

Flying Tortoise Marathon And Running Events,
Guayaquil/Santa Cruz Package July 30 to Aug. 8,
2010 Ten people maximum per group. **Revised**
April 9, 2010

Note about revision: For the sake of an enhanced Galapagos Experience this tour was revised to keep our clients away from the mass of runners arriving from the continent. Only 250 runners are allowed, but this is a small island and we're certain the revision will result in a better experience for all. We did have to remove the day spent on Santa Cruz, but that was the weakest leg of the tour as that island is the tourist center of the Galapagos with a population of more than 18,000, traffic and crime.



Fri. July 30: Arrive from US on flights scheduled by travelers. Sheraton Hotel shuttle receives guests. We like the Sheraton in Guayaquil because it is close to the airport and very reliable with its shuttle services and help.

Despite any propaganda you may read or hear, there really isn't much reason to be anywhere else in Guayaquil except ready to leave.



Sat. July 31: Flight to San Cristobal Galapagos where you'll be met by running event coordinators. Typical arrival time 1PM. Lunch, orientation, first snorkel expedition to swim with sea lions, turtles, rays etc. Sunset and dinner.



Galapagos Notes:

You'll be running the following day of your arrival and the event coordinators will be sure you get set up at your hotel, with snorkel equipment, understand where the beaches are, restaurant where you will be eating, where the race coordination area is where you can pick up your chips and bibs, etc. San Cristobal is an easy town to get around. You can walk from one end to the other in five minutes. Your bilingual Galapagos National Park guide will meet you the morning after the marathon. She/he will be available dawn to dusk for whatever you may need for the remainder of the time you're in the Galapagos. He/she has a thorough knowledge of the geology, biology, history, current status and gossip of the Galapagos, as well as the experience of living here and knows when and where to be in order to make the most of your time, whether it's iguana watching, sunset viewing, snorkeling or hammock location.

Guests stay in the finest hotels available here on San Cristobal and Isabela, however this tour is focused more toward adventure and exploration rather than shopping and fine dining. Breakfasts are had at the hotel. All other meals are provided by the premier restaurants here, Miramar its award winning chef Santiago Teran. On Isabela we mix and match a little.



Should anyone wish to, Salsa dancing is available some late nights at the local's club where you'll be the only gringos in the place and the locals will likely be buying drinks and showing you some steps.

It is entirely possible to snorkel every dawn and sunset with the sea life. Your guide has years of experience snorkeling with everyone from deep water free divers to complete novices. Most of them are certified Dive Masters. Their goal is to be sure you enjoy all the riches of the



Galapagos to the fullest and quite a few of those riches are to be found underwater.

Sun. Aug. 1: Race day. Van takes you to race site. Below are a series of pictures of the course. Dirt roads and trails, minor undulations, no "major" hills. The vast majority of the course is shaded.

The marathon will start at 8:00 AM, the half marathon at 9:00 AM and the 10K at 10:00 AM.



Post race late PM Barbeque and post race debriefing and medal presentations.



Mon. Aug. 2: Travel to Isabela Island. This involves a short inter island plane flight. The flight is very scenic and an opportunity few tourists receive to view the Galapagos Islands from the air. The plane lands in Puerto Villamil, Isabela where you will check into Casa de Marita. It is possible to snorkel with penguins there right in front of the hotel. There is a long beach to walk where flamingos can often be seen.



Your hotel fronts a long sand beach where occasionally flamingos can be seen wading in the surf. Sometimes weather, energy levels or

constantly changing flight schedules play a part in how your time on Isabela shakes out. You have essentially two full days on Isabela. You will likely hike to a volcano, Sierra Negra, see the tortoise breeding station, lunch at a private tortoise farm, Campo Duro, be stalking flamingos, penguins and marine iguanas. You will have a chartered boat trip to Shark Island where sharks can be seen “sleeping” from above and where there is a wonderful snorkel site a short distance away. It is just hard to plan which you’ll be doing when until you arrive.



Tues. Aug. 3: As mentioned above we’re taking a flexible approach to your time on Isabela. The ability to do this is unique among Galapagos tour operators most of whom are forced to follow strict itineraries dictated by the “packaged” (canned) tours they market.





That is my son stalking iguanas and penguins directly in front of the hotel on Isabela



Wed. Aug. 4: Return flight to San Cristobal. As the inter island plane flight schedule varies, day to day, depending on the number of passengers, our best guess is that you will be leaving sometime around noon. There are plenty of things to do and see on Isabela and San Cristobal. We'll be coordinating this day around the flights and weather. Perhaps there will be an outing in the AM on Isabela to the wall of tears or a snorkeling expedition. When you arrive in San Cristobal you may be heading over to the interpretive center or off to snorkel at the sea tortoise "shell wash" where the sea turtles settle themselves on the bottom to allow the sucker fish to clean them. They go into a kind of trance and as long as you don't thrash around too much you can dive down, hold onto a rock and stare at them face to face for as long as you can hold your breath. This happens only at a certain cove at a certain tide which (looking at the tide charts) will be correct this afternoon.





Thurs. Aug. 5: All day tour of the far side of the island: Commune with the Giant Tortoises in their reserve, visit the local farms where much of the food provided is grown, bananas, bamboo, papaya, guavas etc. People are often surprised at how entertaining this visit actually is. Visit Puerto Chino (pristine isolated beach) and El Junco, the highest elevation on the island and volcano crater now filled with water.



We have also been pioneering a program with local farmers to purchase produce from them. The town has grown accustomed to purchasing its produce from the continent where the large corporate farms can afford to grow, ship the produce and sell for a price that has made farming here a non profitable enterprise. We know generally months in advance how many people are coming and can go to the farmers and tell them on this date we are going to need X number of tomatoes, lettuce, etc. Many of these crops they can plant and grow knowing they will have a secure market for them.



Fri. Aug. 6: All day chartered boat trip to tip of the island and islets. Snorkeling with sharks, rays, turtles and sea lions. Visit nesting grounds of Frigate Birds, Pelicans, Boobies, Tropical birds, etc. Roam gorgeous, deserted, pristine beaches that could make travel posters cry.



Typical hectic morning, Galapagos, Ecuador.



Note sea turtle just beyond reach.

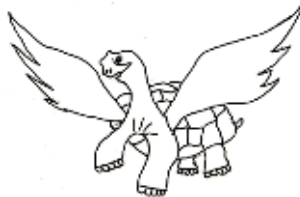
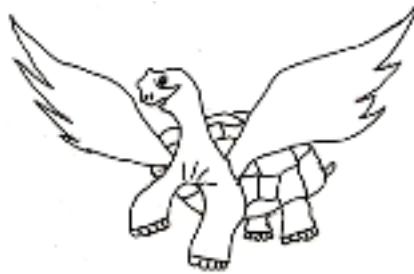




Sat. Aug. 7: Return flight to Guayaquil. You will need to be in the airport at approximately 11 AM. Early AM snorkel expedition is optional. Some of the group may want to go just sit and sip coffee or take some final photos of the Galapagos. Sheraton Shuttle Service receives guests in Guayaquil.



Sun. Aug. 8: Return International Flight. Sheraton shuttle insures that all arrive in the international terminal with your luggage, photos, smiles on your faces and hopefully a place in your hearts for Ecuador and the Galapagos.



Included In Flying Tortoise Marathon And Running Events, Guayaquil/Santa Cruz Package July 30 to Aug. 8, 2010. Ten people maximum per group. **Revised April 9, 2010**

- All airport transfers in Guayaquil and the Galapagos
- All ground transportation to tours and boat trips in the Galapagos
- All breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and non-alcoholic beverages, some snacks in the Galapagos.
- Two nights double occupancy Sheraton Hotel, Guayaquil 7/30 and 8/7
- Round trip air between Guayaquil and Galapagos. Guayaquil-San Cristobal 7/31 and San Cristobal-Guayaquil 8/7

- Bilingual Galapagos National Park guide 8/2 thru 8/7
- Five nights (double occupancy) Cabanas Pimampiro, Casa Blanca or Casa de Nelly San Cristobal 7/31 and 8/1, 8/4,5 and 6
- An all day privately chartered boat tour to islets and far side of island (see details on itinerary) 8/6
- All day tour of the far side of the island (tortoises/ see itinerary) 8/5
- Inter island flights San Cristobal-Isabela 8/2 and Isabela-San Cristobal 8/4
- Two nights (double occupancy) Hotel Albemarle (hotelalbemarle.com) or Casa de Marita, Isabela 8/2 and 8/3
- All day tour of Isabela including: Sierra Negra (active volcano), penguins, tortoise breeding ground and flamingos. Chartered boat to Shark Island 8/2 and 8/3
- Unlimited snorkeling, exploring, surfing, animal watching, swimming with the help of your guide
- Snorkeling equipment for duration of Galapagos leg of tour

Not included: Food while in Guayaquil (though breakfasts are included with hotels), Race registration (\$60, \$50 or \$40) International airfare, airport taxes (Quito \$42, Isabela \$15), Galapagos National Park entrance and transit/entrance card fee (\$110), alcoholic beverages and tips.

Per person cost 6 to 10 in group \$2,965
Single Supplement \$610