

GALAPAGOS

Natural History and Evolution of Galápagos Fauna

MAR 451 (4 credits)

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Tentative Travel Dates: May 25 - June 2 | Estimated Travel Fee \$5,300

DAY 1 | Fly to Quito, Ecuador

Fly from Boston to Quito, Ecuador, settle into hotel in Quito, dinner and overnight in Quito

DAY 2 | Otavalo market and indigenous culture

Breakfast at hotel, explore the Otavalo Indigenous culture through a visit to Otavalo handcraft market, visit with local family in the town of Peguche for introduction to weaving, music traditions, and ancestral knowledge of medicinal plants, as well as importance of guinea pigs, enjoy traditional lunch of the Ecuadorian Highlands, continue to town of Cotacachi which is famous for leather products, visit a local leathercraft shop, return to Quito for dinner and overnight at hotel

DAY 3 | Fly to Galapagos Islands, board yacht

Breakfast at hotel, transfer to airport for flight to Galapagos, meet naturalist guide and board private yacht to settle into your cabin, orientation aboard, board smaller panga boat for exploration of Black Turtle Cove to observe white-tipped sharks, marine turtles, spotted eagle rays, and yellow cow-nosed rays, return to yacht for dinner, nightly orientation, overnight while yacht cruises to next island

DAY 4 | Galapagos: Chinese Hat & Rabida

Breakfast aboard, explore Chinese Hat and its rocky shoreline, observe Galapagos penguins, eagle rays, sea lions and marine iguanas, free time to snorkel/swim/kayak, lunch aboard while traveling to Rabida for walk and observation of marine iguanas, sea lions, pelicans, blue-footed boobies, masked boobies and brown pelicans, walk to a small saltwater lagoon to see pink flamingos, return to yacht for dinner, nightly orientation, overnight while yacht cruises to next island

DAY 5 | Galapagos: Santiago and Bartolome

Breakfast aboard, explore Sullivan Bay for insight into the volcanic origin of the islands, free time

to snorkel/swim/kayak, lunch aboard, travel to Bartolome Island, hike to summit while observing marine iguanas and lava lizards, take in the expansive view of surrounding islands, including the eroded tuff cone of Pinnacle Rock, return to yacht for dinner, nightly orientation, overnight while yacht cruises to next island

DAY 6 | Galapagos: Santa Fe and South Plaza

Breakfast aboard, explore the cactus forest and colony of land iguanas native to Santa Fe, free time to snorkel/swim/kayak, lunch aboard and sail to South Plaza where you will enjoy the antics of sea lions, walk through a cactus forest while spotting tropical birds, return to yacht for dinner, nightly orientation, overnight while yacht cruises to next island

DAY 7 | Galapagos: Santa Cruz

Breakfast aboard, explore Las Bachas Beach with its flamingos and birds, return to yacht for farewell to crew, disembark at pier, travel by land with guide from FUNDAR Galapagos and settle into its facility, learn about its work and projects to reconcile the differences between the preservation of the environment and the development needs of the local people, begin field work monitoring and tagging giant tortoises in Galapagos National Park, lunch, visit Tortuga Bay to explore and snorkel while observing sea turtles, sea lions, marine iguanas, pelicans, flamingos, lava gulls and more, farewell dinner and overnight

DAY 8 | Fly to Quito and onto Boston

Breakfast at FUNDAR, depart for flight to Quito and connecting flight to Boston

*Extended Cruise option - Est. Travel Fee \$6,500

Current cruise is 5 days, if a 7-day cruise becomes available, we will discuss that option, but at this time, all 7-day cruises are fully booked

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