



ECOLOGY PROJECT  
INTERNATIONAL

# Galapagos Islands Ecology Program



△ hike through pristine lands with ancient giants

This program is an amazing opportunity to work within the Galapagos National Park in collaboration with Conservation International in an effort to protect these incredible islands.

The Galapagos Islands are a world renowned archipelago off the coast of Ecuador, and the surrounding waters are part of the protected Galapagos Marine Reserve. These dramatic islands are home to fascinating bird life, abundant marine life, active volcanoes, and emblematic species like the giant tortoise and Darwin's finches.

While in the Galapagos, students conduct biodiversity and juvenile Galapagos tortoise monitoring projects in partnership with the Galapagos National Park Service and Conservation International, in addition to restoring habitat and eradicating invasive species. Students develop a field based research project using data they collect - such as tortoise carapace length, width, and weight. This 12-day course includes over 40 hours of coursework and instruction in subjects like tortoise biology, island biogeography, and Galapagos conservation. Students also complete over 20 hours of field research while working directly with the Galapagos National Park.

After completing their field work, students meet their Ecuadorian peers when they visit with a group of local program participants. Students spend time together giving joint presentations, sharing research data, engaging in the powerful exchange of ideas and realizing their collaborative strength. After completing their field work, students spend three days on a live-aboard boat, visiting different islands within the archipelago and seeing astounding Galapagos wildlife on land and in the marine reserve.

## h i g h l i g h t s

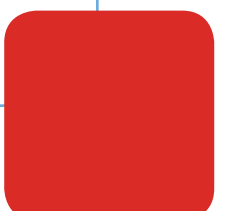
- Monitor endemic Galapagos tortoises
- Observe animals found nowhere else on earth
- Snorkel in the diverse waters of the marine reserve



△ conduct hands-on research with endangered animals



△ get upclose with wildlife



[www.ecologyproject.org](http://www.ecologyproject.org)

academic & cultural exchange field programs



# Galapagos Islands Ecology Program Itinerary

Sample itinerary subject to change

## Day 1: Arrival in Quito

- Get to know your instructor team
- Preview comparative ecology and Galapagos ecosystems

## Day 2: Travel to the Galapagos Islands

- Arrive to the Galapagos archipelago and transfer to the highlands
- Design your research project and learn field methodology

## Days 3-4: Biodiversity comparison & highlands restoration

- Collaborate with Conservation International on a biodiversity monitoring project
- Catalog native and endemic species found within the study sites
- Camp at a private reserve and study comparative ecology

## Day 5: Highlands resoration with Galapagos National Park

- Eradicate invasive plant species and restore habitat for endemic species
- Preview tortoise biology for tomorrow's data collection
- Explore the highlands ecosystem and learn about island biogeography

## Day 6: Highlands to Puerto Ayora

- Monitor juvenile Galapagos tortoises at the National Park
- Hike to Tortuga Bay and play games on this beautiful beach

## Day 7: Intercultural exchange day

- Meet local students and learn about each other's cultures
- Present the results of student-led research projects
- Play soccer or volleyball and practice Spanish with the locals

## Days 8-11: Island Exploration

- Travel on a live-aboard boat exploring different islands in the Galapagos
- Snorkel in the Galapagos Marine Reserve
- Get up close and personal with the islands' famous wildlife
- Celebrate your successful course at a farewell dinner in Quito



## Details:

- **Accommodations:** 4 nights in hotels; 4 nights in camping tents; 3 nights aboard a boat
- **Course dates:** March- July
- **Price:** \$4,450 (all inclusive)
- **Group size:** Minimum 10; Maximum 14
- **How to Apply:** Contact Joshua Klaus at EPI:  
[josh@ecologyproject.org](mailto:josh@ecologyproject.org) \* 406.721.8784

Send in an EPI application and \$250 deposit; applications online at [www.ecologyproject.org](http://www.ecologyproject.org)

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