

Kids Sea Camp Galapagos Group Adventure 2009 June 18-25 2009

Take your children back into time on an unforgettable family adventure they will remember forever....

Come along with Margo, Tom, Robbie, Jen, Ron Rogest and President - Wayne Hasson

with Aggressor Fleet to visit a world time has forgotten.



When you step off the plane in Galapagos, you are entering a magical world. The wonders of Galapagos will unfold before your eyes during the Thursday to Thursday adventure. The on-board, multi-lingual guides will share their in-depth knowledge of these volcanic islands. Diving begins Friday and ends Wednesday morning. Three islands will be explored through land tours during the week. Snorkeling and bird watching excursions are also conducted between dives. Every Galapagos

Aggressor Thursday morning check-out is 8:00 a.m. The Galapagos Aggressors operate out of San Cristobal year round.

The Galapagos Islands were formed about 3-5 million years ago. They are the tips of gigantic undersea volcanoes and the area is one of the world's most active volcanic regions. Some of the volcanoes are still active and there have been over 50 eruptions in the last 200 years. Each island is a volcano, except Isabela, which is made up of 6 volcanoes. The archipelago is made up of 13 large islands, 6 smaller ones and 107 rocks and islets, and is home to more than 5,000 different species.

Animal life:

Galapagos is home to many unique, endemic animals, most of which are fearless due to the lack of natural predators. One of the best known, the giant tortoise, has evolved into fourteen distinct forms on the different islands of the archipelago. Other reptiles include the marine iguana which grazes on seaweed, land iguanas, lava lizards, geckos and snakes. The only terrestrial mammals are rice rats and two species of bat. The 13 species of small, brownish finches are adapted to a range of different foods and are known collectively as Darwin's finches. They have been important to scientists trying to understand how evolution occurs, and include the tool-using woodpecker finch. Other endemic (only found in Galapagos) land birds include a hawk, dove, flycatcher, rail and four species of mockingbird.



Among the endemic sea birds are a flightless cormorant, two species of gull, and the only penguin species which lives in tropical waters. The waved albatross breeds solely on Espa Island, while colonies of blue-footed, red-footed, and masked boobies are found alongside frigate birds. Sea lions and fur seals are found around the coasts, while dolphins, whales and sea turtles are common. Over 300 species of fish have already been described from the rich ocean waters around the archipelago. There are also at least 1,600 species of insects, 80 spiders, 300 beetles, 150 mites, 80 land snails, 650 sea shells, 200 starfishes and urchins, 120 crabs, and many other smaller animals.



Plant life



The plants of Galapagos are equally fascinating. In the highlands are many species of endemic *Scalesia* ('tree daisies') as well as tree ferns, bromeliads and orchids. Around the coasts are giant prickly pear and candelabra cacti while tiny *Brachycereus* cacti grow on barren lava flows. On the shores can be found vivid morning glories and mats of bright red sesuvium. Galapagos also has its very own, endemic species of cotton, tomato, pepper, guava and passion flower. Many kinds of plants, particularly those belonging to the daisy family, have evolved on the different islands into whole arrays of endemic species, providing scientists with classic examples of what is known as 'adaptive radiation'.

Here is a sample of some of the fun things you can do:

- Snorkeling with animals
- Scuba diving (youth 10 and over)
- Fish and coral I.D. Galapagos animal I.D.
- Beach Combing, seashore creature I.D. and clean-up
- Small boat handling and fishing
- Plankton sampling with a microscope
- Underwater and Top side photography and video
- Water safety and water oriented games
- Local culture and customs and many land tours
- visit Charles Darwin research center



Heres how it works:

- \$1500 deposit per Cabin due at time of booking, second payment due of \$1,000 per cabin Jan 5th 2008, Final payment will be due in full Jan 2rd 2009,
- Kids ages 8-10 must stay in a cabin with an adult. Kids pay full price.
- Each child under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- A Camp Counselor will organize and supervise activities during times when adults are diving.
- There will be non diving activities for non diving adults and kids

\$3445 per person Includes 7 nights, 5 days of diving/snorkeling and tours

T-shirt Kids Sea Camp Galapagos, Special Rogest Artist prints. On line photo CD. All meals on Board, diving or Snorkeling. Lots of fun gifts, Scuba Pro full wet suit for all kids + other sponsor gifts. Fun and education with Ron Rogest Marine Artist.



CHARTERS DO NOT INCLUDE:

Airfare

Equipment rentals

Nitrox fills

Hotel stays or day rooms- needed on arrival or departure

Dinner on final evening

Crew gratuity

Government taxes, park fees & port fees –this will be advised and will be paid on ship

Fuel Surcharge – \$100 pp subject to change



1. Where are the Galapagos Islands?

The "Enchanted Islands" of Galapagos are found in the Pacific Ocean 600 miles west of Ecuador. Made famous by the studies of Charles Darwin that became his "Theory of Evolution," the volcanic islands of Galapagos have been declared a National Park of Ecuador.

2. What is included in the scuba charter?

Accommodations aboard the vessel, diving, compressed air tanks, weights and weight belts, airport transfers on day of arrival and departure, meals and snacks, non-alcoholic and local alcoholic beverages are include in the charter rate. Kids special Itinerary and crew, Sea lion snorkel, Whale shark Snorkel, Many top side tours.

3. Do I have to purchase my flights from Ecuador to Galapagos through Aggressor Fleet, Limited?

Yes. Airline tickets for the flight from mainland Ecuador to the Galapagos Islands must be purchased through Aggressor Fleet, Limited. Airline tickets for flights from the US (or any other country) to Ecuador may be purchased through your local travel agent. Airfare is not included in the charter rate. All charters depart from San Cristobal.



4. How many days is the charter and how many dives can I make?

A [Galapagos Aggressor](#) charter is seven days, Thursday afternoon to Thursday morning, with five and one-half days of diving. Most guests make up to three dives a day. Diving begins on Thursday afternoon and ends about midday on Wednesday.

5. When should I arrive in Ecuador?

You **MUST** arrive in Ecuador at least one day prior to the vessel's departure, in order to meet the flight schedule to Galapagos from the mainland. If you do not make this flight schedule, you will not meet the vessel's departure time. Your travel arrangements should include a one night stay-over (prior to the vessel departure) in either Guayaquil or Quito, which are on the mainland. A stay in Guayaquil is recommended prior to the trip.

6. Are there any taxes or fees not included in the charter price?

Yes. The Galapagos Park Entry fee is \$100.00 US. A \$75 port fee is collected when passengers settle their onboard tab. The International Airport Departure Fee, due at check-in to flights departing from Guayaquil is \$25.00 US and departing from Quito is \$31.60 US. These fees are not included in the charter rate and US dollars are the preferred payment. They are levied by the

Ecuadorian government and are subject to change, so please check with your travel agent before your trip. There is a 12% sales tax on all onboard services.

7. Do I need a [passport](#)?

YES

8. How do I meet the Galapagos Aggressor I or Galapagos Aggressor II on the day of departure?

Once you arrive at the airport in Galapagos, you will be asked to pay the National Park fees. An Aggressor Guide and Kids Sea Camp Host Margo Peyton, Tom Peyton Robbie and Jen Peyton will be there to welcome you, Aggressor fleet will take care of your luggage, and drive you to the vessel.

9. Where do the Galapagos Aggressors dock?

The Galapagos Aggressor I and II depart from San Cristobal year round. The bus ride to the port when the boats depart from is 5-10 minutes from the airport.

10. What is unique to Galapagos diving?

Lots of large pelagics, particularly the schools of bottle nos dolphins. Sea Lions are also abundant, as are manta rays, eagle rays, golden rays, turtles, fur seals, schools of tuna, jack and snapper. Whales sharks and dolphins are frequently sighted. There will also be the opportunity to snorkel with penguins or marine iguanas.



11. What is the diving like in Galapagos?

Diving around the Galapagos Islands is slightly cooler temperatures. Diving from the dinghies has advantages. The opportunity to see great numbers of animals on virtually every dive, along with other large pelagics, makes it all worthwhile.



12. What is the water temperature? Will I need a wet suit?

The water of the Galapagos Islands are a unique mixture of warm and cold water, ranging between 70F and 85F, with thermoclines about 68F. We recommend a 1/4" (5mm) wet suit with hood and booties year round. The water conditions are constantly changing.



13. Is there dinghy diving?

Yes, all dives are made from a dinghy.

14. Is there night diving?

No, The National Park Service of Galapagos has prohibited night diving in Galapagos

15. Are there any land tours?

Yes, your Galapagos Aggressor vacation includes fabulous land tours lead by highly-trained, multi-lingual naturalist guides.

16. What type of topography can I expect to see in Galapagos?

The islands are volcanic in origin and are therefore mountainous. Some volcanos are still active.



17. Is it customary to offer a crew gratuity?

We believe gratuities should be voluntary and based upon the quality of the service the crew has provided. When setting your account, the Captain will have an envelope for gratuities to be divided equally among the crew. Gratuities may be left by cash, credit card, or travelers checks.

18. What is planned for Wednesday afternoon and evening after we return to port?

Wednesday afternoon the Galapagos Aggressors I or II dock in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz to provision for the next week. Guests will visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. The Galapagos Aggressors' crews host a cocktail party Wednesday evening. Dinner is not served on board. This meal is not provided with the cruise. The crew will recommend a restaurant in town. You will need cash, many restaurants and shops do not accept credit cards. At midnight, the vessel returns to San Cristobal.

19. When is check-out time on the vessel?

Check-out time is 9:00 a.m. Thursday morning. The crew will transport you and your luggage, with the group, to the local airport, and assist you with the check-in.

20. Where is the nearest recompression chamber?

The nearest recompression is in Guayaquil.

Galapagos Links: Visit the following sites for more information related to your travel to the Galapagos Island and the itinerary while aboard the *Galapagos Eco Explorer I!*

[The Galapagos Conservancy](#)

[The Darwin Foundation](#)

[Galapagos Geology](#) - Provided by Cornell University

[The Galapagos Conservation Trust](#)

[The Galapagos Coalition](#)

[United States State Dept. Passport Services](#) - Need to get a passport or update your old passport before your next international dive trip? Forget about standing in line. At this site, you can download an application, get a list of passport office locations and find out what you need to get a passport.

[U.S. Department of State travel information](#)

[Galapagos Education](#) - National Science Teachers Association

[Galapagos "Deep Sea Search"](#) - A IMAX film



<http://www.kidsplanet.org/factsheets/tortoise.html>

Charles Darwin and the *Beagle*

In 1835 Captain Fitzroy and *HMS Beagle* visited Galapagos as part of a five-year voyage to make navigational charts for the Royal Navy. On board was a young, unknown naturalist named Charles Darwin. Darwin made extensive collections of the plants and animals and was struck by the fact that closely related species were found on different islands, although he didn't realize the significance at the time and in some cases failed to label his specimens with their island of origin. After many years of research and thought he published *The Origin of Species* in 1859, which put forward the concept of evolution by natural selection. The importance of this theory, and of Galapagos, in the history of science cannot be over-estimated. As Darwin wrote; 'in that little world within itself...we seem to be brought somewhat near to that great fact - that mystery of mysteries - the first appearance of new beings on this earth.'