

# **GALAPAGOS ITINERARY**

## **JUNE 11th – 20th**

Hello!

I hope you're excited about our upcoming trip. I'm sure it's going to be incredible.

This letter should give you all the info you need to be prepared for our trip.

### **OUR AIR:**

We **check in on Friday, June 11th at 11 p.m.** for our 2:00 a.m. flight. Copa Airlines uses terminal 6, between Continental and United Airlines. Look for me, Ed Reder, at the check-in counter holding a yellow "ASA" sign. If you have an emergency in route and need to get a hold of me call my cell at 800.954.5453.

Los Angeles - Panama CM 12JUN J LAXPTY 200A 1030A  
Panama - Quito CM 12JUN J PTYUIO 1154A 144P  
Quito - Panama CM 20JUN S UIOPTY 405P 556P  
Panama - Los Angeles 20JUN S PTYLAX 704P 1159P

We arrive back in LA at midnight on Sunday the 20th. If you need to spend the night in LA we recommend using Priceline.com. Feel free to contact us for tips on getting the best rate.

**LAX PARKING:** We recommend parking lot "B" which is \$8 per day. Exit I-405 at Imperial and head west. Right on La Cienega. Left on 111th.

**BAGGAGE:** Copa Airlines allows 2 bags not to exceed a combined weight of 70 lbs or there will be an extra weight fee. Each piece can measure up to **62 combined linear inches (157 cm)** (height + length + width). Maximum weight for carry ons is 22 lbs.

**EARNING MILES:** Copa is part of the OnePass Alliance which includes United. Bring your number with you to get the credit for our flights.

### **ITINERARY:**

**June 12th, 1:44 p.m.** Arrival in Quito. We will be transferred to the Mecure Hotel. Rather than squeeze in a city tour today we are figuring the group will want to rest up. So take a rest and instead we will enjoy the dinner/ show below.

**Every day: 7:00 p.m.** Meet in the lobby bar for cocktails and to group together for dinner plans.

**June 12th, 7:30 p.m.** We will depart our hotel for the dinner show that we have now included in this package. Meet in the lobby for the 7:30 p.m. departure.

**June 13th: 7:30 a.m.** Pick up for the mountain biking. Look for the “M” by your name on the excursion sheet which stand for “Monday”.

**June 13th: 9:00 a.m.** Pick up for the horseback riding

**June 14th: 6:30 a.m.** Pick up for the river rafting

**June 14th: 7:30 a.m.** Pick up for the mountain biking. Look for the “T” by your name on the excursion sheet for “Tuesday”.

**June 15th: 7:00 a.m.** Pick up for our flight to the Galapagos.

**June 15th: 9:30 a.m.** Departure on Tame Airlines – arrival at 11:45 a.m.

**June 15th - 20th:** Please see the itinerary provided by Red Mangrove Lodge. If you did not receive this, let us know and we will re-send it to you. This itinerary also provided some very nice links to websites and photos that you might want to visit.

**June 20th, 7:30 a.m.:** Depart Red Mangrove Hotel for the airport.

Our flight is at 10:30 a.m. and arrives in Quito at 2:45 p.m. leaving 1-1/2 hours until our

## **TOURS:**

The horseback riding is limited to 15 so if that’s something you are interested in make sure you let us know right away. Remember, we only have 2 days so only choose 2 tours. The horseback riding will be on June 21st. Since more people have signed up for the mountain biking and river rafting what we’ll do is also have the mountain biking on June 21st and then river rafting on June 22nd. We can have a 2nd group of mountain bikers on June 22nd. That seems like it will accommodate everyone. If you have a ? by your tour choice, please make a final decision and then send your check in so we can finalize our numbers.

## **OUR TOURS IN QUITO:**

We have begun setting up 3 tours in Quito. Horseback riding, Mountain biking and River Rafting. The horseback riding is specifically limited to 10 riders (they did say that it was possible to borrow more horses) and they will require advanced payment. Since we only have 2 days for tours, you would need to pick 2 out of these 3 choices.

**Green Horse Ranch:** [www.horseranch.de](http://www.horseranch.de) We will get a 15% discount. **Cost is \$63.75**

**Mountain Biking:** [www.ariesbikecompany.com](http://www.ariesbikecompany.com) Click on one-day tours. Here is more info on their rides:

Papallacta hot springs. And includes some time in the best hot springs of South America, prices are the same but there is a \$ 7,- entrance fee for the baths.

Here some prices, we go with a min of 2 people price \$ 45,- including transport, guide, bikes with safety equipment and homemade lunch.

3 - 4 people \$ 40,- per person and **5 or more \$ 35.**

I personally like the one with the hot springs at the end. Sounds great! I did the ride with the hummingbird stop last time and it was very nice. The hummingbirds were so cute!

### **Rafting trip Toachi & Blanco rivers class III - IV**

The Ríos Toachi and Blanco are a fantastic introduction to the rivers of Ecuador. Flowing off the coastal side of the Andes they have some of the longest navigable sections of whitewater in the country. Combine this with the sights and sounds of the forest environment we pass through and you are guaranteed a day to remember.

The day starts when we pick you up from our Meeting Point at Crossroads Café and Hostal (6.30am corner of Foch y Juan León Mera). We travel west down through beautiful cloud forest to the shores of the river. The trip will take about 3 hours.

Before setting off we will fit you with life jackets and helmets, give you a comprehensive safety briefing and train each crew in the paddling techniques needed to navigate our way down the river. Once on the river you can expect both the action of thrilling whitewater and the tranquility of drifting silently through tropical rainforests. So while you're guaranteed to get wet you'll also have the opportunity to be absorbed by the sounds of the forest and to see wildlife up close from our mobile "viewing platform". Rafting time approx 3 to 3½ hrs.

During the trip we'll stop by the side of the river for a delicious picnic lunch including fresh tropical fruits and served with soft drinks, juice and water. At the end of the trip we celebrate a fun day on the river with a few ice cold beers and return to Quito (approx. 7.00pm).

#### **Includes:**

Professional guides, top of the line rafting equipment, a delicious lunch plus snacks and beers, transport ex Quito, and a safe, fun trip!

**PRICE: \$ 79 per person**

## **GALAPAGOS ITINERARY**

**DARWIN'S TRIANGLE ITINERARY (2009)  
RED MANGROVE GALAPAGOS LODGES  
SANTA CRUZ, FLOREANA AND SANTA CRUZ**

**6 days/ 5 nights itinerary**

#### **Day 1: UIO/GYE - SANTA CRUZ**

AM: Baltra Airport

Ferry crossing to Santa Cruz Island (10 min-ride). Arrive to Santa Cruz Island.

Bus ride to the Highlands of Santa Cruz to view "Los Gemelos" (enormous, collapsed lava chambers), geological explanation. Walk inside the remaining Scalesia Forest. Opportunity to see the Vermilion Flycatcher, Small and Large Tree Finches. Afterwards, you will visit a Giant

Tortoise Reserve for an easy hike to observe to Giant Tortoises in their natural habitat. Lunch in the Highlands.

PM: Visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station.  
Red Mangrove Aventura Lodge check- in.  
Welcome cocktail.  
Briefing and Dinner.

### **Day 2: SANTA CRUZ - FLOREANA**

AM: Departure around 8:00AM to Floreana. Arrival around 10:00AM. Tour begins with a trip to the Highlands through the agricultural zone. The Peace Asylum- is a visitor site that tells us about the Human History of “The Enchanted Islands”. Floreana was the first island to be colonized by men. This is the only opportunity to see the Medium Tree Finch. Lunch.

PM: Red Mangrove Lava Lodge check in.  
Visit to the Lobería (snorkeling) and Playa Negra.  
Briefing and BBQ Dinner.

### **Day 3: FLOREANA - ISABELA**

AM: After Breakfast, departure to Isabela around 10:00AM. Arrival around noon. Red Mangrove Sierra Lodge check-in and Lunch.

PM: Visit to el Muro de las Lágrimas (the Wall of Tears), Cerro Orchilla, Humedales (Wetlands), Centro de Interpretación and Small Lava Tunnels. Afterwards, we take a dinghy ride for a visit to “La Tintoreras” (White Tip Reef Shark resting site), a canal where they spend the night in the bottom of the crevices. The canal sits between a small natural lava outcropping and an enormous lava field, one of nature’s wonders set against a backdrop of emerald green sea, white sand beach, dark green mangroves and the hills of Isabela beyond. Above the resting sharks, the rocky sides are lined with marine iguanas, one of the few marine iguana colonies on Isabela, that have not been disturbed by introduced species. You will probably have to watch your step on the trail as they are so abundant. Opportunity to see the colony of penguins recently established in Puerto Villamil, often resting side by side with Blue Footed Boobies.  
Briefing and Dinner.

### **Day 4: ISABELA HIGHLANDS**

AM: After breakfast, we take a bus ride up to the highlands of Isabela where we will mount horses for a ride and then hike to “Sierra Negra Volcano”, one of the active volcanoes in the Galapagos. Lunch will be in the Crater of the Volcano, the largest caldera in the islands with a diameter of 9-10 kms (approx. 4 miles). Sierra Negra offers volcanic activity as well as spectacular geology and vegetation scenery. “Volcan Chico” on the northwest side of the caldera is an area of fumaroles and the “Mina de Azufre” to the west is a sulphur deposit site with more fumarole activity. Return around 4:00PM. Afternoon relaxing on the stunning white sand beach of Puerto Villamil or at the lodge restaurant.  
Briefing and Dinner.

### **Day 5: ISABELA – SANTA CRUZ**

AM: After breakfast, departure to Santa Cruz (around 9AM)  
Arrival at Santa Cruz around 11AM. Check-in at Red Mangrove Aventura Lodge.  
Begin your Academy Bay Tour at “ La Lobería”, where you can snorkel with sea lions (optional). 40 min navigation to “Tortuga Bay”. As we enter the white sandy beach, we have a chance to observe different marine species like Sting Rays and baby Reef Sharks in the shallow waters of the Mangrove ecosystems. After swimming on the beach we take a very short hike to the Marine

Iguana nesting site. The walk back is through a Prickly Pear forest carpeted in crimson Sesuvium with black lava outcroppings home to more marine iguana colonies. Box Lunch on the beach.  
Farewell Cocktail.  
Briefing and Dinner.

### **Day 6: SANTA CRUZ / GYE UIO**

AM: After breakfast, transfer out to Baltra's airport in order to catch your flight back to mainland for connections or visit Ecuador. Check out time will depend on the Schedule flight.

#### **6 DAYS / 5 NIGHTS PROGRAM STA. CRUZ – FLOREANA – ISABELA**

- Welcome cocktail
- Access to the Jacuzzi, Private Terrace, wireless internet in rooms and social areas
- 5 Nights of accommodation at Aventura, Floreana and Isabela Lodge.
- All meals included in a fixed menu basis.
- Excursions with Bilingual Guide (English- Spanish).
- Navigations between islands
- Use of bikes in Puerto Ayora
- 25% discount for children under 10 years old.
- o **RATES DO NOT INCLUDE**
  - Air ticket to /from Galapagos.
  - Entrance fee to the Galapagos National Park (\$100 International visitors, and \$6 Ecuadorians).
  - Control Visitor Card (\$10).
  - Personal expenses.
  - Beverages.
  - Gratuities and tips

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Itineraries are subject to change without prior notice depending on weather conditions or Galapagos National Park regulations. The sea can be a bit rough from May to November due to marine currents. From November to April, it becomes still. Please consider this for your inter-island tours. Although our ships are safe and stable, some guests are prone to seasickness.

- Control Visitor Card fee of USD \$10 (per person), has to be paid at the airport in Quito or Guayaquil before checking in to your flight.

- Entrance fee to the Galapagos National Park (USD \$100 for international guests and \$6 for national guests) has to be paid IN CASH (no travelers checks or credit cards will be accepted) upon arrival in the Galapagos at the Baltra Airport. This fee is subject to change without prior notice.

- Please be aware that your flight arrives at Baltra Airport and from there, you are transported to a ferry to cross a channel over to Santa Cruz Island. This takes approximately 20 minutes travel time. Once you arrive on Santa Cruz Island, the drive time to the Red Mangrove Aventura Lodge is approximately 45 minutes. We recommend that you arrange your transfers with us in order to avoid any problems.

-Rates are subject to change without prior notice.

### Hotel in Quito:

#### **Mercure Grand Hotel Alameda Quito**

Roca 653 And Amazonas Ave 0 Quito - ECUADOR

Hotel code : 5111 - Tel : (+593)2/2994000 - Fax : (+593)2/2565759 - @ :

[ventas@mercurequito.com.ec](mailto:ventas@mercurequito.com.ec)

## **WHAT TO PACK:**

The list the Red Mangrove provided is good so please refer to that. For our 3-days in Quito, you will want to bring the following:

- Cash: We will be paying for a tourist card and the National Park Pass on the 23rd. That is \$110 total. This must be paid in cash. Otherwise, bring whatever other cash you feel that you'd like. ATM's are also easy to find in Quito
- Jacket: The weather should be nice during the day but the evenings may get cold. It can also rain, so a rain jacket is a good idea.
- Bathing suit
- Water shoes for the river rafting
- See attached packing suggestions and reminders

## **USEFUL AND INTERESTING WEBSITES:**

All about Quito: <http://www.quito.com.ec/>

Good site with history and lots of info on Galapagos:

<http://www.gct.org/history.html>

Another "what to bring" list: <http://www.discovergalapagos.com/bring.html>

General info about Ecuador:

[http://www.safari.com.ec/general\\_info/about\\_ecuador.htm#climate](http://www.safari.com.ec/general_info/about_ecuador.htm#climate)

## Information Center

- **National Police:** 101
- **Fire department:** 102
- **Long Distance:** 116
- **Telephone information:** 104  
(preceded by the area code when you need a phone number from another city)
- **Ecuador's country code:** 593
- **Andinatel:** 100
- **Time:** 109
- **Emergency:** 911
- **Red Cross:** 131
- **National Police of Ecuador**  
Tel: 250-1675 / 250-1676
- **Ecuador is on the same current as the US**

Thank you for taking this trip with us. If there is anything else that comes up between now and our trip we'll make sure we let you know. See you at LAX.

Ed Reder

[www.singlesinparadise.com](http://www.singlesinparadise.com)

(800) 954-5453

