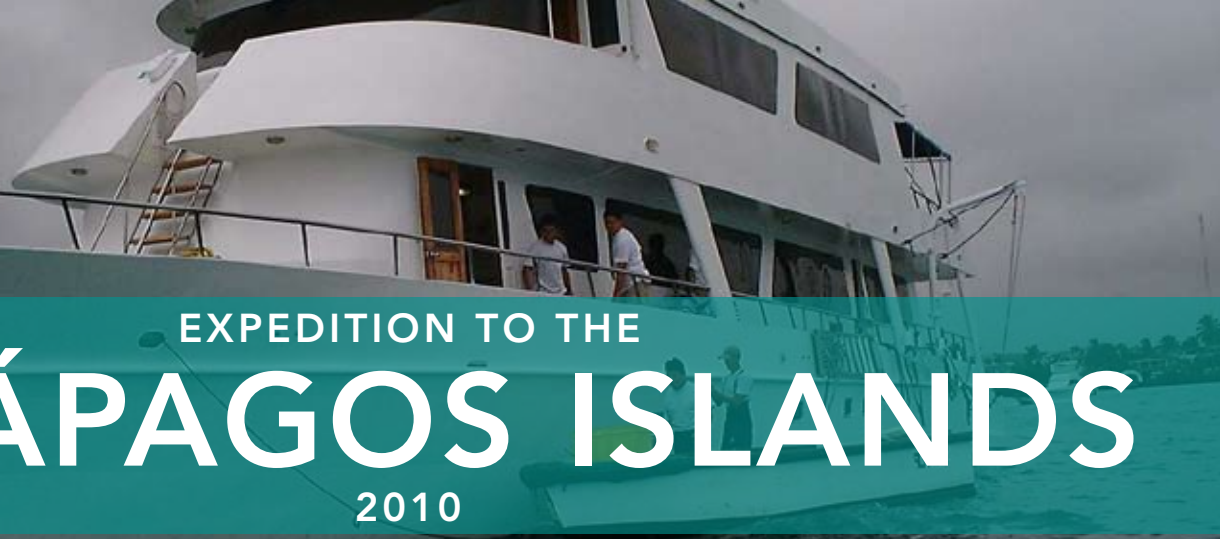




HOLBROOK
TRAVEL



EXPEDITION TO THE
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS
2010

GALÁPAGOS: Unique animals and plant species abound in one of the world's most extraordinary settings — the Galapagos Islands. In 1831, Charles Darwin set off on a similar journey – one that would change not only his own life, but change the thoughts of the world as well. On these isolated islands he found birds that no longer fly, tortoises who weigh 500 pounds, Antarctic penguins living on the equator within miles of pink flamingos! What he found would cumulate in a revolutionary theory, suggesting that living things were shaped by the world around them. This 11-day program invites you to explore and cruise through the serene volcanic landscape of the Galápagos Archipelago. Your journey to these remote islands will be no less exciting and life changing than that of Charles Darwin.

T R I P D E T A I L S

SUGGESTED TOUR MONTHS

Year Round

TOUR LENGTH

11 days

LAND PRICING

\$2199 - \$3199*

Single Supplement for mainland: \$200.00 per person (willing to share during the cruise)

Single Supplement for full program – including cruise: \$1450.00 - \$1560 per person.

Holiday surcharges may apply.

Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges.

EMPHASIS:

- Interactive Investigations
- In-depth Understanding
- Active Adventure

EDUCATIONAL CONNECTIONS:

- Cultural Awareness
- Natural History
- Indigenous Peoples
- Man and the Environment
- Conservation

H I G H L I G H T S

- Get up close and personal with sea lions, Galápagos tortoises, and marine iguanas
- Learn about conservation initiatives and research programs at the Charles Darwin Research Station
- Walk in Darwin's footsteps and explore the sites that inspired his legendary theory of evolution
- Observe and discuss the effects of development on the islands
- Enjoy hiking on the islands and stargazing aboard your 16-passenger yacht
- Snorkel with sea lions and other marine wildlife
- Enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore one of the world's most inspiring ecosystems!

*** ON TIP TOP II (Note prices vary depending on the vessel – also available on Yolita II, Tip Top III & Tip Top IV)**

TERMS & CONDITIONS: A \$350.00 per person deposit is necessary to confirm a booking. In order to guarantee reservations, all deposits should be received no later than 150 days prior to departure date. Failure to do so will result in full cancellation of your booking. This deposit is refundable until 150 days prior to departure excluding a \$100.00 cancellation fee. Cancellations between 149-96 days before departure will result in loss of full deposit. Final payments are due no later than 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 95 days prior to departure are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call 800-243-3174. Holbrook's agency number is 15849.



Day 1 **Quito** **Hotel Hilton Colon**
Upon arrival in Quito, you will meet your Ecuadorian representative and transfer to your downtown hotel. Located at 2,850 meters above sea level and surrounded by snow-capped volcanoes, Quito is the second highest capital city in the world. Listed on the World Heritage List by its fine collection of colonial architecture, Quito is a history lover's paradise. The old town is an area of preserved colonial churches, monasteries, museums and whitewashed buildings with red-tiled roofs. No meals are included.

Day 2 **Quito** **Hotel Hilton Colon**
Today you will enjoy a guided city tour of Quito, including both the new area and the colonial sector. Your comprehensive visit will include different sites and attractions such as the Camino de Orellana, where the expedition to the Amazon began in 1541, the Legislative Palace, the Alameda Park, the San Francisco Church, La Compania Church and more. Following your city tour, you will drive through the northern sector of Quito to visit the Equatorial Monument and the Ethnography Museum, where you will have the opportunity to stand on both hemispheres.

Day 3 **Galapagos** **M/Y Tip Top**
This morning you will be escorted to the airport for your flight to the Galápagos Islands. Upon arrival you will be met by your naturalist guide and transferred to the pier to board the yacht. As the crew weigh anchor, enjoy an orientation and a light snack. After navigating around the Daphne Islets to observe some tropical bird species, you will disembark on Playa de Las Bachas, a place where you can appreciate a flamingo lagoon. During all walks, your guide will be explaining details about the lives of the birds and animals. You will have the opportunity to swim and/or snorkel. Later in the evening, you will have an orientation about the Galápagos Islands' origin and evolution. Please note that there is a 44-pound weight limit on the internal flights. You can store your excess luggage at your Quito hotel. (BLD)

Day 4 **Galapagos** **M/Y Tip Top**
This morning enjoy a visit to Rabida Island. Rabida is one of the most volcanically varied islands in the chain. Marine iguanas and sea lions are often observed resting in the shade of the caves nearby. The island also offers perhaps the only opportunity to see pelicans nesting up close. It is additionally home to one of the best lagoons for viewing flamingoes. This afternoon enjoy an excursion to Bartolome, which is one of the youngest islands in the archipelago. It displays a fantastic landscape of lava formations. You will also visit the Pinnacle Rock, which is one of the best-known landmarks in the archipelago. Near the base of this tall, eroded pinnacle you can see multi-colored fish and penguins.

Day 5 **Galapagos** **M/Y Tip Top**
Today you will visit Genovesa Island, which is considered to be one of the most spectacular islands in Galapagos for bird species. In the morning excursion to Prince Philip's Steps, where red-footed boobies nest in palo santo trees and masked boobies nest near the trail. The storm petrels can be found in large numbers in an open lava field. After lunch, cruise along the shoreline looking for the red-billed tropic bird usually seen in a crevice. Later on land on Darwin Bay, a coral sand beach where swallow-tailed and lava gulls gather near the tide pools. Enter a forest of optuntia cactus and mangroves where colonies of great frigate birds nest. The

trail leads through a rich inter tidal zone where you will find a wide diversity of animal life. Swim from the beach with sea lions. (BLD)

Day 6 **Galapagos** **M/Y Tip Top**
After breakfast you will disembark and take the bus to visit the highlands of Santa Cruz in search of the giant tortoises who roam the wild here. You will also visit Los Gemoles, the twin lava tunnels. After lunch at the highlands, you will transfer back to Puerto Ayora to walk through the little town to appreciate various handicrafts. In the afternoon you will visit the important Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about the conservation of the islands. (BLD)

Day 7 **Galapagos** **M/Y Tip Top**
In the morning visit Plazas Island, which has one of the largest populations of land iguanas in the Galapagos and also a large colony of sea lions. In the afternoon visit to Santa Fe Island, which has one of the best locations for swimming with sea lions and is also a great place to catch a glimpse of the Galápagos white-tipped shark and sea turtles. (BLD)

Day 8 **Galapagos** **M/Y Tip Top**
This morning begin your exploration of Española Island with an excursion to Gardner Bay located on the eastern shore of the island. Here you will have the opportunity to hike along the white sand beach littered with sea lions. You will notice the curious Galapagos mockingbirds here as well as brown pelicans. The bay is an excellent choice for swimming or snorkeling in the clear turquoise waters. This afternoon visit Punta Suarez, famous for its varied colonies of sea birds including large colonies of blue footed boobies, masked boobies, waved albatrosses, and swallow tailed gulls. Also present marine iguanas. Also catch a glimpse of the famous blowhole found here along the jagged cliffs. (BLD)

Day 9 **Galapagos** **M/Y Tip Top**
After breakfast, you will make an early wet landing on Point Cormorant and take a short walk to the Flamingo Lagoon, where you can see flamingoes, bahama pintail ducks, black-necked still and whimbrels. You will then continue the walk until you reach the La Picona Beach to see marine turtles and their spawning grounds. You will return to Point Cormorant for a dinghy ride, and snorkeling. After lunch on board the boat, you will sail to Mailbox Bay, and a visit the oldest postal system in the world. You can leave mail and pick up any destined for your home town, no postage necessary! (BLD)

Day 10 **Quito** **Hotel Hilton Colon**
This morning you will visit North Seymour, a low and flat island located slightly to the north of Baltra. It was formed as a result of the uplift of a submarine lava formation. The whole island is covered with low, bushy vegetation. The largest colony of magnificent frigate birds is found here, as well as a large population of blue-footed boobies when nesting conditions are right. After your visit, you will enjoy a farewell cocktail and snacks, before you transfer to the airport for your flight back to mainland. Upon arrival to Quito, you will be transferred to your hotel. The rest of the evening will be at leisure.

Day 11 **Departure**
Transfer to airport for your departure flight back home.