

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

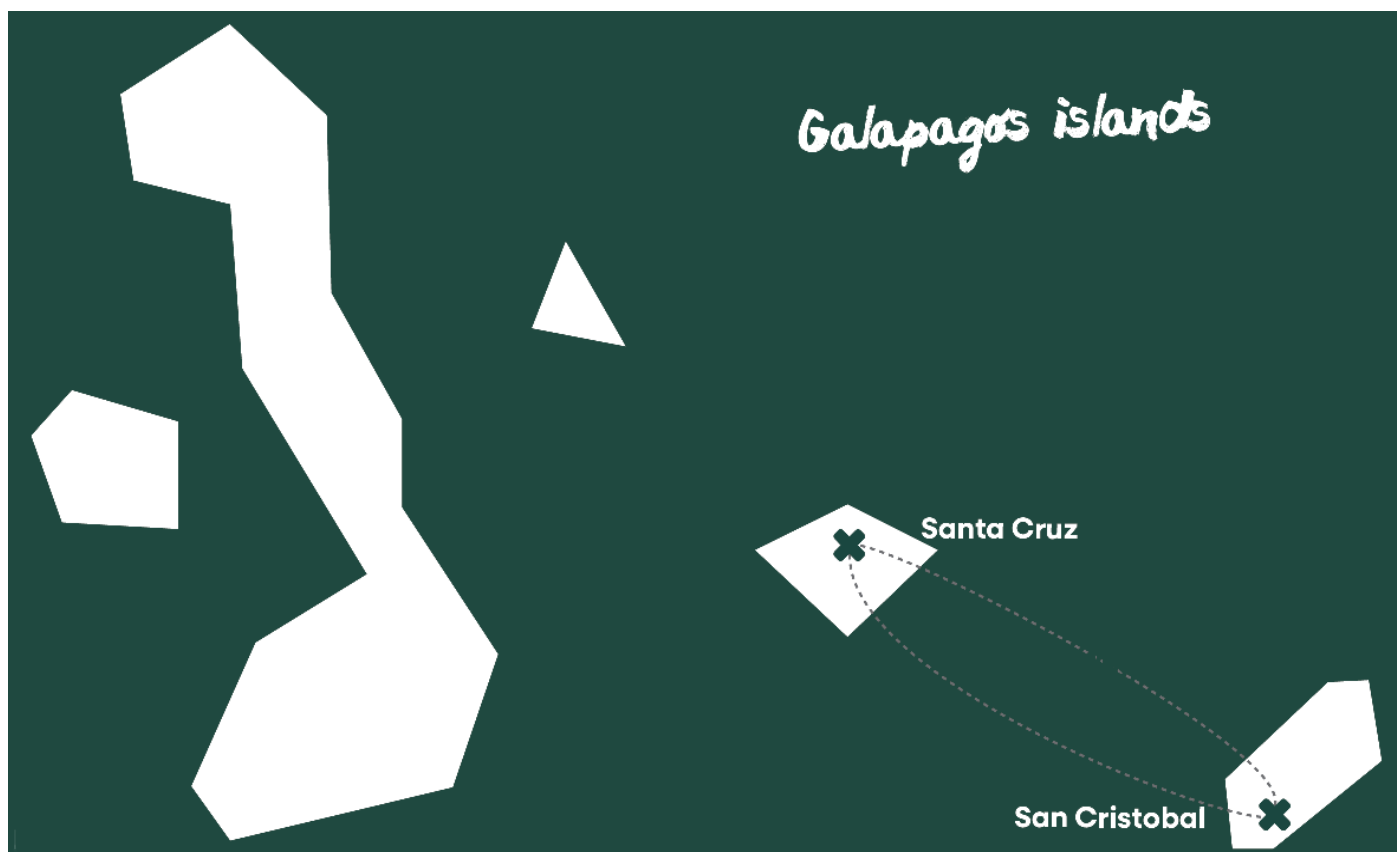


Certified



Corporation

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



Trip highlights:

- ➔ Contribute to vital coastal protection by working alongside National Park rangers on wildlife surveys and invasive plant removal.
- ➔ Discover the incredible biodiversity of the Galapagos Islands, observing Marine Iguanas, Galapagos Giant Tortoises, and Galapagos Sea Lions in their natural habitat.
- ➔ Engage with local communities by running educational activities and painting environmental murals to raise awareness.
- ➔ Enjoy unforgettable experiences like travelling by boat between islands, exploring underground lava tunnels, and snorkelling in pristine waters.
- ➔ Develop new skills and connect with like-minded travellers aged 50 and over on a meaningful journey of discovery.

 **LENGTH**
14 Days

 **ASSISTANCE**
24/7

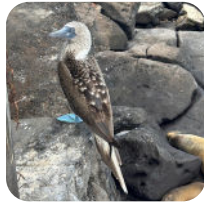
 **TRANSPORT**
Boat

 **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
- Beach clean-ups

Community

- Deliver lessons to local children
- Design and paint a mural
- Play games with children

Food/Accommodation

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

Culture & Leisure

- Relax on the beach
- Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station
- Visit El Chato Tortoise Reserve
- Tortuga Bay swim
- Explore underground lava tunnels
- Traditional dance lesson
- Basic Spanish language lesson
- Visit the island Interpretation Centre
- Snorkelling at Loberia beach
- Town exploration

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

Work alongside people your age who share your passion for travel and the natural world by joining a programme that blends vital conservation work with authentic cultural immersion. Together, you'll support National Park Rangers to perform vital wildlife monitoring and habitat restoration while enjoying meaningful interactions with the local communities. Outside of your service hours, you'll get to explore the archipelago at your own pace and learn what makes the Galapagos Islands so special. A once-in-a-lifetime journey.



Days 1

 **SLEEP**
Hotel

 **TRAVEL**
Minimal

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 new surroundings on a guided tour of your new neighbourhood, which also offers a great opportunity to pick up some local 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.

Start your second day by visiting the Interpretation Centre to learn about the history of the Galapagos Islands across natural, human, and conservation contexts. In the afternoon, head to the conservation reserve to cut away invasive plants that threaten endemic species.

Habitat restoration & wildlife monitoring

Over the week, help conservationists protect the fragile local ecosystem through vital reforestation initiatives, involving 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, support the staff in maintaining the enclosures and get the exclusive opportunity to feed the tortoises 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.

Back in San Cristobal, 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, head to the community centre to meet the local children, play interactive games, and deliver engaging lessons.

Community engagement & education

Back in San Cristobal, 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, 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

Your final week balances community initiatives with vital, hands-on species monitoring.

Over the following afternoons, work together as a team to design and paint a colourful environmental mural in town, leaving behind a lasting educational message for the community.

In the mornings, build on last week's knowledge and skills as you return to the Giant Tortoise Breeding Centre to cut ottoy and maintain enclosures, and head out early at dawn to conduct a sea lion survey along the coast, monitoring the behaviour and number of different colonies.

You'll also spend more time at the dog shelter and join National Park rangers on field surveys tracking local seabird and iguana populations.

Celebrate the end of your journey by spending your final afternoon snorkelling in the clear waters of Loberia Beach alongside sea turtles, marine iguanas, and playful sea lions, concluding your experience with a festive group farewell dinner.



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

PROJECTS ABROAD.

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



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Conservation & Community | Galapagos

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