

Prepared for The Houston Zoo

# THE MAGIC OF THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

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*July 20th - 28th, 2025*



## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

### Conservation Through Responsible Travel

Dear Houston Zoo Supporters,

It is with immense pleasure that the Houston Zoo extends an invitation to you for a captivating journey to the Galápagos Islands aboard our exclusive yacht.

Our meticulously crafted yacht safari will take you on a spellbinding exploration of San Cristobal, Floreana, Española, Santa Cruz, Genovesa, and Rabida Islands. Each destination is a jewel in the crown of the Galápagos archipelago, offering a kaleidoscope of unique landscapes and an unparalleled opportunity to witness the incredible biodiversity that has captivated explorers and naturalists for centuries.













Our yacht, equipped with modern comforts and guided by experienced naturalists, ensures an immersive and educational experience. This expedition promises a perfect blend of relaxation and exploration, offering a front-row seat to the wonders of this UNESCO World Heritage site.

Seize the opportunity to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime adventure. Limited spaces are available for this exclusive yacht safari, so we encourage you to secure your reservation now.
















Embark on this extraordinary journey with us, and let the magic of the Galápagos Islands unfold before your eyes.

Regards,  
*James Ward*

Itinerary Overview






Day	Activities
Day 1 Saturday Jul 20, 2024	<div><div> Welcome to Quito</div><div> VIP Meet &amp; Greet Arrival Service</div><div><div> Transfer to your hotel</div><div>Transfer departs Quito International Airport</div><div>Transfer arrives Wyndham Hotel</div></div><div><div> Check In at Wyndham Quito Airport</div></div></div>
Day 2 Sunday Jul 21, 2024	<div><div><div> Check Out from Wyndham Quito Airport</div></div><div><div><div> Transfer to the airport for your flight to the Galápagos Islands</div><div>Transfer departs Wyndham Hotel</div><div>Transfer arrives Quito International Airport</div></div><div><div><div> Fly to the Galápagos Islands</div><div>Flight departs Quito</div><div>Flight arrives The Galápagos Islands</div></div></div><div><div><div> Welcome to Galápagos Islands</div></div><div><div><div><div> Check In at Grand Majestic Yacht</div><div>Room Type: Stateroom</div><div>Basis of Stay: Full Board With Coffee, Tea, And Soft Drinks</div></div></div><div><div> San Cristobal: Breeding Center David Rodriguez</div></div></div></div></div></div>
Day 3 Monday Jul 22, 2024	<div><div> Visit North Seymour Island</div><div><div> Black Turtle Cove</div></div></div>

Itinerary Overview

Day	Activities
Day 3 Monday Jul 22, 2024	 Overnight at Grand Majestic Yacht
Day 4 Tuesday Jul 23, 2024	<div> Bartholomew Island</div> <div> Puerto Egas</div> <div> Overnight at Grand Majestic Yacht</div>
Day 5 Wednesday Jul 24, 2024	<div> Tagus Cove</div> <div> Urbina Bay</div> <div> Overnight at Grand Majestic Yacht</div>
Day 6 Thursday Jul 25, 2024	<div> Espinosa Point</div> <div> Vicente Roca Point</div> <div> Overnight at Grand Majestic Yacht</div>
Day 7 Friday Jul 26, 2024	<div> Espumilla Beach And Buccaneer Cove</div> <div> Santiago: Sullivan Bay</div> <div> Overnight at Grand Majestic Yacht</div>
Day 8 Saturday Jul 27, 2024	<div> Visit Bachas Beach &amp; Caleta Tortuga Negra</div> <div> Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station</div>



Itinerary Overview

Day	Activities
Day 8 Saturday Jul 27, 2024	<div> Overnight at Grand Majestic Yacht</div>
Day 9 Sunday Jul 28, 2024	<div><div> Kicker Rock</div><div> Check Out from Grand Majestic Yacht</div><div><div> Transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito</div><div>Transfer departs Yacht</div><div>Transfer arrives Galapagos Airport</div></div><div><div> Fly to Quito International Airport</div><div>Flight departs The Galápagos Islands</div><div>Flight arrives Quito</div><div>Connect with you evening international flight home</div></div></div>

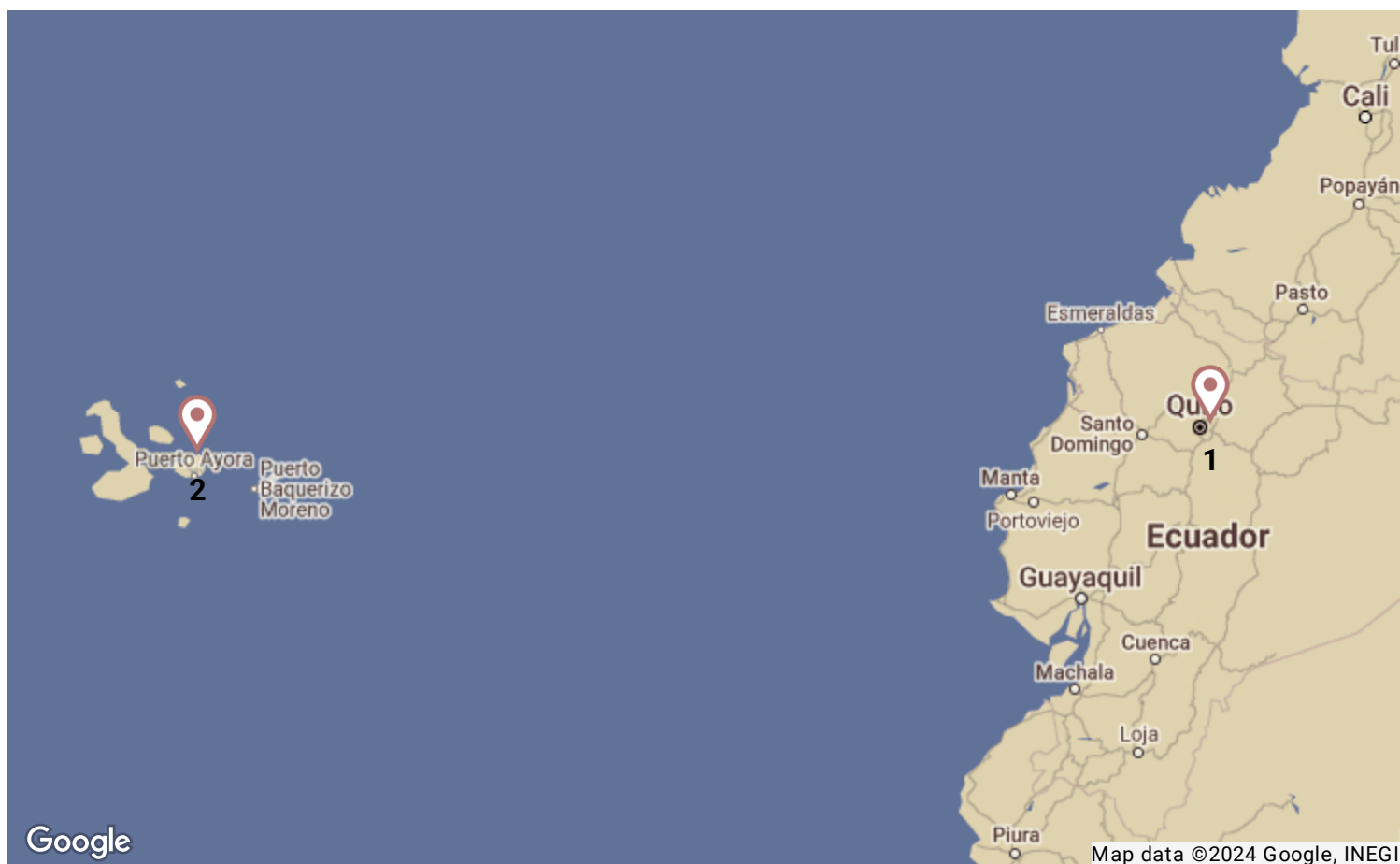
## Your Flights

Day	Flight
Day 2 Sunday Jul 21, 2024	Fly to the Galápagos Islands Flight departs Quito Flight arrives The Galápagos Islands
Day 9 Sunday Jul 28, 2024	Fly to Quito International Airport Flight departs The Galápagos Islands Flight arrives Quito Connect with you evening international flight home

Your Accommodations

Day	Accommodation	Details	Nights
Jul 20 - 21, 2024	Wyndham Quito Airport	-	1
Jul 21 - 28, 2024	Grand Majestic Yacht	Stateroom Full Board With Coffee, Tea, And Soft Drinks	7

## Map



## Summary

- 1) July 20 - 21: Wyndham Quito Airport, Quito
- 2) July 21 - 28: Grand Majestic Yacht, Galápagos Islands





**DAY 1**  
**SATURDAY · JULY 20, 2024**

**Welcome to Quito**

**Area Overview**

The capital of Ecuador sits just 16 mi south of the equator. This well preserved city sprawls out from its historic city center, Plaza de San Francisco, which consists of over 120 historic buildings, including European style homes, ornate churches, and palaces once built for wealthy cacao landowners and former heads of state.

The city was built on the ruins of an Inca city and declared a World Heritage site in 1978. Visitors can walk the cobblestone streets and local markets, and visit the privately owned archeology museum of Alabado. From the top of Panecillo Street, a 655 ft hill, visitors can take in sprawling views over the city with resident volcanoes Cotapaxi and Pinchinca forming a dramatic backdrop.

**VIP Meet & Greet Arrival Service**

**Overview**

VIP Meet and Greet service by our greeter who will meet you at the gate of arrival/the terminal entrance and assist you every step of the way till the exit. They will guide you through passport control and customs for international arrivals.

**Transfer to your hotel**

- ☐ Depart Quito International Airport
- ☐ Arrive Wyndham Hotel

DAY 1  
SATURDAY • JULY 20, 2024

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**Check in at Wyndham Quito Airport**

1 Night

**Property Overview**

Experience the warmest of welcomes when you visit Wyndham Quito Airport hotel. It has a prime location at the Mariscal Sucre International Airport (UIO), as well as extensive meeting space for exemplary business conferences and flawless special events. Embrace the spirit of the Ecuadorian capital, with the hotel as a supremely comfortable and convenient home base, and spend your days exploring Quito's many fascinating museums and breathtaking sites.

**Fast Facts**

**Highlights**

Relax in the spa or pool after a long day of business or travel  
Dine in the restaurant or in your room with 24 hour room service  
Conveniently located at the Quito airport

**Quick facts**

150 rooms and suites  
Restaurant  
Bar  
Spa  
Swimming pool  
Fitness center  
Business center  
Wifi



**DAY 2**  
**SUNDAY • JULY 21, 2024**

**Check out from Wyndham Quito Airport**

**Transfer to the airport for your flight to the Galápagos Islands**

- ☐ Depart Wyndham Hotel
- ☐ Arrive Quito International Airport

**Fly to the Galápagos Islands**

- ☐ Depart Quito
- ☐ Arrive The Galápagos Islands

**Welcome to Galápagos Islands**

**Area Overview**

Known as the “Enchanted Isles,” the Galápagos Islands are an archipelago of 19 isolated volcanic islands off the coast of Ecuador and are considered a museum of marine evolution. Each island has its own distinct and unique ecosystem, with its own iconic resident species: from the lava fields of Fernandina with its primordial marine iguanas to the white sand beaches of Espanola with its playful sea lions to the flamboyant flamingos of Floriana and the dancing blue footed boobies of North Seymour.

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**DAY 2**  
**SUNDAY • JULY 21, 2024**

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Charles Darwin was inspired by the giant tortoises and finches to conceive his groundbreaking theories of natural selection and survival of the fittest. Although the most famous giant tortoise, Lonesome George, is no longer alive, having lived to be 102 and the last of his species, there are many tortoises that can still be found roaming the verdant hillsides of Santa Cruz and Isabela. The snorkeling sites present a unique opportunity to swim with colorful fish alongside penguins, turtles, and rays under a backdrop of cacti, lava fields, and Palo Santo forests.

Because of the evolutionary processes that can literally be seen in motion here, the trails and sites are heavily controlled by the Galapagos Parks Board - and rightly so.

### **Check in at Grand Majestic Yacht**

Stateroom (Full Board With Coffee, Tea, And Soft Drinks)

7 Nights

### **Property Overview**

A 35m long speedy yacht, the Grand Majestic was built in 2018 and has 8 rooms that can accommodate up to 16 guests. The Grand Majestic is modern and equipped with large living spaces. There's a sun deck with a Jacuzzi for guests to unwind and an al fresco dining area where a friendly crew serves appetizing meals. The rooms are The Grand Majestic is the fastest vessel cruising the Galapagos Archipelago.

The Grand Majestic is the fastest vessel cruising the Galapagos Archipelago.

It is specifically designed for exclusive high end private charters. The guide, captain and crew are dedicated to providing the highest quality service.

### **Experience & Activities**

The Majestic cruises through places like San Cristobal Island, Bartholomew, Egas Port, Tagus Cove, and Urbina Bay. The itinerary includes activities like snorkeling and hiking at Bartholomew Islands, Panga riding, Kayaking, beach walks, and more. Some of the highlights of this trip are witnessing the La Combre, an active volcano at Espinosa Point, getting up close and personal with the unique underwater wildlife of the Galapagos, watching whales and dolphins (conducted during specific times through the year), spotting some rare and peculiar birds and much more.

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DAY 2  
SUNDAY · JULY 21, 2024

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Guests will get a chance to see penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, Nazca boobies, and Galapagos hawks to name a few. They will also get to visit the breeding center to see giant tortoises. There is a certified and seasoned naturalist guide to help guests explore these magical islands.

## **Accommodations**

### **Stateroom**

### **Fast Facts**

### **Highlights**

- Daily housekeeping
- Audio & video entertainment
- Air Conditioned saloon
- Aircon Cabins
- Sun Deck
- Indoor Saloon
- Warm Water Showers
- Outdoor Dining
- Charging stations
- En-Suite bathrooms
- Non-Smoking Rooms
- Seaview Cabins
- Snorkeling Equipment
- Naturalist Guide
- Leisure Deck
- Observation Deck
- Bar
- Jacuzzi / Hot Tub

**San Cristobal: Breeding Center David Rodriquez**

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DAY 2  
SUNDAY • JULY 21, 2024

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### Activity overview

This new visitor site in the northeast part of San Cristobal Island is now accessible by a roughly one-hour road trip from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. At the Breeding Center, you can admire hatchling turtles from birth until they are 120 days old, when they are returned to their natural habitat. Enjoy a short hike (1 km) and encounter giant tortoises in captivity, snorkeling with sea lions, land and sea birds, blue-footed boobies, and hatchling turtles.

### FAST FACTS

**Possible Activities:** Short Hike (0.6 mi)

**Difficulty:** Easy/moderate

**Type of Landing:** Dry

**Highlights:** Giant tortoises in captivity, snorkeling with sea lions, land and sea birds, blue-footed boobies, hatching turtles



**DAY 3**  
**MONDAY • JULY 22, 2024**

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**Visit North Seymour Island**

**Activity overview**

Snorkelers will enjoy their last underwater experience before we land on North Seymour, the flattest Island we'll visit. The trail at North Seymour heads inland where we will see the largest colony of Magnificent Frigatebirds in Galapagos, Blue-footed Boobies, and occasionally land iguanas. Continue along the coast where you will have ample opportunity to observe sea lions and marine iguanas as we enjoy your final Island sunset.

**Black Turtle Cove**

**Activity overview**

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.

**FUN FACTS**

**Highlights:** Baby hammerhead shark, rays, sea turtles, sea birds

**Possible Activities:** Dinghy ride



DAY 3  
MONDAY • JULY 22, 2024

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**Type of Landing:** No landing

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Overnight at Grand Majestic Yacht**

Stateroom (Full Board With Coffee, Tea, And Soft Drinks)



**DAY 4**  
**TUESDAY · JULY 23, 2024**

**Bartholomew Island**

**Area Overview**

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.

This small island is located on the centre of the archipelago, and on a clear day, more than ten islands can be spotted from the top of the viewpoint. The diversity and richness of this island is related to the Upwelling Phenomenon, very cold water surrounds the shore and provides food for many marine species.

The Pinnacle Rock, formed by an eroded toba cone, is the most emblematic formation of the archipelago. On its base, a small colony of Penguins cohabit with Sea Lions and Marine Birds. On the visit site of the beach, one can observe juvenile sharks swimming along the shore line, and sometimes on the surroundings, a hawk domains the air.

Great snorkeling opportunities with penguins and sea lions off a golden-sand beach at the foot of popular Pinnacle Rock.

**Fast Facts**

**Highlights:** Pinnacle rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus; snorkeling: penguins, reef sharks, rays, and great colorful fish.

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DAY 4  
TUESDAY • JULY 23, 2024

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**Possible Activities:** Dinghy ride, snorkeling & hiking (1.2 miles/ 2 km)

**Type of Landing:** Dry and wet landings

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

**Puerto Egas**

**Activity overview**

There are two separate trails here. The first meanders along the coast to the fur seal grottoes, a safe haven for the shy Galapagos Fur Seal amongst the crags and swimming inlets, and home to American Oystercatchers, marine iguanas and ubiquitous sea lions. The second, less-used trail heads inland to a lagoon at the Salt Mine Volcano where flamingos and other birds are found.

**Overnight at Grand Majestic Yacht**

Stateroom (Full Board With Coffee, Tea, And Soft Drinks)



**DAY 5**  
**WEDNESDAY · JULY 24, 2024**

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### **Tagus Cove**

#### **Activity overview**

Pirates and whalers in the 19th Century using Tagus Cove for anchorage left their marks on the cliffs of this sunken caldera, a tradition of graffiti that continues to today. A short, steep hike passes Darwin Lake, which sits within a tuff cone and is filled with salt water. This site is an excellent place for viewing land birds, including Ground and Tree Finches, Galapagos Hawks, Yellow Warblers, Large-billed Flycatchers and even sometimes the Woodpecker Finch.

A rare sighting of land iguanas is a treat. A dinghy ride or kayak along the cliffs provides views of geologic features, as well as penguins and other bird species.

### **Urbina Bay**

#### **Activity overview**

This site is very unique. In 1954, volcanic activity caused a 3.7 mi stretch of coastline to be uplifted 5 m in a matter of hours, stranding coral heads, and all sea life that couldn't escape, more than half a mile away from the new shore. Walk among the skeletal coral garden, now home to lizards and mockingbirds. Urbina Bay is also home to large, colorful land iguanas. During certain times of the year you may encounter Alcedo tortoises which come down from the highlands to nest in the warm sands of Urbina Bay.

### **Overnight at Grand Majestic Yacht**



DAY 5  
WEDNESDAY • JULY 24, 2024

Stateroom (Full Board With Coffee, Tea, And Soft Drinks)



**DAY 6**  
**THURSDAY · JULY 25, 2024**

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**Espinosa Point**

**Activity overview**

This peninsula is on the most pristine and youngest island of Galapagos. Fernandina is highly volcanically active with eruptions occurring frequently, the latest in 2008. Upon landing, you are met by an abundance of small, dark marine iguanas and brightly colored Sally Lightfoot Crabs. Walk out on a pahoe-hoe lava flow—younger than the one at Punta Moreno—past a few pioneering plants. Along the sandy shore you can see Flightless Cormorants, pelicans, and numerous, lounging sea lions. Sunsets are often stunning.

**Vicente Roca Point**

**Activity overview**

The large cave and cleaved tuft cone and caldera wall are impressive geological formations and provide a beautiful backdrop for nesting birds, including Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies, gulls, storm petrels, and Brown Noddy Terns. It also forms a calm gathering area for sea turtles. Along with sea turtles, snorkelers can see many species of colorful fish, penguins, sea lions, sea anemones, small jellyfish, and other sea life.

**Overnight at Grand Majestic Yacht**

Stateroom (Full Board With Coffee, Tea, And Soft Drinks)





**DAY 7**  
**FRIDAY • JULY 26, 2024**

### **Espumilla Beach And Buccaneer Cove**

#### **Activity overview**

Espumilla is a red-sand beach and a sea turtle nesting site, with an inland trail that passes a small lagoon and into the arid zone where it is possible to view many land birds in a beautiful landscape, including Galapagos Hawks. While snorkeling at Buccaneer Cove, you may see sea lions, fur seals, sea turtles, rays, sharks, pelagic fishes, and amazing underwater geologic formations.

### **Santiago: Sullivan Bay**

#### **Activity overview**

Embark on a coral beach landing that leads you to a vast lava field, where you can explore pahoehoe and 'a'a lava for signs of plant life that have emerged over the past 100 years. Experience a variety of lava formations and landscapes, including those primarily found in Hawai'i and the Galapagos, along with a pristine coral sand beach. Enjoy activities like walking, snorkeling, and swimming, but be sure to wear sturdy shoes as the 'a'a lava is sharp and pointy.

### **Overnight at Grand Majestic Yacht**

Stateroom (Full Board With Coffee, Tea, And Soft Drinks)





**DAY 8**  
**SATURDAY · JULY 27, 2024**

**Visit Bachas Beach & Caleta Tortuga Negra**

**Activity overview**

Enjoy a quiet and peaceful morning at Bachas' fine, white beach. Two small lagoons just over the dunes sometimes host flamingos. "Bachas" comes from the remains of a barge which ran aground decades ago, leaving just a few rusty spines visible today. In Caleta Tortuga Negra enjoy a silent skiff ride to see sea turtles feed and mate in the calm waters, and three species of sharks, Spotted rays, egrets, and lava herons. Aboard we celebrate our last night together.

**Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station**

**Activity overview**

Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and Galápagos National Park headquarters and learn first hand of the conservation and research efforts in the islands. There, you'll see several subspecies of adult tortoises, lots of hatchlings, and learn of the repatriation programs that are saving several subspecies of tortoises and iguanas from extinction.

**Overnight at Grand Majestic Yacht**

Stateroom (Full Board With Coffee, Tea, And Soft Drinks)



DAY 9  
SUNDAY · JULY 28, 2024

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## Kicker Rock

### Activity overview

This striking rock formation is located a couple hours off the western shore of San Cristobal. Jutting out of the water, the rocks stand vertically at hundreds of feet above the ocean divided by a small channel. Although there are no landing areas, circumnavigation and dinghy rides allow visitors to spot a variety of marine life.

### Activity Facts

**Highlights:** Sharks, tropical fish, turtles, manta rays, hammerhead sharks, spectacular rock formations, sea birds, blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, and frigate birds

**Possible Activities:** Dinghy ride

**Type of Landing:** No landing

**Difficulty:** Easy

Check out from Grand Majestic Yacht

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito

DAY 9  
SUNDAY · JULY 28, 2024

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- Depart Yacht
- Arrive Galapagos Airport

**Fly to Quito International Airport**

- Depart The Galápagos Islands
- Arrive Quito

Connect with you evening international flight home



## COSTS

### **Total per person based on 2 guests in shared accommodation: \$11,995 USD**

- A Single Supplement charge of \$11,495 is available. Due to there being a fixed number of rooms on the yacht, if you would like a single room, you will be required to pay for two people.

### **Notes:**

- A 30% deposit is required to confirm your registration. An invoice will be emailed to you.
- We accept checks and ACH payments or wire transfers to our US based bank for all payments. **Most major cards may be used only for deposit payments.**
- Balance due 120 days prior to the start of the safari.
- **CANCELLATION:** All deposits are non-refundable. Deposits generally cover the costs of canceling the services already booked, if the cancellation is received in our office no later than 120 days prior to arrival. If the fees charged by our suppliers exceed the deposit, an extra charge may apply.
- Cancellations received in our office 120 days prior to arrival are subject to cancellation fees of 100% of the safari price. Refunds for any services that are voluntarily not used will not be issued.

### **This cost includes:**

- All land and air transportation in Ecuador.
- All accommodations in hotels and on the yacht as indicated in the itinerary.
- All meals from welcome dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day as indicated in the itinerary.
- All adventures and related equipment as indicated in the itinerary.
- Bilingual naturalist guide(s) who is a certified Wilderness First Responder, NOM-9 graduate and Leave No Trace certified.

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## COSTS

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- Entrance fees, national park conservation fees, and permits.

**This cost does not include:**

- International airfare
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities
- Any activities, meals or drinks not explicitly identified in the itinerary





## ABOUT SAFARI PROFESSIONALS

### About Us

With a combined 60+ years of safari experience, Safari Professionals offers customized itinerary planning for zoos and aquariums that merges itineraries with the zoo's or aquarium's conservation initiatives.

We view our relationship with our partner zoos and aquariums as more than being simply a supplier of customized wildlife conservation travel, we establish a wildlife conservation partnership – a relationship that goes beyond the traditional model.

### Tom LaRock

#### Chief Exploration Officer

As the former Executive Director of the Friends of the National Zoo, Tom has an understanding and love of wildlife and helps manage sustainable and responsible travel for his clients. To help potential travelers identify their personal priorities, Safari Professionals relies on Tom's extensive knowledge of wildlife, safari guides and accommodations to craft an itinerary that meets or exceeds expectations.

### James Ward

#### Chief Adventure Officer

James was introduced to Africa at the age of 15 and has been in love with traveling to the bush to photograph wildlife since. He has traveled extensively throughout Africa, Asia, and the Americas, visiting some of the most beautiful and wildest national parks in the world. James brings a unique perspective as he designs tailor-made group and private safaris.

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## ABOUT SAFARI PROFESSIONALS

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James has spent the last three years traveling extensively around the world to find new destinations and design unique safaris so Safari Professionals' travelers can have an intimate experience with nature. His travels have brought him to throughout Africa, including Botswana and Namibia; Asia, including Indonesia, Malaysia, and India; and the Americas, including Patagonia and Alaska. amongst other locations, visiting hundreds of lodges and destinations to become an expert on safaris to these areas, amongst others.

James is a professional wildlife photographer who tries to share his love of the natural world through his images. He prefers to travel to remote destinations, the wilder the better, and photograph on foot, many times lying on the ground. His images have been published in several publications and his art has been featured in photography exhibitions. James has also been hired by conservation organizations to photograph their projects, including the Saint Louis Zoo's WildCare Institute's Center for Avian Conservation in the Pacific Islands.

### **Sam Kanakanui**

#### **Chief Opportunities Officer**

Joining the Safari Professionals team in 2019, Sam brings over 30 years of business acumen including knowledge in IT, marketing, and operations to the Safari Professionals family. Born in Hawaii, raised in the mountains of West Virginia and living now in the Piedmont of North Carolina, Sam has always enjoyed spending time exploring nature and has developed a keen interest in conservation..