



WT EXPEDITIONS PRESENTS

GALÁPAGOS PHOTO EXPEDITION

WITH DAN HELLER & JONATHAN GREEN



A Special Photo Workshop including Hiking in Ecuador's Highlands
& 8-Day Galápagos Natural History Cruise

EXPEDITION DATE

May 7-20, 2004



Wilderness Travel • 1102 Ninth Street • Berkeley, CA 94710 • 510-558-2488 • 800-368-2794

www.wildernesstravel.com

A Special WT Expedition:

Galápagos Photo Expedition with Dan Heller & Jonathan Green

Darwin's "living laboratory," where every island and outcrop seems a new world, is like no other place on earth: the extraordinary and unique wildlife on the islands is completely unafraid of humans, so one can walk within a few feet of nesting blue-footed boobies, spectacular albatrosses, and basking marine iguanas, and watch (or swim with) penguins and playful sea lions in their underwater realm. The Galápagos is the very definition of a "photographer's paradise."

With travel photographer Dan Heller and photographer-naturalist Jonathan Green, we explore the Galápagos Islands aboard the deluxe 16-passenger yacht *Sagitta*. Our photo workshop includes daily photo shoots as well as group and one-on-one discussions of techniques for wildlife photography, landscape photography, night photography, and many other aspects of the photographic art. Whether you already photograph at a professional level or simply want to improve your current skills, you will enjoy and learn on this photo expedition with these two experts. As on all photographic journeys, we keep our schedule flexible to take advantage of spontaneous opportunities. Non-photographers are welcome and will enjoy the amazing natural history and cultural aspects of the journey.

At the start of our journey, we head out into the brilliantly green Ecuadorian highlands, where snow-capped volcanoes, grazing llamas, colorful markets, and traditionally dressed Otavaleño and Zuleteño highlanders provide a photogenic backdrop for highland hikes and great opportunities for portraiture.

Dan Heller's photographic experiences have taken him around the world, from the peak of Kilimanjaro to the Incan ruins of Peru. He is a gifted teacher whose tutorials and essays have been published in magazines such as *Popular Photography*, *Photo Techniques*, and *Photo Life*, and his work appears in many travel magazines and coffee table books. **Jonathan Green**, a naturalist guide in the Galápagos for the past 15 years, is a widely published photographer who has work that has appeared in *BBC Wildlife* and *Royal Geographical* magazine. He was a finalist as *Royal Geographical's* Photographer of the Year in 2000 and a Bronze Medalist in the Hasselblad World Circuit in 2000. He has just published *Galapagos: Ocean, Earth, Wind & Fire*, a coffee table book of his Galápagos photos and text.

Galápagos Photo Expedition was created with photographer Dan Heller and our veteran Galápagos Trip Leader Jonathan Green, also a widely published photographer who has been a naturalist in the Galapagos for 15 years.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Meals included in these tours are specified at the end of each itinerary day as "B," "L," or "D" (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner).

Day 1 **Quito, Ecuador**

Upon evening arrival at the Quito airport, our flights are met for transfer to our hotel, the 5-star Hotel Colon located in central Quito...*meals are on your own*

Day 2 **Otavallo Market / Hacienda Cusin**

This morning, we have an early morning trip briefing with Dan Heller and Jonathan Green on our drive through the beautiful rolling farmlands of the Ecuadorian highlands to Otavallo, a picturesque highland town that hosts South America's most famous Indian market. Our trip is timed for market day (Saturday) so we can enjoy photographing this colorful weekly gathering in the town's small central square. The Otavallo Indians are well known for their woolen weavings and handicrafts and are easily recognized by their traditional dress: Otavaleño men, with their hair in a long, single braid, wear trademark navy-blue wool ponchos; Otavaleño women wear long blue skirts, white blouses, and multiple strands of golden glass beads around their necks.

After exploring the vibrant market, we continue to Hacienda Cusin for lunch. After lunch, we review the basics of Landscape Photography for those who want to learn about or brush up on their techniques in preparation for our afternoon hike. This will be a perfect time for one-on-one discussions regarding specific photo equipment or other issues.

Our optional hike starts right from the hacienda's grounds, and we follow a trail up to the crater atop Volcán Cotacachi (10,000'), an ancient volcano. Below Cotacachi's rim is sapphire-blue Lago Cuicocha, whose crystal-clear waters allow a look deep into the depths of the volcano's crater. Views of the lake, the often snow-capped volcano, and the surrounding highlands are tremendous throughout the hike, as is the chance to discover the lush vegetation of a mountain cloud forest, with its orchids and native plants. Cotacachi was first climbed in 1880 by famed British alpinist Edward Whymper, who also summited many of Ecuador's other volcanoes while conducting studies on natural history and altitude acclimatization. Overnight at the renowned Hacienda Cusin...**BLD**

Hacienda Cusin, a 16th century landmark with beamed ceilings and a 7-acre garden, is one of the oldest and most famous haciendas in Ecuador. Now 388 years old, its historic ambience was carefully preserved during its transition into a country inn in 1990. The 25 guestrooms all have private bathrooms and garden views; most have fireplaces and beamed ceilings. The hacienda property is surrounded by an old stone wall and wonderful gardens. Rich black soil, cool nights, and the predictable equatorial sun have combined to fill seven acres of gardens with bougainvillea, belladonna, foxgloves, orchids, and palms.

Day 3 **Hacienda Zuleta**

A day's hike along cobblestone and dirt roads takes us through wide-open countryside and rolling farmlands to our next accommodation, Hacienda Zuleta. The beauty and color of the rural landscape makes this a photogenic hike of three to four hours, and we enjoy a picnic lunch en route. Our luggage is transported by van. The first part of the route is uphill, across Cubilche, the hill that separates the Cusin and Zuleta estates, and we hike at a gentle pace. Along the way, we pass through the village of San Pablo del Lago and across a lovely green and yellow checkerboard of neatly tended fields of barley, corn, wheat, and potatoes, interspersed with eucalyptus forest and pastures.

Our hike also gives us a chance to see and photograph the traditionally dressed Zuleteño highlanders; Zuleteño women wear very bright-colored skirts and embroidered white blouses, while

Zuleteño men wear woven wool ponchos. Stunning views en route include Volcán Cayambe (18,991'), Ecuador's third highest volcano, with its brilliant white snow cone. Located exactly on the equator, Volcán Cayambe is now part of the Cayambe-Coca Ecological Reserve, one of the largest nature reserves in Ecuador, which includes the alpine heights of Cayambe as well as tropical forest in the eastern lowlands. The name Cayambe means "water of life" in Quechua, the language of the highland people. We enjoy a picnic lunch en route. In the afternoon, we descend into the Zuleta Valley, passing among the small farmhouses of the Zuleteño people along the way, and arrive at Hacienda Zuleta. Time permitting, we can enjoy a short walk to the trout farm on the Zuleta estate after we settle in. For those who would like a shorter version of today's hike, we can arrange for a downhill walk of about 1.5 hours to Zuleta...**BLD**

Hacienda Zuleta is a 300-year-old rural estate in an exquisite setting. The farmhouse was built in the 17th century by Jesuits. Today Zuleta is a very productive farm that produces fresh organic vegetables and dairy products and trout. Zuleta has a wonderful ambience and a fantastic natural setting in the picturesque countryside. Candle-lit dinners by a roaring log fire add to its charm.

Day 4 **Hacienda Zuleta**

A morning hike from Zuleta takes us first to a rehabilitation area for injured Andean condors, located about a 30-minute walk from the house. Injured condors found a few years ago on Volcán Antisana were rescued by Friedman Koster, former director of the Darwin Station and a well-known photographer and biologist. With the help of Hacienda Zuleta's owner, Fernando Polanco, they now live in a big aviary in the Rinconada ravine. Their presence has attracted wild condors to the area. Señor Polanco usually accompanies us on our walk on the trails of Zuleta, and we enjoy a picnic lunch mid-day in a scenic spot at the estate's lovely waterfall. We arrive back in the afternoon for a cup of tea and time to relax by the fireplace. Total hiking time is a leisurely five or six hours. Overnight at hacienda...**BLD**

Day 5 **Quito**

Zuleta and its beautiful rural surroundings are a delight, and we can choose from among a number of photographic activities early this morning, then depart Zuleta and return to Quito.

On the way back to Quito, we cover the basics of Urban Photography for those who wish to shoot in the city. There are some excellent opportunities to photograph buildings, people, storefronts, and other situations. If there is interest, an ad hoc group can be assembled for an impromptu photo hike exploring Quito.

After lunch on your own, the rest of the day is free to explore and photograph in Quito and to get repacked for the Galápagos journey that begins tomorrow morning. Dinner on your own. Overnight at Hotel Colon...**BL**

Days 6-12 **Galápagos**

In the morning, we transfer to the airport for the flight to the Galápagos. Our flight to the islands takes us 600 miles west over the Pacific Ocean to Baltra Island, where we clear Galápagos formalities and board the yacht in nearby Baltra Harbor. When Darwin first came to the Galápagos, he was taken aback by the rare species of birds and reptiles that had evolved in this isolated habitat. He wrote in his Galápagos journal that among these islands "we seem to be brought somewhat near to that great fact that mystery of mysteries the first appearance of beings on this earth." Our cruise allows us to revel in the glories of the unique ecosystem that meant so much to Darwin.

After a delicious lunch on board, we review some of the basic techniques for photographing the unique wildlife found in the islands. Also, we will schedule one-on-one time for photo critiques,

which will be done during the evenings on board. If trip members have slides or prints they'd like to share or have critiqued, time will be scheduled either individually or with the group.

Each island that is designated as a visitor site has well-marked trails from which we can observe and photograph as many of the island's species as possible. Many "residents" are often found directly on or next to the trail, allowing for nose-to-nose observation and incredible up-close photography...***BLD each day***

Note: Although our cruising itinerary in the Galápagos has been "fixed" by the Galápagos Park Service, itineraries are variable due to local and seasonal conditions. In addition, the Galápagos Park Service may impose changes at any time in order to protect the fragile island environments. Your exact itinerary is outlined by your Trip Leader upon arrival in the Galápagos Islands.

We usually visit the following islands on an 8-day cruise:

South Plaza is home to sea lion harems patrolled by bull sea lions as well as a bachelor sea lion colony. We see many land iguanas feeding on the sparse *Opuntia* cacti, and we should also see some marine iguanas. The southern cliffs feature spectacular views along with swallow-tailed gulls, Audubon shearwaters, and beautiful red-billed tropicbirds.

Santa Cruz is one of the largest islands in the Galápagos. Visits to Santa Cruz include a *panga* (dinghy) ride through **Caleta Tortuga Negra** (Black Turtle Cove), a beautiful mangrove-rimmed lagoon, for spectacular views of green sea turtles (in season), rays, and sharks. The cove is also frequented by pelicans and lava herons, the only heron endemic to the Galápagos. We also visit the island's little town, Puerto Ayora, and its Charles Darwin Research Station.

Española (Hood) is the southernmost island in the archipelago. At Punta Suarez, we follow a trail through well-populated masked and blue-footed booby colonies to reach a beach teeming with the island's colorful marine iguana subspecies and unusually large lava lizards. One of the islands' most spectacular seabirds, the albatross, is endemic to Hood, nesting from late March through December. Other major sights on Hood include an impressive blowhole and the beautiful white-sand beach at Gardner Bay.

Floreana is the only island on which the medium tree finch is found. From Punta Cormorant, an olivine green beach rimmed by mangroves, we can walk to a flamingo lagoon where we frequently see Galápagos ducks and many shore birds. Across the island is a beautiful white-sand beach where sea turtles nest. We usually snorkel in and around nearby Devil's Crown, an almost completely submerged volcano noted for its profuse coral development and variety of colorful tropical fish. We may see rays, sea turtles, and perhaps sharks. We can visit the historic Post Office Barrel, where visitors leave postcards for other visitors to take home and deliver.

Fernandina is the third largest island and westernmost island. It is considered the youngest of the Galápagos islands. A narrow point of land, Punta Espinosa, mostly consisting of lava and sand, extends from the base of the Fernandina volcano, the most active volcano in the Galápagos. At the tip of the point there are very large marine iguanas all over the rocks. During nesting season (the first half of the year), we may see marine iguana hatchlings, so tiny they can easily be confused with lava lizards.

Santiago (James) is famous for the vast *pahoehoe* lava field at Sullivan Bay. On the other side of the island, at Puerto Egas, we encounter fur seals—extremely curious and photogenic creatures which will delight us as they dart around in a graceful underwater ballet. Erosion in the lava has formed

pools, caves and inlets where we'll see a great variety of wildlife—marine iguanas, sally lightfoot crabs, herons and other shorebirds.

Espumilla Beach lies on the northwest side of Santiago. It is a wonderful spot for swimming and has soft brown-sand. We may see various wading birds and perhaps flamingos in the small lagoon behind the beach. We may also see flycatchers and Galápagos hawks.

Bartolomé is a tiny island off the eastern shore of Santiago (James) Island. Known for its panoramic view and for the distinctive spire of its Pinnacle Rock, Bartolomé is one of the most photogenic spots in the entire archipelago. We hike to the top of Bartolomé's extinct volcano for a magnificent view.

North Seymour is a small, uplifted island just north of Baltra with abundant sea lions and blue-footed boobies. Marine iguanas and swallow tailed gulls are also found here, as well as the largest colony of magnificent frigatebirds in the islands.

Day 13 **Quito**

We return to Baltra in the midmorning for our afternoon flight back to Quito (with lunch on the plane), stopping over briefly in Guayaquil en route. In Quito, we transfer to our hotel, then enjoy our farewell dinner in the evening...*BLD*

Day 14 **Depart**

An early morning transfer takes us to the airport for our departure on homeward flights (*or join an optional extension to Machu Picchu or the Ecuadorian Amazon*)...*B*

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

Galápagos Photo Expedition can easily be combined with an optional travel extensions. Please call for details about other options. ***For extension Land Costs, see page 10.***

KAPAWI RAINFOREST LODGE EXTENSION*

4 days / 3 nights—Tuesday & Friday departures only

5 days / 4 nights—Friday & Monday departures only

7 days / 6 nights—Tuesday departures only

8 days / 7 nights—Tuesday departures only

Set on the Pastaza River 100 miles east of the Andes, Kapawi Lodge is accessible only by small aircraft. The lodge was developed in cooperation with the local Achuar Indian community and features comfortable thatched cottages built in traditional Achuar style, set on Kapawi Lake. The cottages have private bathrooms, large, fully screened windows, and porches facing the lake so you can observe the abundant birdlife and listen to the sounds of the tropical night. The central lodge has a lounge, library, and bar, and there is a separate dining facility. All tap water is filtered and purified; bottled mineral water for drinking is provided in each room. The lodge is powered by solar energy so your jungle experience is not interrupted by the noise of generators. The dining room serves fine International and Ecuadorian food, with an emphasis on local products, especially the wide variety of exotic fruits.

Guided hikes and canoe trips are available each day in a rainforest that teems with colorful birds, monkeys, and giant plants. Toucans, macaws, howler monkeys, and caiman can often be seen, along with tapir, capybara, and deer. Your itinerary at Kapawi can be tailored to your particular interests. Other activities include birdwatching, fishing, visits to the Achuar communities, and swimming (when available). An Achuar guide and a naturalist guide accompany all of the excursions, sharing their knowledge of the medicinal and practical uses of the rainforest's plants and trees, as well as the

characteristics of the area's bird and animal life. Over 500 species of birds in the Kapawi Reserve, making it one of the best sites in the Amazon for birdwatchers.

Includes all meals, lodging, guides, canoeing, excursions, transfers to and from the airport for flights to Kapawi.

*This extension can be taken before or after the *Galápagos Photo Expedition*. Please note that due to the remote location of the lodge, it is highly advisable to book one free day (2 nights) in Quito after your extension. This will ensure that you get out of the jungle in time to make international travel connections.

CUSCO & MACHU PICCHU EXTENSION*

Day 14 *Lima / Cusco*

Arrive Lima in the early morning and transfer to a connecting flight to Cusco (11,204'). Spend a few hours resting and acclimatizing to the altitude, then explore this ancient capital of the Inca Empire with a city tour. Overnight at the Hotel Monasterio...**B**

Overnights in Cusco are at the lovely Hotel Monasterio, a 16th century monastery that is now a luxurious hotel. Although this elegant red-tile-roofed building, with its arcades and gardens, was constructed more than 300 years ago, today it proves all the comforts of a 5-star hotel. It is located close to the city's central square, the Plaza de Armas.

Day 15 *Urubamba / Ollantaytambo*

Morning tour of spectacular Inca ruins around Cusco. Afterwards, drive through the Urubamba Valley to Ollantaytambo, a living Inca village, virtually unchanged from ancient times. Overnight at the Posada Yucay, a charming converted hacienda...**B**

Day 16 *Machu Picchu*

Board the early train for the spectacular ride to Machu Picchu, the famous "Lost City of the Incas." Afternoon tour of this fabulous temple complex, one of the world's most awesome archaeological treasures. Overnight at the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Hotel, the only hotel adjacent to the ruins...**B**

Day 17 *Machu Picchu / Cusco*

Free morning to continue your exploration of this legendary city. Optional hike to Huayna Picchu, the peak above the ruins, for a spectacular overview of the entire surroundings. Board the afternoon train for the return to Cusco. Overnight at the Hotel Monasterio...**B**

Day 18 *Cusco*

Free day for continued exploration of Cusco on your own and last-minute shopping in the colorful markets. Overnight at the Hotel Monasterio...**B**

Day 19 *Lima / Depart*

Early morning flight to Lima. Afternoon visit to the Gold Museum. Day room and late transfer to the airport for overnight flights to the US, or overnight in Lima and early morning transfer to the airport on Day 20 (depending on individual flight itineraries)...**B**

Includes all accommodations, breakfasts, airport transfers within Peru, all land transportation, all sightseeing as described including entrance fees to museums and ruins, and services of local guides.

*This extension can be taken before or after the *Galapagos Photo Expedition*. If you choose to take the extension **after** the trip, you need an extra hotel overnight in Lima (cost not included) because of the early-morning departure of the Lima/Cusco flight. We are happy to assist you with a hotel booking in Lima at our group hotel.

Tour Cost & Important Trip Details

LAND COST (for the 14-day photo expedition including 8-day cruise):

\$4095 (12-16 members)

\$4395 (9-11 members)

\$4695 (6-8 members)

Single supplement: \$350 *hotels and haciendas only, not available on the yacht*

Galápagos park fees: \$100 *to be paid directly upon arrival in Baltra*

Internal flights: \$333-\$390 *depending on season*

Our trips are budgeted for a full or nearly full sign-up. To avoid having to cancel trips with fewer members, we charge more for smaller groups, to cover the fixed costs of the trip. *Costs are based on double occupancy; if you are traveling alone and wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. If you are willing to share accommodations we will match you with a roommate if one is available. If you are willing to share accommodations but we cannot match you with a roommate, the "forced single supplement" will be 50% of the single supplement listed above. Please note: NO single cabins are available on the Galápagos portion of the trip.*

LAND COST INCLUDES:

- All accommodations, including the 5-star Hotel Colon in Quito, the Cusin and Zuleta haciendas, and lodging aboard the yacht *Sagitta* in the Galápagos
- Welcome and farewell dinners and all meals as indicated in daily itinerary
- Services of Photo Workshop Leaders throughout the trip
- Services of local guides in Quito and yacht crew in the Galápagos
- Sightseeing/tours as indicated

LAND COST DOES NOT INCLUDE: international airfare, internal flights, Galápagos park fee, transfers for independent arrival or departure, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, additional hotel nights that may be necessitated by airline schedule changes or other factors, pre-trip expenses of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas, and other expenses of a personal nature (liquor, laundry, etc.). Tipping the yacht crew is customary but entirely at your discretion.

AIR TICKETING

A great many airlines carriers no longer offer partnership agreements with travel agencies and tour operators. Because of this, we are unfortunately not able to provide air ticketing for this program. We can suggest flight routings and carriers, but you will need to make the reservations directly with the airlines in question or via the Internet.

Typically, the most convenient flight schedule to connect with our trips to Quito, Ecuador is on **American Airlines**. American's direct number is 800-433-7400 or you can visit their website at www.aa.com. Once you have booked your flights, please fax or mail us a copy so that we can inform the Trip Leader of your flight times.

The tickets for the Quito/Galapagos flights are issued in Quito by our local agent and will be distributed by your Trip Leader in Ecuador.

ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE

Quito is the meeting point for *Galápagos Photo Expedition*. A complimentary airport transfer will be arranged for all trip members arriving at the airport on Day 1. On Day 14, you will be transferred to the airport in Quito for departing flights. Our *Arrival & Departure Logistics* sheet, included with your confirmation packet, has further information.

GALÁPAGOS DEPOSIT AND CANCELLATION FEES

As indicated in the General Information of the Wilderness Travel catalog, all trips involving yacht charters are subject to deposit requirements and cancellation penalties which differ from "regular" catalog departures.

Payment Schedule

At time of reservation	\$500
120 days prior to departure	50% of total land cost
60 days prior to departure	Balance

Cancellation Fees

Minimum Fee	\$500
46-90 days prior to departure	50% of land cost
45 days or less prior to departure	100% of land cost

CUSCO & MACHU PICCHU EXTENSION LAND COST

2 people, based on double occupancy	from \$1650 per person
Lima/Cusco/Lima airfare	\$230 <i>subject to change</i>

KAPAWI RAINFOREST LODGE EXTENSION LAND COST

4 days / 3 nights:	\$856 per person plus \$200 airfare
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LEADERSHIP

Photo Workshop Leaders

Dan Heller is a freelance travel photographer from Marin County, California. His experiences have taken him around the world, much of it on assignment with Wilderness Travel since 1998. His material can be found not just in Wilderness Travel catalogs, but also in travel-related magazines and coffee table books. He also sells his work through exhibitions and venues from KQED (San Francisco's PBS station) to Harvard University. As a teacher, his tutorials and essays have been published in magazines such as *Popular Photography*, *Photo Techniques*, and *Photo Life*, and his material is often used in photography classes around the country. He has an extensive knowledge of the photographic industry and its business and artistic aspects and thus his workshops are appropriate for professionals and amateurs alike, and are customized for the individual needs of the participants.

Jonathan Green studied biology and geology in his native England, where he graduated with a Bachelors degree in Science, Geology, and Geography from North London University. He currently resides near Quito, in the Andes of Ecuador, and has spent the last 10 years working as a naturalist guide in the Galápagos Islands. Jonathan is a widely published photographer of both land and underwater photography and has just published *Galapagos: Ocean, Earth, Wind & Fire*, a coffee table book of his Galápagos photos and text. Jonathan also leads adventures for us in the Amazon rainforest, Peru, and Patagonia. In 1989 he was elected Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

PRE-TRIP PHOTOGRAPHY INFORMATION

Before the trip, Dan Heller will contact each trip member by phone (or email if preferred) to discuss his or her level and experience in photography and personal objectives for the trip. As we near the departure date, you will receive a Photographic Equipment List outlining the minimum photo equipment necessary, highly recommended optional equipment, with suggestions for lenses, film, filters, tripods, photo bags, and other gear. In addition, a Technical Handout will include more detailed information from Dan Heller of the topics of lenses, film, and so on.

ABOUT THE PHOTO WORKSHOP

The primary goal of the photo workshop is for participants to come home with the best images they can. Thus the focus is on finding provocative imagery, whether the subject is nature, landscape, cultural, artistic, or anthropological. Our Trip Leaders are Jonathan Green who based in Quito, Ecuador, and Dan Heller who is based in Marin County, California. Dan Heller will contact each trip member in advance of the trip to establish previous photo experience and technical knowledge so as to ascertain the needs of each individual. During the trip, we have a daily morning briefing with Dan and Jonathan to review the day's schedule, photography options, and any necessary or required photo equipment for the day. Because sunrise and sunset are prime times for photography, each day may involve an optional photo shoot (location and weather permitting). Daily photo shoots are organized on a case-by-case basis, and trip members who participate should be prepared to be up early for sunrise photos. (Please note: Early morning and late evening photo shoots can be organized in the highlands and on Santa Cruz Island in the Galápagos, but other Galápagos islands are highly regulated; we will request special government permits to land for dawn photo shoots on other islands but cannot guarantee them.) Photo shoots are dependent on the weather, so they are not specifically listed in the daily itinerary. Night photography can provide amazing opportunities, from star trails to romantic moonlit landscapes. Again, these photo shoots may happen any night, weather permitting, so there are no specific nights listed in the itinerary for night photo shoots. Because night photography requires solid ground, night photography will not take place during the island portion of the trip.

CLIMATE AND WEATHER

Instead of the four seasons to which we are accustomed, Ecuador has two seasons: wet and dry. Weather patterns vary greatly depending on the region, and climate can fluctuate greatly. The following should serve as a general rule:

Highlands: Altitude is the main factor influencing temperatures in the mountains. We will encounter warm, sunny days with daytime temperatures ranging between 65° and 75° year round, although there can be variations on occasion. The sun is very strong at high altitude and it can often be warm enough to wear shorts and a t-shirt. However, it can also get extremely cold; if you're familiar with mountain weather, you know how suddenly it can get cold, even in the daytime, if the sun slips behind a cloud. The best preparation is to dress in layers. You should have a warm jacket for the highland evenings. There is a local saying that in Ecuador's mountains, all four seasons can be experienced in one day!

Galápagos Islands: (*January to April*) The warm El Niño current from the north causes a hot, rainy season during these months. It doesn't rain all the time, but you should expect occasional short tropical showers. The water temperature is about 72° in this season and the air temperature can get up to the upper 80's, but the sea is generally calmer. Note: Temperatures may vary from year to year. (*May to December*) This is the cooler *garua* season, influenced by the cold Humboldt current from the south. Air and water temperatures are lower (water is about 63°). Although rain is rare, it can be misty at times. If you plan on snorkeling during the *garua* season, bring a wetsuit (or rent a 'shorty')

wetsuit from us for \$20—sizes are limited, so notify us early). If you get chilled easily, you may want to bring a full length wetsuit liner for extra insulation. Sweaters might be needed for the evening.

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

Galápagos Photo Expedition is rated 3, moderate, according to our trip grading system. In the highlands, our hikes are not difficult and can be enjoyed by anyone in a good state of fitness. Hikes range from three to five hours and take place mostly on cobblestone and dirt roads with a few sections on trails. There is some up-and-down during the hikes, which can feel strenuous at these altitudes (10,000'), but the terrain is not particularly challenging. You carry only a daypack. For your own enjoyment, we recommend that you make a special effort to be in good physical condition.

In the Galápagos, we have daily shore excursions featuring walks on well-marked trails through wildlife colonies, rocky lava fields, and along beaches. Our shore landings are either "dry" (where there are rocks or wooden piers to step onto when you disembark from the panga) or "wet" (which involves stepping out of the panga into a foot or so of surf and wading to shore). Getting out of the panga for a dry landing is occasionally tricky because the panga is moving with the waves and the rocks you step onto may be slippery. The yacht staff will assist in these landings.

IN THE GALÁPAGOS WITH WILDERNESS TRAVEL

The Galápagos Islands are magic. We never cease to be amazed at the vast differences between the islands themselves, how incredibly unafraid of humans the wildlife is, and the magnificence of the underwater life. After more than two decades of Galápagos travel, we know what makes a perfect Galápagos journey: a small group traveling with a superb naturalist on board a beautiful yacht, and a sailing itinerary deftly designed to capture the magic of Darwin's "world within itself." And our Galápagos journeys aren't typical "cruises"—they are action-packed natural history adventures full of hiking, snorkeling, sea kayaking, and the unique wildlife encounters found only here in the enchanted islands where the story of evolution unfolded.



THE SAGITTA

The *Sagitta* is a 124-foot brigantine schooner that caters to 16 passengers. She has ten air-conditioned cabins with private baths, a sizable dining room, library, and lots of wonderful open and shaded space on her teak decks. Her staff of top-notch professionals includes a chef who turns out exquisite meals. On any boat journey, safety is the first concern, and the *Sagitta* is steel-hulled, impeccably maintained, and captained by the most experienced mariners in the islands. The *Sagitta* is owned and operated by Fidli Angermeyer—our longtime partner and one of the Galápagos' most celebrated sailors (the Angermeyers are central to the social history of the Galápagos, as you'll learn!).

CHOOSING YOUR ADVENTURE

We work hard to help you choose the right trip, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. *If you are uncertain about the level of comfort, difficulty, or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Galápagos department or email galapagos@wildernesstravel.com.*

REFERENCES

We are proud to have an exceptionally high rate of repeat travelers. We have operated Galápagos cruises and hiking journeys in Ecuador for over 20 years, but the Galapagos as a photo expedition is a new journey for us. We'd be happy to put you in touch with a client who has traveled with Jonathan in the Galápagos or who has journeyed with us on our other photo expeditions.

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law which took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #1007696-40

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the **Wilderness Travel** catalog.

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