



PHOTO BY ALTON BIGGS



GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS | TIP TOP II ROUTE 2

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BIOLOGY TEACHERS

July 10 - 20, 2019



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 11-day small group cruise expedition offers a front-row seat for exploring the archipelago. Stunning formations like saw-toothed 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. With no fear of human predation, many creatures can be approached closely; you can even swim with the sea lions. You'll also learn about the islands' sparse but dramatic human history, a tale of buccaneers, penal colonists, and hardy settlers.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Come face-to-face with iconic wildlife including 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.
- Learn about important conservation efforts at the Darwin Research Station.
- Walk through the incredible cactus forest on Santa Fe Island and observe colonies of land iguanas.
- Snorkel around a submerged volcano called the Devil's Crown, one of the best snorkeling sites on the islands.
- 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.



PHOTO BY ALTON BIGGS

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

JULY 10 - QUITO

Upon arrival in Quito you will be met and escorted to your hotel.
Overnight at Hotel Sierra Madre.

JULY 11 - QUITO

After breakfast this morning depart for the Tandayapa Valley and the Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve. Protecting approximately 2,000 acres, the forest holds an incredible number of hummingbirds. The feeders near the dining room are fascinating to watch and great for photographing the birds as they zip around, protecting their territory. Return to Quito in time for dinner. *Overnight at Hotel Sierra Madre. (BLD)*

JULY 12 - GALÁPAGOS

Fly from mainland Ecuador to Baltra. After boarding M/C Tip Top II, attend your first orientation and have a light snack. Disembark and visit a flamingo lagoon at Playa Las Bachas, a beach that was used by the U.S. Army during World War II. Optional time is offered each day for swimming, snorkeling and/or kayaking. Attend an evening orientation about the origin and evolution of the Galápagos Islands, and enjoy a welcome cocktail with the entire crew, followed by dinner. *Overnight aboard M/C Tip Top II. (BLD)*

JULY 13 - GALÁPAGOS

Today go for a boat ride and then land on Genovesa Island at Prince Philip's Steps (El Barranco), a steep, naturally formed path that leads up to a cliff face. Walk and observe the interesting lives of the birds here, such as the red-footed booby, Galápagos short-eared owl, Galápagos dove, and storm petrels. Return to the boat for lunch. Later in the afternoon, visit Darwin Bay, home to frigatebirds, herons, mockingbirds, boobies, shorebirds, turtles, marine iguanas, and more. After dinner, attend an evening orientation to learn about conservation efforts to protect the islands. *Overnight aboard M/C Tip Top II. (BLD)*

JULY 14 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, go ashore at South Plaza Island. Disembark at the pier, where you can enjoy the antics of the sea lions. A walk through a cactus forest allows you to observe land iguanas and many species of tropical birds. Return to the yacht for lunch and sail to Santa Fé Island to visit cactus forests and a colony of land iguanas native to the island. There is optional time for those who would like to swim, snorkel, and/or kayak. At the end of the afternoon return to the yacht for dinner and nightly orientation. *Overnight aboard M/C Tip Top II. (BLD)*

JULY 15 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, disembark at Baquerizo Moreno Port on San Cristóbal Island and drive to the Jacinto Gordillo Tortoise Breeding Center, where you'll learn about the tortoise reproductive process and the programs in place to help maintain the species. Drive back to the port to visit the

Interpretation Center, which features exhibits on conservation and on the geological and human history of the islands. This afternoon, sail around Kicker Rock (León Dormido), a massive tuff formation that juts almost 500 feet above the ocean surface and serves as a nesting place for many sea birds. Then visit Cerro Brujo to walk along the white sand beach and observe sea lions, brown pelicans, marine iguanas, and blue-footed boobies. *Overnight aboard M/C Tip Top II. (BLD)*

JULY 16 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, disembark on Floreana Island and walk to Baroness Viewpoint, named for the Baroness Eloise von Wagner Bosquet. Enjoy the beautiful landscape and see the ruins of her house, then continue to Post Office Bay. In the 18th century, whalers placed a wooden barrel at this site to use as an informal post office, and today, visitors continue the tradition by leaving their own postcards in the barrel. Return to the yacht for lunch. In the afternoon, disembark at Cormorant Point and take a short walk to the flamingo lagoon. Continue the walk to La Picona beach for the chance to see marine turtles and their nesting grounds. Afterward, you'll have the chance to go snorkeling at one of the best sites in the islands, a submerged volcano known as the Devil's Crown. *Overnight aboard M/C Tip Top II. (BLD)*

JULY 17 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, visit Punta Suárez on Española Island to walk along lava beds and observe unique colonies of marine birds. This is one of the best places in the world to see the waved albatross, which nests primarily on this island. In the afternoon visit Gardner Bay for a walk on the beach and to observe a colony of sea lions, which inhabit the beach in great quantity during the breeding season. Then, take a panga ride around Osborn Islet and the islets of Gardner. *Overnight aboard M/C Tip Top II. (BLD)*

JULY 18 - GALÁPAGOS

After breakfast, disembark to take the bus to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island for a visit to the native forests in 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 Fausto Llerena Breeding Center and Interpretation Center inside the Charles Darwin Research Station. Return to the yacht for dinner and nightly orientation. *Overnight aboard M/C Tip Top II. (BLD)*



SUNSET IN PUERTO AYORA BY ALTON BIGGS

JULY 19 - QUITO

After breakfast take a panga ride 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 boat and disembark on the pier to take the bus directly to the airport in Baltra for your flight to Quito. A snack will be served on the flight. This afternoon is at leisure. A farewell dinner will be served at the hotel. *Rincón de Pueblo. (BD)*

JULY 20 - DEPARTURE

Early morning arrival in the U.S.

Please note: This itinerary is subject to change without prior notice due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. weather) or at the discretion of the captain, guide, or the Galápagos National Park.



MEET YOUR LEADERS



Alton Biggs, an award-winning educator, is a coauthor of *Glencoe Biology*. He is an accomplished motivational speaker who has presented internationally, including in Italy, Mexico and Saudi Arabia. He began traveling to Galápagos Islands in 1978 while studying for his graduate degree. Since then he has visited the Islands nine times, leading trips for the National Association of Biology Teachers and the Texas Association of Biology Teachers.



Robert Dennison is an award-winning biology teacher, educator and independent educational consultant. Well known for his portrayals of Charles Darwin, which have been seen by audiences throughout the US, as well as in Canada and England, Robert first traveled to the Galápagos Islands in 1995. He has been a co-leader of three trips to the Islands for the Texas Association of Biology Teachers since 2007.

PROGRAM PRICING

\$5,440 (8 participants)

\$5,255 (14 participants)

Price includes full-time guide, in-country transportation, accommodations, meals, and activities as listed in the itinerary, and internal flights.

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

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. Refer to the Plan Document for more details. 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.

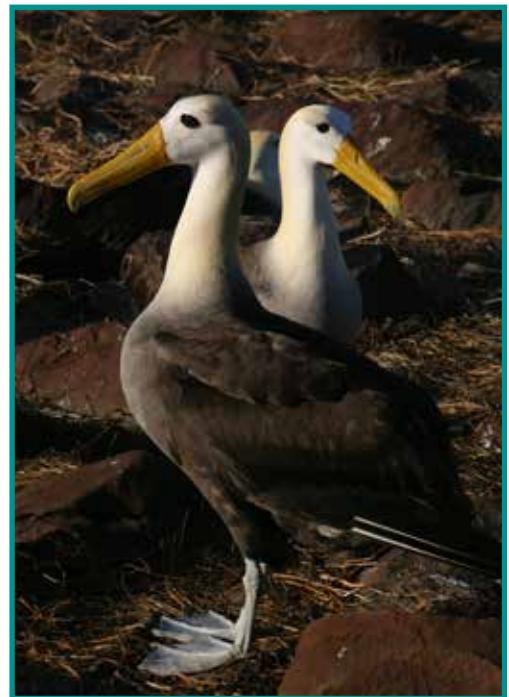
THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; single rooms available at additional cost. A \$350 per person deposit and enrollment form is due to hold your space on this trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$100 cancellation fee until April 06, 2019, at which time final nonrefundable payment is due.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Visit holbrook.travel/tapt-gps19 or contact Alton Biggs at altonb@ix.netcom.com or Debbie Jordan at debbie@holbrooktravel.com





FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL

Visit holbrook.travel/tabi-gps19 or contact Alton Biggs at altonb@ix.netcom.com or Debbie Jordan at debbie@holbrooktravel.com

ALL PHOTOS BY: *Alton Biggs*