SIGNATURE JOURNEY

Discover Corps

Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS: ISLANDS OF DISCOVERY

Discover unique Galapagos species and aide in their conservation

MOMENTS THAT MATTER:

- Get up close to giant tortoises while lending a hand at a conservation sanctuary
- Snorkel alongside penguins, reef sharks and sea lions
- Kayak in search of the famed blue-footed booby
- View creatures in their natural surroundings on uninhabited islands
- Experience the Galapagos' unique biodiversity up close

TRIP AT A GLANCE

QUITO

Day 1 - Arrive in Quito and meet your guide and group for a welcome dinner

Day 2 - Explore Quito's celebrated historic center on a walking tour

ISABELA

Day 3 - Fly to Baltra and take a bus, then boat, to Isabela, and settle in to Puerto Villamil

Day 4 - Snorkel Los Tuneles, an extraordinary network of lava formations

Day 5 - Kayak and snorkel through the El Estero wetlands of Isabela

SANTA CRUZ

Day 6 - Visit giant tortoises on Santa Cruz, and help remove invasive plant species

Day 7 - Discover more about Galapagos conservation at the Charles Darwin Research Station

Day 8 - Witness interaction between blue footed boobies on North Seymour Island

Day 9 - Snorkel the rich waters off Bartolomé Island

Day 10 - Return home, or continue to Quito for the extension

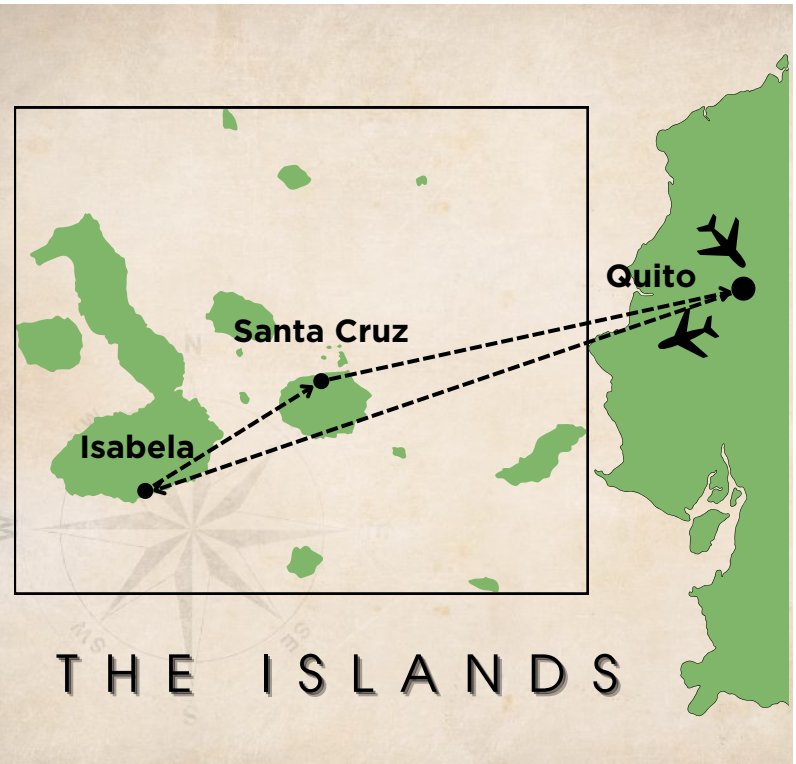
AMAZON BASIN EXTENSION

Day 11 - Arrive in El Coca, and take a boat trip down the Napo River

Day 12 - Spot tropical birds and other animals on jungle hikes

Day 13 - Meet an indigenous Kichua woman and view the parrot clay licks

Day 14 - Return home



SIGNATURE JOURNEY

GALAPAGOS: ISLANDS OF DISCOVERY

OUR PURPOSE

Despite strict environmental protections, many invasive plant species have been introduced to the Galapagos. These species grow quickly and can crowd out native species that the islands' animals depend on. Spend two mornings lending a hand at a sanctuary for giant tortoises, helping out by removing invasive plant species and planting endemic bushes and trees that tortoises eat.

The Galapagos archipelago is arguably the greatest destination on the planet for nature travelers. Located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, this island chain is the second largest marine reserve in the world, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While there are small towns on a couple of the islands, the strict protection of flora and fauna allows us to experience an ecosystem free from the harmful effects of humans.

Whether you're hiking through hardened lava tubes, kayaking out to see blue-footed boobies, snorkeling with friendly sea lions, or simply relaxing and soaking it all in, this will be an unforgettable experience.

HIGHLIGHTS

COLORFUL QUITO

While our trip is centered around the Galapagos Islands, it begins and ends on the Ecuadorian mainland, in the capital, Quito. One of the highest capital cities in the world, Quito occupies a stunning spot in view of the Andes Mountains, and its beautifully preserved historic center was one of the first places listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We'll explore its pretty streets and grand colonial architecture, such as the La Compañia Church (decorated with gold leaves), on a walking tour.

LOS TUNELES

The Galapagos Islands are famed not only for their unique and diverse wildlife, but also for the strange, otherworldly landscapes these animals inhabit. In particular, the islands' volcanic nature leads to some bizarre rock formations such as those at *Los Tuneles* (The Tunnels), a network of bridges and tubes, above and below the water, formed by cooled lava flows. This is one of the finest places to snorkel in the Galapagos, with sea turtles, sharks and sea horses among the inhabitants.

THE TORTOISES OF SANTA CRUZ

The story of the most famous Galapagos tortoise (and probably the most famous individual to come from the archipelago) is a sad one: when Lonesome George died in 2012, his species died with him. Happily, though, several other species of Galapagos tortoise survive across the islands. These gentle giants can reach up to six feet in length and 800 pounds in weight, and you'll have the chance to meet some and help protect them from harmful invasive plant species.

NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND & THE BLUE-FOOTED BOOBIES

The small uninhabited island of North Seymour lies off the coast of the larger island of Baltra. It's particularly famous for its bird populations. Not only will we get a chance to spot great numbers of the famous blue-footed booby here, but also frigate birds, instantly recognizable by their magnificent red throat pouches. Particularly memorable is the interaction between these two species – we'll observe frigate birds as they swoop down and make the boobies drop their catch of fish.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive in Quito and Enjoy a Welcome Dinner

Touching down in Quito, you'll be met at the airport by your Discover Corps guide, who will accompany you to our hotel for a welcome dinner with your fellow travelers. Have a restful night for the adventures ahead! *(D)*

DAY 2: Walking Tour of Quito

Today we'll explore Quito, walking the pretty cobblestoned streets of its UNESCO-listed colonial center. Visit an agave museum and learn all about the different ways agave is used, tools used to cultivate the plant, see an agave garden, and taste all the magic of this ancestral Ecuadorian tradition. *(B,L,D)*

DAY 3: Fly to Baltra to begin our Galapagos Adventure

Our Galapagos adventure begins in earnest now, with an early morning flight from Quito to Baltra, before we take a bus and then boat to Isabela Island. After checking into our hotel, we'll have the evening free to explore the town Puerto Villamil, the third largest human settlement in the archipelago. *(L,D)*

DAY 4: Snorkel the Extraordinary Los Tuneles

One of the most spectacular sites for snorkeling off the coast of Isabela is Los Tuneles (or the Tunnels, tangled formations of hardened lava next to the mangroves. These unique formations of tunnels and bridges create one of the most astonishing locations for viewing sea turtles, rays, white-tipped sharks, and a variety of seabirds. *(B,L,D)*

DAY 5: Kayak Las Tintoreras in Search of Marine Iguanas and Galapagos Penguins

We'll spend the morning kayaking along the coast of Las Tintoreras on Isabela Island, stopping to snorkel along the way in the El Elestero wetlands for those interested. After a picnic lunch, we'll enjoy a beachside mangrove walk, viewing a whole ecosystem of animals that are not normally visible. *(B,L,D)*

DAY 6: Visit a Tortoise Sanctuary on the Island of Santa Cruz

Today we'll visit a tortoise sanctuary on the island of Santa Cruz. Here we'll explore more otherworldly lava tunnels, before helping out with odd jobs at the sanctuary. In particular, we will be removing invasive plant species or planting endemic species throughout the reserve. As this is an area where tortoises roam freely in the wild, you may end up face to face with one of these magnificent creatures. *(B,L,D)*

DAY 7: Learn About Galapagos Conservation at the Charles Darwin Research Station

This morning we'll visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about the conservation projects across the archipelago, before an hour- long trek to the white sands of Tortuga Bay. Here you can go swimming or follow the lead of the resident marine iguanas and simply soak up some sun. Spend another afternoon volunteering at the tortoise sanctuary in the highlands of Santa Cruz. *(B,L,D)*

DAY 8: Discover Blue-Footed Boobies & Frigate Birds on North Seymour

Today we'll venture out to the tiny, uninhabited island of North Seymour, home to one of the largest populations of blue-footed boobies and majestic, red-throated frigate birds. Witness the frigate birds swoop down and cheekily swipe the boobies' hard-earned catch of fish. On our way back, we'll stop at a beautiful beach where you can snorkel with sea lions. Tonight is a free evening in Santa Cruz. *(B,L)*

DAY 9: Bartolomé Island Hike & Snorkel Excursion

Start the day with breakfast at the hotel before traveling to the Itibaca Channel, where your boat awaits. From there, journey to Bartolomé Island and hike up its volcanic terrain for one of the most iconic panoramic views in the Galápagos.

Later, return to the boat to prepare for snorkeling at a nearby beach, where you may encounter sea lions, penguins, and reef sharks in the crystal-clear waters. Enjoy lunch onboard as you head back toward Santa Cruz Island, followed by a return transfer to your hotel.

In the evening, gather for a farewell dinner, a perfect way to celebrate the day's adventures. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: Return Home or Continue Optional Extension Via Quito

Whether or not you've chosen the trip extension, we'll return to the airport in Baltra for a flight back to Quito today. From there we'll either say our goodbyes before your flight home, or you'll stay an extra night in Quito with us for our Amazon Basin post-trip extension (see next page). *(B)*

STANDARD LODGING

We've chosen a portfolio of hotels that are in prime locations for exploring the islands and relaxing in comfort in true Ecuadorian hospitality. The first two nights of the journey will be spent in the Ecuadorian capital of Quito. Unwind in a centrally-located boutique hotel that puts us within a short drive to many of the city's main sites. On the Islands, spend the next three nights at a quaint 3-star hotel on the Island of Isabela. Continue on to the Island of Santa Cruz for the last four nights at a 3-star hotel in the charming town of Puerto Ayora. Each hotel reflects the colorful natural surroundings of the islands. Relax by the pool and gardens along the way and take in the slow pace of life.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: AMAZON BASIN

SIGNATURE JOURNEY

DAY 10: Return to Quito

Fly back to mainland Ecuador with the group and enjoy a relaxing evening at lodging near the airport, making for an easy transfer tomorrow. We'll fly out early to continue our journey to the world's largest tropical rainforest! *(B)*

DAY 11: Fly to El Coca and Explore the Napo River By Boat

Wake up rested and depart on a short flight to Puerto Francisco de Orellana, or 'El Coca'. Your next two hours will be spent on a motorized canoe heading down the Napo River, with the Amazon rainforest creating an unforgettable backdrop. At dusk, hike along Matapalo Trail and marvel at 400-year-old mahogany trees and strangler figs. *(D)*

DAY 12: Choose From a Range of Hiking Trails Through the Countryside

A short early-morning hike will take us to an observation tower, where we'll spot colorful tropical birds soaring above the Amazon. This afternoon we'll either hike the Tucaneta Trail to learn about medicinal plants, or walk to the Mandi Cocha lagoon, spotting birds and giant otters. After sundown, we'll hop into a canoe to enjoy an Amazonian sunset and spot nocturnal wildlife. *(B,L,D)*

DAY 13: Visit the Famous Clay Licks and Meet a Kichua Woman

Today we'll take to the river again, this time to witness hundreds of parrots and parakeets feeding on clay licks. Back on dry land, we'll meet a Kichua woman who will share stories about life in the Amazon rainforest. After lunch, we'll visit a beautiful lagoon to spot squirrel monkeys, capuchin monkeys and, if we're lucky, howler monkeys and pigmy marmosets. *(B,L,D)*

DAY 14: Return Home

Your Amazon adventure comes to an end today, and we'll take a motorized canoe upstream back to Coca for your journey home. *(B)*

EXTENSION LODGING

We'll stay in a distinctive Amazon lodge designed to give you the ultimate feeling of being in touch with nature. Made from all-natural materials, the lodge is comfortable, clean, and safe. Created with designs traditional to the local Amazon cultures, it assures a well-built room which nevertheless gives the feeling of being immersed in the jungle.

** Single room supplement for this extension: $500*
** There is a required $300 flight supplement for this extension from Galapagos Islands to the Amazon (arranged by Discover Corps)*
** For this extension, there is a $300 non-refundable deposit required. Due to demand for this property, this deposit cannot be refunded in the event of a change or cancellation of the extension.*
Please note that the exact properties are subject to change.

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GALAPAGOS ISLANDS: ISLANDS OF DISCOVERY

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS

PRICING

ADULT: $5,995* **CHILD: $5,695***

OPTIONAL EXTENSION	**ADULT: $2,195**	**CHILD: $1,995**

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements (SRS) are $995 per person, and $900 per person for the extension. This will guarantee you your own, single occupancy room for the entirety of the trip. If you are a solo traveler and would like us to match you with a roommate of the same gender, please book as double occupancy. Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.

**Some departures may have a $300 peak season supplement. See website for details.*

SEE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT LIST OF DEPARTURE DATES

RECOMMENDED FOR

- Adults & children ages 8+
- Travelers who are comfortable with MODERATE physical activity

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 9 nights double occupancy lodging in boutique locally owned hotels
- Galapagos Entrance Fee
- Most meals throughout the trip (24 total)
- All scheduled activities and excursions
- $50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Trip literature and pre-departure support from Discover Corps
- 24-hour Discover Corps emergency hotline while traveling

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
- Round-trip flights between Quito and the Galapagos ($800); $350 flight supplement for extension
- One breakfast and one dinner
- Alcoholic beverages
- Tips for Discover Corps guide and driver
- Laundry, phone, and Internet services

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 16 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a $365 deposit and $30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at info@discovercorps.com

CUSTOM / PRIVATE GROUPS

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a $250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

PAYMENT PLANS

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.

Our Mission

Discover Corps' mission is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.

Certified B Corporation

OUR DESTINATIONS

- ALASKA
- AUSTRALIA
- BALI
- BAJA
- BHUTAN
- CHILE
- COSTA RICA
- CUBA
- EGYPT
- GALAPAGOS ISLANDS
- GREECE
- GUATEMALA
- JAMAICA
- JAPAN
- KENYA
- MOROCCO
- OAXACA
- PERU
- SOUTH AFRICA
- TANZANIA
- THAILAND
- UGANDA
- VIETNAM

FAMILY FRIENDLY ~ SMALL GROUPS ~ POSITIVE LOCAL IMPACT ~ DISTINCTIVE LODGING ~ HANDPICKED GUIDES

Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose

Visit discovercorps.com/register to place a $395 deposit to hold your space, or reach out to us at the contact information below with questions.

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