



GREEN PLANET
EXPEDITIONS
CONSCIOUS TRAVEL

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G A L A P A G O S

PRE-DEPARTURE CRUISE GUIDE

 **RELAIS & CHATEAUX**

Arrival to Galapagos

Flights to Galapagos: Flight reservations are confirmed automatically by Ecoventura through our allotment of seats on Sundays to/from San Cristobal (SCY) on AVIANCA Airlines from Quito (UIO) or Guayaquil (GYE). Passengers who purchase their tickets through Ecoventura for the AVIANCA flights, and arrive on AV1630, will receive assistance with check-in and can prepay the park entrance fee and transit card. A representative from Ecoventura accompanies our passengers on the flights to Galapagos. The airline is required to spray inside the aircraft with a special process once the doors are closed and prepares for take-off. This is a common procedure for flights bound to fragile island ecosystems susceptible to preventing invasive species or viruses accidentally transported to the islands. **Baggage Allowance:** Avianca Airline allows one checked suitcase (up to 50 lbs./ 23 kg and up to 62"/ 158 cm) and one carry-on bag (up to 22 lbs./ 10 kg and up to 45"/ 115 cm) and one personal item such as a handbag or backpack. **Excess Baggage fee:** All overweight, oversized and excess baggage will be charged additional and are checked subject to space available. Fees start at \$30 for a second checked bag, \$15 per bag for excess baggage and \$25 per bag for oversized baggage. Fees can be paid at the airport by cash or credit card. **Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee or "park tax":** The Islands are part of Ecuador's National Park system, and the entrance fee is \$200 per person. Children aged 11 and younger get a reduced rate of \$100. The fee is divided amongst various entities, including all national parks of Ecuador, Galapagos Marine Reserve, agricultural and municipalities. **INGALA Tourist Control Card:** All visitors to Galapagos are required to purchase a Tarjeta de Control de Transito or TCT card for \$20. The fee allows INGALA, the institution that controls migration to the islands, to regulate the flow of arrivals and departures. Ecoventura registers all passengers in advance, provided the fee is prepaid and we have received the required passport information. The park entrance fee and TCT are not included in the cruise rate. However, the fees are added to the cruise invoice and are pre-paid. Ecoventura will process the fees for your convenience provided you arrive on Sunday to Galapagos (SCY) on Avianca 1630. Prepayment of the fees is not mandatory. Should you decline or not arrive on Sunday's flight AV1630, the fees need to be paid at the airports in cash only.

Day of cruise departure/ Check-in procedure: On the day of departure, plan to arrive at the airport in Quito or Guayaquil two hours before the departure time for check-in. A message will be left at your hotel the evening prior with the exact time to check-in. Look for the Ecoventura representative at the AVIANCA ticket counter to collect your boarding pass, and transit card (if prepaid). Your bags will be screened by ABG Galapagos, the Galapagos Inspection and Quarantine System. Visitors cannot bring any plants, animals, or agricultural products (fruit, vegetables, or seeds). Do not pay for the INGALA (TCT) fee at the airport unless you have not pre-paid this fee to Ecoventura.

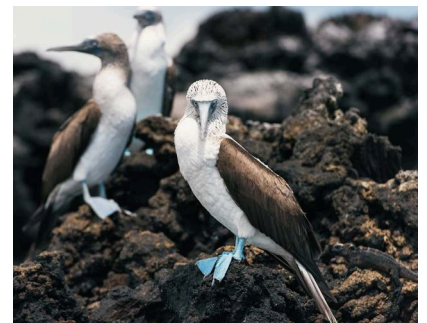
Time Zone: Ecuador is in the Eastern Time Zone (GMT-5). Daylight savings time is not observed. Galapagos is one hour behind mainland Ecuador. Onboard, mainland Ecuador time is observed.

Embarkation and Disembarkation time (Sunday in San Cristobal): Boarding time is 11:30 AM and guests will not be able to board prior to this time. All guests must disembark by 8:30 AM mainland time (7:30AM Galapagos Time).

Arrival in Galapagos (SCY) on Sunday AV 1630: Upon arrival in Galapagos (SCY), guests are kindly requested to proceed to a designated queue for the processing of the National Park entrance fee. Our team will facilitate this process, with a dedicated park representative overseeing the list of Ecoventura guests who have prearranged payments. Once guests have retrieved their checked baggage, our attentive crew will promptly deliver them to their respective cabins. Meanwhile, the guides will be readily identifiable, holding signage to ensure a smooth and secure transfer via a private minibus to the main dock, where Zodiacs are waiting to facilitate boarding.

Guests who arrive on an earlier flight (LATAM 1419) will not be able to pay the Galapagos National Park entrance and INGALA (TCT) fees in advance to Ecoventura. Be prepared to make payment upon arrival at the airports in cash only (USD). One of our guides will meet your flight and provide a group transfer together upon the arrival of our guests on AV1630.

Guests who arrive to San Cristobal before Sunday can meet our crew at the dock by 11:30 AM for timely transportation to the yacht.





Travel Details

Entry Requirements to Ecuador: A valid passport is required to enter Ecuador with at least six months remaining from the expiration date based on the arrival date to Ecuador.

Visas: Visitors from the US, Canada, and most European countries are not required to apply for a visa prior to arrival in Ecuador. Tourists are allowed to stay for up to 90 days. Visas are required for certain countries, and it is ultimately the passenger's responsibility to check with the Ecuadorian consulate prior to travel.

Immunizations: None are currently required for visitors to Ecuador and Galapagos. Please check with your local health office at least two weeks before your departure for an update.

Entry Requirements to Galapagos: All visitors must present a *Tarjeta de Control de Transito* (TCT) receipt issued by INGALA and may be asked to show proof of a return flight and medical insurance. All travelers aged 18 and older must complete a sworn declaration form and declare any items you are bringing to the islands. Visitors can fill out the form Affidavit online up to 48 hours before the flight to Galapagos.

Passenger Transportation Contract: All passengers who confirm a cruise with Ecoventura are bound to the Terms & Conditions of the Transportation Agreement & Waiver of Claims. The terms are found in the cruise ticket and on the company website. To review the terms please visit [Ecoventura.com](https://www.ecoventura.com).

Travel Insurance: We recommend guests purchase a Travel Insurance Policy preferably CFAR to protect you and your investment should you decide to cancel or postpone the cruise for any reason. Travel insurance should be purchased shortly after making your cruise deposit for maximum coverage.

Arrival and Departures: You will need to book international flights to Ecuador to arrive to Quito (UIO) or Guayaquil (GYE) and spend at least one night at a hotel before departing for Galapagos on Sunday morning. You can depart Ecuador on Sunday evening, however, please allow at least two hours or more after the arrival of the flight from Galapagos to Quito or Guayaquil. **International Flights to Ecuador** are serviced into QUITO (UIO) by AMERICAN (Miami), UNITED (Houston), DELTA (Atlanta), LATAM (Miami, Bogota, Lima), AVIANCA (JFK, Bogota, San Jose), COPA (Panama), IBERIA (Madrid), AEROMEXICO (Mexico DF) and KLM (Amsterdam) and into GUAYAQUIL (GYE) by AMERICAN (Miami), JET BLUE (JFK), COPA (Panama), LATAM (Bogota, Lima), AVIANCA (JFK, Bogota), IBERIA (Madrid), and KLM (Amsterdam). We recommend spending two nights in mainland Ecuador before the cruise to allow for potential flight delays and misconnection, especially when traveling over holidays when flights may be overbooked or delayed caused by poor weather conditions. **Passenger Information:** Ecoventura requires all passengers to disclose personal information for the ship's manifest including your passport name and number, expiration date, citizenship, date of birth, medical conditions, dietary requirements, food allergies and an emergency contact name and telephone number (someone not traveling with you), and your travel details; international flight schedule and name of hotel in Ecuador the night before the cruise. If the passenger information is not on file, the Ecoventura sales team will contact you 60-90 days prior to departure and request it be sent electronically.

Services on board

Language spoken: All crew members are Spanish speakers. The guides, Concierge, and Captain also speak English.

Satellite Communication: High-speed Wi-Fi (Star Link) is available 24/7 for guests in all areas of the yacht and is provided free of charge. Service is subject to weather conditions in the area.

Electricity: is 110/AC 60 cycle and the same type plug as in the United States. There are six 3-prong electrical outlets and two USB ports for chargers located in the cabin and bathroom.

Fitness Center: The gym is open 24/7 and is equipped with a stationary bike, elliptical machine, workout bench, weights, yoga mats, and Pilates ball. Guests are welcome to use the gym on a first-come first serve basis.

Jacuzzi (hot tub): Up to four guests can be accommodated in the Jacuzzi which is located on the sun deck, with a maximum of 20 minutes if others are waiting.

Laundry Service: Available Monday to Friday for an additional charge of \$3-5 per item, with a limitation of 5 items per cabin per day. The concierge can arrange for bathing suits to be dried overnight.

Special Occasions: You may order a customized cake to celebrate a special event (\$25 and up) or a welcome gift basket (\$50 and up). Flowers are not permitted in Galapagos. Please advise 30 days before departure.



Smoking Policy: Smoking is prohibited in enclosed areas aboard the vessels and while on the Islands. Smoking cigarettes, cigars, or vaping is only allowed on an outside deck in one designated smoking area. **Local Currency:** The US Dollar is the monetary unit in Ecuador. Large bills of \$100 and \$50 denominations are not currently accepted in the Galapagos at shops and restaurants, including the airports. We recommend guests bring small bills of \$20 or less for any incidental purchases. **Purchases on Board:** Every passenger has an open tab and is paid the last day of the cruise for items purchased at the boutique, beverages not included in the open bar, gratuities, and laundry. We accept cash in US Dollars, American Express, Mastercard and VISA. **Gratuities to Guides & Crew:** In recognition of our crew's commitment to providing world class service, gratuities are not included in the cruise rate, nor are automatic service charges added. Tipping is regarded as a personal expression of appreciation, and passengers are encouraged to contribute an amount they deem suitable. For those seeking guidance, a customary range of \$350 per guest per week is suggested. On charters with less than 20 guests, we recommend a minimum of \$7,000 total as a flat rate. Gratuities are distributed among all crew members including the naturalist guides. Guests have the option to have the gratuity added to their on-board account and credit cards are accepted. However, our crew greatly appreciates cash gratuities (USD), and larger denomination notes are accepted.

Island Excursions

Island Visits/ Activities: The vessels anchor offshore at two visitor sites or Islands per day. Passengers are ferried to the landing point in Zodiac style inflatable landing craft. The landings are either wet (where one must step into water anywhere from your ankles to your knees and wade to shore) or dry (where one steps from the Zodiac directly to the volcanic rock). Your guide and Zodiac driver will assist you with a steady hand. On the Islands, one follows marked trails set by the National Park, walking at a leisurely pace together with your guide. You will spend 3-4 hours at each site, allowing plenty of time to explore and photograph the wildlife.

In addition to the guided land excursions, optional water activities are available including deep-water snorkeling (depths of 6-10 feet), swimming and snorkeling from the beach, kayaking and paddle boarding along the shore, and tours by Zodiac (dingy). There are snorkeling opportunities most days, and sometimes twice a day, from the beach and in deeper water.

Snorkeling Equipment: Masks, fins, and snorkels are available free of charge in a variety of sizes for your use during the cruise. Although all equipment is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, you may want to bring your own mask and snorkel for a proper fit.

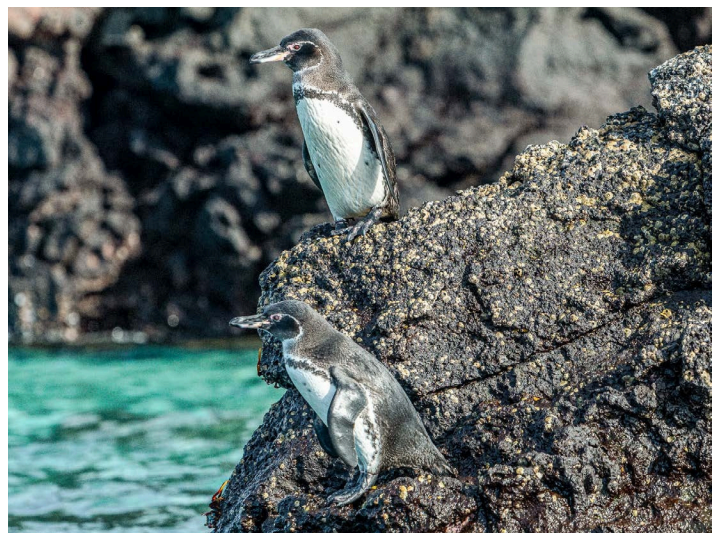
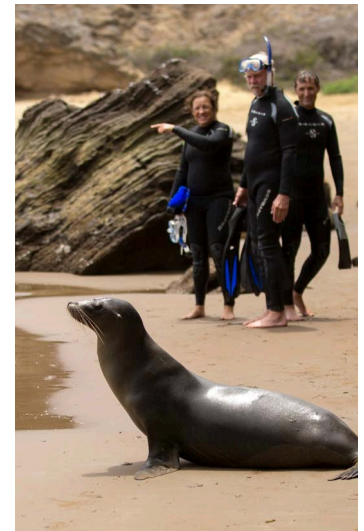
Wetsuits: Full 3mm Scuba Pro brand wet suits are provided for guests to use during the cruise at no additional charge and there is no need to reserve in advance. Wetsuits are most prevalent from July to November when water temperatures are between 65 and 72 degrees. We have a large inventory of various sizes including: Men: S, M, MT, L, XL, XXL, XXXL, Women: S, M, MT, L, XL, Children: S, M, L and two shorty wet suits for small children.

Kayaks and Stand-Up Paddleboards (SUP): There is one single and four double kayaks and two SUPs. They are available at designated sites during the cruise at no additional charge. Guests can reserve available times on a sign-up sheet onboard with the Concierge.

Glass-bottom Zodiac: For guests who prefer to view marine life underwater while staying dry, a glass-bottom Zodiac is available to transport guests as an alternative to snorkeling.

Scuba Diving: Is not an approved activity while onboard the Origin, Theory & Evolve. One option is to extend your trip to scuba dive before or after the cruise with a local dive shop in San Cristobal or Santa Cruz. Experienced divers can book a week of scuba diving on our dive liveboard, the Galapagos Sky, before or after their expedition cruise itinerary.

Yacht & Itinerary Stipulations: Ecoventura reserves the right at its sole option and discretion and that of the Captain of the vessel or National Park impact studies without liability for damages or refund of any kind to deviate from the vessel's advertised or ordinary itinerary for any reason including mechanical failure. Ecoventura will not be held responsible for any refund whatsoever for changes to the printed or scheduled itinerary.



Onboard Activities



Daily briefings – Every evening before dinner, the guides hold a briefing after sunset to inform you of the following day's activities. In addition, a schedule is posted in the main lounge. You will be informed of the difficulty level and suggested footwear and appropriate clothing for the shore excursions, snorkeling from the beach or zodiac, zodiac tours, kayaking and SUP.

Enrichment lectures – in addition to the briefings, your guides offer casual talks or presentations on a relevant topic of interest they are most passionate about, for example: Galapagos Geology, Maritime currents, Fish identification and Human History or Charles Darwin & the Theory of Evolution. **Photography** – our multi-talented guides are often amateur photographers, and a few are certified photography instructors. They are always willing to help guests find the best angles, lighting and more, and give tips during the excursions, particularly when booked on a designated photography departure. **Star gazing** – on a cloudless night when the sky is clear the guides will summon you to join them on the sun deck to learn about the southern constellation. Relax in the Jacuzzi or in a chaise lounge.

Family Departures – through our exclusive dedicated family departures, kids and teens have their own unique learning opportunities offering nature, adventure, and watersports. The crew provides opportunities for open-minded and active children aged 6 and up to explore the archipelago through educational talks, interactive games, and fun onboard activities; pizza making with our chef, ice cream social, scavenger hunt, ensuring an enriching and entertaining experience for young travelers. **King Neptune ceremony** – Celebrate this jovial navy tradition in the equatorial islands with a pop-up act featuring a cast of characters in pirate costumes. Receive a certificate for crossing the equator (itinerary B) followed by music with song and dance (participation is optional but encouraged). On itinerary A, there is a Pirate-themed party. Both are great fun and thoroughly enjoyed

by most guests of all ages. **Visits to the Bridge** - adults and children alike can learn about navigation from the bridge to see the inner working of navigating a mega-yacht and sailing in the Galapagos.

Observe instruments and maps and get to steer the boat, with a watchful eye of the Captain

Food & Beverage

Breakfast and lunch – are served buffet-style in the dining room or on the shaded sun deck. Breakfast is served at 7:30 AM and includes Detox juice and an omelet station. Lunch is served at 12:30 PM and there is always a variety of animal and plant main dishes, healthy sides, fresh green salads, grilled vegetables, exotic fruit, and tempting desserts.

Gourmet Dinners – are a culinary experience starting with an amuse bouche and followed by a beautifully plated four course menu, creatively prepared with a choice of appetizers, soup, entrées and desserts. Each course is accompanied by a wine pairing featuring Bodega Dos Hemisferios, a vineyard from mainland Ecuador.

Open Bar Policy – includes white and red wine, local and imported beer, cocktails, mocktails, spirits, fruit juice, sodas, water, Espresso, Cappuccino, American coffee, black and herbal teas, iced tea, and milk; almond, soy, coconut. Premium brands of global wine and spirits are available for an additional charge.

Afternoon tea – scrumptious pastries and teas are available every afternoon in the bar area; black, green and herbal teas; lemon, peach, chamomile, mint, Prince of Wales, Earl Grey and English breakfast.

Cocktail hour – Signature Cocktails & Mocktails, including Espresso Martinis made from Galapagos grown coffee and served with gourmet snacks. There is also a Captain's welcome and farewell cocktail gathering the first and last night of the cruise with all the crew members present.



Cooking Demonstrations – during a delicious BBQ lunch served on deck, learn how ceviche is made from towns along the coastal Ecuador - unique from ceviche made in Peru and the Andes.

After-excursion gourmet snacks – served daily after shore excursions featuring locally sourced products from the Galapagos such as artisanal cheeses, coffee, craft beer, chocolate, and exotic fruits.

- Artisanal Cheeses are made locally in the Galapagos by award-winning local producer, El Queso Chueco, with milk from free range pasture fed Jersey cows that live an active lifestyle. Sample Camembert, Butterkase, Tomme, Gruyere, and English Cheddar named after local sites with unique flavors.
- Sample brands of craft beer from local breweries in Galapagos; Endemica, located in San Cristobal Island that uses reusable bottles and distributes Blonde Ale, Summer IPA, and Coffee Stout by bicycle and Reptilia, located in Santa Cruz with a Pale Ale, Irish Red Ale, Stout and Wheat.

Dietary Requirements – Ecoventura can accommodate special requests for vegan, vegetarian, kosher, kid-friendly, Gluten-Free, low carb/ low sugar/ low fat/ low sodium diets and food allergies.



Health & Safety

Physical Limitations: The majority of Ecoventura passengers are healthy, active and reasonably fit. Passengers able to walk a few hours a day unassisted will be able to enjoy Galapagos fully. Some of the excursions require more physical activity involving short steep climbs or long walks in hot weather or uneven or rocky trails. However, most excursions require moderate activity, and the walks are at a leisurely pace. Entering and exiting the Zodiacs while snorkeling in deep water requires that you pull yourself up on a ladder. Snorkeling is offered with easy access from the beach and in more challenging deeper water. Alternative activities for guests with physical limitations are guided tours by zodiac and dry snorkeling or tours in the glass-bottom zodiac. Snorkeling, kayaking, and SUPs are optional water activities provided before or after the guided excursions. If you are concerned about your ability to do any excursion, please consult with the naturalist before disembarkation. To enjoy your trip to its fullest potential, it is always a good idea to exercise before your trip, such as walking, swimming, or bicycling. Please see your doctor for a check-up before traveling to Ecuador.

Medical Conditions disclosure: Any medical condition or physical disability that may require special attention or treatment must be addressed at the time of booking. These include allergies, medications, and other diagnosed pre-existing conditions such as dementia. The company requires any guest who is not self-sufficient physically or mentally to be accompanied by a companion who shall take full responsibility for any assistance needed during the cruise and in case of emergency. All passengers must attest they are physically and mentally fit to travel at the time of embarkation, and further warrant they have no medical or emotional condition that would endanger the guest or others.

Safety Procedures: The well-being and safety of our guests continue to be one of our top priorities and we maintain very rigorous health and hygiene guidelines. Cleaning procedures are according to biosecurity standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO) and SAFE TRAVELS approved by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC).

Medical Facilities: The yachts have medical supplies, and all guides carry a First Aid kit. The Captain and guides are trained in CPR and First Aid procedures. They are in contact with the mainland by satellite phone for any medical emergencies.

Motion Sickness: Due to strong currents, there will be moderate movement of the vessel while navigating. Most passengers are not affected. However, if you are prone to seasickness, we strongly suggest you to bring some type of medication to prevent motion sickness.

Smoking policy: Smoking is prohibited in enclosed areas aboard the vessels and on the Islands. Smoking is only allowed on the outside deck in a designated smoking area.

Air Circulation: Each stateroom has an individual air-conditioning unit that eliminates recycled air pumped through the entire deck from one shared system often found on larger vessels. In addition, ozone machines are activated daily in each cabin and twice daily in the main deck social areas.

Drinking Water: Filtered drinking water is provided in your cabin in an acrylic water container and during meals. We suggest you do not drink water from the tap in your sink. A reusable water bottle is provided that can be refilled from the water container located in the dining room and you can take home.



Climate & Weather Conditions

The Galapagos has a surprisingly cool, sub-tropical climate. The larger islands with volcanic peaks have a variety of climatic zones. The coastal areas are arid and covered with plants adapted to desert conditions. The highland areas receive moisture almost all year round, which supports lush vegetation. Temperatures are determined almost entirely by ocean currents, which are influenced by the trade winds.

There are two seasons, both of which have some precipitation. Galapagos gets an average of ten inches of rain per year, and it is never considered "rainy". From December to May, the cooling currents subside, temperatures rise, and the climate is warm and sunny with occasional showers. In June, the trend begins toward cooler Spring-like temperatures with moderate breezes, which continue through November. This period is called the garua (pronounced gah-ru-aah) season, Spanish for mist.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
MAX AIR TEMP											
84	86	88	86	82	78	76	74	76	77	78	80
MIN AIR TEMP											
70	74	74	72	72	68	66	64	62	64	66	68
AVG SEA TEMP											
74	76	76	76	74	74	72	66	68	70	72	74
AVG RAINFALL (IN INCHES)											
1	1	2	1.5	.75	.25	.50	.25	.50	.25	.50	.5



Packing List

Dress is casual and comfortable, and informality is basic to all activities. We recommend that you pack lightweight, comfortable clothing in neutral-colored tones that are functional for long walks. You are not expected to dress up for dinner, although guests prefer to wear slightly dressier clothing for the dining room.

All staterooms have a vanity and lighted mirror, sectional closet with drawers, climate control, Flat screen TV with pre-loaded movies, Universal docking station, USB, clock, safety deposit box, memory foam mattress, reading lights, blackout curtains, Nespresso machine and tea kettle. There is storage available underneath the beds for standard sized hard or soft suitcases.

Day-time Clothing:

Long pants and shorts
(or nylon zip-off pants that convert to shorts)

Short sleeve T-shirts, long sleeve T-shirts
(avoid any bright colors)

Lightweight windbreaker (July to October)

Sweatshirt, fleece vest, or lightweight jacket
(July to October)

Walking shoes or lightweight hikers, socks

Rubber sport sandals with a Velcro strap (Tevas or Keens)

Boat shoes or rubber sandals/flip flops

Evening attire:

Polo shirts and casual pants or Bermuda shorts for men

Casual dress or blouse and long pants for women

Sandals or flat shoes

Accessories for excursions:

Small backpack or knapsack

2-3 bathing suits

Wide-brimmed hat, bandana, buff or gaiter

Rash guard (swim shirt for warmth and sun protection)

Sunglasses with UV filter and a strap

Waterproof bags for camera equipment and electronics

Underwater camera

Personal items:

Personal toiletry items (remove all packaging to avoid waste)

Personal medication, motion sickness medication

Biodegradable or Reef safe Sunscreen (SPF30 or higher)

Insect repellent (if you are sensitive to bites)

Earplugs (if you are sensitive to noise)

Items provided onboard Origin, Theory & Evolve

Waffle weave bathrobes and slippers (one size fits most)

Hairdryer, plush bath towels, and beach towels

Vanity Kit (shower cap, loofah, sewing kit, Q-tips, cotton, file)

Biodegradable shampoo, conditioner, shower gel, and moisturizer

Pair of Binoculars (one per cabin)

Walking sticks (metal poles)

Wet suits (full 3mm with a back zip) in a variety of sizes including children

Mask and snorkel for snorkeling in various models and sizes

Flippers (full foot fins) for snorkeling, masks, and snorkels

Refillable metal water bottle (that you can take home)

National Park Rules & Regulations

All visitors to the protected areas within the Galapagos National Park must be accompanied by a licensed naturalist guide. Guests must stay with their guide and remain on marked trails to protect the wildlife and for their safety. During orientation, your guide will go over the Galapagos National Park rules, which you are required to follow during the cruise. Signs posted on our vessels list the National Park Rules & Regulations.

Maintain a distance of at least six feet from wildlife to avoid disturbing them, even if they approach you.

Do not touch, pet, or feed the animals. Do not startle or chase any animal from its nesting place.

Do not disturb or remove any native plant, rock, or animal on land or in the water.

Do not buy any products or souvenirs made from banned substances, including black coral, shells, lava rock, animal parts, or any native wood or vegetation. This is illegal and must be reported.

Be careful not to transport any live material or sand from one Island to the next.

Food or drinks, except for water, are not permitted on the uninhabited islands.

Do not bring any food, animals, or plants to the islands.

You must cooperate fully with the inspection officials at the airports.

Do not leave any trash on the Islands or throw any litter overboard. Practice "leave no trace" principles to maintain the beauty of the environment.

Motorized aquatic sports, mini-sub, aerial (drone) are not permitted in the national park or marine reserve.

Flash photography is not permitted when taking photos of wildlife.

Smoking and campfires are strictly prohibited within the Galapagos National Park protected areas.

Fishing is only permitted on recreational boats authorized by the GNPD licensed for "pesca vivencial".

Additional Rules & Regulations (effective March 2024):

Visiting hours to areas of the Galapagos National Park are as established in the Management Plan, from 6:00 to 18:00, with diving activities ending at 17:00, excluding permitted night diving.

The use of sound players such as radios, cellphones, speakers is only allowed through headphones.

The use of sunscreen containing the chemicals oxybenzone, octinoxate, and others harmful to marine ecosystems is regulated and restricted to sustain and protect the coral reefs.

In addition, to avoid disturbing or provoking the wildlife, Ecoventura suggests guests avoid wearing bright colored clothing while on the Islands and refrain from using a selfie stick. In 2017, Ecoventura eliminated the use of plastic straws and single-use plastic bottles in our entire fleet. By mid-2018, most plastics were prohibited from entering Galapagos including plastic straws, single-use plastic bags, styrofoam containers, and non-returnable plastic bottles. We are conscious of the damage plastics cause to marine life and is why we started this initiative well before the resolution became mandatory.

In 2022, Ecoventura opened a Recycling Facility in Galapagos to ensure no garbage produced on board our fleet is left behind. All plastic, cardboard, and glass are compacted and recycled. We ask guests do their part by removing packaging materials at home or taking them to the mainland rather than leaving trash onboard in Galapagos.

Sustainability & Conservation

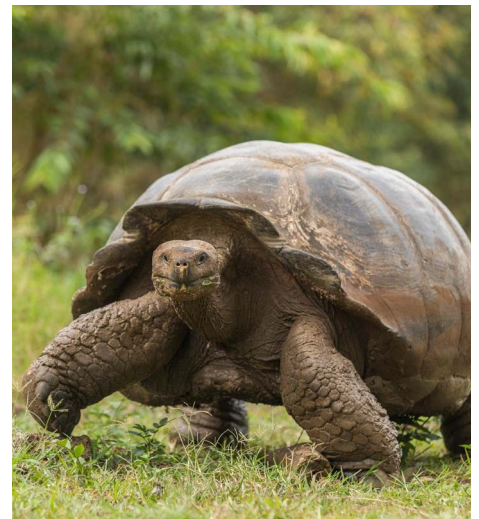
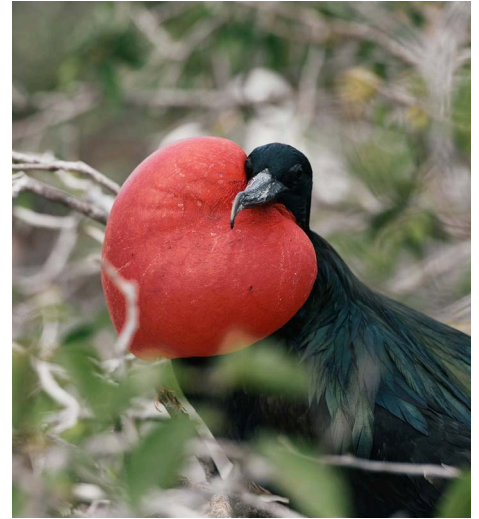
At Ecoventura, we are stewards of the fragile Galápagos islands. Throughout the years, our partnerships with the Charles Darwin Foundation, World Wildlife Fund, Ecology Project International (ECOS), and Pack for a Purpose, gave support to the local community through the donation of supplies, scholarships for Galapagueño students, and community outreach. In 2000, we became the first recipient of the SmartVoyager ecological certification. This voluntary program set strict conservation standards that later became required. We have continued to exceed the parameters by installing alternative energy sources to offset carbon emissions, produce fresh water onboard, and implement waste management through our own recycling facility in San Cristobal.

Galápagos Biodiversity & Education for Sustainability Fund

In 2017, Ecoventura established the Galápagos Biodiversity & Education for Sustainability Fund in a groundbreaking partnership with the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Galápagos National Park Service. This collective effort focuses on protecting the rare wildlife and flora found nowhere else on Earth and preserving our unparalleled ecosystem for future generations. Funds raised for this ambitious program go directly to research and conservation efforts focused on biodiversity; including monitoring expeditions, community outreach, scientific equipment, maintenance of the Galápagos National Park Directorate's vessels, and scholarships for native Galapagueños to pursue university studies.

How you can help Ecoventura benefit the local population

Every traveler that embarks with Ecoventura is making a silent pledge to act as a custodian of the Galápagos Islands, which are among one of the first dozen sites inducted onto UNESCO's esteemed list of World Heritage sites. Ecoventura makes it effortless for our guests to play a crucial role in advancing sustainable tourism and ecological protection. Simply, by choosing to travel with us, travelers can be confident they are experiencing the Galápagos fully without contributing to this natural resource's decline. By teaming up with the non-profit Pack for a Purpose organization, we encourage guests to bring five pounds of supplies to donate upon arrival to communities in need. Ecoventura delivers the contributions directly to beneficiaries, including the Carlos Darwin School and Corazones Unidos, a foundation for kids with special needs. Support the education of Galapagueños children by saving space in your suitcase for crucial school supplies such as thick colored pencils and crayons, textbooks (including ecology-focused teaching materials), English and Spanish-language dictionaries, puzzles, and picture cards. In addition to bringing supplies or making a donation, Ecoventura guests can be responsible travelers by following our careful waste management procedures carried out through our recycling facility, leaving no trace during shore excursions, and never straying from marked trails. You can participate in our reforestation project by planting a native tree in the highlands of Santa Cruz and help us protect the environment. Together, we can foster intimate, reciprocal relationships with the islands, the wildlife, and the locals who have made this destination home.



Non-profit organizations supporting Galapagos Conservation

Charles Darwin Foundation
www.darwinfoundation.org

Galapagos Conservancy
www.galapagos.org

Galapagos Conservation Trust
www.galapagosconservation.org.uk

Suggested Reading & Movies

Local Authors & Human History

A Lifetime in Galapagos, Fifty Years Photographing the Galapagos Islands, Tui de Roy, 2023
 Galapagos, Preserving Darwin's Legacy, Tui de Roy, 2009
 Galapagos, Both sides of the Coin, by Pete Oxford & Graham Watkins, 2009
 Galapagos, Exploring Darwin's Tapestry, by John Hess, 2009
 Lonesome George, The Life and Loves of a Conservation Icon, Henry Nicholls, 2006
 Plundering Paradise, The Hand of Man on the Galapagos Islands, Michael D'Orso, 2002
 Clinker Islands, A complete History of the Galapagos Archipelago, Lilian Otterman, 1993
 My Father's Islands, A Galapagos Quest, Johanna Angermeyer, 1989
 Floreana, A Woman's Pilgrimage to the Galapagos, Margaret Wittmer, 1989

Fiction Novels

Wish you were Here, Jodi Picoult, 2021, the human spirit during a crisis
 Minutes to Burn, Gregg Andrew Hurwitz, 2001, a sci-fi thriller
 Galapagos, A Novel, Kurt Vonnegut, 1986, a must read

Field Guides

A Natural History, The Galapagos, Henry Nicholls, 2014
 Galapagos, A Natural History Guide, Michael Jackson, 1993 2nd edition
 Wildlife of the Galapagos Collins Safari Guides, Julian Fitter, 2002
 Galapagos, Reef Fish Identification Guide, Paul Human, 2004 3rd edition

The Classics – available in paperback

Galapagos, Smithsonian Natural History Series, J.C. Kricher, 2002
 The Enchanted Isles, Herman Melville,
 The Voyage of the Beagle, Charles Darwin,
 On Natural Selection, Charles Darwin, Penguin Books
 Galapagos, World's End, William Beebe

Darwin & Evolution

40 Years of Evolution, Darwin's Finches on Daphne Major Island, Peter & Rosemary Grant, 2014
 Darwin in Galapagos, Footsteps to a New World, Greg Estes & Thalia Grant, 2009
 The Galapagos, Exploring Darwin's Tapestry, John Hess, 2009
 Charles Darwin, The Concise story of an extraordinary man, Tim Berra, 2009
 On the Origin of Species, The Illustrated Edition, Charles Darwin with David Quammen, 2008
 The Reluctant Mr. Darwin, David Quammen, 2006
 Evolution's Workshop, God and science of the Galapagos Islands, Edward Larson, 2001
 The Beak of the Finch, A Story of Evolution in our Time, Jonathan Weiner, 1993, Pulitzer Prize winner

Movies:

Eden (2024): major motion picture directed by Ron Howard and starring Jude Law
 Galapagos Affair: Satan Came to Eden (2013) a murder mystery documentary
 Galapagos 3D with David Attenborough (SKY) (2013) nature documentary series
 Creation (2010) starring Paul Bettany as Charles Darwin and Jennifer Connelly as Emma Darwin
 Master & Commander, The Far Side of the World (2008) starring Russell Crowe and Paul Bettany
 Galapagos, The Islands that Changed the World (2007) hosted by Tilda Swinton
 Galapagos (IMAX) (2002) follow marine biologist Carole Baldwin to the ocean floor

Our Favorite Restaurants

Ecoventura recommends our favorite restaurants – Eat like a True Foodie in Ecuador!

Ecuador is known for their exotic fruits and incredible seafood, but the cuisine offers so much more.

Here are some of the places worthwhile venturing out from, but not too far, from your hotel.

QUITO

LA FLORESTA

(Financial district, near Hotel Le Parc, JW Marriott)

Nuema - Named in Latin America's 50 Best Restaurants 2022 at #11, avant garde gastronomy

Zazu - the only Relais & Chateaux restaurant in Ecuador, Chef Wilson Alpala offers a tasting menu

Quitu - experimental and rustic with a ten course tasting menu, artistic Chef Sebastian

Cire Capital - modern cuisine with local ingredients, from Chef Erick Dreyer

Bistro Chez Jerome - Ultimate gourmet experience with elegant décor, fine French dining

Carmine Gastronomia & Arte - Italian and Mediterranean dishes in a French style house

La Gloria - Cozy Peruvian seafood restaurant, curated wine selection, can accommodate groups

Osaka - Nikkei Japanese, considered to be the best Asian food in Quito according to a local foodie

Nubori Experience - Chef Noe Carmona achieves a combination of flavors with Asian signature dishes

HISTORICAL CENTER

(near Casa Gangotena, Illa Hotel)

Casa Gangotena - upscale dining featuring Ecuadorian cuisine at Quito's finest Relais & Chateaux hotel

Ines - Located in the Illa hotel, a new concept from Chefs Juan Carlos and Cristina.

GUAYAQUIL

SAMBORONDON (near Hotel del Parque)

Casa Julian - Chef driven menu in a vintage setting on the Guayas River, walk from Hotel del Parque

La Tasca de Carlos - authentic Basque tapas bar, generous portions, paella, at La Torre center

Positano - excellent Italian restaurant in the Alhambra Center

La Pesca - casual atmosphere with fresh seafood in Las Terrazas

Zeru - an international culinary delight, boasting exceptional service in Bocca Town Center

There are several choices to dine at Plaza Lagos Town Center, an upscale oasis with shops and cafes:

Mikka - Japanese and Peruvian seafood, excellent sushi with a local twist

Carlo y Carla - a favorite among locals for seafood and Italian cuisine

La Dona - The #1 place for typical Mexican cuisine, simple and relaxing atmosphere

Embarcadero 41 - Peruvian cuisine, seafood, and a curated wine selection

DOWNTOWN (near Hotel Oro Verde)

La Fondue and Le Gourmet - both are located in the Hotel Oro Verde

There are several choice to dine on "Panama Street" a regenerated area in downtown, and a ten-minute taxi ride from Hotel Oro Verde. Our top picks are Sfoglia, La Central, Juliana Bar and Nicanor.



GREEN PLANET
EXPEDITIONS
CONSCIOUS TRAVEL

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G A L A P A G O S

 **RELAIS & CHATEAUX**