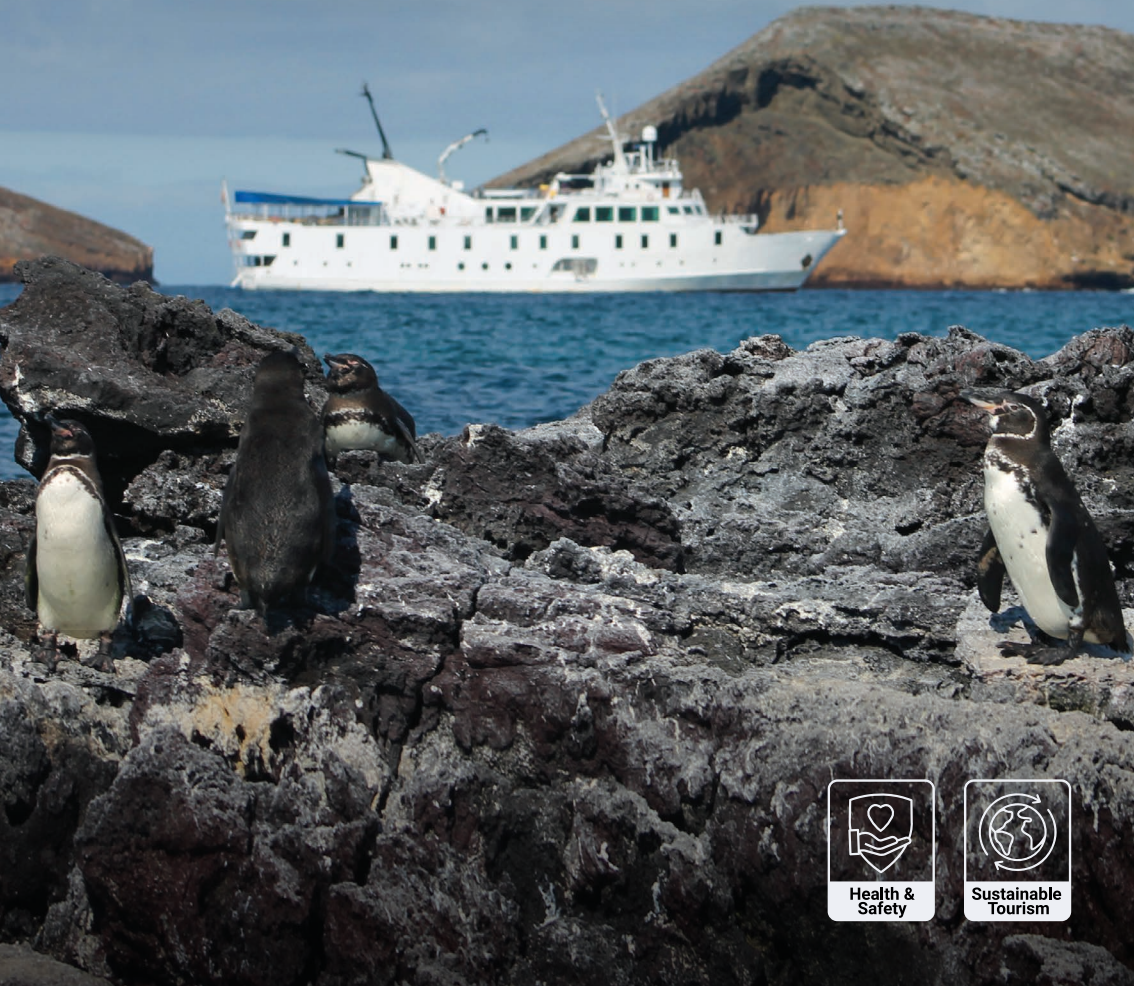




METROPOLITAN  
TOURING  
70 YEARS

# THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

A remote and fascinating archipelago ready to be explored



Health &  
Safety



Sustainable  
Tourism



## Where are the Galapagos, and how does one get there?

- The Galapagos Islands are part of South America, located **600 miles (1000 kilometers)** off the coast of Ecuador.
- **Visitors access the islands via commercial flights** from two cities on the mainland: Quito (UIO) and Guayaquil (GYE).
- Planes arrive at one of **two airports in Galapagos**: Seymour Airport (GPS) on Baltra Island or San Cristobal Airport (SCY) on the island of the same name.
- Since **flights to the islands depart in the early part of the day**, travel to the Galapagos requires spending an overnight in Quito or Guayaquil.



So, the Galapagos are a national park, but what does that mean exactly?



*A Red-footed booby on Genovesa Island*

- **97% of the archipelago** comprises the **Galapagos National Park**, which is carefully protected and maintained by an extensive team of park rangers, guides, and scientists
- When exploring the **most pristine islands** within the Galapagos National Park, visitors are accompanied by certified naturalist guides.
- Certified naturalist guides **enhance your experience** of each island by sharing their extensive knowledge of species, vegetation, terrain, currents, climate, and more!
- The Galapagos National Park's **strict rules are in place** to protect the wellbeing of these delicate ecosystems. **Site visits** within the park are scheduled and itineraries must be reviewed and **approved in advance**.
- Whether traveling on a live-aboard or a smaller day-tour-style expedition vessel, park rules help preserve the integrity and natural beauty of Galapagos' unique ecosystems and wildlife.

**Note:** Visits to this incredible destination involve a lot of detailed planning and coordination. Metropolitan Touring has over 70 years of experience. Our team is locally based, and our experts have intimate knowledge of the Galapagos Islands, thus making us the ideal partner for any Galapagos journey.



*Galapagos Marine Iguanas*



*Panga ride along Santiago Island*



## Galapagos Wildlife: The BIG 15 list of iconic species

### When is the best time to go and for how long?

- Thankfully, the Galapagos Islands are located close to the Equatorial line, so it's a **perfect year-round destination**. There are two seasons: Dry and Hot
- Most species make their home in the islands year round, but **some seasonal behaviors are worth planning around**, ask us about seasonal travel to the Galapagos. There's always something breathtaking going on!

### 365 Days - Anytime is the best time



December



June



March



October

### **HOT SEASON**

December through May

74 °F - 88 °F

23 °C - 31 °C

### **DRY SEASON**

June through November

67 °F - 74 °F

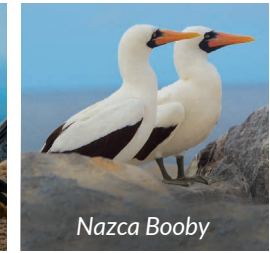
19 °C - 23 °C



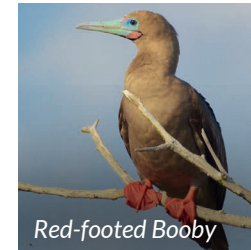
Galapagos Albatross



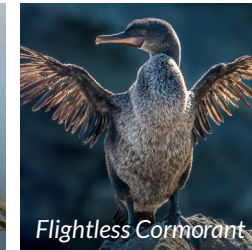
Blue-footed Booby



Nazca Booby



Red-footed Booby



Flightless Cormorant



American Flamingo



Frigatebird



Galapagos Hawk



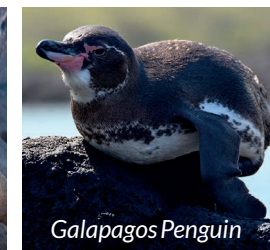
Galapagos Land Iguana



Galapagos Marine Iguana



Santa Fe Land Iguana



Galapagos Penguin



Galapagos Sea Lion



Galapagos Fur Seal



Galapagos Giant Tortoise



## Should visitors choose a sea- or land-based experience in the Galapagos? Why not both!

### Sea-based (Expedition Cruise):



- Greater wildlife coverage
- Visitors can explore different regions of the archipelago and more remote islands
- Scheduled and guided activities at each visitor site
- All meals are included
- Expedition activities like snorkeling, kayaking, paddleboarding, glass-bottom boat rides, and more are included
- Multiple certified naturalist guides allow for smaller expedition groups and a greater variety of activities
- An onboard medical officer is available 24/7

### Land-based (Expedition hotel with day tours to nearby islands):

- Day tours to select islands within the Galapagos National Park
- Flexible scheduling options with opportunities for visitors to explore on their own
- Island exploration activities (biking, trekking, visits to other points of interest) arranged through an in-house expedition leader
- Excellent option for small kids (under 6 years old)
- Visitors can explore local Galapagos culture
- Visitors can enjoy hotel facilities (pool, spa, restaurant, bar) and free breakfast
- SCUBA diving experiences can also be arranged



### Our Recommendation: The Best of Both!

A trip to the Galapagos Islands is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many people. The more time visitors can spend there, the more species they'll see and the more activities they'll enjoy. We highly recommend choosing an itinerary that combines both sea- and land-based experiences.



## Why is Metropolitan Touring your best travel partner?



- We are the region's leading destination management company with over 70 years of experience.
- Our team is comprised of travel aficionados and destination experts, ready to provide around-the-clock support throughout every journey.
- We are owner/operators of several award-winning hotels and expedition cruises in the region.
- Metropolitan Touring works with the highest-quality providers in addition to members of the local community with intimate knowledge of the destinations we serve.
- We are pioneers in responsible tourism.
- Our products and experiences keep the environment front of mind while promoting social responsibility.
- Our operations are carbon-neutral, and we offer visitors the opportunity to offset the carbon emissions generated by their travel.







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