



# GALAPAGOS EXPLORER



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Herman Melville, the author of Moby Dick, called them the 'Enchanted Isles'. And it has certainly enchanted SwimTrekkers!

We've been visiting the Galapagos Islands since 2017, and it's still a firm favourite. So, in 2024 we thought it was about time we added a second Galapagos trip.

Our <u>Galapagos Explorer</u> is an adventure like no other! Follow in the wake of Charles Darwin's Beagle voyages and discover a world apart, where animals thrive and conservation takes centre stage.

#### What To Expect:

- Our most comprehensive Galapagos package yet!
- 8-island itinerary
- 4x more exploration of Marine Reserve
- Our first ever swim across the equator!
- Tortoise Breeding Centre experience
- Liveaboard on a spacious catamaran,
- 2 official National Park guides and local crew of 8
- Hikes, tours and conservation talks
- Onboard chef
- Included (daily) breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Wine and beer with dinner









'WORDS CANNOT DESCRIBE HOW WONDERFUL THE

GALAPAGOS EXPLORER TRIP IS.

THE SHEER VOLUME AND VARIETY OF WILDLIFE WE

ENCOUNTERED UP CLOSE IN AND OUT OF THE

WATER WAS OUT OF THIS WORLD.'

J. Dean, UK - 2025

'THIS WAS A BUCKET LIST TRIP FOR ME WHICH COMPLETELY EXCEEDED MY EXPECTATIONS, AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE IN A VERY UNIQUE AND PRECIOUS LOCATION.'

V. Williams, Germany - 2024

'MY FRIENDS TOLD ME SWIMTREK WAS THE BEST WAY TO VISIT THE GALÁPAGOS, & I TOOK THEIR WORD FOR IT. THEY WERE RIGHT!'

M. Arrn, USA - 2024





**4X MORE EXPLORATION!** 

## **8 DAYS OF IMMERSION IN THE GALAPAGOS MARINE RESERVE**

On this trip, our catamaran covers an area almost 4 times larger than previous trips. We also embark on at least 2 swims and walks every day!

#### **INCLUDED**

All meals
Coffee, tea, water,
alcohol\* and soft drinks\*\*
All program excursions
Guided swims
Flight (Quito-Baltra)
Catamaran transfers
Certified naturalist guides
Snorkelling mask and fins
Daily guide talks

#### **NOT INCLUDED**

Travel to/from trip start Additional activities USD\$200 National Park fee (cash) USD\$20 INGALA Transit Control Card (cash)

\*max 2 beers or 1 bottle of wine per dinner (each) \*\*max 5 juices or soft drinks per day (each)















#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Unique 8-island itinerary for swimmers and non-swimmers
- Range of optional daily swims (2-5km)
- Walks and hikes on several islands
- Exclusive swim across the equator
- Spacious catamaran
- Official Galapagos National Park Guides
- Local crew and locally owned boat
- Dedicated chef
- Evening dinner talks

#### Day 1

Bus tour from highlands to Puerto Ayora Visit to Darwin Centre Acclimatisation swim (Bahia Playa Alemanes)

#### Day 2

2 swims (Quatro Hermanos) Visit to Tortoise Breeding Centre Sunset drinks at Flamingo beach bar

#### Day 3

2 swims (Punta Moreno) Panga Ride (sightseeing) Walk to Moreno Point

#### Day 4

Swim/snorkel (Urbina Bay)
Walk around base of Alcedo Volcano
Coastal swim (Tagus Cove)
Hike to viewpoint of Darwin Lake





#### Day 5

Early swim (Espinosa Point)
Swim (Punta Vincente Roca)
Swim (Crossing of the equator)
Celebration fiesta

#### Day 6

Swim/snorkel (Puerto Egas) Walk to Salty Mines Swim (Rabida Island)

#### Day 7

Swim (Santiago Channel)
Swim (Bartolome)

#### Day 8

Swim (Pre-breakfast)



#### **Day One**

Flight arrivals from Quito join our SwimTrek guides at Baltra Airport in the morning. We take a short bus ride to the Itabaca Channel and board a water taxi to the island of Santa Cruz. Then we travel towards the highlands and enjoy lunch on a private ranch.

Our guide walks us through ferns, sedges, and miconias to find giant tortoises in their natural habitat. Later, we head through a lava tunnel where a volcanic eruption occurred millions of years ago.

In Puerto Ayora, you can visit the Darwin Centre, shop and sit for a coffee (your last chance). Before













we enjoy an evening acclimatisation swim and get acquainted with our yacht during a sunset drink. Overnight, the vessel motors on to Isabela Island.

#### **Day Two**

After breakfast we head to Los Islotes Cuatro Hermanos - a group of rocky islands off Isabela's east coast. We embark on our more adventurous swims, seeking out caves and tunnels, where Galapagos fur seals lounge. Also, myriad tropical fish live here, as well as manta rays and white tipped reef sharks.







flourishing with life. You find yourself staring at penguins face-to-face and playing with sea lions!

After a full morning, we return to Isabela where we visit a local tortoise breeding center, see flamingos and watch the sunset from the local beach bar.

Finally, we head back to the boat for dinner.

#### Day Three

Overnight the boat reached the west side of Isabela. Now, we enjoy a pre-breakfast swim to wake our bodies. Then we head out at Punta Moreno for a coastal swim after breakfast. Expect













to see an abundance of marine life while we're in the water, followed by lunch and rest on the boat.

In the afternoon, we visit Elizabeth Bay and enter a cove edged by red mangroves. Here we observe sea turtles, flightless cormorants, spotted eagle rays, golden rays, brown pelicans and sea lions. Galápagos falcons fly overhead and Mahi-mahi fish schools are seen swimming below. This is an amazing site due to the large amount of marine and terrestrial fauna.

Those who want to explore further can disembark and take a late afternoon walk on Moreno, across the broken lava. Later, we return to the yacht for dinner and rest.

#### **Day Four**

The boat continues up the west coast of Isabela Island. Our morning stop is at Urbina Bay where we can walk, swim and snorkel. The Alcedo volcano watches over us and a path connects to its base from the beach. After a beach landing, we walk among sand, rocks, lava, corals, and plant formations. Keep an eye out for land iguanas, as well as giant Galápagos tortoises, flightless cormorants, blue-footed boobies, Galápagos penguins, pelicans, and marine iguanas.

Lunch is served aboard the boat before we sail up the coast to Tagus Cove. Here we undertake one of our longer swims along the shoreline. In the early afternoon, we can hike to a clifftop viewpoint of Lake Darwin. Supposedly, there was an explosive volcanic eruption in the area - a large number of rocks of varying sizes can be found here, including spherical balls known as 'lapili'.







#### **Day Five**

A day of exciting activities and 3 swims! In the morning we cross to Fernadina Island (third largest in the archipelago). We swim along the northeastern coast of the island and pass Espinoza Point. Punta Espinoza has large colonies of marine iguanas, as well as Galápagos penguins and falcons. If we're lucky, we can swim with marine iguanas and large colonies of sea turtles.

After lunch and rest, we swim around the protected bay of Punta Vincente Roca. There are two coves filled with turquoise water. We discover the remains of an ancient volcano and the equator is nearby. So, we'll make a stop and swim across the equator - a truly unique experience, celebrated by a boat party and dinner.

#### **Day Six**

An overnight sail takes us back to the eastern side of Isabela. Here we uncover two new islands: Santiago and Rabida. We hike and snorkel around Puerto Egas, seeking out a black, sandy beach on the west side of James Bay. The hike takes us along rugged coastline, where we meet iguanas and sea lions in tidal pools. You can snorkel just off the beach of Puerto Egas.

After lunch, we head to Rabida Island just south of Santiago. The sand and rocks are reddened by volcanic activity and the oxidation of the sea breeze. Our swim takes us to a red sand beach, which is home to a large flock of flamingos.











#### **Day Seven**

Overnight, we sail to the south side of Santiago. Then we swim along a lava-fringed channel between Santiago and Sombrero Chino. You'll swim with penguins, small sharks, rays and plenty of Pacific fish. We'll see geological characteristics of lava tubes and flows.

Our lunch is a barbeque on the top deck of the Anahi. Before we venture on to the island of Bartolome. There we swim on the protected southern coast, opposite the Pinnacle. In the evening, we share stories, celebrate and reflect during our final group dinner.



Our final day brings the last morning swim before breakfast. Then we disembark from the boat and transfer you to Baltra airport in time for your return flight to Quito.













**JACUZZI** 

### ANAHÍ CATAMARAN YACHT

The <u>Anahí Catamaran Yacht</u> is your home as we explore the Galapagos Islands. You will enjoy a personalised service, safety and comfort during your trip. The crew are professionally trained and will care for you from the first to the last day. The boat has:

- Capacity for 16 passengers
- 6 standard cabins on main deck
- 2 upper deck suites with ocean views, bathroom, air con, and first-class amenities.
- Jacuzzi with ocean view
- Private chef who specialises in local recipes





## SWIMTREK IS A PROUD MEMBER OF 1% FOR THE PLANET. WHEN YOU BOOK THIS TRIP, 1% REVENUE (NOT PROFIT) GOES BACK TO GALAPAGOS CONSERVATION TRUST!

We are delighted to partner with <u>Galapagos Conservation Trust</u>, bringing a unique opportunity for our travellers to give back to local conservation efforts.

All guests will also receive a free one-year individual GCT membership with the following benefits:

- Twice yearly 'Galapagos Matters' magazine
- Monthly e-newsletter with news about ongoing conservation projects and events
- A special Galapagos tortoise pin badge
- Exclusive invitations to webinars and events about Galapagos

