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# Welcome to the Galápagos Handbook!

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The world is a smaller place than it was in Darwin's time, yet traveling to the Galápagos Islands is still an adventure and requires pre-trip preparation!

This Handbook will assist you as you prepare for your adventure. Please read it carefully as it contains many helpful tips that will make your experience richer and more enjoyable.

You do not need to be told that traveling in a foreign country is very different than staying at home. Or that it would be unreasonable to expect things to "work" the same way they do at home. You should expect, even hope, that certain preconceptions will be proven incorrect. You travel to learn, to enjoy the differences, and perhaps to increase your appreciation of some aspects of "life at home."

So that you will be as prepared as possible, we stress the importance of taking care of your travel documents, passports, credit cards, cash, and other possessions to avoid theft. Ecuador is not a violent country. The risk of theft is no greater there than in most cities and airports anywhere in the world. However, any theft during the course of a trip is unsettling and may even cause delays in your journey. Our comments and suggestions are meant to make you unusually alert, a smart traveler, not an easy mark, and thereby save us both from having to deal with the effects of a theft. It is not to alarm you or cause you worry. We prefer to err on the side of caution. The payoff for our travelers has been high—there have only been a handful of incidents in over three decades.

Once you have read this Handbook thoroughly, please call us with any unanswered questions at 510-420-1550, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, Pacific Standard Time.

Please reflect over the following quotation. It is one of our favorites, and we believe that it describes the authentic INCA\* traveler.

"Let me confess to a bias in favor of the authentic traveler, as opposed to the tourist, whose most intense experience usually has to do with the shortcomings of his accommodations. The equipment of the authentic traveler comprises not credit cards, but a certain number of human qualities, such as: stamina, patience, indifference to personal comfort, a gift for being, at the same time, detached and absorbed, a knack for ferreting out odd information and the ability to make the most of chance encounters."

—Ted Morgan, *Travel writer and biographer*

\* INCA (International Nature and Cultural Adventures) is a D.B.A. of Inca Floats, Inc. Any reference to INCA in this handbook is a reference to INCA/Inca Floats, Inc.

## Code of Ethics for Travelers

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1. Travel in a spirit of humility and with a genuine desire to learn more about the people of your host country. Be sensitively aware of the feelings of other people, thus preventing what might be offensive behavior on your part. This applies very much to photography of local people.
2. Cultivate the habit of listening and observing, rather than merely hearing and seeing.
3. Realize that often the people in the country you visit have time concepts and thought patterns different from your own. This does not make them inferior, only different.
4. Instead of looking for the “paradise of your dreams,” discover the enrichment of seeing a different way of life, through other eyes.
5. Acquaint yourself with local customs. What is courteous in one country may be quite the reverse in another—people will be happy to help you.
6. Instead of the Western practice of “knowing all the answers,” cultivate the habit of asking questions.
7. Remember that you are only one of thousands of tourists visiting this country, so do not expect special privileges.
8. If you really want your experience to be a “home away from home,” it is foolish to waste money on traveling.
9. When you are shopping, remember that the “bargain” you obtained was possible only because of the low wages paid to the maker.
10. Do not make promises to the people in your host country unless you can carry them through.
11. Spend time reflecting on your daily experience in an attempt to deepen your understanding. It has been said that “what enriches you may rob and violate others.”
12. Remember that you have chosen to travel to this country—you were not brought here against your will!
13. Do not ask the rhetorical question: “Why in the world don’t they do such and such like we do at home?”
14. Do not spend one valuable moment of your expensive touring time railing against any local practices no matter how inefficient or mysterious they may appear to you. You have come to learn, not to effect local changes.

*From the Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism—Adapted by INCA*

# Planning Your Trip

## GENERAL TRAVEL PREPARATION

### AIRLINE RESERVATIONS

Please consult a travel agent or online source for your International flights. INCA will take care of all of your intra-South America flight arrangements. Reservations and tickets for the flights to Galápagos may be arranged **only** through INCA.

**INCA requires that we receive a copy of your final confirmed air itinerary before your trip departure.** This is to ensure that your flight dates match your trip, that you will be met for transfers and that our agent can confirm your returning flights.

Please reconfirm your international flights from your home city to South America 72 hours before departure. Our representatives in South America will reconfirm all of your intra-South America flights.

### DOCUMENTS

**A passport, valid for at least six months after the completion of your trip, is required for travel to Ecuador.** Visas are not required for US citizens (other than the form you fill out on the plane) but are required for citizens of some countries. Please consult the Ecuadorian Embassy for visa requirements: (202) 234-7200, 2535 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20009.

As a precaution, please make copies of all your important documents—passport, air tickets, visas, credit cards, etc., and carry them with you, separately from the originals. These copies will prove invaluable in the event that you need to replace any of these necessary papers.

Minors not travelling with both parents will need a notarized letter, signed by both parents, giving permission for the child to travel outside the country with the accompanying adult. While our clients have not been asked to show such a letter in awhile, airline officials might not allow a minor to board the plane without this letter.

### U.S. CUSTOMS

U.S. Customs offices advise that items of significant value, such as cameras and binoculars, be registered with Customs before departure to avoid paying duty when you return. International airports supply forms for itemizing your valuables, which are then identified and inspected by a Customs agent. When you return, simply present the form to Customs.

Note: Our clients report that they have never been asked to show these forms. For the average video camera, or 35mm camera and lens system, it may not be worth the trouble to register your gear. However, you should carry a receipt of purchase from the U.S. if your system is new and very expensive.

At this writing, each U.S. citizen can import \$800 worth of foreign goods duty free. Consult a customs official to learn what restrictions pertain to certain items. Many items from Ecuador can be brought in duty free. However, our clients report that U.S. customs officials are inconsistent in imposing duty on expensive weavings and rugs. Obtain a receipt for any expensive purchases and be prepared to pay duty. You can pay duty with cash, personal check or traveler's check. In some locations, you may pay duty with MasterCard or VISA.

# Planning Your Trip

## PRE-TRIP HEALTH AND MEDICAL

### PHYSICAL CONDITION

It is important that you be in reasonably good health so you can enjoy your travels. Our trips to the Galápagos Islands include many short strolls and some longer hikes, usually over rough terrain and sometimes in hot weather. The more fit you are, the more fun you will have. We encourage you to exercise regularly beforehand. If you walk, swim, bicycle, jog, or participate in aerobic workouts, your trip will be easier and more enjoyable.

If in the course of the trip however, you are concerned about your ability to do any particular hike or activity, please consult the guide or naturalist before you start. We have structured our itineraries in ways that permit you to skip a planned activity if you choose. Please note that INCA guides have the responsibility (and the authority) to require any passenger to remain at the hotel or on board the yacht whenever the guide believes that a passenger's health and/or physical ability makes that activity a substantial risk to his/her well being, or would limit the enjoyment of the activity by the other trip members.

If your physician advises you to avoid high altitudes, please advise us immediately. We can route you in and out of Ecuador through Guayaquil (el. 40 ft.). There is a modest additional charge for this routing due to the extra expense to arrange this deviation from the regular itinerary.

Please advise us of any medical needs or restrictions. If necessary, INCA reserves the right to decline a passenger for a trip on this basis.

In the event a traveler must leave the trip before it is finished for any reason whatsoever, no refunds will be granted for any unused portion of the trip.

### IMMUNIZATIONS

PLEASE CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN in advance for recommended immunizations and health precautions. Additional information may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta at (404) 639-3311, or [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

It is understood that INCA is not a medical facility and therefore has neither expertise nor responsibility for any medications or inoculations you and your private physician decide are necessary for your safe participation on the tour. In general, the following represents the current medical advice physicians provide travelers to South America.

- It is recommended that your DPT (tetanus plus diphtheria) protection be current and that you receive protection against Hepatitis A (Havrix vaccine or immune globulin). It is also prudent to receive typhoid protection near your date of departure. Please contact your physician regarding these protections and for current information concerning cholera.
- If you plan to travel into the Amazon jungle: yellow fever protection is mandatory; malaria protection is highly recommended. The prescription drug LARIAM (also known as MEFLOQUINE) is currently recommended for malarial protection in the

# Planning Your Trip

## PRE-TRIP HEALTH AND MEDICAL

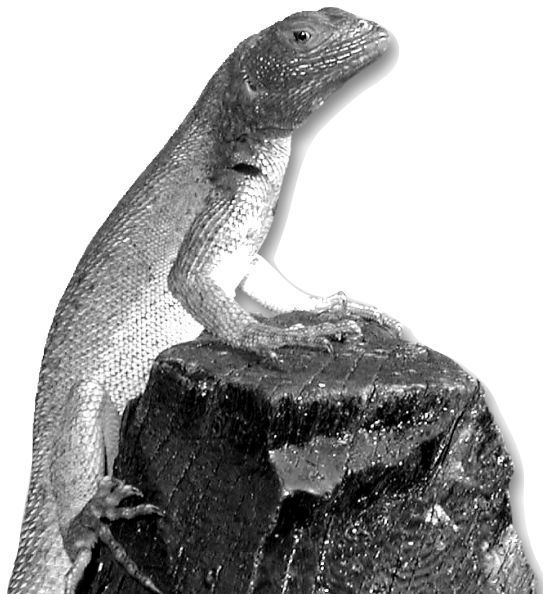
Amazon Basin. However, consult your physician about possible side effects. Some people elect to take chloroquine phosphate before, during and after a jungle trip, but it provides only partial protection. No malaria has been reported in the areas that INCA visits. There are reports of new anti-malaria drugs; please check with your physician for details.

- ❑ We advise that you consult your physician concerning inoculations and prescriptions for children. It is recommended that children have a complete cycle of DPT prior to seven years of age.

## PRESCRIPTIONS

Make sure you bring a sufficient supply of any medication you take on a regular basis (what you need may not be available in Ecuador) accompanied by a doctor's prescription in case you lose your supply.

- ❑ **Prescription Glasses:** If you wear prescription glasses, it's prudent to bring a spare pair and, only if you are on a long trip, consider bringing a copy of the prescription with you. You may wish to bring a pair of prescription sunglasses as the sun along the equator and at high altitudes is very intense.
- ❑ **Motion Sickness:** Ask your physician about precautionary measures against motion sickness. The prescription drug TRANSDERM SCOP (Scopalomine) seems to relieve motion sickness for most people, however it may have side effects for you. **Try it before leaving home. Over the decades we have had an occasional report of significant side effects.** Some people have reported benefits (others have said it didn't help) from Acupressure wristbands that are now available at most pharmacies. Please see the "Motion Sickness" section for more details on prescription and over-the-counter drugs.



# Planning Your Trip

## WHAT TO BRING

### BAGGAGE

Please make sure that each of your checked-in pieces as well as your carry-on luggage has an INCA identification tag on the outside of each bag. INCA staff identifies your luggage at the airport, hotels and on the yachts by these tags. Make sure that there is clear identification inside the bag as well.

Travel as light as possible. You will have to keep track of your things and sometimes need help with your bags. If you bring little with you, you have room to take lots back!



### BAGGAGE ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Your bags will be weighed and sized carefully at check-in. Currently, the per person baggage limit for international flights is 2 pieces weighing not more than 50 pounds (22.7 kilos) each. Maximum dimensions (height + width + length) for baggage are: first checked piece = 62 inches, second checked piece = 55 inches, carry-on piece = 45 inches.

If any of your bags weighs more than 70 pounds or greater than maximum dimensions, please call your airline to determine whether you may check it on your flight (be specific as there blackout periods) and if so, how much you will be charged.

Flying from the US to Ecuador, you may be allowed 2 carry-on pieces. However, depending on flight load, the airline may limit the number of carry-on pieces at boarding time. Airlines have begun to severely restrict the amount of carry-on luggage especially at holiday times when flights are full and passengers are heavily laden.

Remember: You must arrive at the airport for check-in AT LEAST one hour before domestic flights and two hours before international flights. If you show up later, you may not get on—especially when the flights have been oversold.

During holiday and busy travel periods, no excess baggage is allowed. Excess baggage and boxes will be shipped via air cargo at the passenger's expense and most likely will not arrive when you do! Baggage restrictions change frequently. Please check with the airline prior to departure.

### BAGGAGE ON DOMESTIC (ECUADORIAN) FLIGHTS

The per person baggage limit on domestic flights to the Galápagos Islands is two checked pieces and one carry-on. Currently the **total baggage weight cannot exceed 44 pounds** (20 kilos) per person. If your baggage is over 20 kilos, you will most likely be charged approximately \$2 per kilo (2.2 lbs) for the excess baggage weight.

The National Park Authorities have installed a desk for luggage inspection at the national departure hall for all flights with the destination Galápagos. Employees of the NP check bag-

# Planning Your Trip

## WHAT TO BRING

gage for organic material such as food, plants (including wood) and so on. For this reason we ask that if you bring your own snacks, make sure they are pre-packaged.

### STORAGE SPACE ON YACHTS

Storage space aboard the yacht is limited. Please try to use soft luggage for the Galápagos Islands portion of your trip. Secure storage is available free of charge at the Hilton Colón Quito for suitcases and other items while you are in the Islands.

### RULE OF THUMB

Maintain as low an economic profile as possible. Do not bring fancy luggage as it attracts thieves and gets scuffed up due to rough handling. We advise that you use TSA locks on your luggage. An inexpensive, short-term theft and lost-baggage insurance policy is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** for ease of mind and minor losses. Through the decades our travelers have had very few losses. However, occasionally something happens with the checked luggage at airports.

If you are using the same carrier (e.g. American Airlines) for domestic (U.S.) and international flights, we recommend checking your baggage through to the Destination City. If you are changing carriers, contact the individual airlines for their recommendations. **When you check your bags, carefully examine the claim check to verify that they have been tagged for the correct city.** Quito code is UIO, Guayaquil is GYE.

### CARRY-ON LUGGAGE

**Be sure to carry all documents, money, passports, tickets, medications, prescription glasses, sunglasses, camera and accessories, film, personal electronics and accessories, binoculars and other items of value in your carry-on luggage.** Never pack items of significant dollar, use or sentimental value in your checked luggage. You'll feel very glad you carried on a change of clothes any time your checked bags do not show up on the carousel. It is not uncommon for bags to misconnect en route and be delayed a day or more.

Be aware of TSA regulations. Currently, no bottles, tubes or plastic containers larger than 3 ounces containing liquids, creams, pastes or gels are permitted in carry-on luggage. Visit the TSA traveler's website: <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/>.

### LOST LUGGAGE

In the case of lost luggage, immediately contact the airline personnel and file a lost luggage form. Our representatives will make every effort to track down wayward items and if they are found on a timely basis which would permit them to catch up to you, they will do their best to forward them to you. However, our representative cannot magically make them appear.



# Planning Your Trip

## WHAT TO BRING

### MONEY & IMPORTANT PAPERS

- Passport—valid for at least six months after your return to the US.
- Photo copy of your passport that you carry separately from your passport
- Citizens other than US citizens need to check on visa requirements.  
Ecuadorian Embassy: phone: 202-234-7200  
2535 15th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20009
- An additional photo ID—this can be your driver’s license.
- Airline tickets.
- Travelers’ checks (\$20’s and \$50’s are easiest to exchange). NOTE: It costs those tipped upwards of \$40 to cash a travelers check, personal checks are impossible to cash, and credit cards cannot be used for tips.
- Credit cards—in order of acceptability: MasterCard, Visa, American Express, then Diners Club.
- US Dollars—**carry lots of small bills (\$1’s & \$5’s)** for tips and miscellaneous needs.
- Money belt or a special wallet with a strap or clip that attaches to your belt or waistband, available at stores or catalog companies that specialize in travel gear such as Orvis, Travel 2000, Sun Precautions and others.
- Leave your jewels and flashy valuables at home.

### YOU WILL NEED MONEY FOR:

- Meals that occasionally are not included (please refer to your itinerary).
- Departure or airport taxes (Ecuador currently charges \$37.90 US—**cash only!**)\*
- Galápagos Park entrance fee: Adults \$100 US, Children (under 12) \$50 US, payable in **cash only**, on arrival at the airport in the Galápagos Islands.\*
- Tips for guides, crew, and naturalist, at your discretion in cash (see “Tipping” for more information); tips for meals and portage are included in the trip price.
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone calls or snacks.
- Bar tab on the yacht and elsewhere for alcoholic beverages, sodas, juices, etc.
- Souvenirs and shopping.

\* Please note that taxes and fees are subject to change at any time.

For more information, please refer to the section “Money & Currency Exchange”.

# Planning Your Trip

## WHAT TO BRING

On the next few pages is a detailed list of packing suggestions. All of these items are strongly recommended. However, there is always room for individuality. Please also refer to the “Climate” section of this Handbook. You will want to bring slightly warmer clothing in the cooler season (June through November) and lighter clothing (more T-shirts!) in the warmest season (December through May). To get information about the weather just before you depart, please contact the INCA office. If a visit to the jungle is part of your itinerary please be sure to read the additional recommendations in the malaria protection section.

### PACKING LIST: EQUIPMENT

- Small daypack or hip sack for day hikes to carry camera, water, sunscreen, guide books, windbreaker, etc.
- Small flashlight with extra batteries and bulb (for the Amazon).
- Good quality sunglasses with strap or cord—extra pair of glasses is advised.
- Spare pair of prescription glasses or contacts.
- Mask, snorkel, and fins—Although these items are available on both the *Integrity* and the *Reina Silvia*, there are no guarantees as to quantity, quality, or variety. If you want to snorkel, we advise that you bring your own equipment, especially the mask. It is the only way to guarantee a good fit.
- Wetsuit—The Galápagos Islands are sub-tropical cooled by cold ocean currents. Depending on your personal sensitivity to cool or cold water, we recommend that you bring a lightweight shorty (2–3mm) wetsuit or skin, especially from June through December, sometimes even January, when water temperature is usually in the 60’s. Wetsuits are not available on either the *Reina Silvia* or the *Integrity*. Bringing your own ensures proper fit and availability.
- Binoculars—**pack these only in your carry-on luggage.**
- Photo equipment and film—Pack this only in your carry-on luggage. For a more detailed list of photography equipment, see the “Photography” section under “Facts for the Visitor”.
- Chargers for digital and video cameras—**pack these only in your carry-on luggage.**
- Patch cord for video cameras—There will be a TV/VCR/DVD available on board the yachts. **Pack this only in your carry-on luggage.**
- CDs and DVDs for personal use and use in your stateroom aboard the *Integrity*.
- Diary (to keep a journal of your experiences).
- Field guides, leisure reading.
- Pocket dictionary (Spanish/English) and a phrase book.

# Planning Your Trip

## WHAT TO BRING

### PACKING LIST: CLOTHING

#### GALÁPAGOS:

- 2–3 pairs of hiking/walking shorts.
- 1 pair of quick-drying, nylon shorts.
- Rain poncho or rain jacket/windbreaker with hood (yellow may attract insects) during rainy season.
- 1–2 pairs of lightweight cotton pants.
- 2 long-sleeved cotton shirts.
- 4–8 short-sleeved shirts (including an old T-shirt for sun protection while snorkeling).
- Sweater or light fleece to be worn under windbreaker on deck in the evenings.
- Underwear and socks.
- Broad brim, lightweight hat with chin strap, for protection against the sun.
- 1–2 bathing suits.
- Shoes—bring one or more of the following list. Please scrub all footwear before entering the Galápagos to avoid bringing in foreign seeds.
  - Tennis, running or walking shoes—You can get by with one pair, but you may wish to bring two (especially if you don't plan on bringing Teva-type sandals). You can use one pair for dry landings and one for wet landings.
  - Teva, Chaco sandals or similar—These are sandals that are great for wet landings and suitable for most of the shore visits. These are available in many sporting goods and footwear stores.
  - Lightweight hiking boots—Generally walking or running shoes are sufficient, but you may prefer the added ankle support of hiking boots.
  - Slippers or deck shoes (shoes are not required on board yachts). Well-operated yachts do not permit any street or beach shoes to be worn on board—they must be left at the gangway. You may want to bring slippers or white-soled deck shoes if you dislike going barefoot on a boat.

#### QUITO & THE ANDES:

Quito's daytime temperatures average 60°–75° and nighttime 40°–60°.

- 1 sweater—wear the sweater and the waterproof windbreaker or poncho you bring for the Galápagos Islands part of your trip.

# Planning Your Trip

## WHAT TO BRING

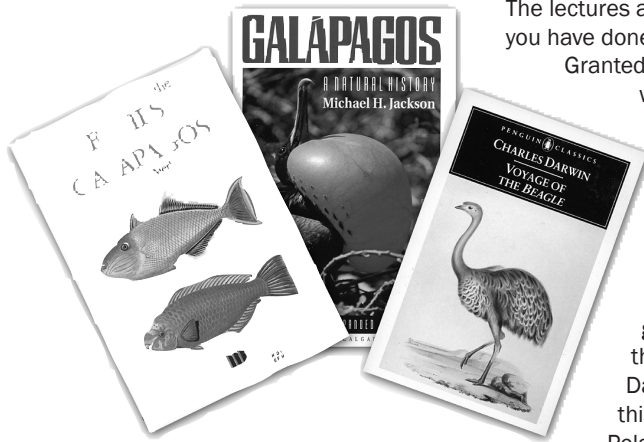
- For rain, wear your waterproof windbreaker or poncho, or bring a collapsible umbrella (optional)—There is a chance of afternoon showers.
- 1 nicer outfit for farewell dinner - smart casual (optional). If your visit includes a stay at La Mirage Garden Hotel & Spa, we observe that most guests dress more formally for dinner there.

## TOILETRIES, MEDICATIONS, SUNDRIES

- Any medications that you may need, including:
  - Cold/sinus medication.
  - Aspirin, Advil (Ibuprofen), or other pain reliever, Excedrin PM or Tylenol PM if you are a light sleeper.
  - Motion sickness remedies (for more information please refer to the section “Pre-trip Health and Medical”).
  - Pepto Bismol, Imodium, Bismuth, Cipro (for diarrhea).
- Small, personal first aid kit, containing items such as Band-Aids, swabs, tweezers, moleskin (for blisters).
- Lip Balm with SPF of 15 or greater.
- Sunscreen (minimum 15 SPF, 30 is better)—Very important! Much of your time is spent outdoors under the intense equatorial sun.
- Good quality sunglasses.
- Hand Sanitizer.
- Moisturizer.
- Some toilet paper or tissues for emergencies—even in the cities it may be very handy.
- Contact lens case, saline solution and eyeglasses.
- Ear plugs and eye mask—helps sleeping on flights and when the yacht is underway.
- Washcloth—The yachts provide clean towels daily.
- Toiletries—toothbrush, toothpaste, nail clippers, personal hygiene as needed, etc.
- Mosquito repellent—Occasionally there are a few mosquitoes and black flies in Galápagos. A citronella based repellent is recommended as the safest on your skin. Repellents with DEET are most effective but may irritate the skin.
- Clothing-care items such as safety pins, clothespins, sewing kit.

# Planning Your Trip

## READING LIST



The lectures and discussions on the trip will be significantly more rewarding if you have done your homework—i.e. studied up about the Galápagos Islands.

Granted, reading about species out of context can be rather dry, but you will soon be seeing them face-to-face.

If you wish to order any of the following books, please visit [www.Longitudebooks.com](http://www.Longitudebooks.com). You can search by subject, title or author and have the books shipped directly to you. They are also helpful in searching for copies of books that may be out of print.

**CD-ROM Galápagos: A Multimedia exploration of the Galápagos Islands;** produced by Latitud Cero Digital Productions under the auspices and with the scientific endorsement of the Charles Darwin Foundation. The lead contributing author and designer of this interactive virtual encyclopedia of the Galápagos is Richard Polatty, INCA's lead naturalist guide. It features interactive island maps, descriptions of more than 400 species (birds, reptiles, mam-

mals, and plants), animations explaining different phenomena of the islands, 540 color pictures, 26 videos, 900 hypertext relations, and several games. It can be purchased through Richard Polatty's own website: [www.naturalist.net](http://www.naturalist.net).

**Galápagos: A Natural History Guide**, by Michael Jackson (University of Calgary Press, 1993). A revised and expanded complete guide to the Galápagos. Covers a variety of topics including historical background, environmental setting, colonization, evolution and ecology. Descriptions of plants, reptiles, birds, mammals, insects and marine life. 315 pages, illustrated, color plates. Paperback. \$24.95

**Wildlife of the Galápagos**, by Julian Fitter, Daniel Fitter & David Hosking (Harper Collins Publishers, 2000). An identification guide of the Galápagos Islands covering over 350 commonly-seen species of birds, mammals, reptiles, invertebrates, plants, and coastal and marine life. Illustrated with photographs, maps and drawings. 254 pages, illustrated. Paperback. \$19.95

**Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands—A Travel Survival Kit**, by Rob Rachowiecki (Lonely Planet, 1992). This well-researched book reflects Rob's many years of living and traveling in Ecuador. Its detailed discussions on history, government, geography, cities and countryside make this the best guide for Ecuador by far! 473 pages, illustrated. Paperback. \$19.95

**Insight Guides Ecuador & Galápagos**, Edited by Tony Perrotet (APA Publications 1996) A colorful and descriptive introduction to Ecuador, it covers everything from human history to natural history. Each chapter is written by an author who is particularly qualified in their subject area. The photos are gorgeous! 372 pages, illustrated. Paperback. \$22.95

**The Beak of the Finch: A Story of Evolution in Our Time**, by Jonathan Weiner (Knopf, 1994). A fascinating & dramatic story of scientific discovery—the story of evolution in action—based on the Grants research on Daphne Major over the last two decades. Weiner demonstrates that evolution happens “fast and now”. B & W illustrations. Hardcover. \$29.50

**Galápagos, Discovery on Darwin's Islands**, by David Steadman & Steven Zousmer (Smithsonian, 1988). This pioneering look at the Galápagos by a research scientist shows why the islands remain center stage in the study of evolution. A beautiful coffee table book with exquisite photos and illustrations. 207 pages. Hardcover. \$29.95

**Oceanus Magazine, Volume 30, Number 2, Summer 1987** (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 1987). A special issue in celebration of the Galápagos Marine reserve. An enlightening series of articles on the underwater environment. 104 pages with many color illustrations. \$9.00

**The Fishes of Galápagos**, by Godfrey Merlen (Wilmot Books, 1988). A beautifully illustrated field guide for snorkelers and divers. The first of its kind. 60 pages, color with clear descriptions. Paperback. \$8.95

**Reef Fish Identification**, by Paul Humann (New World Publications, Inc., 1993). A comprehensive photographic/illustrated, easy-to-use field guide for the underwater naturalist by renowned Galápagos marine expert. 192 pages, color with detailed descriptions. Paperback. \$29.

# Planning Your Trip

## READING LIST

**The New Key to Ecuador and the Galápagos**, by David Pearson & David Middleton (Ulysses Press, 1996). Authors of this new guide to Ecuador are a zoologist and nature tour guide and devote entire sections to the flora and fauna of Ecuador and its current ecological situation. 447 pages, color plates. Softcover. \$16.95

**Galápagos: Discover & Color, Monique Van Dousselaere (1989)**. This set of booklets in both Spanish and English includes an 18 page booklet with descriptions and colored pictures of Galápagos animals plus a 40 page coloring book. A delightful gift for children of all ages! \$11.95

**The Voyage of the Beagle**, by Charles Darwin (Penguin Books, Penguin Group, 1989). A shortened version of the 1839 edition of Charles Darwin's book. A great classic of natural history, it is not only a key work in the evolution of modern thought, but is also first rate literature. 432 pages, illustrated. Paperback. \$11.95

**Charles Darwin, A Biography**, by Janet Browne (Knopf, 1995). The first of two volumes that will constitute the definitive biography of Darwin as man and scientist. Much new material is used to help unravel the enigma of Darwin's career. A wonderfully dramatic story! 605 pages, illustrated. Hardback. \$35.00

**The Naturalist on the River Amazons**, by Henry Walter Bates (Penguin Books, 1988). A classic written by the English naturalist in 1863 about his 11 year journey in the Amazon collecting specimens to help solve the question of the origin of the species-no less than 8,000 species hitherto unknown to science! His findings provided firm support for Darwin's theories. 383 pages, illustrated. Paperback. \$9.95

**The Rivers Amazon**, by Alex Shoumatoff (Sierra Club, 1986). A highly readable account of the author's 8 month odyssey through Amazonia. It is both exciting as an adventure story and impressive in details of ecology and culture. 238 pages. Paperback. \$8.95

**The Cloud Forest**, by Peter Matthiessen (Penguin Books, 1961). Filled with observations and descriptions of the people and fading wildlife of a vast continent, this is an unparalleled chronicle of the South American wilderness. 280 pages, black & white photographs. Paperback. \$9.95

**Neotropical Rainforest Mammals**, by Louise H. Emmons (University of Chicago Press, 1990). The first color-illustrated field guide to this marvelously rich and elusive fauna. It describes the large array of mammals that live in New World lowland rainforests, what they look like, what they do, where they are, and which ones may be in danger and why. 281 pages, color illustrations. Paperback. \$22.50

**A Neotropical Companion**, by John C. Kricher (Princeton University Press, 1989). Illustrated introduction to the tropics of Central & South America that presents a general and up-to-date view of one of the world's most complex ecosystems. A broad look at the entire field of neotropical biology and crucial issues of conservation. 436 pages, black & white illustrations. Paperback. \$19.95

**Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice**, by Mark J. Plotkin (Penguin, 1993). Written by the chief ethnobotanist for Conservation International about his apprenticeship with rainforest shamans studying the curative powers of local plants. A highly readable anthropological adventure story. 328 pages, black & white photos. Paperback. \$12.95.

**Birds of a Tropical America**, by Steven L. Hilty & Mimi Wolf (Chapters Publishing Ltd., 1994). A natural history of the New World Tropics that is at once practical, accurate and as endlessly fascinating as the species whose lives it reveals. It picks up where field guides leave off. 304 pages, black & white illustrations. Paperback. \$12.95

**A Guide to the Birds of the Galápagos Islands**, by Isabel Castro & Antonia Phillips (Princeton University Press, 1996). Details of all species within the Galápagos archipelago including migrants. Excellent color plates illustrating species. 144 pages, color and black & white illustrations. Hardcover. \$24.95

**A Guide to Bird-Watching in Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands**, by Robert R. Williams, Brinley J. Best and Tom Heijnen (Biosphere Publications 1996). Documents 120 key bird-watching sites including over 75 maps detailing how to reach each site and where to go once there. Also provides background information on Ecuador's geography, climate, Endemic Bird Areas, habitats and protected areas, as well as information on travel in Ecuador. 484 pages, black & white illustrations and maps. Paperback. \$37.50

**Floreana, A Woman's Pilgrimage to the Galápagos**, by Margret Wittmer (Moyer Bell, 1989). A remarkable first-hand account of a woman who settled on the island of Floreana in 1932. Out of Print. Paperback. \$12.95

# Arrival & Departure

## FLYING TO, IN AND FROM ECUADOR

Please consult your airline itinerary and tickets for your flight departure and arrival information. Remember to reconfirm your international flights 72 hours before departure.

### ARRIVING IN ECUADOR

#### CUSTOMS & BAGGAGE

Arriving in Quito (el. 9,350 ft.) or in Guayaquil (el. 40 ft.): Upon deplaning, enter the main terminal building (the international portion of the terminal) and form a line leading to Migración (immigration). Present your passport and the completed **T3 Tourist Information & Visa** card that was given to you on the plane. When asked, “How long will you be visiting Ecuador?”, the reply is, “30 days.” You will be given a carbon copy of the T3 card stamped with your entry date and how many days you are allowed to stay. You may have up to 90 days.

Claim your luggage from the baggage conveyor, put it on a cart and head for the exit, holding your passport so it is very visible. U.S. tourists are almost always waved right on through when they see your passport. If a customs inspector wants to have a look at your luggage, there will be no doubt about it. **Remember: You are a tourist, you don’t speak Spanish, every single thing you have with you is for your own personal use.** Once past the customs inspector, you must present your claim checks in order to leave the baggage claim area for the “Outside.”

**BEFORE LEAVING THE BAGGAGE CLAIM AREA, STOP AND PUT YOUR PASSPORT AWAY IN A SECURE PLACE.** Even though our representative will be waiting for you, so are many quick and eager fingers. Don’t be alarmed by this statement: you will not be at physical risk, but we want you to travel wisely so we don’t have to spend several days working on a new passport for you so you can leave the country!

**Be extra careful of your valuables, especially at the airports!** For more information please refer to the “Security” section of this handbook.

### GETTING TO THE HOTEL

At the customs exit our representative (holding an INCA sign) will meet you. He or she will take your luggage and escort you to a vehicle for the 20-minute ride to the Hilton Colón Quito (or the Hilton Colón Guayaquil or Oro Verde if you are arriving in Guayaquil).

In the unlikely event that the agent is not there to meet you, and if you have waited more than 30 minutes, please take a taxi from the head of the orderly line at the curb. Pay no more than \$5–8 USD from the airport to the hotel. INCA will reimburse you for the cost of the taxi. Be sure you have ALL of your luggage when you get to the hotel.

### CHECKING IN AT THE HOTEL

If you arrive at the Hilton Colón Quito after 10 p.m., proceed to the registration desk in the lobby. If you arrive prior to 10 p.m., proceed to the elevator for check-in at the front desk of the Executive Lounge room. There will be porters to assist with the luggage. Identify

## Arrival & Departure

### FLYING TO, IN AND FROM ECUADOR

yourself and indicate that you are an INCA client. The voucher page sent with your final documents includes all of your hotel accommodations and trip services. English is spoken by almost all of the staff at the hotels.

After checking in, put airline tickets, passports, travelers' checks, cash, etc., in the hotel safe. The keyed safety deposit boxes at the front desk are rated to be the most secure. Personal safes are available in each room at the Hilton Colón Quito. (Please also refer to the "Security" section of this handbook for more details).

#### **VIDA VERDE—OUR ASSOCIATE IN ECUADOR:**

While in Ecuador, all ground operations, i.e. transfers, tours, etc. (with the exception of some side trips—please refer to your vouchers), will be handled by Vida Verde. Vida Verde's office manager in Quito is **Zulema Muñoz**. Please refer to the "Emergency Contact List" at the back of this Handbook for contact information in Quito and in Guayaquil.

#### **FLIGHTS WITHIN ECUADOR**

You will be transferred to and from all flights within Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands.

Before departing from the hotel for your flight to Galápagos, please be sure that you have not left any necessary documents in the hotel safe (you must bring your passport and all air tickets), or anything in your room hanging in a closet, behind a door, or in a drawer. If you leave luggage in storage (la bodega) at the Hilton Colón Quito until your return, please be sure you get a claim check.

About an hour and a half before your scheduled departure for Galápagos, an INCA representative will meet you in the hotel lobby of the Hilton Colón Quito to transfer you to the airport. You will receive your Galápagos airline tickets, as well as boarding passes. After check-in to all flights, check your airline tickets to see that only the coupon for that particular flight was removed. We have had a few rare (and exciting) instances where two coupons were taken for one flight. If this happens, and you do not discover it before leaving the airport, you must buy a replacement for the missing flight coupon(s). INCA can assume no responsibility for missing or lost airline coupon(s). The process of refunding lost tickets takes at least 6 months and tickets are sometimes never refunded! Please be very careful with your airline tickets and documents.

#### **DEPARTURE FROM ECUADOR**

All flights from South America must be reconfirmed at least 72 hours in advance of departure. Our Quito associate will reconfirm all departing flights.

**PLEASE NOTE: If INCA did not make your international air arrangements, our associate will be able to re-confirm your departing flights ONLY if you have provided the INCA office with a copy of your final, confirmed international air itinerary that includes the departing airline and flight number. If you fail to do this, INCA is unable to take any responsibility for reconfirming your international flights.**



# Arrival & Departure

## FLYING TO, IN AND FROM ECUADOR

Our representative will transfer you from your hotel to the airport and check you in to your outbound flight.

### DEPARTURE TAX

Frequently you may purchase your exit tax coupon when you check in for your international departure. It is a small, numbered sticker that will be affixed to your boarding pass. You can pay for it at the check-in counter with U.S. cash only (please see the section “You will need money for” for current amount of tax).

Once you have your boarding pass, and if you have not paid your exit tax to the airline at the check-in counter, you must go to the “Airport Tax” window and purchase an exit tax coupon that will be affixed to your boarding pass. **PLEASE NOTE: Travelers’ Checks are not accepted for the departure tax** and the bank is usually not open when flights depart for the U.S.

When ready to leave, proceed to Migración and present your boarding pass with the exit tax coupon on it, passport, and the T3 tourist card. The exit tax coupon will be punched, the T3 tourist card will be collected, and your passport stamped.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU MISS A FLIGHT

This rarely happens—and it almost invariably is due to missed connections caused by weather, mechanical problems, flight cancellation, or a “surprise” schedule change. It happens most frequently within the U.S. It is a much greater problem when this happens on your outbound flights to South America.

If you are going to miss the last flight from the Gateway City of Miami, Dallas, Atlanta, or Houston, relax—you simply are going to arrive one day later than planned. Your itinerary has been scheduled fairly tightly. Go on to the Gateway City so you are there for the next day’s departures. Use the time to read about Galápagos, relax, rest, and recover from the stress of getting ready for the trip. Don’t worry or make an unflattering scene—just accept that this disagreeable situation is really totally out of your control! Yes, OUT OF YOUR CONTROL!

If you miss a flight due to no fault of your own, you must formally and firmly request that the airline on which you are booked make a new reservation for you, either on one of their flights or on another carrier, that will get you there as close to your planned arrival time as possible.

If this should happen to you, please advise the INCA office ASAP. We must advise our Associates of your new estimated time and day of arrival (otherwise they will be futilely waiting for you and worrying about you because you didn’t show up). In addition, your delayed arrival usually requires that our Associates make new hotel reservations and obtain new Galápagos flight reservations (hardest part of all).

If you miss a flight due to the late arrival of a connecting flight, it is the responsibility of the delivering airline to arrange a new reservation. You can request the airline to provide lodging and meals due to any delay. Under current deregulation, the provision of hotel rooms and/or

## Arrival & Departure

### FLYING TO, IN AND FROM ECUADOR

meals by the airlines is usually in the interest of goodwill, rather than by legal requirement.

Sometimes you must press hard to get complimentary room, transfers, and/or meals but in the end, we have found that most airline personnel are very helpful and want you to be on your way, out of their hair. Don't get off on the wrong foot by starting with screaming and shouting. That approach will usually temper, if not outright squash, any desire to help you. Remember, the person at the counter did not of their own free will cause the problem. But keep in mind that they are in a position to improve the situation or make it worse!

If the problem cannot be resolved at the airport, you should go to the carrier's downtown office. BE FIRM but polite! See the "Emergency Contacts List" for our agents and suggestions of hotels if you get stuck in a city in which INCA operates its tours and you can't find our representative.

If you miss your flight for any other reason, the airlines accept no responsibility.

INCA will make no refunds for your failure to arrive at your destination on time as all arrangements including all hotel nights have been made and prepaid by INCA. Please note that even though an airline re-routed you to another city, or you were delayed en route, and the airline provided you with a hotel, you are not entitled to a refund for any of the hotel night(s) or tours that you missed. In addition, we usually will have incurred additional economic and emotional expense trying to make the necessary arrangements for you to catch up to the trip. It is a very stressful situation for all concerned.

**Promptly advise INCA at 510-420-1550 of your new flight arrangement, Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., PST, or Zulema Muñoz on Saturday-Sunday in Quito at the Emergency phone number 011-593-9-9448-425.**



## Practical Information

### STAYING HEALTHY

#### HEALTH ADVISORY: FOR ECUADOR

One of the last things a traveler wants is to become ill and spend his or her entire adventure physically uncomfortable or bedridden. Please take the following suggestions seriously to maintain your health for the relatively short time that you will be away from home. It will require that you be extra cautious, but it is an effort that pays handsomely.

1. Do not eat any RAW or UNDERCOOKED fish or shellfish, including ceviche and sushi, except when prepared on the yachts.
2. Eat food that is well cooked and served hot.
3. Peeled fruits are fine (papaya, pineapple, etc.) if you peel them yourself, except on yachts and at hotels.
4. Drink only bottled, chlorinated or boiled water (as in tea and coffee). Water is purified on the yachts and is safe to drink.
5. Drink pure fruit juices. If water has been added, make sure the water was BOILED.
6. Avoid ice in all drinks including alcoholic beverages, except on the yachts.
7. Avoid salads and uncooked vegetables, except on yachts.
8. Do not buy food from street vendors.
9. Do not buy juices from street vendors or at open-air restaurants.
10. Pay attention to personal hygiene (frequent hand washing, use of hand sanitizer, use of proper sanitary facilities)
11. Do not bring seafood back to the USA.
12. Drink lots of bottled water and avoid alcohol while in Quito due to high elevation.

Please call the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services at the Centers for Disease Control, in Atlanta, Georgia for more information: (404) 639-3311 or their website: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

## Practical Information

### STAYING HEALTHY

#### WATER AND BEVERAGES

- Drink only bottled water and do not drink any non-bottled beverages made with water (i.e. juices made from concentrate) while in South America, except while on the yachts.
- Ice on the yachts and at Hilton Colón Quito, La Mirage Garden Hotel & Spa and Royal Palm Resort is made from purified, desalinated water. Exercise caution at other restaurants and do not drink beverages with ice anywhere except at these locations.
- Exercise care when brushing your teeth (use bottled water) and when ordering drinks.
- Bottled mineral water (*agua mineral*) is plentiful and available everywhere. It is usually the bubbly kind unless you specify differently. If you prefer non-carbonated bottled water, ask for “*agua linda*” or “*agua sin gas.*”
- Soft drinks, Ecuadorian beer, Chilean wine and hard liquor may be purchased everywhere including on Santa Cruz and the yachts. Sodas, bottled water and juice are complementary on the yachts.
- Use alcohol in great moderation on the flights and at higher altitudes such as Quito or in the countryside. Processing alcohol takes a great toll on the body’s system—you want to be at your best.

#### FOOD

- Avoid raw fish, clams, oysters, shrimp, or other seafood, except while on yachts.
- Do not buy any food or drink from street vendors.
- Avoid anything with mayonnaise or other thick dressings, except while on yachts.
- Salads are fairly safe (never 100% safe) to eat at the hotels and the yachts. At other locations, avoid raw, unpeeled vegetables and fruits without peelable skin.
- Eat in moderation, especially at high altitudes. The digestive system can be hampered by oxygen-thin air, so you may choose to pack Imodium, Pepto Bismol, Maalox, Tums or other antacids just in case.
- If you have a strict diet (i.e. kosher, vegetarian, etc.) bring some of your favorite snacks with you. Ecuador is a meat-and-potatoes country. Meals on the yachts may include beef, chicken, pork, fish or seafood. Vegetables, rice, and beans are frequently served. Please advise us as soon as possible of dietary requests or restrictions. We will convey these requests to the yacht operators; however, the cook’s idea of vegetarian or special diet fare may be a little different than yours. Once on board, please ask the naturalist guide to help you convey your special requirements to the chef *at a time that is convenient for both of them.*

## Practical Information

### STAYING HEALTHY

#### DIARRHEA

It is not uncommon for travelers to have a passing experience with diarrhea, mostly induced by a change in diet. The major problem with diarrhea is fluid loss leading to severe dehydration. Make sure you drink plenty of liquids. Caffeine is a diuretic and should be avoided or consumed only in small amounts. The best drinks are bottled water, weak tea, mineral water, and caffeine-free soft drinks. Avoid milk. Bananas, rice, crackers, bread or potatoes will sit well on your stomach and don't aggravate the malady.

Bring **Bismuth** tablets to take at the *very, very* first inkling of any discomfort. Bismuth, if taken soon enough, can prevent bacteria from taking over the intestinal track. Bring **Cipro** to treat diarrhea as once diarrhea has set in, it is too late for Bismuth to prevent the take over. Cipro is available over the counter in Ecuador, but you may not have time to purchase it there.

#### ALTITUDE SICKNESS

Quito is 9350 feet (2850 meters) above sea level; some people are mildly affected by the elevation. Altitude sickness occurs when you ascend to high altitude quickly. Mostly travelers experience no more than shortness of breath and mild headaches; they may also become light-headed or spacier than usual, have a shortened attention span, and experience some dehydration.

We recommend that you take it easy the first day and avoid tobacco and alcohol. Eat lightly and avoid fried foods and meat-heavy meals. If you feel ill, rest, breathe deeply, drink fluids, and take a mild painkiller for headaches. If symptoms are very severe, oxygen may be the only effective relief. Call the front desk and ask for oxygen to be brought to you. If it is severe and persists, please call our associate and ask for the doctor to make a "hotel-call" to you. You may have to descend to lower elevation (this would be a very, very rare occurrence).

#### MOTION SICKNESS

Taking precautionary measures against motion sickness should be an important part of your Galápagos travel planning. Motion sickness is a normal response to real, perceived, or anticipated movement. It occurs when the body, the inner ear (a tiny structure involved in hearing and balance), and the eyes send conflicting signals to the brain. Not everyone will be affected, but prevention is the key. While on the boat, prevention is best accomplished by seeking areas of lesser movement in an interior location of the boat or by facing forward and looking outside the boat. Avoid alcoholic beverages and drink plenty of water.

Several medications are available both by prescription and over the counter that may prevent or limit unpleasant symptoms. As always, please consult with your doctor as to what would be best for you. If medications are necessary, they are best taken at least one hour before embarking.

The over the counter medications **Dramamine II** or **Bonine** can be very effective for short trips or when symptoms occur intermittently. INCA guides and past clients have found suc-

## Practical Information

### STAYING HEALTHY

cess with **Meclizine**, the active ingredient in both Dramamine II and Bonine. In our experience, Dramamine I is better suited for putting one to sleep rather than alleviating motion sickness. For longer relief, a prescription medication called **Transderm-Scop** comes in the form of a patch and can be worn behind the ear for up to three days at a time. Side-effects of these medications usually consist of sedation and dry mouth and they should not be taken by people who have glaucoma or urinary obstruction. Recent studies have shown that **Ginger root** may be as effective as the other drug treatments while creating fewer side effects.

For more information, visit [www.1st-transderm-scop-4-motion-sickness.com](http://www.1st-transderm-scop-4-motion-sickness.com); [www.allhealth.com](http://www.allhealth.com); or [www.prevent.com](http://www.prevent.com) (keyword: motion sickness). The latter two sites give details on both medical and natural remedies.

### MEDICAL TREATMENT

If you become so ill that you would like a visit from a doctor, please ask our Associates in Quito or Galápagos to arrange for a “house call” by a doctor that has worked with us for years. If you are on the yacht, let your guide know immediately. In addition, you can contact your Embassy during their office hours for the name and location of a reputable English-speaking doctor. Please see the “Emergency Contact List” at the end of this Handbook for more details.

**Please be sure you have medical coverage that is valid for treatment outside of your home country.** Medicare provides no coverage outside of the U.S. Emergency evacuation by air ambulance from Galápagos to the mainland costs upwards of \$50,000.



# Practical Information

## FACTS FOR THE VISITOR

### MONEY & CURRENCY

In Ecuador the U.S. dollar is legal tender. All prices are set in U.S. dollars. Coins in the same denominations of the U.S. coins have been minted by Ecuador. The coins are good within Ecuador, but don't expect them to be useful once you're back home. The dollars are minted in the U.S.

Credit cards are accepted at most tourist shops, restaurants and hotels on the mainland of Ecuador. MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in Galápagos but if you intend to use a credit card for a purchase, please ask the merchants in advance which cards they accept. Bills at the mainland hotels can be paid in cash, travelers' checks, or credit cards. If cashing travelers' checks at the hotels, please be advised that you will be charged up to 3% for a service fee. Bar bills on the yachts can be paid by cash, Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Tips to guides and crew can be made in cash, but NOT by credit card.

You may withdraw cash from ATM machines located in Quito and on Santa Cruz Island. They accept cards with Cirrus and VISA symbols. Please keep in mind that they are not always reliable. We recommend that you bring enough cash or travelers' checks with you from home to cover bar bills and tips. Take small bills (in good condition) with you as sometimes it is difficult for the locals to make appropriate change, even for a \$5 bill!

Please see "What to Bring" for Guidelines regarding the amount of money needed.

### FORMS OF PAYMENT

Please note which are the accepted forms of payment for each place you stay.

**Hilton Colón Quito**: Cash, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Diner's Club

**Reina Silvia and Integrity**: Bar bill: Cash, Visa, Master Card and American Express.  
Tipping: Cash

**Royal Palm Hotel**: Cash, Visa, MasterCard, American Express

**La Mirage Garden & Spa**: Cash, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Diner's Club

**Mansion del Angel**: Cash , Visa, MasterCard

**Kapawi Lodge**: Cash, Visa, MasterCard, Diner's Club

**Sacha Lodge**: Bar bill, souvenirs: Cash, Visa, MasterCard, American Express  
Tipping: Cash or tips can also be added to bar bill

While Traveler's Checks are accepted at most places, they cost an exorbitant amount to cash.

## Practical Information

### FACTS FOR THE VISITOR

#### TIPPING

The age-old custom of tipping has served through the years to encourage and reward excellence. Gratuities must be earned. For that reason INCA does not include tips to guides, drivers or yacht crew in the trip price. If we did, it would provide a “guaranteed tip,” thereby reducing the incentive for performance. (We know; we have tried it!) To guide you in this sensitive area, our clients have tipped on average, as follows:

To yacht naturalist:	\$75–\$100 per person per week
To yacht crew tip pool:	\$120–\$150+ per person per week
To guides on side trips:	\$10–\$15 per person per guide for each day of service
To driver on side trips:	\$10–\$15 per person per day of service
To porter at hotels:	\$1 per bag

Tips at the hotels and airports, and to servers for meals included on the itinerary, are paid by INCA. All restaurants add a 12-14% VAT tax to the bill, but for exceptional service you might want to add another 5%. It is not necessary to tip taxi drivers. But be sure you have all of your possessions with you when you leave a cab—if you don’t, you can guess the rest!

Please tip in cash. It costs those tipped upwards of \$40 to cash a travelers check, personal checks are impossible to cash, and credit cards cannot be used for tips.

#### SECURITY

Since thieves are known to exist worldwide, the security of your documents, funds, and valuables is important. Consider using a money belt or special wallet with a strap that attaches to your belt, which can be worn under clothes, wherein the bulk of your money, credit cards, and passport may be safely hidden. Stash the numbers of your travelers’ checks elsewhere and keep a record of them as they are spent. Also stash copies of your passport and airline tickets in a separate and secure location.

As in any major city, be cautious at the airports. Many travelers are not as guarded when they have just arrived off a long flight or when they are on their way home. **Be alert and on guard for bait-switch-and-run tactics.** Virtually all of the few thefts our clients have experienced have occurred at airports.

Upon arrival at hotels, we advise you to place your passport, airline tickets, credit cards and most of your funds in the hotel safe. Do not leave them in the hotel room (unless a safe is provided) and **DO NOT CARRY THEM IN THE CITY STREETS.** For major purchases you can return to the hotel for your money or credit card. Carry only small amounts of cash and only a photocopy of your passport when you are outside of the hotel.

#### ELECTRICITY

Ecuador uses primarily 110 volts, 60 cycles, AC. All the yachts that we use and hotels, inns and lodges everywhere have 110 volts AC, just like in the U.S.



# Practical Information

## FACTS FOR THE VISITOR

### PHONES AND DIALING

When making an international call from the US, you must dial 011, the country code, the city code and then the number. Ecuador's country code is 593. Quito's city code is 2. All phone numbers listed on our Emergency Contact List include the international dialing numbers.

When calling within Ecuador you must start by dialing 0, followed by the city code, before dialing the six or seven digit number.

For example: INCA associate Zulema Munoz's day phone number is (011-593-2)-2560-506 from the US, but within Ecuador you would dial 02-2560-506 to reach her.

### HAIR DRYERS

Hair dryers are available in the rooms aboard the Integrity, at the Hilton Colón Quito, La Mirage Garden Hotel & Spa in Otavalo and the Royal Palm Hotel on Santa Cruz. They are not available on the Reina Silvia. However, the yacht does have U.S. regulation electrical outlets if you choose to bring a travel hair dryer with you. In our experience, the relaxed atmosphere on the boats and the high humidity in the islands make hair dryers impractical. Plus they are cumbersome to pack. So relax and adopt your own special "Galápagos-do."

### LAUNDRY

Laundry facilities are available on weekdays at the Hilton Colón Quito and the Royal Palm Hotel on Santa Cruz. While aboard the Integrity, the crew will offer to wash and dry items for you at some point during your cruise.

While aboard the Reina Silvia, the crew may offer to wash and dry items for you. This service depends on several factors: crew workload, water availability, motion of the boat, etc. Alternatively, you can bring a small amount of laundry soap, hand wash your own items, and hang them to dry in the ocean breeze. Towels are provided and will be changed for you daily.

### TIME

Ecuador is on the equator so days and nights are almost equal in length year-round. The sun rises at about 6 a.m. and sets at about 6 p.m. This means no long sunrises or sunsets for photography.

The Ecuadorian mainland is five hours behind Greenwich Mean Time. The Galápagos Islands are one hour behind mainland Ecuador. Ecuador does not observe Daylight Savings Time. When Daylight Savings Time is in effect in the U.S., mainland Ecuador is at the same hour as New York (EST) and Galápagos is at the same hour as Chicago (CST). During the rest of year, mainland Ecuador is at the same hour as Chicago (CST) and the Galápagos Islands are at the same hour as Denver (MTS).

# Practical Information

## FACTS FOR THE VISITOR

### HOURS

**Offices:** Generally 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, with a mid-day siesta closing of about 2-3 hours (sometime between noon and 3 p.m.). For North Americans, the lunchtime break is often a frustrating surprise. We suggest that you do as the natives do and have a long lunch and a good rest.

**Banking:** 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Shopping:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. Most city shops are closed on Sundays. Shops selling tourist items may be open all day.

### HOLIDAYS

Many of the major festivals are oriented to the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar. These are often celebrated with great pageantry, especially in highland Indian villages where a Catholic feast day is often the excuse for a traditional Indian fiesta with much drinking, dancing, rituals and processions. Other holidays are of historical or political interest. On the days of major holidays, banks, offices, and other services are closed and transportation tends to be very crowded.

The following list describes the major holidays, but they may well be celebrated for several days around the actual dates.

New Year's Day .....	January 1
Epiphany or Three Kings Day .....	January 6
Province Day (Galápagos) .....	February 12
National Community spirit Day .....	February 27
Carnival .....	Feb-Mar (Feb 19-20, 07; Feb 4-5, 08)
Palm Sunday .....	Mar-Apr (Apr 1, 07; Mar 16, 08)
Holy Thursday .....	Mar-Apr (Apr 5, 07; Mar 20, 08)
Good Friday .....	Mar-Apr (Apr 6, 07; Mar 21, 08)
Holy Saturday .....	Mar-Apr (Apr 7, 07; Mar 22, 08)
Easter Sunday .....	Mar-Apr (Apr 8, 07; Mar 23, 08)
Labor Day .....	May 1
Battle of Pichincha .....	May 24
Corpus Christi .....	May-Jun (Jun 7, 07; May 22, 08)
St. John the Baptist (Otavalo) .....	June 24
SSTs. Peter and Paul (Otavalo) .....	June 29
Simón Bolívar's Birthday .....	July 24
Founding of Guayaquil .....	July 25
Independence of Quito .....	August 10
Fiesta del Yamor (Otavalo) .....	September 1-15
Independence of Guayaquil .....	October 9
Columbus Day / Americas Day .....	October 12
Fiesta del Yamor (Otavalo) .....	September 1-15
All Saints Day .....	November 1
All Souls Day .....	November 2
Independence of Cuenca .....	November 3
Foundation of Quito .....	December 6
Christmas Eve .....	December 24
Christmas Day .....	December 25
All Fools Day .....	December 28
New Year's Eve .....	December 31

## Practical Information

### FACTS FOR THE VISITOR - QUITO

#### RESTAURANT SUGGESTIONS IN QUITO

Ask the Concierge at the hotel to make a reservation for you and to confirm that the restaurant is open that night. Request that the doorman arrange a taxi for you and be sure the driver starts the meter. Dress at finer restaurants is more formal.

Portofino.....	Italian Dining Hilton Colón Quito
Cafe Colón.....	24-hr Cafe Hilton Colón Quito
Chez Jerome.....	French cuisine, one of the finest restaurants in Quito Whymper N3096 and Coruña, Tel: 2234-067 www.chezjeromequito.com
La Choza.....	Modest setting with Ecuadorian specialties Av. 12 de Octubre N24-551 and Cordero, Tel: 2230-839
Astrid y Gaston.....	One of the most talked about restaurants in Quito. Peruvian, Ecuadorian, European cuisine La Coruña N32-302 and Gonzalez Suarez, Tel: 2233-061
La Vina.....	Mediterranean cuisine Isabel La Católica and Luis Cordero, Tel: 2566-033

#### MUSEUMS AND OTHER SIGHTS

For suggestions on sights to see around Quito and one-day tours of Quito or the Otavalo countryside, please contact our Quito office manger, Zulema Muñoz.

**VIDA VERDE** Contact: Zulema Muñoz

Address: Jorge Washington y 718 Amazonas, 6th Floor, Quito, Ecuador

Phone: Day (593-2) 2560-506; Evening & weekend: (593-2) 2455-863

Please note that museums are generally closed on Mondays. Before going, always ask the concierge call to learn whether your choice is open. Please note that schedules are “flexible” in the low latitudes. Here is a small list of the many museums in Quito.

- **Casa de Cultura Ecuatoriana**—corner of Avenidas Patria and 12 de Octubre (2 blocks from the Hilton Colón Quito). Art, musical instruments, regional dress, natural history. Free. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.
- **Museo del Banco Central** (Archeology Museum) is at the Casa de Cultura (see above). Pre-Incan and Pre-Columbian pottery, skulls, mummy, colonial furniture and religious art. Entrance is approximately \$2 USD Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

## Practical Information

### FACTS FOR THE VISITOR

- **Museo Guayasamín**—Calle José Bosmedian 543, in the residential district of Belavista. This is the home of the contemporary Ecuadorian painter, Oswaldo Guayasamín. You can buy original artwork here. Entrance costs approximately \$2 USD. Open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday. A taxi from the Hilton Colón Quito will cost \$4–5 USD.
- **Virgin of Quito**—When you look south from the Hilton Colón Quito you see a huge statue on a hill—the Virgin of Quito. It was cast in pieces, shipped from Spain and assembled on site. It is a fine view from there but you should visit it only on a tour, as thievery can be rampant there. The neighborhood association is currently managing the parking and policing the park. Entrance fee approximately \$0.50 USD.
- **San Francisco Museum**—At the Monastery of San Francisco. Entrance fee approximately \$2.50 USD. Open Monday to Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. to 12 noon.
- **Equator at Pomasqui**—Entrance fee to the Equator is \$0.50 USD. To the Museum is \$3 USD.

### CHURCHES

There are many fine churches, chapels, convents, monasteries, cathedrals, and basilicas in Quito. Flash photography is not permitted inside. Beware of pickpockets in the plazas around the churches. Visiting hours noted below are not to be counted on; please double-check them with your hotel concierge desk. Here are but a few:

- **Monastery of San Francisco**, on the plaza of same name. The oldest church in Quito, construction began only a few days after the founding of the city. Bells ring every hour. Usually open from 7 to 11 a.m. daily and 3 to 6 p.m. Monday-Thursday. The Franciscan Museum is housed in the Monastery and is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Entrance fee is approximately \$.50 USD.
- **La Compañía de Jesús**, across the Plaza from the monastery. Very ornate, gilded walls, ceilings and altars. Visiting hours are erratic but try to visit between 9:30 to 11 a.m. or 4 to 6 p.m. daily.
- **La Merced**, at Cuenca and Chile Streets. This is one of Quito's newest churches, completed in 1742. It has the highest tower (over 154 feet) in colonial Quito and contains the largest church bell and a fascinating art collection. Usually open 3 to 8 p.m. Monday-Saturday, but these times may vary.

## Practical Information

### FACTS FOR THE VISITOR

#### SHOPPING

You will find several excellent shops catering to tourists on Avenida Juan León Mera, the street behind Hilton Colón Quito. Many shops and restaurants in Quito accept Dollars, Travelers' Checks and Visa or MasterCard.

- **Galería Latina:** Good selection of high quality Ecuadorian arts and crafts.
- **La Bodega:** Folk items and sweaters—moderate quality merchandise.
- **Coosas:** Peter Mussefeldt Galápagos motif creations—T-shirts, skirts, linens, excellent quality.
- **Libri Mundi:** The best bookstore with a large selection of books in English.
- **Olga Fisch:** (260 Avenida Colón) A shop founded by the late Olga Fisch, world-renowned weaver, sells an attractive array of fine quality handicrafts, rugs, contemporary jewelry and fashions. Smaller quantities of the same merchandise can also be found at their smaller shop in Hilton Colón Quito.
- **Bazaar:** Right behind the Hilton. This street bazaar carries similar items as the Otavalo Market. Lower quality goods, but bargaining is accepted. Lots of silver jewelry, woven items, T-shirts and some artwork.
- **Tianguez:** A non-profit shop run by the Sinchi Sacha Foundation with excellent masks, ceramics and hide art benefiting indigenous groups in Ecuador, with good prices. Located right under the Monastery of San Francisco.

### SHOPPING ALERT!

**Do NOT buy jewelry, objects, or items made from or containing  
BLACK CORAL.**

**It is very rare and is being fished illegally, causing it to become an  
endangered species in the Galápagos Islands.**



# Overview

## ECUADOR

### GEOGRAPHY

Ecuador is located on the equator (hence the name) on the western coast of South America between Colombia and Peru. With a total land area of 109,500 square miles (283,520 km<sup>2</sup>), it is about the size of the state of Tennessee. The Galápagos Islands, located 600 miles (1000 ) offshore on the equator, have been a part of Ecuador since its independence. There are three main geographical regions in Ecuador; the Oriente, a jungle region of the upper Amazon basin in eastern Ecuador; the Sierra, made up of two Andean snow-capped ranges in central Ecuador, separated by the fertile Valley of Quito; and the Costa, the western lowland areas between the mountains and the Pacific Ocean. Ecuador is largely agricultural, and its great variety of crops reflects its topographical extremes. Ecuador's revenues are derived mainly from exports of oil, fish products, agricultural commodities, and from tourism.

### HISTORY

There is evidence of civilization in this region as early as 3200 BC. However few artifacts remain from those early times. The Inca Empire was created by force, subjugating many diverse, independent, and often fierce tribes, into a highly regimented and structured system under the leadership of several Incas (supreme rulers) during the 15th century AD. At its zenith Inca domination extended east to the upper edges of the Amazon basin, through what is now Bolivia and the northwest corner of Argentina, south to the river Maule in Chile, and to the northern end of the Valley of Quito, in what is now Ecuador.

The Valley of Quito was a great distance from Cuzco, the Center of the Inca Universe. The tribes of this region were very difficult to subdue. About the time of the first Spanish arrival in the area in 1526, the powerful Inca Huayna Capac had just divided his empire between two greedy and competitive sons, Atahualpa who controlled the region north to the Valley of Quito, and Huascar who was in control in Cuzco. The intense rivalry between these brothers led to a devastating civil war in which Atahualpa defeated Huascar. Shortly thereafter Francisco Pizarro and his ruthless band of treasure hunters captured Atahualpa and held him as ransom for the famous "room full of gold." Once the room was full, Pizarro had Atahualpa put to death in 1533, ending the Incan control over the area of what is now Ecuador.

During the colonial period, Ecuador was under the control of Spain through its colony in Peru and Columbia. There were many unsuccessful uprisings by the local tribes throughout the region during the next three centuries. By the early 1800's, the uprisings had become sufficiently organized throughout the continent to mount irreversible movements for independence from Spanish control. In 1822, Field Marshal Sucre, a general under Simón Bolívar, defeated the Spanish Royalists at the battle of Pichincha, close to Quito, thus Ecuador became fully independent by 1830. Currently, Ecuador is a constitutional democracy with a president elected for a single four-year term.

# Overview

## GALÁPAGOS

### GEOGRAPHY

The Galápagos archipelago is made up of 13 large islands, 6 smaller islands, and over 50 rocks and islets that have been officially named. They lie in the Pacific Ocean, along the equator, about 600 miles west of Ecuador. The islands are volcanic in origin and are continuing to build, increasing the submarine platform upon which they sit, high above the seabed floor, at the junction of the Nazca, Cocos, and South America plates.

Galápagos is a **very** active volcanic area. A large eruption on the Island of Fernandina occurred in 1995, sending smoke skyward and lava seaward for several months. Many of our guests were fortunate to view this island making, up close from the safety of their yachts. In the summer of 1998, Cerro Azul, the most western volcano on the Island of Isabela, erupted, sending steams of lava seaward from its flanks. A local tortoise population was air lifted out of its habitat on Cerro Azul, away from the effects of this eruption. In 2005, Cerro Negro on Isabela erupted.

### HISTORY

The first recorded discovery of the archipelago was in 1535 by the Bishop of Panama, Fray Tomas de Berlanga, when he was blown off course en route to Peru. In the late 17th Century, the islands were used by English pirates as a base for raids on the Spanish colonial ports and Galleons. Later, whalers and sealers hunted the Galápagos waters and gathered the ten's of thousands of tortoises for food.

A Sicilian captain who was sent by the King of Spain in 1790 led the first scientific expedition to the Galápagos Islands. Unfortunately, no records from the journey have been found. In 1835, Charles Darwin explored the islands, collecting specimens and making observations that helped lead to his formulation of the theory of natural selection.

The Galápagos Islands were officially annexed by Ecuador in 1832, and made a national park in 1959. The human population in the islands is approximately 36,000, distributed among four islands—Isabela, San Cristóbal, Floreana, with the majority living on Santa Cruz. The people are self-supporting through farming, fishing, and mainly tourism.

The Charles Darwin Research Station was opened in 1962 to ensure the conservation of unique Galápagos ecosystems and promote the scientific studies necessary to fulfill that conservation function, to educate the local inhabitants about conservation, and to act as a consultant to the Galápagos National Park.

The Station's conservation programs, conducted by visiting and resident scientists, focus on eradication of introduced species (feral goats, pigs, dogs and cats) and protection of native species. Funding comes from private donations, the Charles Darwin Foundation, the Ecuadorian government, the World Wildlife Fund, the Smithsonian Institution, the Nature Conservancy and the Frankfurt Zoological Society. INCA travelers have contributed several hundred thousand dollars to conservation and protection projects over the years.

Organized tours in Galápagos began in 1969 and annually now bring more than 50,000 visi-

## Overview

### CLIMATE

tors to the islands. The very strict rules for visitor behavior, made by the Galápagos National Park, are part of the overall effort to protect this wild and unique place. As a result of stringent enforcement, mainly by the highly qualified and dedicated guides, there is no apparent impact on the wildlife.

Please consult our reading list for books with more detailed Island history and descriptions.

### ECUADOR MAINLAND CLIMATE

Ecuador's weather is free of major storms like hurricanes and tornadoes. There is some variation in the amount of monthly rainfall and that will vary from season to season and from region to region.

Quito, in the highlands, experiences less rainfall than at other times from June through September and near the end of the year. From October to June there typically are rain showers 8-15 days a month, usually followed by sunshine. Daytime temperatures range from the upper 40's to the mid-70's year round. Quito's temperature is almost always quite pleasant.

The coastal areas, under the influence of ocean currents, have a hot, rainy season from January to April, with temperatures averaging low 90's. From May to December, it is somewhat cooler (low 80's) and rains infrequently.

The Amazon Jungle region is tropical and very humid (90%). Temperatures will be in the 70-90°F range. One or two showers per day are quite typical throughout the year, with more rainfall from June through August.

### GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS CLIMATE

The Galápagos Islands have a surprisingly cool, sub-tropical climate regulated by the cold, north-flowing (Humboldt) and west-flowing (Peruvian) ocean currents, which originate in Antarctica. Generally, December to April are the warmest months (75-90°F) and coolest from May through November (60-75°F). August and September are the coolest. The islands only receive an average of 10 inches of rain per year, so it is rarely "rainy", though you can expect some precipitation year-round.

The temperature of the air and water varies depending on the strength of the trade winds. During periods of weak winds, December through March, the cooling currents subside and temperatures rise. The waters are warmest during this period (65-80°F). In April, the trend begins toward stronger winds and cooler temperatures (both air and water) with the strongest trade winds and coolest temperatures being customary in late September. In October the trend reverses. And so the seasons cycle endlessly through time, with the occasional appearance of El Niño and La Niña phenomena.

The larger islands with volcanic peaks have a dramatic range of climactic zones. The coastal areas are quite arid, covered with plants adapted to desert conditions, and receive infrequent precipitation. The highland parts of these islands receive moisture almost year-round in the form of *garúa* (thick fog, mist or drizzle), which supports a lush rainforest where all of the tortoises live.



# Overview

## CLIMATE

### GALÁPAGOS WEATHER

	Rain/Fog	Air Temp (°F)	Water (°F)	Weather	Animals (most can be seen year-round)
<b>January</b>	some rain (1")	warm 75-80	70-75	humid	Sea turtles mating
<b>February</b>	some rain (1")	warm 75-85	70-75	humid	Frigate birds mating
<b>March</b>	wettest (2")	warmest 80-90	70-75	humid	Frigate birds mating
<b>April</b>	rain (1.5")	warm 75-80	70-75	comfortable	Albatross mating Frigate birds mating
<b>May</b>	some rain (.75")	cool 70-75	70-75	comfortable	Albatross mating Frigate birds mating
<b>June</b>	slight rain (.25"); dry season in highlands	cool 70-75	65-70	comfortable	Albatross Frigate birds mating
<b>July</b>	slight rain (.5"); <i>garúa</i> fog; dry season in highlands	cool 70	60-65	cool	Albatross Tortoises near road in Santa Cruz Highlands
<b>August</b>	slight rain (.25"); <i>garúa</i> fog; dry season in highlands	cool 68-70	60-65	cool	Albatross Tortoises near road in Santa Cruz Highlands
<b>September</b>	slight rain (.5"); strongest winds; <i>garúa</i> fog; dry season in highlands	coolest-late Sept. 60-70	60-65	cool	Albatross Tortoises near road in Santa Cruz Highlands
<b>October</b>	slight rain (.25"); possible strong winds; <i>garúa</i> fog	cool 70-75	63-70	cool	Albatross Tortoises near road in Santa Cruz Highlands
<b>November</b>	slight rain (.5"); strong winds	cool 70-75	65-72	comfortable	Albatross Tortoises near road in Santa Cruz Highlands
<b>December</b>	slight rain (.5"); starting to warm up	warm 73-78	65-73	warm	Tortoises near road in Santa Cruz Highlands

# Overview

## GALÁPAGOS

### OVERVIEW OF THE DIFFERENT GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

The following pages give a brief description of the islands, visitor sites, and the wildlife that you are likely (no guarantee but high probability) to see on your adventure. **You will not visit all of these sites simply because the number of sites and the distances between them requires more time—at least two to three weeks cruising.**

The islands and sites that you will visit will depend on the itinerary that has been assigned by the Galápagos National Park for the yacht we have chartered for your cruise. INCA along with the *Integrity* and the *Reina Silvia* have requested and received from the Park an itinerary that we think is the most interesting, one that allows travelers to see the most diversity in the Galápagos Islands.

Below are listed the islands likely to be visited on the yachts *Integrity* and *Reina Silvia*.

Yacht	Islands Likely Visited
<i>Integrity</i>	Baltra, Santa Cruz, Española (Hood), Floreana, Fernandina, Isabela, Santiago (James), Bartolomé, Genovesa (Tower), North Seymour, South Plaza
<i>Reina Silvia</i>	Baltra, South Plaza, Genovesa (Tower), Isabela, Fernandina, Santiago (James), Bartolomé, North Seymour, Santa Cruz, Floreana, Española (Hood)

### BALTRA (INTEGRITY, REINA SILVIA)

The Baltra airport, built during WWII by the U.S. government, is the first place most visitors see in Galápagos. Baltra (South Seymour) is a small, low, flat island, uplifted from the sea floor eons ago. Your first glimpses of the arid zone vegetation will remind you of southwestern parts of the U.S. You will see several species of cacti, Palo Verde (parkinsonian) and Palo Santo (bursera) trees. Baltra is under the control of the Ecuadorian Airforce that keeps a small garrison of soldiers there. The Ecuadorian Navy maintains a fuel supply depot and landing wharf which most visitors use to board the yachts and ships. There is little wildlife of note. While a few young land iguanas have been repatriated to this island as part of a Galápagos National Park project, it is unlikely that you will see these little iggies. You will be transferred from the airport in an airforce bus on a 15-minute ride along the recently paved road to the Canal de Itabaca, a narrow channel that separates Baltra from Santa Cruz. You will see the tiny islands of Daphne Major and Daphne Minor just offshore. There is a ferry across the canal and it is along this route that all local residents and INCA's adventurers must travel. The water in the shallow canal is an exquisite light blue, a welcome sight after the long and tiring trip to Darwin's Islands. Here you'll see pelicans, mockingbirds, occasionally boobies, and finches both in the air and perched in the mangrove trees.

## Overview

### **GALÁPAGOS**

#### **BARTOLOMÉ (INTEGRITY, REINA SILVIA)**

This is an exceptional place to observe volcanic island geology and to snorkel. Among the many colorful species you will see Bi-color Parrotfish, Streamer Hogfish, and Flag Cabrilla. Sometimes you get a special treat—a penguin “snorkeling” right around you in hunt of fishy treats. Most likely it will be a member of the small colony of Galápagos Penguins that nest in crevices at the base of the much photographed lava spire.

The long climb up the wooden steps to the pinnacle of this cinder cone takes you through cinders and rough volcanic formations, a veritable moonscape. The lower slopes are graced with a light sprinkling of the delicate, silvery Taquilia, a ground hugging plant adapted to this harsh spot. On top you will enjoy the spectacular view of Bartolomé, Santiago, and several other nearby islands. From this height you can make out old submerged craters at the water’s edge. Galápagos Hawks, over from their headquarters on Santiago, soar on currents around the peak. Invariably, our travelers are inspired to take the “group photo” from this scenic location.

#### **THE DAPHNES**

These two tiny tuff cones are located just off Santa Cruz, near Baltra. Visits to Daphne Major are tightly restricted, limited to one party of no more than eight persons per day, and each yacht may make but one visit per month. Finches, Blue-footed Boobies, and Red-billed Tropicbirds nest in the crater. Nazca Boobies and Frigate birds nest on the flanks. Getting ashore is extremely challenging, requiring a steep ascent up a rock face, from a rolling panga, with lots of help from the naturalist and crew members. There is no visitor access to flat-topped Daphne Minor.

#### **ESPAÑOLA (HOOD) (INTEGRITY, REINA SILVIA)**

At the Punta Suárez visitor site, on the northwestern corner of the island, birds are everywhere—underfoot, on the trail, overhead, diving into the sea, taking off from cliffs, engaging in ritual mating dances, sitting quietly, and hatching eggs (this happens after the dance, darling). As the panga driver guides us in through the surf to the landing, sea lions are often seen “hanging 10” on the waves. A great tangle of marine iguanas, stretched out in the sun on the beach, is usually present when we land.

You’ll see lava lizards, Galápagos Hawks, great mobs of nesting Nazca and Blue-footed Boobies, Red-billed Tropicbirds, the very pretty Galápagos Doves, American Oystercatchers, and the endemic Waved Albatross that nest here from mid-March through November. At the blowhole you see the most colorful marine iguanas bathing in the spray. You are likely to use more film here than at any other site.

Formerly in danger of extinction, the saddle back Española tortoises are now recovering due to the successful efforts of the Galápagos National Park. A few of the remaining females were taken to the Park Headquarters on Santa Cruz where scientists were able to hatch their eggs, raise and repatriate the hatchlings. Although the tortoises are not at any of the desig-

## Overview

### **GALÁPAGOS**

nated visitor sites, we fortunately will be able to see some of these individuals that live at the Darwin Station.

We usually spend part of a day on the great white sand beach at Gardner Bay. This is the place where you can have time alone to reflect, take a long walk, jog in the surf, swim, snorkel, or stretch out on the sand for a snooze. Sea Turtles nest on this beach and sea lions conduct helpful snooze workshops as part of their compelling “Live Like a Sea Lion” programs.

#### **FERNANDINA (NARBOROUGH) (INTEGRITY, REINA SILVIA)**

This very scenic, and the most westerly, island is the youngest and most volcanically active of the Galápagos Islands. It is located over the birthplace of all of the Galápagos Islands, the geologic “hotspot,” where the Nazca, Cocos, and South American tectonic plates grind into one another. Ashore, we stroll over the black pahoehoe lava among hundreds of marine iguanas that are piled up together, “taking in the sun.” During the mating season you will see “mama iggies” vigorously protecting their shallow nests in the gray gravel where the warm sun will hatch the wee iggies (wiggies?).

You will see the endemic Flightless Cormorant, drying their vestigial wings (or what used to be wings), being teased by sea lion youngsters, and waddling along the seashore lava beds, emitting their odd hoots. Many shorebirds feed in these tidepools; you can swim with playful sea lion youngsters. Occasionally we see land iguanas at the landing but for the most part, they live far up on the slopes and rim of the caldera. Penguins frequent the offshore area and can be spotted swimming about.

#### **FLOREANA (INTEGRITY, REINA SILVIA)**

Penguins are often seen swimming near the yacht anchorage at Punta Cormorant, on the eastern tip of the southern island of Floreana. In the large, brackish lagoon the usual crowd includes Pink Flamingos, Blacknecked Stilts, Bahamas White-cheek Pintail ducks, Ruddy Turnstones, and other wading birds. One the prettiest scalesias, *scalesia villosa*, grows only near this lagoon. From the white sand beach, we often see rays skimming along just below the surface, sea lions, and squadrons of Blue-footed Boobies plunge-diving for fish. This is an important sea turtle nesting site and we frequently see the evidence, bulldozer-like trails running up the beach from the surf to craters in the sand where egg pits were dug. During spring, we can see the tiny tracks left by hatchlings scurrying from the nest to the relative safety of the sea. Sometimes there will be an exhausted female “in recovery” lying at the water’s edge, washed by the surf after a strenuous night of nesting.

Just offshore is Devils Crown, a remnant volcanic tuff cone whose crater is half-open to the sea. This is a favorite location for snorkeling with sea lions and viewing marine life.

We usually make a visit to the nearby historic Post Office Barrel where we drop off postcards (and pick up postcards left by earlier visitors) to friends back home, and learn more about the islands on a panga ride through tiny islets where we see more birds and animals. Sometimes there are sizable flocks of wimbrels “farming” the beach on this bay.

## Overview

### **GALÁPAGOS**

We may cruise west to Black Beach where we may visit Margret Wittmer's family homestead. Margret Wittmer was perhaps the oldest living (she was in her 90's when she died in 1999), and longest resident in Galápagos. We go up into the Floreana Highlands to see where, on her arrival from Germany in 1932, she and her family set up housekeeping in a cave located close to a rare fresh water source. They were not the first arrivals and spicy stories about her life on Floreana are replete with mystery and intrigue, especially during those very early years. Your naturalist will share some of them with you as you head down the coast. Our visit to Margret's "island" makes a connection to the early human history of the Galápagos and the only reason we go to Black Beach. Her daughter still resides there.

### **ISABELA (ALBERMARLE) (INTEGRITY, REINA SILVIA)**

This, by far, is the largest island in the group. Similar in shape to Italy, it has five major volcanic cones, two of which erupt frequently. The most recent was Cerro Negro in October 2005. Close to Fernandina, it is also on the "hotspot," young and geologically very alive. Of the five cones, three have giant tortoise subspecies living on their flanks, rims and in the craters. The following sites are on the western side of the island:

Punto Moreno is a rather barren lava flow with interesting plants and a small pond where we may see flamingos, ducks, and Great Blue Herons. It is an enjoyable walk to the pond and a great place to stretch your legs.

Elizabeth Bay is a pristine mangrove lagoon, like Caleta Tortuga. On the approach, we pass tiny islets (submerged rocks) where penguins are often standing, sometimes braying to their brethren. The entry to the enclosed lagoon is through a narrow passage lined with giant red mangroves. Once inside, the guide poles the panga along quietly while we watch sea turtles, golden rays, small sharks, herons and other shorebirds fishing from the mangrove roots. Pelicans and egrets also nest in the mangroves. This is sort of a "sea turtle Ft. Lauderdale" where hundreds and hundreds of green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas agassiz*) come to mate before nesting. Here, in this quiet setting, the problems of the world move off towards infinity.

Bahía Urbina, at the foot of Volcan Alcedo, was created in the late 1800's when a geological event uplifted a big chunk of seafloor to the surface overnight. The shoreline is a rough jumble of huge marine corals and new lava. Flightless Cormorants, pelicans and marine iguanas are prevalent here. Not far inland is a small colony of large land iguanas. You may see them digging nests (burrows) during the mating season. Often, you can see a giant tortoise that has chugged down from Volcan Alcedo. The vegetation is varied and several species of birds nest here. It's one of the most rewarding visitor sites.

Punta Albemarle, at the extreme northeast point of Isabela, has remnants of a U.S. Army WWII radar base. Here we learn more about the human history of the Islands, see some of the largest marine iguanas, large ipomea (passionflower), and a small population of Flightless Cormorants.

Caleta Negra, just north of Tagus Cove, has very pretty, black sand beach. It is an excellent place for a long walk. Sometimes we spot the elusive Mangrove Finch that lives in the man-

## Overview

### **GALÁPAGOS**

grove swamp behind the beach.

Tagus Cove is a deep, secluded bay, surrounded by high cliffs. There is a scenic and challenging trail up through the fascinating dry zone vegetation. At the end of the trail there is a fine view of Isabela's coastline and picturesque Fernandina, just across the Bolivar Channel. Through the centuries this cove has been an anchorage for whaling and sealing ships, pirate ships, warships, and a parade of commercial and private vessels. Many crews left graffiti on the cliff faces noting their presence. You can find names and dates going back a long way.

The woodpecker finch may be spotted here along with other finches. Sometimes a colony of Blue-footed Boobies is present on the landing. The trail rises steadily and can make some visitors puff along the way. When you stop to catch your breath, you can investigate the delicate vegetation that has adapted to this rather dry site, including the endemic Galápagos Cotton plant.

On a panga ride along the bayside cliff faces, we usually see Galápagos Penguins, Brown Noddy Terns, pelicans, Great Blue Herons, and other shore and wading birds.

Punta Vicente Roca is a huge rock that foots the northwest corner of Isabela. Boobies and other seabirds nest on its slopes. Feral cats live there and poach the eggs and the young. There is no landing at this site; rather we explore the cliff faces by panga and putt-putt in to a huge marine cave where we explore the interesting marine life.

### **MARCHENA (BINDLOE)**

Marchena is composed of a cluster of volcanic cones. Lava flows have filled the original Caldera and spilled down the surrounding slopes of the earlier volcano. Sea lions dot the beach along with marine iguanas and Sally Lightfoot crabs. Finches, pelicans and mockingbirds nest here behind the beach. Vermilion Flycatchers may also be seen. Marchena figured passively in the Margret Wittmer saga involving a bizarre "Baroness" and her two "love slaves." One of the "slaves" was discovered here, dissipated on the beach, after abandoning the menage a trois. Visits to this island are quite rare, as it has to compete with Tower Island for the visitor's time.

### **MOSQUERA**

This small sand spit, nestled between North Seymour and Baltra (South Seymour) is a delightful place to stroll, watch huge numbers of sea lions snoozing or surfing the waves, and observe the black, endemic Lava Gull. Snorkeling is excellent but could turn out to be a very big adventure during the sea lion mating season—the huge bulls see you as a trespasser in their kingdom!

### **NORTH SEYMOUR (INTEGRITY, REINA SILVIA)**

This small, flat, uplifted island has dense colonies of Blue-footed Boobies and Magnificent Frigatebirds living together. About 1930, a few land iguanas were moved here from Baltra. (The endemic population on Baltra has since disappeared—see below.) For reasons not

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understood, they were able to reproduce here and not on Baltra. Crafty scientists from the Darwin Station (mainly Howard and Heidi Snell) collected their eggs, then figured out how to hatch and successfully rear these iguanas. Recently some of these juvenile iguanas have been repatriated to Baltra. You will see lots of sea lions and an occasional Yellow-crowned Night Heron.

#### **RÁBIDA (JERVIS)**

This is a “small red island,” the color of the volcanic cinders. It is located just across a small channel from the south side of Santiago, near the center of the archipelago. The red beach is usually well populated with sea lions and pups. At times the low salt bushes are loaded with nesting California Brown Pelicans. It is amazing that pelican chicks are just as bizarre looking as their parents. Just behind the beach, in a brackish lagoon, we usually see Bahamas White-cheeked Pintail Ducks, migratory shore and wading birds, and Greater Flamingos. Flamingos need the presence of a dozen or two other flamingos to stimulate their synchronous mating dance. If our timing is right, (i.e. lucky) we will be able to observe this highly entertaining ritual. Two species of boobies nest along the cliffs. The snorkeling is very good along the cliff face where Galápagos Penguins may swim with you; you can count on swimming with sea lion youngsters.

#### **SAN CRISTÓBAL (CHATHAM)**

This island is the farthest to the east and consequently it is one of the oldest. The simple village of Baquerizo Moreno is the administrative capital of the Galápagos and is rapidly becoming an important base for tourist operations. The jet airport here is the second gateway to the Galápagos. Farming (in the damp highlands) and fishing are also an important part of the local economy. The largest fresh water lake in the Islands, El Junco, fed by rainfall and mist, is up in the humid highlands. There are resident tortoises, but it’s a challenge beyond the scope of our trip to visit them. The following visitor sites are on or near San Cristobal.

Punta Pitt, at the extreme eastern end of the island, is a very interesting site, however it is rarely visited due to its location. From the beach we climb up a steep bluff, pass along a ridge, then follow the trail down to a large gently sloping plateau. Here we can see all three species of boobies—Red-Footed, Blue-Footed, and Nazca nesting in fairly close proximity to each other. Swallowtail Gulls, finches and both species of Frigatebirds also nest here. Galápagos Hawks may also be seen soaring above the peaks. Lava lizards will be doing their pushups as we stroll along the trail.

Sappho Cove is a small cove hidden along the coastline and surrounded by a mini forest of cactus. There is a beautiful white sand beach where you may swim and relax.

Isla Lobos is a low, rocky islet that has a large seal lion colony, lava lizards, Blue-Footed Boobies, marine iguanas, pelicans, cacti, and the prickly scutia.

Located some 5 kilometers offshore, Leon Dormido is a huge monolith that split apart creating a narrow passage that only the most skillful yacht captains can negotiate. Blue Footed Boobies and Magnificent Frigatebirds nest along the ledges.

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#### **SANTA CRUZ (INDEFATIGABLE) (INTEGRITY, REINA SILVIA)**

Santa Cruz is a large island, just across the turquoise waters from the airport on Baltra. At the south end of Santa Cruz is the bustling town of Puerto Ayora on Academy Bay, where most of the island's estimated 16,000 inhabitants live. Around the waterfront you can observe wading birds, pelicans, herons, lava gulls, mockingbirds, and several species of finches. You will see Frigatebirds and boobies flying overhead, Sally red-foot crabs and marine iguanas lying camouflaged on the rocks along the shore. In the Highlands, above Puerto Ayora and the Charles Darwin Research Station, is the elegant and secluded Royal Palm Hotel. This is INCA's island headquarters where you will unwind, depending on your itinerary and yacht, for one to three nights.

On the way to Academy Bay, we travel overland through arid coastal vegetation, then up into the lush highlands where the trees are covered with Spanish moss. Here, we see giant tortoises that have been munching the grasses for centuries. They are very common from May to February, after which time most of them move down into the reserve to nest. We hike to find them, even when they are scarce. We visit two volcanic pit craters or sinkholes, Los Gemelos (the twins), and explore old lava tubes. Vermilion Flycatchers "control" the area and although they may appear to be posing for photos, they actually are checking you out! Owls and the very secretive Galápagos Rail may sometimes be seen here. The Smooth-billed Ani, once a rarity in the Santa Cruz Highlands, is, along with cattle egrets, a commonly seen bird.

We will visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and Galápagos National Park headquarters to learn first hand of the conservation and research efforts in the islands. There, you'll see several subspecies of adult tortoises, lots of hatchlings, and learn of the repatriation programs that are saving several subspecies of tortoises and iguanas from extinction. Lonesome George now has his own corral and we can view him from the elevated walkway through the area.

The Galápagos flora is unique. Mainland species arrived, adapted to the environment, and evolved into new species, quite different from their continental South American relatives. Among the more than 900 endemic plants, you will see Darwin's aster, club mosses, scalesia (a gargantuan sunflower) and tree ferns. Other endemic plant species include the Galápagos pepper, the Galápagos pea, the Galápagos tomato and the Galápagos cotton.

On our longer itineraries, you will hike to the fine, white sand beach at Tortuga Bay—arguably the finest in the islands, where we enjoy brunch and a good swim. The following visitor sites are accessible only by sea.

Caleta Tortuga is on the north side of the island. An early morning visit to these mangrove lagoons is a very special experience. As we are poled quietly along in our panga, we could see Spotted Eagle and Golden rays gracefully swimming in formation just below the surface of the still water. We could see small sharks and sea turtles moving slowly through these shallow waters and observe several species of herons, (Lava, Great Blue, Yellow-crowned Night) standing in the tangle of red mangrove roots, poised to spear small, unwary fish. Sea turtles hang out in this lagoon most of the year, but are here by the hundreds during their mat-



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ing season, December to March. It's another sea turtle spring ritual site.

Las Bachas is a small beach on the northern side of Santa Cruz, not far from Baltra and Caleta Tortuga. We will see playful sea lions and have time for swimming and snorkeling. In the tiny lagoon behind the white sand beach, we sometimes see Flamingos and Great Blue Herons. Sea turtles nest here from December to April. If we anchor here for the night during the hatching season, with a flashlight we can easily spot hatchlings swimming frantically for open sea. At dusk we will see menacing frigatebirds patrolling the beaches in search of any hatchlings that make ill-timed daylight exits from their nest.

Bahia Conway is on the northeast edge of Santa Cruz. Here we can see all four species of indigenous mangroves and sometimes catch a glimpse of the resident land iguanas that are now in recovery after their numbers were decimated by a pack of feral dogs.

### **SANTA FE (BARRINGTON)**

We often spend a fascinating half-day on Santa Fé, the island home to a small population of very large land iguanas, and the largest of the *Opuntia* cacti. The lagoon appears like a scene from “South Pacific” and is ideal for swimming and snorkeling; sea lions and colorful fish abound here and sometimes we see sea turtles. You may snorkel from the beach to the yacht with your guide, provided the bull sea lions are not overly aggressive. Please stay with your guide when snorkeling here. The climb to the bluff is challenging but the payoff comes when you spot a couple of huge land iguanas. This is a lovely, restful site.

### **SANTIAGO (JAMES) (INTEGRITY, REINA SILVIA)**

Santiago is large, varied, and dramatic. Black lava flows and volcanic cinder cones, their gray slopes dotted with silvery Palo Santo trees, combine to create a stunning geologic panorama. At Puerto Egas, on James Bay, are remnants of several failed fish drying enterprises. Nearby there is an abandoned, open pit salt mine. Here we visit the fur seal grotto and usually see a number of fur seals sleeping in the sun. At low tide, marine iguanas graze on exposed seaweed among Sally Lightfoot crabs, while American Oystercatchers and wimbrels search out tidbits. We will see marine iguanas feeding and swimming in the surf. Santiago has a huge Galápagos Hawk population and you may discover one hovering around or sitting on a branch looking you over. Lava lizards are everywhere, often in bright colors. Recent conservation efforts have effectively eliminated the feral pigs. This milestone achievement means that the work of removing the huge (100,000+) goat population can now begin—when finished the heavily browsed vegetation will, according to scientists, return to much as it was before the goats were introduced.

At Sullivan Bay, just across a narrow channel from Bartolomé, on the eastern end of Santiago, you will walk on recent, black pahoehoe lava flows. You will see some of the early colonizing plants—mollugo and brachycereus—struggling to gain a foothold in tiny cracks in the lava. Small cinder cones stand out where this black blanket flowed gracefully around them. You get a sense of the primordial, the beginnings of the planet, as you wander around on this primitive flow. Occasionally, a colorful Galápagos Grasshopper (actually a locust) flits ahead

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of you, over the flow. You may wonder how it makes a living out in this austere environment.

Espumilla Beach is located on the eastern side of James Bay. It is a lovely place for a stroll. In the lagoon behind the beach, we may see flamingos, ducks, wading birds, and sometimes even a stranded sea turtle. Vermilion Flycatchers (El Brujo) are frequently seen in the trees around the lagoon. El Brujo is a colorful, curious, and very territorial little red and black bird that will study you from several vantage points. Galápagos Hawks are likely to come around to look you over; after all you are in their territory.

Bucanero Cove, on the north side of Santiago, was a legendary hideout for pirate ships preying on the Spanish Galleons ferrying Inca gold and treasure to Spain. Although they posed a threat to the Spanish Fleet, they had little success and never captured a real treasure ship. This is a secret cove with a tiny beach and a modestly interesting visitor site. Usually en route from James Bay to Bartolomé, we just cruise through the cove and fantasize about being pirates. For a good read of the human history of the Galápagos, look for a copy of John Hickman's The Enchanted Islands—The Galápagos Discovered, Tanager Books, Dover, NH (1985).

### **SOMBRERO CHINO**

When viewed from the north this small island, just offshore from Santiago, looks like a Chinese hat, hence the name “sombrero chino.” Fragile lava covers most of this cone shaped island. Swimming and snorkeling are excellent here and you may find yourself in the company of penguins, sea lions, and sea turtles. We don't usually include a visit to this fragile spot.

### **SOUTH PLAZA (INTEGRITY, REINA SILVIA)**

This is a small, but very rewarding island to visit. Here you see lots of land iguanas munching on *Opuntia* blossoms and leaves, defending territories, and just looking sinister. On the upper edge, at the windward side, Swallowtail Gulls nest. It is a treat to watch these beautiful birds maneuver in the tricky air currents as they set up to land on the cliff face. The shrieks of the Red-billed Tropicbirds, flying overhead in tight formation, will linger in your memories of Galápagos. Giant chitons cling to rocks at sea level and Audubon Shearwaters nest along the cliff face. From the bluff you can see schools of Yellowtail Mullet, occasionally a shark, and lots of birds flying back and forth.

### **TOWER (INTEGRITY, REINA SILVIA)**

On arrival in Darwin's Bay, a protected bay in a volcanic crater that long ago broke open to the sea, we host a “welcoming committee” of juvenile Red-footed Boobies. They come on board to inspect us and perch on the railings (the crews love this!). On the beach we can observe these entertaining tree-nesting Red-footed Boobies, displaying male Great Frigatebirds, mockingbirds, Swallow-tailed Gulls and finches.

At certain times of the year, the male frigatebirds sit in the green salt bushes with their great red, chest pouches all puffed up, looking skyward. Any time a female flies over, they put on a compelling show of yodeling, wing flapping, and beak waving, always with great hopes that

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they will be chosen by the passing lady! This season generally runs from February to May. There is always great commotion on this island as the nesting Red-footed Boobies are being constantly hassled by the kleptoparasitic frigatebirds for both their food and nesting materials. There is a small colony of Swallow-tailed Gulls and several pairs of the endemic Lava Gull that nest at this site. You are likely to see the ghostly looking Swallowtail Gull chicks that beg continually for food.

We explore the cliffs on a long panga ride en route to Prince Phillip's Steps, also known as the El Barranco. We may see the white tails of the Red-billed Tropicbirds sticking out of cliff face nests. After a climb up to the plateau (it is a flat island) we see nesting Nazca and Red-footed Boobies and Frigatebirds. A few white variations of the normally brown Red-Footed Boobies may be roosting in the Palo Santo trees. This is one of the best places to see the Large-Beaked Ground Finch. Millions of Galápagos Storm Petrels nest here in the lava tubes. Short-eared Owls live off these petrels so you may see one or two of them. Swallow-tailed Gulls, pelicans and fur seals live along the cliffs. You may see hammerhead sharks lazing along, just below the surface, and you'll hear Red-billed Tropicbirds shrieking as they race along the cliffs. This island is one of the most interesting to visitors.

**To learn more about the islands and their wildlife, please consult our “Suggested Reading List” for good references.**



# Images

## **BINOCULARS & PHOTOGRAPHY**

These tips from experienced photographers are meant to enhance your image-capturing experience. There is no greater way to ensure satisfactory images than being familiar with your equipment and the local lighting conditions.

### **SELECTING THE RIGHT BINOCULAR FOR YOUR TOUR**

Binoculars are a valuable tool for viewing wildlife and other subjects of interest that are either far away or close by. Using them may greatly enhance your appreciation of anything viewed since they bring the subject so much closer to you.

Many people choose binoculars that are compact and lightweight and while such models have clear comfort-level advantages, they compromise a great deal in optical quality. The reason for this is that “compacts” have very small diameter objective lenses, (the “big lenses”), and consequently a narrow field of view and poor light-gathering capabilities. One can obtain a much brighter image and wider field of view with somewhat larger binocular models and these viewing attributes are very important when using your binoculars in the field.

The magnification is always stated first on any binocular (i.e. 8x 42mm) which means the image will be magnified eight times; 42 is the diameter of the objective lens in millimeters. Optimal magnification is 7 to 10x. A powerful binocular will be of little use unless the size of the objective lens can accommodate the power of magnification. Similarly, 8x should have 40mm or higher and 10x 40mm or higher. Objective lenses of smaller diameter for these different magnifications will significantly decrease the field of view and light received by the viewer’s eye.

Finding the right binocular is largely a matter of what feels “right” in your hands. You should try out several models and observe particular objects closely. Pay close attention to how sharp the image is, how broad your field of view is (that is, how wide the area is that you can see through the binocular), and how bright the view is. The better the binocular the higher the cost. Attributes such as water-proofing and close-focusing will increase the price, and are generally worth the extra cost. Coated lenses are standard on all binoculars and “fully multi-coated” lenses are the best as they reduce glare and improve light gathering capabilities. Certain things to avoid are “zoom lens” binoculars, instant-focus plates or dials, and independently focusing eye-pieces. You want a single, central-focus knob. Porro (or roof) prism binoculars are both good, though the former tend to be a bit bulkier than the latter.

Choosing quality name-brand binoculars is highly advised. Among the best roof-prism binoculars available are models by Bausch & Lomb, Zeiss, Leica, and Swarovski. Nikon makes one of the best porro-prism binoculars. Try various models and seek thorough reviews of different models on the internet by accessing websites such as Christopher’s Ltd.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY EQUIPMENT**

Be familiar with your camera equipment. If you bring new, untried items, don’t forget the instruction manuals. Serious photographers carry at least two cameras so if one malfunctions all is not lost. An extra camera also provides much greater flexibility with different film types and lenses. Cameras that have not been used for some time should be examined by a

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competent technician prior to the tour, and any that have undergone recent repair should be tried with several rolls of film before you depart. It is wise to have all expensive equipment insured.

### DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Please read the sections for film photography, as most of the advice is equally good for digital photography.

Unless you are extremely fluent in your camera's functions, be sure to bring the camera manual so you can solve problems and make exposure adjustments in case you are not getting the image quality you'd like. Make sure to have more than sufficient chips to hold all the images you might take. In case one is misplaced, you are not out of the game. You will be able to charge your battery at most locations; however, a spare saves the agony of the flashing empty battery symbol just when the baby boobie hatches. Some may wish to bring their laptop for downloading images each day (pack a copy of your camera's downloading software and all connection cables). What you bring is what you will have!

Some digital cameras have underwater accessories, which can be enjoyable for recording your swims with the sea lions or trying to capture an elusive, flying penguin.

### FILM PHOTOGRAPHY (WITH A LOT OF USEFUL INFORMATION FOR DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHERS)

**Film:** Bring a generous quantity of film. Film is expensive in Ecuador and hard to find once we began our sailing tour of the islands. Plan to use up to 20 rolls of 36-exposure film during your Galápagos Islands voyage of one week. Most serious photographers can easily use twice that quantity, and dedicated bird photographers may shoot 50 to 75 rolls of 35 mm film.

We recommend that about 50% of your film be Fuji Velvia ISO (ASA) 50, 25% of Kodak VS100 ISO 100 slide film and the remaining 25% ISO 200. (It is convenient to keep fast film in one camera with a long lens, and slower film in another to be used with shorter lenses. Alternating between two film types in one camera too often results in having the wrong film for the particular subject at hand. Also, sooner or later, you'll forget to change the film-speed dial and expose everything incorrectly.) Faster films yield pictures with objectionable grain, and color values may not be acceptable. Except perhaps for interior shots aboard the yacht (if you're not using a flash), there is little need for films as fast as ISO 400, unless you have a telephoto lens with a small minimum aperture, requiring slow shutter speeds.

Whenever you go ashore to photograph, carry several spare rolls of film in a sealed plastic bag in your backpack. Riding in the pangas, you will at times receive heavy spray, perhaps even the occasional stray high wave or some rain. Loose film in wet pockets invites problems.

**Batteries:** Start the trip with fresh batteries installed in each of your cameras, and bring with you enough extras to ensure successful photography throughout the trip. Fully automatic cameras, and regular use of auto-focusing, drain batteries more rapidly. When going ashore, carry an extra set of batteries—weak or dead batteries at an inopportune time can be as frustrating as running out of film.

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Tripods won't be used except by more serious photographers, but there is no substitute for such a support when using a telephoto lens longer than 135 mm, especially with slow shutter speeds or in windy conditions. A very large, heavy tripod is not suitable for touring, but a lightweight (yet sturdy) one is easy to carry and well worth the trouble. Remember that both hands must always be free when climbing in and out of the pangas, so your tripod should either fit in your backpack or, if larger, be equipped with a strap so you can carry it around your neck. Tripods all too frequently break; plastic ones are especially vulnerable.

A monopod (with ball head or pan-tilt head) provides considerable support, but is much less steady than a tripod. Although light-weight and easy to carry, it has the disadvantage of not being free-standing when you want to be free of your equipment.

**Lenses:** Zoom lenses are especially useful. They not only provide faster changes from one focal length to another, but eliminate need for frequent changing of lenses which opens the front of the camera to the elements. Wide-angle lenses of 28 or 35 mm are of obvious advantage in this region of stupendous scenery. Nevertheless, wide-angle shots sometimes lose their impact because the main subject appears small. Scenics taken at focal lengths of 50-70 mm often provide great supplements to wide-angle shots. Pictures of sea lions, boobies, frigates and iguanas can be dramatic when photographed through 200 or 300 mm lenses. Today's higher-quality zoom lenses are well constructed, but all are somewhat more delicate than lenses of fixed focal lengths and need to be treated more carefully. As with cameras, it is a good idea to have an extra lens in your luggage, just in case.

Long lenses might at first appear to be of limited use in areas where wildlife has little fear of man. Remember, however, that one must not approach birds or mammals nearer than 15 feet (though many will approach you much closer, which is perfectly acceptable). Furthermore, there are places, i.e. Greater Flamingoes on Floreana or Tower, where the Red Footed Boobies sit high up in the trees and therefore approach nearer than 30 feet is difficult. A close-focusing 300 mm lens often is ideal, and a 1.4x tele-converter can be advantageous. Some photographers prefer using a fast 400 mm lens for flying seabirds; although useful for small birds and distant subjects ashore, such a lens is awkward and heavy, and it is a mistake to burden yourself with too much, or too bulky equipment. Some photographers don't feel secure without a whole battery of lenses, but great results can be obtained with one or two. A combination of 28-70 mm and 70-300 mm lenses will cover most subjects.

Macro lenses are of limited use in the Galápagos Islands, but when you do want that close-up of a tiny flowering plant or colorful Sally lightfoot crab you'll wish you had one. The "macro" feature on many zoom lenses does not permit focusing as near as one would like. If you are likely to consider close-ups, make certain your lens is suitable, or perhaps bring a short extension ring to insert between lens and camera. Often more convenient are small, two-element, close-up lenses that screw into the front of your regular lens like a filter. Try out any such combination at home, to make certain there is no exposure problem.

**Exposure:** Faulty exposure probably produces more disappointment for the Galápagos Islands photographers than any other single factor. Although the bright light surfaces suggest that overexposure would be commonplace, it is, in fact, underexposure that often is the great-

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er problem. Bright surfaces often fool automatic light meters into serious underexposure, and one tends to over-compensate because of the brightness so apparent to the eye. With underexposure, high-contrast scenes such as dark seals on bright sand yield muddy-whites, and insufficient detail in the dark areas. Back-lighted subjects against sky or water nearly always require some compensation. Spot-meters are most useful. Nevertheless, one learns not to trust any meter implicitly, but to bracket regularly—up to two stops, stressing overexposure. This wastes a little film, but provides a greater likelihood of obtaining some suitably exposed frames.

Gray, overcast days may provide limited light, but bright sunshine can create greater exposure problems. Subjects receiving strong side illumination are almost impossible to properly expose uniformly. The satiny white on the Waved Albatross standing in full sunshine would seem to demand deliberate underexposure, but compensating more than slightly in that direction blackens the dark wings, showing little detail (unless low sun or a strobe provides a distinct highlight). Films lack sufficient latitude to reproduce subjects precisely as the eye sees them. Again, bracketing exposures helps to ensure acceptable pictures.

**Flash Photography:** Fill-in flash can be useful for illuminating dark shadows or providing supplementary front illumination for back-lighted subjects, however extreme care should be used when photographing wildlife in order not to cause any disturbance to a single animal, or group of animals. A small strobe is rather easily carried (you won't need a heavy-duty one). The built-in electronic flash units on many compact cameras are ideal for taking pictures on the yacht.

**Protection of Equipment:** A small “point and shoot” camera can be tucked inside your backpack, but even a moderately long telephoto or zoom lens will compound any difficulty. Plastic bags are most photographer's automatic first line of defense against the elements of sand, water and wind. Be advised that most windbreakers and backpacks are water-resistant, not waterproof.

Photographers with long lenses may find weather-resistant fabric covers useful. Even these must be well attached as winds can undo Velcro or snaps, instantly whisking your protection out to sea or down the beach. Ready-made, form-fitting, water-resistant covers are available for many lens-camera combinations. Although a nuisance at times, they efficiently protect against spray and splash between yacht and shore. They can also mean the difference between serious and only minor damage following a drop onto rocks or sand, or into the guano of a booby colony.

**Photography Etiquette:** When photographing people in South America, always ask permission first (or have your guide ask). The only exception to this is when you are photographing a public scene with a lot of people in it, aiming at no one in particular. Always be considerate of anyone's desire not to be photographed. **Under no circumstances should you take photographs of airports, government buildings and installations, or of military or police personnel in South America.** Taking photographs when permission is not granted is inconsiderate at best and may result in the confiscation of your film and/or equipment.

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Respect the rights of other photographers. Allow other photographers to get a clear shot before walking into their view. Also, be conscious of those using video cameras to record both the sights and sounds of Galápagos.

Never surround a single animal or animal group. Form a semi-circle to leave an unspoiled background. Never harass wildlife for the sake of photography. Approach slowly, leaving a distance of 15-20 feet from nesting birds and crawling seals. Remember, too, that photography is not over when your shutter clicks. Retreat from your subject in the same way you approached.

**Miscellaneous:** Salt spray is the bane of photographers on deck or along seashores. Keeping equipment covered provides the best protection, but interferes greatly with picture-taking. After exposure to any degree of spray, wipe camera and lens with a freshwater-dampened cloth (not neglecting retractable parts of zoom lenses). Then dry carefully with an absorbent, lint-free cloth. Some spray can be largely invisible. If you touch the tip of your tongue to your camera and get a salty taste, it requires cleaning. Avoid opening cameras for film, or lens-changing at the water's edge or wherever spray may be in the air.

We do not recommend having your film developed in South America, as the quality of development is generally poor. Do develop your film promptly when you return home, however, as exposed film can deteriorate quickly. In addition, all film should be hand-carried and hand-inspected at all airports. No other method can completely guarantee safety from baggage X-ray equipment. If you request this politely but firmly, security personnel will usually comply.

**Photo tips compiled with the assistance of Charley Wheatley and Dale A. Zimmerman.**





# Important Information

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

### How to Sign Up for a Trip

To join an INCA trip please telephone INCA at (510) 420-1550 or email [info@inca1.com](mailto:info@inca1.com), to secure a "7-DAY HOLD" for the required number of spaces on the departure of your choice. Within 7 days you must pay your nonrefundable deposit(s) for each person either by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or by check (see Payment Schedule). Space will be held for only 7 days. If you have a current trip application, please complete, initial and sign it and include it with your deposit(s). If you do not have a current trip application or need additional applications, please request them to be sent to you immediately. On receipt of your deposit(s) and completed Trip Application(s), INCA will send you a detailed Trip Handbook, statements, and sample itinerary.

**NOTE: Your trip reservation is considered confirmed only when we receive your completed, signed, and unaltered trip application.**

Do not delay completion of this trip application while waiting for your passport renewal as missing passport numbers can be supplied at a later date.

### Covered Expenses

Land cost includes hotels (double occupancy), land and yacht transportation, yacht or ship accommodation (double occupancy), airport transfers only on the first and last day of the itinerary and only to or from the hotel indicated on the trip itinerary, other transfers specified in the itinerary, tips for hotel services, baggage handling, and storage at trip hotels, all guides, tours as indicated, fees to museums and archeological sites, and sightseeing arrangements as specified. All island and yacht meals are included as are meals indicated on the trip itinerary. Reservations are accepted for charters and for individual travelers on INCA's inclusive itineraries. No price reduction will be granted for any requested itinerary deviations, changes or omissions.

### Expenses Not Included

Not included is any airfare, transfers to any hotel not specified in the itinerary, any extra services or any deviations from the trip itinerary, tips for the yacht crew, guides or naturalists (at your discretion), laundry, alcoholic beverages, excess baggage charges, Galápagos National Park Fee or other items of a personal nature. Price also excludes any insurance coverage for trip cancellation/interruption, travel accident, travel delay, baggage delay or baggage theft (we recommend you obtain coverage for these items), medical, or hospitalization expenses.

### Payments

To confirm space send your nonrefundable but transferable deposit for each person as follows:

#### Deposit and Payment Schedule

Trip Price	NRD*	1st Payment
\$3500-\$4500	\$500	\$2500
\$4500-\$5500	\$500	\$3000
\$5500-\$6500	\$750	\$3500
\$6500-\$7500	\$750	\$4000
\$7500-\$8500	\$1000	\$4500
over \$8500	\$1500	\$ t/b/a

\*Nonrefundable deposit

**All Antarctica & Arctic trips require a nonrefundable deposit that depends upon the trip length and category of accommodation and will be between \$1500 and \$3000.**

**All holiday departures require 2 times the above nonrefundable deposit.**

**Requested single accommodations for an entire trip or for a yacht, ship or gulet suite upgrade, requires an additional nonrefundable deposit to be paid at the time of booking.**

**Only the nonrefundable deposit may be paid by credit card. Balance must be paid by check, money order, or wire transfer.**

**150 days** prior to departure an additional **1st Payment**, in the amount based on your trip's price, as indicated in the Deposit and Payment Schedule, is due. **Final** balance is due **90 days** prior to departure.

The above deposit and payment schedule does not apply to private charter trips. Private charter trips have the deposit and payment schedule stated in the charter contract.

If trip payments are not paid when due, INCA reserves the right to treat the reservation(s) as cancelled and to accept new reservation(s) for the space(s). Cancellation fee schedules will apply.

### Trust Account

California Law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. INCA has such a trust account.

### Cancellations, Transfers, Refunds

The deposit is nonrefundable. However, if we receive written notification cancelling your reservation at least 180 days prior to your planned departure, a one-time transfer of this deposit (less a \$200 per person processing fee) may be made to another date or to another person for any INCA trip that will depart anytime within one year from the original departure date. A transfer to another trip or departure date with less than 180 days notice before departure is considered a cancellation and rebooking of a reservation; thus all payments to date will be subject to the cancellation penalties below.

If we are notified in writing of cancellation of your reservation more than 150 days but less than 180 days prior to your trip departure, the deposit will be forfeited. After that time all payments will be refunded less the following cancellation fees computed as of the date of our **actual receipt of written cancellation notice**:

### Cancellation Fee Schedule

Date of notice prior to departure	Cancellation Fee as % of land cost
121-150 days	25%
91-120 days	50%
61-90 days	75%
60 days or less (including "no-show")	100%

The above terms do not apply to private charter trips. Private charter trips have the cancellation terms stated in the charter contract.

**Once a trip has started there will be no refunds for any unused portion of the trip. This includes any pre-trip or post-trip arrangements, transfers, meals, tours, hotels and any "no shows" due to delay or failure of transportation to arrive or depart on time. Insurance coverage for such risks may be purchased.**

We reserve the right to raise the trip fee at any time before departure if there are cost increases beyond our control.

### Cancelled Trips

Although INCA almost never cancels trips, we reserve the right to cancel any trip prior to departure for any reason whatsoever, including too few participants or logistical problems such as strikes, wars, acts of God, or any other circumstances which may make operation of the trip inadvisable. All trip payments which were received will be promptly refunded. This refund will be the limit of INCA's liability. INCA is not responsible for any expenses or damages incurred by trip members as a consequence of any cancellation, such as costs expended in preparing for the trip (including non-refundable or penalty-carrying airline tickets), special clothing, visa or passport fees, lost income, or any other trip-related losses or expenses.

### Trip Insurance

To cover your investment in your trip and any unforeseen medical emergencies, we recommend you purchase trip cancellation insurance coverage that would reimburse you for nonrefundable airfare and trip cancellation fees should you have to cancel your trip due to personal or family illness. See **Travel Insurance Select Part A** brochure for details and limits of insurance coverage that would reimburse you for pre-departure trip cancellation or post-departure trip interruption (limited to the amount of coverage you purchased), lost baggage or travel documents, delayed luggage, for reasonable accommodation and travel expenses if your trip is delayed, accident death or dismemberment, and coverage for emergency medical expenses including emergency medical evacuation. See **Travel Insurance Select Part B Cancel For Any Reason Upgrade** that together with **Travel Insurance Select Part A** provides trip cancellation insurance coverage for up to 75% of the Nonrefundable cost of your trip for any reason.

**Travel Insurance Select** brochure with details, rates and insurance coverage application is included with this trip application.

# Important Information

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

**Note: Medicare does not provide coverage outside of the United States.**

### Special Diets

If we receive at least 45 days' notice, we can usually accommodate special dietary requests. For vegetarians there are usually plenty of fresh vegetables, rice, potatoes, fruit, and juices. You may wish to bring your favorite snacks if you are on a restrictive diet.

### Smoking

No smoking is allowed in yachts, ships, boats, buses, vans, automobiles or during any group dining. Smoking is permitted only outside on deck on our chartered yachts. If you are a smoker and we cannot pair you with a suitable other smoker, we must charge you an additional fee for a single hotel room as nonsmokers prefer not to share hotel accommodations with smokers.

### Accommodations & Traveling Alone

Accommodations are based on double occupancy, two persons to a room or cabin. Most single travelers are easily paired with a trip member of the same sex. However, if there is no appropriate member with whom you may share, you may have to pay a single supplement for the trip or for single hotel accommodations to cover our additional costs.

### Physical Fitness

These trips may be taken by anyone in good physical condition. Even an easy trip is more enjoyable if you are fit. As you will have to go up and down stairways, walk over irregular terrain, and get on and off the yacht from a small skiff, you are encouraged to get in shape by exercising regularly. Some itineraries require walking or hiking over mountainous terrain on challenging trails, sometimes at high altitude. Running, hiking, swimming, bicycling, and aerobics are all good conditioners. Please call us if you have any questions about your ability to do a particular trip. Once a trip has started and it is necessary for you to leave the trip because it is beyond your physical abilities, please note that there will be no refunds for any unused portion of the trip.

### Medical

You must be in generally good health. It is vital that persons with medical problems and related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure. Our staff will discuss with you the advisability of the particular trip you have selected. The trip leader has the right to disqualify any member from the group at any time if considered medically necessary to avoid endangering the welfare of the group. Refunds are not given under such circumstances.

INCA is not a medical facility and has no expertise or responsibility regarding which medications or inoculations you and your private physician should decide necessary for your safe participation on the trip. A list of commonly taken inoculations and immunizations by travelers to the destination of your trip will be sent upon receipt of your reservation deposit and Trip Application.

INCA assumes no liability regarding provision of medical care. Trip members are urged to check their coverage to be sure it is adequate.

### Limitation of Liability of INCA/Inca Floats, Inc.

This section defines our responsibility with respect to all of our trips. Please read it carefully. Payment of your reservation deposit(s) represents your acceptance of all terms and conditions outlined anywhere within this document.

INCA arranges accommodations, transportation, and related travel services and offers same to the passenger only upon the express condition that INCA shall not be liable for any injury, damage, death, delay, mishap, inconvenience, or irregularity occasioned through the negligent or willful failure to act of any person or company which is to or does provide services in conjunction with this tour, including, without limitation, the negligence of INCA. INCA does not own, operate, control, manage, or supervise any supplier of goods or services to the trip, nor does it own any accommodations, transportation, and/or related travel services utilized on this trip. INCA is not responsible for the acts or inactions of third parties to this trip and bears no responsibility for any action or inaction of any such third parties.

INCA is not liable for any damage, loss, death, injury, inconvenience or expense from any such action or inaction including, without limitation, those resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God or force majeure, downgrading of accommodations or

hotel problems of any kind, from governmental actions of any kind, weather, sickness or epidemics or the threat thereof, financial difficulties or insolvency of suppliers, contaminated or unwholesome food, strikes or labor disturbances, theft or criminal activity of any kind, terrorism or the threat thereof, lack of availability or access to adequate, competent or appropriate medical care or evacuation services, any of the risks described in page one of this document such as harsh terrain, high altitude, oxygen deprivation, sanitation problems, scuba diving, boating or swimming, dangers incident to the sea, animal riding, dangers incident to wild or domestic animals and dangerous or poisonous fauna or flora, delays incident to or failures of transportation mechanisms to arrive or depart in a timely or safe manner, or from any other cause.

Without limiting the above, INCA is not responsible for any additional expenses or for unforeseen delays resulting from any of the above. INCA is not responsible for additional hotel nights not specified in the individual trip itineraries which may be required en route prior to or following a trip caused by airline scheduling or schedule changes or by individual clients' travel arrangements or by other factors. INCA assumes no responsibility for loss or damage to baggage or personal property.

In no event shall INCA have any liability for incidental or consequential damages, however characterized.

INCA reserves the right to substitute hotels, leaders, and yachts, and to alter the itinerary when deemed necessary or advisable.

Participants are solely responsible for obtaining their own passports, insuring the ongoing validity of same and for obtaining any necessary visas or other necessary travel documents.

INCA reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any person or member on any trip should such person's actions or general deportment impede the operation of the trip, create a safety problem or impact the rights, welfare or enjoyment of other members of the trip. No refunds will be given in any such circumstances.

INCA reserves the right to take photographic or film records of any of our trips, and may use any such records for promotional and/or commercial purposes.

### California Seller of Travel Program:

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 Seller 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 INCA/Inca Floats, Inc. tours qualify and the law requires all tour operators to advise each of their clients that they would not be eligible to make any claim from the fund in the unlikely event of any default by INCA/Inca Floats, Inc. or any of our foreign suppliers.

**CST #1013564-60**



# Important Information

## EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

This list is provided in the unlikely event that you get separated from the group or that some other mishap occurs. If possible, please contact our manager, **Zulema Muñoz**, at the Vida Verde office with any problems. See “**Phones & Dialing.**”

**On Saturday and Sunday or Evenings**, when the INCA office is closed and you can't make your scheduled flight departure to Quito, please call **Zulema** at **011-593-9-9448-425** (when calling from the U.S.) This is an EMERGENCY NUMBER ONLY.

**Advise anyone wishing to contact you during your trip to call INCA (510) 420-1550 for advice and help. We are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, Pacific Time.**

Contact can be made daily in Quito in case of emergency. In the Galápagos Islands and at countryside and jungle lodges on the mainland, contact is very difficult. Please ask our staff for assistance. Leave a copy of your itinerary and Emergency Contact List with someone at home so friends and family can reach you in an emergency when the INCA office is closed.

### QUITO

<b>Vida Verde</b>		<b>Hilton Colón Quito</b>	
Contact:	<b>Zulema Muñoz</b>	Contact	<b>Francia Ridder</b>
Address	Jorge Washington y 718 Amazonas, 6th Floor	Address	Av. Amazonas, Quito, Ecuador
Phone: Day	(011-593-2) 2560-506	Phone	(011-593-2) 2560-666, 2561-333
Eve/Wknd	(011-593-2) 2455-863	Fax	(011-593-2) 2563-903
Fax	(011-593-2) 2543-452	<b>Mansión del Angel</b>	
Emergency	(011-593-9) 9448-425	Address	Wilson E5-29 y Juan Leon Mera, Quito
E-mail	vidaver1@ecnet.ec	Phone	(011-593-2) 2557-721
<b>Doctor</b>		Fax	(011-593-2) 2237-819
<b>Dr. Nelson Narvaez (24 hrs.)</b>		<b>Swissôtel Quito</b>	
Phone	(09) 9442-181	Address	Av. 12 de Octubre, 1820 y Luis-Cordero
<b>US Embassy</b>		Phone	(011-593-2) 2567 600
Address	Av. Patria 120, Quito Ecuador	Fax	(011-593-2) 2568 079
Phone	(011-593-2) 2562-890		

### GUAYAQUIL

<b>Vida Verde</b>		<b>Hilton Colón Guayaquil</b>	
Contact:	<b>Alicia Paltan</b>	Address	Avenida Francisco Orellana
Phone	(011-593-4) 2340-315, 2332-749	Phone	(011-593-4) 2689-000
<b>US Embassy</b>		Fax	(011-593-4) 2689-149
Address	Av. 9 de Octubre y García Moreno		
Phone	(011-593-4) 2323-570		

### OTAVALO

<b>La Mirage Garden Hotel &amp; Spa</b>		<b>Hacienda Cusín</b>	
Contact:	<b>Michel, Jorge or Clemencia</b>	Address	San Pablo del Lago, Imbabura Ecuador
Address	PO Box 171711365, Quito, Ecuador	Phone	(011-593-62) 918-013
Phone	(011-593-62) 915-237		

# Important Information

## EMERGENCY CONTACT LIST

### AMAZON JUNGLE

Sacha Lodge	
Contact:	<b>Guillermo Zaldumbide</b> <b>Karina Cisneros</b>
Cellular	(011-593-9) 9733-182
Phone	(011-953-2) 2566-090, 2509-504
Fax	(011-593-2) 2236-521

Kapawi Lodge	
<b>By radio contact only</b>	
Guayaquil	(011-593-4) 2285-711
Toll-Free	1-800-613-6026

### GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

INCA representatives	
Contact:	<b>Tina Fitter</b>
Cellular	(09) 7783-632
Emergency	(05) 2526-062 or (05) 2527-044

Royal Palm Hotel	
Contact	<b>Andrea Escobar</b>
Phone/Fax	(011-593-5) 2527-408/409
E-mail	reservation@royalpalmgalapagos.com

Finch Bay Hotel	
Phone	(011-593-5) 252-6297
E-mail	operacionesfinchbay@gpsinter.net



### YACHTS

Contact with the yachts is by radio and usually in the mornings. Some yachts have cell phones and/or e-mail, but contact is not always reliable and is possible only while the yacht is close to Baltra or Puerto Ayora. If there is an EMERGENCY, your family or friends should call INCA and we will attempt to forward the message to the yacht. **Please note that it is very difficult to be reached on board the yachts. Keep in mind that the recipient can do very little with the information.**

### M/Y INTEGRITY

On Board - contact INCA office first	
Satellite	(011-874-764) 103-641
Cell	(011-593-9) 846-8096
Office - Emergency Only	
Contact	<b>Dirk</b>
Phone Day	(011-593-5) 526-210 x 101
Phone Eve	(011-593-5) 526-210 x 113
Cell	(011-593-99) 832-210
Contact	<b>Rolf</b>
Phone Day	(011-593-5) 526-210 x 112
Phone Eve	(011-593-5) 526-608
Cell	(011-593-99) 738-275

### M/Y REINA SILVIA

On Board - contact INCA office first	
Satellite	(011-874-762) 315-778
Cell	(011-593-99) 921-205
Office - Emergency Only	
Contact	<b>Dirk</b>
Phone Day	(011-593-5) 526-210 x 101
Phone Eve	(011-593-5) 526-210 x 113
Cell	(011-593-99) 832-210
Contact	<b>Rolf</b>
Phone Day	(011-593-5) 526-210 x 112
Phone Eve	(011-593-5) 526-608
Cell	(011-593-99) 738-275