

# Galapagos Islands Photo Album

July 2017



# Quito, Ecuador

Quito is the capital city of Ecuador and extends to within 1 km of the equator. The city is at an elevation of 2,850 metres (9,350 ft) above sea level, located on the eastern slopes of an active stratovolcano in the Andes mountains. Quito is one of the two main departure points to the Baltra airport in the Galapagos Islands. El Panecillo is a 200-metre-high hill of volcanic-origin, located between southern and central Quito. Its peak is at an elevation of 3,016 metres above sea level. In the center of the Plaza de la Independencia is the monument to Heroes de la Independencia, which symbolizes the triumph of the Republic against the Spanish colony.



Herrán Matorras' Winged Virgin of Quito



Herrán Matorras' Winged Virgin of Quito



Volcano Outside of Quito



Hotel Plaza Grande, Quito



Quito Street Looking Towards Winged Virgin Statue





Monument to the Heroes de la Independencia, Quito



Courtyard in Franciscan Monastery



Equator Sign and Totem Pole  
Intinan Museum, San Antonio de Pichincha



Equator Sign at Intinan Museum, San Antonio de Pichincha



Becky and Jim at the Equator  
San Antonio de Pichincha

# Rábida Island, Galapagos

Rábida Island is a relatively small, arid island with steep slopes and one of the most volcanically varied islands in the archipelago. Several small volcanic craters and the high amount of iron in the lava give the island its distinctive red color and overall appearance. A visit to Rábida's visitor site begins with a wet landing on the maroon-colored beach on the northern coast. Marine iguanas and sea lions are often seen resting in the shade of the caves nearby. Rábida is one of the best places for visitors to see pelicans nesting up close. Blue-footed and Nazca Boobies frequent the cliffs above. Behind the beach is a saltwater lagoon in which Pintail Ducks and Common Stilts are frequently seen feeding. The inland trail is a good place to observe land birds such as finches, Galapagos Doves, Yellow Warblers, and mockingbirds, as well as the occasional snake. [*Galapagos Conservancy, Inc.*]



Zodiac Ride from Airport to Board Xperience, Baltra



Rabida Island Scenery





Rabida Island Scenery



Rabida Island Scenery



Rabida Island Scenery



Lazy Sea Lion on Rabida Island



Small Ground Finch on Rabida Island



Oyster Catcher and Chick on Rabida Island



Yellow Warbler on Rabida Island



Galapagos Snake on Rabida Island





Galapagos Snake on Rabida Island



Mr. Happy, Snake and Mockingbird on Rabida Island



Xperience from Shore of Rabida Island

# Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos

Santa Cruz is the second largest of the Galapagos Islands, with a long history of human settlement and agriculture. Today, Santa Cruz is the tourist hub of the Galapagos, centered around the island's largest city, Puerto Ayora. Puerto Ayora is home to the headquarters of the Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Research Station. The Fausto Llerena Tortoise Center, with the Charles Darwin Foundation, began in 1965 to save the giant tortoise population. As of 2008, more than 4,000 young tortoises from eight different populations have been repatriated to their island of origin. [*Galapagos Conservancy, Inc.*]



Dragon Hill, Santa Cruz Island



Brown Pelican at Black Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz Island



Santa Cruz Island Shoreline



Blue-footed Boobies at Black Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz Island





Blue-footed Booby at Black Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz Island



Blue-footed Booby at Black Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz Island



Santa Cruz Island Scenery



Galapagos Land Iguana, Santa Cruz Island



Galapagos Land Iguana, Santa Cruz Island



Galapagos Land Iguana, Santa Cruz Island



Santa Cruz Island Scenery



Galapagos Mockingbirds  
Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz Island





Dragon Hill, Santa Cruz Island



Sunset at Black Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz Island

# Giant Tortoise Reserve

## Santa Cruz Highlands



Becky and Giant Tortoise, Santa Cruz Island



Giant Tortoise, Rancho Manzanillo, Santa Cruz Island



- Giant Tortoise, Rancho Manzanillo, Santa Cruz Island



Giant Tortoise, Rancho Manzanillo, Santa Cruz Island



Giant Tortoise, Rancho Manzanillo, Santa Cruz Island





Giant Tortoises, Rancho Manzanillo, Santa Cruz Island



Giant Tortoises, Rancho Manzanillo, Santa Cruz Island



Giant Tortoises, Darwin Research Station  
Santa Cruz Island



Giant Tortoises, Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz Island



Giant Tortoises, Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz Island



Giant Tortoise, Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz Island



Giant Tortoise, Rancho Manzanillo, Santa Cruz Island

# Santiago Island, Galapagos

Santiago was the second of the Galapagos Islands visited by Charles Darwin. The Beagle arrived there on October 5, 1835. Darwin's record of land iguanas is the only one that indicates there was a thriving population, as today land iguanas are extinct on Santiago. Goats, pigs, and donkeys were released on Santiago in the 1800s, causing havoc for the island ecosystem and many of its native species. Goats destroyed the natural woodlands, pigs destroyed nests of many of the native species, including giant tortoises, sea turtles, and Galapagos petrels. The island was declared pig-free in 2000, and goat- and donkey-free in 2006.

Sullivan Bay provides a unique opportunity to walk across a recent lava flow. The trail crosses relatively flat, black pahoehoe lava, dotted with a series of pyroclastic cones. At the southern end of the bay is Puerto Egas where a trail leads along the coast to the fur seal grottoes. [*Galapagos Conservancy, Inc.*]





Puerto Egas Shoreline Scene, Santiago Island



Puerto Egas Scenery, Santiago Island



Puerto Egas Scenery, Santiago Island



Marine Iguanas on Puerto Egas, Santiago Island



Striated Heron on Puerto Egas, Santiago Island



Great Blue Heron on Puerto Egas, Santiago Island



Lava Lizard on Puerto Egas, Santiago Island



Brown Pelicans on Puerto Egas, Santiago Island





Sea Lion on Rocks, Puerto Egas, Santiago Island



Brown Pelicans on Puerto Egas, Santiago Island



Sally Lightfoot Crabs, Puerto Egas, Santiago Island



Marine Iguanas on Puerto Egas, Santiago Island



Marine Iguana on Puerto Egas, Santiago Island



Marine Iguana on Puerto Egas, Santiago Island



Puerto Egas Scenery, Santiago Island



Puerto Egas Scenery, Santiago Island



# Isabela Island, Galapagos

The seahorse-shaped Isabela Island is the largest of all the islands, and greater in size than all of the other islands combined. Darwin visited Tagus Cove in 1835. Isabela Island was formed by the joining of six shield volcanoes: Ecuador, Wolf, Darwin, Alcedo, Sierra Negra, and Cerro Azul. All of the volcanoes except Ecuador are still active. Wolf Volcano, at 1707 m, is the highest point in the Galapagos Archipelago. Wolf and Ecuador volcanoes lie directly on the equator. Isabela provides examples of the geologic forces that created the Galapagos Islands, including uplifts at Urbina Bay, tuff cones at Tagus Cove, and pumice on Alcedo Volcano.

<br>At Tagus Cove, a short, steep hike passes Darwin Lake, which sits within a tuff cone. This site is an excellent place for viewing landbirds, including ground and tree finches, hawks, yellow warblers and large-billed flycatchers. An occasional land iguana or giant tortoise can also sometimes be observed. Visits to Punta Vicente Roca are solely by water. The impressive geological formations provide a beautiful backdrop for numerous nesting birds, including Blue-footed and Nazca boobies, gulls, storm petrels, and Brown Noddy Terns. [*Galapagos Conservancy, Inc.*]



Morning Zodiac Landing, Urbina Bay



Galapagos Small Tree Finch, Isabela Island



Yellow Warbler, Isabela Island



Nazca Boobies, Isabela Island



Blue-footed Booby, Isabela Island



Brown Pelican, Urbina Bay Shoreline



Galapagos Land Iguana, Urbina Bay, Isabela Island





Galapagos Land Iguana, Urbina Bay, Isabela Island



Galapagos Land Iguana, Urbina Bay, Isabela Island



Brown Pelicans, Urbina Bay Shoreline, Isabela Island



Flightless Cormorant, Isabela Island



Shoreline Scene, Vicente Roca Point



Marine Iguanas, Isabela Island



Blue-footed Booby, Tagus Cove, Isabela Island



Brown Pelican at Tagus Cove, Isabela Island





Yellow Warbler, Isabela Island



Tagus Cove Trail Scenery, Isabela Island



Tagus Cove Hiking Trail Scenery, Isabela Island



Tagus Cove Scenery, Isabela Island



Darwin's Lake and Tagus Cove, Isabela Island



MS Xperience at Tagus Cove, Isabela Island



Volcán Ecuador, Isabela Island

# Fernandina Island, Galapagos

Fernandina is the westernmost island in the Galapagos Islands, and is most famous for its continuing series of volcanic eruptions. During an explosive eruption in 1968, the caldera of La Cumbre Volcano collapsed, falling approximately 350 m. Recent eruptions have occurred both in the caldera and on the outer slopes of the volcano, with some of them reaching the sea. Except for a single visitor site on the northeast edge of the island, the island is maintained in its pristine state. Punta Espinosa has been raised and lowered a number of times as a result of geologic activity, with the last known activity in 1975, when it was raised approximately 40 cm, leaving corals and red mangroves exposed. [*Galapagos Conservancy, Inc.*]





Zodiak Landing, Espinoza Point, Fernandina Island



Marine Iguana at Espinoza Point Shoreline, Fernandina Island



Lava Cactus, Fernandina Island



Fernandina Island Shoreline Scene



Fernandina Island Shoreline Scene



Lava Field, Fernandina Island



Marine Iguanas Swimming, Fernandina Island Shore



Marine Iguanas, Fernandina Island





Marine Iguanas, Fernandina Island



Marine Iguanas, Fernandina Island



Marine Iguana, Fernandina Island



Marine Iguanas, Fernandina Island



Young Galapagos Sea Lion, Fernandina Island



Galapagos Sea Lion, Fernandina Island



Galapagos Sea Lions, Fernandina Island



Marine Iguanas, Fernandina Island





Galapagos Mockingbirds, Fernandina Island



Brown Pelican in Flight, Fernandina Island



Lava Lizard, Fernandina Island



Fernandina Island Scenery



Isabela Island from Fernandina Island Shore



Isabela Island from Fernandina Island Shore

# Genovesa Island, Galapagos

Genovesa Island is a horse-shoe shaped island that was formed from the eruption of a shield volcano and the eventual collapse of one side of the caldera. Genovesa has developed a reputation as 'the bird island' because of the numerous and varied bird species that nest there: frigate birds, Nazca and Red-footed Boobies, Swallow-tailed Gulls, storm petrels, Red-billed Tropicbirds, finches, and mockingbirds are among the bird species. Genovesa is one of the few places in the Galapagos Islands where Red-footed Boobies are found en masse.

At Prince Philip's Steps site, visitors are dropped off at a steep stairway that begins on rocks at the foot of a path that leads through a seabird colony full of Nazca and Red-footed Boobies. At the plateau, the trail continues past more nesting booby colonies. Visitors with keen eyes may catch a glimpse of a Short-eared Owl stalking its petrel prey along the island's eastern cliffs.

Disembarking at Darwin Bay Beach, a trail heads west along a tidal lagoon and then up a rocky hill that leads to a point overlooking the cliffs and Darwin Bay. Visitors will see pairs of Swallow-tailed Gulls, Lava Gulls, and Yellow-crowned and Lava Herons. Visitors are asked to watch where they walk, so as not to step on any Swallow-tailed Gull eggs. This is one of the few places in the islands where visitors are guaranteed to see Red-footed Boobies, with their bright red prehensile feet and contrasting blue bills. It is estimated that more than 200,000 Red-footed Boobies live in the trees and bushes of Genovesa. [*Galapagos Conservancy, Inc.*]



Darwin Bay Shoreline, Genovesa Island





Darwin Bay, Genovesa Island



Darwin Bay, Genovesa Island



Darwin Bay, Genovesa Island



Genovesa Island Scenery



Red-footed Booby and Chick, Genovesa Island



Red-footed Booby, Genovesa Island



Red-footed Boobies, Genovesa Island



Red-footed Booby and Chick, Genovesa Island





Red-footed Booby, Genovesa Island



Galapagos Frigate Bird, Genovesa Island



Galapagos Frigate Bird, Genovesa Island



Galapagos Frigate Bird and Chick, Genovesa Island



Galapagos Frigate Bird and Chick, Genovesa Island



Galapagos Frigate Chick, Genovesa Island



Nazca Booby, Genovesa Island



Galapagos Frigate Bird in Flight, Genovesa Island





Nazca Booby, Genovesa Island



Nazca Booby With Eggs, Genovesa Island



Galapagos Frigate Bird Drying Wings  
Genovesa Island



Booby Chick, Genovesa Island



Nazca Booby and Chick, Genevesa Island



Galapagos Lava Gull, Genovesa Island



Galaagos Short-eared Owl With Lunch, Genovesa Island



Becky and Galapagos Sea Lion, Genovesa Island





Sally Lightfoot Crabs, Genovesa Island



Sally Lightfoot Crab, Genovesa Island

# Bartolomé Island, Galapagos

Bartolomé Island is a barren islet in Sullivan Bay to the east of Santiago Island. Bartolomé is home to a distinctive and recognizable site of the archipelago: Pinnacle Rock, a volcanic cone that was formed when magma was expelled from an underwater volcano. Visitors to Bartolomé may recognize the island and Pinnacle Rock from the 2003 blockbuster movie "Master and Commander." Landing across the small bay opposite Pinnacle Rock, visitors climb a 600-m trail to the 114-m summit that provides spectacular views of Pinnacle Rock, the immense black lava flows at Sullivan Bay and the rest of Santiago Island.

Bartolomé is the most visited and most photographed island in Galapagos. Birdwatchers should be on the lookout for Galapagos Penguins, herons, and Galapagos Hawks. The Galapagos Penguins, the second smallest penguin species in the world, have established a small breeding colony in a cave behind Pinnacle Rock. [*Galapagos Conservancy, Inc.*]



Sullivan Bay, Bartolomé Island



Bartolomé Island Zodiac Landing



Bartolomé Island Boardwalk and Sullivan Bay



Bartolomé Island Boardwalk and Trail to Lighthouse



Bartolomé Island Lighthouse Climb, 374 Steps





Pinnacle Rock Beach, Bartolomé Island



Pinnacle Rock Beach, Bartolomé Island



**Lava Flows and Lichens, Bartolome Island**



Lava Lizard on Lava, Bartolomé Island



Oyster Catcher and Sally Lightfoot Crab, Bartolomé Island



Bartolomé Island and Santiago Island from Bartolomé Island Trail



Bartolomé Island Trail Scene and View of Bainbridge Islands



Pinnacle Rock, Bartolomé and Santiago Islands from Bartolomé Trail





Pinnacle Rock and Beach, Bartolomé Island



Xperience Off Pinnacle Rock, Bartolomé Island



Galapagos Penguins, Bartolomé Island



Galapagos Penguins, Bartolomé Island



Galapagos Penguin, Bartolomé Island

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