

# Galapagos Hiking, Snorkeling and Kayaking Adventure

**Our Exclusive Catamaran-Based Odyssey is the Most Unique & Exciting Way to See the Islands!** It's no wonder Herman Melville called the Galapagos "The Enchanted Isles." This far-flung archipelago is unique on earth.



Giant tortoises roam misty meadows. Sea lions loll, nonchalant, on pristine beaches. Iguanas bask on sun-baked lava while sea turtles, rays and penguins swim with snorkelers in turquoise waters. We have access to rare and remote places that guests aboard larger ships never see. Our deluxe catamaran whisks us between anchorages and provides comfortable accommodations when we're not snorkeling or hiking ashore. Each day we explore a different island. The islands are surprisingly diverse, with new discoveries at each location we visit.

- An exclusive, expertly guided active adventure in the world's most unique wildlife destination—plus a full day exploring the Andean cloud forest beforehand!
- Enjoy nature hikes, snorkeling and tropical kayaking
- Sleep comfortably aboard our luxury sailing catamaran, the *S/V Nemo III*, in private en suite cabins Friday, arrive in Quito, Ecuador/Otavalo

## **(Fri, Sat) (day 1 and 2)**

Arrive in Quito where our local representative meets you at the airport. Our Ecuador Adventure begins with a drive to the market town of Otavalo, home to mostly indigenous residents of the Andean Highlands. We'll spend two nights on the mainland enjoying the culture of Ecuador. We will enjoy a welcome dinner here with one of our Expedition leaders.

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### Day 2 Saturday: Otavalo— or other adventure (with group consensus)

The countryside surrounding the historic market town of Otavalo offers an ideal introduction to hiking in Ecuador.

Mountain lakes glisten beneath broad blue skies, while two dramatic volcanoes dominate the skyline—15,190-foot Imbabura and 16,388-foot Cotacachi.

We set out on a local trail to explore the landscape up close, stopping for a picnic lunch to sustain us.

Artisans from local villages in the Otavalo region produce the region's famed textiles, and we'll have a chance later on to witness artisans making handicrafts and learn about the residents' traditional culture.

**(optional Hike)**



### Day 3: Fly to the Galápagos / Board S/V Nemo III (Sun)

Transfer to the airport in Quito this morning for our flight to the Galapagos. Our Expedition Leader meets us as we land on the island of Baltra, where we transfer to the *S/V Nemo III*. This first-class sailing catamaran will be our home for the next week as we explore the Galapagos! Our first destination is Las Bachas on Santa Cruz, a white-sand beach that is a prominent nesting site for green sea turtles.

Flamingoes are also frequently spotted here in the saline lagoons. Our Expedition Leader is an expert naturalist on the islands' flora and fauna, whose knowledge enhances our discoveries at every turn.



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**Day 4 Monday Genovesa: Prince Phillip's Steps (SN-PR-KY) - Darwin Bay (SN-PR-KY)** Visitors can explore two visitor sites and will be impressed with the abundance of frigatebirds, Nazca and Red-footed Boobies, Swallow-tailed Gulls, storm petrels, Red-billed Tropicbirds, finches, and mockingbirds, among other bird species. Genovesa is one of the few places in the Galapagos



Islands where Red-footed Boobies are found en masse. The marine iguanas found along the shoreline are the only reptile on Genovesa and are the smallest in the archipelago. We will snorkel and kayak along the cliffs at Prince Phillip's Steps, at Darwin Beach and along the cliffs inside the caldera. The water is very nutrient-rich, so all types of marine life can be found. Sea lions, sea turtles, and the occasional Manta Ray can also be seen.



**Day 5 Tuesday Santiago: Sullivan Bay (SN-PR) - Dragon Hill (SN)**

Sullivan Bay provides a unique opportunity to walk across a recent lava flow and view its beautiful structural characteristics. The lava flow was formed in the second half of the 19th century. As much of the barren, volcanic landscape of eastern Santiago, the trail at Sullivan Bay crosses relatively flat, black pahoehoe lava, dotted with a

series of pyroclastic cones. Snorkeling in the turquoise water provides a beautiful snorkeling site, where it is possible to see sharks, sea lions, penguins, and rays. -

### **Dragon Hill (SN)**

Includes a salt-water lagoon, where you may catch a glimpse of the elusive flamingo. You may see stilts and pintail ducks in the lagoons as well as mockingbirds and flycatchers After exploring the land we will snorkel in its clear waters.

**Day 6 Wednesday Santa Cruz:  
Highlands - Charles Darwin Station**

Discover a different side of Santa Cruz as we ascend to its misty heights. At the Tortoise Reserve, we view these ancient, amiable creatures in their lush natural setting. In Puerto Ayora, the main town on Santa Cruz, we'll visit the Charles Darwin Research Station where international scientists conduct research dedicated to conserving the unique habitats and species of the Galapagos.



**Day 7 Thursday Isabela: Moreno Point  
(SN-PR)**

Moreno Point's black lava surface at the base of Cerro Azul is dotted with numerous lagoons containing a wide variety of life. Commonly seen species include flamingoes, paint-billed crakes, white-cheeked pintails, and common gallinules. The trail branches at a couple of points to enables us to observe more of the area. The lava flow is very young

and has several endemic species known to be early pioneers in barren lava fields.

- **Urbina Bay** A long, loop trail leads us away from the beach and into the arid zone of the island. Here visitors may have the chance to see giant tortoises, land iguanas, and flightless cormorants (near the coast). The most unique feature at Urbina Bay is the result of an uplift of the island in 1954, when a 6-km stretch of coral reef was raised up 5 m, stranding the coral heads above sea level with the new coastline more than a km away.





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### **Day 8 Friday Fernandina: Espinoza Point (SN) - Isabela: Tagus Cove**

**Espinoza Point:** Great for observing Flightless Cormorants and Galapagos Penguins, sea horses, marine iguanas, sea turtles, and various species of sharks and rays.

**Tagus Cove:** A favorite site of the early pirates and whalers, many of these early visitors wrote their names on the cliffs along the shore. The oldest include the Phoenix in 1836 and the Genie in 1846.

The name Tagus comes from an English war ship that passed by the islands in 1814 looking for giant tortoises. A short, steep hike passes Darwin Lake, which sits within a tuff cone. It is approximately 9 m deep and filled with salt water. This site is an excellent place for viewing landbirds, including ground and tree finches, hawks, yellow warblers, large-billed flycatchers and even sometimes the woodpecker finch. An occasional land iguana or giant tortoise can also sometimes be observed. A dinghy ride along the cliffs provides viewing of the geologic features as well as penguins and other bird species.

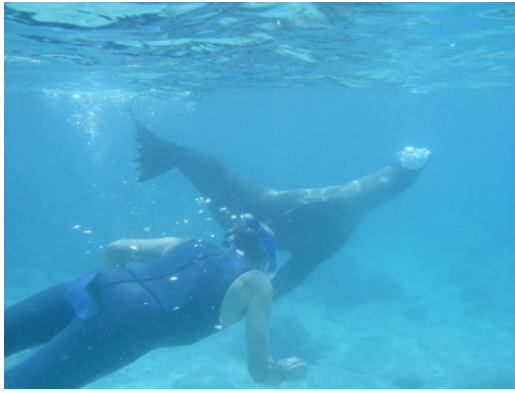


### **Day 9 Saturday Santiago: Egas Port - Buccaneers Cove (SN-PR-KY)**

At the southern end of the bay is Puerto Egas where two separate trails take off, the first along the coast to the fur seal grottoes and the second inland to the Salt Mine Volcano. The Galapagos fur seal prefers rocky coastlines where shade is available and the grottoes at Puerto Egas are ideal. The coastal trail ends at the grottoes. The inland trail is

approximately 3 km long and ends at the top of the salt mine crater. During the 1920s and 1960s, companies extracted salt from the crater. Puerto Egas is

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named for the 1960s company owner, Hector Egas. The mine is a small volcanic cone whose crater has a seasonal, salt-water lagoon, where flamingos and other birds can be seen. Galapagos hawks are often observed in the area.

### **Day 10 Sunday Daphne Islands (CN) - Baltra Return to Quito**

Daphne Major is a rather large tuff cone somewhat eroded by the sea.. Nazca boobies, red-billed tropicbirds, and blue-footed boobies can be found nesting here. Daphne Major is the primary site of Peter Rosemary Grant's iconic 40-year study of evolution in Darwin's finches that demonstrates evolution occurring over short periods of time. Nearly all of the finches on island are banded.



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Too soon, our time in the Enchanted Isles comes to a close—our return flight to Quito departs from Baltra Airport this afternoon.

**Monday:** We can assist in arranging lodging for Sunday night near the airport and an early morning airport transfer can be provided to meet departing flights if you depart home on Monday.

We are happy to assist you in making reservations to extend your stay in Ecuador if your departing flight home is later or to arrange extentions to the Amazon or Machu Picchu!

*(\*\*Please note exact itinerary is subject to change)*



# Galapagos Hiking, Snorkeling & Kayaking Adventure January, 2019

## S/V Nemo III

### Location

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador



The *S/C Nemo III* is a 75-foot luxury motor sailing catamaran. The vessel accommodates up to 16 guests in eight cabins of varying configurations, though we cap our trip at approximately 14 guests for a more comfortable and intimate nature adventure. All cabins are air conditioned and have en suite bathrooms with hot and cold water, plus storage space for personal items. Public spaces include lounge areas inside and out, a dining salon and small bar, and a sundeck with Jacuzzi, banquette seating and lounge chairs. The boat's hospitable crew attends to guests' every need, including three meals a day plus snacks to energize a daily round of active pursuits. Although this sailing vessel is smaller and more simple than our larger motor yachts, we have chosen it for our hiking and kayaking trip because of its classic, sporty style and nimble nature, which perfectly complement the focus of this active adventure.

**Trip Dates for 2019** (if these dates don't work for you let us know and we will do our best to see what else is available for you!)

January 18-27, 2019 (fly into Quito on Jan 18, Meet the Nemo III on Jan 20-27)

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## **Group Size Limit**

### **Approximately 14 Travelers**

A very important feature of our Galapagos kayaking and hiking trip is the limited group size, as nature expeditions are best experienced with a small group of travelers.

**Please note:** A minimum of 8 travelers will be required to operate our 2018-2019 departures.

## **Included:**

Accommodations, meals from breakfast on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 10, safe drinking water, services of professional Expedition Leader, boat crew, some gratuities, airport transfers, use of wetsuits and snorkel gear, permit fees.

## **Not Included**

Travel to and from Quito, R/T air Quito to Galapagos (to be added to your invoice and subject to change through day of departure), most gratuities, alcohol, Galapagos tax and transit card (approximately \$110), items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), travel insurance, optional activities.

## **Mandatory Insurance**

Medical Evacuation and Hospitalization Insurance is mandatory for all trips. You will be required prior to the trip to submit proof of insurance and a contact number to get hold of your insurance provider from the field.

## **Physical Requirements**

This trip is rated ***Moderate*** to ***Difficult***

General physical fitness and mobility are essential to participate in this trip, as well as some prior experience with kayaking. Activities include mainland and island hiking, kayaking, swimming and snorkeling. The location of our pre-cruise accommodations on the mainland is at 9,000-9,500 feet in altitude, and some walking on a steep hillside between individual guest rooms and the lodge is necessary. Our island hikes in the Galapagos are often on trails that are rough and uneven, sometimes traversing lava fields and navigating sharp or slippery rocks. Constrained by the nature of the park trail systems and the size of the islands, most of our hikes will be from one to one and a half miles long. When weather and conditions permit, our trip will include several opportunities for sea kayaking. Most activities on this trip will range in length from one to three hours, and we will often have several activities in one day while in the islands. Travelers are not required to participate in every activity.

## **Important Information**

There is perhaps no more appropriate destination for travelers than the Galapagos Islands. With rare and friendly wildlife found at every turn, the islands exhibit the beauty and intricacies of nature in a remarkable setting. Our highly trained Expedition Leaders are on hand to help bring it all alive in a personalized manner. The key to the success of our Galapagos adventures is our small group size—we boast one of the lowest guide-to-guest



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ratios of any operator in the islands. The *Nemo III*, our intimate sailing catamaran, accommodates just 12-14 guests plus our Expedition Leader and sailing crew. This trip is the most unique Galapagos experience available for travelers who are interested in (and physically capable of) getting "out there" on foot and by water. In addition to land-based and paddling excursions, we'll have the opportunity to snorkel almost every day while in the islands—a major part of any comprehensive Galapagos experience. It will be a top highlight, for certain!

**Please note:** The itinerary provided is meant as a guideline and is subject to change without notice. On rare occasions, it may be necessary to deviate from our regular itinerary for reasons beyond our control. In these instances we will provide the best available alternative.

### **Getting There & Getting Home**

Arrive in Quito, Ecuador, anytime on Day 1 and depart anytime on Day 11. We are prepared to handle all your round-trip travel arrangements, including flights for your extensions. We can serve you best if our staff makes your reservations, as our staff is intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient and cost-effective travel.

### **\*\*\*\*\*Dates & Pricing Notes**

Prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars. Dates for 2019 and will be allocated to guests on a first-come, first-served basis. 2019 dates and fees may change slightly. Guests who reserve their space prior to final pricing confirmation will receive the lowest rate within the range offered based on tiered pricing.

### **Pricing 2019**

#### **Nemo III Fees**

Category 1: \$6395 - \$6995

Category 2: \$6695 - \$7295

### **Tiered Pricing with 10 or more adventurers!**

Category #1	#2	Number of Adventurers
\$6995	\$7,295	up to 9
\$6645	\$6,945	10
\$6327	\$6,627	11
\$6180	\$6,336	12

### **Internal Airfare**

Adults: \$550 (subject to change)

Children 11 & under: \$350

### **Park Fees & Transit Card**

Adults: \$120 (subject to change)

Children 11 & under: \$70

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## Deposit (to reserve your trip)

\$500 (nonrefundable)

## Other Pricing Details:

### Single Supplement

If available, 1.5 times the regular rate on a first-come, first-served basis on scheduled trips on the Nemo III. If requested, we can also match you with a roommate during your stay on the boat. If one is not available, you will not be charged the single supplement for the boat portion of the trip, but you will be required to pay the supplement for the mainland portion of the program (\$300 for 2018).

### Triples and Roommate Matching

Triple cabins are available on the Nemo III in Category 2 rooms only (one lower double bed and one raised single bed). All three passengers receive a \$500-per-person discount. In order to accommodate roommate matches for single guests interested in sharing a room, we may upgrade cabins at no charge to our guests.

### Child Pricing

Children 14 and under will receive a \$500 discount off all departures upon receipt of a valid passport copy. We recommend a minimum age of 12 years old given the demands of the activities and nature of the boat.

**Video Link to Youtube of What to Expect!** <https://youtu.be/fqZlbOmKxII>

**To Book YOUR trip of a lifetime:** Contact Castine Kayak at 207-866-3506 or [castinekayak@gmail.com](mailto:castinekayak@gmail.com) with a **Deposit:** \$500 (non-refundable)

**RESERVE YOUR ADVENTURE:** <http://mkt.com/castine-kayak/galapagos-non-refundable-trip-deposit>

\*\*\*\*See below for more info about Nemo III:

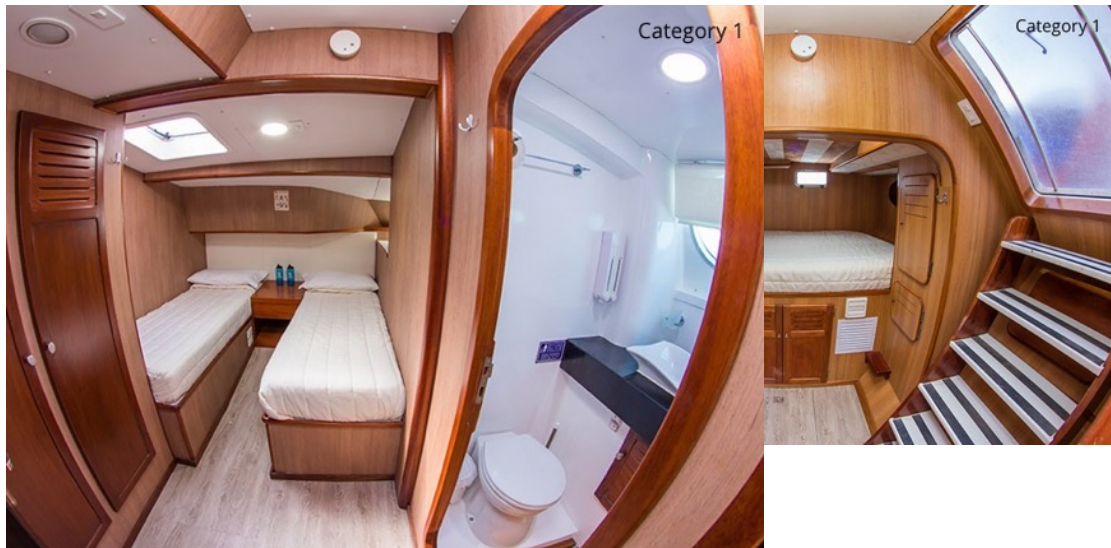
### Accommodations

Standard Cabin 1: 2 Singles lower beds.	Category #1 (2 pp)
Standard Cabin 2: 2 Singles lower beds.	Category #1 (2 pp)
Standard Cabin 7: 2 Single beds	Category #1 (2 pp)
Standard Cabin 5: 1 Double bed.	Category #1 (2 pp) Couple only or single
Standard Cabin 8: 1 Double bed.	Category #1 (2 pp) Couple only or single
Suite Cabin 3: 1 Lower double bed, 1 single upper bed.	Category #2 (2 pp)
Suite Cabin 4: 1 Lower double bed, 1 single upper bed.	Category #2 (2 pp)
Suite Cabin 6: 1 Lower double bed, 1 single upper bed.	Category #2 (2 pp)





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