

Preparing for your trip to
Galapagos

Galapagos

PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP

It is always a good idea to travel light by bringing only what you need for your trip. Being over burdened with luggage can make transfers and travel difficult. Keep in mind that flights to and from the Galapagos limit you to a maximum of 20kg or 44lbs. This allowance should be more than enough for what you will need to bring, but if you have extra items you wish to leave in Quito during your trip to the Galapagos or the Amazon - such as items purchased while in Otavalo - arrangements can be made to leave extra bags at your hotel.

There is no dress code on most boats so you need only casual clothes. The following are suggested items. Casual clothes that are light weight, comfortable to wear and walk in is the key. Also bring a sweater or jacket for the evening and rain jacket just in case.



The Following are our recommendation for luggage during your trip:

L U G G A G E

DAYPACK

This bag stays with you at all times and will most likely be your carry-on and is where you will keep such necessities as your camera, sunscreen, glasses, windbreaker, and other similar objects you may need during your hikes. Some people prefer both a daypack and another small bag. Because you will be the one to carry this bag you will want to keep the weight down.

DUFFEL BAG OR SMALL ROLL-ON SUITCASE

In addition to your carry-on bag you should only need one duffel bag or small suitcase with built in wheels to serve as your main luggage for the trip. This can also be a carry-on but check with your airline to insure it meets specifications. Your duffel or suitcase should be well made and durable to take the punishment the airlines and traveling cause. It's worth spending a little more on a good piece of luggage, as it will last you for a long time. A medium size duffel or suitcase of 30"x15"x14" with a capacity of 110 liters or slightly larger should be sufficient. If you go for luggage with wheels take a test drive first to see how well it works and consider how the wheels may affect the structural integrity of the piece. For those inclined towards travel packs make certain that there are no loose straps. A benefit of your yacht is that once you move into your cabin you won't have to move your luggage for a while.

SPARE DUFFEL

Experienced travelers know that it's good to carry a spare duffel rolled up in your main luggage piece. This is not only good in case you want to leave belongings in Quito while you are in the Galapagos or Amazon, but it comes in handy for those who like to do a good deal of shopping in places like Otavalo. The local merchants in Otavalo know this and do a great business selling reasonably priced duffels. This is one item you may want to pick up in Ecuador.

SMALL PADLOCKS

These are always a good idea when traveling and discourages anyone inclined to zip open your bag to see what they might find.

PLASTIC BAGS

Sturdy zip lock bags are great to keep important items dry while in the Galapagos or Amazon.

FOOTWEAR

Comfortable walking or hiking shoes with good traction

Teva style sandals are good for hiking the island beaches and you don't have to worry if you get your feet wet. Thongs are acceptable but are not good for hiking though they are good on deck. A security strap is a good idea in the surf.

Note: The shoes you wear during landings are kept in a bin on the boat. If you want to wear them on board the yacht can wash the bottoms but you may want to have a light pair of deck shoes or thongs for the yacht. Bare feet are also acceptable.

OUTERWEAR

Windbreaker (ideal for the islands) and a Rain Jacket or Poncho with hood

Medium to light fleece jacket or fleece sweater (wool is fine too)

Cotton Sweatshirt

The above are frequently needed when it gets cooler in the islands during the evenings, which is the time you will experience more breezes as you cruise to another location. Also remember that Quito can be cool and it can get downright cold if you go higher into the mountains.

TROUSERS OR SKIRT

Hiking Shorts
Lightweight full length pants either synthetic or cotton is fine
Women may want to bring a casual dress or skirt

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

Liter Water Bottle
Flashlight, Torch or Headlamp for Hiking in Lava Tubes
Binoculars
Towel

A small towel to dry your feet after a wet landing or snorkeling and carry with you in your daypack can be quite useful. Some of the budget boats and hotels in the Galapagos require visitors to supply their own towels. Most hotels do supply towels for use on the boat or at the hotel.

SWIMMING

Snorkeling in the waters of the Galapagos is a special part of any Galapagos itinerary. The rich and color marine life, easily rivals that of the birds and animals above. Although many boats have some snorkel equipment available, this is one of the things many boat owners tend to ignore or forget when faced with the day-to-day problems of running the boat.

Two Swimsuits

Women report getting a lot of mileage out of swimsuit wraps that can be worn as a dress or skirt.

Lightweight neoprene wetsuit: This is for times when the water is colder and allows you to spend more time in the water. A less expensive substitute is long underwear made of a resistant fiber such as capilene.* Many boats do have their own snorkeling equipment for your use (although some of the equipment is not well maintained) but some do not. If you have your own it would be wise to bring it along. You may wish to buy your own mask and snorkel tube, and there is usually a small selection available in Quito's camping stores.

Most months of the year a light skin would be comfortable. Travelers, who are snorkeling, if they are not going to wear a wetsuit, should wear a T-shirt to keep the sun off their back.

During the cooler months a 6mm wetsuit will provide adequate warmth and 4 mm wetsuit is sufficient during the warmer months. Wetsuits are available for rent on the islands along with other diving equipment. Wetsuit booties or Tevas are perfect for going ashore avoiding contact with sea urchins.

You can also inquire with us about renting a wetsuit. Many travelers find it more convenient to bring their own wetsuit that fits than relying on those in the islands.

HEAD GEAR

Sun Hat or cap. Wide brim hats should have a chin strap in case they blow off your head. Unless you have a really thick head of hair and never burn sun visors are out.

Bandana to shield your neck

Sun glasses with security strap (polarized lenses well help you to see more when looking in the water to spot turtles or rays). It's a good idea to bring two pair, especially if you need prescription glasses.

CASUAL OUTFIT

Bring one set of casual city clothes that are a bit dressier. These should be comfortable and are for those times you might want to appear slightly more formal. For women this can mean a casual dress or skirt. Men don't need to bring a jacket unless they wish to be more formal.

If before and after your Galapagos trip you will be staying in the Ecuadorian capital of Quito. This is a beautiful city located high in the Andes Mountains. Considered the city of eternal spring the days are normally warm and nights are chilly. You can pack a separate bag and leave at your hotel for the items you will only need in Quito. Shorts and tank tops that are appropriate in the islands and generally considered unacceptable in Quito.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography is a highlight of any trip to the Galapagos. With the transition to digital, the best advice is to bring a camera and a format that you are familiar with and know will give you the results you desire. If you want to try something new, take time to become familiar with your gear before you head out on the trip. A good rule is to always bring more film or more memory than you think you will need. If you are looking for the results of those glossy magazines, look into a high color saturation slide film or more mega pixels. While a good zoom lens can come in handy and render excellent close-up results, you probably don't need anything larger than a hand held lens that does not require a tripod. The Galapagos is an excellent place to bring along a disposable underwater camera as well.

The Galapagos is also an excellent place to make home videos. Keep in mind that facility for recharging is limited, so it is a good idea to invest in some long life batteries available for most cameras. Remember to power down when you are not using your camera.

- Camera
- Extra Batteries
- Polarized Lens
- Telephoto Lens
- Underwater Camera



Islands Information

BARTOLOME

It's a volcanic island in Galapagos. Passengers will see volcanic formations such as lava bombs, spatter, and cinder cones. After hiking to the summit you can enjoy a great view of the surrounding islands, including Pinnacle Rock's eroded tuff cone. It has a volcanic cone that is easy to climb and provides great views of the other islands. On the way to the summit, you'll see colonies of marine iguanas, lava lizards, tiquilla, and various cacti. You can snorkel with the penguins, sea turtles, white-tipped reef sharks, and other tropical fish. The bay is also an excellent place to go swimming.

RABIDA (Jervis)

The volcano-formed beach is dark red and is often occupied by sea lions. It's considered the geographic center of Galapagos because it has the most diverse volcanic rocks on the islands. You'll hike to a salt water lagoon, where flamingos can sometimes be found. July through September is a good time to observe brown pelicans nesting on the salt bushes. You can take a ride along the reefs in a dinghy, as well as snorkel.

SANTIAGO (JAMES)

EGAS PORT - Most of the landscape is tuff-stone layers and lava flows. You can observe hunting herons, great blue herons, lava herons, yellow-crowned night herons, and oyster catchers. Passengers will see marine iguanas grazing on algae beds alongside red sally light-foot crabs. There is a colony of fur seals swimming in deep cool-water pools. Port Egas is a perfect spot not only for taking pictures but also for snorkeling with many species of tropical fish.



SANTA CRUZ (INDEFATIGABLE)

PARTE ALTA – EL CHATO – PUERTO AYORA – BACHAS – DRAGON HILL – POINT CARRION

Passengers can walk towards a salt-water lagoon behind the beach where occasionally pink flamingos can be observed. This trail leads up to Dragon Hill which offers a lovely view of the bay. Travelers will visit the Charles Darwin Research Station; here they can admire the giant tortoises that are part of the breeding program. On Bachas Beach, passengers will encounter sea birds, marine iguanas, sea turtles, and have the opportunity to swim on the white-sand beach. In POINT Carrión visitors will have the opportunity to snorkel and see a variety of fish, rays, and perhaps the harmless white-tipped reef sharks. Guests can choose between a dinghy ride and snorkeling.

SAN CRISTOBAL (CHATHAM)

TORTOISE RESERVE - This island is home to frigate birds, giant tortoises, sea lions, and marine iguanas, Passengers will visit the San Cristóbal breeding center, and learn about the National Park's breeding program with the giant tortoises. During our hike along the breeding center, visitors can observe endemic flora such as: Scaecia Pedunculata, Lepocarpus Darwini, and Galapagos Guaba.

ESPAÑOLA (HOOD)

GARDNER BAY – PUNTA SUAREZ

Española, the oldest island in the Archipelago is without no doubt a sanctuary of birds where you can observe blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, red-billed tropic birds, swallow tailed gulls, the Española mockingbird, and from April to December more than 12000 pairs of waved Albatross come to nest.

Passengers will observe sea lion colonies, colored marine iguanas, lava lizards, the beautiful scenery of the blow hole where water shoots about 23 meters (75 ft) up into the air. Visitors will go to Gardner Bay, a white coral beach amidst a large colony of sea lions. It's great for swimming and snorkeling and you can spot many Galapagos marine species

ISABELA (ALBEMARLE)

Tagus Cove, Urbina Bay

Isabela is the largest island in Galapagos. Visitors will learn about the eruption of five volcanoes that formed the island. The trail leads to Darwin's salt-water lagoon and an excellent view of the lava fields and volcanic formations. Passengers will take a dinghy to observe marine life. Galapagos penguins, sea lions, nesting gulls, lava gulls, and dolphins can be seen here. Visitors will also visit the fossil beach and coral area of Urbina Bay. After the walk we will have the time for snorkeling.

FERNANDINA (MARLBOROUGH)

POINT ESPINOZA - Visitors will see the biggest marine iguanas mingling with sally light-foot crabs, as well as flightless cormorants at their nesting sites, sometimes Galapagos penguins, Galapagos hawks, and sea lions. Among the flora and volcanic formations, observers will spot brachycereus cactus.

FLOREANA (CHARLES)

POINT CORMORANT - Visitors will hike from the black mangrove beds to a large brackish lagoon, which holds one of the biggest flamingo populations in the Galapagos. The island is best known for its endemic plants like the Galapagos millwork, passion flower and but-ton mangrove. Novice snorkelers can practice on the main beach with playful sea lions.

NORTH SEYMOUR

Guests will encounter swallow-tailed gulls, sea lions, and blue-footed boobies. This site has the largest colony of the magnificent frigate bird. Travelers will also spot both the marine iguanas and the land iguanas. Visitors can also observe the endemic species of holy stick (palo santo). Depending on the season, guests can see the very peculiar courtship dance of the male frigate birds with their inflatable red pouches.

1. What kind of weather can we find in the Galapagos Islands?

The warmest months are from December to June. January to March can be hot and humid, but also mostly green at this time. July to November are cooler. The average year-round temperature is 24°C. (76F)

| | Air Temperature | | Water temperature | |
|-----------|-----------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| | Fahrenheit | Celsius | Fahrenheit | Celsius |
| January | 60 - 80 | 16 - 27 | 71 -74 | 22 - 23 |
| February | 60 - 85 | 16 - 29 | 72 -75 | 22 - 24 |
| March | 65 - 90 | 18 - 32 | 71 -74 | 22 - 23 |
| April | 60 - 85 | 16 - 29 | 70 -75 | 21 - 24 |
| May | 60 - 80 | 16 - 27 | 69 -74 | 21 - 23 |
| June | 60 - 75 | 16 - 24 | 65 -73 | 18 - 23 |
| July | 60 - 75 | 16 - 24 | 63 -70 | 17 - 21 |
| August | 60 - 70 | 16 - 21 | 62 -66 | 17 - 19 |
| September | 60 - 75 | 16 - 24 | 59 -67 | 15 - 19 |
| October | 60 - 75 | 16 - 24 | 62 -70 | 17 - 21 |
| November | 60 - 75 | 16 - 24 | 65 -71 | 18 - 22 |
| December | 60 - 80 | 16 - 27 | 66 -72 | 19 - 22 |

2. What time zone is used in Galapagos?

Local time in Galapagos is GMT - 6 (one hour less than in Ecuador's main land). In our yachts and vessels we work with Ecuador's main land time.

3. What is the check-in procedure at Quito airport?

Check-in time is usually 2 HOURS before departure. You will be advised of your pick up time from your hotel by our local representative.

When you arrive at the domestic terminal in Quito you will be handed over to the Galapagos Ships representative. He /She will either check you in or will already have your boarding pass vouchers for the cruise ready. Your luggage will be checked in on your behalf. You then pass the local security (SICGAL), which is located at the end of the room. For environmental reasons, your luggage will be checked for animals, seeds, plants, fruits, vegetables or anything that is forbidden on the Galapagos Islands. Luggage allowance is 20 kg suitcase p/p and a carry-on bag of 7kg p/p.

You will be given an identification tag for the cruise. Please wear it so you can easily be identified when you arrive at the airport in Galapagos. Please do NOT get in line for the INGALA (Transit Control Card); Your vessels representative in the Galapagos already has your card. Upon arrival you will be welcomed by our cruise staff, which will take you to the ship, take care of your checked luggage and show you to your assigned cabin.

4. Who will meet me at the Airport in Galapagos?

Upon the arrival to the airport, our guides are waiting for you with a placard of the ship or yacht. They will receive the passengers, check them in the list to see nobody is left behind and transport them in the airlines' bus to the dock where the vessel anchored.

5. Are there any luggage's restrictions?

The airline that operates to Galapagos, allows one piece of luggage per person no more than 20 kilos (approximately 44 pounds). We recommend you to take a soft sided bag as it will be easier to store into your cabin. Please lock your luggage during the flight.

6. What should I bring in my trip?

We advise you to bring comfortable breathable clothes; shorts, T-shirts, swimsuits and good hiking shoes are required to walk over the lava rock paths, personal medication, a good camera and plenty of memory sticks or film, sun block, sunglasses, binoculars.

7. What do you mean with Dry Landings and Wet Landings?

On a dry landing, passengers step directly from a dinghy to rocks or onto a dock. We recommend: walking shoes, sunscreen, hat, water, insect repellent and a light jacket.

Wet Landing means that the dinghy edges up onto a beach, where you step into knee-deep water assisted by crew members and guides. We recommend: swimming suit or shorts, walking shoes or slippers, towel that will be provided by the crew while disembarking, sunscreen, hat, insect repellent, plastic bag, well insulated cameras and a windbreaker.

8. What is the electrical outlets and service?

110 / 220 volts. European and American outlets are available on our cruise fleet.

9. What is the smoking policy on board the ship?

It is forbidden to smoke inside the yachts or the vessel. Smoking is allowed ONLY on the sun decks.

10. Is there any physical requirement for the cruise?

We recommend that passengers be in reasonably good physical condition as some trails are difficult therefore elderly or disabled people may find them too hard. The passengers with difficulties must notify to Goway about their physical condition in order to make the necessary arrangements.

11. What type of clothing should I wear on board?

Galapagos means nature, moving, enjoying and relaxation, therefore you don't have to worry about dressing up. Casual and light clothing is recommended on board the ship. For dining: you will need a semiformal wear and a sweater or jacket for windy nights.

12. What can I pack for the excursions?

For shore excursions comfortable clothing is a must, preferably shorts, bathing suits, head covering, walking shoes, tennis shoes, windbreaker type jacket, binoculars, camera and plenty of film. Sun rays are very strong in the Galapagos Islands. Do not forget to take with you enough high grade sun block. Also, put your cameras in self-sealing plastic bags to protect them from the water, especially during landfalls.

13. How can I pay my expenses on board?

Upon arrival, a bill will be opened for you. If you wish to pay with your credit card, we ask you to come to reception to sign a voucher and to make copies of your passport and credit card. Authorizations take about 48 hours, so please do this on your first cruise day. We accept all main credit cards: Diners, Visa, Mastercard, American Express. Travellers Checks, Euros and US Dollars are also accepted.

14. Is Internet access available aboard our cruise fleet?

Internet is not available. But you can always get internet in Puerto Ayora and San Cristóbal.

15. What would happen if I get seasick?

We hardly get a seasick passenger on board. However, we have seasick medication on board all our ships, but if you are particularly sensitive you can bring your own medication.

16. Is the water safe to drink?

The tap water is generally not safe to drink in Ecuador. Bottled water is readily available at tourist sites, hotels, and restaurants. On board our yachts you will find bottled water in your room. Ice used onboard the yachts is generally made with purified water as well.

17. Do you provide biodegradable shampoo and soap on board?

Yes, we supply all travelers with these items as part of our conservation policy, but if you want to bring your own please make sure they are biodegradable. Thank you.

18. Do we need to bring our own towels?

No you don't. For your convenience we provide bath and beach towels during your cruise.

19. Tipping & gratuities

This is a very sensitive matter. Over the years, we often have been asked what amount of gratuity is appropriate for the crew and guides. The quality of service should determine the amount of any tip. Based on common practice, our suggestion is: US\$15 per day per person for the crew on the Galapagos Legend (70 crew members, officers excluded), on Coral I (12 crew members) and on Coral II (10 crew members), and US\$ 8 per day per person for your guide.

The last evening you will receive two envelopes at the reception desk: one for the crew and one for the guide, please deposit these at the boxes of the reception desk.

The above is to be used as a guide only and information may change



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