



Santa Cruz · Puerto Ayora · Ecuador

Galápagos

Traveler's guide

Base yourself in Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz: giant tortoises, sea lions and marine iguanas, snorkelling and diving, and day trips to islands such as Bartolomé or North Seymour.

The local guides portal of Latin America · www.trekonda.com

Contents

1.	Nature	3
2.	Activities	3
3.	When to go	3
4.	How to get there	3
5.	Experiences	4
6.	Guides	4
7.	Photo gallery	4
8.	Map	5
9.	How to book with a local guide	5

Nature

Puerto Ayora, on the south coast of Santa Cruz island, is the most populated town in the Galápagos and the most practical base for exploring the archipelago, about 1,000 km off the coast of Ecuador and a World Heritage Site since 1978. The volcanic islands are home to species found nowhere else: giant tortoises in the highlands, marine iguanas, sea lions and blue-footed boobies. Where cold and warm currents meet, marine life is exceptional, with sharks, rays and sea turtles. Most sites in the National Park can only be visited with a licensed naturalist guide.



Activities

- Day trips by boat with a naturalist guide to Bartolomé (Pinnacle Rock viewpoint and snorkelling), North Seymour (blue-footed boobies and frigatebirds), South Plaza or Santa Fe
- Diving at Gordon Rocks and other nearby sites, with hammerhead sharks and strong currents, for experienced divers only
- Tortuga Bay, about 2.5 km on foot from town: marine iguanas on the main beach, swimming only in the sheltered cove
- Las Grietas, a volcanic fissure of clear water for swimming and snorkelling, now entered with an accredited guide
- The Santa Cruz highlands: giant tortoises in the wild, lava tunnels and the Los Gemelos craters
- The Charles Darwin Research Station, right in Puerto Ayora, and its tortoise breeding centre, visited with a guide

When to go

The Galápagos can be visited all year. From December to May it is warmer (around 25 °C), the sea is calmer and sunshine alternates with short, heavy showers. June to November is the garúa season: cooler (about 22 °C), overcast skies, drizzle and choppier seas, with colder, nutrient-rich water. Book day trips ahead, as visitor numbers per site are limited.

How to get there

Flights from Quito (UIO) and Guayaquil (GYE) land at Baltra (GPS), 1 h 30 to 2 h from Guayaquil. The Transit Control Card is registered before check-in, and the National Park entry fee is paid on arrival. From Baltra: bus to the Itabaca Channel, a 10-minute barge crossing, then a 30 to 45-minute bus or taxi ride to Puerto Ayora. Public speedboats link Puerto Ayora with Isabela and San Cristóbal in 2 to 3 h.

Activities in this destination

Hiking & trekking · Volcano · Rafting & hydrospeed · Boat trips, kayaking & fishing · Hot springs · Zipline & tree climbing · Canyoning & rappelling · Paragliding · Horseback riding · Snow & snowshoeing · Local & indigenous culture · Nature & photography · Stargazing · Full-day excursions · Food & wine · Family & inclusive · Surfing & bodyboard · Sandboarding & dunes · Cycling & MTB · Climbing & mountaineering · Ice & glaciers · Kitesurfing & windsurfing · Diving & snorkelling · Wildlife & whale watching · City & walking tours

Experiences

No experiences published in Galápagos yet Are you a guide here? Create your free profile and be the first to appear.

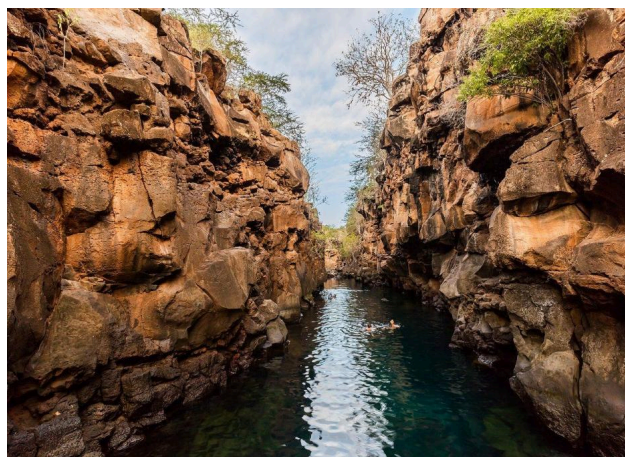
Guides

Are you a guide here? Create your free profile and be the first to appear.

Photo gallery



Puerto de Puerto Ayora · Victor Gleim · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons



Las Grietas, isla Santa Cruz · Diego Delso · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

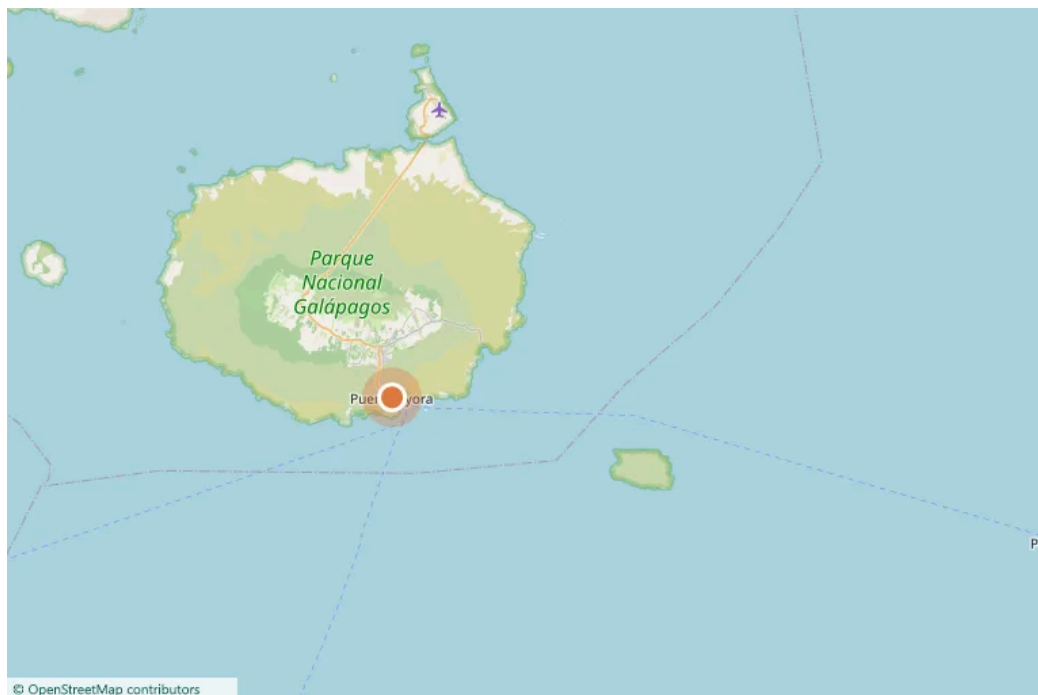


Tortuga gigante de Santa Cruz · Bernard Gagnon · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons



Iguana marina en Tortuga Bay · David Adam Kess · CC BY-SA 3.0 · Wikimedia Commons

Map • Galápagos



-0.7460, -90.3130 • [Directions in Google Maps](#)

How to book with a local guide

Choose your experience → Request your date → Experience Galápagos
Send your request and the guide contacts you directly with availability and price.

<https://www.trekonda.com/en/experiencias/galapagos>

Contact platform: each guide provides the service.