

## GALAPAGOS SKY PLANNING and PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

Thank you for considering DivEncounters and the Galapagos Sky for your upcoming adventure in the Galapagos Islands. We ask that you review this document package as you begin your planning of a cruise to Galapagos as well as review at the time of your cruise confirmation and prior to your departure to the Galapagos in the event you have any questions.

**To CONFIRM your cruise, Please be sure you have filled out and returned our cruise application and waiver forms. Your reservation cannot be processed without this documentation. Please also take a copy of the Application form to the boat with you.**

As you begin planning a diving adventure to the Galapagos, Please note that diving in the Galapagos is advanced due to strong currents, varying visibility and cold water. Temperatures range from low 60's to upper 70's in different areas of the itinerary and seasons. Divers must be comfortable in these conditions, as well as have very good buoyancy and be able to do negative (sometimes rapid) back-roll entries/descents from small boats. **Recommended requirements include 50-100 open water dives, experience in currents, ability in removing gear in water and ability in getting into small boats in choppy seas.**

### **Additional Planning information:**

**Entry requirements:** A valid passport, with at least six months remaining before expiration, is required to enter Ecuador. Visas are not currently required for visitors from any country including the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Europe. It is the passenger's responsibility to check with local immigration offices or the Ecuadorian Consulate prior to traveling to determine if a visa is necessary.

**Immunizations:** At the time of printing, no inoculations were required for visitors to Ecuador and Galapagos (excluding jungle areas). Please check with your local health office at least two weeks prior to your departure.

**Time Zone:** Ecuador is in the Eastern Time zone (GMT-5 in the mainland). Daylight savings time is not observed. Galapagos is one hour behind mainland Ecuador. On board, we observe mainland Ecuador time.

**Local Currency:** In 2000, Ecuador adopted the US Dollar as their monetary unit.

**Language spoken:** English is spoken aboard the vessels by guides and Captains.

**Electricity:** 110/AC 60 cycle (same as in the USA) with some 220 outlets on the dive deck.

**Included in your Cruise rate:** cabin accommodation on board, all meals and snacks, diving on compressed air or NITROX, tanks weights and weight belts, shore excursions, guide services, filtered drinking water, all beverages aboard including **beer and wine (with Dinner only, Additional liquor is available for purchase on board)**, welcome and farewell cocktail, transfers between the airport and dock in Galapagos on Sunday from the Avianca Group Flights.

**Not Included in your cruise rate:** Airfare to Galapagos, Galapagos entrance fee (park tax), Transit card (TCT) fee, chamber fee (these 4 charges will be included on your cruise invoice unless otherwise requested), gratuities for crew, purchases on board, purchases from the boutique, and equipment rentals. You will also need a hotel in advance and possibly after your cruise. **All guests must be in Ecuador on Saturday (for our standard Sunday to Sunday 7 night cruises) as most international flights do not arrive in time to make the connection with the Domestic Flights to the Galapagos Islands Sunday mornings.** Please let us know if we can assist you in securing your hotel accommodations.

**Galapagos entrance fee (national park tax):** The Islands are part of the Ecuador National Park system and the entrance fee is \$100.00 per person. The fee is divided up among various entities including the GNPS, Marine Reserve, agriculture, municipalities, INEFAN and INGALA. The fee for nationals of one of the Andean Community of Nations or Mercosur is \$50.00 per person.

**Transit card fee:** All visitors to Galapagos are required to purchase a “Tarjeta de Control de Transito” or TCT card for \$20.00. This card allows INGALA, the institution that controls migration to the islands to better regulate the flow of all arrivals and departure to Galapagos.

DivEncounters/Ecoventura will complete your Park and TCT registrations for if you are traveling over on the Avianca Group flight and provided that we receive the passenger cruise application/waiver at least 30 days prior departure.

**Rental Gear:** A full complement of SCUBAPRO rental equipment is available aboard (**gloves are not available in our onboard rental inventory.**) Passengers who would like to reserve equipment prior to the cruise may do so by including these requests on your cruise application. Charges for rental gear will be handled on board.

In order to reserve a wet suit, we need to know your approximate size: Men or Women size: XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL

**Purchases on board:** Every passenger has an open tab at the boutique & bar, which are paid the last day of the cruise. We accept cash (US Dollars), Travelers checks, Master Card, and VISA, credit cards (American Express is not accepted aboard).

**Tipping policy:** Aboard our vessels, gratuities are not included. We prefer that our guests reward our crew based on their performance. Tipping is a personal matter and passengers are encouraged to tip an amount they find appropriate. For those passengers who inquire, we suggest if they have received “exceptional service” they follow our guidelines of approximately 10% per person. Gratuities are divided among all crew members including guides evenly.

### **Domestic Flight Information:**

DivEncounters **does not** include airport transfers for passengers in Quito or Guayaquil prior to the flights to Galapagos.

Flights to Galapagos (San Cristobal) for M/V Galapagos Sky passengers are serviced by Avianca Airlines from Quito and Guayaquil to San Cristobal. Flight reservations for confirmed passengers are made automatically through our allotment of seats. Passengers who purchase their tickets through M/V Galapagos Sky (DivEncounters) for the Avianca flights will receive assistance with the check in procedure and the option to pre-pay the transit card and park entrance fee. A representative from our parent company, Ecoventura, accompanies our passengers on this flight.

If you chose to fly with another carrier or on an Avianca flight departing other than Sunday morning, Avianca Flight 1636, please note you will have to check in at the airport yourself, make the queues and pay for your transit card and park entrance fees in cash. Upon arrival, you will need to claim your luggage and make your way to the dock by taxi or bus (at your expense) and to the yacht (by speed boat) if after our standard boarding time (M/V Galapagos Sky will depart from the dock once guests arriving Avianca flight 1636 have boarded).

### **For passengers on our 7 night cruise, the flight schedule is as follows:**

Sunday:

**Quito to Guayaquil** AVIANCA flight 1636 9:00AM-9:50AM

**Guayaquil to San Cristobal** AVIANCA flight 1636 10:35AM-11:30AM

Following Sunday:

**San Cristobal to Guayaquil** AVIANCA flight 1637 12:30PM-3:25PM

**Guayaquil to Quito:** AVIANCA flight 1637 4:05PM-5PM

On the day of departure, please be at the airport in Quito or Guayaquil one and a half hours prior flight departure for check-in. A card from our operations staff with Ecoventura will be left at your hotel the evening prior with the exact check in time if you are confirmed on Avianca flight 1636. You must first have your bags inspected by SICGAL as required to travel to Galapagos. Next, look for the Ecoventura representative at the Avianca Airline ticket counter to collect your boarding pass, transit card (if prepaid) and get assistance with check in. Do not stand in line to pay the TCT card if you have already prepaid. Upon arrival in Galapagos, you may be selected to be fingerprinted to complete the process of the migration control. You will form a line to process passengers for the Park entrance fee. Inform the park representative that you are traveling with Ecoventura if you have prepaid the fee. They will have a list of prepaid passengers. Once through, our guides will be waiting for you with signs. New airport policy now requires that you claim your bag. Our crew will deliver your checked bag to your cabin. Passengers who choose to travel to Galapagos earlier or choose to purchase tickets on another carrier will not be provided with the same services.

#### BAGGAGE POLICY:

The airline allows one checked suitcase (up to 50 lbs. / 23 kg and up to 62"/ 158 cm) and one carry-on bag (up to 22 lbs./ 10 kg and up to 45"/ 115 cm) per passenger. All overweight, oversized and excess baggage will be charged additional and are checked subject to space available.

The fees are: Excess Baggage fee: \$20 + IVA for up to 50 lbs/ 23 kg; \$30 + IVA 51-70 lbs/ 23-32 kg; \$40 + IVA 70-99 lbs/ 32-45 kg. Overweight baggage fee: \$10 + IVA 50-70 lbs/ 23-32 kg; \$20 + IVA 70-99 lbs/ 32-45 kg. Oversize baggage fee: \$50 + IVA for 63-85"/ 159-215 cm. IVA (tax) is 12% and is subject to change.

**Airfares are subject to change at any time up until the day of departure and even after tickets have been paid in full.**

**For those who request to fly into and/or out of Baltra versus our standard San Cristobal gateway, there is an additional departure tax out of Baltra of \$26.00 each way that will be added to the flight cost. Any alternate flight request will require the guest full name as appears on passport and passport number.**

If an emergency should arise prior to your departure, please contact our USA office Monday- Friday 9am- 5pm EST at (877) 323-3483, (305) 262-3483 or [info@galapagosky.com](mailto:info@galapagosky.com) If the emergency occurs over the weekend during your trip, please contact the appropriate local representative listed below who will be able to assist you immediately. For those guests who will be in San Cristobal in advance of the cruise, you will need to contact the boat SUNDAY MORNING and confirm meeting time at the dock for transfer to the Galapagos Sky. This is based on the arrival time of the Avianca Flight. You can have your hotel assist you with this call. **Boat Cell for this coordination is # 099-016-7139.**

For Friends and Family of traveling guests who wish to get a message to a passenger aboard the M/V Galapagos Sky please call our Miami Sales office Monday thru Friday 9am - 5 pm EST, during regular business hours at (305) 262-3483 or toll free (877) 323-3483. If after hours Monday - Friday please email [info@galapagossky.com](mailto:info@galapagossky.com) and your message will be forwarded to the boat and guest just as soon as possible.

For our Passengers traveling on Saturday to Quito or Guayaquil who are experiencing travel delays or cancelled flights that will impact their Saturday arrivals please contact Luly Mena from our Quito office at **cellular # +(the country extension you are calling from, example 011 from the US) then, 59399-973-0545**. This contact number is for guests with immediate travel delays/interruptions on Saturday/Sunday only please.

If the emergency is during your trip, please contact the appropriate local representative first who will be able to assist you immediately.

Our representatives at the airports on Sundays are:

Quito airport: Diego Benavides Cellular: 098-462-9212

Guayaquil airport: Jorge Lombeida Cellular 099-102-7100

The cellular numbers can be used after normal business hours and on week-ends.

Avianca Airlines is now required to spray inside the aircraft with a special process once doors are closed and is preparing for takeoff. This is considered common procedure for flights bound to fragile island eco-systems that are susceptible to prevent any invasive species or virus being accidentally transported to the islands.

**Flight misconnection:** We recommend that all passengers traveling to Galapagos allow for at least one night in mainland Ecuador prior to their cruise to allow for potential flight delays and misconnection. This is particularly important for passengers traveling over winter holidays when flights tend to be overbooked and/or delayed caused by poor weather conditions.

**Medical facilities on board:** The yacht carries first aid kits and the Captain and guides are trained in basic First Aid procedures. All yachts have radio contact with the mainland for any medical emergencies.

**Communication:** Most telecommunication providers have signal in some areas of the Central Islands of the Galapagos and passengers can use their mobile/cellular phones that are activated for international calling on days when the yachts are in close range to port (most central islands).

**Smoking policy:** Smoking is prohibited in enclosed areas aboard the vessels and on the Islands. Smoking is only allowed on the outside decks in designated areas.

**Drinking water:** Bottled water is provided in your cabin and is free of charge. Filtered drinking water is provided during meal times. We do not recommend you drink water from the tap in your cabin. Water bottles can be refilled from the water container located in the bar area.

**Motion sickness:** Due to strong currents, there will be moderate movement of the vessel while navigating. Most passengers are not affected. However, if you are prone to seasickness, we strongly urge you bring some type of medication to prevent motion sickness.

**Physical limitations:** The majority of Galapagos Sky's activities require passengers to be healthy, active and reasonably fit. Passengers need to be able to walk a few hours a day unassisted to fully enjoy Galapagos. The 2 land excursions require moderate activity and the walks are at a leisurely pace. If you are concerned about your ability to do any

particular dive or day hike, please consult with your personal doctor first before reserving your cruise. Once aboard check with the Dive/Naturalist team and listen carefully to dive and land briefing as only you can make the proper judgment on your physical fitness and dive capabilities. All diving is done from tenders in strong currents and cold water. This is considered advanced diving and all guests should have experience in currents, with thicker wetsuits and increased lead for proper buoyancy and at times, and capable of rapid descents. In order to enjoy your trip to its fullest potential, it is a good idea to do some exercise before your trip, such as walking, swimming or bicycling. Please see your doctor for a check-up before traveling to Ecuador. Any medical condition or physical disability that may require special attention or treatment must be advised to Divencounters/Galapagos Sky at the time of booking.

**Island visits:** The vessel anchors offshore at two visitor sites or Islands during your cruise. Passengers are ferried to the landing point in zodiac style inflatable landing craft. The landings are either wet (where one must step into water anywhere from your ankles to your knees and wade to shore) or dry (where one steps from the panga directly to the volcanic rock or dock). Your guide and panga driver will assist you with a steady hand. On the Islands, one follows marked trails set by the National Park walking at a leisurely pace together with your guide.

**Yacht & Itinerary Stipulations** -During the cruise itinerary, passengers will visit incredible diving and land sites. Divencounters/Galapagos Sky reserves the right at its sole option and discretion and that of the Captain of the vessel or the Galapagos National Park impact studies without liability for damages or refund of any kind to deviate from the vessel's advertised or ordinary itinerary for any reason including mechanical failure. Divencounters/Galapagos Sky will not be held responsible for any refund whatsoever for changes to the printed or scheduled itinerary. WE STRONGLY recommend trip insurance! We recommend companies like DAN and DiveAssure.

**TRIP INTERRUPTION / CANCELATION INSURANCE and DIVER'S INCURANCE:** DivEncounters & Galapagos Sky will NOT provide refund or cruise credit in the event you miss your cruise or circumstances beyond our control (such as weather) which may require us not to fulfill our full cruise itinerary. We strongly recommend that all passengers traveling to Galapagos Sky invest in COMPREHENSIVE medical, trip cancellation and trip interruption insurance at the time of your reservation. This investment will protect you and your financial commitment in the event of unforeseen travel delays/ airline cancellations, personal or family illness or injury which may not allow for you to make your scheduled cruise. We do require each diver to have diving accident insurance.

**Weather condition** - Located on the equator, the Galapagos Islands have a surprisingly cool, sub-tropical climate. The larger islands with volcanic peaks have a variety of climatic zones. The coastal areas are arid and covered with plants adapted to desert conditions. The highland areas receive moisture almost all year round, which support lush vegetation. Temperatures are determined almost entirely by ocean currents, which are influenced by the trade winds. There are two seasons, both of which have some precipitation. The Galapagos get an average of ten inches of rain per year, so it is never considered "rainy". During the months of December to May, the cooling currents subside, temperatures rise and the climate is warm and sunny with occasional showers. In June, the trend begins toward cooler temperatures with moderate breezes, which continue through November. This period is often referred to as the "garua" (pronounced gah-ru-ah) season, which means mist in Spanish.

#### MONTHLY TEMPERATURES

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

MAX AIR TEMP:

84 86 88 86 82 78 76 74 76 77 78 80

MIN AIR TEMP:

70 74 74 72 72 68 66 64 62 64 66 68

AVG SEA TEMP:

76 78 76 74 72 72 64-72 64-71 65-66 68 70 74

AVG RAINFALL (In inches)

1 1 2 1.5 .75 .25 .50 .25 .50 .25 .50 .50

### **Recommended PACKING LIST**

Dress is casual and comfortable, and informality is basic to all activities.

We recommend you pack in a collapsible, soft-sided suitcase. Checked bags should be securely locked for your security. We recommend that you leave all valuables at home. The yachts do not have safety boxes and cabins lock from the inside only.

**Dive Certification:** You will be required to provide proof of certification. A check-out dive is common procedure.

#### **Diving Equipment:**

##### **Basic Equipment required:**

- \* Regulator with alternate air source
- \* Dive computer
- \* Depth and pressure gauges
- \* Watch or bottom timer
- \* BCD, mask, fins, snorkel, wetsuit
- \* Dive light for day and night dive
- \* Dive gloves (these are not available in rental gear inventory; **be sure to bring your own!**)

#### **Safety Equipment:**

- \* Dive Alert
- \* Inflatable Safety Sausage
- \* Nautilus Lifeline (Provided by Galapagos Sky during the Cruise)
- \* Whistle

Small backpack or knapsack

Walking shoes or lightweight hikers, or Sport sandals with a Velcro strap (Texas)

Light weight wind breaker

Comfortable lightweight pants

Short sleeve t-shirts

Bathing suits, sunscreen, lip balm SPF 30+

Wide brimmed hat, bandana

Sunglasses with UV filter and a strap

Camera equipment in a water proof bag

Binoculars

Underwater camera

Personal medication

Sea sickness medication

Ear plugs

July to November only: sweat shirt or fleece vest or light weight jacket

Toiletries - we ask that you bring only biodegradable sunscreens and lotions if possible.

Galapagos Sky supplies you with biodegradable soap, shampoo and conditioner.

Towels and hair dryers are provided and therefore it is not necessary that you bring these

**During the cruise, listen to your guide and follow all the National park rules including:**

The National Park establishes and maintains nature trails and interpretive signs. During the orientation, your guide will go over the Galapagos National Park rules which you are required to follow. Visitors cannot legally go anywhere in the designated National Park area without being escorted by a licensed guide.

Rules are enforced by naturalist guides and park officials and are as follows:

- 1 Please do not disturb or remove any native plant, rock or animal on land or in the water.
- 2 Be careful not to transport any live material or sand to the islands.
- 3 Do not take any food or drink except water to the uninhabited islands.
- 4 Please do not touch, pet or feed the animals. Approaching them too closely or taking flash photography will disturb them.
- 5 Please do not startle or chase any animal from its nesting place.
- 6 Please do not leave any trash on the Islands or throw any litter overboard.

7 Please follow the marked trails at all times and do not walk out of their limits.

8 Please stay with your naturalist guide who must accompany all groups on the trails.

9 Please do not buy souvenirs of objects made from native Galapagos products (except for wood) especially black coral, sea lion teeth and shells of the Galapagos tortoises.

10 Do not smoke on the islands.

Leave only bubbles and footprints and take home only pictures and memories.

#### Suggested Reading

There are many wonderful guides and inspiring photographic books on Galapagos available at bookstores or found on line. Longitude Books has a full line of travel publications on Galapagos 1-800-342-2164 or <http://www.longitudebooks.com/find/d/21919/r/I5> for their Galapagos related books.

### **ITINERARY**

The Galapagos National Park, who regulates all Dive Operations in the Galapagos Islands, issues each dive operator an itinerary permit each January for the coming year. Please see our current permitted itinerary below. Please understand that in the event of conditions that are deemed questionable or unsafe for our guests our captain at his discretion may alter this itinerary slightly.

#### M/V GALAPAGOS SKY (7 Night Cruises)

**Our Live-Aboard Diving Cruises to Galapagos** are seven night cruises, and the itinerary offers a total of approximately 17 – 19 dives (check out dive included) all weather, current and sea condition dependant) and 3 land excursions on every trip. Diving in Galapagos IS considered **ADVANCED** diving as it occurs in the presence of strong currents, cold water and at times limited visibility. Diving from tenders/pangas (small inflatable boats) is also the rule and not an exception in this World Renowned destination.



We visit Wolf and Darwin Islands on every trip – the diving there is arguably the best in the world! The Galapagos Sky itinerary has two days with long (you'll be asleep) overnight navigations in order to get to these crown jewels of world class diving.

You will enjoy 4 dives per day at Wolf and Darwin.

While diving the “central islands” on your Galapagos Sky cruise you will experience the diversity of Galapagos diving. Besides our resident mantas, sharks, and whale sharks, this is also the time to photograph little Galapagos invertebrates in vibrant color as well as keep an eye out for mola molas.

As on any live-aboard or diving adventure – Itineraries may be changed due to current or pending weather conditions or at the Captain’s discretion for your safety. Itineraries can also be changed at the discretion of the Galapagos National Park who administers cruise itineraries.

## Your Galapagos Cruise Itinerary

### **Sunday** (Embarkation day):

- Isla Lobos- Check out dive

When you arrive at the airport at San Cristobal on Sunday (Avianca flight 1636), the crew of the Galapagos Sky will personally meet you, collect your luggage, and escort you to the Galapagos Sky. Your dive bags will be delivered to the dive deck, and personal luggage to your cabins. After everyone is on board, we will introduce you to the boat and do our mandatory safety briefings and drill. Then, we cruise to the area of Los Lobos for your check-out dive.

This will be your first underwater introduction to Galapagos sea lions and fur seals! Watch them Zoom in and out and dance playfully for you!

Even on the first day of your live-aboard cruise – you begin to see the myriad and diverse land formations which comprise the Galapagos Islands topside. It is then you realize you will see nothing like it in your lifetime.

### **Monday**

- Bartolome Land walk
- Cousins 2 dives

Bartolome is a lovely area providing wonderful photo opportunities. This is also where guests enjoy a favorite land tour where they can climb to the top of the hill to where breathe taking views abound. Conditions permitting, snorkeling with penguins will be allowed.

Cousins Rocks- this dive is an itinerary favorite and is done along a beautiful wall and allows for great viewing opportunities for corals, frog fish, sea horses, scorpion fish and octopus. It is also a great dive for large schools of Barracuda and also Hammerhead shark sightings. Sea lions will be your companions on the safety stops.

By definition, the entire Galapagos Archipelago is geographically remote. But after this day of your live-aboard cruise finds you heading toward the most isolated, northernmost part of the Galapagos Islands – the uninhabited, untouched, twin cathedrals of world class diving – Wolf and Darwin Islands.

### **Tuesday-Thursday- Wolf & Darwin**

- Tues-4 Dives a day at Wolf plus a night dive
- Wed- 4 dives at Darwin
- Thurs-3 Dives total: 2 AM Dives at Darwin and 1 afternoon dive at Wolf before long transit back to central islands

You’ll spend the next three days diving (up to four dives per day plus a night dive) the legendary islands of WOLF & DARWIN.

Most experienced divers will agree, Wolf and Darwin are the best diving sites in the world! Whale sharks are common here from Mid May through November. At The Arch at Darwin, you will see hammerhead sharks either individually, in small groups, or large schools. Bottlenose dolphins are common. The reef contains many warm water varieties of fish found nowhere else in the Islands.

Once you see Wolf and Darwin – you'll immediately understand why there are no shore excursions on this part of the cruise – there is no way up the vertical cliffs!

**Darwin Island:** Considered by many experienced divers as the very best dive site in the world, The Arch at Darwin Island (actually several dive sites depending on where you enter, currents, etc) honors its reputation. It is warmer by a few degrees than the central islands. In one single dive you can find schooling hammerhead sharks, Galapagos sharks, large pods of dolphins, thick schools of skipjack and yellow fin tuna, big eye jacks, mobula rays, and silky sharks. From June to November, it is not uncommon to encounter whale sharks in numbers of up to 8 different individuals in one single dive. The presence of occasional tiger sharks, black and blue marlin, and killer whales adds on to this amazing diving experience. If you still have time to look for smaller stuff, you'll find octopus, flounders, and an enormous variety and abundance of tropical fish. Darwin Island is the biggest jewel on the Galapagos Crown.

**Wolf Island:** One of those magical islands, with several dive sites to choose from. If you want to see sharks, you are at the right spot. This is a place for schooling hammerhead sharks, large aggregations of Galapagos sharks, and occasionally whale sharks. Seeing dolphins, large schools of tuna, spotted eagle rays, barracudas, sea lions and sea turtles is common. The bottom is littered with hundreds of moray eels, many of them free swimming. Being several degrees warmer than the central islands, you can look for many representatives of the Indo-Pacific underwater fauna. On a night dive here you will also enjoy spotting and watching the Red Lipped bat fish walk along the bottom of the sea!

### **Friday**

- Cabo Douglas 1 dive
- Punta Vicente Roca up to 2 dives and Panga ride if time allows.

At Cape (Cabo) Douglas, on the western side of Isabela Island, we will do 1 dive Friday morning. Here you can expect to see Galapagos Penguins, Marine Iguanas, Flightless Cormorants, Sea Lions, Seahorse, Sea Turtles, Horn Sharks, Red Lipped Batfish, and occasional hammerhead sharks and white tip sharks. Also keep an eye out for chevron barracuda, snappers, yellow fin tuna, rainbow runners, and wahoo. There are also a lot of smaller fishes like creole fishes, parrot fishes, scrawled filefishes, pacific box fishes, and tiger snake eels.

This day we also visit Punta Vincente Roca for up to 2 dives. Our coldest yet rapidly increasing favorite dive – steep, deep vertical wall covered in soft coral, sponges, and endemic black coral. Regular sightings of mola mola (oceanic sun fish,) sea horses, bullhead sharks, red lipped bat fish, various shrimp and many other marine invertebrates. Our after-dive panga ride offers great photo ops for penguins, flightless cormorants, marine iguanas, sea lions, blue footed & nazca booby Birds, magnificent frigates and nobby terns. The diving here is chilly (particularly below the thermocline – but not to be missed!).

### **Saturday**

- Northeast tip of Isla Pinzon- 1 dive
- Puerto Ayora/Highlands tour

**Isla Pinzon** - This site has quickly become a favorite with guests! Isla Pinzon has been providing opportunities for encounters with a variety of species of sharks, sea lions, mantas, eagle rays, and moray eels. Many Species of fish and tropicals including yellow tailed surgeonfish, king angelfish, moorish idols, steel pompanos, snappers, grunts, creole fish, octopus and barracuda.

This dive is then followed by a transit to Itabaca Channel where guests will be transferred by bus (at approx. 1400h and approx.. 45 minute ground transfer) to visit the Highlands of Santa Cruz to see the Galapagos Tortoises in their natural environment; and visit to Puerto Ayora. Guests will then be transferred back to Itabaca Channel to board the Galapagos Sky approx. 1900h. The Sky will then return to San Cristobal for Sunday morning cruise completion.

### **Sunday Morning- Land Tour and Day of Departure**

- Interpretation center.

Arrive San Cristobal—(Land Excursion) visit the Interpretation Center where an interesting human history of Galapagos is presented, town walk (last chance for shopping). Late morning departure.

We are very excited about our itinerary schedule and look forward sharing our Exceptional Underwater Adventures with you!

Revised September 2015