



Galapagos Explorer

Culture, wildlife and stunning volcanic landscapes of the world's most enchanting islands

Creatures we hope to see: Marine iguanas, Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, flamingos, Galapagos Darwin's finches (several species), Galapagos penguin, greater flamingo, black-necked stilt, Galapagos giant tortoises (both in captivity and in their natural environment), white-tipped reef shark, black-tipped reef shark, Galapagos reef shark, spotted eagle ray, stingrays, and several species of tropical fish. It's also possible to see several species of whales (humpback, pilot and orca), bottle-nosed dolphins, and giant rays.

ITINERARY OUTLINE

Trip Essence / Page 2

Trip Introduction / Page 3

Daily Itinerary / Page 4-7

Photography Guide / Page 8

Arrival & Departure / Page 9

Terms & Conditions / Page 10

TRIP CONTACT

Lauren Hefferon
617-640-4837
Lauren@ciclismoclassico.com

GALAPAGOS MAGIC 2018

Ability Level: Easy / Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

TRIP ESSENCE

- You will have the chance to photograph those species that amaze Darwin
- Learn and practice Nature Photography. Daily classes with Ossian Lindholm.
- Swim with seals, turtles, exotic fish and an occasional friendly shark
- Walk pristine white sandy beaches
- Daily sunrises, sunsets and starry nights
- Be awestruck by fantastic volcanic landscapes
- Experience one of the world's best conservation success story
- Learn from the island's experts about Darwin's laboratory of evolution
- Be transfixed, transformed and forever inspired by the friendly creatures that welcome us to this magical place

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All accommodations
- All meals
- Daily photography instruction and one-one-one coaching with Ossian Lindholm, one of Argentina's most renowned nature photographers
- Galapagos naturalist guide
- All accommodations
- All meals
- Bottled water and snacks
- Tips for carriers and porters
- Educational tours and visits
- Airport transfers
- Internal flights (Guayaquil-Galapagos-Guayaquil)
- Internal flights (Baltra-Isabela)

TRIP DETAILS

2018 Trip Date

- Aug 30-Sep 6

Ability Level

- Easy

Trip Price

- \$4,500
- Single Supplement: \$630

EQUIPMENT

For Hikes

- Robust walking shoes (with rubber soles)
- Outdoor clothing suitable for both cool mountain and tropical climates
- Lightweight outdoor activity gear
- Rain protection gear
- Sun protection and insect repellent

For Photography

- Body SLR or compact digital camera, iPhone
- Wide-angle lens
- Laptop (for selecting images)
- Tripod

TRIP INTRODUCTION

Straddling the equator some 600 miles west of mainland Ecuador are Las Islas Encantadas, or the Enchanted Islands. Better known as the Galapagos Archipelago, these pristine and exotic islands are a nature lover's paradise and one of the most unique and coveted photographic destinations in the world. What makes these isles so perfect for photography adventures are their unique wildlife and beautiful tropical scenery. The Galapagos Islands matter because it's here that you experience Darwin's discoveries up close and witness the incredible story of natural diversity and how it helped to shake and shape scientific history.

You will enjoy the teachings of a full-time Galapagos naturalist and the one-on-one instruction by world-class nature photographer Ossian Lindholm. You will not only relax as you enjoy their impeccable service, you will visit the islands at the most ideal times, all thanks to over 30 years of experience perfecting the island hopping itinerary experience.

This exclusive tour offers you total immersion in this natural world, one that's truly primeval. Here, lizards, penguins, and blue-footed boobies share the beach with us, unconcerned by our presence. You'll capture amazing memories as you walk along bright, white sandy beaches framed by crystal-clear aqua waters, or try world-class snorkeling at Kicker Rock.

Our daily rest periods will allow precious teaching moments and one-on-one reviews with master photographer Ossian Lindholm.

Throughout this very special adventure, your camera becomes the third eye you need to view and capture this rare destination up close. Every step of the way, you'll receive hands-on instruction and guidance from Ossian, who will ensure you have plenty of opportunities to get the perfect shot of a hummingbird, a blue-footed booby, or a barking seal. You'll also have plenty of time to review your photos with him and he'll provide useful feedback on how to edit and make your photographic vision come alive.

From the people to the scenery to the wildlife, you will experience Las Islas Encantadas from the most privileged points of view and return home a better photographer with the most precious photos you have ever taken. We can guarantee that you will be forever transformed and enchanted by these islands. So, get ready to capture paradise on the photographic adventure journey of a lifetime!



DAY 1

ARRIVAL AND CERRO MESA

Accommodation - Galapagos Altair Lodge

- Location: Quito
- Duration: 5 Nights
- Website: <https://www.booking.com/hotel/ec/galapagos-altair-lodge.html>
- **Meals** - Lunch, Dinner

Highlights

Your guide will meet you at the airport to assist you with crossing the canal, from there a vehicle will transfer you to the hotel. You will have a chance to settle in, relax for a bit, take a dip in the pool, and have lunch. After lunch, visit Cerro Mesa Reserve. Cerro Mesa Reserve is a private reserve that is home to many endemic trees and plants. The reserve has a few trail networks where one can observe finches, flycatchers, mockingbirds, Galapagos doves, and other birds. There is also a trail that descends to the bottom of the crater. Before leaving the area, we recommend walking or driving up to the top of the Cerro where you will be awarded with fantastic views of the island. Return to the hotel for a welcome dinner and cocktail.

DAY 2

TORTUGA BAY AND CHARLES DARWIN STATION

Accommodation - See Day 1

- **Meals** - Breakfast, Snack, Lunch

Highlights

Today will be a very early start, departing the hotel at 5:45am. There will be a light breakfast served at 5:15 am. Arrive at the entrance trail to Tortuga Bay at 6am when the gate opens. This is the best time to visit this beach. A 30 min walk along a trail that is 2.5 km long will bring you to this stunning beach. Along the trail to the beach one can appreciate the tall Opuntia cacti forests and also spot many birds such as finches, warblers and mockingbirds.

You will continue to walk along the beach towards the end of the long beach, where there is an iguana colony that can be best appreciated early in the morning or late in the day. Further along, there is a path to a smaller beach where often one can spot sharks or rays swimming in the water. The total walk from the beginning of the trail to the small beach is about 4 km. After spending some time exploring the beach there will be a chance to rest, have some snacks, or go for a swim.

There will be a boat transport arranged to bring you back to town via water. On arrival in town, your guide will accompany you to a local restaurant for lunch. After lunch, you will continue on to the Charles Darwin Station where you will visit the tortoise and iguana breeding centers and learn about conservation efforts in the Galapagos. You will have the rest of the afternoon free to explore the town. At the appropriate time there will be a transfer back to the hotel.

There will be dinner available at the hotel, but you may choose to have dinner in town. A taxi to or from town is \$8 and can seat 4 people.

DAY 3

TOUR TO ONE OF THE UNINHABITED ISLANDS

Accommodation - See Day 1

- **Meals** - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Highlights

In the morning you will be taken to the canal where you will board the motor yacht and then head out to one of the many uninhabited islands surrounding Santa Cruz.

NORTH SEYMOUR / LAS BACHAS, AM: North Seymour Island was lifted from the ocean floor by a seismic event, reason why its low, flat profile. Swallow-tailed gulls sit perched in ledges of the cliffs only a few meters high from the shoreline. A forest of Palo Santo trees stand just above the landing site, usually without leaves, waiting for the rain to bring them into bloom. Amongst the emblematic fauna of the island you will be able to see sea lions, land iguanas and blue footed boobies. The trail turns inland where you will find active and dynamic colonies of both species of "magnificent" and "great" frigate birds.

PM: Las Bachas, a beautiful coralline beach located on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, is the perfect place for practicing snorkeling, swimming or to simply enjoy the white soft sand. Several brackish lagoons only a few steps away from the sea are the feeding grounds of various wading birds, from stilts to flamingos.

Activities: Walking / Wet landing

After returning to the dock, you will then be transferred back to the hotel in the late afternoon.

****PLEASE NOTE:** Order of days may change depending on availability of day tours.

DAY 4

VISIT LOS GEMELOS SINK HOLES, MANZANILLO TORTOISE RESERVE AND EL GARRAPATERO

Accommodation - See Day 1

- **Meals** - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Highlights

After an early breakfast your guide will pick you up to take you to the Gemelos Sink holes, located on one of the highest points on the island. The two sink holes are surrounded by endemic Scalesia forests and is a wonderful habitat for bromeliads, orchids and many birds. This is also native habitat for the elusive vermilion flycatcher.

You will enjoy wonderful views of the craters and spend some time walking and exploring the trails.

Afterwards, we will visit El Manzanillo Reserve to see the tortoises in their natural habitat. This reserve has a network of trails and is home to many giant tortoises. There is also a small lagoon that is home to Galapagos ducks and other small birds.

Return to the hotel for lunch and a rest. Later in the afternoon we will visit El Garrapatero Beach. Along the way you will notice the vegetation change from highland farmland to lowland endemic forests. On arrival at the beach you will have the opportunity to go on an interpretive walk. There is a small lagoon behind the beach where you can sometimes see flamingos, and often other lagoon birds. You will have some time to explore the beach on your own or go for a swim.

Dinner included at hotel.

DAY 5

DAY TOUR TO ONE OF THE UNINHABITED ISLANDS

Accommodation - See Day 1

- **Meals** - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner in town (transfer back to hotel not included)

Highlights

In the morning you will be taken to the canal where you will board the motor yacht and then head out to one of the many uninhabited islands surrounding Santa Cruz.

SOUTH PLAZAS (or SANTA FE), AM: You will have the possibility of snorkeling in the calm waters of Punta Carrión where you will be able to observe a variety of tropical fish and possibly white tip reef sharks that peacefully rest on the sandy bottom.

Activities: Snorkeling

PM: Located a few hundred meters away from the Eastern cost of Santa Cruz Island, South Plazas and North Plazas islands were formed from uplifted seabed, giving it a tilted tabletop quality. You will disembark on South Plazas where you will be greeted by a colony of sea lions. Further up the shore a carpet of scarlet sesuvium succulents serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus. Yellow-gray land iguanas sit beneath, waiting patiently for pears to drop. The trail takes you gradually towards the southern cliff of the island where you will be able to observe nesting swallow-tailed gulls and several sea birds such as tropic birds, Nazca and blue footed boobies fly by.

Activities: Walking / Dry landing

After returning to the dock, you will then be transferred back to the hotel in the late afternoon. At appropriate time, transfer to town for farewell dinner.

DAY 6

TRANSFER TO SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND, VISIT TO EL JUNCO AND CERRO TIJERETAS

Accommodation - Casa Blanca or similar

- Location: Puerto Baquerizo Moreno
- Duration: 2 Nights
- Website: https://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g297531-d662511-r433716362-Casa_Blanca-Puerto_Baquerizo_Moreno_San_Cristobal_Galapagos_Islands.html
- **Meals** - Breakfast, Lunch

Highlights

After an early breakfast you will be taken to the dock to board the speed boat to San Cristobal Island. The boat departs at 7am. Upon arrival in San Cristobal you will be met by your local guide who will escort you to your hotel. You will have a chance to leave your belongings before continuing on to the highlands of San Cristobal where you will visit El Junco Lagoon. El Junco Lagoon (technically a crater lake) is located at 659 meters above sea level and a walk along the edge of the crater gives visitors a 360 degrees view of the island. This fresh water lagoon is a great place to see frigate birds skimming the surface while cleaning the salt water off their wings.

Lunch included in the highlands.

After lunch, you will descend back to town and visit Cerro Tijeretas lookout point and the many surrounding trails where you are rewarded with great views. This area is also home to nesting frigate birds.

Return to town to enjoy the sunset. In the evening, we recommend taking a walk along the pier. The town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno is situated next to a very active sea lion colony with hundreds of resident sea lions. At night there is hardly any space left on the beach in front of the town and it is quite a spectacle to watch.

Dinner on your own.

DAY 7

FULL DAY TOUR TO ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

Accommodation - See Day 6

- **Meals** - Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Highlights

On this day, we venture a little further out to Española Island. First we visit Punta Suarez; from April to December the Waved Albatross make their nests here. It is also the only place in the Galapagos where you can observe this magnificent bird. Due to their massive wing span (8.2 ft / 250 cm) it can be quite tricky for them to land and take off. Sometimes you will see them launch themselves off the side of the island to gain a little extra lift. The island is also home to blue-footed boobies and Nazca boobies, along with several other bird species.

Then we head to Gardner Bay for snorkelling. Here there is a good chance to see rays, sharks, turtles and many more tropical fish here. On the journey back to port, there is a chance to see dolphins or whales swimming by, if we are lucky!

DAY 8

DEPARTURE

Meals - Breakfast

Highlights

At the appropriate time you will be picked up from your hotel and taken to the airport for your flight to Quito.



MEET YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDES

Ossian Lindholm is a renowned nature photographer from Tucuman, Argentina. Trained as an Agronomist, many years ago he turned his deep passion for nature to photography. In his work as a photographer, teacher and documentary filmmaker, he is dedicated to capturing, preserving, conserving, sharing and sustaining the landscape, nature and culture of Argentina in its most pristine state.

Ossian has published five books, 14 calendars and he teaches photography courses throughout the year. Since 1998 he has been leading groups of photographers and naturalists on photographic journeys throughout his native Argentina.

For the past four years has been the host of a very popular weekly nature TV documentary called Travesia Fotograficas. In each show He hopes to educate and inspire people to love, protect and keep sacred the places where they live using images, words and music to touch peoples' emotional core.

During his early years he loved reading National Geographic Magazine; it had a profound impact on him. It was his first inspiration and he became continually was drawn by nature photography. He went to college to pursue a career in agricultural engineering and here he began to develop a strong connection with the biological sciences that continues to be a strong influence in all his work. After obtaining his degree he worked for many years as a scientist but in 1998 he decided to dedicate himself to nature photography.

At this time he began working as a photography and nature guide which allowed him to travel around Argentina and connect with other photographers and biologists in the world.



After graduating in anthropology from Cornell University, **Lauren Hefferon** studied fine arts in Florence and cycled over 35,000 miles throughout Europe. She founded Ciclismo Classico in 1988 and drives all visionary aspects of the company, from itinerary design and tour leader training to marketing and company strategy.

Her latest creation, Travel Vision Journeys was born from her love of photography and insatiable curiosity to find the most authentic cultural experiences as well as the most gorgeous views has served her well in designing exclusive learning experiences for the adventurous traveler.

Lauren is considered a pioneer in adventure and educational travel and has been an advisor to the Adventure Travel World Summit, a panelist at the annual National Bike Summit Panel on Tourism, and founded the annual Ciclismo Classico Bike Travel Film Festival.



Under Hefferon's leadership, Ciclismo Classico and Travel Vision Journeys has blossomed into one of the top companies in the adventure travel industry, garnering awards from Outside magazine and National Geographic Traveler, and being named one of Boston's top 100 woman-Led businesses three years running.

Hefferon has been profiled by Entrepreneur magazine, and her tours have been featured in an array of media outlets, ranging from USA Today and The Wall Street Journal, to Bicycling, CNN.com and Forbes.

As a specialized boutique bicycle tour operator since 1988, her companies provide the most authentic, unique and exciting vacations in the adventure travel industry. Her award-winning educational trips in Europe, South America, New Zealand, Asia and New England are active immersions into local art, language, music, folklore and delicious cuisine.

GALAPAGOS MAGIC 2018

Ability Level: Easy / Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

Travel VISION
CAPTURE YOUR PASSION™

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE

GETTING TO QUITO

Fly to Mariscal Sucre International Airport (UIO) in Quito, where we'll meet you and transfer you to our first hotel near the airport.

DEPARTING FROM QUITO

On our last day together, we'll be flying from Baltra to Quito (UIO) to make your international connections.

OTHER INFORMATION

For Flight Reservations

Valerie Wilson Travel

Call: 1-855-780-2022 or

E-mail: ciclismoair@vwti.com

Travel Insurance

MH Ross

Call: 1-800-423-3632

http://bit.ly/MHRoss_Insurance

Transportation

Rome2rio

<http://www.rome2rio.com>



INSURANCE, TERMS & CONDITIONS

Insurance

Ciclismo Classico will not assume responsibility or liability for any loss or damage of personal effects or for any injury or loss during the duration of the tour. Therefore, we highly recommend that you obtain travel insurance. Information on travel insurance will be sent to you via email once trip deposit is received. We recommend MH Ross, but travelers may choose the insurance carrier of their choice.

Cancellations and Refunds

All requests for refunds must be submitted in writing as soon as possible to Ciclismo Classico. Exceptions to their cancellation policy cannot be made for any reason, including weather or personal emergencies. There is no refund for unexpectedly leaving a trip early or arriving late. The purchase of short-term travel insurance policy is strongly recommended. Cancellation fees are determined as follows:

Days before departure – Cancellation fee

91+ days - 50% of the deposit*

61-90 days - 30% of the trip price

31-60 days - 60% of the trip price

0-30 days - 100% of the trip price

*You may transfer your trip deposit to another departure in the same tour season up to 90 days before your original departure with payment of a \$100 per person transfer fee. Prices quoted are subject to adjustment without prior notification. OR your deposit (\$600) may be rolled over to the following year as a credit towards the final balance of a tour. At the time of booking, we will ask for another \$600 deposit to secure your spot.

Alterations to the tour itinerary

Sometimes modifications may be made to the itinerary. We will notify you of any changes that may affect your arrival, departure or lodging. Any changes to the program are made in the best interest and safety of the group.

To review our policies, please visit <http://www.ciclismoclassico.com/plan-your-trip/policies/>

RESERVE YOUR SPACE!

To reserve a space, call Ciclismo Classico at **800-866-7314** or Lauren Hefferon at **617-640-4837**. You may also mail your deposit and contact information to:

Ciclismo Classico

attn: Rosa

30 Marathon St

Arlington, MA 02474

At the time of registration, a deposit of \$600 per person is due, payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express or check, made payable to **Ciclismo Classico**, along with your full name, mailing address, phone number(s) and email address. We cannot confirm reservations without a deposit. Final payment is due 90 days before departure payable by check, credit card, wire transfer or money order. All travelers must review and sign a terms and conditions statement and a waiver form.