



## **Beyond the Cruise: The Ultimate Galápagos Exploration**

**March 27 - April 3, 2027**



*Photo by Chip Dice*

### **Trip Overview**

This is not a sightseeing trip — it's full immersion into one of the most extraordinary ecosystems on Earth. Over eight unforgettable days, you'll hike across vast volcanic craters, snorkel through lava tunnels alive with sea turtles and reef sharks, kayak alongside marine iguanas and sea lions, and walk among giant tortoises in their natural habitat. From the dramatic rim of Sierra Negra to the turquoise waters of Isabela Island, every day delivers raw beauty and rare wildlife encounters found nowhere else on the planet. Designed for active travelers who want more than a cruise deck view, this journey combines

hands-on exploration, expert guides, seamless logistics, and comfortable accommodations — so you can focus entirely on the experience. If the Galápagos has ever been on your list, this is how you do it.

## Trip highlights:

- **Hike a Giant Volcano** – Trek the rim of Sierra Negra Volcano, one of the largest volcanic craters.
- **Snorkel Lava Tunnels** – Swim with turtles, reef sharks, and rays in the waters of the Galápagos.
- **Kayak with Wildlife** – Explore Tintoreras Islet among sea lions, marine iguanas, and reef sharks.
- **Meet Giant Tortoises** – Visit the famous Charles Darwin Research Station.
- **Discover Isabela Island** – Hike the historic Wall of Tears and relax on pristine beaches.

## Trip Difficulty

This trip involves exploring every day with light hiking, snorkeling, and boating. This is a moderate adventure and you may choose to not do the full hike. Best for those who are fit and active.

B, L, D indicate meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner. This will be noted at the bottom of each day if they are included in the itinerary. Most of the meals are included.

## Application Details

The group is limited to 10-12 participants and two leaders. To register for this trip, apply [online](#). The complete trip price is \$6,990. Payable to Constant Growth/Dee Dice, 35 Pilgrim Drive, Northampton, MA 01060 or via Venmo, available upon request. When registering please send a deposit of \$3,500. Please either copy this [form](#), sign it and send it back with your check OR fill out this [liability waiver on Google Docs](#) as it is a legally binding document. Dee or Chip will contact you to discuss the trip and any further details.

## Daily Itinerary

**Day 0 Friday, March 26, 2027** - Depart the US for this trip.

### **Day 1 Saturday, March 27**

Your journey begins in Quito, where you will be picked up and warmly welcomed at the airport. From there, we transfer to the elegant and tranquil neighborhood of Cumbayá — known for its safety, charm, and upscale ambiance.

You'll settle into a comfortable three- or four-star hotel and enjoy a relaxing welcome dinner. This first evening is designed for you to unwind, connect with fellow travelers, and prepare for the extraordinary days ahead. We will have an informal meeting to orient everyone. D

## Day 2 Sunday, March 28

After a restful night, we rise early and fly together to the legendary Galápagos Islands, famously known as the *Enchanted Islands* for their mystique and otherworldly beauty.



*Photo by Chip Dice*

Upon landing at Baltra Airport, the adventure begins. A local guide will meet us and take us across the scenic Itabaca Channel to Puerto Ayora, where we check into our hotel and enjoy a fresh local lunch. Our first immersive experience takes us to the Charles Darwin Research Station, home to the iconic giant tortoises. Here, you'll gain insight into one of the world's most important ecosystems and the conservation efforts that protect it. This is not just a visit — it's an introduction to the global significance of the Galápagos Islands, a living natural laboratory found nowhere else on Earth. B,L,D



*Photo by Chip Dice*

### **Day 3 Monday, March 29**

We board a speedboat for a scenic two-hour crossing to Isabela Island, the largest and one of the most breathtaking islands in the archipelago. Keep your eyes on the horizon — dolphins, manta rays, sea turtles, and even orcas may accompany us. In Puerto Villamil, a laid-back coastal village framed by white sand beaches and turquoise waters, we check into our hotel before heading out for our first hike.

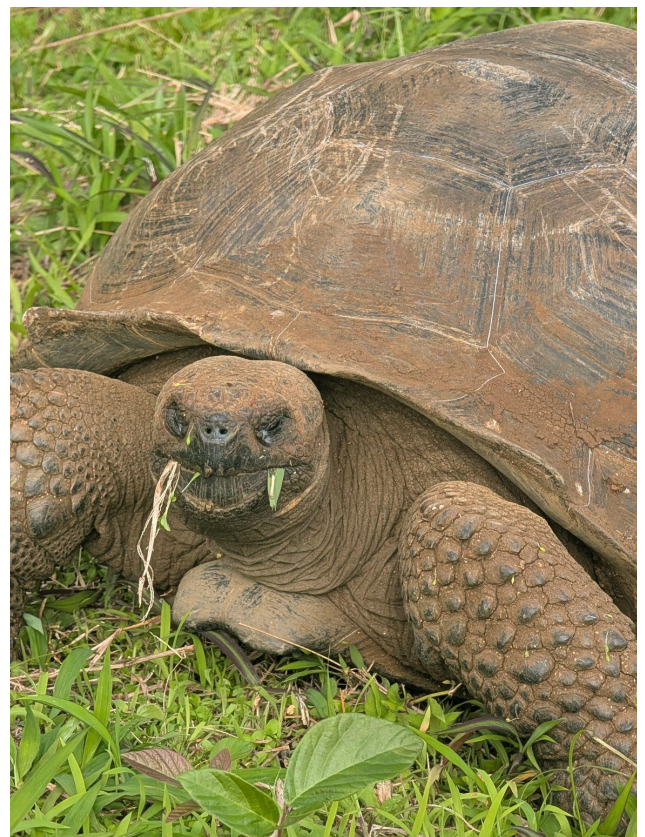
Our first hike, to the Wall of Tears, is two hours each way and is easy and gravel-based. It is a powerful historical site built by prisoners when Isabela Island served as a penal colony. Along the way, we pass lagoons, lava landscapes, and dramatic viewpoints overlooking the Pacific. The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy — swim in crystalline waters, stroll the endless beach, or relax in a hammock as marine iguanas bask nearby. B,L,D

### **Day 4 Tuesday, March 30**

No journey to the Galápagos is complete without entering its legendary waters. We travel by boat for one hour to the stunning lava tunnels, one of the most unique marine environments in the islands. Slipping into the warm, clear water, you'll snorkel among sea turtles, reef sharks, rays, and vibrant tropical fish. The biodiversity here is extraordinary — it feels like swimming inside a nature documentary. The afternoon offers time to savor the rhythm of island life once more. B,L,D

### **Day 5 Wednesday, March 31**

Today we explore one of the most spectacular geological formations on the planet: Sierra Negra Volcano, home to one of the largest volcanic craters in the world. Standing at the rim, you'll witness vast lava fields stretching to the horizon — a landscape that feels lunar and primeval. Those seeking a deeper adventure continue onward to Volcán Chico, an active geothermal area where steaming vents and surreal lava formations create an unforgettable setting. This 10-mile trek (5–6 hours) is both invigorating and awe-inspiring — a rare opportunity to walk across living geology. Hiking just to Sierra Negra is possible for a shorter, 5-mile hiking experience. Afterward, we return to Isabela's beach for well-earned relaxation. B,L,D



*Photo by Chip Dice*

## Day 6 Thursday, April 1

For bird and nature lovers, we take a boat to visit **Tortuga Island**, where dramatic cliffs provide nesting sites for a variety of seabirds—an excellent opportunity for wildlife viewing and photography.

We then continue to **Lobería Grande**, one of the area's best snorkeling spots in the Galápagos. Here you may swim alongside sea lions, sea turtles, rays, and colorful tropical fish in the clear waters of the Galápagos marine reserve. This full-day excursion will be approximately 5 hours. B,L,D



*Photo by Chip Dice*

## Day 7 Friday, April 2

This morning we explore by kayak along the calm waters of Puerto Villamil, approaching Tintorerías Islet — one of the most iconic wildlife sites in the Galápagos. Here, marine iguanas sprawl across black lava rock, sea lions glide effortlessly through the water, and white-tip reef sharks rest in crystal-clear channels. With luck, you may even spot the elusive Galápagos penguin. This is intimate wildlife viewing at its finest — quiet, immersive, and unforgettable. After lunch, we return to Santa Cruz Island, check into our hotel, and enjoy free time to explore the area before our farewell evening together. B,L,D

## Day 8 Saturday, April 3

We rise early for our flight back to Quito, carrying with us memories of pristine ecosystems, volcanic landscapes, and wildlife encounters unlike anywhere else on Earth. Arriving in the afternoon, transport will take us back to Cumbayá and you will have time to explore the neighborhood and have dinner on your own. B,L

## Accommodations, Guides, Meals, and Transportation

- Four-star hotels and accommodations are based on **double occupancy**.
- The Galápagos requires a local, certified guide for the entire time you are on the island. We will also have an outfitter who will travel with us.
- All breakfasts and lunches are included as well as seven out of eight dinners in local restaurants featuring regional specialties. The one remaining dinner on our last evening in Cumbayá is at one's own expense.
- All transportation internal to the trip is included. This includes boat, kayak, bus and air transfers between Quito and the Galápagos Islands.

## Weather

March in the Galápagos is hot, sunny, and humid, falling in the middle of the warm/wet season. Expect daily high temperatures between 75-85° F with occasional, brief afternoon rain showers. Water temperatures average around 77°F making it excellent for snorkeling, while the landscape is lush and green. [Check the local weather here.](#)

## Trip Price

The complete trip price is \$6,990, payable to CONSTANT GROWTH INC., Dee Dice, 35 Pilgrim Drive, Northampton, MA 01060 or via Venmo, available upon request.

### What's Included:

- Certified naturalist guides from the Galápagos National Park Directorate
- Round-trip domestic flights between Quito and the Galápagos Islands
- Galápagos entry fees, permits, and required taxes
- Seven nights of accommodation in quality three or four-star hotels in Cumbayá (near Quito) and the Galápagos
- Double-occupancy rooms
- All transportation, including boat transfers throughout the itinerary
- All necessary equipment for snorkeling and kayaking activities
- Daily hotel breakfasts
- Most lunches and dinners as outlined in the itinerary
- Tips and gratuities for guides, drivers, and hotel staff

### What's Not Included:

- Alcoholic beverages
- Additional meals not specified in the itinerary
- Personal expenses and special room requests
- Dinner on the final evening in Quito / Cumbayá
- International flights to and from Ecuador
- Travel insurance (recommended)

## Participant Expectation

Participants should be physically capable of participating in the activities described in this itinerary. Participants should also remember that this is a group trip with inclusive group activities.

## Cancellation Policy

Until the trip is confirmed to run on schedule, you may cancel with a full refund of your trip deposit. When the trip is confirmed, (we will notify you by email) your check will be deposited and the cancellation policy will be in effect.

Cancellations made before November 27, 2026 receive 75% of the total paid above deposit.

Cancellations made between December 27, 2026, and January 27, 2027 receive 50% of the total paid above deposit.

Cancellations made after January 27, 2027 receive no refund unless a substitute person is found.

## Terms, Conditions, and General Information

As part of traveling with Constant Growth Travel and Dee Dice, all participants need to carry their own travel insurance and sign the insurance waiver, as stated above.

We can refer you to several reputable travel insurance companies we have used previously, or you can do your own research at [insuremytrip.com](https://insuremytrip.com). We do not have any affiliation with them.

## Trip Leadership



**Dee Dice** - I am an Adventure travel leader with Appalachian Mountain Club and have created my own travel business Constant Growth Adventures. My previous trips include Glacier National Park, Baja Mexico, Peru, Germany, Austria, Spain, Nepal, Croatia and Morocco. [I am currently planning trips to Japan, Croatia and several other places. Check out my website.](#) Armed with SOLO Advanced Wilderness First Aid and CPR certifications, my passion for adventure is only matched by my commitment to safety. I have been studying Spanish for several years and hope to use it on this trip.

Contact Dee: 508-566-9565 [deedice29@gmail.com](mailto:deedice29@gmail.com)



**Chip Dice, Dee's brother**, is a Carolina Mountain Club hike leader who leads hikes in the Blue Ridge and surrounding mountains. He belongs to the Blue Ridge Cycling Club, skis, scuba dives, and loves to travel. He has led a trip to the Karwendel Alps and to the Dolomites with Dee and her business. He went to the Galápagos in 2023 and worked with this outfitter. He is the inspiration for this trip.

Contact Chip at 203-733-8660 or [chipdice@gmail.com](mailto:chipdice@gmail.com)