



GALAPAGOS MULTISPORT ADVENTURE 7 DAYS

Effort: Moderate. No experience necessary.

Activities: Sea kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, snorkeling, and wildlife interaction.

This weeklong adventure takes you kayaking with sea turtles, sharks, and sea lions, hiking active volcanoes, mountain biking along coastlines, snorkeling tropical waters alive with beautiful fish and relaxing on sandy beaches next to sea lions and marine iguanas. After long days of fun, return to our eco-friendly boutique hotels for splendid meals and superb hospitality. Your adventure is led by local certified naturalists and the best adventure guides in the world. Our Multisport Adventure is the ultimate combination of adventure, comfort, and wildlife interaction.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sea kayak with sharks, marine iguanas, sea turtles, and sea lions.
- Walk among giant Galapagos tortoises in their natural habitat.
- Snorkel with tropical fish, rays, sea lions, and sharks.
- Hike the rim of an enormous, active caldera and discover extraordinary lava formations.
- Mountain bike our exclusive, low-impact route along pristine coastline.
- Relax on beautiful beaches with playful sea lions and countless marine iguanas.
- Enjoy exceptional service, comfort, and cuisine at quality hotels in Galapagos.
- Award-winning guides serve as your liaison to the local culture and wildlife.
- Protect the environment and support the local communities with our eco-friendly activities and green hotels.
- Travel at ease with our top technical safety standards and liability insurance coverage.

DAY 1: INTERPRETATION CENTER, HIKE AND SNORKEL TIJERETAS

After a morning flight to San Cristobal Island, we'll greet you at the airport and head to our hotel. After lunch and a quick introduction, we begin our journey at the Galapagos Interpretation Center to learn about the unique wildlife, geology, history, and social dynamics of the Galapagos.

After our visit, we hike to Tijeretas along natural trails formed of lava rocks. The path is surrounded by native plants like Galapagos cotton, palo santo, acacia, and cacti, and we will spot blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, pelicans, herons, gulls, warblers, mockingbirds, and finches in the vegetation and sea cliffs. Our guides interpret this amazing flora and fauna in the context of the natural history we just learned. We also enjoy scenic views of the rugged coastline and the tranquil town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno.

We cool off from our hike with a refreshing snorkeling session at postcard-worthy Carola Beach, surrounded by sea turtles, sea lions, and marine iguanas, and bask in the setting sun. After dinner, we'll explore the friendly, laid-back beach town and stroll down the boardwalk to visit the neighboring colony of Galapagos sea lions. (L, D)



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DAY 2: KAYAK AND SNORKEL IN SAN CRISTOBAL'S NORTHERN COAST

Our second day begins with a morning of kayaking along the coastal bays and coves of San Cristobal's north coast, full of bluefooted boobies, frigate birds, sea lions, and sea turtles. We may visit Leon Dormido (Kicker Rock) or Punta Pitt. The visiting site will depend on the week day and Galapagos National Park regulations.

We'll put on snorkels and fins to interact with sea lions, as well as marine iguanas and countless reef fish. We'll swim with spotted eagle rays, golden rays, Galapagos sharks, starfish, clams, and fish of every shape, size, and color. With luck, we might even see some menacing but harmless hammerhead sharks! After a full day spent exploring the seas, we head back to town for a delicious dinner and a well-earned rest. (B, L, D)



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DAY 3: BIKE THE COASTLINE, EXPLORE TINTORERAS ISLETS

After breakfast, we say goodbye to San Cristobal and take a quick small-plane ride to Isabela Island. Isabela is the largest island in the Galapagos and is still being formed by six active shield volcanoes. In fact, Isabela is one of the most volcanically active spots on the planet.

Upon arrival, we embark on a bike ride that will take us through a wide variety of environments and ecosystems. Along the way, we'll pass through white sand beaches, mangrove forests and brackish lagoons, and a lava tube cave. As we ride, we'll pass giant tortoises, flamingos, and other wildlife. At the end of our ride, we arrive at el Muro de las Lagrimas (the Wall of Tears). When Isabela was used as a penal colony, prisoners were forced to construct this towering wall of lava rocks for no other reason than to keep them distracted from the madness of isolation.

After lunch, we explore Tintoreras, a set of small islets filled with hidden coves and beaches. Here, we will find the peculiar, endemic Galapagos penguin and other marine life. At the end of the day, we retire to our hotel and after a delicious dinner, we can enjoy the well-appointed lounge or wander the idyllic sand streets of Puerto Villamil. (B, L, D)



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DAY 4: VOLCANO HIKING IN ISABELA'S HIGHLANDS

This morning, we'll drive up the flanks of the Sierra Negra volcano until the road ends. Here, we continue on foot and hike into a surreal world of geological history. On the hike up, we can admire incredible views of the surrounding volcanoes and sea, as well as the distinctive highland ecosystem around us. But the real prize is at the top - when we arrive at the rim of the Sierra Negra volcano, we are treated to a truly breathtaking vista.

Sierra Negra is the second largest active caldera on the planet, over six miles at its widest point. We'll hike the rim of this enormous crater and, if we feel energetic, continue on to the caldera of Volcan Chico, an otherworldly landscape of vibrant hues created by sulfur deposits. Here we can explore spectacular lava formations and fumaroles. After a stop at an idyllic tortoise reserve for lunch, we'll head back to the lowlands in time to spend our last afternoon on Isabela relaxing on the perfect beaches and soaking up the island-life atmosphere. (B, L, D)



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DAY 5: HIKE THE SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS

Wake up with the sea breeze as we travel by speedboat or internal flight to Santa Cruz Island, keeping an eye out for whales and dolphins along the way. After checking in at the hotel we head to El Chato in the Santa Cruz highlands to find the famous giant tortoise in its natural habitat. It is truly an honor to walk in the stately presence of these gentle giants, who can live to be over 175 years old. We will also see pintail ducks, Darwin's finches, frigate birds, egrets, and the vermilion flycatcher.

Our next stop is the incredible lava tunnels, which formed an ideal hideout for the pirates that once frequented the Galapagos. Legend has it that they were also used to hide Inca gold stolen from Spanish ships. We then hike on to Los Gemelos, two deep volcanic sinkholes at the top of the island, with rocky cliffs surrounding the huge pits of empty magma chambers. Our path takes us through a forest of endemic Scalesia trees, where we will be on the lookout for the elusive short-eared owl. The trees are covered with ferns and epiphytes, and lend the forest a quiet, eerie feel. (B, L, D)



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DAY 6: KAYAK IN LAVA WALL CHANNELS, HIKE TO TORTUGA BAY

This morning, we'll head back to sea in kayaks to explore the unique landscape of Punta Estrada and Divine Bay. As we paddle through towering lava channel walls, we can see rays and white-tipped reef sharks below us in the serene, clear water. We can also paddle right up to the fearless blue-footed boobies, lava gulls, herons, sally lightfoot crabs, and marine iguanas perched along the cliffs.

After lunch, we'll take a short hike through a distinctive dry forest to Tortuga Bay. Along the hike, we find many interesting birds and plants. We emerge from the forest onto Tortuga Bay, one of the most beautiful beaches in the Galapagos, with soft, fine sand and pristine turquoise waters, perfect for a relaxing afternoon. As evening comes, we'll return to our hotel to celebrate a wonderful trip and enjoy our last evening in the Galapagos.

If there is enough time we'll stop for a visit at the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn from local scientists about the ongoing conservation efforts on these enchanted islands. The Research Station rears endemic plants, land iguanas, and giant tortoises for educational, scientific, and conservation purposes. Here, we can learn more about the diverse evolutionary paths and characteristics of the animals and plants that we just met. (B, L, D)



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DAY 7: TRANSFER TO BALTRA'S AIRPORT

We transfer to Baltra Island for our return flight to the mainland and bid a fond farewell to the Galapagos. (B)

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED	NOTE
<p>Accommodations in comfort or premium class hotels, meals as listed (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = Dinner), bilingual Galapagos naturalist guide/adventure guide, all sea and land transportation during the tour.</p>	<p>Flights to and from Galapagos, entrance fee to Galapagos National Park, Galapagos transit card, tips, hotel & restaurant beverages.</p>	<p>This itinerary is subject to change without notice due to seasonal changes, inclement weather conditions, and adjustments of Galapagos National Park policy.</p> <p>The Weight restriction per person for the Inner Island flight from San Cristobal to Isabela is 25 pounds in one piece of luggage.</p>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

BOAT TRAVEL TIME: Two hours

SMALL AIRCRAFT FLIGHT TIME: 40 minutes

ACTIVITY DURATION (PADDLE, HIKE, BIKE, SNORKEL): Two to four hours per activity

SEASON: Year-round

ALTITUDE: 0 – 3,688 feet (1,124 meters) above sea level

WEATHER: During the warm season from January to May, air temperature is around 77 to 83 F (25 to 28 C) at sea level. During the cool season from June to December, air temperature is around 70 to 75 F (21 to 24 C) at sea level. Temperature decreases with altitude.

WATER TEMPERATURE: During the warm season from January to May, water temperature hovers around 77 F (25 C). During the cool season from June to December, average water temperature is about 72 F (22 C). Water temperature also varies significantly by location.

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO PACK: Hiking shoes, rain jacket, water bottle, non-cotton trekking clothes, sunblock, sun hat, and repellent.

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