




FINCH BAY
GALAPAGOS HOTEL

 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
UNIQUE LODGES
OF THE WORLD™



Welcome to the Galapagos
Finch Bay: Your Way



There are few places in the world today
where discovery, inspiration and wonder
are part of every day's emotions

There are few destinations where
wildlife is not only *unique,*
intriguing and wonderful,
but **fearless.**





There are few journeys which
can promise to grant you
*new perspectives on life,
the universe and everything*

Only a handful can bring together
all these elements.
Ecuador's Galapagos Islands
are one such place.





ENRICHING. RELAXING. REJUVENATING.

Finch Bay: Your Way



ENRICHING

ENRICHING. RELAXING. REJUVENATING.

Finch Bay: Your Way

Experiences that feed the soul, going beyond the obvious, the boxed and packaged. Pocketed memories. Wealth measured by experiences and emotions. The luxury of time. Connecting with others, with animals, with the world. Stories to cherish and stories to share.

RELAXING

ENRICHING. RELAXING. REJUVENATING.

Finch Bay: Your Way

Moments to savour. Sunrises to inspire. Toes in the sand. Ripples on your hand. The lull of a hammock. The tang of a cocktail. Flavours intertwined. A breath, inhaled, exhaled. Peace.





REJUVENATING

ENRICHING. RELAXING. REJUVENATING.

Finch Bay: Your Way

First-time discoveries. Horizons broadened. Perspectives gleaned. The hidden revealed. The unknown explained. The preconceived and learnt by rote challenged. Returning home energized and viewing the world with new eyes. No ordinary holiday.



The Best of all Worlds

The beauty of the Finch Bay is the opportunity to enjoy the hotel and all that it offers, explore Santa Cruz Island's lives, ecosystems and beaches, but also to venture further, beyond, to islands located in the Galapagos National Park aboard our own exclusive yacht, the Sea Lion.

Our Hotel

The Finch Bay Eco Hotel is situated in the heart of the Galapagos archipelago, a set of volcanic isles stranded in the vastness of the Pacific Ocean, 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador in South America. . . famed for its amazing, fearless wildlife and extraordinary travel experiences.

The hotel is ideally located by the town of Puerto Ayora's only beach, on Santa Cruz Island. Its tranquil bay is lapped by waves amid the greens and browns of mangroves, its cream-coral sand leading up to the hotel's gardens. Darwin's famous finches flit from bush to tree to table, while ducks visit the swimming pool, and herons pace by the sun-loungers. Pergolas provide shade for sofas, while its tables and sun-shades invite you to enjoy the perfect al fresco meal.





Around the garden planted with endemic species and punctuated with small fresh-water pools for birds to enjoy, the guest rooms' wooden verandas, khaki paintwork and black, volcanic tiling all blend artfully. Close to the pool and (requisite) bar, more sofas and low tables provide interior seating areas, and beyond, the hotel's dining room opens out through French windows onto a further garden.

“Galapagos Gem”

“When visiting the Galapagos Islands, this is the place to stay. The hotel is in a beautiful setting away from the crowds. The staff is the most accommodating of any place we have ever stayed.”

Lee D, TripAdvisor, March 2016

This is the Finch Bay, or its setting at least. But what makes it truly special, what elevates it beyond just the bricks and mortar, is the people, the team who will take care of you during your stay. Their warmth and sincerity, their keenness to please, to ensure that everything is perfect for you, make the true and lasting difference.





“Best service and beautiful design and accommodations”
“This hotel is an oasis in the Galapagos.”
johnhenrya, TripAdvisor, April 2016





Our Cuisine

Our company's Cordon Bleu-qualified Gastronomy Director and his Head Chef at the hotel are passionate about showcasing the finest Ecuadorian ingredients with dishes that highlight the best in the country's cooking, as well as blending flavours and techniques from around the world.

Guests enjoy "catch of the day" freshness supplied by local fishermen and sustainable farmers. In addition, we employ vegetables, herbs and fruit from our very own organic garden.

A Culinary Journey

Some chef favourites

- Grilled tuna fish, sealed with a sesame seed crust, accompanied by wakame seaweed and a citric soy sauce.
- Famous Ecuadorian jumbo prawns, grilled and drizzled with the chef's own Chardonnay, garlic, dried pepper, concassé tomatoes and parsley sauce.
- Risotto ai frutti di mare with succulent shrimp, octopus and fish, extra virgin olive oil and a whiff of Chardonnay.
- A "volcano" of warm, liquid, dark Ecuadorian chocolate inside a baked crust, topped with ice-cream.



"...The chef is to be congratulated on the excellent presentation and quality of the food. A mix of traditional dishes and ones of choice, using the fish catch of the day, known meats, interesting vegetable combinations and fruit desserts, not to be missed. My congratulations to everyone in the team, at Finch Bay Eco Hotel, for their top class, professional service. ..."

MargaretJD, Trip Advisor, February 2016





Decor, Suites & Rooms

The hotel is small and intimate, showcasing an “expedition chic” look fully in-tune with the hotel’s extraordinary beachfront location. All common areas and rooms feature light, natural tones that harmonize with the native lava, sandy beach, and azure ocean, camouflaging the hotel so that it is practically invisible from the harbor. The landscaping displays endemic and native flora with the exception of a few historic, non-invasive trees such as date palms and a flamboyant tree planted by the original owners.

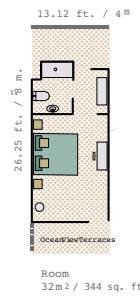
Its six *Finch Bay* Suites and 21 *Finch Bay* Rooms are home to a maximum of 54 guests. Our tastefully-decorated rooms sport a balcony or open entrance porch, with a hammock to enjoy this privileged location. The *Finch Bay* Suites have direct ocean views. Four of the suites have a communicating door- ideal for family and friends travelling together.



Finch Bay Suites

Finch Bay Suites have:

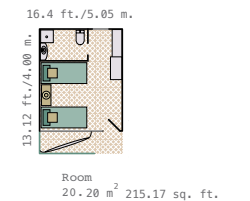
- private balcony with ocean view
- balcony easy chairs and hammock
- ample closets
- in-room safe
- air conditioning
- reading lights
- access to WiFi
- night table and desk
- refillable water bottles and water carafe
- 4 suites with two queen size beds each
- 2 suites with one king size bed each



Finch Bay Rooms

Finch Bay Rooms have:

- balcony
- hammock
- ample closets
- in-room safe
- air conditioning
- reading lights
- access to WiFi from balconies
- night table and desk
- refillable water bottles and water carafe
- 17 rooms with two twin size beds each
- 4 rooms with one king size bed each



Enriching, Relaxing, Rejuvenating Programmes

We each have our own idea of what makes a successful vacation. Some like to explore and check as many Big 15 animals off their bucket list as possible. Others prefer to pursue their favourite sports – kayaking, scuba diving, biking, trekking – in this world-class adventure destination. Still others want to revel in a few well-earned days off and take it easy. Or maybe you want a little bit of each option. And that's why you come to the Finch Bay.

We have designed our programmes to give you utmost flexibility. For those who like to figure out their own path in life, our Finch Bay Your Way packages allow you to use the hotel as a basic bed and breakfast, albeit with the high quality standards our guests have come to know and love. Choose this option and create your own programme, by adding on from our menu of activities or reaching outside the hotel for numerous additional possibilities.

Or opt for any of our carefully curated programmes, with differing levels of coverage in terms of both activities and meals in programmes that range from 4 Days to 8 Days. The programmes include land and sea activities and have been designed by our highly qualified expedition leader to maximize your experience in the Galapagos Islands.

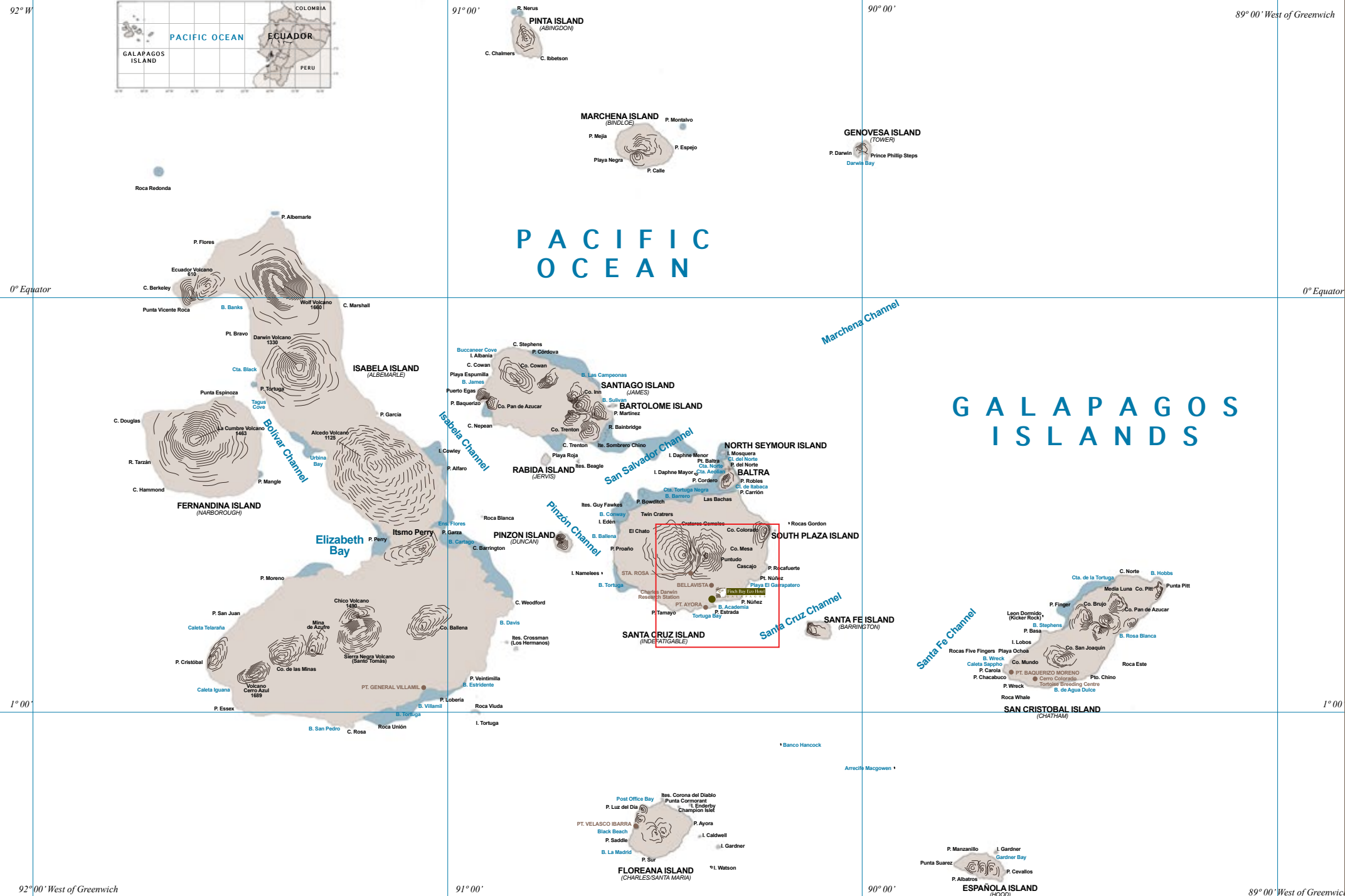




Santa Cruz Island Discovery

The Finch Bay combines the best of all worlds: the ideal base to live an experience that is unequivocally “Galapagos”. Where else in the world can you share the beach with a marine iguana, your lunch with a finch (that served to elaborate the theory of the Origin of Species), or your swimming pool with a yellow-crowned night heron? But the Finch is also the starting point, the springboard for your Galapagos discovery.

Walk among the Galapagos giant tortoises. Grab a snorkel and swim out to meet the fish and sea creatures. Take a kayak and paddle over to the neighbouring bays. Walk to Las Grietas, narrow, volcanic cliff channels where you can swim in cool, crystalline waters. Stroll to the beach of Tortuga Bay through a dry forest alive with bird song, reaching an expansive arc of brilliant white sand pounded by waves, to continue round to a tranquil bay of azure waters, ideal for a snorkel, a kayak ride, a swim or a snooze in the shade.



Finch Bay Hotel: Centrally Located

The town of Puerto Ayora presents an intriguing mix – a Pacific frontier town, if you will – where it’s fun to wander the main street and shop for crafts, souvenirs, T-shirts and art. Watch the fishermen at their dock selling their catch accompanied by boisterous pelicans and the odd sea lion or visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and Giant Tortoise Rearing Centre, before grabbing a bite to eat.

A short drive up into the highlands of Santa Cruz Island, the most populous of all the archipelago, the climate and vegetation changes rapidly. This is the realm of the giant tortoises, huge, dinosaur-like creatures that roam through the tangled, verdant forests and groves, munching on grasses or wallowing in algae-rich pools. The landscape is primeval, pocked by impressive ‘sink-hole’ craters and shot through with lava tunnels, all testament to the island’s recent volcanic past. Possibilities for adventure abound here, with mountain biking along trails and roads down to Garrapatero beach, or hiking to viewpoints with tumbling views of the hills and cerulean seas.




Something for Everyone





We offer great optional activities, including surfing, scuba diving, kayaking and mountain biking designed to bring out the active adventurer in you. These activities can be added on to any of our programmes, making a visit to the Finch Bay highly customizable so that each member of your party makes the most of their time in Galapagos.

And if you've already had your fill of activity-packed days, be it with us or on board a cruise, the hotel also provides the ideal base for some well-deserved downtime: unwind, wander through town, walk on the beach, read a book, or just kick back and enjoy its serene location.



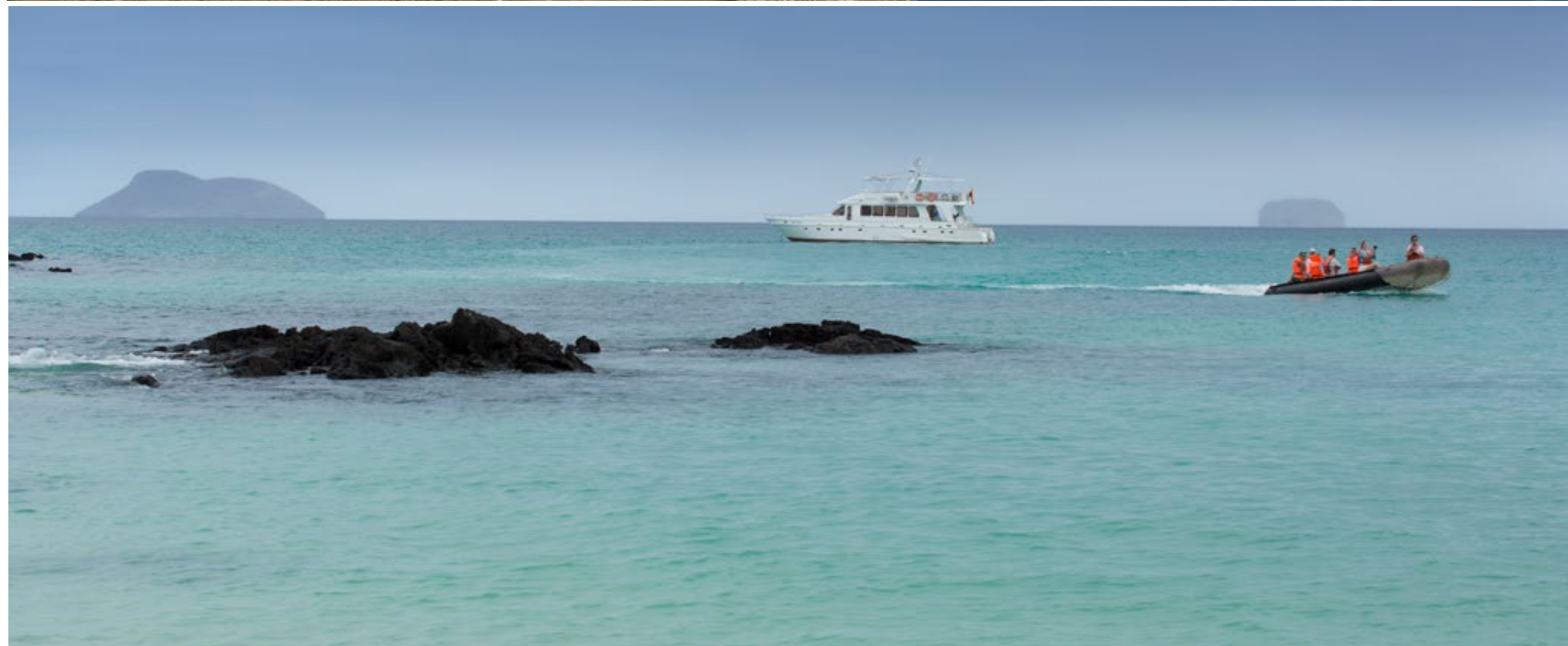
“...This hotel is an oasis in the Galapagos! The design and accommodations are lovely. The gardens and the pool are a great setting – beautiful! The service and the service culture of Finch Bay are an example for even the finest hotels we have experienced in our travels in Europe and the US...”
johnhenrya Denver, Colorado, Trip Advisor, April 2016

Sailing to the Islands

The hotel owns and operates its own yacht, the Sea Lion. Designed and outfitted specifically for island discovery, the Sea Lion provides an exclusive means for 20 guests to join our two highly-qualified, bilingual naturalist guides and four crew members, enjoying a delicious, freshly-prepared buffet lunch, air-conditioned interiors, viewing decks, with free snorkelling and wet suit gear – and, of course, the wonders of the islands.

Prepare to sail between the inky-black and burnt-sienna volcanic islands – about two hours' sailing time away – anchoring at a placid bay to board our dinghies. Land at a designated visitor site where you might be greeted by a family of basking sea lions with their curious pups and barking alpha male. Or follow a trail leading you by nesting yellow land iguanas or broods of black marine iguanas. Climb up hills to be rewarded with wondrous views, quintessential flora and fauna, and otherworldly landscapes. Everywhere you go, our expert guides will interpret and explain the unique beauty of these 'enchanted isles'.

We operate set departures to different official visitor sites within the National Park. Be aware that there are only a handful of yachts with these National Park permits. Visitor sites include the wildlife-rich North Seymour, iconic Bartolome, the wild and rugged South Plaza, and the beautiful Santa Fe. All of our trips are responsibly-operated, safe, and include time to enjoy some snorkelling – one of the highlights of any Galapagos experience – whether at the same island, or at a nearby site.





Santa Fe

Santa Fe offers one of the more beautiful and sheltered coves in the islands. Its turquoise lagoon is protected by a peninsula of tiny islets forming an ideal anchorage. A wet landing on a sandy white beach brings us into contact with one of the many sea lion harems. Galapagos hawks are often easily approached, perched atop salt bushes. Our goal is to spot one of the large species of land iguanas native to Santa Fe.



South Plaza

The turquoise waters of the channel here contrast brilliantly with the white sand and black lava of the shoreline, while a carpet of scarlet sesuvium succulents serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus beyond, populated by yellow-gray land iguanas. Along the coastline one finds sea lion colonies, while sea birds play with the thermals that form along the cliffs of this small but amazing island.

North Seymour

This island was lifted from the ocean floor by a volcanic event and is teeming with life! You might have to give way to a passing sea lion or marine iguana; blue-footed booby nests sit beside the trail where mating pairs perform their courtship dance. Further along, the rocky shore turns to white sand, and large flocks of pelicans mass for a dive-bomb feeding frenzy. The trail winds its way through the largest nesting site in the Galapagos of the “magnificent frigate bird”, a memorable sight.



Bartolome

Bartolome is famous for Pinnacle Rock, a towering spearheaded obelisk that rises from the ocean's edge and is the best known landmark in the islands. Galapagos penguins — the only species of penguin found north of the equator — waddle precariously at its base. Sea lions snooze on rocky platforms, ready to slide into the water to play with passing snorkelers. First, we hike up a pathway complete with stairs and boardwalks to Bartolome's summit. The route presents a museum of volcanology while the viewpoint itself offers stunning prospects. Back in our dinghies, we land at the perfectly crescent, pink-and-white sandy beach, used by sea turtles as a nesting site and a wondrous place to swim and snorkel.



Big Blue Galapagos

The scuba diving experience in the Galapagos is truly world class. It's regarded by pro divers as completely unique. We offer PADI-designed programmes to allow guests to live the thrill of SCUBA diving in a safe and fun environment.

Our 5- or 8-day diving packages were designed by professional divers for divers, highlighting the best the Galapagos has to offer: a comprehensive underwater experience for the adventurous, who want to take home unforgettable memories. Most of the more popular dive sites within the central islands of the archipelago are included.





Our Commitment

Here is a story about commitment and how a seed can germinate and flower... Over the last decade, our holding group has sponsored talented students from local schools in the Galapagos to embark on voyages of discovery aboard our ships. We have taken hundreds of these young Galapagueños on board, in order for them to discover the true extent of the wonder of the archipelago in which they live and to understand the tourism business, too.

One student we are particularly proud of is Christopher Naranjo. At the age of 15, he was invited aboard the Santa Cruz and spent a few days in awe of the wildlife and also in admiration of the guides who led the groups. A few years later, he graduated from high school, took the Naturalist Guide course with the National Park, and applied to become a Metropolitan Touring guide. A position he holds, with much pride, today.

This story was made possible through our commitment to support the communities in which we work. Over many years, our holding group has been pivotal in financially supporting recycling initiatives in the islands – with very positive results – as well as coastal clean-up projects with strategic partners.

At the hotel, we take our environmental and social responsibility seriously, and ask our guests to help us in efforts.

Whenever possible, for example, we use alternative energy: solar panels heat water for room and hotel use and for the pool. Motion sensors, LED lights and low-energy bulbs reduce energy consumption on the path leading to the hotel and dock. The installation of energy-efficient appliances, combined with the constant monitoring of electricity and water use, helps us optimize usage of these crucial resources. And our guests help us by reducing the use of A/C, using the same towels, and keeping doors shut, as well as other actions.

We use products grown in our chefs' garden or cultivated in local sustainable farms to reduce carbon footprint (caused by importing foodstuffs from the Ecuadorian mainland by air or by sea) as much as possible.

Our commitment efforts have sown seeds in all our companies across the region, and have been rewarded with a number of awards, including: Honorable Mentions in Condé Nast Traveler magazine's World Savers Award in 2008 and 2010; Finalist nomination in the World Travel & Tourism Council 'Tourism for Tomorrow Awards' in 2009; "South America's Leading Green Hotel" for the Finch Bay Eco Hotel in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015; and, "World's Leading Green Hotel" 2014 and 2015.



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