



## CHEESEMANS' ECOLOGY SAFARIS

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### Galápagos Islands

#### *Evolution's Playground*

May 9 to 27, 2020



*Red-billed tropicbird*

## SAFARI OVERVIEW

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Sail on the most in-depth itinerary possible around this archipelago famous for charismatic wildlife unafraid of you or your camera. Explore the lush cloud forest of Ecuador before embarking on the *Samba* for a 15-day voyage around the Enchanted Isles. With our expert resident leaders, discover endemic reptiles, tropical land birds, breeding boobies, albatross, penguins, marine mammals, sharks, tropical fish, and much more. This special expedition caters to photographers and wildlife enthusiasts alike, with early and late landings, to take advantage of the best conditions. The evolutionary story of the Galápagos Islands has been told many times but only through immersing yourself in its splendor can you truly appreciate the impressive forces that shape nature here and around the globe.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Navigate among 16 islands and experience the diversity of the archipelago.
- Snorkel with sea lions, penguins, tropical fish, sharks, rays and rare coral formations.
- View mating behavior of frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, and waved albatross on Española Island – the only known waved albatross nesting site in the world.
- Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and learn about conservation and restoration programs.
- Observe hummingbirds, Andean cock-of-the-rock, and special mammals in Ecuador's cloud forest.

**LEADER:** Juan Manuel Salcedo plus an assistant guide.

**DAYS:** 19, including estimated travel time. 14 nights aboard the *Samba*.

**GROUP SIZE:** 14.

**BOAT:** The *Samba*.

**COST:** \$9,800 to \$10,650 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 8.

**CONDITIONS:** This is a **non-smoking tour** for people who are very interested in spending the maximum time in nature. See the *Conditions* section on page 11.

Date	Description (Island names are in bold)	Accommodation	Meals
May 9	Arrive in Quito, Ecuador.	El Relicario del Carmen, Quito	—
May 10	Explore the cloud forest for bird watching in Yanacocha and Old Nono-Mindo. Observe Andean cock-of-the-rock lek. Watch nocturnal mammals near the lodge.	Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge, Tandayapa	B, L, D
May 11	Watch for many dazzling species of birds. Visit Refugio Paz de las Aves. Possible stop at Mitad del Mundo.	El Relicario del Carmen, Quito	B, L, D
May 12	Fly to <b>Baltra</b> and board the <i>Samba</i> . First landing on <b>Mosquera Islet</b> .	Aboard the <i>Samba</i>	B, L, D
May 13	<b>Genovesa:</b> Darwin Bay and Prince Philip's Steps.		B, L, D
May 14	<b>Marchena:</b> Snorkel at Punta Mejía and Playa Negra.		
May 15	<b>Isabela:</b> Punta Albemarle and Punta Vicente Roca.		
May 16	<b>Fernandina:</b> Punta Espinoza. <b>Isabela:</b> Urbina Bay.		
May 17	<b>Isabela:</b> Elizabeth Bay and Punta Moreno.		
May 18	<b>Floreana:</b> Asilo de la Paz, Cerro Alieri and Devil's Crown.		
May 19	<b>Santa Cruz:</b> Highlands and Charles Darwin Research Station.		
May 20	<b>Floreana:</b> Punta Cormorant and Post Office Bay.		
May 21	<b>Española:</b> Punta Suárez with waved albatross and Gardner Bay.		
May 22	<b>San Cristóbal:</b> Isla Losbos, Kicker Rock, and Punta Pitt.		
May 23	<b>Santa Fé:</b> Barrington Bay. <b>South Plaza.</b>		
May 24	<b>Sombrero Chino Islet. Bartolomé:</b> Pinnacle Rock.		
May 25	<b>Santiago:</b> James Bay. <b>Rábida.</b>		
May 26	Last landing at <b>North Seymour</b> , disembark at <b>Baltra</b> , and fly to Quito.	Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel	B
May 27	Depart Quito and arrive home.		B

## LEADER

### Juan Manuel Salcedo

Juan grew up in the Galápagos Islands where he developed his passion for wildlife while sailing on his father's boat. He received a degree from the University of San Francisco, Quito after studying Applied Ecology, Biology and Geology. Juan also earned a skipper certificate after studying sailing and navigation in Los Angeles. Involvement in Environmental Education projects in the Galápagos Islands and on mainland Ecuador fills his spare time.



## BOAT

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### **The Samba**

The *Samba* is a 78-foot, steel-hulled motor yacht with a stabilizing sail making her the perfect choice to experience the Galápagos Islands to their fullest. This sturdy, stately, and very comfortable ocean-going vessel is a European Dutch classic and best in her class with a specially designed high bow. The *Samba* accommodates 14 guests in seven air-conditioned double cabins with private bathrooms and hot water. The topside settees and ample forward deck provide getaways or extra space for group activities such as stargazing, whale watching, or simply sunbathing. The main salon and aft dining facilities make her very socially versatile. The

local chef prepares excellent international cuisine with organically-grown, local produce and can accommodate most dietary requests with advance notice. The *Samba* is a graceful, top-quality, and fuel-efficient craft owned by the Salcedo family who employ Galápagos-resident crewmembers that take pride in sharing their love and dedication to these beautiful islands. The experienced and friendly crew is committed to redefining your ideas of quality and excellence and takes great care in making everything environmentally friendly as well as socially responsible.

## DETAILED ITINERARY

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### **May 9 ~ Arrive in Quito, Ecuador**

Arrive in Quito, Ecuador for an overnight stay.

### **May 10 ~ Drive to Yanacocha, Old Nono-Mindo, and visit Cock-of-the-rock lek**

Travel from the high Andes to the cloud forest and observe the change in climate, vegetation, and geology while on the mainland. You'll visit Yanacocha Reserve and drive through Old Nono-Mindo Ecoroute for vibrant bird life. Spend your afternoon observing the Andean cock-of-the-rock lek for colorful displays by the males plus many other special bird species in this area. Experience nocturnal mammals close to your lodge.

### **May 11 ~ Bird watching, including Refugio Paz de las Aves**

Spend the morning bird watching a variety of dazzling, colorful birds. Visit Refugio Paz de las Aves for more bird watching and a traditional Ecuadorian brunch. Take in the wildlife around the lodge at Bellavista, including countless colorful hummingbirds that frequent feeders on the lodge grounds. On your return to Quito, if time allows, visit Mitad del Mundo (Half of the World). Enjoy dinner and an overnight stay in Quito.

### **May 12 ~ Fly to Galápagos; first landing on Mosquera Islet**

After an early breakfast, you will transfer to the airport for a morning flight to the Baltra Airport in the Galápagos Islands. Juan Manuel will assist the group throughout the process. You'll take a small bus for the short transfer to the dock where the *Samba*, our home for this glorious adventure, awaits.

After introductions and a safety briefing, you'll make your first landing at nearby Mosquera Islet where the beach rises from the ocean floor with sand grains as soft as sugar. This volcanic uplift, dating back 100,000 years, is home to Galápagos sea lions, sally lightfoot crabs, and shorebirds. Once back on board, relax with a welcome cocktail and meet all the members of this friendly, professional crew. In the evening, you will travel to Genovesa in the outer archipelago. As the moonlight beams on the dark waters, look for phosphorescence from ctenophores (comb jellies) and other plankton on the surface. If you are lucky, you may see them appearing to encapsulate dolphins in a glowing shield as they bow-ride with the boat.

*All routings and visitor sites on the Galápagos Islands are subject to change by the Galápagos National Park Service in an attempt to minimize traffic and impact.*



*Galápagos sea lions*

### **May 13 ~ Isla Genovesa: Darwin Bay and Prince Philip's Steps**

You anchor in the huge flooded volcanic caldera that created Darwin Bay. As you approach, observe the walls of the caldera, which provide wonderful ledges for the very rare Galápagos fur seals and nesting sites of red-billed tropicbirds. You will hike up a stony stairway known as Prince Philip's Steps for great views of red-footed and Nazca booby colonies on the way to the wedge-rumped (Galápagos) storm petrel colony. The island's largest red-footed booby nesting site is located here too. Keep an eye out for the elusive short-eared owl that hunts for storm petrels during the day.

After your first snorkeling of the trip, you'll end your day with excellent views of red-footed boobies and great frigatebirds nesting with unparalleled density. Following the cliff edge, photograph and observe incoming boobies and frigatebirds. Frigatebirds are ceaseless with aerial displays of kleptoparasitism as they "dog-fight" along the cliffs for scarce nesting material. Genovesa's four species of Darwin's finches – large ground finch, large cactus finch, small-beaked ground finch, and warbler finch – show huge variation in bill size, and you can find all four species here (one of the most outstanding sites that you will visit for Darwin's finches along with the Highlands of Santa Cruz). Unlike boats with shorter itineraries, you'll have the luxury of a night anchored in the calm waters of Darwin Bay.

### **May 14 ~ Isla Marchena: Punta Mejía and Playa Negra**

The *Samba* is granted the rare opportunity to visit Marchena, making your experience truly unique to our voyage. Although landings are not permitted, it is one of the best places to snorkel with tropical fish, rays, sea turtles, sharks, and eels. You may also find hermatypic (reef building) coral formations here, an uncommon sight in the rest of the archipelago. During your navigation to and from Marchena, you sail through some of the most whale-rich waters in the region; so keep your eyes on the horizon and your binoculars ready!

### **May 15 ~ Isla Isabela: Punta Albermarle and Punta Vicente Roca**

Punta Albermarle is an uncommon visitor site, but home to one of the loveliest flightless cormorant colonies in the Galápagos. This landing is the first of your explorations of the great island of Isabela, by far the largest in the archipelago.



*Galápagos penguins*

The northwest tip of Isabela, called Punta Vicente Roca, sits at the edge of a sharp drop into deep, nutrient-rich waters. You may see Galápagos penguins, brown noddies, sea turtles, marine iguanas, blue-footed and Nazca boobies, marine mammals, and the bizarre-looking sunfish (*Mola mola*).

En route to Fernandina, keep your eyes out for whales in this cold, deep water on the western side of the archipelago. These waters offer the chance to see orcas, pilot whales, and larger species such as sperm whales. A study by Hal

Whitehead, with the help of World Wildlife Fund, found sperm whales particularly abundant west of Isabela where the subsurface Cromwell Current meets land and provides oxygen- and nutrient-rich upwellings that supports a high density of squid that they feed on.

### **May 16 ~ Isla Fernandina then back to Isla Isabela**

Across the calm Canal Bolivar, separating Isabela from Fernandina, sits Punta Espinoza, one of the most wildlife-rich sites of the trip. Fernandina, the youngest of the Galápagos Islands, is one of the world's most pristine islands because no known introduced animals have become established here. You'll have the unique opportunity to observe and photograph marine iguanas sunbathing in piles by the hundreds. The famous flightless cormorant also inhabits this island along with Galápagos penguins, lava lizards, and pelicans. Take a walk along the relatively young basalt (lava rock) to find lava cactus (*Brachycereus nesioticus*), the only species in this genus, growing directly out of what still seems like fresh lava. Snorkeling is no longer allowed in order to protect the rich coastline covered with algae that marine iguanas depend on for food.

This afternoon, you head back to Isabela for a very interesting landing at Urbina Bay. In 1954, this portion of Isabela lifted out of the sea so suddenly that fish and a sea turtle were literally trapped high and dry on a freshly changed coastline. You will explore this unusual site to examine evidence of the geologic forces that continue to shape these islands. Along your walk, you will find rocks full of bleached shells and massive coral heads now far from the sea. Large iguanas, both land and marine, live here as well as a few giant tortoises, the species for which the Galápagos Islands were named. You will snorkel in some of the coldest water of the trip but, thankfully, your full-length wetsuit will insulate as you discover the underwater world.

### **May 17 ~ Isla Isabela: Elizabeth Bay and Punta Moreno**

Your morning begins with a visit to Elizabeth Bay, one of the most spectacular locations for panga (small boat) cruising. You cruise with the swimming sea turtles in this paradise, following channels through the verdant green mangrove forests. The endemic flightless cormorant and the Galápagos penguin are in their prime habitat in these cold, rich waters. Then you travel to the wildly stark landing site of Punta Moreno (Dark Point) where raw basalt coats the landscape and rises into the slopes of the shield volcanoes of Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul. Yet amid the stark, seemingly sterile landscape, rich lagoons full of life can be found. This evening, you'll travel through more nutrient-rich waters excellent for whale watching.

### **May 18 ~ Isla Floreana: Asilo de la Paz, Cerro Alieri and Devil's Crown**

After breakfast, you land at Puerto Velasco Ibarra for a ride up to the highlands in a chiva (a small open-sided bus). You'll stop to climb Cerro Alieri where many steps will reward you with a breathtaking view and the chance to see the famous medium tree finch. The fantastic landscape of the highlands is decorated with lichens and epiphytes. Floreana also holds compelling human history that includes pirate caves, European settlers, the islands' first citizen birth, and unexplained disappearances. Share a wonderful lunch in the highlands with Claudio Cruz and his family, providers of many of the organic foods that you've enjoyed on board. You'll also have the opportunity to photograph a group of giant tortoises that are kept in a large enclosure. After returning to the *Samba*, you will sail to one of the best spots in the world for snorkeling – Devil's Crown. You normally see rays, sea turtles, surgeonfish, parrotfish, jacks, wrasses and many other tropical fish. This afternoon, you'll navigate to Santa Cruz Island for a quiet dinner in Academy Bay.

### **May 19 ~ Isla Santa Cruz: Highlands and Charles Darwin Research Station**

Upon reaching Santa Cruz, you'll anchor in Academy Bay beside the bustling small town of Puerto Ayora, the islands' primary population center. You'll travel to the Santa Cruz highlands to seek out elusive island endemics in beautifully unique habitats. You will explore Los Gemelos, two incredible volcanic sinkholes surrounded by scalesia forest. The elegantly tall scalesia trees evolved from beach composites, making it essentially the world's largest daisy. In the highlands you may see the shy Galápagos rail, short-eared owl, large and small tree finches, vegetarian finch, and the famous tool-using woodpecker finch. You will also walk through a lava tube left over from Santa Cruz's active volcanic island-building days.

You return to Puerto Ayora in the afternoon for a visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station, the center of evolutionary science and conservation in the Galápagos. Your visit to the station includes the opportunity to see the resident tortoises and enjoy an intimate look at the captive breeding programs that are designed to return the Galápagos to a more pristine, pre-colonization state. This will be one of your best opportunities to photograph tortoises up close.

### **May 20 ~ Isla Floreana: Punta Cormorant and Post Office Bay**

You will land behind Punta Cormorant for a walk to the flamingo lagoon in search of shorebirds alongside a few flamingoes. The plant life here is unique and includes another species of the endemic composite scalesia. The waters around Floreana are great for dolphins so keep your eyes open! These waters are also rich with seabirds, such as waved albatross, three species of storm petrel, Galápagos shearwaters, and large flocks of diving boobies. After lunch you'll stop briefly at Post Office Bay, where you can continue the whalers' tradition of dropping a letter or postcard in the box and taking one to hand deliver to someone else.

### **May 21 ~ Isla Española: Punta Suárez with waved albatross and Gardner Bay**

Punta Suárez is unique beyond description and as rich as any spot in the Galápagos Islands. Breeding birds and iguanas are present in huge numbers and, most significantly, the majority of the world's waved albatross nest here. Young adults and birds that recently pair will court each other, a most enticing expression of the lifelong bond that breeding and survival depend upon – an unforgettable site to observe! You will also find the fearless Española mockingbird, blue-footed and Nazca boobies, swallow-tailed gull, Galápagos hawk, marine iguana, lava lizard, and Galápagos sea lions. The seascapes are spectacular, particularly where the waves force water through a blowhole spouting up to 75 feet high.

For the afternoon, you'll sail to Gardner Bay, one of the most beautiful beaches in all of the Galápagos. A nearby snorkel is likely to find you in the water with playful sea lions, a great diversion before time on the beach. Galápagos sea lions populate the surf while the remarkably brave Española mockingbird has been

known to peck at shoelaces. Enjoy photographing shorebirds and sea lions, looking for the large cactus finch, or walking along the beautiful beach.

**May 22 ~ Isla San Cristóbal: Isla Lobos, Kicker Rock, and Punta Pitt**

One of the oldest islands is home to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the capital and second largest population in the Galápagos Province. You will travel along the north coast for some excellent wildlife and snorkeling, visiting Isla Lobos and León Dormido (also known as Kicker Rock). Kicker Rock is a volcanic tuff cone that dramatically rises out of the water to the height of about 500 feet. Here you will look for frigatebirds, sea lions, sea turtles, blue and red-footed boobies, tropicbirds, marine iguanas, swallow-tailed gulls, and dolphins. The afternoon brings an opportunity to stretch your legs at the geologically striking Punta Pitt and examine some of the island's vegetation, which includes flowering plants such as *Calandrinia galapagosa* and *Lecocarpus darwinii*.

**May 23 ~ Isla Santa Fé: Barrington Bay, Isla Plaza Sur**

This morning, you'll land on the island of Santa Fé. The short hike from the beach to a low plateau rewards you with great views and scalesia that thrives near a large forest of the amazing giant prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* spp.). You will search among the cacti for Santa Fé land iguanas, which are a separate species from the others in the Galápagos and can grow up to five feet in length!

The small yet incredible island of South Plaza is your afternoon destination. This beautiful island is home to many land and marine iguanas. The colorful landscape is covered with reds and greens of *Portulaca* that may have yellow flowers that the iguanas enjoy eating. In the giant prickly pear cactus you can compare the cactus finch alongside small and medium ground finches. At the top of the island bachelor sea lions escape from the competition of stronger males as red-billed tropicbirds fly gracefully by.



*Galápagos fur seals*

**May 24 ~ Sombrero Chino Islet and Isla Bartolomé: Pinnacle Rock**

If the light is good in the early morning, you'll visit the surreal landscape of Sombrero Chino (Chinese Hat), a symmetrical cinder cone. Lava tubes run like petrified rivers and white sand from eroded coral surrounds the black rock. This afternoon, you will land at Bartolomé and climb to the 360-foot-high summit for a gorgeous, iconic view of Pinnacle Rock and the surrounding bays. Then a wet landing puts us on a beach for a short walk through mangroves and dune vegetation. Galápagos penguins are often present in small numbers near Pinnacle Rock so you will have a decent chance to snorkel with or near the penguins, and maybe even whitetip reef sharks (harmless but exciting)! Also enjoy colorful starfish, tropical fish, and amazing underwater lava formations.

**May 25 ~ Isla Santiago: James Bay and Isla Rábida**

This morning you'll land at James Bay on the western side of Santiago. During low tide, explore the tidal pools that lead you to Fur Seal Grotto, where you are likely to find Galápagos fur seals swimming in emerald pools of the collapsed lava tubes.

In the afternoon you'll head to the islet of Rábida, with deep ochre red beaches creating a striking landscape. Sea lions playing in the surf make for splendid photo subjects against the red sand in the late afternoon light. Tonight, you head back east to North Seymour, just off the northern tip of Baltra. Sadly, this will be your final evening aboard the *Samba*.

**May 26 ~ Isla Seymour Norte, disembark, fly to Quito**

You'll enjoy the last landing site teeming with wildlife and wander past many breeding blue-footed boobies and a large colony of magnificent frigatebirds. Hopefully you'll find males of both species in full display, the boobies sky-pointing and showing off their bright blue feet as they dance and the frigates calling for females with their wings spread wide and their dramatic red throat pouches inflated – an unforgettable sight! You also have the chance to see Galápagos sea lions, marine iguanas, striated herons, brown noddies, swallow-tailed gulls, and lava gulls. The endemic palo santo and low, bushy prickly pear cacti add great scenery to the amazing abundance of Galápagos wildlife. You'll reluctantly depart for Baltra and bid farewell to the *Samba* and its crew. Juan Manuel will escort you to the airport for your return flight and overnight stay in Quito.



*Blue-footed boobies*

**May 27 ~ Depart from Quito, Ecuador**

Depending on your flights, depart for home or extend your stay.

**COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)**

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**Costs and Cabin Options**

Type	Description (see <i>Deck Plan</i> on page 13)	Cost per Person
Standard	Double occupancy, one upper and one lower berth, private bath, and drawers for storage. Lower deck.	\$9,800
Upper Deck	Double occupancy, one double bed, private bath, windows that open, closet, and drawers for storage. Upper deck.	\$10,650

Costs are per person depending on cabin type, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

We reserve the right to charge for cost increases that occur between when we set tour prices and the date of travel, for example, changes due to the cost of lodging and transportation. If you are a single traveler and you desire, we will find a roommate for you. If we cannot find you a roommate, we will not charge you a single supplement. If space is available, cabins can be booked for a single occupant by adding 90% over the listed cabin cost. Single rooms are subject to availability.



Please note that we cannot guarantee a specific cabin number. If changes occur, we will do everything in our power to assign a cabin of equal or greater value as the cabin type specified in your reservation. Deck plan, cabin arrangements, and cabin amenities are subject to change by ship operator.

### Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$500
Second	June 1, 2019	\$2,000
Third	September 1, 2019	\$2,000
Final	December 1, 2019	Remaining Balance

Payments will be due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space. For reservations made after a due date, all past payments will be due with registration. By sending your initial deposit, you agree to accept our payment schedule and cancellation policy as a contract. If payments are still outstanding two weeks after the due date, your space may be forfeited.

### Cancellations

Refunds are given depending on the time left before departure according to the following table. The cancellation fee of \$300 per person can be applied toward another tour if reserved within six months of the cancelled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferrable. Consider purchasing trip cancellation insurance that could reimburse your trip costs in the event of your cancellation.

Dates	Forfeited Amount per Person
On or before September 30, 2019	\$300
October 1 to October 31, 2019	10% of tour cost
November 1 to November 30, 2019	40% of tour cost
On or after December 1, 2019	100% of tour cost

### Included

- All leaders, transport, landing fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Fourteen nights aboard the *Samba*.
- Accommodations for the nights of May 9 through May 11 and May 26.
- Meals from breakfast on May 10 through breakfast on May 27, except meals listed in *Not Included* section.
- Transfers regardless of arrival day from Quito airport to El Relicario; on May 27, your hotel is across the street from the Quito airport, so you may walk to the terminal from the hotel.
- Snorkel gear and full-length wetsuit on the *Samba*.
- The Galápagos National Park Entrance Fee/Port Tax and Immigration Transit Card fee.
- The Government of Ecuador fuel tax/surcharge that applies to most Galápagos vessels does not apply to the *Samba* because it is a smaller, locally based, fuel efficient vessel, using less than 3,000 gallons of diesel per month.
- Trip Materials – information about flights, packing, entry and departure requirements, airport transfers, gratuities, etc.

## Not Included

- All airfare, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees. Airfare is approximately \$600–\$1,100 from the USA to Quito, Ecuador (UIO), plus approximately \$680 for the Quito-Baltra round-trip flights.
- Lunch and dinner on May 26.
- We can arrange divergent airport transfers and extra hotel nights for an extra cost.
- Gratuities – tipping is, of course, discretionary, however we suggest budgeting about \$650–\$780 total *per participant* for the entire tour.
- Emergency medical and evacuation insurance, but it is required for you to purchase. For more information see [www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance](http://www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance).
- Trip cancellation insurance. For more information see [www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance](http://www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance).
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Reservation/Release Form.

## SIGN UP

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Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Reservation/Release Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and form from each participant.

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris  
Email: [info@cheesemans.com](mailto:info@cheesemans.com)  
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## OTHER DETAILS

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### Climate

Average temperatures range from the low to mid-60's°F at night up to the 80's°F during the day. The water temperature averages 70–74°F. Average temperatures during your mainland excursion range from nighttime lows in the 50's°F to mid 60's°F to daytime highs from mid 60's°F to low 80's°F.

### Fitness Level

Walks on shore vary from short strolls on the beach to a few miles over uneven terrain. Those who are not accustomed to walking long distances will still enjoy most activities as your pace allows you to see, appreciate, and photograph the unique nature of the Galápagos. If you anticipate struggling with the walks, plan to do some hiking beforehand to get in good condition for the trip. You must be comfortable going up and down stairs on board and getting in and out of the panga (small boat). The more fit you are, the more you will enjoy your time in nature!

Snorkeling is not mandatory but is a significant part of the voyage as you are in the water every day, sometimes twice a day. Experience is not required but proficient swimming abilities will allow you to fully enjoy this activity. Most snorkeling will be panga-based, sometimes over deep water so it is not an ideal place to learn to snorkel, especially if you are not comfortable or are intimidated by these conditions. Getting

some experience in advance will be beneficial, however, the *Samba* crew will always assist you. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

### Flights

Unless listed as included, airfare is not included in trip costs. Detailed logistical information and the contact information for our recommended flight-ticketing agent are included in the Trip Materials we will send you. Please let us know if you are arriving earlier or staying later as we are happy to assist you with any extra overnights that you might want to arrange.

Flights you (or a travel agent) book: Arrive in Quito, Ecuador (UIO) no later than 4:00pm the night of May 9. Depart from Quito (UIO) anytime on or after May 27.

Flights we book for you: Round-trip flights between Quito (UIO) and Baltra (GPS). The cost of this round-trip booking will be added to your final trip balance.

### Seasickness

Don't let a fear of seasickness keep you away! For all but the most sensitive, seasickness is rarely a problem in the Galápagos. Because we are close to the islands most of the time, the seas tend to be gentle and the few open-ocean passages will be overnight. It's a good idea to bring medication if you get seasick or are unsure, but you may find that you do not need it after a couple days once you have your "sea legs." Even those who have experienced seasickness reported that the charm and beauty of the islands and their incredible wildlife were well worth the temporary discomfort. Read our suggestions for coping with seasickness at [www.cheesemans.com/seasickness](http://www.cheesemans.com/seasickness) and contact us if you have any concerns.

### Conditions

- **Non-smoking policy:** We have a strict non-smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted at any time or any place during our tours.
- **Maximum time in nature:** We try to spend as much time in nature as possible, sometimes resulting in long days, but giving you a more in-depth experience.
- **Itinerary route:** The itinerary route, stops, and plans are subject to change by unforeseen circumstances beyond our control, such as weather or road conditions.
- **Additional forms:** For some of our tours, you may be asked to fill out additional forms (e.g., medical questionnaire).
- **Medical conditions and travel risks:** Travel to remote places is exciting, but it is important to understand and accept the risks, both medical and logistical. Minor medical problems can usually be treated, but because you are often far from medical facilities, there can be no expectation for immediate medical treatment or evacuation, even in cases of trauma. Anyone with health problems needing close medical supervision should not consider going on this tour. Bring enough medication for the duration of the trip for any chronic medical needs since pharmacies are usually not available. When you send your deposit and signed Reservation/Release Form, you certify to us that you do not knowingly have any physical or other conditions that would create a risk for yourself or for other trip participants.
- **Use of drones/UAVs on tours:** Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), AKA drones, are not suitable for use on most Cheesemans' Ecology expeditions due to logistical constraints and in many cases, local and national laws or regulations. In some cases, such as on our polar voyages, we operate under environmental regulations that ban the use of recreational drones. Do not bring a drone on safari without contacting us first.

## Conservation

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris is passionate about conserving the precious regions that we travel to and supports many conservation efforts. By visiting these areas, we contribute to sustainable conservation of these valuable wildlife habitats. We urge you to support conservation organizations that protect and restore natural habitats and write letters to tourism and government agencies to promote work in preserving wildlife. The Galápagos Conservancy is working to preserve the Galápagos Islands and its wildlife and would make good use of your donation to fund their ongoing conservation efforts. For more information visit [www.galapagos.org](http://www.galapagos.org).

We aim to make all our trips carbon neutral by splitting the cost of carbon offsetting with our participants. For your convenience, the optional donation amount for your half of the carbon offset will be indicated on your invoice. We source high quality offsets through CarbonTree Conservation Fund, a non-profit we helped found, supporting pioneering forest conservation in the Valdivian Coastal Reserve, a Nature Conservancy project (<https://tinyurl.com/ybgkwton>).

## FAQS

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### What species and behaviors can we expect to see in May and June?

May and June are the best months to see breeding activity, especially bird courtship. Waved albatross perform their exquisite courtship dance, and some may already have eggs. Frigatebirds will court females by inflating their blood red throat sacs while clattering their bills, quivering their wings, and waving their heads back and forth; great frigatebirds courtship will wind down on Genovesa, while magnificent frigatebirds courtship will be active on North Seymour. Because the well-known blue-footed booby is an opportunistic breeder, so it's very hard to predict its activity, we may or may not see them courting, but we have reliably seen courtship in previous years during these months. You may even see a few chicks!

In June, as the garua (cool/dry) season becomes more prominent and the water temperatures cool, marine life becomes more plentiful. You may have a better chance to encounter more Galápagos penguins, whales, and dolphins feeding in the nutrient rich, cool waters.

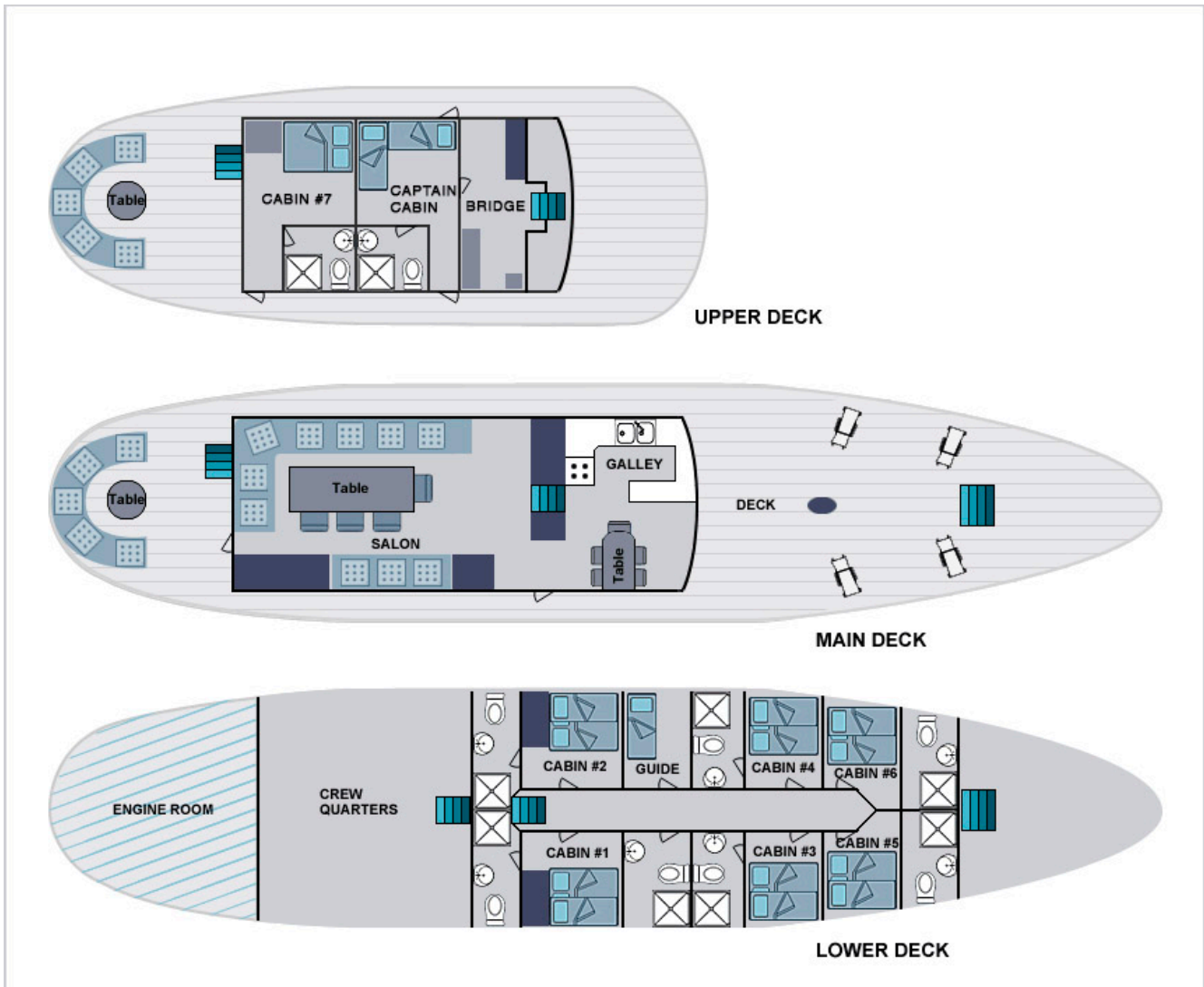
### What can I do if I don't want to snorkel?

Year after year, many of our travelers comment that the beautiful underwater environment was their favorite part of the safari. We strongly encourage you to snorkel even if you are not a strong swimmer. The *Samba* crew will always assist you if you are uncomfortable! If you elect not to snorkel, you can relax aboard the *Samba*.

### Will I see other boats during our voyage?

Yes, you will see other boats but landings and snorkel locations have a daily visitation limit. We will often have landings and snorkels to ourselves. You'll never feel as if you're in a swarm of boats and people!

## SAMBA DECK PLAN



Deck plan is not to scale and shows the number of beds in each cabin, not actual bed arrangement. Cabin sizes vary slightly.