

## GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS: FAMILY VOLUNTEER VACATION



## MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- Get up close to giant tortoises while lending a hand at a conservation sanctuary
- Snorkel alongside penguins, reef sharks and sea lions
- Kayak in search of the famed blue-footed booby
- View creatures in their natural surroundings on uninhabited islands
- Experience the Galapagos' unique biodiversity up close

Discover Unique
Galápagos Species and
Help Their Conservation on this Family Volunteer
Vacation

# TRIP AT A GLANCE 10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS 

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PHYSICAL DEMAND Easy
GROUP SIZE Average 8, Maximum 15
LODGING Standard
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## QUITO

DAY 1 - Arrive in Quito and meet your guide and group for a welcome dinner

DAY 2 - Explore Quito’s celebrated historic center on a walking tour

## ISABELA

DAY 3 - Fly to Baltra and take a bus, then boat, to Isabela, and settle in to Puerto Villamil

DAY 4 - Snorkel Los Tuneles, an extraordinary network of lava formations

DAY 5 - Kayak and snorkel through the El Estero wetlands of Isabela

## SANTA CRUZ

DAY 6 - Visit giant tortoises on Santa Cruz, and help remove invasive plant species

DAY 7 - Discover more about Galapagos conservation at the Charles Darwin Research Station

DAY 8 - Witness interaction between blue footed boobies on North Seymour Island

DAY 9 - Snorkel the rich waters off Daphne and Pinzon

DAY 10 - Return home, or continue to Quito for the extension

## AMAZON BASIN EXTENSION

DAY 11 - Arrive in El Coca, and take a boat trip down the Napo River

DAY 12-Spot tropical birds and other animals on jungle hikes

DAY 13 - Meet an indigenous Kichua woman and view the parrot clay licks


## GALAPAGOS: FAMILY VOLUNTEER VACATION

## OUR PURPOSE

Despite strict environmental protections, many invasive plant species have been introduced to the Galapagos. These species grow quickly and can crowd out native species that the islands' animals depend on. Spend two mornings lending a hand at a sanctuary for giant tortoises, helping out by removing invasive plant species and planting endemic bushes and trees that tortoises eat.

The Galapagos archipelago is arguably the greatest destination on the planet for nature travelers. Located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, this island chain is the second largest marine reserve in the world, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While there are small towns on a couple of the islands, the strict protection of flora and fauna allows us to experience an ecosystem free from the harmful effects of humans.

To provide the best experience for your family, we keep our group size small, focus on interactive and educational wildlife experiences, hire expert naturalist guides, and design a family-friendly schedule that includes time for family bonding. And like all of our trips, your Discover Corps guide will accompany you every step of the trip. Whether you're hiking through hardened lava tubes, kayaking out to see blue-footed boobies, snorkeling with friendyyisea lions, or simply relaxing and soaking it all in, this will beon unforgettable experience.


## HIGHLIGHTS



## QUITO

While our trip is centered around the Galapagos Islands, it begins and ends on the Ecuadorian mainland, in the capital, Quito. One of the highest capital cities in the world, Quito occupies a stunning spot in view of the Andes Mountains, and its beautifully preserved historic center was one of the first places listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll explore its pretty streets and grand colonial architecture, such as the La Compañia Church (decorated with gold leaves, on a walking tour.


## THE TORTOISES OF SANTA CRUZ

The story of the most famous Galapagos tortoise (and probably the most famous individual to come from the archipelago) is a sad one: when Lonesome George died in 2012, his species died with him. Happily, though, several other species of Galapagos tortoise survive across the islands. These gentle giants can reach up to 6 feet in length and 800 lbs in weight, and you'll have the chance to meet some and help protect them from harmful invasive plant species.


## LOS TUNELES

The Galapagos Islands are famed not only for their unique and diverse wildlife, but also for the strange, otherworldly landscapes these animals inhabit. In particular, the islands' volcanic nature leads to some bizarre rock formations such as those at Los Tuneles (The Tunnels), a network of bridges and tubes, above and below the water, formed by cooled lava flows. This is one of the finest places to snorkel in the Galapagos, with sea turtles, sharks and sea horses among the inhabitants.


NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND \&
THE BLUE-FOOTED BOOBIES
The small uninhabited island of North Seymour lies off the coast of the larger island of Baltra. It's particularly famous for its bird populations. Not only will we get a chance to spot great numbers of the famous blue-footed booby here, but also frigate birds, instantly recognizable by their magnificent red throat pouches. Particularly memorable is the interaction between these two species - we'll observe frigate birds as they swoop down and make the boobies drop their catch of fish

## ITINERARY

## DAY 1: Arrive in Quito and Enjoy a Welcome Dinner

Touching down in Quito, you'll be met at the airport by your Discover Corps guide, who will accompany you to our hotel for a welcome dinner with your fellow travelers. Have a restful night for the adventures ahead. (D)

## DAY 2: Walking Tour of Quito

Today we'll explore Quito, walking the pretty cobblestoned streets of its UNESCO-listed colonial center. A cable car ride to a nearby mountain summit will afford us a bird's-eye view of the city and the surrounding volcanic peaks, before dinner at a chic restaurant. ( $B, L, D$ )

## DAY 3: Fly to Baltra to begin our Galápagos Adventure

Our Galápagos adventure begins in earnest now, with an early morning flight from Quito to Baltra, before we take a bus and then boat to Isabela Island. After checking into our hotel, we'll have the evening free to explore the town Puerto Villamil, the third largest human settlement in the archipelago. (L,D)

## DAY 4: Snorkel the extraordinary Los Tuneles

One of the most spectacular sites for snorkeling off the coast of Isabela is Los Tuneles (or the Tunnels, tangled formations of hardened lava next to the mangroves. These unique formations of tunnels and bridges create one of the most astonishing locations for viewing sea turtles, rays, white-tipped sharks, and a variety of seabirds. (B,L,D)

## DAY 5: Kayak Las Tintoreras in Search of Marine Iguanas and Galápagos Penguins

We'll spend this morning kayaking along the coast of Las Tintoreras on Isabela Island, stopping to snorkel along the way in the El Elestero wetlands for those interested. After a picnic lunch, we'll enjoy a beach side mangrove walk, viewing a whole ecosystem of animals that are not normally visible. (B,L,D)

## DAY 6: Visit a Tortoise Sanctuary on the Island of Santa Cruz

Today we'll visit a tortoise sanctuary on the island of Santa Cruz. Here we'll explore more otherworldly lava tunnels, before helping out with odd jobs at the sanctuary. In particular, we will be removing invasive plant species or planting endemic species throughout the reserve. As this is an area where tortoises roam freely in the wild, you may end up face to face with one of these magnificent creatures. ( $B, L, D$ )



## DAY 7: Learn About Galápagos Conservation at the Charles Darwin Research Station

This morning we'll visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about the conservation projects across the archipelago, before an hourlong trek to the white sands of Tortuga Bay. Here you can go swimming or follow the lead of the resident marine iguanas and simply soak up some sun. Spend another afternoon volunteering at the tortoise sanctuary in the highlands of Santa Cruz. (B,L,D)

## DAY 8: Discover Blue-Footed Boobies \& Frigate Birds on North Seymour

Today we'll venture out to the tiny, uninhabited island of North Seymour, home to one of the largest populations of blue-footed boobies and majestic, red-throated frigate birds. Witness the frigate birds swoop down and cheekily swipe the boobies' hard-earned catch of fish. On our way back, we'll stop at a beautiful beach where you can snorkel with sea lions. Tonight is a free evening in Santa Cruz. (B,L)

## DAY 9: Snorkel Off the Islands of Daphne and Pinzon

Today we'll snorkel the waters around the small island of Daphne, a scientists colony, before continuing to Pinzon, home to some of the best snorkeling in the archipelago. Jump in from the boat to see sea lions, a kaleidoscope of reef fish and, if you're lucky, penguins. Tonight well share a farewell dinner in Santa Cruz. ( $B, L, D$ )

## DAY 10: Return Home or Continue Trip Via Quito

Whether or not you've chosen the trip extension, we'll return to the airport in Baltra for a flight back to Quito today. From there we'll either say our goodbyes before your flight home, or you'll stay an extra night in Quito with us for our Amazon Basin post-trip extension (next page). (B)

## Standard Lodging

We'll divide our time during the trip between three major locations: Quito, and the islands of Isabela and Santa Cruz. In each place, we'll stay in small, boutique hotels that will serve as our home-away-from-home during our time in Ecuador. Each hotel reflects the colorful natural surroundings of the islands. Relax by the pool and gardens along the way and take in the slow pace of life.

## OPTIONAL EXTENSION: Amazon Basin

## DAY 11: Fly to El Coca and Explore the Napo River By Boat

After spending an extra night in Quito, wake up for a short flight, which takes us from Quito to Puerto Francisco de Orellana, or 'El Coca'. Your next two hours will be spent on a motorized canoe heading down the Napo River, with the Amazon rainforest creating an unforgettable backdrop. At dusk, hike along Matapalo Trail and marvel at 400-year-old mahogany trees and strangler figs. (D)

## DAY 12: Choose From a Range of Hiking

 Trails Through the CountrysideA short early-morning hike will take us to an observation tower, where we'll spot colorful tropical birds soaring above the Amazon. This afternoon we'll either hike the Tucaneta Trail to learn about medicinal plants, or walk to the Mandi Cocha lagoon, spotting birds and giant otters. After sundown, we'll hop into a canoe to enjoy an Amazonian sunset and spot nocturnal wildlife. ( $B, L, D$ )

DAY 13: Visit the Famous Clay Licks and Meet a Kichua Woman

Today we'll take to the river again, this time to witness hundreds of parrots and parakeets feeding on clay licks. Back on dry land, we'll meet a Kichua woman who will share stories about life in the Amazon rainforest. After lunch, we'll visit a beautiful lagoon to spot squirrel monkeys, capuchin monkeys and, if we're lucky, howler monkeys and pigmy marmosets. (B,L,D)

## DAY 14: Return Home

Your Amazon adventure comes to an end today, and we'll take a motorized canoe upstream back to Coca for your journey home. (B)

## Extension Lodging

We'll stay in a distinctive Amazon lodge designed to give you the ultimate feeling of being in touch with nature. Made from all-natural materials, the lodge is comfortable, clean, and safe. Created with designs traditional to the local Amazon cultures, it assures a well-built room which nevertheless gives the feeling of being immersed in the jungle.

[^0]* There is a required $\$ 300$ flight supplement for this extension from Galápagos Islands to the Amazon (arranged by Discover Corps)
*For this extension, there is a \$300 non-refundable deposit required



## GALAPAGOS: FAMILY VOLUNTEER VACATION 10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS

| DATE | ADULT | CHILD |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| December 26-Jan 4, 2024 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| January 13-22, 2024 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| February 10-19, 2024 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| April 6-15, 2024 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| May 11-20, 2024 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| June 8-17, 2024 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| June 22-July 1, 2024 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| July 6-15, 2024 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| July 20-29, 2024 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| August 3-12, 2024 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| September 14-23, 2024 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| October 12-21, 2024 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| Dec 26, 2024-Jan 4, 2025 | \$5,595 | \$5,295 |
| OPTIONAL EXTENSION | \$1,995 | \$1,895 |

The prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements are $\$ 995$ per person for the main trip and $\$ 500$ for the extension.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 9 nights double occupancy lodging in standard level lodging
- Most meals throughout the trip (24 total)
- English-speaking local guides that are there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- Admissions and entrance fees to national parks, historic sitesand other scheduled events throughout the trip
- All land and water transportation during the trip.
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Trip literature
- Turnkey customer support from preparing for your trip to arrival back home


## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- One breakfast and one dinner
- Alcoholic beverages
- \$600 supplement fee - covering tax, entrance fee to the islands, and round trip flight from Quito to Galapagos
- Tips for Discover Corps guide and driver
- Laundry, phone, and Internet services


## RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 12 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a $\$ 365$ deposit and $\$ 30$ non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at info@discovercorps.com

## RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a $\$ 250$ discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

## CUSTOM GROUPS?

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

## MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Call/Text: 619-758-3030 Email: info@discovercorps.com

## THE FINE PRINT

Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.
Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.
(B, L, D): Breakfast, Lunch Dinner
Dates don't work? Contact us about adding a new date for the trip.

## Our Mission



The mission of Discover Corps is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.

## OUR DESTINATIONS

| ALASKA | JAPAN |
| :--- | :--- |
| AUSTRALIA | KENYA |
| BELIZE | MEXICO |
| BUHTAN | PERU |
| COSTA RICA | SOUTH AFRICA |
| CUBA | TANZANIA |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | THALLAND |
| EGYPT | UGANDA |
| GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS |  |
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[^1]Discover Corps
unforgettable Vacations with Purpose

Visit discovercorps.com/register to place a $\$ 395$ deposit down to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.


[^0]:    * Single room supplement for this extension: \$299

[^1]:    FAMILY FRIENDLY • SMALL GROUPS • POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT • DISTINCTIVE LODGING • HANDPICKED GUIDES

