



GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS



Aboard Tip Top II | *with Buena Vista Audubon*

July 24 - August 3, 2019

Visit holbrook.travel/buenavista-gps19

Visitors to the Galápagos Islands are intrigued by the endemic flora and fauna, geological activity, volcanic terrain, and unique human history. Accompanied by an onboard naturalist-guide, this 7-night small group cruise expedition offers a front-row seat for exploring the archipelago. Stunning formations like Kicker Rock, sandy beaches, teeming lagoons and volcanic craters play host to unique wildlife such as the blue-footed booby, white-tipped sharks, marine iguanas, sea turtles, yellow cow-nosed rays, and more. Plus spend time birding in mainland Ecuador exploring the Bellavista cloud forest, one of the most diverse ecosystems on the planet.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Come face-to-face with iconic wildlife including Waved Albatross, Blue-footed Boobies, flamingos, sea lions, and Galápagos penguins.
- Explore diverse islands by boat and small panga craft, making wet and dry landings and stopping to hike, swim and snorkel.
- Sail around Kicker Rock, a massive tuff-rock that abruptly juts almost 500 feet straight out of the sea and is a nesting place for many species of sea birds.
- Discover the abundant flora and bird species that thrive in the cloud forest of Bellavista Reserve, one of the most unique ecosystems.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert naturalist guides
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Entrance fees
- In-country transportation
- Meals & beverages
- Travel insurance



PHOTO BY REINIER MUNGUJA

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

JULY 24 - QUITO

Upon arrival in Quito you will be met and escorted to your hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening. *Overnight at Rincón de Puembo.*

JULY 25 - QUITO

This morning travel to Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve and discover the beauty of the Ecuadorian cloud forest, considered one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet. Visit a private 1,600 acre reserve, home to a multitude of epiphytes (air plants), including bromeliads, orchids, moss and ferns. Visit the hummingbird feeders and watch different species of this beautiful bird. Continue on to a butterfly farm nearby, which exhibits 25 varieties of butterflies flying freely in a 7,000 square foot greenhouse. *Overnight at Rincón de Puembo. (BLD)*

JULY 26 - GALÁPAGOS

Fly from mainland Ecuador to Baltra. After boarding M/C Tip Top II, attend your first orientation and enjoy a light snack. Disembark at Playa Las Bachas and visit a flamingo lagoon. Attend an evening orientation on the origin and evolution of the Galápagos Islands, and have a welcome cocktail with the entire crew, followed by dinner. Each day there will be a briefing about the next day's activities, and time for optional swimming, snorkeling and/or kayaking. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II. (BLD)*

JULY 27 - GALÁPAGOS

Today go for a panga boat ride, landing on Prince Philip's Steps (El Barranco) to walk and observe the interesting lives of the birds here. Enjoy lunch aboard the boat. Later in the afternoon, visit Darwin Bay, home to frigatebirds, herons, shore birds, sea turtles, marine iguanas and more. We hope to see species such as Red-footed, Blue and Nazca Booby, Short-eared Owl, Galápagos Mockingbird, Galapagos Hawk, Lava Gull and Striated Heron. Eat dinner on the boat, and later attend an evening orientation to learn about conservation efforts to protect the islands. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II. (BLD)*

JULY 28 - GALÁPAGOS

Land on South Plaza Island this morning, where a walk through the cactus forest affords opportunities to observe land iguanas and many species of tropical birds. In the afternoon we will check out a different colony of land iguanas native to Santa Fé Island. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II. (BLD)*

JULY 29 - GALÁPAGOS

Breakfast onboard, then disembark at San Cristóbal port and drive to Jacinto Gordillo Breeding Center where we learn about tortoises, their reproductive processes and the programs in place to maintain the species. Travel back to the port and visit the Interpretation Center of Human History of the Islands; this tour takes us through the geological and human history of the islands and its conservation. In the afternoon, the Captain will sail around Kicker Rock (Leon Dormido), a massive tuff rock that juts abruptly almost 500 feet out from the ocean. Kicker Rock also serves as nesting place for many sea birds. Afterward, visit Cerro Brujo to walk on a white sand beach and observe sea lions, brown pelicans, marine iguanas and Blue-footed Boobies. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II. (BLD)*

JULY 30 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, go ashore and walk to Baroness Point, named for the Baroness Eloisa von Wagner. Enjoy the beautiful landscape and the ruins of her house then continue to Post Office Bay. This historic site recalls the days of 18th century whalers, who presumably placed a wooden barrel in this location to serve as a post office. Return to the yacht for lunch. In the afternoon, visit Point Cormorant for a short walk to the flamingo lagoon, followed by a visit to "La Piconá" beach to see marine turtles and their spawning grounds. Afterwards visit the Devil's Crown, a submerged volcano; for those who wish to snorkel, this is one of the best

snorkeling sites in the Islands. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II. (BLD)*

JULY 31 - GALÁPAGOS

Today we visit Punta Suarez (Española Island) to observe Waved Albatross courting, nesting and fledging (April to December). During our walk, enjoy spectacular scenery and if the tide is right, a blowhole, and other colonies of marine birds. In the afternoon visit Gardner Bay for a walk on the beach. Sea lions inhabit this beach in great quantity during the breeding season. Then, set out on a panga ride around the Osborn Islet and the islets of Gardner. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II. (BLD)*

AUGUST 1 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, disembark and take a bus to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island for a visit to the native forests of El Chato Reserve, then go to a farm to search for giant tortoises in the wild. After lunch on the farm return to Puerto Ayora to visit the Interpretation Center Fausto Llerena, within the Charles Darwin Research Station. Return to the yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation. *Overnight aboard Tip Top II. (BLD)*

AUGUST 2 - QUITO

One last boat ride this morning around Black Turtle Cove, a series of coves and islets surrounded by mangroves, where you can observe white-tipped reef sharks, marine turtles, spotted eagle rays, and yellow cow-nosed rays. Return to the yacht and disembark at the pier to take the bus directly to the Baltra airport for the return flight to Quito. A snack will be served on the flight. This afternoon is at leisure, followed by a farewell dinner will at the hotel. *Overnight at Rincón de Puembo. (BD)*

AUGUST 3 - FAREWELL!

Transfer to the airport for the flight home.

PROGRAM PRICING

\$5,645 (based on 10 participants)

Price includes accommodations, meals, activities and entrance fees as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, internal flights, local guides in each region of the program, donation to Buena Vista Audubon, and carbon offset.

Does not include international airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/ Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more.

Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy. For a single room (mainland portion only) add \$215 per person. A \$350 per person deposit and enrollment form are required by February 24, when the deposit becomes non-refundable. Final non-refundable payment is due on April 20, 2019. Progress payments accepted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Visit holbrook.travel/buenavista-gps19 or contact Debbie Jordan at debbie@holbrooktravel.com