TRIP ITINERARY

A WWF Sailing Voyage to the Galápagos Islands
With Karen Douthwaite, WWF-US Oceans Lead Specialist

April 15–24, 2022
Six hundred miles off the coast of Ecuador lie the volcanic Galápagos Islands, named for the giant tortoises that are among its most noted inhabitants. This archipelago is “a little world within itself” where blue-footed boobies, marine iguanas, and Galápagos penguins all shuffle beside us, unconcerned by human presence. Almost synonymous with Darwin, these islands are a symbol not only of change (evolution), but also of wildlife conservation.

Join WWF Experts for an insider exploration of these enchanted islands while aboard the spacious Nemo III. We sail throughout the island chain, docking for relaxing beach walks, snorkeling opportunities, panga rides, and hikes with wildlife viewings at every turn. We will also visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, established by WWF in 1962 as one of WWF’s earliest priority places, and have the chance to spend the night at a private giant tortoise camp for extra time with these ancient animals.

The island that was once home only to wildlife now welcomes 160,000 tourists annually and houses 30,000 people. For over 10 years, WWF worked to develop an effective waste management system on the islands and campaigned to educate inhabitants about recycling. WWF also helped establish the surrounding marine reserve encompassing 50,000 square miles which helps protect marine wildlife like sea lions, sea turtles, and tropical fish.

**ITINERARY AT A GLANCE** 10 Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Accommodation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>April 15</td>
<td>Quito, Ecuador</td>
<td>Patio Andaluz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>April 16</td>
<td>Exploring Historic Quito</td>
<td>Patio Andaluz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Quito / Baltra, Galápagos Islands / North Seymour</td>
<td>S/C Nemo III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Isla Lobos / Kicker Rock / San Cristobal—Cerro Brujo</td>
<td>S/C Nemo III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Española—Gardner Bay / Punta Suarez</td>
<td>S/C Nemo III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>April 20</td>
<td>Floreana—Punta Cormorant / Post Office Bay</td>
<td>S/C Nemo III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Santa Cruz—Tortuga Bay / Nat Hab’s Tortoise Camp</td>
<td>Natural Habitat’s Tortoise Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>April 22</td>
<td>Santa Cruz Highlands / Darwin Station / Santa Fe</td>
<td>S/C Nemo III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Bartolome / Sombrero Chino</td>
<td>S/C Nemo III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Mosquera / Baltra / Quito / Depart</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ITINERARY IN DETAIL

Day 1, April 15: Quito, Ecuador

Upon arrival at the airport in Quito, you are met by our local representative and transferred to Quito’s colonial Old Town, about an hour away. Settle in at our luxury boutique hotel in the heart of the historic district and enjoy dinner at your leisure at one of Quito’s many fine restaurants. *Overnight Patio Andaluz*

Day 2, April 16: Exploring Historic Quito

After breakfast, embark on a full day of discovery in Ecuador’s historic capital. Heralded as Latin America’s most well-preserved colonial city, Quito’s Old Town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site filled with cobblestone lanes, grand plazas and monuments, and ornate gilded churches and monasteries. Take in a sweeping view of the city and surrounding volcanic peaks from the overlook Panecillo Hill, then visit the 16th-century Church and Convent of San Francisco and neighboring San Francisco Square. Make a brief exploration of the Casa del Alabado Museum, a private archaeological collection of pre-Columbian artifacts dating back to Ecuador’s oldest indigenous cultures. Marvel at the baroque splendor of La Compañía Church with its gleaming gold-leaf interior, and visit Independence Plaza, the original center of Quito from which we view the Archbishop’s Palace, Cathedral, and Presidential Palace. Along the way, we’ll stop for a lunch of Ecuadorian food served with a contemporary twist. Spend the afternoon at leisure in the city or visiting traditional workshops along La Ronda, one of Quito’s oldest streets, where the artisans making everything from hats to wooden toys to chocolate. This evening join one of your Expedition Leaders, WWF hosts, and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner. *Overnight Patio Andaluz*  *(B,L,D)*

Day 3, April 17: Quito / Baltra, Galápagos Islands / North Seymour

Rise early for the return transfer to Quito airport, where we board our flight to the Galápagos Islands this morning. Our second Expedition Leader meets us as we land on the island of Baltra, where WWF, in conjunction with the private sector and Ecuadorian Government, helped establish the Baltra fuel handling...
facility to prevent fuel spills around the Galápagos. We then transfer to the jetty to board the Nemo III. This deluxe motor-sailing catamaran will be our home base for the next week as we cruise among the islands. Our first landing awaits on North Seymour, a small geological uplift where we follow a trail that leads us to swallow-tailed gulls, blue-footed boobies, and endemic land iguanas. North Seymour is also home to the largest colony of magnificent frigatebirds in the Galápagos. Strolling along the beach, we’re likely to see marine iguanas and sea lions in the northerly swells. Back aboard the Nemo III, our Expedition Leaders offer a briefing about tomorrow’s activities, followed by sunset cocktails and dinner.
*Overnight S/C Nemo III (B,L,D)*

**Day 4, April 18: Isla Lobos / Kicker Rock / San Cristobal—Cerro Brujo**

On Isla Lobos this morning, our adventures begin with a walk over the rocks to look for blue-footed boobies, nesting frigatebirds, and endemic lava lizards from San Cristobal. Returning to our catamaran, don snorkel gear for a shallow-water swim with the resident sea lion colony and marine iguanas, followed by a short ride by panga (motorized inflatable raft) along the shoreline to look at a frigatebird colony. This afternoon we land at Cerro Brujo, or “Wizard Hill.” This ancient volcanic tuff cone on San Cristobal sits next to an expanse of powdery white sand that’s home to a large colony of Galápagos sea lions as well as blue-footed boobies, pelicans, egrets, and marine iguanas. After a walk on the beach to scout for sea lions, we have a chance to swim with them, too. At every turn, our discoveries are enhanced by the in-depth knowledge of our Expedition Leaders, who are expert naturalists on the flora and fauna of the Galápagos.

Back aboard the Nemo III once more, sail on to Kicker Rock, a dramatic volcanic tuff cone that rises 300 feet above the ocean’s surface. Circumnavigating the rock, look for marine life as we watch the sun sink below the horizon.
*Overnight S/C Nemo III (B,L,D)*

For reservations and additional information, please contact Court Whelan at Natural Habitat Adventures at 888-993-8687, (Int’l) 303-449-3711 or courtw@nathab.com
Day 5, April 19: Española—Gardner Bay / Punta Suarez

Española is one of the most prolific wildlife sites in the Galápagos. Along the island’s north shore this morning, follow a cliff formed by eroded cinder cones and layers of old basalt where we observe giant cacti and many different bird species. Next, we do some deep-water snorkeling at one of the offshore islets in Gardner Bay, looking for abundant tropical fish, rays, and marine turtles. Ashore, an idyllic white sand beach awaits, where sea lions laze by the dozens and Pacific green sea turtles frequent the rocky part of the shoreline. Return to our catamaran for lunch aboard as we sail to Punta Suarez. Hiking on the headlands, we witness abundant birdlife, hoping to see Hood mocking-birds, blue-footed boobies, nesting swallow-tailed gulls, and Galápagos hawks. Española is also the world’s main nesting site for the huge waved albatross, with a wingspan of 7-8 feet.

Overnight S/C Nemo III  (B,L,D)

Day 6, April 20: Floreana—Punta Cormorant / Post Office Bay

This morning we land at Punta Cormorant on Floreana, one of the few populated islands in the Galápagos. Following a trail through a Palo Santo forest to a brackish lagoon, look for pintail ducks, common stilts, and bright pink flamingos. As we wind our way past a wide variety of plants, we reach a beach of fine sand where sea turtles lay eggs in the dunes and rays swim in the shallow water. Back aboard ship, we sail a short distance to Champion Islet just offshore, one of the best drift-snorkel spots in the Galápagos. As the current floats us past the steep walls of this submerged volcanic crater, we spy large schools of fish and bright corals as we’re followed by playful young sea lions. Floreana’s rich cultural history is filled with intrigue, including tales of pirates who once hid out here. One relic of this colorful past is the “Post Office Barrel,” established by British whalers in 1793, where travelers still
leave mail for personal delivery via visitors passing through. After a short snorkel to look for sea turtles, we paddle around the mangrove-lined shores of Post Office Bay where large bull sea lions patrol the rocky terrain and reddish-colored marine iguanas bask near the tree cacti.

*Overnight S/C Nemo III   (B,L,D)*

**Day 7, April 21: Santa Cruz—Darwin Station / Natural Habitat’s Tortoise Camp**

Santa Cruz is our destination this morning. Begin with a visit to Puerto Ayora, the main town on Santa Cruz where WWF, in conjunction with the Ecuadorian Government, helped established the island’s waste management and recycling center. We will visit the world-famous giant tortoise-rearing center at the Charles Darwin Research Station. Here, international scientists conduct research dedicated to conserving the unique habitats and species of the Galápagos. At the facility, visit the protection pens where hatchlings are bred to help increase depleted tortoise populations, a central mission for both the research station and Galápagos National Park. To date, more than 5,000 tortoises bred at the station have been released into the wild.

After some time to explore town, followed by lunch back on board the boat, we ascend into the misty highlands of Santa Cruz to reach Nat Hab’s private Tortoise Camp. This exclusive setting offers a rare opportunity to spend a night in wild tortoise habitat, and these ancient, gentle reptiles that are the archipelago’s namesake often wander right through camp. Accommodations are in safari-style raised platform tents and treehouses with views of the ocean. While rustic, they offer comfortable amenities, including real beds and private en suite facilities. But the real treat of a stay here is our proximity to wild tortoises, which are attracted to the area’s lush vegetation. They are most commonly seen in camp

For reservations and additional information, please contact Court Whelan at Natural Habitat Adventures at 888-993-8687, (Int’l) 303-449-3711 or courtw@nathab.com
from July through February. From March to June, we make an excursion to a nearby tortoise reserve for closer views, as they migrate seasonally to a lower elevation.

**Overnight Nat Hab’s Private Tortoise Camp**  (B,L,D)

**Day 8, April 22: Santa Cruz Highlands / Santa Fe**

Spend the morning exploring a network of subterranean lava tubes and caverns adjacent to Tortoise Camp. Returning to Nemo III, we’ll have lunch aboard and sail for Santa Fe. On a short hike through a forest of prickly pear cacti, look for the endemic land iguanas that wait patiently underneath for fruit to drop. Returning to our catamaran, we explore a small islet surrounded by great reef diversity, then set out for a cruise along the north coast. Along this expanse, large cliffs and sea caves are used by many species of marine birds for nesting and roosting—as well as by basking green sea turtles and sea lions.

**Overnight S/C Nemo III**  (B,L,D)

**Day 9, April 23: Bartolome / Sombrero Chino**

Sail on to Bartolome and climb to the island’s highest point for 360-degree views, passing intriguing geological formations along the path, including spatter cones, tuff cones, and lava tubes. From the summit, a panorama unfolds of the surrounding islands and Pinnacle Rock, famously shown in the 2003 film Master and Commander. Some of the best snorkeling in the Galápagos awaits around the base of this ancient submerged volcano. It’s an underwater playground that’s home to huge schools of fish permanently under attack by Galápagos penguins. Gentle white-tipped reef sharks, sea turtles, and stingrays are also common sightings. Over lunch, cruise to nearby Sombrero Chino, which really does look like a Chinese hat! A panga ride through the Bainbridge Rocks, shaped like a string of floating mushroom tops, reveals more of the Galápagos’ fascinating marine life. Members of the resident penguin colony may join us on a final snorkel in the channel. Back on board, it’s time for cocktails and our farewell dinner.

**Overnight S/C Nemo III**  (B,L,D)

For reservations and additional information, please contact Court Whelan at Natural Habitat Adventures at 888-993-8687, (Int’l) 303-449-3711 or courtw@nathab.com
Day 10, April 24: Mosquera / Baltra / Quito / Depart

This morning’s adventure will depend upon sea conditions. If tides permit, we may opt to land on Mosquera, a tiny islet that’s home to a huge population of sea lions, as well as many shorebirds. Or we may take a panga ride in search of fur seals lounging on the rocks along North Seymour.

All too soon, our time in the Enchanted Isles comes to a close as we say goodbye to the Nemo III, her crew and our Expedition Leaders. From Baltra, we board our flight to the mainland. Upon arrival at the Quito airport, travelers departing on overnight flights may choose to transfer to a hotel located just minutes away, for a relaxed layover in a comfortable day room. A complimentary shuttle will return you to the airport in time for your evening flight.

(B)

Please note: The itinerary provided is meant as a guideline and is subject to change without notice. On rare occasions, it may be necessary to deviate from our regular itinerary for reasons beyond our control. In these instances, we will provide the best available alternative.

Meet Our Expert

Karen Douthwaite, WWF-US Oceans Lead Specialist

Karen manages a portfolio focused on the conservation and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems including mangroves and coral reefs. Since joining WWF in 2008, she has worked to advance marine and fisheries conservation efforts in multiple geographies in Latin America, including supporting WWF’s efforts in the Galápagos to strengthen management of the National Park and the Marine Reserve and improve waste management. Prior to coming to WWF, Karen was a Program Officer with the Andes-Amazon Initiative of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. She holds an M.S. in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development from the University of Maryland and a B.S. in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia.
What to Expect and Physical Requirements

This trip requires a moderate level of activity. Our Galápagos adventures feature a full agenda each day, with early mornings and long days filled with various activities. Activities primarily include island walks, swimming, and snorkeling. Trails are often rough and uneven, crossing sharp lava fields and loose rocks and gravel. Walking over slippery rocks is sometimes necessary when stepping ashore. Passengers must be able to walk a minimum of two miles to participate in this trip, walk up and down stairs, and be able to get in and out of motorized pangas (rigid inflatable rafts), which can be very unsteady in rough water. A few wet landings, where we disembark from the panga directly into the water and walk up onto the beach, are required. Itineraries that feature a visit to Bartolome include a walk with more than 300 wooden steps to reach the viewpoint at the top of the island and itineraries that visit Española include a 2-mile hike on a trail made of primarily lava and rock. Snorkeling is a big component of this trip, with excursions offered nearly every day, sometimes twice a day. While no snorkeling experience is required, prior practice is recommended, and travelers should be comfortable swimming in moderate currents and in deep water where you can see the bottom but cannot stand up. Our Expedition Leaders will also offer instruction for those in need of additional snorkeling guidance. Travelers are not required to participate in every activity.

Elevation in Quito: Please note that on most departures, our first two nights are spent in Quito at an elevation of 9,300 feet. The relative lack of oxygen at this elevation may manifest in altitude-sickness symptoms that can include headaches, dizziness, tiredness, and nausea during the first few hours or days spent at elevation. Hydration and rest usually help symptoms to resolve, though participants may wish to talk with their doctor about taking along a prescription for a medication such as Diamox to better manage potential physical reactions to high altitude.

April is one of the best months to visit the Galápagos. It is near the end of warm and wet season, but rains will begin to end. Warmer water and calmer seas allowed more comfortable and less choppy cruising. In April, flowers will begin to blossom, making for some colorful landscapes on the islands. Wildlife is abundant as land iguanas and sea turtles are hatching. Temperatures range from average highs of 86°F during the day to average lows of 72°F at night. Quito is cooler in April with average temperatures ranging from 66°F to 49°F.
Accommodations

Patio Andaluz
Located in the heart of Quito Antiguo, the city’s beautifully preserved colonial Old Town, this boutique hotel—occupying an original 16th-century home—radiates historic charm.

S/C Nemo III
Enjoy an intimate exploration of the Galápagos aboard this 75-foot deluxe motorsailing catamaran, with a classic, sporty style that perfectly complements your island adventure.

The S/C Nemo III accommodates up to 16 guests in eight cabins of varying configurations, though we cap our trip at approximately 14 guests for a more comfortable and intimate nature adventure. All cabins are air conditioned and have en suite bathrooms with hot and cold water, plus storage space for personal items. Public spaces include lounge areas inside and out, a dining salon, small bar, and a sundeck with Jacuzzi, banquette seating and lounge chairs. The boat’s crew attends to guests’ every need, including three meals a day plus snacks to energize a daily round of nature pursuits. This sailing vessel is smaller and more simple than our larger motor yachts. It has a classic, sporty style and nimble nature, which perfectly complements the focus of our nature adventures.

Cabin Descriptions
- Cabins 1 and 2 have two twin beds and are approximately 65 sq. ft. Located on the main deck.
- Cabins 3, 4 and 6 have one double bed and an upper twin and are approximately 90 sq. ft. Located on the lower deck.
- Cabin 5 has one double bed and is approximately 90 sq. ft. Located on the lower deck.
- Cabin 7 has two twin beds and is approximately 72 sq. ft. Located on the lower deck at the rear of the ship. This cabin is traditionally reserved for our two Expedition Leaders.
- Cabin 8 has one double bed and is approximately 72 sq. ft. Located on the lower deck at the rear of the ship.

Natural Habitat’s Tortoise Camp
Exclusively for Nat Hab guests! Perched high on a hillside overlooking the Pacific Ocean, our deluxe camp features elevated safari-style tents and treehouses set amid native habitat for wild tortoises.
**About WWF Insider Journeys**

This trip is an invitation-only conservation travel program for our closest supporters, along with friends and family, to see firsthand the positive impact World Wildlife Fund is making. These custom-designed journeys are led by WWF experts and offer exclusive opportunities to discover the wildlife and ecosystems we protect; meet community members whose lives are being improved because of our work, and immerse yourself in the worlds of our field staff and partners on the ground. Come explore the best of the natural world and see how together we are making a difference for our planet.

**About Our Travel Partner**

This journey is being arranged by Natural Habitat Adventures of Boulder, Colorado. For more than a decade, WWF has partnered with Nat Hab to take travelers to view nature’s greatest sights. WWF selected Natural Habitat as its partner because of its long-standing commitment to conservation and the exceptional quality of its adventures.

**Reservation Information & Trip Details**

For reservations and additional information, please contact Court Whelan at Natural Habitat Adventures at 888-993-8687, (Int’l) 303-449-3711 or courtw@nathab.com.

**DATES:** April 15–24, 2022  
**GROUP SIZE:** Limited to 12 guests  
**LAND COST:**  
- Cabin Category 1: $7995 to $8995 (+internal air)*  
- Cabin Category 2: $8695 to $9695 (+internal air)*  
- Cabin Category 3: $8995 to $9995 (+internal air)*  

**INTERNAL AIR COST:** $554 per person for adults and $404 per person for children 11 years old and younger (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).*  

**Single Supplement:** For single room add 50% to the trip price.  

**DEPOSIT:** $500 per person (nonrefundable)  

**INCLUDED:** Trip price includes: Accommodations including the Nemo III, Nat Hab’s deluxe private Tortoise Camp and hotel on the mainland, services of Nat Hab’s professional Expedition Leaders, travel costs for your WWF Expert, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through breakfast on final day, local beer and house wine with dinner aboard the Nemo III, snorkeling gear and wetsuit, most gratuities, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes and service fees.

Internal air cost includes: Round-trip flights between Quito and the Galápagos (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).
NOT INCLUDED: Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry and internet, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes (if any), required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

PAYMENTS: A nonrefundable deposit of $500 confirms your space. Payments are accepted by credit card or by check made out to Natural Habitat.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Cancellations must be received in writing at Natural Habitat Adventures by US mail, email or fax. At the time Natural Habitat Adventures receives your written cancellation, the following per person penalties apply: On or before 120 days before the trip: Full refund minus $500 deposit. On or before 60 days before the trip: Forfeit 50% of tour cost. After 60 days before the trip: No refund.

INSURANCE: Since the areas we travel to on this trip are remote and wild (that’s why we go there!), we require medical evacuation insurance for our guests’ safety. If you decline the medical evacuation insurance coverage offered by Natural Habitat Adventures, we request that you send us documentation of the independent coverage you have selected. We will add the cost of a medical evacuation policy to your tour invoice until you provide our office with proof of coverage including your insurance company’s name, contact number and your individual policy number. Thank you for understanding that our policy exists exclusively in the interest of our guests’ safety.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

GETTING THERE & GETTING HOME:
Arrival: Arrive in Quito any time on Day 1.
Departure: You are free to depart from Quito after 9 pm on the final day.

We can best serve you if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, as our staff is intimately familiar with the special requirements of this program and can arrange the most efficient travel. Please call us at 800-543-8917. Note that while we offer you the best possible rates available to us on airfare and additional nights’ accommodations, you may find better fares online.

While adventures are designed specifically for WWF’s closest supporters and enhanced with WWF Experts, exclusive site visits, and enriched content, a minimum number of guests is required to run each trip. To avoid canceling, WWF and Nat Hab may fill unsold spots with WWF and non-WWF members.