



Galapagos & Mainland



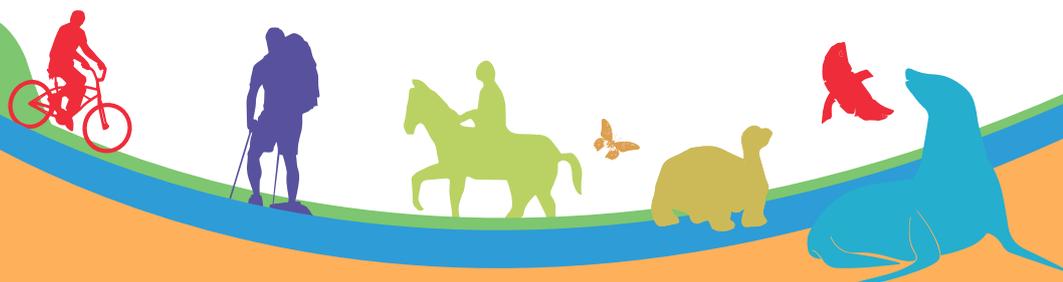
GALAPAGOS & MAINLAND: DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day	Description	Meals	Spanish Speaking Driver or English Speaking Guide
1	<p>Arrival to Quito, overnight Quito - Our driver will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel. Free time to relax and acclimatize to your new surroundings.</p>	-	SSD
2	<p>Quito full day tour - A full day to acquaint yourself with the best sites of the city of Quito. In the morning you will enjoy a tour of the colonial highlights including the cathedral and most impressive churches and pretty plazas. After lunch we head north to the equator - stand literally in the middle of the world! We also visit the unique Inti ñan museum where you can prove (or disprove) various scientific phenomena that only hold true at the equator. Don't forget to take your passport along if you want a special equator stamp in it!</p>	B	ESG
3	<p>Otavalo market and surrounding villages - A full day around Otavalo begins with time to shop at the Indian market of Otavalo, famous across the Americas for its fine handicrafts and colourful locals. In the afternoon we will visit the sacred Peguche waterfall, a local weaving workshop and other local sites. Overnight in Otavalo.</p>	B	ESG



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4	<p>Visit Condor Park, and transfer to Cotopaxi area - After breakfast we will visit the Condor Park where you have the opportunity to see a rare collection of raptors that were rescued in Ecuador from illegal owners. You can see Harpy Eagles, Snow Falcons, Owls... and of course the Andean Condor! The rescue centre works hard to protect this beautiful but endangered bird. At 11:30 you will see the "falconry" demonstration where a few eagles do what they do best... fly over the beautiful mountains of Otavalo! After the Condor Park visit we will transfer you to a beautiful historic hacienda in the Cotopaxi province.</p>	B	SSD
5	<p>Cotopaxi national park, transfer to Quito - A spectacular day exploring one of the highest active volcanoes in the world - the perfectly conical Cotopaxi (altitude 5,897 m, 19,350 ft). For centuries the native people of the area worshipped Cotopaxi as a god and ruins show evidence of platforms built to worship the mighty mountain. Over the years eruptions of Cotopaxi have caused unique geological formations throughout the park. Within the park boundaries there are several different eco-zones where a variety of plants and animals can be seen. With a bit of luck you can see herds of wild horses or llamas, or even the Andean Condor! Hiking up the volcano until the glacier is an amazing feeling and with spectacular views over the national park.</p>	BL	ESG



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6	<p>Galapagos: Santa Cruz - An early flight to the Galapagos Islands where your English-speaking guide will be waiting for you at the airport in Baltra. He/she will take you to the port of Puerto Ayora (Santa Cruz Island). In the afternoon y our guide will take you the Giant Turtle Reserve – Rancho El Manzanillo located in the upper part of Santa Cruz. Here giant tortoises can be found wandering freely. Lunch at Rancho El Manzanillo. Afterwards we visit the Charles Darwin Station to learn about the ongoing conservation efforts on these Enchanted Islands. The Research Station rears endemic Galapagos plants, land iguanas, and Giant Galapagos Tortoises for educational, scientific and conservation purposes.</p>	BL	ESG
7	<p>Galapagos: Day tour - by Yacht to one of the following destinations: *Bartolome Island *Plazas Islands *Floreana Island *Santa Fe Island</p> <p>After breakfast, you will take a boat ride to one of the islands listed above. All of them offer fascinating insights into the plant and animal life of the Galapagos Islands where your natuaraalist guide will explain all about the flora and fauna that you encounter.</p> <p>Note: The destinations depends on availability.</p>	BL	ESG

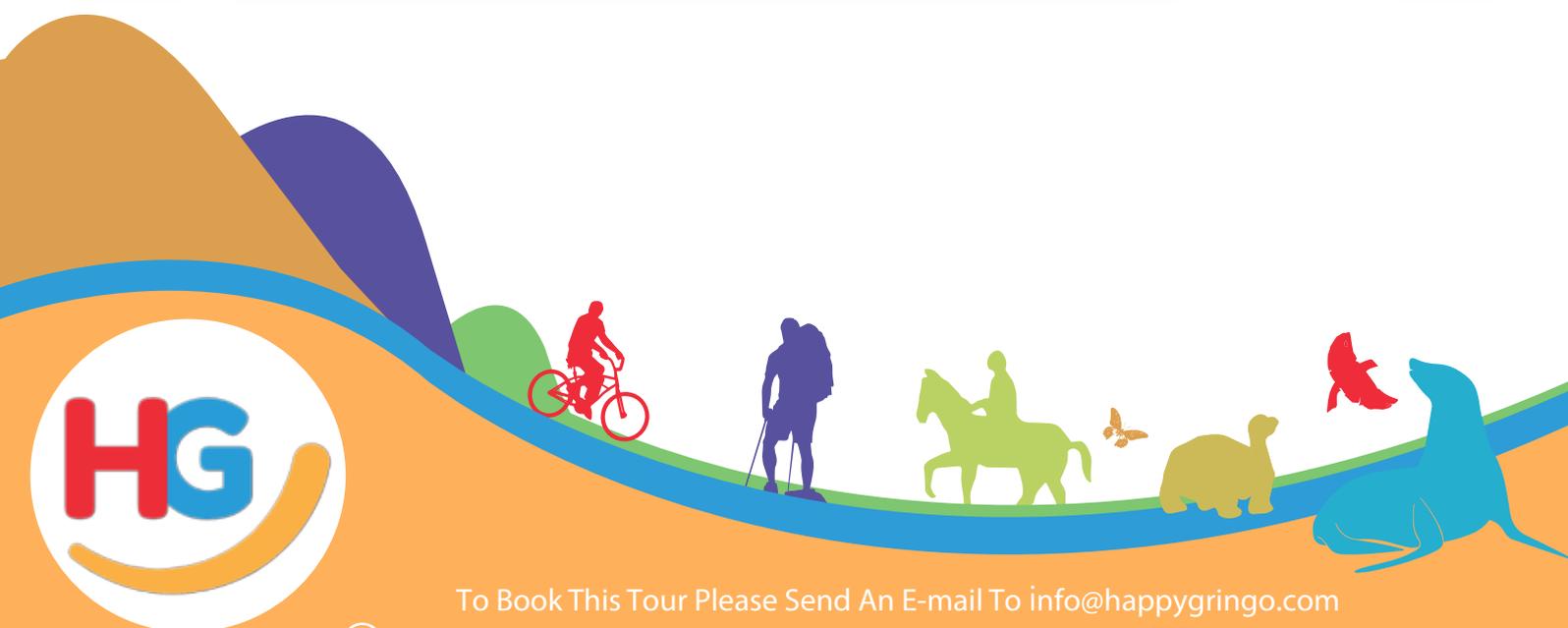


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8	<p>Galapagos: Isabela - After breakfast we will take the Public speedboat to Isabela Island (7:00 aprox), which lasts approximately two and a half hours. On arrival at Isabela we will take a brief rest at the hotel and then head to the Concha de Perla lagoon where you can swim with sea lions, colorful varieties of fish, and with luck sea turtles.</p> <p>After lunch we visit Tintoreras Islet - the name of the islet derives from the sharks that live in the waters surrounding the islet that have whit-tipped fins, which are known as "Tintoreras". The islet is one of the most fascinating places on Isabela Island and in fact all of the Galapagos. In this one area we can see sea lions, marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, Sally Lightfoot Crabs, sea turtles, pelicans, and Galapagos Penguins. As the island is one of the main breeding sites for the marine iguanas it is an excellent place to see a large community of these creatures close-up. After the hike through the islet we will get back on the boat and cool off by snorkeling in the waters nearby where with luck we may see multicolor fish, starfish, sea-urchins, and with luck manta rays, sharks, and sea lions that may swim with us close up. After this fascinating experience we will return to the hotel.</p>	BL	ESG

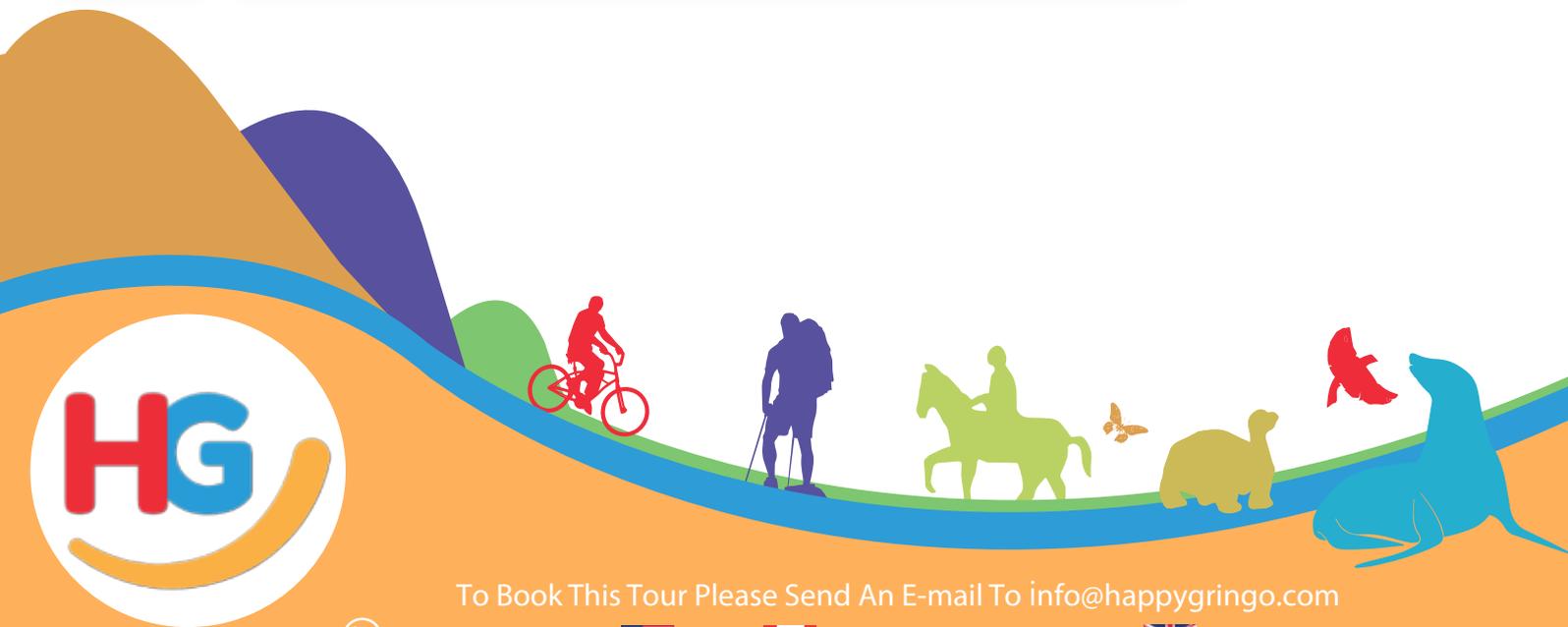


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9	<p>Galapagos: Isabela - Today you have 2 options available:</p> <p>OPTION 1. CAPE ROSE TUNNELS - After breakfast we will prepare ourselves to depart for snorkelling at the Cape Rose Tunnels located 40 minutes by boat southwest of Puerto Villamil. The sighting of birds and marine animals from the lava platform is one of the most important attractions. While snorkeling at this site you may experience up-close encounters with many species of fish, rays, sea turtles, penguins and sea lions.</p> <p>OPTION 2: HIKE VOLCAN SIERRA NEGRA & VOLCAN CHICO - Early in the morning (7:00 am aprox.), after breakfast, we will prepare ourselves for the Sierra Negra Volcano hike by putting on comfortable walking shoes and possibly a rain jacket, making sure to bring sunscreen, water, and hats, and finally by preparing our box lunch at the hotel to take with us. We will then travel approximately 45 minutes by truck or bus to begin the 12 km hike (appx. 3 hours). The hike is long in terms of distance, but not very difficult as the inclines and declines are quite gradual. Sierra Negra Volcano has the second largest crater in the world, measuring approximately 6 miles in diameter and 300 feet deep. We can then continue to see spectacular moon-like terrain of Volcan Chico before heading back.</p> <p>During the rest of this day we suggest visits to the Tortoise Breeding Center and the wetlands on your own.</p> <p>Please advice your choice of option in advance so that we can guarantee the tour service of your choice.</p>	BL	ESG



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10	<p>Return to Santa Cruz & flight back to Quito - At 5:00 a.m. we head to the dock to take the public speedboat back to Santa Cruz Island (timing subject to change). From Puerto Ayora we will transport you across the highlands and to Baltra Airport. Depending on the timing of your flights we may have time for a quick visit to the twin crater sunken "holes". These craters were formed by the collapse of the earth beneath which lava had passed and created giant tunnels, which facilitated the collapse and creation of the craters.</p> <p>On arrival to Quito our driver will transport you to your hotel.</p>	B	SSD
11	<p>Transfer out - Our driver will transfer you back to the airport in time for your international flight out.</p>	B	SSD



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GALAPAGOS & MAIN LAND / INCLUSIONS - EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions:

- ✓ Accommodation in double / twin room
- ✓ Private transportation and driver on mainland
- ✓ English-speaking guide at Quito, Cotopaxi and Otavalo day tours
- ✓ Meals as listed in itinerary
- ✓ Activities as listed in itinerary
- ✓ Air fare to/from Galapagos
- ✓ Galapagos Excursions with a Freelance English speaking Naturalist guide, provided by the Galapagos National Park.
- ✓ Snorkeling gear
- ✓ All airport transfers in Quito and Galapagos

Exclusions:

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Single supplement (applies for a single room for somebody travelling within a group). If you are travelling alone then please ask our staff for a solo traveller price quote.
- ✗ Personal Expenses
- ✗ Tips
- ✗ Meals not listed as part of itinerary
- ✗ Local entry fees
- ✗ Entrance fee to the Galapagos National Park (\$100 International visitors).
- ✗ Transit Control Card for Galapagos (\$20).
- ✗ Alcoholic Beverages

This program can be adapted to your personal needs - just let us if you would like to make any changes, we'll be happy to help!

NOTE: Licensed English-speaking guides are more expensive per day than Spanish-speaking drivers. For that reason this tour has a mix of both included, in order to balance trip cost with service level for you. Of course the mix is flexible, so if you would like to make changes then just let us know.



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