

WILD GALAPAGOS

PHOTO TOUR

ITINERARY

OCTOBER 21ST - OCTOBER 29TH 2024





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PHOTO TOUR

OCTOBER 21-29, 2024

The Galapagos Islands is a bucket list location for many photographers. Wildlife is abundant, and the lack of natural predators has left the animals fearless of humans. From the playful sea lion pups to the famous Darwin finches, this trip will allow close up opportunities rarely found elsewhere in the world.

This trip is open to all, no matter where you hail from and no matter what your level of experience in photography. The trip will concentrate on above-water photography but there will be some opportunities for snorkeling and underwater photography for those interested. We expect most photographers will be using interchangeable-lens cameras with lenses reaching out to 300mm or further.

John and Michelle will be your photo guides and instructors in the field, available to answer and help with all photography related questions. Image reviews and critiques will allow for sharing and learning experiences. A certified bilingual naturalist guide is also at your disposal for the duration of the cruise.

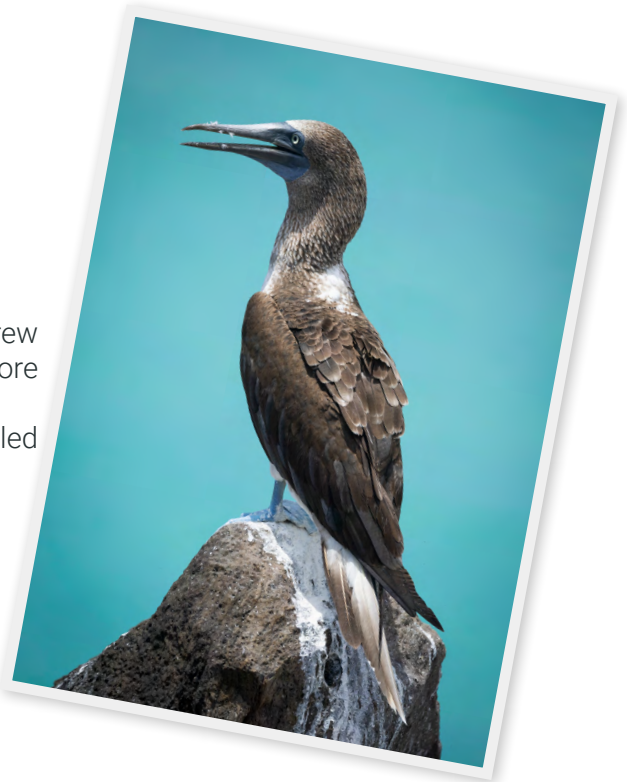
Elegant and comfortable, the Natural Paradise ship offers nine cabins, four with private balconies; for a total of 16 guests. John Greengo Photography Tours has secured the exclusive use of the ship and world-class crew. Her social areas include a beautiful teak sundeck with Jacuzzi and a cozy al fresco dining. On the main deck you will find the dining room and a spacious lounge with a large screen for presentations and image sharing. Snorkeling equipment, wetsuits and sea kayaks are available on board.

Days are filled with a combination of hiking, panga rides, snorkeling and kayaking - whatever is most appropriate to capture the best shots possible. Transferring between ship and panga, with the assistance of the crew, will require a bit of balance; as well as some of the walks over uneven lava terrain. Walks are usually not very long leaving ample time for your photography. Come prepared to get a little wet when disembarking pangas at "wet landings" - approx. 1 foot deep water.

COVID-19 Note: Please be certain that you are aware of all the most recent requirements relating to your travel – in your home State/Country/Municipality, any countries you are transiting, and your final destination.

Highlights

- Numerous opportunities for close-up wildlife photography
- Tour and schedule customized for photographers
- Small group of 10-14 travelers
- 2 photography guides, 1 bilingual naturalist, small ship with 10 crew
- Visits to a wide variety of the islands including some of the more isolated locations
- Onboard and in-the-field photography lessons and tips, sprinkled throughout the trip
- Excellent service and delicious meals
- Spacious cabins with internet service available



Day 1

Oct 21

Quito, Ecuador

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Upon your arrival at Quito airport, transfer to our nearby hotel. After checking into your room, wind down from your flight, relax by the indoor pool, or workout in the fitness center. At your leisure, you can then make your way to the hotel restaurant for a buffet dinner. We will all gather in the hotel lobby at 8pm for a meet 'n greet and welcome drinks.

Retire early tonight; we have an early start tomorrow.

Day 2

Oct 22

Natural Paradise

Baltra Island, Eden Islet

LD

This morning, the group will gather in the hotel lobby at 5:20am for our transfer to Quito airport. We will go through a few special check-in procedures for the Galapagos Islands and board our flight.

Once arriving in Galapagos, we will make our way through immigration and then transfer to our luxury yacht, where we will settle in before lunch, and a welcome and safety briefing.

Our first activity takes place after lunch, with a panga ride (dinghy) at Eden Islet, off the western coast of Santa Cruz Island. This is our first opportunity to photograph the popular Blue-footed Booby and Nazca Booby.

After a busy day, get rocked to sleep while we sail overnight across the equator.



Day 3

Oct 23

Natural Paradise

BLD

Isabela Island, Fernandina Island

The largest island in the Galapagos archipelago, Isabela Island, was formed when extensive lava flows of six volcanoes joined to make an island - in the shape of a seahorse. This morning we will visit our first Isabela Island site, Vicente Roca Point, located at the chin of that seahorse.

On our morning panga ride at Vicente Roca Point, sea lions play around (and under) the panga, marine iguanas soak up the morning sun, and a variety of birds sit on, and soar above, the rocky shoreline - Brown Pelican, Blue-footed Booby, Great Frigatebird, terns, as well as Galapagos Penguin; the only penguin to be found in the Northern hemisphere.

Back on board, we'll have a scrumptious morning tea. All those that are interested in snorkeling will take part in gear distribution and the safety briefing prior to us going back out on the pangas. There will be a snorkeling opportunity here in the area's calm water where you can swim with the Sea Turtles.

In the afternoon we embark on our first landing, on Fernandina Island, the archipelago's youngest and most volcanically active island. The westernmost island, it is one of the few that have escaped invasion by introduced species, and as a result the island's pristine ecosystem has been preserved. Espinoza Point is the island's only landing site and is arguably one of the best in the archipelago. The mass of Marine Iguanas, Sea Lions, and Sally Lightfoot Crabs means we must carefully negotiate our path through on the hardened lava flows. This location is also one of the biggest nesting sites of the Flightless Cormorant.

We finish the day with a briefing from our naturalist guide and an image review with John, ending with a photography Q&A.

Saying farewell to Fernandina Island, we sail, overnight, through the Bolivar Channel; one of the best places to see whales in the Galapagos.



Day 4

Oct 24

Natural Paradise

BLD

Isabela Island

Our morning activity is at Urbina Bay on Isabela Island - one of the many visitor sites in the archipelago that is exclusively available to Galapagos cruise guests (no land based tour operators allowed). This location is our first chance at photographing, up-close, the famous Galapagos Giant Tortoise and the Land Iguana. From the moment we land on the beach and through the nature trail there is ample opportunity to capture images of the shoreline birds - from Flightless Cormorants to Galapagos Hawks.

Moreno Point, also on Isabela Island, will be our afternoon stop. Here we have a slightly longer walk on ancient lava flows. Lava rocks can be difficult to negotiate; the terrain is uneven, so care should be taken. You will be rewarded with a mangrove that is frequented by flamingoes, White-checked Pintails, and cranes.



Day 5

Oct 25

Natural Paradise

BLD

Isabela Island

Today is our final day on the magnificent Isabela Island, spending most of our time in and around the island's main town, Port Villamil. We start with a 30 minute bus ride to the start of our hike to Sierra Negra Volcano's caldera; an impressive 6.2 miles (10 km) wide. The site offers impressive views and the opportunity to photograph up to seven species of finches. It is pleasantly cooler in the highlands, and our hike to the caldera is frequently muddy and misty.

In the afternoon we can witness life in the town; visit the historical site called "Wall of Tears" - constructed by penal colony prisoners; walk through the nearby wetlands. To end the day we'll visit the Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center - created to protect animals in their first years of life from the threats of foreign species such as pigs and donkeys. Giant tortoise eggs are collected and brought to the center where they are hatched and kept for five years before being released to their natural environment; an effort to restore the ecological balance that is inspiring.

Today is capped off with an image review.

Day 6

Oct 26

Natural Paradise

BLD

Chinese Hat Islet, Mosquera Islet

To start the day, we visit Chinese Hat, a small islet located near the southeast coast of Santiago Island. The islet's name comes from the distinct shape of the its summit. It is a great location to view many geological formations such as lava tubes and lava flows, some of which were formed underwater and subsequently raised above sea level. The presence of coral heads on the lava flow makes this a great site for snorkeling with an abundance of marine species, marine iguanas and sea lions. A hike on the islet provides impressive views and opportunities to see Galapagos Hawks.

Mosquera Islet, located between the islands of Baltra and North Seymour, is our afternoon location. The white-sand beaches of this tiny island are yours to explore. Expect to see a large variety of wildlife - including sea lions, crabs, and many shorebird species. There have been occasional reports of Orcas at this site.



Day 7

Oct 27

Natural Paradise

BLD

Floreana Island, Champion Islet

Today is dedicated solely to Floreana Island; the smallest of the four human-inhabited islands in the archipelago. It was the first of the Galapagos islands to support a permanent human population, and has a mysterious history.

We'll make landings at a few different locations on and around the island; Post Office Bay being the most well-known. In the 18th century whalers passing through the islands placed a wooden barrel on Floreana Island for use as an unofficial mail box. The tradition continues today as visitors leave addressed postcards in the barrel and sort through left mail to deliver upon their return home.

In the afternoon, we visit Cormorant Point, a site that hosts a large flamingo lagoon where other birds such as common stilts and white-cheeked pintails can also be seen. A short walk will take us from one side of the peninsula to the other, stopping at lagoon viewpoints on our way. The beaches on this island are distinct: one named for its green color, with the "Four Sand Beach" composed of white coral.

Champion Islet is our final site for the day. It's a small island and is considered one of the most beautiful places in the Galapagos for snorkeling and offers an excellent opportunity for dolphin watching.



Day 8

Oct 28

Natural Paradise

BLD

Espanola Island

Overnight, we sail to the remote island of Espanola. At the western tip of the island, Suarez Point is a great area for spotting the Blue-footed Booby and Nazca Booby. A dry landing leads us to a trail towards cliffs. This ideal site for photographic opportunities is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of Waved Albatrosses; the albatrosses use the cliffs as a launching pad. This site is teeming with birdlife; hawks, oystercatchers and finches, to name a few.

Unique to Espanola is a marine iguana subspecies, nicknamed "Christmas Iguana", that are splotched with bright red and green colors around the end of the year.

In the afternoon we'll explore the white sand beach of Gardner Bay, where you can often see the Espanola Mockingbird. Endemic to Espanola, it is the only carnivorous mockingbird species. Sea Lions, Marine Iguanas and Sally Lightfoot Crabs congregate at the eastern end of the beach.

On our final night of the cruise we will have a final image review and celebratory dinner.

Day 9

Oct 29

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Lobos Island, San Cristobal Island

Waking up on our final day of the tour we head to, the aptly named, Lobos Island - "Sea Lion Island". The noisy sea lions frolic in the shallow water and pull ashore to snuggle with their pups. A tricky walking path through marine iguanas basking in the sun leads you to the nesting grounds of Blue-footed Boobies and frigatebirds.

Later in the morning, we disembark from our home on the Natural Paradise, and arrive at the Galapagos Islands' capital, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, on San Cristobal Island. This island was Charles Darwin's first stop on his voyage of the archipelago in 1835.

To end the trip, enjoy the free time exploring the town and the shoreline walks or visit the Interpretation Center. Later in the morning we head to the airport for our flight back to Quito on the mainland.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW





PRICE & INCLUSIONS

Tour prices (in USD):

Standard cabins 2&3: \$9,900 per person (double/twin share)

Junior suites 8&9: \$10,900 per person (double/twin share)

Standard cabin 5: \$11,200 for 1 person (single occupancy cabin)

Standard cabin 4: \$11,400 for 1 person (single occupancy cabin)

Master suites 6&7: \$11,900 per person (double share)

NOTE: John Greengo Photography Tours intends to deliver the tour as advertised. However, the nature of adventure travel is inherently uncertain. Changes to the itinerary may occur as a result of events such as uncertain weather and animal behaviour.

INCLUDED

- 8 nights accommodation (1 night in Quito, 7 nights on luxury yacht)
- In-country flights between Quito and Galapagos Islands
- All breakfast, lunch and dinners (BLD), as per itinerary
- All scheduled transportation within Ecuador mainland and islands
- Galapagos bilingual naturalist guide
- Photographic guides - John & Michelle
- Tips/gratuities for drivers, local guides & ship crew
- All Galapagos Island entry fees (National Park, TCT transit card)
- Purified or bottled drinking water

NOT INCLUDED

- Transportation/airfares into and out of Quito - for the tour start/end.
- Passport & visa costs.
- Extension/optional tours, laundry, hotel incidentals such as movies, room service, all beverages including alcoholic beverages or mini-bar, phone, fax, internet fees and excess baggage charges. Any items not specifically listed as included.
- Breakfast on day 2 (22nd Oct) and lunch on day 9 (29th Oct).
- Insurance: It is highly recommend that you purchase travel/tour cancellation/medical insurance.
- Any items specifically not listed in the itinerary.

DEPOSITS & PAYMENTS

A \$1,500 (single occupancy cabin) or \$3,000 (double/twin cabin) deposit initially holds your spot(s). Following the deposit payment, you will be emailed a *Registration Pack*. Please return your completed *Registration Forms* within 7 days of receiving the email to fully secure your reservation. Deposits are accepted via the John Greengo Photography [shop page](#), where we accept a range of credit cards and other payment types (eg: ShopPay, PayPal, etc.).

An interim payment of 40% of the total tour price is due on April 19th, 2024. An invoice will be emailed to you with the details.

Final payment is due on June 21st, 2024.

Final payments are to be made to "John Greengo Photography Tours LLC" either by check or bank transfer. Specific payment details will be provided to participants closer to the due date.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations must be made in writing.

Cancellations made:

- before March 24th, 2024 will receive a full refund minus a \$100 administration fee
- from March 24th, 2024 to April 20th, 2024 (inclusive) will forfeit \$750 (50% of tour deposit)
- from April 21st, 2024 to June 22nd, 2024 (inclusive) will forfeit 50% of the total tour price
- after June 22nd, 2024 will forfeit the entire (100%) cost of the tour

There is no refund for any unused portions of the tour program once tour has commenced.

In the case that cancellations reduce the group size to below the minimum on which costs are based (currently 10 paying PAX), we reserve the right to either (a) offer the program with certain cost-reducing alternatives in accommodations, itinerary and/or services, (b) charge a supplement based on the actual costs for the final number of participants, (c) cancel the trip.

AGE

All participants under the age of eighteen (18) years must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. We reserve the right to refuse minors, where we believe their participation would negatively impact the group. We recommend that interested parties should contact us at tours@johngreengo.com to discuss a minor's appropriateness for the tour prior to paying a deposit.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

Good physical and mental health is essential for the enjoyment of the tour. This is an active tour and involves walking over uneven surfaces and transferring from ship to panga (dingy) in moving waters; balance is critically important. With the tour being based on a small ship seasickness is a possibility.

The cruise is obviously at sea level, however the tour starts and ends in Quito which has an elevation of 9,350 feet (2,850 meters). Some travelers may experience issues with the altitude.

You must advise us, in writing, of any physical limitations or concerns or any special electronic medical equipment you are bringing not less than 120 days in advance of travel.

At any time before or during the tour, John Greengo Photography Tours LLC & John Greengo Photography LLC (collectively referred to in this document as "**JGP**") may, but are not obligated to, make a determination that a participant's fitness, health or behaviour to embark upon, participate in, or continue the tour is inadequate. In that case, the participant may be prohibited from embarking, continuing, or participating in all or any portion of the tour.

Medical Considerations: If you have any medical or psychological conditions, it's very important that you let us know well before departure so that we can work with you as much as possible. Tour leaders have the right to disqualify anyone at any time during the trip if they feel the tour participant is incapable of continuing and/or if a tour participant's continued participation jeopardizes the group's or the their own safety. Under these circumstances, refunds are not given. Certain medical devices may result in the necessity of a single room for special electrical supplements and services.

INSURANCE

Personal, travel-related medical insurance is **required for all participants** at the time of travel. Your insurance must provide coverage against personal accident, death, medical expenses, air ambulance, loss of effects, emergency repatriation, and all other expenses which might arise as a result of any loss damage, injury, delay or inconvenience relating to the Tour.

Trip Protection: It is highly recommended that you also obtain comprehensive trip insurance upon making a deposit for the tour – covering medical expense, trip cancellation and interruption, cancel for any reason, emergency evacuation/repatriation, and loss of baggage.

PASSPORT & VISA

A valid passport is required for all travelers and must be valid 6 months after return to your home country.

All tour participants are responsible for checking with the appropriate embassies or consulates to determine if any visas are needed. Where visas are required, we strongly recommend they be obtained before departure. Securing visas is the responsibility of each tour participant. It is of utmost importance that all travelers thoroughly check visa requirements before their intended date of travel. **JGP** and/or our suppliers cannot be held responsible by participants who do not meet visa requirements.

AUTHORITY ON TOUR

This tour is run by **JGP** in collaboration with the cruise company and naturalist guide; all three parties being the authority on all decisions that affect the health, safety, and/or wellbeing of tour participants. Any decisions made by the ship captain, cruise director, naturalist guide, or **JGP** are final.

If you fail to comply with a decision made by the ship crew, naturalist guide, or **JGP**, or interfere with the well-being of the tour or any tour participant, the ship captain, cruise director, or **JGP** may direct you to leave the tour immediately and you shall have no right to any refund. You must, at all times, comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange, drug and other regulations of all countries and destinations visited on the tour.

TRAVEL ADVISORY & WARNINGS

It is the responsibility of the traveler to become informed on the most current travel advisories and warnings of your country's government (for USA citizens: US State Department's travel website at www.travel.state.gov/ or call at 1(888) 407.4747). In the event of an active State Department Travel Warning against travel to the specific destination of the trip, should you still choose to travel, notwithstanding any travel advisory or warning, you assume all risk of personal injury, death or property damage that may arise out of the events like those advised or warned against.

RESPONSIBILITY

JGP cannot be held responsible for any additional costs incurred by the passenger due to missed, canceled or delayed flights. These costs will be borne by the tour participant. By the acceptance of vouchers, contracts, or tickets, the tour participant agrees to the foregoing and also agrees that neither **JGP** nor its affiliates shall not be or become liable or responsible for any loss, injury or damage of person, property or otherwise in connection with accommodations, transportation, or other services, resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, the sea, by fire, machinery, actual or intended wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, sickness, quarantines, medical or custom regulations, defaults, delays or cancellation or of changes in itinerary, from causes beyond the control of **JGP**.

Anyone not utilizing the pre-arranged transportation or accommodation is responsible for the cost of any substitute transportation or accommodation. No change in the itineraries is expected, however **JGP** reserves the right to make changes if necessary. **JGP** cannot be responsible for changes of itinerary.

The payment of the deposit or any other partial or full payment for a tour reservation constitutes agreement and consent to all provisions of the conditions and general information contained in the website or customized itineraries.

DISCLOSURE NOTICE

Please be aware that during your participation in a **JGP** tour, certain risks and dangers may arise, including, but not limited to, the hazards of traveling in undeveloped areas, travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of conveyance, the forces of nature, political unrest and accident or illness in remote regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. Also be aware and clearly understand that **JGP** and our affiliates, suppliers or agents will not have liability regarding provisions of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered.

YOU ARE VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATING IN THESE ACTIVITIES WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE DANGERS INVOLVED AND HEREBY AGREE TO ACCEPT ANY RISKS.

AS LAWFUL CONSIDERATION for the agreement with **JGP** to participate in such trips and activities you hereby agree that you will not make a claim against **JGP** or sue for bodily injury, emotional trauma, death and/or property damage, however caused, as a result of your participation in the tour. You therefore release **JGP** and its employees from all claims, actions, and demands that you may have for bodily injury, death, or property damage arising from your participation in a tour. This release of Liability and Assumption of Risk agreement is entered into on behalf of all members of your family including minors accompanying you. This agreement is binding on your heirs, legal representatives and assigns. If any portion of this agreement is unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in full force and effect.

