



DON MAMMOSER'S EXCEPTIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY TOURS

# Galapagos Islands By Yacht Guided Photo Safari



Come with me to the Galapagos Islands for a 10 day unparalleled wildlife & nature photography experience

<b>Begins &amp; Ends</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Group Size</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Guayaquil, Ecuador	April 6-15, 2024	14 Max.	\$7995 (double occupancy) Add \$395 if single*



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## TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

Come with Don to witness and photograph incredible wildlife displays and island scenery in the incomparable Galapagos Islands. Eat, sleep and live aboard a privately chartered yacht for 8 incredible days. Learn how to photograph birds and other wildlife from a professional. Immerse yourself in your wildlife photography craft while completing a “bucket-list trip. This is a unique wildlife experience and photographic journey that will speak to your soul and stay in your memory for a long, long time.

- An evening meet and greet at the first hotel in Guayaquil, Ecuador
- Commercial flight from mainland Ecuador to Baltra Island in the Galapagos
- ‘Tourist Superior’ class privately chartered yacht exclusive for our photography group
- A passionate, licensed Galapagos naturalist/guide will lead all excursions
- Yacht crew of 9 specialists catering to and caring for our group
- Professional photographer Don Mammoser with you every step of the way
- Close-up views and access to rare birds, reptiles and mammals of the islands
- Snorkeling opportunities daily with the varied wildlife of the Galapagos
- Each private cabin for 2 has bathroom with hot shower, AC, large bed(s), storage, etc.
- Wonderful cuisine prepared daily especially for our group



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## ITINERARY OUTLINE

### Saturday April 6, 2024

We'll meet at the hotel in Guayaquil, the Wyndham Garden, at 6:00pm today for initial introductions, trip logistics, safety briefing etc. Dinner tonight will be on your own or possibly as a group with individual pay at the hotel restaurant.

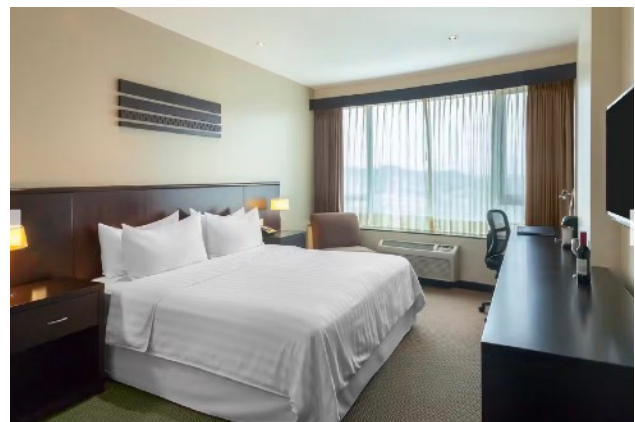


The Guayaquil airport (code GYE) is a large, modern facility which has flights arriving and departing from all major North American carriers. Book your flight to this airport.

The Wyndham Garden Hotel has a (\$3) shuttle service directly from the airport to their facility and this is certainly the best and easiest way to arrive at the hotel. The shuttle will pick up guests at the arrivals door area. Look for the van marked with the Hotel logo.

Guayaquil is on Eastern Standard Time so there won't be much time difference for those coming from the United States or Canada (3 hours at most).

Your room at the hotel will be available for check-in during the afternoon. If you arrive early and your room isn't ready, you can store your luggage at reception and visit the hotel lounge or restaurant area. We meet at reception at 6pm.



### Sunday April 7, 2024

Early breakfast, or room service on your own at the hotel restaurant. Then, be packed up and ready to catch the airport shuttle to the Guayaquil airport domestic terminal. Our flight to Baltra Island leaves during the 11:00am hour, and flight time is about 2 hours.



The airplane will be a typical 3 seats/side with middle aisle plane such as an Airbus A320 or Boeing 737. Upon landing in Baltra we'll pass Galapagos customs, retrieve our luggage and be transferred by bus, a 5 minute ride, directly to the port where our yacht awaits. We'll get settled into our cabins, have lunch and a briefing with our naturalist/guide, while motoring to our first destination.

Sunday April 7, 2024

### **Destination: North Seymour Island**

Info: Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies and magnificent frigatebirds are abundant on North Seymour Island. The island was formed by a series of submarine lavas containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone. We'll have both a land visit and a snorkeling session here.

Highlights: Land & marine iguanas, frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, sea lions

Snorkeling: rays, reef sharks, fish, eels

Activities: Snorkeling, dinghy ride & hiking (1.5 mi/2.5 km)

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Difficulty: Moderate/difficult



**Note:** When moving from our yacht to shore we'll go by dingy, operated by yacht crew members. At shore there will be either 'wet' or 'dry' landings. A wet landing means you'll step off the dingy into ankle or knee-deep water (image above). A dry landing means you'll step off the dingy onto rocks, steps, or a boardwalk. There are *always* crew members to assist you. After a wet landing you'll have time to change into your walking shoes, then we'll go with our guide to see, learn about and photograph the island and its wildlife.





Monday April 8, 2024

**First Location: Sombrero Chino**

Info: One of the most recognizable Galapagos Islands, its name means “Chinese Hat.” It’s easy to see why: this islet off of Santiago is shaped like an old-fashioned Chinaman’s hat, a gently sloping cone rising out of the clear Galapagos water. In spite of its good location, Sombrero Chino receives fewer visitors than other Galapagos sites. This is because it’s semi-protected by the Park service.

Highlights: Marine iguanas, sally lightfoot crabs, sea lions, lava cactus, wading birds, views; snorkeling: reef sharks, fish, Galapagos penguins

Activities: Snorkeling, hiking (1 mi/1.6 km)

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Difficulty: Moderate



**Second Location: Bartholomew Island**

Home of the famous Pinnacle Rock, Bartholomew consists of an extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, black and even green volcanic formations. A trail of stairs leads to the summit of the volcano, boasting one of the best views of the islands. The beach is perfect for snorkeling and possible sightings of the Galapagos penguin.

Highlights: Pinnacle Rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus

Snorkeling, reef sharks, rays, and great colorful fish.

Activities: Dinghy ride, snorkeling & hiking (1.25 mi/ 2km)

Type of Landing: Dry and wet landings

Difficulty: Moderate/difficult. Walk to the top of volcano 114 meters, 375 wooden steps

Tuesday April 9, 2024

**First Location: Genovesa Island – Darwin Bay**

Info: This white sand coral beach has a half mile trail (0.75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls can be



spotted here. Further down the path are tidal pools where sea lions swim playfully. At the end is a spectacular view from a cliff.

Highlights: Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, mangroves, coral pebbles beach

Snorkeling: sea lions, rays, colorful reef fish

Activities: Hiking (0.9 mi/1.5 km), snorkeling, & dinghy ride

Type of Landing: Wet landing.

Difficulty: Easy/moderate

### **Second Location: Genovesa Island – El Barranco**

Info: Also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, El Barranco's steep, rocky path leads up to a high cliff-face. A marvelous view can be appreciated from here. This site is also home to palo santo vegetation as well as red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, Galapagos swallows, and Galapagos doves.

Highlights: Red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, storm-petrels, Galapagos doves

Activities: Hiking (0.9 mi/2 km)

Type of Landing: Dry

Difficulty: Moderate



Wednesday April 10, 2024

### **First Location: Santiago Island – Egas Port**

Info: Also known as James Bay, Egas Port is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to a coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos fur sea lions bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkeling site.



Highlights: Fur sea lions, Galapagos sea lions, tidal pools and “grottos”, Galapagos hawks, oyster catchers, marine iguanas, finches

Snorkeling: reef sharks, turtles, rays, nice underwater formations.

Activities: Snorkeling, hiking (1.25 mi/2 km)

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Difficulty: Easy /moderate

### **Second Location: Rábida Island**

Info: Rábida Island (Jervis) is one of the most colorful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago and a great snorkeling site. Its famous maroon sandy beach and stunning lookouts provide wonderful landscapes. The island is a birdwatcher’s delight. Some of the rarest species are in abundance, such as nine varieties of finches, large-billed flycatchers, Galapagos hawks and brown pelicans.

Highlights: Finches, Galapagos hawks, white-cheeked pintail ducks, penguins

Snorkeling: colorful fish, sea lions, brackish water lagoon

Activities: Snorkeling, dinghy ride & short hike (0.6 mi /1 km)

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Difficulty: Easy/ moderate



Thursday April 11, 2024

### **First Location: Santa Cruz Island – Charles Darwin Station**

Info: The Charles Darwin Research Station is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long. Sub-species of tortoises interact with one another and many of the



older tortoises are accustomed to humans, stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years old and strong enough to survive on their own. “Turtles” live in water and “tortoises” live on land. You cannot touch the tortoises (or any other animals) in the Galápagos.

Highlights: Giant tortoises in captivity

Activities: Walking

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Difficulty: Easy

### **Second Location: Santa Cruz Island – Santa Cruz Highlands**

Info: Reached by bus from Puerto Ayora, the highlands of Santa Cruz are a deep green, contrasting beautifully with much of the dry, lower islands. The dominant vegetation in the highlands is the Scalesia trees, creating the lush green color. The lava tubes, over half a mile long, are underground and walking through them is a unique, surreal experience.

Highlights: Lava tunnels, wild tortoises, tortoise breeding center.

Activities: Hike (1.5 mi/ 2 ½ km)

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Difficulty: Moderate (long walk)



Friday April 12, 2024

### **First Location: Española Island – Gardner Bay**

Info: Gardner Bay, on the eastern side of the island, is the breeding site of nearly all of the World’s 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses. It has an ample white sandy beach with a myriad of sea lions, perfect for relaxing. Its rocky shores make this site a great place for diving and snorkeling.





Highlights: White sandy beach, breeding albatrosses, sea lions, mockingbirds

Snorkeling: colorful fish, sea lion nursery

Activities: Snorkeling, dinghy ride, short hike of (0.6 mi/1 km)

Type of Landing: Wet landing

Difficulty: Easy

### **Second Location: Española Island – Suárez Point**

Info: This area is great for spotting blue-footed boobies, albatrosses and Nazca boobies. A beautiful site on the oceanfront, the large waved albatrosses use the cliff as a launching pad.

Another famous attraction here is the magnificent blowhole, spurting water high into the air.

This site presents wonderful photography opportunities.

Highlights: Hooded mockingbird, nazca boobies, waved albatross, red-billed tropicbirds, lava lizards, Galapagos hawk, blue-footed boobies, blow hole, amazing landscape

Activities: Hike (1.9 mi/3 km)

Type of Landing: Dry Landing

Difficulty: Difficult



Saturday April 13, 2024

### **First Location: Santa Fe Island**

Info: Santa Fe (Barrington) is home to the small picturesque bay and anchorage on the island's northeast coast. The bay has two visitor trails, one leading to a scenic viewpoint atop a cliff, and the other spanning from a small beach to a tall prickly pear cactus forest.

Highlights: Land Iguanas, soaring seabirds, giant Opuntia cacti, scenery

Activities: Hiking (1.2 km/.74 mi)

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Difficulty: Moderate



### **Second Location: South Plaza Island**

Info: This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colorful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is the Sesuvium. During the rainy season its color is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season (end of June through January) a bright red.

Highlights: Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Audubon's shearwaters, swallow-tailed gulls, Nazca boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs

Activities: Hike (2 ½ km /1.55 mi)

Type of Landing: Dry landing

Difficulty: Moderate

Sunday April 14, 2024

### **First Location: (and then transfer to airport for flight to Guayaquil) Santa Cruz Island – Black Turtle Cove**

Info: Black Turtle Cove is situated in the northern part of Santa Cruz. This inlet is surrounded by mangroves and is only accessible by dinghy. The shallow cove is a safe haven for young marine life. Black-tip and white-tip reef sharks, sea turtles, and a variety of rays are often spotted here.

Highlights: Hammerhead, White-tipped and Black-tipped reef shark babies, rays, sea turtles, sea birds

Activities: Dinghy ride

Type of Landing: No landing

Difficulty: Easy





Sunday April 14, 2024

Info: After Galapagos - flight from Galapagos to mainland Ecuador, then transfer to our familiar Guayaquil hotel again. Optional final group dinner or get-together. You may also choose to fly home this day after 8pm.

Monday April 15, 2024

Final Goodbyes

Morning breakfast and goodbyes to those leaving on flights elsewhere today. Thank you for joining me!

### **WHAT TO EXPECT ON THIS TRIP**

- amazing Galapagos wildlife - some found nowhere else in the World
- easy photography of all wildlife that has no innate fear of humans
- incredible experience of snorkeling with Galapagos wildlife including sea lions, sea turtles, penguins, reef fish, reef sharks, etc.
- tourist 'superior' class yacht with a dedicated crew of 9 to take care of our group
- our yacht has the highest maritime safety and license certificates and a flawless track record
- double cabins aboard yacht have large beds, individual bathrooms, AC, ample storage, etc.
- passionate, experienced and licensed Galapagos naturalist/guide to lead our group
- Galapagos hiking and snorkeling is always optional with a fitness level throughout the trip of moderate/high - participate in as many activities as you wish
- as much or as little photography instruction/help as you want
- all snorkeling equipment provided
- great, fresh, local food prepared specifically for our group by on-board chef (we can accommodate vegetarians or other diet restrictions)
- once-in-a-lifetime wildlife photography opportunities
- super fun times with a small group of like-minded photographers
- an enthusiastic, knowledgeable leader who will be with you the entire time and who will get you excited and prepared to capture the best possible images
- 1 night luxury lodging in Guayaquil before the yacht and 1 night luxury lodging in Guayaquil after the yacht



## INCLUDED

## NOT INCLUDED

Instruction by professional photographer/leader	Flights from your home city to Guayaquil & back
9 nights lodging (a single room is \$395 required for single travelers, but only available for the 2 nights in Guayaquil, not available on the yacht)	Early arrival or late stay lodging nights
All meals while on board the yacht	Meals while in Guayaquil
Round trip airfare from Guayaquil to the Galapagos islands	Galapagos Park entrance fee and TCT card upon arrival into Galapagos (US\$120/person)
All snacks, water, tea, coffee while on the yacht	Alcohol or soda type drinks
Services of the yacht crew of 9	Tips to yacht crew and licensed guide
Use of wetsuit and snorkeling gear	Trip insurance
All guided activities	Anything not listed under 'included'

## PAYMENT TERMS

To secure your spot on this tour and in order to meet obligations to my contacts in Ecuador, there is a deposit of US\$1500 required. The remaining tour balance of US\$6495 (US\$6890 for single occupancy) is payable no later than August 6, 2023.

Your deposit is due upon booking and will secure your place for the trip.

## CANCELLATION

### Cancellation by me

While Don Mammoser Photo Tours will make every effort to operate the trip as scheduled, I do reserve the right to cancel it at any time due to insufficient bookings and/or reasons beyond my control that might create unsafe or undesirable travel conditions for the participants, including travel and border restrictions imposed on visitors to Ecuador. In such case, a full and immediate refund will be issued. However, the financial liability of Don Mammoser shall be limited to the amount paid to me for the trip only and shall not be extended to cover any other associated travel costs incurred (e.g. non-refundable air tickets, visa fees if applicable, clothing, equipment, miscellaneous transportation costs, medical expenses, travel insurance premiums, etc.)



## Cancellation by you

I understand that sometimes people need to make last minute cancellations due to illness, family, or business matters. Unfortunately, I am unable to make last minute refunds or provide credit on future workshops due to these last minute cancellations. A trip insurance policy that covers “cancel for any reason” is highly recommended.

- If you cancel 180 days or more prior to the workshop or tour start date, AND I can fill your space(s), all money, except \$250 from your deposit, will be refunded.
- If you cancel 90-180 days prior to workshop or tour start date, AND I can fill your space(s), 50% of money, and minus \$250 from your deposit, will be refunded.
- If you cancel less than 90 days prior to the workshop or tour start date, there is no refund.

Tours will always be rescheduled to another date before being cancelled due to impacts of Covid 19 or similar global pandemics. It is VERY important that for tours which require you to fly in order to get there, you DO NOT purchase non-refundable flight tickets until you are told by me that the tour is a “go” and there are enough people signed up to make it work.

## **MONEY**

Ecuador uses the US\$ dollar as official currency. Major credit cards may or may not be accepted at hotels and establishments we visit. It's best NOT to rely on credit cards. Cash is universally accepted and you should bring US dollars in the amount you think you'll use. You'll need money for extras such as alcoholic drinks, souvenirs and tips to our yacht crew and guide.

## **OTHER QUESTIONS**

Please don't hesitate to email me or call or text me 303-906-5102 with any questions.

