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Welcome to Galapagos!

Language – Many natives speak Spanish however English is commonly spoken.

Currency – US Dollars

Major Airports – Seymour Airport on Baltra Island.

Where do I have to go first to get to the Galapagos? You have to fly to Ecuador first, either to Quito or Guayaquil, and from there you will fly to Galapagos.

Entry – Effective September 1, 2021, all foreign travelers age 16 and older who are not residents of Ecuador must present the following when entering the Galapagos Islands:

- A valid original passport
 - A return flight ticket to and from the Galapagos
 - A transit control card issued by the Government of Galapagos
 - A Galapagos National Park entrance fee
 - A health declaration filled out upon entry into Ecuador
- A negative RT-PCR test taken a maximum of 72 hours prior to travel, counting from the time the sample was taken, **AND**
- A vaccination card showing the traveler received a complete series of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days prior to travel, **AND**
- A “transit control card” issued by the Government of Galapagos.
 - A vaccination card showing the traveller received a complete series of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days prior to travel
 - A mandatory medical and travel insurance

Foreign travelers between the ages of 2 and 16, as well as residents of Ecuador age 2 and older, do not require a vaccination card, but must present:



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- A negative RT-PCR test taken a maximum of 72 hours prior to travel, counting from the time the sample was taken, **AND**
- A “transit control card” issued by the Government of Galapagos.

These new entry requirements only apply to the Galapagos Islands. The entry requirements for international arrivals to Ecuador have not changed. International travelers entering Ecuador are still permitted to present proof of a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test taken no more than three (3) days before entering **OR** a COVID-19 vaccination card showing the traveler received a complete series of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days prior to entry.

Please note procedures may change at any time. We encourage you to visit [our COVID-19 webpage](#) for the latest information on COVID-19 in Ecuador.

[Message for U.S. Citizens: Ecuador Updates Entry Requirements for Galapagos - U.S. Embassy & Consulate in Ecuador \(usembassy.gov\)](#)

Topside Attractions – The Charles Darwin Station with be tour with a guide, the location of on-going research and conservation project will allow you to see the turtle rehabilitation efforts, and a deep dive into the on-going important ecological preservation. You will even find some chocolate turtles at Chololapagos, delicious chocolate art made with Ecuadorian National Cocoa. The Cacao and Coffee Plantation is where you will see the coffee grown in the volcanic soil, see how it is collected, dried and you can even buy your own bag of coffee to take home. Visit La Viña and discover the flavor and aroma of 100% organic coffee that is processed in an artisanal way, achieving the Galapagos designation of origin seal, distinguished by its acidity. A cliff top walk on Isla Plazas, where you will spot tons of iguanas and have an excellent vantage point to watch the red billed tropic birds and pelicans.

Visibility & Dive Conditions – Galapagos diving conditions can be challenging. Currents are moderate to strong and may require you to grab hold of rocks below the surface so



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you don't drift away. Surges may create difficulties during your safety stops. The average visibility is 10 - 21m (30 - 70ft), but can be less.

You must be at least an advanced diver for this location.

Water Temperature – The water temperature varies during the year.

December to June:

from 70°F (21°C) to 80°F (27°C)

July to November:

from 65°F (18°C) to 75°F (23°C)

Weather - While average temperatures range from high 80's (°F) to the mid 60's (°F) throughout the year, the two Galapagos seasons are mostly determined by trade winds and ocean currents.

The *cool* and *misty* season, known as the “Dry Season”, features cooler temperatures, misty foggy highlands, and arid landscapes in the lowlands. The *warm/rainy* season, also known as the “Wet Season”, offers tropical warmer temperatures and periodic rains that transform the islands with lush and green from sea level to the highlands.

Featured Creatures – Hammerheads, sealions, the Galapagos black tip sharks, mola mola, whale sharks, bluefoot boobie, the Galapagos dragons, and the Galapagos turtles.

