guides and the rest of the crew will split the tips evenly.

The dive guides' importance to your week onboard is obvious and often, they are the only ones who speak English. So if you need to relay a message to any crew member, you may need to do so through your dive guide. But the rest of the crew are equally important. And every crew member is working 12 - 14 hours a day to make sure your trip is seamless.

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- The captain who safely piloted you through the intense Galapagos waters and is always vigilant to make sure the entire crew are doing their jobs well.
- The first mate who is piloting when the captain isn't and is most likely one of your panga drivers.
- The panga drivers with eagle eyes who are always there so you aren't waiting at the surface to be picked up.
- The chef because, face it, delicious abundant food on liveboards is essential. Ever tried preparing 3 meals and snacks for 28 people day after day?
- The engineer and machinist who fill your tanks with just the right mix and keep everything mechanical running smoothly.
- The steward who makes sure your cabins are cleaned several times a day and makes sure you have everything you need.
- The barman who is both your bartender and waiter. We all know the difference service makes.
- And watch everyone from the captain to the barman lifting your equipment and tanks after each dive. It's hard work.

Each crew member performs vital services to the experience you have onboard and the memory you leave with. And, again, if they are doing a good job, you won't even realize it. So remember when you're tipping that sometimes, no contact with certain crew members makes it seem like they were irrelevant to your trip when they were, in fact, completely vital.

10% may seem high at first glance, but if you divvy it up, it's not as much as it seems. If you tip \$500, that's a little less than \$6.50 pp per day for excellent service in an advanced and remote location. If you are from a culture unaccustomed to tipping, please respect the culture you are visiting.

**MARINE LIFE:** Touching marine life is strictly prohibited. This mean starfish, whale sharks, sea lions...all marine life. This policy is strictly enforced. Failure to follow this policy may result in lost dives.

**SMOKING:** Smoking is only allowed at the rear of the sundeck. It is strictly prohibited anywhere else onboard.

**DRONES AND DPVS:** Both drones and diver propulsion vehicles are strictly prohibited without first obtaining special permission from the National Park.

**COMMERICAL PHOTOGRAPHY:** Commerical photography, still or video, also requires special permission from the National Park.

**ITINERARY CHANGES OR INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT FEES:** Please note that while it is very rare, something could occur beyond our control which mandates a change of itinerary. No refunds will be available in the event that happens. The National Park Entrance fee and TCT card are government fees which are subject to change. We do not collect the government fees.

# MONEY MATTERS

## WHAT YOUR RATE INCLUDES:

Accommodations aboard for length of cruise
All diving, bi-lingual Park certified Dive Guides
Weights, weight belts, air tanks, SMBs, Dive Alerts and Nautilus Lifelines
All onboard meals, snacks and non-alcoholic beverages
Galapagos airport transfers day of departure

## WHAT YOUR RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

Flights to/from Galapagos
National Park Entrance Fee( \$100 pp)
INGALA Visitor Transit Control Card (\$20 pp)
Recompression Chamber Fee (\$35 pp) *
Nitrox, Scuba Gear, Computer (mandatory)
Meal in Puerto Ayora (\$20-25 pp), Alcohol, Gratuities

\* The hyperbaric chamber fee is a mandatory contribution to the chamber for maintenance. It is not insurance. Beer, wine & liquor prices available onboard at the bar.

**COST OF EQUIPMENT RENTAL:** Full kit rental is \$250 and includes: BCD, Regulator with octopus and console, 7mm wetsuit, Fins with booties, Mask, Hood. Below are the prices for individual pieces for rent.

Wrist Style Dive Computer - Aladin One	\$75 up to 30 days prior to arrival	\$100 less than 30 days prior to arrival
BCD - Pilot	\$75 up to 30 days prior to arrival	\$100 less than 30 days prior to arrival
Regulator with octopus and console -	\$75 up to 30 days prior to arrival	\$100 less than 30 days prior to arrival
7mm Wetsuit - Everflex 7mm/5mm or	\$65 up to 30 days prior to arrival	\$75 less than 30 days prior to arrival
Fins with booties- Wake fins with 5mm	\$35 up to 30 days prior to arrival	\$45 less than 30 days prior to arrival
Hood, 3mm bibbed	\$25 up to 30 days prior to arrival	\$35 less than 30 days prior to arrival
Mask, Frameless	\$25 up to 30 days prior to arrival	\$20 less than 30 days prior to arrival
Lantern (limited number of Novalight	\$15 per day	\$20 less than 30 days prior to arrival
AL100 (13.2L) tank or AL63 (9L)	\$100 up to 30 days prior to arrival	\$130 less than 30 days prior to arrival
Gloves, 1.5 mm Tropic	\$5 - Only for sale, not for rent. 'Lobster'	n/a

## REPLACEMENT COSTS FOR DAMAGE OR LOSS OF PROVIDED OR RENTED EQUIPMENT:

Dive Alert or SMB	\$50 replacement cost
Nautilus Lifeline	\$250 replacement cost
Nitrox Analyzer or Computer	\$350 replacement cost
Weight Belt with weights (non-emergency loss)	\$75 replacement cost
Mask	\$100 replacement cost
Fins or Lantern	\$150 replacement cost
Booties	\$50 replacement cost
Wetsuit, BC, Regulator, Hoses	\$50-\$750 depending on equipment and damage

