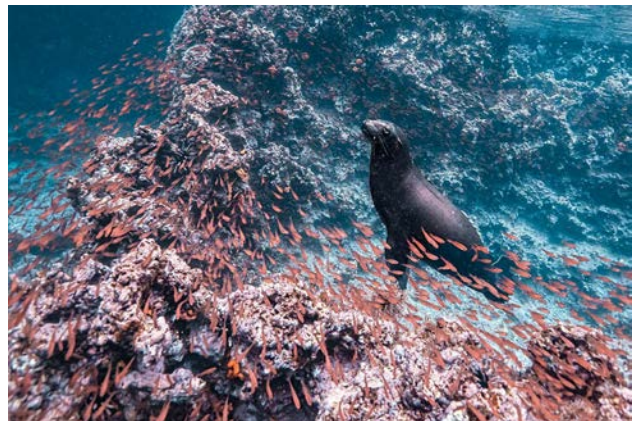




Galápagos Exclusive, with Mark Carwardine

Probably the most famous and iconic wildlife-watching destination on Earth, and the place that provided the inspiration for Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection. Join Mark and Wildlife Worldwide founder, Chris Breen, for the holiday of a lifetime!

28 May - 11 June 2027



About our trip

The enchanting Galápagos archipelago is a paradise for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers alike. We have exclusively chartered the 16-berth *MV Beluga* for a wonderful 12-night voyage and will explore as many as 12 islands. There will be photographic opportunities aplenty, both above and below the waves. There is probably nowhere else where you can get so extraordinarily close to wildlife. Species we expect to encounter include: blue-footed boobies, waved albatrosses, magnificent frigatebirds, red-billed tropicbirds, Galápagos flightless cormorants, marine iguanas, Galápagos penguins, all sorts of lava lizards and land iguanas, Galápagos sealions, various species of Galápagos giant tortoise and, of course, umpteen different Galápagos finches. The snorkelling is some of the best – and easiest – in the world.



Itinerary (the following may change according to weather conditions and wildlife encounters)

Day 1: We fly to Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and transfer to our comfortable hotel, with the rest of the day free to explore this interesting city.

Day 2: We fly to San Cristóbal island in the Galápagos to start our adventure in the highlands, where we hope to visit El Junco Lagoon, which lies in a collapsed crater of a volcano and is a haven for birdlife such as endemic San Cristóbal mockingbirds and white-cheeked pintails. Then we go to port to board the *MV Beluga* (bottom), which will be home for the next 12 nights.

Day 3: We plan to spend today on Española island with its sea lion rookeries and a nesting colony of waved albatrosses, as well as Galápagos hawks, lava lizards, Nazca boobies, red-billed tropicbirds and Galápagos snakes. We hope to enjoy a snorkel with dazzling tropical fish (we we plan to snorkel do each day).

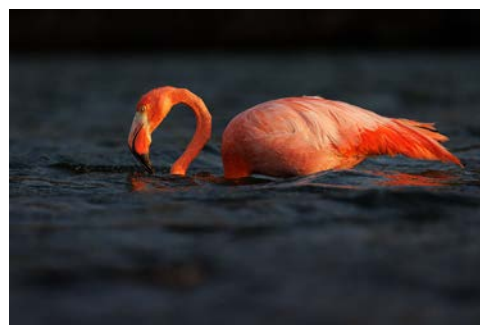
Day 4: This morning we expect to land at Punta Cormorant on Floreana island for a walk along the beach to a brackish lagoon, which is a hotspot for Caribbean flamingos and white-cheeked pintails. Next we hope to visit Devil's Crown for a snorkel, and later in the day, we visit Post Office Bay to learn more about the human history of the Galápagos Islands.

Day 5: On Santa Cruz island, we hope to visit Dragon Hill, an excellent spot for land iguanas and a wonderful variety of birds. Next, we plan to land at Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island, which is famous for its extensive lava flows.

Day 6: We expect to land on the island of Genovesa, north of the main archipelago. Following a trail to a tidal lagoon, we should see many species, including swallow-tailed gulls, great frigatebirds, large-beaked cactus finches, marine iguanas, endemic lava gulls, and red-footed boobies. We hope, too, to climb one of the most iconic locations on the Galápagos Islands: Prince Phillip's Steps, for fabulous views, but encounters with red-billed tropicbirds, warbler finches, large ground finches, lava herons, Nazca boobies and lots of red-footed boobies – as many as 200,000 nest here.

Day 7: Next stop we expect to be in the middle of the archipelago – the island of Santa Cruz, with its flourishing mangrove forests and green sea turtles, white-tipped reef sharks and rays. We hope to visit the verdant highlands to see giant tortoises before continuing to the Charles Darwin Research Centre.

Day 8: We hope to visit the island of Rábida with its volcanic landscape and colony of marine iguanas and sea lions, and, if we're lucky, Galápagos penguins.



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Day 9: Next, our plan is to land on Isabela, the largest island in the archipelago and take a mini-bus to the caldera of Sierra Negra to see recent lava flows and parasitic volcanic cone landforms. Later, we expect to explore white sandy beaches and wildlife-rich mangroves.

Day 10: We hope to continue exploring Isabela, landing at Punta Moreno. The volcanic landscape is home to marine iguanas, white-cheeked pintails, blue-winged teals, black-necked stilts, common gallinules, Caribbean flamingos and flightless cormorants. We check out mangroves and rocky islets, which are home to Galápagos penguins and marine iguanas, spotted eagle rays, white-tip reef sharks, golden rays and green sea turtles.

Day 11: We expect our third day on Isabela to begin with a guided walk on the shores of Urbina Bay, well known for its land iguana population (these individuals are thought to be the largest in the archipelago). We also hope to see wild giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies, flightless cormorants and Galápagos brown pelicans. Later we plan to explore Tagus Cove, walking uphill to the saltwater lake at Darwin's Crater to enjoy some fantastic views.

Day 12: We hope to land on the island of Fernandina, visiting one of the most famous places in the Galápagos: Punta Espinoza. Known for its large colony of marine iguanas as well as Galápagos hawks, Galápagos penguins and flightless cormorants. Later, we hope to return to Isabela and Punta Vicente Roca where we head out in pangas, following the line of the cliffs and scanning for seabirds, including Nazca and blue-footed boobies. There may also be an opportunity to snorkel with playful sea lions, green sea turtles and marine iguanas.

Day 13: Our penultimate morning hopefully begins with a walk on the black sand beach at Puerto Egas on Santiago island to find Galápagos fur seals and a colony of sea lions. Further inland, we hope to encounter some of the famous finches, including warbler, woodpecker, large tree and common cactus. Later, we may have two landings at Bartolome island, to explore both above and below the waves

Day 14: Our final morning should begin on North Seymour Island, one of the finest islands in the archipelago for photographing some of the more iconic birds in the Galápagos: colonies of blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls and magnificent frigatebirds, as well as Galápagos snakes and sea lions.

Afterwards, we bid farewell to the crew on the *Beluga* and transfer back to the airport on Baltra to catch our flights home.

Prices

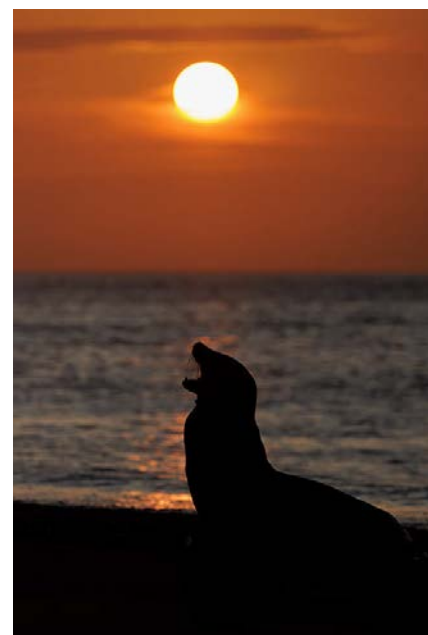
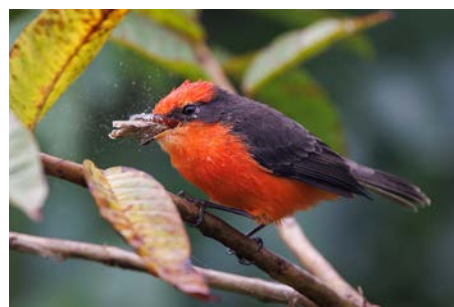
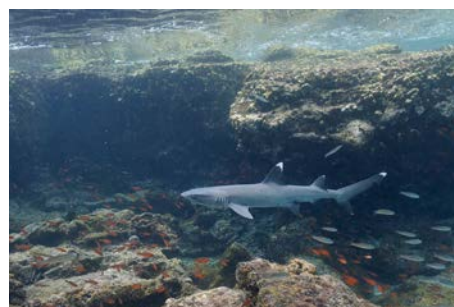
- Including flights from the UK, 15 days from £14,395 per person.
- Excluding international flights, 13 days from £13,595 per person.

Group size

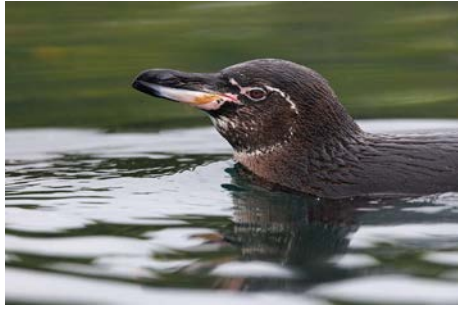
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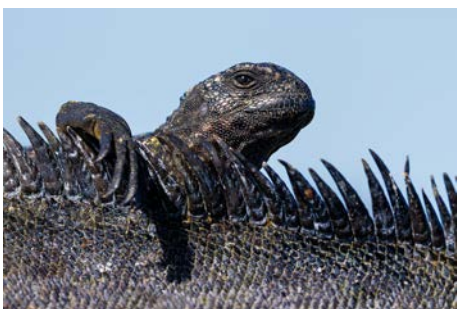
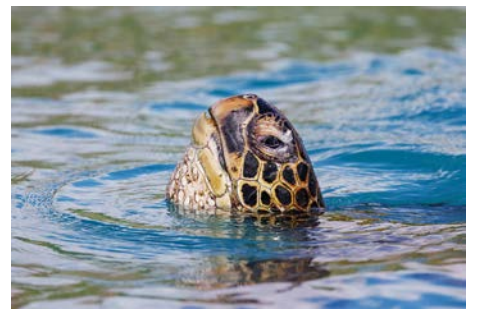
Price includes: Return flights between Ecuadorian mainland and Galápagos Islands; 1-night hotel in Quito; 12 nights aboard *Beluga*; most meals; transfers; guided excursions as described; services of boat crew and local naturalist guide, services of tour leaders Mark Carwardine and Chris Breen; Galápagos immigration and national park fees.

MORE OF MARK'S PHOTOS ON THE NEXT TWO PAGES ...



GALAPAGOS GALLERY





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