



Galapagos tortoise

# Explore the natural wonders of The Galápagos Islands



v1

September - October 2014

## 2014 PROPOSED ITINERARY \*

### Monday 22 Sept (B,L,D)

We fly to Santiago de Chile, arriving around noon. Our hotel is opposite Cerro Santa Lucia, a leafy park and old city fortress - a great spot to stretch our legs. At night we will soak up some local culture eating at a Chilean parilla (BBQ).

### Tuesday 23 Sept (B,D)

After breakfast and a walking tour of the local area we leave Santiago on a late-afternoon flight. We fly along the coast of Chile with views of magnificent snow-capped Andean peaks. We arrive in Quito in the late evening.

### Wednesday 24 Sept (B,D)

A relaxing breakfast and a morning walk around historic Mariscal (in the new town). It's an opportunity to get the legs moving after the flight. After lunch we set out for Otavalo which is about 2 hours north of Quito. We cross the equator and if the sky is clear we may be able to see active volcanoes - Imbabura (4609m),



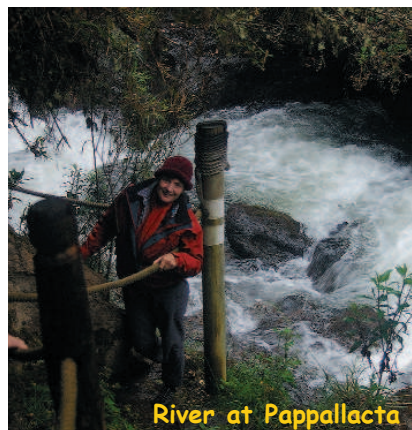
Otavalo girl

Cotacachi (4939m), Cayambe (5790m) and Cotopaxi (5897m). We settle in to our gorgeous hotel, run by local Otavalans and then take a walk to the waterfall.

### Thursday 25 Sept (B,D)

After an early breakfast, we head off to the famous indigenous market which dates back to pre-Inca times. Locals dress in their traditional colourful costumes. First we visit the fruit, vegetable and live-stock section and then later (to satisfy the shopping genes - lots of opportunities here!) migrate to the Plaza de Ponchos for knitwear, weavings, art, jewellery or panama hats (made in Cuenca, Ecuador not Panama!).

Lunch is at the market - for the more adventurous, try the local soup kitchen - a boiling cauldron of Andean vegies with chicken or pork. Or, try one of the small restaurants adjacent to the square. There are plenty of photographic opportunities.



River at Pappallacta

### Friday 26 Sept (B)

After breakfast we set out on an exciting drive up into the Andes (60 km east of Quito) to reach the Termas de Papallacta by mid-day. These famous hot springs are set amongst magnificent cloud forest. The hotel has a number of different pools of varying temperatures - soak hot then plunge cold (woow!).

Later, we walk into the inspiring cloud forest beside and over a rapid stream fed by constant mist and rains. If we keep an eye out we may glimpse a view of the near-by snow-capped active volcano (Antisana (5704 m). There are also an amazing array of orchids, bromeliads and birds to see.

We suggest that you have a massage or an Andean local mud bath or just relax and soak in the hot mineral springs.

### Saturday 27 Sept (B,D)

There is still a little time this morning to go exploring on your own. You may like to visit the Visitor Centre or the spa complex or go for a more extensive walk into the forest. To the east is the Amazon jungle - some will be traveling there later on.

After lunch we return to Quito for a bus tour of the World Heritage Site of old Quito.

**Sunday 28 Sept (B,L,D)**  
 Early breakfast and off to the airport. We arrive at Baltra in the Galápagos Islands by late morning. This is where the next stage of your adventure starts.

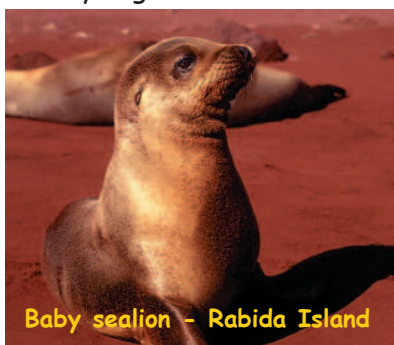
**The Galápagos Islands are like no other place on earth**

We transfer by light plane to the little fishing outpost of Puerto Villamil on Isabela Island. On the way you'll have a good view of some of the islets that make up the Galápagos archipelago. We check in to our cabañas which are right next to the beach - an excellent spot. We'll visit the nearby tortoise breeding centre. Then you are free to explore the town, go for a swim, walk the long beaches or just simply relax.



**Monday 29 Sept (B,D)**

Some folk may wish to get up early to do a bit of flamingo spotting in the nearby lagoon. Then we are going to walk to the Wall of Tears - you'll see why it's called this when you get there!



**Baby sealion - Rabida Island**

**Tuesday 30 Sept (B,L,D)**  
 We drive up into the highlands as far as the road goes then walk (on horses) to the rim of the caldera of Sierra Negra (2nd largest in the world) which last erupted in 2006. Then over to the other side for a 3 km walk to Volcan Chico. Very few places in the world resemble a moonscape as much as this - you are at about 1,200 metres above sea level and the view of Isabela's other volcanoes is fabulous on a clear day ... OR ... you can spend the day swimming, snorkeling or reading in a hammock.

**Wednesday 1 Oct (B,D)**  
 We take a local *fibre* (boat) and transfer to the island of Santa Cruz and to our hotel in the heart of the small town of Puerto Ayora, our base for the next few days.

After settling in we'll take a walk around town to check out the scene, some of the interesting architecture and gardens.

**Thursday 2 October (B,D)**  
 We set off on a leisurely walk through an endemic *Opuntia* cactus forest to the nicest beach in Santa Cruz - Tortuga Bay. It's a surfing beach so wear your bathers for a dunk in the Galápagos waves. You'll see lava lizards, finches and you get to share the beach with marine iguanas, pelicans and blue-footed boobies. A free afternoon to ride, explore, shop or relax before dinner.



**Spatter cone on Bartolomé**

**Friday 3 October (B)**  
 Today we visit the world renowned Charles Darwin Foundation (also known as the Charles Darwin Research Station - CDRS), located just out of town. We'll have a guided visit to see what the Station does. This is the home of Lonesome George, the last giant tortoise from Santa Cruz Island. Poor George - no mate, no future. You will see the new Land Iguana enclosure on which Rod & Michèle worked in 2001. The rest of the day is at leisure.



**Saturday 4 Oct (B,D)**  
 After breakfast we stroll down to the dock and cross Academy Bay in a panga (local water taxi) and take a walk on the wild lava side to Las Grietas, natural swimming pools in the rocks.

**Sunday 5-12 October - Cruising (B,L,D)**  
 After breakfast we pack our bags and take leave of Puerto Ayora for the Canal of Itabaca to board our boat - our home at sea for the next week. During this time your life will change.

We visit several islands - each one as fascinating as the next - and you'll see wonderful things, such as:



**Vermillion Fly-catcher**

Sally light-foot crabs, marine iguanas, fur sea-lions, coast-lines of tuff (volcanic ash), lava fields, Galápagos sea-lions (if you go snorkeling the young ones will join you for an underwater frolic), scoria beaches, brown pelicans, flamingoes (if we are lucky), amazing landscapes, unusual plants, endemic penguins, lots of colourful fish, turtles, a few friendly white-tipped sharks(!), sea cucumbers, massive breached calderas, red-footed boobies, frigate birds, endemic swallow-tailed gulls, a giant cactus forest, land iguanas, red and green marine iguanas, red-billed tropic-birds, Galápagos hawk and albatross (only found on Española island). And you'll catch up on the mystery and intrigue surrounding Floreana's self-proclaimed 'Baroness' and her lovers.

### Sunday 12 October (B)

After breakfast, we say our good-byes to the captain and crew. We transfer to Baltra airport for our connecting flight back to Guayaquil for the night.

### Monday 13 October (B)

We start our journey back to Australia (via Santiago) arriving in Melbourne on Wednesday 15 October.

## Bookings

Michèle Adler & Rod McMillan,  
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## Your tour leaders

The tour has been designed by Michèle Adler and Rod McMillan, Directors of Adland Horticultural P/L.



Michèle and Rod have visited the Galápagos Islands 10 times since 1995 - as tour leaders, tourists and as the head of a team of Australian consultants, lending planning, horticultural and educational expertise to the Charles Darwin Foundation.

Michèle and Rod are consultants, authors and publishers of award-winning texts and former lecturers in horticulture at the University of Melbourne - Burnley College. Michèle also has a long history as a radio gardening presenter on 3MP, 3AK, 3CR and ABC, and has appeared on channel 31's *The Garden Tap*. Currently, they can be heard on ABC Radio Gippsland's garden segment.



## Terms & Conditions - 2014

\* Prices subject to confirmation by Dec 2013

Galapagos Tour:  
23 days/22 nights  
Twin share = \$10,200\* pp.

Extensions are possible. Talk to us about our Lake Titicaca and Iguazu Falls extensions.

### Included in the price:

Escorted travel. Pre-tour briefing meeting. Detailed tour notes. Meals as shown. Accommodation (3-4 star with private bathroom). All local transport. English-speaking local guides in Ecuador and Peru. Travel and tours with the group.

### Not included in the price:

Plane flights (est. ~\$4000\*). Galápagos Park Fee (US\$100\*). Entry to Chile (~US\$70\*). Airport taxes (~US\$80\*). Travel insurance. Meals unless specified. Travel when not with the group. Personal expenses, such as tips, drinks, medical and incidentals. Sightseeing and general expenses unless specified in the itinerary.

### Payments:

Deposit of \$500 per person when booking (refundable until 1 Nov 2013). Making a deposit means that you accept the Terms & Conditions.

Then \$5,000 by 1 December 2013 and balance by 1 April 2014 (each non-refundable).

The tour price is based on payment by cash, cheque or EFT.

Personal travel insurance is necessary to protect against cancellation due to illness, etc. We reserve the right to cancel the tour and refund all monies. We will endeavour to deliver the proposed itinerary. However, tour itineraries and schedules, advertised accommodation, sightseeing programs and modes of transport as outlined in this brochure are subject to change without notice. We do not accept responsibility for any injury, damage, loss or delays. The tour requires an amount of walking, so participants need to have good health.



Correct as at 26 October 2013