



DOLPHINCHARTERS LLC

1007 LENEVE PLACE, EL CERRITO, CA 94530

TEL: 510-527-9622, FAX: 510-525-0720

trips@dolphincharters.com www.dolphincharters.com

CST# 2066556-40

GALAPAGOS EXPLORATION

With Ronn Patterson

and

David Hartfield as Photo Leader

Jan 5-18, 2019

\$7095

per person based on double occupancy



Again, in 2019, for only the sixth time in several decades, you will be able to travel to nearly all of my favorite places in only 11 days. Normally, you would have to spend two full weeks to accomplish this, but due to the kindness of the boat owner, he has split one of his week long trips and added three additional days to our cruise to make possible visiting Tower Island, in the north, as well as the Southern Islands of Hood and Floriana, the Central Islands, and importantly, Isla Isabela that I call "wilderness Galapagos". This is the best itinerary I can think of in this amount of time! Additionally, the timing of the itinerary has been arranged so that, often, we will be the only boat in "our part of the Galapagos" and, the rest of the time only a few boats will be with us-Ronn Patterson

Ronn is the full time owner/operator of Dolphin Charters LLC, a company that offers natural and cultural history (usually boat based) tours along the West coast, Baja, and South America. He has been to Ecuador numerous times, not only the Galapagos Islands but the Ecuadorian Amazon and Cloud Forest as well. His summers are in Alaska but parts of winter are usually in Baja or South America.

Along with Juan Salcedo from the Samba, Ronn will enthrall you with the natural history and wonder of these islands.





David Hartfield is an award winning nature and travel photographer whose work is published internationally. He is the past President and a founding member of Carolinas' Nature Photography Association (CNPA.org). He also served as CNPA's Outings Chair for several years and currently serves as the Speaker Chair. He started leading outings and mentoring photographers around the early to mid-1990's. He continues that passion today by teaching photography, leading workshops and photo tours (Coastal Brown Bears, Inside Passage, Yellowstone in Winter, Grand Tetons, Cuba, Charleston, Savannah, etc.), as well as presenting at various

camera clubs and organizations. David has done event photography and still images for film and television productions (Extreme Makeover Home Edition™). David trained with the New York Institute of Photography.

JANUARY 5 FLY TO QUITO

You will probably arrive in the evening, it will be a full day of flying. Those that arrive in a group will be met by a guide and taken to the hotel. For those arriving separately, similar arrangements can be made, if you wish.

Ecuador uses US dollars as its currency, so no need to change any money. But do bring lots of \$1 bills and \$5's and \$10's to make tips and small purchases convenient. ATMs are available

JANUARY 6 Day of rest and limited exploration, no host dinner

JANUARY 7 CITY TOUR

You will have an escorted tour of Quito in the morning with lunch at a local restaurant and a chance to shop and look around a bit on your own. We can again have a no host dinner together that night.

JANUARY 8 DEPART FOR GALAPAGOS

This will be a morning departure from the hotel. The flight arrives in the Galapagos around noon. Enter the Park and pay park fee of \$100 individually. Met by Samba guide and have lunch on board with first island stop shortly after.

JANUARY 18 RETURN TO QUITO

We will arrive at the Mariscal Sucre airport near Quito in the late afternoon. The morning will have been spent exploring the Interpretation Center of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (or Wreck Bay, the first stop Darwin made on visiting the Galapagos), before going to the airport for a departure from San Cristobal around noon.

JANUARY 18 RETURN HOME (usually a late flight from the Mariscal Sucre airport) OR CONTINUE ON TO THE AMAZON OR OTHER ADVENTURES



Galapagos BOAT ITINERARY: 11 DAYS/10 NIGHTS 2019

Our itinerary is designed to give you the maximum experience of the Galapagos in the time available. It has been very carefully thought about and worked out over the years. Yet, it will be purposely flexible to allow us to take advantage of the unexpected opportunities, seasonal

highlights, and special events. Each day will be on a different island or different part of one of the larger islands. Many days we will make two or more stops, returning to our floating home for lunch.

Activities

You will be cruising in a comfortable motor yacht, intimately exploring numerous shore areas, hiking, walking, beach combing, tide pooling, snorkeling, botanizing, bird watching, swimming, and whale watching. Many of you will be photographing and the trip and itinerary is especially suitable for the photographer. The photographic opportunities are simply outstanding. An experienced local naturalist will accompany you. Wetsuits, fins, masks and snorkels will be provided.

Domestic Flight: The cost of the flight from Quito to the Galapagos and return is included in the tour price.

A Note: The Ecuadorian government can and has added surcharges or other requirements that are impossible to predict at this time and would have to be fulfilled by the participants. We will endeavor to let people know ASAP if additional fees or requirements are made known.

DAYS	VISITING SITES	
January 8	Fly to Galapagos AIRPORT-BALTRA	PM: SANTA CRUZ/ BACHAS
January 9	GENOVESA (Tower Island)	AM: DARWIN BAY PM: PRINCE PHILLIP'S STEPS
January 10	MARCHENA	AM:PUNTA MIEJA PM:PLAYA NEGRA
January 11	ISABELA	AM:PUNTA ALBERMALE PM:PUNTA VICENTE ROCA
January 12	FERNANDINA ISABELA	AM: PUNTA ESPINOZA PM: URBINA BAY
January 13	ISABELA	AM: ELIZABETH BAY PM: PUNTA MORENO
January 14	FLOREANA	AM: ASILO DE LA PAZ CERRO ALIERI PM: SNORKEL AND NAVIGATION TO PUERTO AYORA
January 15	SANTA CRUZ	AM: HIGHLANDS PM: CHARLES DARWIN STATION
January 16	FLOREANA	AM: PUNTA CORMORANT CHAMPION PM: POST OFFICE BAY THE BARONESS LOOKOUT
January 17	ESPAÑOLA (Hood Island)	AM: PUNTA SUAREZ PM: GARDNER BAY
January 18	SAN CRISTÓBAL	AM: INTERPRETATION CENTER PM: AIRPORT RETURN TO QUITO

Park Tax: The islands are part of the Ecuadorian National Parks system and the entrance fee (Cash US\$ 100) has to be collected individually from each guest on arrival in the Galapagos Islands. **Park fee is not included in package price.**

On Board: Breakfast, lunch and dinner are all served aboard. The cuisine is outstanding with lots of locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally and sustainably caught fish, and locally raised meats. The soups are also inspiring. At sunset, enjoy complementary hors d'oeuvres and your favorite drink which you may purchase from a well stocked bar. Beer and wine are also available at extra charge. Fresh tropical fruit drinks and soft drinks are always available, along with coffee and teas. Talks are given on the wildlife, geological and oceanographic features of the Galapagos along with briefings on the following days activities.

In the Islands: Guests are ferried ashore in dinghies. On island walks it is important to follow marked paths to reduce impact on vegetation and establish a pleasant relation to nesting bird and other wildlife. Naturalist guides accompany all groups. Some islands have excellent swimming beaches and snorkeling areas. You may bring your own mask and snorkel, if you wish, but all snorkeling gear, including wet suits, is included. **Note:** The terrain is often uneven and passengers must be able to comfortably walk on uneven terrain.

Departure Tax: The departure from Ecuador there should now be included in your international ticket.

Fee Includes: This program includes group transfers between airport and hotel on required dates; double accommodations in Quito or an airport location on required dates; transportation between ship and airport in Galapagos; shared double cabin accommodations aboard ship; all meals aboard ship, island sightseeing, naturalist guide authorized and qualified by the Galapagos National Park,

Fee Does Not Include: Meals in Quito (however, breakfast is included each day), customary tips for crew and local guides, bottled drinks, Park Fee (\$100), international air fare, alcoholic beverages on board, and any items of a personal nature.

Travel Insurance: Insurance is not included, but is strongly encouraged. Trip cancellation insurance and emergency medical insurance should be considered. Our travel agent, Bev at Dalianes Travel can help you with this.

Air Fare and Travel Arrangements: If you need help, we recommend calling Bev at Dalianes Travel 1-800-462-2937; 707-445-3245; Fax: 707-443-2104; bev@dalianes.com.

Suggested Reading: Much has been written about the Galapagos, but for a practical introduction I recommend GALAPAGOS – A NATURAL HISTORY GUIDE, by M. H. Jackson, University of Calgary Press, \$24.95 in paperback. Equally good and much newer is Fitter, Fitter, and Hosking, WILDLIFE OF THE GALAPAGOS, Princeton University Press, 2002, 254 pp. \$13.95. This book is quite the bargain from Amazon.com, I highly recommend it. Julian Fitter was one of the first to introduce guided natural history tours in the Galapagos. For several years I chartered with him, his son Daniel now commonly guides in the Galapagos. These are two of the most useful books on the Islands you can own. You will do yourself a favor by buying one now and reading or skimming it before the trip. If you want still another fine book, try Swash, Still and Lewington, AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO THE BIRDS, MAMMALS & REPTILES OF THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, Yale University Press, and \$24.95 from Amazon.com. For birds alone, A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF GALAPAGOS by Michael Harris, Taplinger Field Guides, 1974 is an older standard. For a bird book with much natural history, you will enjoy GALAPAGOS DIARY – A Complete Guide to the Archipelago's Birdlife by Hermann Heine. This book with its numerous illustrations had a personality all its own. You will also get a thrill by reading Darwin's THE VOYAGE OF THE BEAGLE for historical and intellectual background. You can relive part of the thrill and sense of discovery yourself on this incredible voyage. For more on Darwin and a discussion of his note books, PILGRIM ON THE GREAT BIRD CONTINENT by Lyanda Lynn Haupt, Little Brown & Co., 2006. A great read also is THE BEAK OF THE FINCH, by Jonathan Weiner. Another outstanding read for a

general background on island biogeography, *THE SONG OF THE DODO* by David Quammen is outstanding. For something about the more than interesting social life of the Galapagos, you might start with John Treherne's *THE GALAPAGOS AFFAIR*. This book will substitute for those other "airplane books": mysteries, romances, & thrillers, all in one. You will not be disappointed, and it will make even more sense when you visit several of these locations. If you want a brief introduction to the plants, try *PLANTS OF THE Galapagos Islands*, by Eileen K. Schofield. If fish are your interest – and you will be able to snorkel frequently, try *A FIELD GUIDE TO THE FISHES OF GALAPAGOS*, by Godfrey Merlin. Another well illustrated fish book is *FISH OF THE PACIFIC COAST* (including the Galapagos Islands) by Gar Goodson, Stanford University Press, 1988. For a very general description of Ecuador, try *ECUADOR & THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS* by Rob Rachowiecke. It is a Lonely Planet guide, and one of many similar guidebooks. A few more guides from Spot Field books: *Terrestrial Life of Galapagos* and *Marine Life of Galapagos*. www.spotfieldbooks.com. There are of course, numerous coffee table books of the Galapagos, but you can't go wrong with any of them by Tui DeRoy, a native of the Galapagos and outstanding photographer and naturalist.

TIPPING

Suggested crew gratuity for the Galapagos: \$200 per guest collected as a whole for the crew and, separately, \$100 per guest for the guide.

M/Y Samba - A graceful 78-foot motor yacht of European vintage Tourist Superior

- The SAMBA is a true European Dutch classic: sturdy, stately and very comfortable motor-vessel.
- A great ocean-going vessel with her specially designed high bow, she provides safe crossings and boasts a special stabilizing sail.
- Her main salon and aft dining facilities make her socially versatile while top-side settees and a flush and ample forward deck provide great getaways or extra space for group activities such as stargazing, whale watching or simply sunbathing.
- The SAMBA accommodates 14 guests, a perfect number to enjoy the magic of the Islands with privacy and flexibility. Its professional, experienced and friendly crew and naturalist guide are devoted to go the extra mile to make your journey a trip of a lifetime.
- She is locally owned and all the crewmembers are from the Galapagos. They are committed to redefining your idea of quality of experience and excellence of service.



Accommodations

There are six air-conditioned double cabins and 1 exterior double bed cabin on upper deck. All cabins have a private bathroom with hot and cold water.

Equipment

Very efficient Twin DAV diesel engines 280 HP-CUMMINS that only use a remarkable 6 gallons of diesel every hour! Two generators each of 21 & 12.5 kW for 110 V & 220V A/C and 12V & 24V D/C, Furuno Navnet Radar, Plotter and Sonar, GPS, VHF & SSB radios, two tenders with outboard motors, 32' High Definition LCD TV, DVD video equipment.

Specifications

Length: L.O.A.* 78 feet / 23 meters
Beam: 18 feet / 5.4 meters
Tonnage: 134 tons
Speed: 8.5 knots
Range: 2,500 miles
Sails: Genoa, main, mizzen
Water capacity: 1,500 gallons and water maker
Electric Power Supply: 110V & 220V (A/C)
*L.O.A.: length overall

Safety equipment:

One self-contained 20-passenger life raft, EPIRB (Emergency Positioning Indicating Radio Beacon), two bi-directional VHF emergency-radios, one VHF (Motorola) wide-range radio, VHF and HF radios and one cell-phone and a Satellite phone communication system, life jackets, fire extinguishers, safety smoke and fire detectors and overhead sprinkler systems, A.B.C fire-control system and CO² bank for the engine room.

Naturalist: We are fortunate to have Juan Manuel Salcedo as our guide as he is one of the best, most informed and most able to communicate-not only his knowledge of the Galapagos, but also his love and enthusiasm for these islands.

Juan was born in the Galapagos Islands. He grew up in Puerto Ayora, on Santa Cruz Island, living and learning in the outdoor evolutionary lab of the Galapagos. He moved to Quito to finish high school and spent a year in Los Angeles studying sailing and navigation to gain a skipper certificate. He graduated from the University of San Francisco, Quito where he studied Applied Ecology with minor degrees in Biology and Geology. He has been involved in Environmental Education projects in the Galapagos Islands and on mainland Ecuador.

CREW

The crew are all Ecuadorian, highly experienced professionals, dedicated to meeting your needs and making this as pleasant, fun and safe a journey as possible. One of the pleasures is getting to know them.

