



**Dear Guest,**

Thank you for choosing Red Mangrove Galapagos Lodges. We look forward to being your hosts in the Galapagos! To better inform you, we have created this handy Red Mangrove Galapagos Lodges Pre-Arrival Guide. We hope this provides you with all you need to know in advance and serve to make your upcoming trip as stress free and enjoyable as possible.

While in the Galapagos, if any issue whatsoever arises, please speak to a member of our staff and we will be more than happy to assist you in whatever resolve the situation requires. We can't help unless we are aware of your needs. If we can answer any questions, make any special arrangements or assist you in any way prior to travel, upon arrival, while you are our guest in the Galapagos or on mainland Ecuador, please don't hesitate to call upon us.



**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Red Mangrove Website: [www.redmangrove.com](http://www.redmangrove.com)  
Red Mangrove Blog: [www.galapagoslodges.com](http://www.galapagoslodges.com)  
Red Mangrove [Flickr photo sets](#)  
[Ecuador Concierge](#) for pre/post Galapagos travel

Phones in Quito: (593) 2- 225-0166 / 225-9174  
Toll Free from US/Canada: 1-888-254-3190  
Toll Free from Germany: 0800-180-6586  
Toll Free from the UK: 0-808-101-2270

Our offices are open from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 5:30 pm. Quito is -5 hours GMT. If you need to provide family members with emergency contact phone numbers, these are provided below. Our Lodge on Floreana does not have a phone, however, if you need to be contacted for an emergency, our staff in Puerto Ayora can get in touch via radio.

Phones: Red Mangrove Aventura Lodge: (593) 5-252-6564 / 252-4475 Red Mangrove Isabela Lodge: (593) 5- 252-9030  
Emergency Cell: (593) 9-951-2837 Note: If dialing from inside Ecuador, you must add a '0' in front of the number: 09-951-2837  
We have several email addresses, both general and Lodge specific you may use in the event of an emergency:  
[emergency@redmangrove.com](mailto:emergency@redmangrove.com) - [emergencyaventura@redmangrove.com](mailto:emergencyaventura@redmangrove.com) - [emergencyisabela@redmangrove.com](mailto:emergencyisabela@redmangrove.com)



## TRAVEL TIPS:

**Time Zone:** Mainland Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands are on two different time zones. Time on the mainland is (GMT-5). Time in the Galapagos Islands (GMT-6). Ecuador does not adjust for daylight savings time.

**Electricity:** 110v60hz. Standard American plug

**Money:** Ecuador uses the US dollar, including change. Red Mangrove accepts Travelers checks, Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diner's Club.

**Documentation:** You will need a valid Passport with at least six months remaining before expiration. We recommend that you make a copy of your passport, including the photo page and Ecuador entry stamp to carry, rather than risk losing or damaging your original. No Visas are required to visit Ecuador, however, when you check in for your Galapagos flight from either Quito or Guayaquil, you will be required to purchase a 'Control Visitor Card' (\$10) before being assigned your seat. This will serve as an ID card for you in the Galapagos. You will be presented with a Migratory Control form that you will fill out on your flight to present upon arrival in the Galapagos. In Baltra, you will pay a \$100 Galapagos National Park Fee. Keep the part of this form that is returned to you in a safe place as you will **need to present it on departure**.

**Seasickness:** Because the sea is rougher at certain times of the year, if you are prone to seasickness, please bring along and take medication one-half hour prior to departures.

**Sun Protection:** The sun is very strong here. Please take proper precautions and don't let sunburn ruin your holiday.

**Galapagos Wildlife:** Please do not feed or disturb the wildlife nor remove at all anything from the Island. If you are traveling with children, please monitor their behavior so we may preserve the natural beauty of the Galapagos for generations to come.

**Park Rules:** The **Park Rules** are available to read online before your trip. It is very important that we all follow the rules as they are set forth by the Galapagos National Park Service. **Conservation:** Please do not litter. Please do recycle. All of our lodges offer a voluntary sheet and towel re-use program. We do our best to conserve energy and water and encourage our guests to do the same.

**Tipping:** Recommended tips are as follows: 1) Your Naturalist Guide 2) Your Tour Escort 3) Your Boat Captain and his assistant (as a team) 4) Individual Lodge Housekeeping and any helpful staff members 5) Individual Lodge Kitchen and Wait Staff (as a team)

**Flexibility:** All tour schedules are subject to variations due to tide, weather or sightings of interest.



### PACKING FOR THE GALAPAGOS:

- Sun Hat with wide brim
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses with strap
- Small backpack
- Dry Bag or Ziplocs
- Shorts
- T-shirts or Tank Tops
- Light Pants, preferably quick dry
- Sweater or Fleece Jacket
- Windbreaker, Rain Jacket or Poncho
- Tevas or Sports Sandals
- Hiking Shoes or sturdy sneakers
- Bathing Suits
- Camera, spare batteries, underwater housing
- Binoculars
- Some prefer their own mask, fins, and wet suits
- iPod, CDs, Books
- Any medications you may require; Dramamine if you're prone to seasickness



### SUSTAINABLE GALAPAGOS CONSIDERATIONS:

At our Lodges, we have a voluntary towel and sheet program. We encourage you to consider using your sheets and towels for more than one day in order to participate in our water conservation goals/measures.

We wholeheartedly encourage any arriving Galapagos guest to consider purchasing a carbon credit to offset your travel. While do not endorse any particular company offering carbon offsets, so please feel free to Google other options, purchase from a company you are familiar with or browse the following directory offering an overview of options: [Carbon Offset Directory](#)

Red Mangrove Galapagos Lodges encourages their guests to bring clothes, old cameras, old snorkel gear and any other item at your discretion that you can use and then leave in the Galapagos to be distributed to local residents in need. Our Lodge managers will be more than happy to accept your contributions and see they are properly distributed. If you are interested in learning about other ways you can contribute to social or ecological efforts in the Galapagos, [please contact us.](#)





## **DARWIN'S TRIANGLE DAY 1: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND**



### **ARRIVAL IN THE GALAPAGOS:**

You will arrive into Baltra Airport on Baltra Island, north of Santa Cruz. This is a former US Naval Base. You will pass through what is essentially Galapagos Customs. You will pay your park fee, *retaining the part you will need for*

*departure.* If you have purchased a program or airport transfer, a Red Mangrove Representative will meet you at the airport to assist with luggage. You will board a Tame or Aerogal bus for a five-minute ride to the ferry. From there, you board a passenger ferry for the 5-minute crossing to Santa Cruz Island. It is a scenic, 45-minute drive up and over the highlands and down into Puerto Ayora and the Red Mangrove Aventura Lodge. After check-in, you will have lunch at the Lodge.

### **RED MANGROVE AVENTURA LODGE:** Our Aventura

Lodge in Puerto Ayora is as enchanted as the islands themselves. From the bright, hot light of the equatorial sun and the bustle of activity along Charles Darwin Avenue in Puerto Ayora, suddenly you step inside a cool, shaded tunnel of wild red mangrove and stroll into another world. The terracotta colored, soft adobe walls seem to rise organically from the mangrove forest. The horizon is an emerald green bay dotted with blue and white boats with the shops, restaurants and other hotels of Puerto Ayora lining Academy Bay as a backdrop. This shore has no beach, only broken, jet black volcanic rocks which add yet another contrast to this extraordinary palette of color. That the Red Mangrove Aventura Lodge is so close to both the Charles Darwin Station and the town of Puerto Ayora, yet is seemingly its own secluded little world right in the middle of it all is a very rare find anywhere in the world, but in Puerto Ayora, it is unique.



Each of our guest rooms and suites has a name, not a number, and each is uniquely decorated with its own personality. This is not a Sheraton nor any other mainland type hotel that uses a numbered room system. This is what some have described as whimsical, rustic elegance, but we won't go so far as to say luxury. We will say you will be very comfortable in our guest rooms and if you ever have need of anything, our superior staff will quickly respond to whatever you may need.

Our guest rooms have flat screen TVs with cable, AC and CD alarm clocks. We recommend using the pitcher of pure, fresh drinking water in the bathroom to brush your teeth. Our rooms do not have telephones, however, we are more than happy to assist you with any calls you need to make at Reception. We do have wireless broadband available in both the guest rooms as well as the social areas. Just check with Reception for the latest password. We also have a computer available for guests to use at Reception. Bikes for use in town are available free of use for our guests. Wet suits and snorkel gear are available to rent. Laundry service is available.

The Red Mangrove Restaurant and Sushi Bar hours are: Breakfast : 06:30 to 09:30 – Lunch: 12:00 to 14:30 (2:30) – Dinner: 18:30 (6:30) to 21:30 (9:30). Our Lodge is a non-smoking building, however, if you wish to smoke, please feel free to use the open spaces and terraces.

Our privileged location also means that, in addition to stepping gingerly around marine iguanas sunning on our large, wooden terrace or having our outdoor sofa usurped by a sea lion, you may (or may not) have some wildlife visiting you in your guest room as well. Do not be alarmed, but rather enjoy this as part of the unique Galapagos experience. Most guests are especially fond of the small geckos that are often present. Not only are they cute and harmless, they eat insects that can otherwise be pests. At certain times of the year, we might even have centipedes visit...again, absolutely harmless and beautiful. Take a photo!

If you are traveling with children, please monitor their behavior for their own safety as well as the enjoyment of wildlife for our other guests. Please also be aware that resting sea lions should be approached with caution, something children are not always aware of. Enjoy, but please do not feed, harm or disturb any wildlife on the Lodge premises.

For more photos of Red Mangrove Aventura Lodge, please see either our photo stream on [Flickr](#) or the [gallery on our website](#).



#### **AFTERNOON: BEACH AND BAY TOUR**

Depending on the tide, departure will either be from our own dock or the main dock in Puerto Ayora. Our shaded speedboat will comfortably whisk you in roughly 10 minutes to “La Loberia” Island, named after its large colony of sea lions. You will have the chance to snorkel with these frolicking creatures, a great opportunity for photos if you have underwater housing for your camera. Keep an eye out for sea turtles and try not to be so distracted by the playful sea lions that you forget about the great variety of colorful fish.

Next we will travel over to Tortuga Bay, one of the most beautiful beaches on Santa Cruz Island with powdery white sand and calm turquoise water. On the way through the bay, you may see sea turtles, Galapagos sharks, reef rays, pelicans, blue footed boobies and herons in the mangrove forest lining the bay’s side as well as other Galapagos marine birds. We will disembark for a quick walk to

observe marine iguana colonies sunning and sneezing the salt from their recent outings at sea. The 'long' walk (10 minutes) back to Tortuga Bay is through a cactus forest above a carpet of crimson Sesuvium ground covering. It is a stunning array of colors against the beautiful blue skies, the black volcanic rock, the white sand and the emerald green or deep blue sea. Just remember to keep an eye on the path so you don't step on a marine iguana as they are very abundant in this area. . Enjoy your box lunch in the sun, under the shade of a beach umbrella or under one of the trees that line the beach. No doubt you will have many Galapagos ground finches nearby hoping to pick up crumbs from your lunch. As tempting as it is, please do not feed the finches. Outside food products may disturb their digestive tracks or cause other harm. After lunch, enjoy a swim in this peaceful bay or just relax awhile.

Next we will go to Punta Estrada where we will sail through the Canal de Amor (Tunnel of Love). Many endemic birds nest or rest in the cavernous walls providing wonderful up-close and personal photo opportunities with blue-footed boobies, pelicans, lava herons, frigates and more. We will disembark for a short, rocky walk where you will probably need to step around the sleeping sea lions to walk out on the dock above volcanic rocks dotted with bright orange/red Sally Lightfoot crabs before heading over to a viewing platform to observe resting white-tipped reef sharks in abundance. If you wish (and/or weather/visibility permits), we will bring the boat around to the Canal entrance where you can snorkel with the sharks. Eagle rays have also been known to visit this canal.

***You Will Need:*** Sunglasses, Sunscreen, Sport sandals or water shoes, Swimsuit, Camera (with underwater housing if you have it)

***Includes:***

Snorkeling gear and wet suits if desired, Fresh Towels, Beach chairs and umbrellas, Box Lunch, snacks and beverages

***Notes:***

- The resting white-tipped reef sharks are completely harmless to snorkel with.
- Box Lunch includes a sandwich, chips, fruit and beverages. If you have special dietary needs, please notify Reception 24 hours in advance

**EVENING:** Briefing and dinner at the Aventura Lodge.



## **DARWIN'S TRIANGLE DAY 2: PUERTO AYORA - FLOREANA**

**MORNING:** Wake-up call at 6:30 AM. Staff will call for your luggage at 7:00 AM for transport to dock. Breakfast. 8:00 AM departure.



## TORTOISE QUEST TOUR

This tour begins with a trip to "Los Gemelos" (The Twins), two enormous collapsed lava chambers - an awe-inspiring visual reminder of the power of nature. The short, easy hike to each of the twins is teeming with endemic flora and fauna, including the remaining Scalesia Forest draped in Liverwort, large and small tree finches, the adorable Vermillion flycatcher and more. It's a wonderful introduction to the majestic power of the forces of nature and the great biodiversity of the Santa Cruz Highlands.

Afterwards, we will visit a 600-acre private reserve where the giant Galapagos tortoises freely roam, graze and sleep. Sometimes, it's a bit muddy here, so before we set out, there is a selection of field boots to choose from, large sizes for men are available. You will be transported through this tropical environment by truck and from there, you walk through fields to mingle with these gentle giants. As prehistoric as these creatures look, wait until you hear what they sound like!

After visiting the tortoises, we'll take a 5-minute ride to the entrance of a 450 meter (1350 feet) illuminated lava tunnel. With a ceiling nearly 20 feet high in most places, this is an incredible opportunity to ramble through the remnants of one of the most powerful forces in nature...lava flows. Stalagmites, stalactites, sulfur and mineral colored walls and the rippled form of a floor of lava can all be experienced in this uniquely Galapagos stroll.

***You Will Need:*** Sunglasses, Sunscreen, Sneakers or Sports Sandals, Camera, Windbreaker or light rain jacket may come in handy. Shorts or lightweight, long trousers.

***Includes:*** Field boots, Transportation to and from Aventura Lodge

***Notes:***

- Large selection of field boots, including large sizes for men, however nothing smaller than a size 4 for children
- If more comfortable with insect repellent, please use unscented.

**AFTERNOON:** Return to Aventura Lodge for Lunch. 2:00 PM departure for Floreana. Sailing time is 1.5 - 2 hours.



## DAY 2 FLOREANA ITINERARY:



We will arrive into Floreana around 4PM. First, we cruise a cove called “Luz del Dia” (Light of Day). There is an abundance of life in this cove. You will most likely see penguins and sea lions on the steep, rocky shore and rays and tropical fish beneath the clear waters. We will continue on to the main dock in Floreana. It’s not unusual to have to ‘shoo’ sea lions sleeping on the steps we need to ascend. On the other side of the dock are black lava rocks typically full of the amazing rich red and turquoise colored Floreana marine iguanas. We will head to our Red Mangrove Floreana Lodge for check-in. You will have a couple of hours free before a BBQ dinner.



**RED MANGROVE FLOREANA LODGE:** Our newly constructed Lodge in Floreana is 10 wooden cabins located directly in front of the sea. Consider it well-appointed camping in cabins, although be warned...the lodge has no air conditioning nor fans and it can get hot during the day though it is pleasantly cool in the evenings. We have routed our itineraries with this in mind. Each cabin has one full bed and two twin bunk beds, a

private bathroom with hot water and spectacular views of the sea. We provide pure drinking water, cotton towels and fresh linens. Soothing ocean waves beat against black lava shoreline mere meters away from your front door. A broad, wooden deck runs the length of the 10 cabins down to an open, breezy gazebo on the sea at our isolated part of Floreana Island...a nice cool place to lounge in the afternoon heat.

Though only five minutes out of town, we are located where the road ends. A path behind us leads you to a magical sandy point where a colony of sea lions sun on a sandy beach. Anywhere sea lions gather is called La Loberia. In Spanish, sea lions are called “lobos del mar” or “wolves of the sea”. In the Galapagos, they’re usually referred to as simply “lobos”. Take your gear with you to enjoy the opportunity to snorkel with the frolicking sea lions. Just be careful of the macho protecting his harem. He can be aggressive. Turtles are frequently in the sea through the desolate stretch in front of Floreana Lodge and Black Beach, located back towards town. This is a black, sandy beach called Playa Negra, which can be another great place to snorkel or just relax. Both La Loberia and Playa Negra are easy walks from our Lodge.

Puerto Velasco Ibarra is the ‘town’ in Floreana, but with only 120 inhabitants, there is NO nightlife. You come to Floreana for the exploration of this renowned island, its wildlife and to walk in the footsteps of the early “Floreana Mystery” inhabitants whose legacy



is such a **fascinating history** . Nowhere else in the Galapagos is it possible to stay overnight in such an isolated, undeveloped location.

On Floreana, water conservation is very important. Please assist us in our conservation efforts by being mindful when showering, etc. Due to the isolation of Floreana, there is little transportation on or off the island. Once you arrive, there is no transportation before the following day's departure. See more photos of Red Mangrove Floreana Lodge and **Floreana** at our photo stream on **Flickr** and the **gallery on our website**.

**EVENING:** Briefing and a BBQ Dinner at the Lodge at 7:30 PM



### **DARWIN'S TRIANGLE DAY 3: FLOREANA - ISABELA**

**MORNING:** Wake-up call at 6:30 AM. Staff will call for your luggage at 7:00 AM for transport to dock. Breakfast. 8:00 AM departure.

#### **FLOREANA HIGHLANDS TOUR:**

An open-air bus will transport you up to the highlands of Floreana while your Naturalist Guide begins filling you in on the history of this, the first settled island in the Galapagos. You will walk up to see the Asilo de la Paz (Peace Asylum) where the spring is located, an artisan spring that attracted pirates, whalers and later settlers to Floreana as it was one of the very few year round sources of fresh water in the Galapagos. The Cueva de los Piratas (Pirate's Cave) is quite literally where pirates carved temporary shelter out of soft stone and is also where one of the original settlers, Margret Wittmer, gave birth to a son, Rolf, who is still living. Some have almost jokingly referred to it as the 'Stonehenge' of Floreana due to its interesting shapes. Cerro Pajas (Bird Hill) truly lives up to its name with a multitude of Floreana Finches. It also offers spectacular views of the island and the sea below. We will visit a tortoise reserve where you can watch many of the giant tortoises up close and personal. All the while, your Naturalist Guide will be pointing out the wildlife and filling you in on the colorful **history of Floreana's** first inhabitants like the Baroness and re-telling the legend of the "**Floreana Mystery**" which entailed the mysterious deaths of several inhabitants. It has never been solved.

***You Will Need:*** Sunglasses and/or sun hat, Sunscreen, hiking shoes or sneakers for the Highlands, a bottle of water

***Includes:*** English speaking Naturalist Guide, water

**Notes:** The hike in the Highlands is not very difficult, however, do bring along a bottle of water, provided on the boat.

**DEPARTURE** at 11:00 AM for Isabela. Sailing time is 1.5 - 2 hours.



### **DAY 3 ISABELA ITINERARY:**

**MID-DAY:** Weather and tides permitted, as we approach Isabela by sea, we will cruise by Isla Tortuga which is chocked full of frigates, blue-footed boobies and other birds that rely on the sea for their food. If you brought binoculars, this is a good time to pull them out. We will arrive into Isabela between 12:30 and 1:00 PM. Arriving in the port is a **visual feast** with stunning green and turquoise waters so clear, you can see sea turtles, sea lions and penguins as though looking through glass. We will check-in to the Red Mangrove Isabela Lodge and have a hot, wholesome lunch.



**RED MANGROVE ISABELA LODGE:** Our Lodge (in Puerto Villamil on the **island of Isabela**) is located directly in front of the sea on one of the most beautiful, white sand, palm-lined beaches in the whole of the Galapagos. It stretches on for 3 kilometers (1.8 miles).

Our Lodge offers 8 oceanfront guest rooms. Each guest room has 2 queen beds and a private bath. Guests arriving at our Lodge on Isabela tend to be very pleasantly surprised by the luxurious appointments and spectacular ocean views. We provide pure drinking water, fresh linens, cotton towels, housekeeping, AC and a CD Alarm clock with an iPod dock. There are no TVs or telephones in the rooms at our Lodge, but there are two charming decks...one wooden with chaises and umbrellas and the other a roof deck with spectacular views of the sea under the shade of bushy palm trees. The sand here is as white and powdery as anywhere. The beach is quite broad and the sea beyond that spectacular shade of Isabela green. Immediately in front of the Lodge, at low tide, Isabela marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies and sea lions grace our shoreline in abundance offering guests great up-close and personal photo ops.

Located across the sandy street in a lovely, old-island 3-story home that is both Reception and our Red Mangrove Isabela Lodge Restaurant. At reception, there is a computer with Internet available for our guests' use. In our restaurant, you will enjoy delicious home-cooked meals and artisan breakfasts with home-baked breads and locally grown organic fruit.

The laid-back fishing village of Puerto Villamil, with its sandy streets and tree trunk street lights, is not only charming, but is also surrounded by lagoons on one side, where you often find many aquatic birds-especially the huge, pink Greater Flamingo, and a remarkably beautiful sea on the other. Penguins are often spotted around the town's main dock as they dash through the crystal-clear water. See photos of Red Mangrove Isabela Lodge and Isabela at our [Flickr photo stream](#) or the [gallery on our website](#).

**AFTERNOON:** 2:30 PM departure

### **LA TINTORERAS AND BAY TOUR**

After lunch, we will board a smaller craft to head out across the port, slowing down to view blue footed boobies and Galapagos penguins sharing the same rocky, sunning space before turning a bend and docking. From there, we take an intriguing walk through a jagged 'AA' lava field, passing abundant colonies of marine iguanas, to see a small canal full of resting white-tipped reef sharks...if the tide is low, they are sometimes a mere 2 feet below the surface. The views from here are something you may carry with you for the rest of your life! The black, treacherous lava field, the emerald green sea, the forest green mangrove and the cloud capped volcanoes of Isla Isabela is the sort of afternoon backdrop you are not likely to ever forget. Once you return to the dock, you can snorkel this warm, shallow bay surrounded by mangrove, for an opportunity to see white-tipped reef sharks, sea lions, penguins and, of course, the mystery of the mangrove below the surface. Don't worry, white-tipped reef sharks are not aggressive, merely fascinating.

***You Will Need:*** Tevas or sport sandals, shorts, bathing suit, towels, sunscreen, sunglasses, sun hat

***Includes:*** Transportation to and from Red Mangrove Isabela Lodge, Guide, water, snorkeling gear if desired

**EVENING:** We'll have a bit of time to relax and shower before briefing and dinner in the Lodge at 7:00 PM



### **DARWIN'S TRIANGLE DAY 4: ISABELA – SANTA CRUZ**

**MORNING:** Wake-up call 6:30 AM. Breakfast. 8:00 AM departure for tour.

## ISABELA TOUR

We begin with a drive out of town along the most beautiful, white sand, palm lined beach in the whole of the Galapagos, Long Beach. This travel magazine cover stretches on for 3 kilometers before we hit the National Park and begin with a stop to walk up the stairs for astounding vistas from the top of Cerro Orchilla. As you drive down the road, you will very likely see the largest of the Galapagos marine iguanas sunning by the side of the road and don't be surprised if you have to wait for a Galapagos tortoise to cross the road in front of you. You will visit the "Muro de Las Lagrimas" (Wall of Tears), backbreaking effort carrying jagged volcanic rock distances when constructed by prisoners of a penal colony built there. The path to the Wall of Tears is abundant with lava lizards, the males are larger and striped and the females red-throated. If you visit during breeding season, be careful not to step on or disturb the many nests along this trail. They appear as holes that a gopher might have dug, but in fact are nests. Birds are also incredibly abundant and your Naturalist Guide will assist you with identification.

Isabela has more tortoises in the wild than any other island with several sub-species as lava fields created a barrier that limited their mobility to freely roam. On your way back to town, you will visit the Interpretation Center, a breeding center for the giant Galapagos Tortoises and the only place to view the rare, remaining flat backed (so-called 'tabletop' shells) Galapagos tortoises, many of which still bear the scars of volcanic activity from Sierra Negra.

***You Will Need:*** Sneakers or sport sandals, sunscreen, sunglasses and/or sunhat, bottle of water, camera.

***Includes:*** Transportation, English-speaking Naturalist guide, water.

***Notes:*** The walks are very easy and Cerro Orchilla has stairs for the entire climb.

**LATE MORNING:** At roughly 11:00 AM, we will depart Isabela for Santa Cruz. Sailing time is 1.5 – 2 hours.



**AFTERNOON:** We arrive into Puerto Ayora around 12:30 / 1:00 PM. We will check into the Aventura Lodge and have lunch. We depart at 3:00 PM for a guided tour of the fascinating Charles Darwin Research Station.

After the Darwin Station, there will be some free time to shop for souvenirs or browse the shops along Charles Darwin Avenue.

**EVENING:** Dinner is at 7:00 PM at the Aventura Lodge.



**PUERTO AYORA:** Puerto Ayora is a very safe town, but we do recommend that you remain in the central area of Charles Darwin Avenue along the sea front. Many galleries and gift shops line the avenue. The Malecon is a lovely walk along the sea in front of the main dock in Puerto Ayora.

Most early evenings offer lots of activity as locals compete earnestly in well-played volleyball games. Many spectators turn out and we hear more that a bet or two might be placed on the teams playing. Next to the volleyball courts, as the sun begins setting, the steps down to the sea are a great place to watch blue-footed boobies perform their kamikaze dives to feed in the shallow rocks now hidden by the high tide. They have a pattern of diving, then flying in huge loops, often only a few feet above where you're sitting, before they return for the next dive. Just after sunset, walk to the main pier and stand under the bright lights. Baby sharks, rays, pelicans and sea lions are all drawn to the light to begin their nightly feeding.

Across from the main dock is the supermarket, an ATM machine and the post office. You can buy postcards at many of the gift shops in town and then mail them back to friends and family from the post office. They might appreciate the many colorful Galapagos postage stamps as much as hearing from you!

About half way between the Red Mangrove Aventura Lodge and the main dock in Puerto Ayora is a small park with a wooden deck through the mangrove, a pleasant way to see pelicans very close-up. In the park, you can also find a daily highlight in Puerto Ayora. Watch pelicans, sea lions, frigates, blue-footed boobies and herons vie for scraps as the local fisherman bring in their daily catch. They are all so focused on the potential goodies, that they are oblivious to the gallery of photographers, all as thrilled as you will be to snap away at the countless photo ops this experience provides, sometimes from mere inches away. A group of a dozen or more pelicans, with one or two sea lions tucked in the fray, sit quivering as if in anticipation. A fisherman will toss a piece and they swarm for the bounty. At times, the fisherman's arm may move in a motion that makes them think he is about to throw something, at which point, in complete unison, the pelicans necks follow the motion before realizing it was false hope. Sometimes, a sea lion stands between two fishermen rubbing his head against their legs like a pet cat. It doesn't seem to create any position of favor though. If the frigates sweep in, it can seem like a scene Hitchcock should've used.





## **DEPARTURE:**

**MORNING:** Wake-up call will and breakfast will depend on your flight departure time.

**DEPARTURE:** You will need to depart 3 hours before your flight in order to be assured of arriving back at the Baltra Airport the requested 1.5 hours before your flight. We will transport you from the hotel to the airport, accompany you on the ferry over to the airport and assist you the whole way with your baggage.

Before entering the 'gate' to depart, you will pass through a line where you need to present the part of your Migratory Control card you have carefully guarded and now have handy for the Immigration officer.



## **POST GALAPAGOS:**

Most guests are so busy experiencing the Galapagos that truly absorbing the experience comes later. We hope that, upon reflection, you will do us the favor of reviewing your time with us in the following ways:

- If you enjoyed your time with us as much as we enjoyed being your hosts, please consider submitting a review on Trip Advisor. [Click here to review](#) our Aventura Lodge or [review our Isabela Lodge](#). Or review both!
- If you would like to offer post-Galapagos comments directly to a Red Mangrove staff member, please [email us](#).

**THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING RED MANGROVE GALAPAGOS LODGES!**

We promise to do absolutely everything to make sure your Galapagos experience is everything you could ever hope it could be...and more! We look forward to being your host in the incomparable Galapagos.

*The Red Mangrove Galapagos Lodges Staff*