

PROJECTS ABROAD.

Conservation & Community Work
in the

Galapagos

Immerse yourself in the island's culture
and wildlife with other
volunteers over 50

13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW
WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS

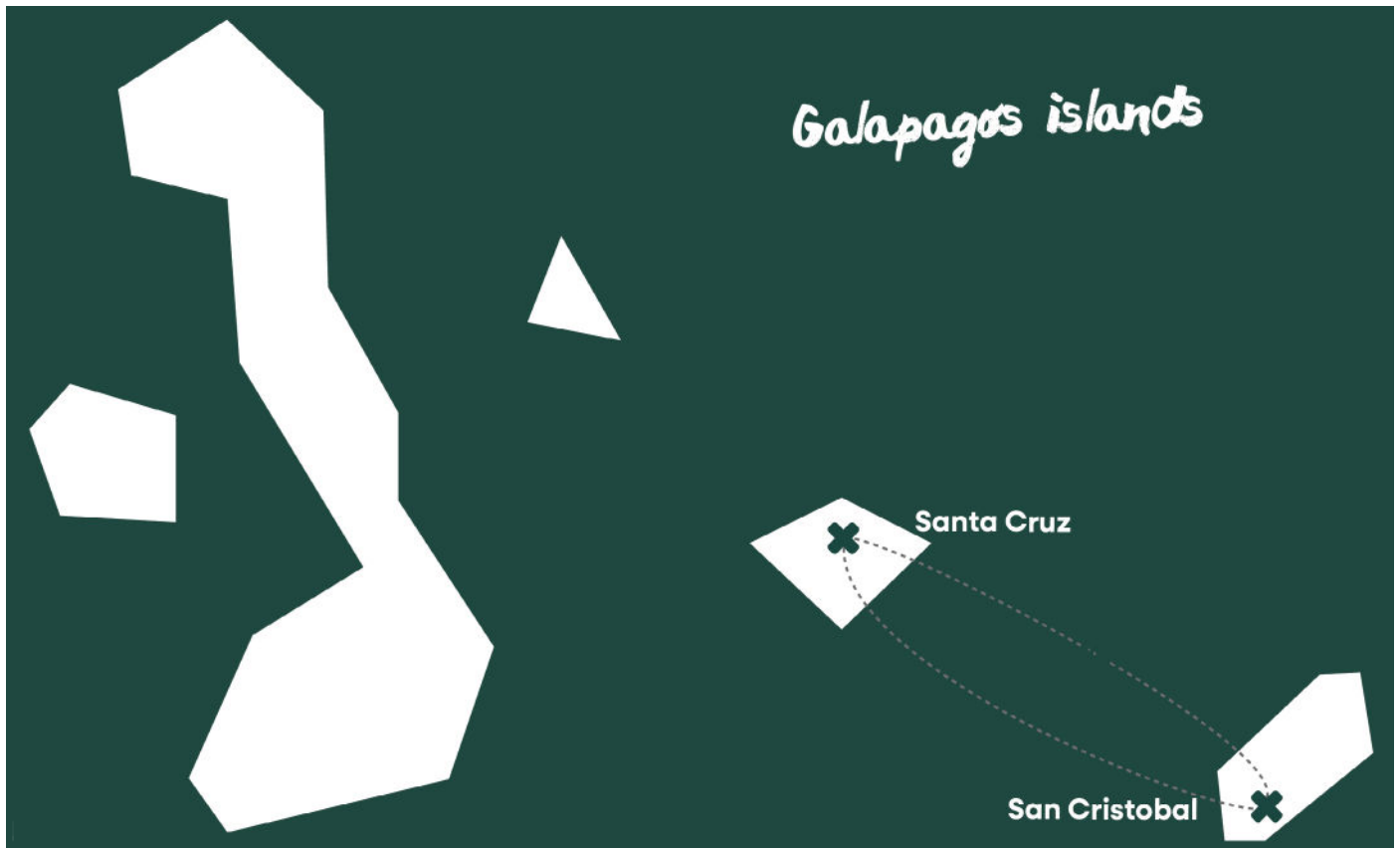


Certified



Corporation

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



Trip highlights:

- ➔ Protect the Galapagos Giant Tortoise with exclusive access to the national park.
- ➔ Run fun and engaging lessons for children at a community centre.
- ➔ Experience the island's history and laid-back lifestyle with a traditional dance lesson, visit to Tortuga Bay, a tour of the Interpretation Centre and the Charles Darwin Research Station, as well as some time to relax on the beach
- ➔ Share your knowledge and experience with the community and learn from a different culture.

 **LENGTH**
14 Days

 **ASSISTANCE**
24/7

 **TRANSPORT**
Boat

 **ACCOMMODATION**
Hotel (private rooms)

 **SERVICE**
40 hours

Overview

The following is included in the cost of your trip (subject to change).



Service Work

Conservation

- Tortoise breeding centre
- Feed Giant Tortoises
- Enclosures maintenance
- Conduct sea lion surveys
- Survey sea birds and marine iguanas
- Remove invasive plant species
- Plant and look after indigenous flora
- Play and walk with shelter dogs
- Clean-up the coastline

Community

- Run lessons at a community centre
- Design and paint a wall mural
- Play with children

Food/Accommodation

- Three meals/day (all diets catered for)
- Drinking water
- Hotel (private rooms)

Culture & Leisure

- Charles Darwin Research Station tour
- El Chato tortoise reserve visit
- Tortuga Bay swim
- Traditional dance lesson
- Visit the island Interpretation Centre
- Snorkelling at Loberia beach
- Explore San Cristobal

Logistics

- Airport transfers in the Galapagos
- Orientation and tour of San Cristobal
- Travel in country
- Pre-departure support
- 24/7 support from local staff
- Emergency assistance

Protect the Galapagos' Giant Tortoise with exclusive access to the national park

Gain exclusive access to the Galapagos National Park, working directly alongside expert conservationists to protect some of the planet's most remarkable species. You will step behind the scenes to actively preserve the fragile habitats of giant tortoises and iconic sea lions. It is the perfect opportunity to combine your passion for wildlife with meaningful volunteer work.



Days 1



Arrival

You will be greeted by our local team at San Cristobal Airport before being transferred to your host family. Once you are settled in, get familiar with your surroundings on a guided tour of your new neighbourhood, which also offers a great opportunity to pick up some snacks and travel essentials.

To conclude your first day on the island, you will join our staff for a comprehensive project induction to review your schedule, learn about the local culture, and ask any questions you may have before starting your conservation work the following day.



Habitat restoration & wildlife monitoring

Over the week, help conservationists protect the fragile local ecosystem through vital reforestation initiatives, involving removing invasive plant species and working at a plant nursery to transplant saplings of indigenous species; and a beach clean-up to clear rubbish from the coast. You will also learn more about invasive animal species and community efforts to control populations as you visit a dog shelter, and walk and play with its residents.

At the tortoise breeding centre, you will provide support to the staff, maintaining the enclosures and getting the exclusive opportunity to feed the tortoise with otoy plants you cut and collected the previous day. To deepen your understanding of the islands' distinct ecological challenges, you will also attend an insightful conservation lecture.

You will also step into the role of a researcher by supporting local wildlife monitoring efforts. Observe and gather data on iconic Galapagos species in their natural habitats, tracking the behaviour of marine iguanas, giant tortoises, and sea lions. On Day 5, you'll rise early to conduct a rewarding sea lion survey, counting populations across different local beaches.

Beyond your fieldwork, you will immerse yourself in local culture through a range of activities organised by our team. Discover the town's hidden gems, loosen up during a traditional dance class, and enjoy free time to relax on the beach or go for a swim.





Day 7-8



SLEEP
Hotel



TRAVEL
2 hours
each way

Weekend trip to Santa Cruz

After a week of rewarding hard work, embark on a scenic boat journey across turquoise waters for a weekend excursion to Santa Cruz Island.

Once checked into your accommodation, set out to the El Chato Tortoise Reserve to witness older giant tortoises roaming freely in the wild, and discover formations of stalactites and stalagmites as you explore an underground lava tunnel.

In the afternoon, visit the world-renowned Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about historic giant tortoise breeding programmes.

On Sunday, head to the iconic Tortuga Bay for a beautiful morning by the water, where you can swim alongside sea turtles and marine iguanas. In the afternoon, you will board the speedboat to travel back to San Cristobal.

Community engagement & education

Start your week by learning how to prepare and run engaging educational sessions. To help facilitate your interactions with community members, you will also participate in a practical Spanish language lesson.

In the afternoon, you will head to the community centre to meet the local children, play interactive games, and deliver engaging lessons.





Days 10-12

 **SLEEP**
Hotel

 **TRAVEL**
Minimal

Conservation & community

This week, you will take part in targeted coastal cleanups to protect marine life from plastic pollution before enjoying a swim in the sea. Head back to the tortoise breeding centre and the dog shelter, and combine environmental work with community outreach, helping to lead fun, interactive educational activities at a community centre.

To help raise awareness about sustainability among the island's younger generation and ensure your efforts last long after you leave, you will also design and paint a mural in town about environmental issues.



Day 13



SLEEP
Hotel

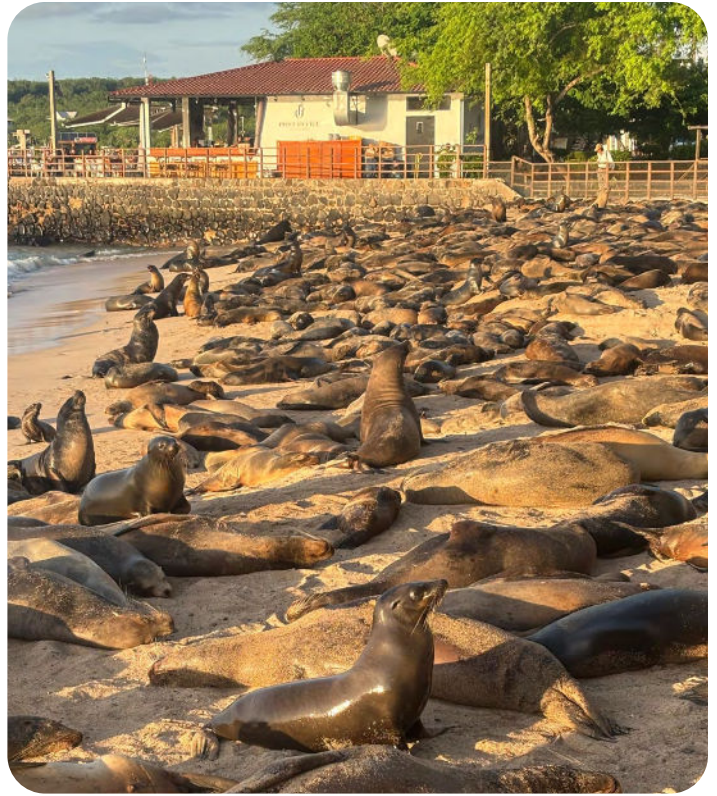


TRAVEL
Minimal

History and snorkelling

On Friday, learn more about the history of the Galapagos Islands in their natural, human, and conservation contexts at the Interpretation Centre.

In the afternoon, discover life below the waterline with a snorkelling session at Loberia beach, famous for its large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, and Galapagos green turtles.



Departure

Group members will likely be departing at different times, so your last day may not be the same for everyone. Your exact departure plan will be communicated with you directly before you leave.

Enjoy the continued support of Projects Abroad staff right until you are safely at the airport to board your plane back home.



Destination

The Galapagos Islands are a “living laboratory” and world-famous biodiversity hotspot. Located 1,000km (620mi) west of mainland Ecuador, their isolation has resulted in unique species found nowhere else on earth. A real “Bucket List” destination.

With no natural predators, the animals show almost no fear of humans. Get ready for up-close encounters with incredible creatures like Galapagos Giant Tortoises, Marine Iguanas, and Blue-footed Boobies.

LANGUAGE

Spanish

CURRENCY

US Dollar

NATIONAL DISH

Encebollado

POPULATION

25,000

TIMEZONE

GMT -6

NATIONAL ANIMAL

Giant Tortoise

CAPITAL

San Cristobal

COUNTRY CODE

+593

NATIONAL BIRD

Andean Condor

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**The kind of travel
that stays with you.**



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Conservation & Community | Galapagos

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