GEEO ITINERARY

Galapagos 8/1/2027

Day 1: Quito Arrive in Quito at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. This tour begins and ends in Quito, and the nearest airport is **Mariscal Sucre International Airport (UIO)**.

We highly recommend that you plan to arrive in Quito at least a day in advance. If you experience flight issues and do not arrive before your group departs for the Galápagos Islands on Day 2, it can be very difficult and likely impossible for you to catch up with the group during the island hopping. We can book extra hotel nights for you in Quito before and/or after the trip, as well as optional day tours and excursions in and around Quito.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting
Hotel check-in is normally between 2–3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6–7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that someone can let you know where and when to meet the group.

After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions to further get to know one another.

What to do in Quito: Located 2,850 m (9,348 ft) above sea level, the Ecuadorian capital of Quito enjoys a wonderful spring-like climate even though it is only a few miles south of the Equator. The old city is full of historic buildings and churches. We recommend spending an extra day or two in Quito. See our optional activities information below for a better idea of what there is to see and do.

> **Joining Instructions**
> Taxi from Airport: ($30 USD | ~1hr) Book at the official taxi stand immediately after customs/immigration. This is the easiest option and uses set rates. Avoid taxis outside the terminal—they're not part of the Taxi Airport Union and may charge more.
> Shuttle + Taxi: ($13 USD total | ~1.5hrs) Take an Aeroservicios bus ($8 USD) from the new airport to the old airport, then a taxi ($5 USD) to your hotel. Buses are comfortable and often include WiFi.
> Pre-Paid Arrival Transfer: If you purchased a transfer with us, a G Adventures representative will meet you in front of the arrivals section with a sign displaying your name and the G Adventures Logo. There are often many people holding signs, so take time to locate yours. If you're not met or cannot make contact, visit the H.A.T.S. counter (Hotel and Airline Transportation Services) directly in front of the international arrivals area next to the taxi stand, call the emergency number on your trip voucher, or take a taxi to the hotel.
> *Note: The airport is ~1 hour from the city center. Routes may seem long and indirect depending on time of day and traffic*.

Day 2: Quito/Puerto Ayora Fly to the Galápagos Islands. Travel to the hotel in Santa Cruz. Later, visit the Charles Darwin Research Station.

We begin our trip with an early morning transfer to the airport in Quito and a flight to Santa Cruz Island, Galápagos, where we meet our friendly staff and check into the hotel in the town of Puerto Ayora, with a quick welcome meeting afterward.

The Galápagos Islands are located about 1,000 km (620 miles) off the Pacific coast of South America. Covering nearly 5,000 square km (3,100 square miles), the Galapagos Islands are now a National Park.

The archipelago is comprised of 13 major islands and scores of islets that served as a living laboratory for Charles Darwin, the renowned evolution theorist.

We visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, a science organization initiated in 1964, which works to preserve the Galápagos' ecosystem through the conservation efforts of scientists, researchers, and volunteers. While the offices themselves are not open to visitors, the research station provides a study location for international scientists and environmental education for the local community. We will observe many species of tortoises at the station's Fausto Llerena Breeding Center. Brought back from the brink of extinction, see the famous Galápagos tortoise up close – a corral houses adult tortoises, and a nursery cares for the young until around age three when their shells have hardened.

Approximate travel time: 3 hrs by plane
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 3: Puerto Ayora/Floreana Island Walk to "Las Grietas." Take a speedboat to nearby Floreana Island. Eat meals in a community restaurant.

In the morning of our first full day on the Islands, we walk through a cactus forest looking for Darwin finches and lava lizards on the way to Las Grietas, a local swimming hole, where the cool, bright turquoise water separates two volcanic cliffs. Fed by the ocean from one end and a river from the other, this unique, brackish pool is perfect for swimming.

In the afternoon, we hop on a speedboat to nearby Floreana Island. The history of Floreana Island (also called "Charles") has gradually evolved to reach near mythic proportions. The story begins when a baroness and her two lovers, a German doctor and his mistress, and a German couple and their young son all came to settle on this land. Their dalliances and disasters, shrouded in mystery, were chronicled in John Treherne's book *The Galapagos Affair*. Descendants of the German family, the Wittmers, still live on the island in the small community of Puerto Velasco Ibarra. Mrs. Margaret Wittmer has also written a book entitled *Floreana*, which can be purchased at the airport in Baltra or at a local bookstore.

Floreana Island is a small, isolated island. Many of its residents have been living there for the past three generations since the islands were first colonized. Its 150 residents have tried to benefit from the tourism boom, but since most tourism is marine-based and the boats don't stop in the village, they have struggled to find any opportunities. Our partner tour operator G Adventures is investing in community training and infrastructure to develop the first ecological, community tourism program in the Galápagos Islands that sees both the island's small entrepreneurs and its unique wildlife as the primary beneficiaries of this project.

To further benefit the community on Floreana Island, G Adventures has provided training to residents for all aspects of tourism, including food preparation and service. The community will provide your meals while staying on this small island. The meals are rotated between different community members in order to spread out the benefits of tourism. While eating at the community restaurants you will be contributing to the self-sufficiency of the first community tourism operator in the Galápagos.

Approximate travel time: 2 hrs by speed boat
Please note: Seas can be rough during this voyage, so please bring sea sickness medication to use as necessary.
Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Day 4: Floreana Island Walk to Loberia. Snorkeling or swim. Visit the highlands of Floreana. Enjoy guided educational walks.

Today, we start by walking along a black-sand beach to Loberia, where we enjoy snorkeling immediately off the beach and get up close to the diverse wildlife in the waters around the Galápagos. Please be aware: the water here can be rough and the currents strong, making swimming difficult (but not

impossible!) for even the strongest swimmers.

We then head up to the seldom-visited highlands of Floreana, where we will hear tales about the pirates, whalers, seal hunters, and buccaneers who once lived in this isolated and unique landscape. We will also learn about the birds, plants, and animals found on this small island.

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Day 5: Floreana Island/Isabela Island Travel to Isabela Island. Hike up Sierra Negra Volcano, walk around its rim.

After a tranquil night, we bid farewell to the mysterious Floreana Island and set off by speed boat to Isabela Island, where we check into our hotel.

Shaped like a seahorse, Isabela is the largest island in the Galápagos archipelago and stretches over 100 km, though it is also extremely narrow. It is also a very active island, with six active volcanoes found on Isabella – Alcedo, Cerro Azul, Darwin, Ecuador, Sierra Negra, and Wolf. All of these volcanoes, except Ecuador, are still active, and two of them are over 1,700 meters high – Wolf and Cerro Azul.

In the afternoon, we lace up our hiking boots in order to explore the Sierra Negra Volcano. As we reach the summit, we will circle the rim of the volcano, looking down into the largest basaltic caldera in the Galápagos. We will see smoking fumaroles and the “sulfur volcano” (large amounts of sulfur deposited around the fumaroles) along the way. This hike can be muddy and difficult, so if you aren’t in good shape, ask your tour leader whether they think you should go on the hike.

Approximate travel time: 2-2.5 hrs by speed boat
Please note: Seas can be rough during this voyage, so please bring sea sickness medication to use as necessary.
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6: Isabela Island Enjoy free time in the morning. Opt to take a wildlife boat excursion to "Islote Tintoreras." Visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding Center.

This morning, you can spend free time as you wish, with the option (for $45-50 USD) to take a wildlife boat excursion to “Islote Tintoreras,” a large crevice with clear, calm waters where marine iguanas swim and white-tip reef sharks (tintoreras) take their daily rest on the bottom. Spot pelicans, frigate birds, and diving blue-footed boobies, and keep an eye out for manta rays and rare Galápagos penguins, of which only 800 pairs of these lovable birds exist. You can even take the opportunity to snorkel to see Isabela’s underwater world up close.

Later, we walk through the town’s wetlands to visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding Center. We will pass basking iguanas and flamingos and head into the forest to see the gentle giants in their natural habitat. As the giant tortoise faced extinction, this program was established in the late 1950s to protect these noble creatures.

You can further explore the surroundings with a short walk to observe pink flamingos in the wetlands and catch a stunning Isabela sunset on the beach. Along the way, stop at a lookout point, and visit natural pools, beaches, and mangrove swamps. In the evening, relax at the bar or on the beach and, if you want, enjoy a drink at sunset.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7: Isabela Island/Puerto Ayora Return to Santa Cruz Island. Later, walk to

Tortuga Bay. Opt to kayak, take surf lessons, or swim.

This morning, we travel by speedboat back to Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island.

Once there, we enjoy the Tortuga Bay Hike along a lava stone pathway to the beautiful white beach of Tortuga Bay. You can relax on the beach, walk along the mangroves looking for marine iguanas and birdlife, or rent a kayak and explore this marine wonderland. Keep an eye out for Tintoreras sharks, sea turtles, and manta rays in the water's shallow areas.

You will also have free time to explore Puerto Ayora. Head to the lively fish market where sea lions, pelicans, and other birds drop by to see the daily catch.

You also have the option ($15 USD extra) to grab a life jacket and go for a kayak adventure in the mangroves of Tortuga Bay. If you choose to do so, you might catch a glimpse of some of the wide variety of marine life that calls the Islands home, including colorful reef fish, rays, and sea turtles. Relax afterward on the beautiful white sand beach and soak up some sun – you may even spot some iguanas also trying to catch some rays next to you on the shore.

In the evening, you have free time to sample some of the local restaurants and bars or do a little last-minute shopping.

Approximate travel time: 2-3 hrs by speed boat
Please note: Seas can be rough during this voyage, so please bring sea sickness medication to use as necessary.
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8: Puerto Ayora/Quito Fly to Quito. Enjoy a free evening.

This morning, we take a private van to the ferry terminal on Santa Cruz Island, before taking a short ferry to Baltra. Upon arrival in Quito, transfer to the hotel for a final night in town. The G Adventures representative in Quito will be able to arrange many of the available day tours in and around Quito if you have time to spare.

Approximate travel time: 3 hrs by plane
Meals included: Breakfast

Day 9: Quito Depart Quito at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Quito at any time. If you wish to extend your stay in Quito, consider requesting post-trip accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

Meals included: Breakfast

Want more adventure? Book two or more GEEO programs in the same school year and receive 10% off the lesser value program(s), up to 3 programs per year.
Interested in extending your time abroad? Beyond our educator programs, we can also help you book from G Adventures' extensive catalog of tours. These tours aren't tailored to educators the way our programs are, but booking through GEEO means you'll receive a discounted educator rate while supporting our nonprofit work.

Where you'll stay

The hotels listed below reflect the properties expected to be used for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:

Day 1 Quito (Aug 1): Hotel Eugenia

Day 2 Puerto Ayora (Aug 2): Hotel Coloma

Day 3 Floreana Island (Aug 3): G-Supported Floreana Community Guesthouse

Day 4 Floreana Island (Aug 4): G-Supported Floreana Community Guesthouse

Day 5 Puerto Villamil (Aug 5): Hotel Iguana

Day 6 Puerto Villamil (Aug 6): Hotel Iguana

Day 7 Puerto Ayora (Aug 7): Hotel Coloma

Day 8 Quito (Aug 8): Hotel Eugenia

****Itinerary Disclaimer****: While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*