



## Galápagos Summer 2026

Travel Dates: May 26 - June 3, 2026

### Tuesday, May 26 – Travel to Ecuador

- We will take a flight together from Tampa to Guayaquil, Ecuador.
- Arrive in Guayaquil and stay overnight in a hotel near the airport

### Wednesday, May 27 - Santa Cruz, Galápagos

- **Orientation:** We start with an early morning transfer flight to Santa Cruz, Galápagos where we check in to our hotel.
- **Walking Tour:** The group will become oriented with the neighborhood, nearby pharmacies, markets, ATMs, etc. Additionally, an in-depth safety briefing will be provided for what to do in the case of an emergency.
- **Charles Darwin Research Station:** The group will visit the unique biological research station in Puerto Ayora. The station is operated by the Charles Darwin Foundation, which was founded in 1959 under sponsorship of UNESCO and the World Conservation Union. We will get to explore the headquarters for the Foundation, where ongoing scientific research and environmental educational projects are all being conducted to support conservation of the Galápagos Islands.

### Thursday, May 28 - Isabela, Galápagos

- **Highlands Tortoise Reserve:** A 45-minute bus ride will take us to the Santa Cruz highlands, located to the northwest of Ayora Port, where we will find a natural reserve with giant land tortoises in their natural habitat. These enormous and slow-moving reptiles are responsible for the island's name and therefore, approaching them in their humid and forested abode is always an inspiring adventure. They can weigh between 250 and 300 kg and can live up to 200 years. They have few predators; their principal threat has always been humans.
- **Lava Tunnel:** These impressive underground tunnels southwest of the village of Santa Rosa are more than 1 km in length and were formed when the outside skin of a molten-lava flow solidified.

- **Transfer to Isla Isabela:** Check in, Refresh and Relax and Group Dinner

## **Friday, May 29 - Isabela, Galápagos**

- **Orientation Walking tour:** The group will become oriented with their neighborhood, and we will have an in-depth safety briefing.
- **Wall of Tears Bike Excursion:** The Wall of Tears is a historical site 5 km west of Puerto Villamil on Isabela Island in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. We will bike a total distance of around 14km (8.7 miles) during this excursion, where we will observe the mangrove forest and collect samples.

## **Saturday, May 30 - Isabela, Galápagos**

- **Los Tuneles Visit and Snorkeling:** Los Tuneles' are geological formations comprising arches and tunnels created from ancient lava flows and tidal erosion. This unique landscape hosts several species of seabirds including albatross, blue-footed boobies, and penguins as well as offering superb snorkeling in shallow, calm waters. Here, we will be collecting data on marine diversity.
- We will then return to Isabela for an evening of exploration and starting with data analysis.

## **Sunday, May 31 - Isabela, Galápagos**

- **Hike to Sierra Negra Volcano:** We will be doing a day hike to the second biggest caldera in the world, Sierra Negra. It is a large shield volcano at the southeastern end of Isabela Island in the Galapagos that rises to an altitude of 1124 m and coalesces with the volcanoes Cerro Azul to the west and Alcedo to the north.

## **Monday, June 1 - Isabela, Galápagos**

- **Service-Learning Activity 1 - Turtle Nesting Observation:** During our beach patrol, students will help collect baseline data for the Galapagos National Park to support the management plan of the local beach.
- **Service-Learning Activity 2 - Urban Farming:** - In the afternoon, we will learn local techniques for sustainable tropical agriculture and help with an urban farming project to create food sovereignty, while lowering the carbon footprint of island life.

## **Tuesday, June 2 – Isabela, Galápagos to Guayaquil for Departure**

- We will wrap up in the Galápagos with an early morning transfer to Santa Cruz, flight to Guayaquil, where we end the program with a farewell dinner and depart Guayaquil ECU, for home to arrive Wednesday, June 3.