



Galapagos



Galapagos Travel Guide



By Cruise to Galapagos

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

IT'S TIME TO
TRAVEL



WHY VISIT THE ISLANDS?

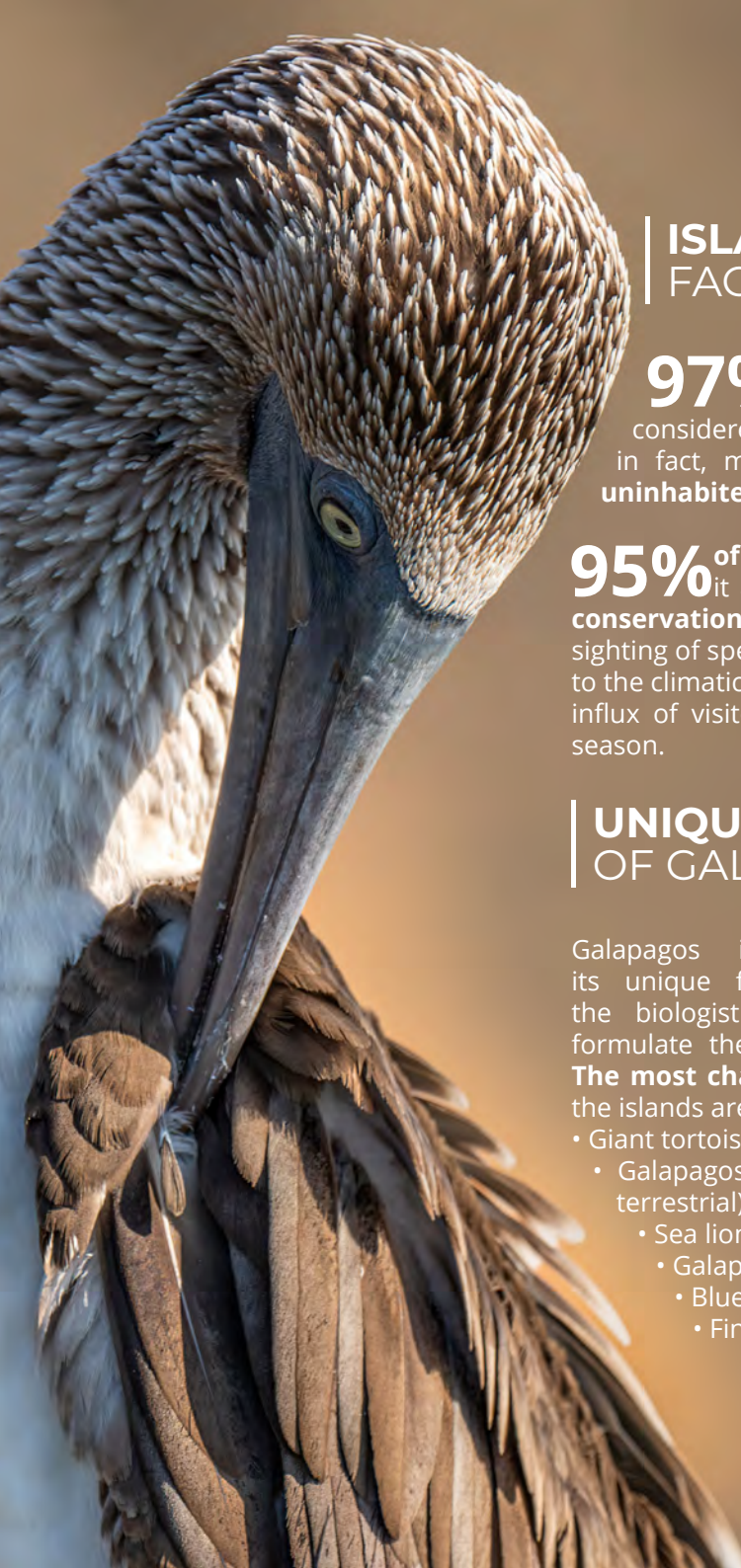
The **fauna** of the Galapagos Islands is **unique in the world**, not only because of its endemic condition but because it is **quite friendly and close to visitors**. In this archipelago you can be **within 2 meters (6 ft) of the species** either on land or in the sea while snorkeling or swimming.

The Galapagos Islands are a World Heritage Site, which makes this a place to visit, a nature and adventure destination with little influx of tourists today.

IS IT SAFE TO VISIT NOW?

The Archipelago is one of **the most important natural destinations in the world and was named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO** more than 40 years ago, so the **regulations** on the number of visitors allowed in each visiting site of the Islands, **the Protocols of bio- Safety and other regulations** have allowed the development of **responsible tourism** without crowds for years.

This archipelago has a wide space, free from human contact, but with close contact with animal species, which will always be in your activities on the islands.



ISLAND FACTS

97% of the Galápagos province is considered a **protected area**, in fact, most of its islands are **uninhabited by humans**.

95% of the species that inhabit it are in a **good state of conservation**, and at present the sighting of species is even higher due to the climatic conditions and the low influx of visitors during the nesting season.

UNIQUE FAUNA OF GALAPAGOS

Galapagos is characterized by its unique fauna, which allowed the biologist **Charles Darwin** to formulate the Theory of Evolution. **The most characteristic species** of the islands are:

- Giant tortoises
- Galapagos Iguanas (marine and terrestrial)
 - Sea lions
 - Galapagos penguins
 - Blue footed boobies
 - Finches

TRAVEL TO G A L A P A G O S

HOW TO GET TO GALAPAGOS?



In Ecuador there are **two international airports**: Mariscal Sucre in the city of **Quito** and José Joaquín de Olmedo in the city of **Guayaquil**, both have connections with the **two domestic Galapagos airports**: one located on **San Cristobal Island** and the other on the **Baltra Island**. Additionally, you should know that:

- **There are no direct international flights** to the Galapagos Islands.
- Daily flights to the Galapagos Islands **depart from the cities of Quito and Guayaquil** in mainland Ecuador.
- Flights to Galapagos take **approximately two and a half hours**.

ACTIVITIES AND PLACES

In the Galapagos archipelago, there are currently **176 visitor sites**, of which **91 are sites for aquatic activities and 85 for land activities**. These are the activities you can do here:



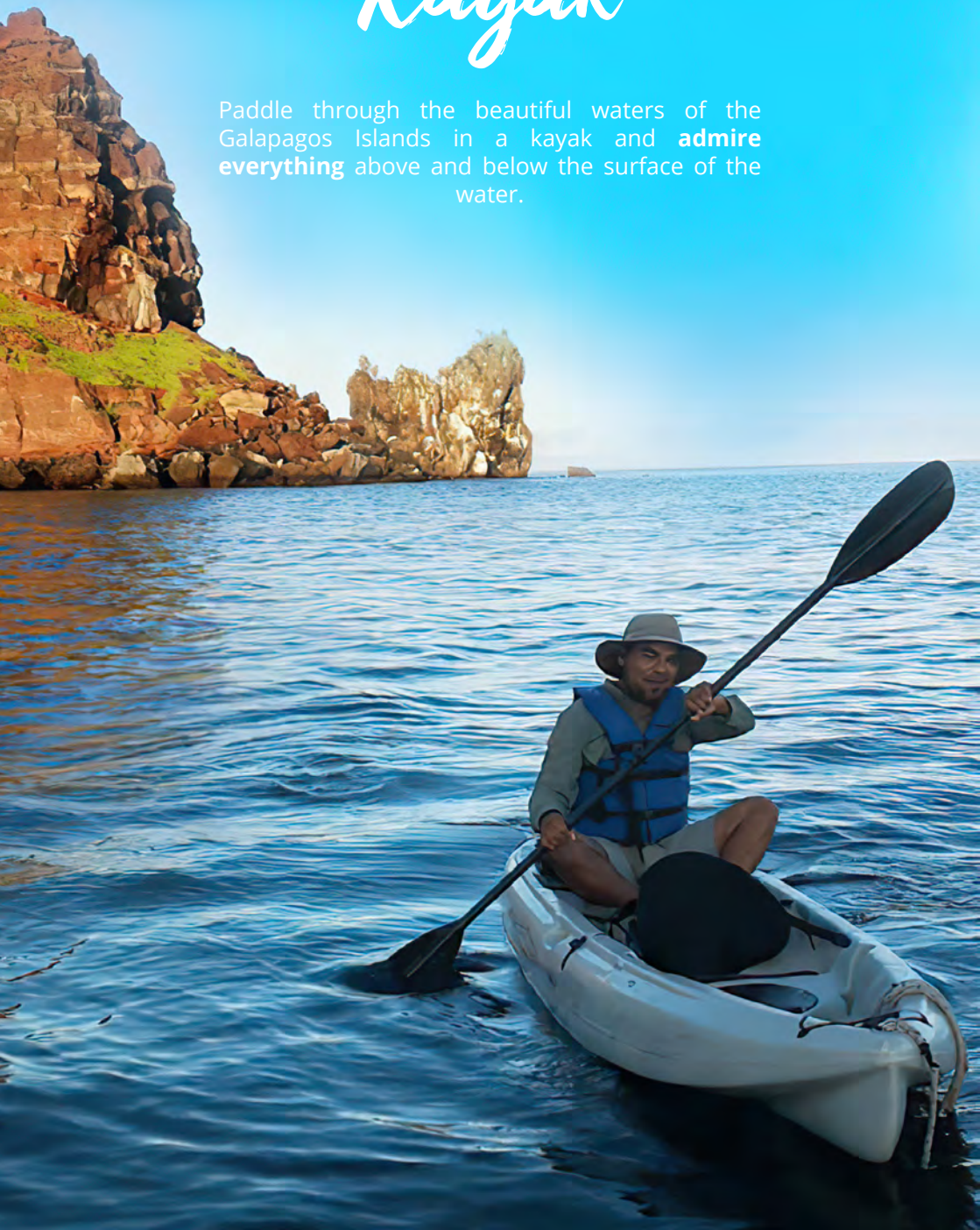
Snorkel

Diving in the Galapagos Islands is **considered by thousands of tourists** as one of the **best experiences**, since it allows them to **be close** to species like in few places on the planet, being one of the most **exclusive, exciting and requested activities** within the Islands.



Kayak

Paddle through the beautiful waters of the Galapagos Islands in a kayak and **admire everything** above and below the surface of the water.





Paddle Board

Walk on water! With this **fun and relaxing activity**, you have the privilege of contemplating the majestic ocean over the marine life.

Panga Ride

On board our pangas you will **explore the treasures** of the islands and enter **virgin places with very little exploration.**



Observation of Animals

Galapagos is **the only place in the world** where you can see animals in their natural state 2 meters or 6 feet away and interact with them.



Trekking

Along our **hiking trails** around the island, you can **enjoy the unique species** and landscapes of the islands.



Activities for people with reduced mobility

*On your trip to the Islands, you can enjoy activities specially designed for you, although **not all the trails are suitable for wheelchairs** since they are done through rocks and rough terrain, the cruise crew will be in charge of **accompanying you in other activities** like ship excursions or enjoying the nearby beaches.*

BEST MONTHS TO GO

The Galapagos Islands are located **on the equator** and have two ocean currents, a warm one that comes from the Caribbean and a cold one that comes from the south, which guarantees that the seasons are not extreme and **the average temperature** is between **20 and 30 Celsius degrees**. This allows you not only to enjoy the activities, but you will **always be able to see species** on your tours of the islands, regardless of the time of year you travel.



TRAVEL RECOMENDATIONS

Cash

Galapagos belongs to the **country of Ecuador**, where the **current currency** is the **US Dollar USD**, therefore, we recommend that you change your currency type to dollars. Additionally, in some places, even **at the Galapagos airport**, when paying the entrance to the park, **card payments are not accepted**, so it is advisable to bring cash.

Luggage

The baggage allowance **depends on the class** in which the ticket is purchased, **in most cases** it is **23 kg of checked baggage** and **8 kg of hand luggage**.





Additionally, since the archipelago is a **National Park**, regulations were created to allow its conservation, therefore, there are **certain organic products that are not allowed** to be taken to the Islands. Similarly, **pets are not allowed**, however, you can **leave them in safe places in Quito or Guayaquil**.

Boarding the flight

Before boarding your flight to Galapagos, you must meet the following requirements:

- **Obtain the traffic control card**, a mandatory requirement to take the flight, payment must be made in **cash only at the Galapagos Government counter** located at the airport.
- Baggage scan
- Check in

Arriving at the Galapagos airport

Complete the **immigration process** at the Galapagos Islands airport where you must pay the entrance to the National Park, **only in cash**. Check with your advisor for current rates.



TRAVEL ADVICES

- It is recommended to arrive **at least one day before** the flight to Galapagos because **flights to Galapagos leave early in the morning.**

- **When returning from Galapagos,** if you have your international flight booked on the same date from Quito or Guayaquil, it is imperative that this flight leaves Ecuador **no earlier than midnight.**

- However, it is more advisable to **fly the next day** if possible so that you can board your international flight with ease.



TRAVEL NOW

Now that you know these data, **we invite you** to encourage yourself to travel to Galapagos and discover for yourself **these and more wonders** that await you. If you want to know the Islands better you can do it by **Cruise or Land Tours**, here we indicate the main characteristics of each:

Cruise trip



A cruise trip offers you a **different experience** and depending on the categories that exist in the Galapagos Islands, you will be able to satisfy your needs for comfort or luxury.

- Activities included Kayak, Paddle board, Snorkel
- Visit to remote and uninhabited islands
- Greater optimization of time, activities are carried out during the day and long and inter-island routes are carried out at night.

- Personalized attention from the crew and guides
- Itineraries from 4 to 8 days and combined up to 15 days
- Greater comfort and safety on the routes

On a cruise trip the **cost is higher** than on a land tour, however, travelers who opt for this alternative mention that it is an unforgettable experience and that it is totally worth it.

Land tours

This is the **economic alternative** to cruise travel; the key points are:

- Lower investment of money
 - Tour the inhabited and the nearby uninhabited islands
 - Possibility of putting together your own plan and adapting to your time
 - Meet the local people of the islands
 - Transfer between islands in small boats.
- Crossing times greater than 2 hours at sea (can be tiring and uncomfortable)
- This adventure is carried out mainly by the local population or by young people who endure long and uncomplicated trips.



Finally, we invite you to discover this natural paradise in the best way, on board a cruise customized for you, know our offers in:

www.cruisetogalapagos.com