

ITINERARY
GALAPAGOS:
AN INTIMATE LOOK AT DARWIN'S ISLANDS

I. June 15 – 25, 2024

II. July 13 - 23, 2024



The beautiful Swallow-tailed Gull is a common breeder on the Galapagos, and we may be able to find a family group such as this one. If not, we will still get some great views of these lovely gulls. .

Photograph by participant Byron Chin.

We include here information for those interested in the 2024 Field Guides Galapagos tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- a description of the birding areas to be visited on the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

There can be few birders and naturalists who have not dreamed of one day visiting the Galapagos Islands with their bounty of rare, unique, and extraordinarily tame wildlife. The islands host fascinating seabirds, endemic land birds, iguanas, giant tortoises, and a flora all their own. Traveling in a small group aboard one of the finest vessels in the islands, our tours will find "The Enchanted Isles" at their very best. This is an intimate and wonderful tour of the Galapagos.

Ever since Darwin visited the islands in 1835, the Galapagos archipelago has been a showcase of evolution. Six hundred miles from the Ecuadorian coast, the Galapagos are of marine volcanic origin, never having been connected to a continental landmass. Thus, both plants and animals inhabiting the islands are derived from species that, by one means or another, crossed vast stretches of ocean to colonize the newly formed land. The Galapagos are a hot-bed of endemism, and much of the wildlife is not only found nowhere else on Earth, but is further restricted to one or just a few islands.

Our tour of “Las Islas Encantadas”—The Enchanted Isles—is designed for birders who may only visit the islands once and would like to see as many of the endemic birds (and, naturally, the fascinating mammals, reptiles, and flora) as is reasonably possible. Because two key species, Waved Albatross and Great Frigatebird, only nest on the islands from April to September, we have picked this season in which to visit. The climate is also quite comfortable at this time of year (it’s the cooler *garua* season), and it generally remains dry and cool. Our itinerary takes in a fine mix of the most important islands—including a visit to the highlands of Santa Cruz, an important location for the Giant Tortoise, Galapagos Rail, Paint-billed Crake, and Large Tree-Finch—as well as several of the fascinating smaller islands, possibly including North Seymour.



*We'll be aboard the Nemo II for our cruise around the Galapagos.
Photograph by participant Byron Chin.*

We have selected the **Nemo III**, a large first-class 75-foot catamaran for both tours. This vessel features a comfortable dining area and lounge with a fully equipped bar. Wet suits are available aboard the boat for anyone wishing to swim (The water may be cool.), though sizes may be limited. Landings are made in an inflatable skiff (the *panga*); most are dry landings but some will be on wet, sandy beaches. Although the weather is usually good at this time of year, if there is wind there may be some swells on the ocean, and those prone to motion sickness should bring appropriate medication. Consult your physician for a prophylactic such as Phenergan or Transderm. Other prophylactics, such as Dramamine and Bonine, are available over the counter, but they tend to be less effective and may cause drowsiness.

Tour I may be combined with **MACHU PICCHU & ABRA MALAGA, PERU I 2024, June 26 – July 5.**

Tour II may be combined with **CLOUDFORESTS OF ECUADOR: ALL OF THE BEST OF THE WILD NORTHWEST 2024, JULY 22 – AUGUST 1.**

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.

Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS & WALKING:** Trails on some islands can be very uneven, as they are often basic paths through lava fields. There is little shade, so most walking will be in the sun. Trails in the highlands of the islands can often be steep, muddy, and slippery.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** We will be using a small inflatable “panga” to make landings on the various islands; you’ll need to be able to get in and out of this boat in both wet and dry conditions with a minimum of assistance. **If you are not steady on your feet, please do not register for the tour hoping to rely on the boat crew;** they can only provide a steadying hand. The ocean may be rough at times; you’ll need to have a good sense of balance aboard the Nemo.
- **PACE:** We will typically breakfast around 6:00 or 6:30 a.m. and then go out for birding for at least 3 hours, but we will return each day to the boat for lunch (except on one day, when we will have lunch in a restaurant). On most afternoons, if we are not sailing, we will go out birding from around 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. for a hike or a panga ride.
- **ELEVATION:** We will spend one night in Quito, at an elevation of about 8500 feet. The Galapagos are at elevations below 3000 feet.
- **WEATHER:** Temperatures range from low 70s to mid-80s F, but we may encounter rain or wind, which will make it feel cooler.
- **TRANSPORTATION:** We won’t be spending much time in vans or buses but we will use an open-sided truck fitted with benches on a couple of days to visit the highlands. Participants must climb up onto the truck to reach the seats. Also, participants will need to be flexible enough to maneuver around the boat, and in and out of the pangas. Those who experience motion sickness will need to bring adequate medication for the duration of the tour.
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** There are no indoor restrooms on most of our excursions, so participants must be prepared to make comfort stops in nature should the need arise. Note that the towns and the breeding center for tortoises have bathrooms.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging (the boat), participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on the day we visit the highlands on Santa Cruz, when we will be moving from the boat to a hotel.



We'll be using small inflatable boats known as "pangas" to make landings on the islands that we visit. Crew members will be available to assist with the landings, but it is important that you are able to handle getting in and out of the panga with minimal help. Photograph by participant Bill Denton.

Additional information:

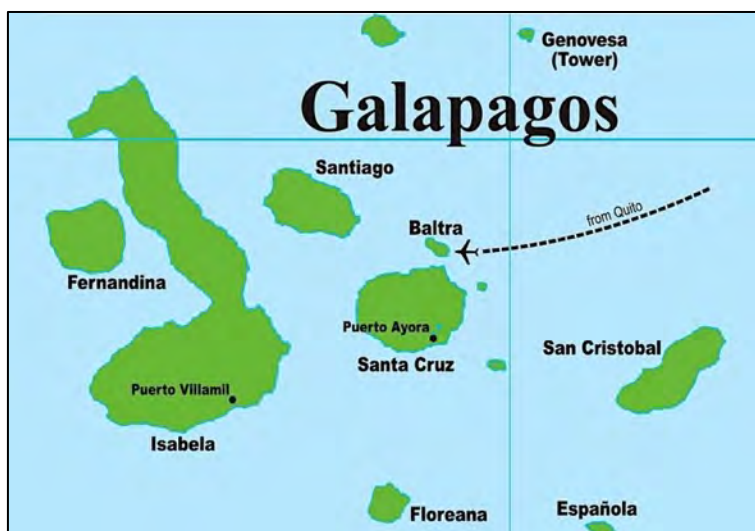
Boat Boardings/Beach Landings: Our vessel, the *Nemo III* is equipped with a “panga”, a small inflatable skiff (zodiac) that is used to transport participants from the boat to the shore and back. There will always be a crew member to offer a helping hand, but **participants must be physically able to enter and exit the boat safely with minimum assistance.** The *Nemo II and III* have a large rear deck that is perfect for loading and unloading. Getting onto the islands will involve both wet and dry landings. A wet landing generally involves “beaching” the panga; the participant must then step or slide off the panga into water which may be knee deep or more (generally carrying your hiking boots and wearing your backpack). Of course, you must be able to do the reverse to return to the panga. In the past, participants have used bare feet, Tevas, Crocs, water shoes, or flip-flops for these wet landings.

A dry landing, while offering the advantage of not having to change shoes, does present its own challenges. The panga will pull up to a dock or an outcropping of rock. One crew member works the motor at the rear of the panga while the other helps participants to disembark from the front, trying to time the departure from the panga with the waves so that there is not much distance to cover. Ocean spray and waves can make surfaces slippery. Since the boat is moving and waves can be unpredictable, it is very important that each participant make an honest assessment of his or her sure-footedness before deciding to join the tour. Upon returning to the boat, one must be able to stand and exit from the moving panga to the vessel, which requires a reasonable degree of agility.

Trails: The walking on most islands is generally easy to moderate, but on some islands, it is more difficult, as we will hike over landscape strewn with big boulders or sharp, broken lava. The ground is pretty uneven at these sites, and footwear with good ankle support is a must. Walking sticks can be very helpful for maintaining balance in these situations.

Participants must be able to navigate across this uneven terrain with a minimal amount of assistance. Please note that there is often little (if any) shade on many of the trails, so adequate sun protection and a supply of drinking water are vital. Your guide will inform you of the trail conditions at each site before we leave the boat.

Highland Excursion: While the lowlands tend to be dry, you will need to be prepared with proper raingear and footwear for the higher altitudes, which can be rainy and muddy during the *garua* season (June/July/August). While we will be birding along roadsides in most areas, the trek up into the Galapagos Rail area on Santa Cruz is likely to be a messy affair. We recommend bringing along shoes or boots that you don’t mind getting muddy, or if you prefer, sandals with support suitable for hiking hilly terrain, such as Tevas or Chacos. Footwear can (and should!) be hosed off upon returning to the boat.



Tour Itinerary: Over the last several years, there has been recurring talk of restricting Galapagos itineraries, with unofficial national park talk of limiting cruise lengths as well as the possibility of declaring some of the key islands, where we count on seeing a couple of the endemics, off-limits. As of 2013, for example, the sole known remaining location for the Mangrove Finch is mostly off-limits to tourists. However, for 2016, we were able to obtain special permission to visit. We cannot be certain of our route before departure, as rules and island/park policies can change unexpectedly once a tour has been booked, influencing its exact itinerary. Other than possibly affecting our access to an endemic bird or two, the Galapagos tour we’ve always enjoyed is not likely to be much altered, and will continue to be a spectacular and overwhelming experience that visits most of the archipelago’s best corners.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don’t hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with one of the guides.



The Galapagos Penguin is the most northerly distributed member of this charming group. They are classified as endangered because of their small population size. We'll visit Isabella Island which hosts a breeding colony. Photograph by guide Willy Perez.

Itinerary for Galapagos: An Intimate Look at Darwin's Islands

Although a finalized Galapagos itinerary is always difficult to confirm with absolute certainty many months in advance (circumstances and park regulations in the islands can change unexpectedly), our recent tours visited a fine mix of the important islands, including North Seymour, Isabela, Fernandina, Espanola, San Cristobal, Floreana, Santa Cruz, and Genovesa. Our past groups have had very good luck with the Galapagos finches (though one or two can be tough!) and, while in the highlands of Santa Cruz, we have frequently observed Galapagos Rail and wild Giant Tortoises. Our goal will be to maximize our birding possibilities and our enjoyment of these fantastic islands. The Galapagos are a delightful, magical place to visit, and there is much overlap in avifauna and other features between sites.

Day 1, Sat. Miami to Quito. Please plan to arrive in Quito today. Most international flights arrive into Quito in the late evening (9 - 11 p.m.); since we depart early the next morning and immediately board our ship, you may wish to consider spending an extra night in Quito to assure a timely arrival for both you and your luggage! If you experience flight delays and miss your flight into Quito, it will be very difficult for you to catch up with the group and you will miss a significant part of the tour. Quito is a lovely city, and our office will be happy to assist you with these arrangements. Visit our website to see optional birding or cultural tours available from Quito, <https://fieldguides.com/ecuador-add-to-your-tour/>, or give our office a call. Night in Quito.

Day 2, Sun. To the Galapagos. We'll catch a flight from Quito to the island of Baltra in the Galapagos this morning. Flights invariably stopover in Guayaquil before continuing to the Galapagos. Once we arrive, our adventure begins, as we'll board the *Nemo III* and have our orientation session. After lunch, we'll start our journey with a visit to some nearby islands, perhaps North Seymour or Bachas Beach on Santa Cruz. Night on board the *Nemo III*.

Days 3-8, Mon - Sat. Exploring the Galapagos. During these six full days, we'll sail among "The Enchanted Isles." Our travels have been carefully planned to include the most important birding areas as well as an enjoyable cross section of other natural history and the varied landscapes of the Galapagos. As with any voyage, it may be necessary to deviate from our planned itinerary as circumstances in the islands may dictate. Our goal will be to visit as many key islands as

possible in order to see as many different bird species as we can, with the following being included within our intended itinerary:

Española (or Hood by its English name), an island of uplifted submarine lava, is the southeastern-most landmass in the archipelago. Lying up current and up wind from the other islands, it is more isolated in terms of faunal movements between islands, and several of the marine animals there have developed distinct forms. The marine iguanas, for instance, are more slender and colorful than on the other islands, while the Galapagos Tortoises here have the most prominent saddlebacks. The island's lava lizard and mockingbird species are the largest of their kind in the Galapagos, and the large Espanola Ground-Finch also occurs here. Landing at Punta Suarez, at the western end of the island, we'll be greeted by the Española (Hood) Mockingbird, a species that's not only endemic to the Galapagos, but to Española as well. Large seabird colonies are the true highlight of our visit, and both Nazca (recently split from Masked) and Blue-footed boobies reside here. But the real treasure is the vast nesting colony of Waved Albatrosses; nearly the entire world population of this species (around 12,000 pairs) nests on Española, and we'll have time to linger with and photograph these endearing birds. The breeding cycle reaches its peak in June and July, when the ritualistic displays of birds reinforcing their pair-bonds is truly fascinating. Red-billed Tropicbird, the confiding Galapagos Hawk, Swallow-tailed Gull, Galapagos Dove, Small Ground-Finch, and Gray Warbler-Finch can also be seen, along with Galapagos Sea Lions.

With its multitude of small volcanic cones, **Floreana** (Charles) is an attractive island. It is the only place where the Medium Tree-Finch occurs, and the 150 or so individuals of the endemic Floreana (Charles) Mockingbird are now found only on two small islets off the coast of Floreana. American Flamingos and White-cheeked Pintails can usually be seen in the lagoons, and a walk into the highlands could yield Dark-billed Cuckoo and Galapagos Flycatcher.

Genovesa (or Tower), the archipelago's northeastern-most island, is seldom seen by most Galapagos visitors. Here we should see Genovesa Ground-Finch, (split from Sharp beak), Red-footed Booby, and Great Frigatebird. The island is also home to the world's only accessible diurnal storm-petrel colony, where Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrels come and go from their burrows in their thousands. Sharp-eyed "Galapagos" Short-eared Owls hunt the storm-petrels, a spectacle that is amazing to see.

Isabela (or Ablemarle), the largest island in the archipelago, is affected by cold ocean currents from the south and supports colonies of Galapagos Penguins and Flightless Cormorants. Both are endemic to the Galapagos; the former also has the distinction of being the most northerly of all the world's penguins, while the latter is one of the world's rarest seabirds with a population of just 750 pairs. Other seabirds of note include the endemic Lava Gull and the widespread Brown Noddy. Nearby **Fernandina** (or Narborough) is one of the islands' most recently active volcanic areas and its jagged, black lava shoreline hosts impressive gatherings of basking Marine Iguanas, as well as Galapagos Hawk and various shorebirds—sometimes including Wandering Tattler.



A female Vegetarian Finch shows why they are so-named. This is one of the few bird species that subsists largely on vegetation. We'll look for them on San Cristobal and Santa Cruz. Photograph by guide Eric Hynes.

San Cristobal (or Chatham Island) is also on our itinerary, as it is the only home of the San Cristobal (Chatham) Mockingbird. The island also holds an endemic subspecies of the Woodpecker Finch (*striatipecta*) and is among the best places in the Galapagos to see Vegetarian Finch. The island has a number of interesting geological features, too, including Leon Dormido (Sleeping Lion, or Kicker Rock), a huge, fractured mass of rock rising 486 feet above the surrounding water.

Depending on our tour route, we may make a visit to **Santa Cruz** (or Indefatigable) while still based on the boat. If we do so prior to our final day, we're likely to spend time in the arid lowlands of the island's northwestern corner, where we'll have more chances for American Flamingo, Dark-billed Cuckoo, Galapagos Flycatcher, Small and Medium ground-finches, Small Tree-Finch, and Land Iguanas. If we reach the island on our final day on the boat, we may do a few of the things listed for tomorrow today! All nights on board, cruising among the islands.

Day 9, Sun. Santa Cruz. Today we'll leave the ship and transfer to a hotel on the Santa Cruz mainland. En route, we'll drive through the higher humid zone of the central highlands. As several of the species more characteristic of arid habitats start to disappear, Vegetarian Finches and Small Tree-Finches become more common. This area is characterized by *Miconia*, an evergreen shrub that is covered with epiphytes. This lush habitat also supports ferns and sedges, and we'll spend a good part of our morning here walking trails in search of the humid zone's specialties, including the endemic Galapagos Rail (not easy!) and the Paint-billed Crake, a widespread (although never common) species in South America. We'll also search for Galapagos Martin, Large Tree-Finch, and the famous Woodpecker Finch, one of the few tool-using birds in the world. Galapagos Petrels nest in burrows in the highlands, though we'll probably only observe them at sea since they are nocturnal on the breeding grounds. With luck, we just might encounter one of the noble Galapagos Tortoises, among the oldest living creatures on Earth. If we have time after the search for the Galapagos Rail and lunch at a beautiful highland restaurant, we'll visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, where work to increase the populations of Giant Tortoises will allow us to see a few of the distinct races that are kept here for breeding purposes. The village of Puerto Ayora will also be our best opportunity to visit any local shops. Night on Santa Cruz.

Day 10, Mon. Return to Quito. Today we'll transfer to the airport where we'll catch a flight back to Quito. Night in Quito or on the late-night flight home.

Day 11, Tue. Departure for home. Most international flights depart Quito early in the morning, arriving in the US in sufficient time for connections to your home city.



*Most of the world's Waved Albatrosses breed on Española Island; we'll have a chance to visit their colony.
Photograph by participant Paul Koker.*

About the Ship

The *Nemo III* is a large Trans-oceanic 75-foot multi-hull yacht for cruising and charters. This large motor sail catamaran was specially built to take up to 14 tour participants accommodated in 7 cabins, each with private bathroom.

- Cabin 1: 2 single lower beds.
- Cabin 2: 2 single lower beds.
- Cabin 3: 1 lower double bed, 1 single upper bed.
- Cabin 4: 1 lower double bed, 1 single upper bed.
- Cabin 5: 1 double bed.
- Cabin 6: 1 lower double bed, 1 single upper bed.
- Cabin 7: 2 single lower beds.
- Cabin 8: 1 double bed.

Either cabin 7 or 8 will be for the guide.

See the back pages of this itinerary for more information on the *Nemo III*.

NOTE: Cabin selection is on a first-come, first-served basis.

About Your Guides

Tour I: Mitch Lysinger, a native of Florida, grew up birding the southern part of the state as well as other parts of the US before moving to Ecuador to work at La Selva Lodge (for two years) and then with Field Guides since 1997. Mitch is fascinated by bird sounds and has spent many years intensively birding and tape-recording the birds of Ecuador and other Neotropical countries on tours and in his free time. As a result (and hundreds of field-recorded cassettes later!), Mitch and John Moore teamed up and published the two-volume cassette, *The Birds of Cabanas San Isidro*, and then went on to tackle (with other co-authors) the multi-volume CD set—with four published and more to come—of the birds of Ecuador. An updated CD of *The Birds of San Isidro* by Mitch, John Moore, & Niels Krabbe was published in 2011.

Mitch has more recently become involved in the conservation scene in Ecuador, working closely with the Jocotoco Foundation on land purchase for the purpose of setting up new reserves in areas critically in need of protection. When not on tour, Mitch can often be found with his wife Carmen and their two children (Martin and Sara) at Cabanas San Isidro—their cloudforest lodge on the east slope of the Andes—where they see to the needs of their guests and continue to expand the lodge's already vast 1200-hectare reserve with the hopes of widening the existing forest corridor that bridges the gap between two large national parks.

Tour II: Willy Perez has been leading birding tours for more than ten years. He has also worked as a resident guide at Maquipucuna Reserve on the west slopes of the Andes, on a project protecting marine turtles in Costa Rica, and on bird conservation in northwestern Ecuador. He was a resident guide at Kapawi Lodge in the Ecuadorian Amazon for three years, mastering the art of finding and identifying the many secretive birds of the lowland rainforest. He has since guided throughout Ecuador, including both the east and west slopes of the Andes, the Amazon basin, the Galapagos Islands, and southern Ecuador. During the last few years he has also guided birding groups in Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina. In his free time he trains local guides and is a frequent lecturer, in English and in Spanish, on birding and conservation issues in the Neotropics.

Willy's wife, Fiona, is British, and Willy and his family have relocated from Ecuador to England for a few years. He speaks excellent English and has an engaging and outgoing personality that makes every tour he leads a great deal of fun.

"I would always be glad to do a tour with Mitch again. This was the fourth tour I have done with him, and he is a terrific leader, a great birder, and a delightful person." A. B. SE Ecuador: Orange-throated Tanager & Foothill Specialties.

*"Guide Willy Perez exemplifies the quintessential birding guide: always 'on' and totally tuned in to both the surrounding avian environment and the needs of the birders he is guiding. Charismatic, funny, and engaging, Willy made our tour fun, exciting, and immensely memorable."
D.B., Ecuador's Wildsumaco Lodge*

While on board the Nemo, our group will also be accompanied by a Galapagos naturalist-guide.

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for complete tour schedules for Mitch and Willy; just click on their photos.

Financial Information

FEE: From Quito

Category I (Cabins 1-6)—\$8225: cabin with 2 twin beds or double-sized bed below and twin-sized bed above

Category II (Cabin 7 or 8) —\$7875: a noisy, more modestly-sized cabin with one full-sized bed in one cabin or 2 single beds in the other; only one cabin available at this rate. **Note:** *Must be able to maneuver steps getting in/out of this cabin.*

Cabins are assigned on a first come-first served basis.

DEPOSIT: \$825 per person (\$200 of this is **non-refundable**.)

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: December 18, 2023 (Tour I); January 15, 2024 (Tour II)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$400 (2 nights Quito and 1 night Santa Cruz only).

Please see the NOTE ON SINGLES below.

LIMIT: 14

All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one). Note too, that many travel destinations may still require proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may be a requirement for some travel destinations.

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager is Nicole Cannon. Nicole will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call!

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid at least six months beyond the date of your return is required for US citizens to enter Ecuador. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Ecuadorian consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you. **Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey.** Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Field Guides is a full-service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour. However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees. **Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.**

LUGGAGE: Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The per person tour fee as indicated below is dependent on cabin category, based on double occupancy from Quito. It includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 10, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through dinner on Day 10 (breakfast on Day 11 if overnighing in Quito that last night), the flights within Ecuador (Quito/Baltra/Quito), all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

Cabins are assigned on a first come-first served basis.

Category I (Cabins 1-6) —\$8225 cabin with 2 twin beds or double-sized bed below and twin-sized bed above

Category II (Cabin 7 or 8) —\$7875: a noisy, more modestly-sized cabin with one full-sized bed in one cabin or 2 single beds in the other; only one cabin available at this rate. **Note:** Must be able to maneuver steps getting in/out of this cabin.

The above fees do not include your airfare to and from Quito, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers or the crew of the boat, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

NOTE ON SINGLES: For the nights on the boat, single travelers can choose between "single occupancy" for 1.7 times the tour fee, which will guarantee single occupancy in a cabin (**limit two single persons**), or "shared cabin" at no additional cost. If you opt for a shared cabin and we cannot pair you with an appropriate gender room-mate you will not be charged the supplement for the cabin. Single occupancy will be limited to two persons. Should more than two participants sign up, they will be put on a waitlist, and we will let them know if additional singles are available approximately eight weeks before departure. If additional single occupancy is available, the charge of 1.7 times the tour fee would apply.

The single supplement for the **land portion of the tour** is **\$400**, which covers your first and last night in Quito and Day 9 on Santa Cruz island. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR LIMITS: Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please contact us at fieldguides.com/contact-us/. Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$825 (\$200 of which is non-refundable)** per person, or see our Payment Options at <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/>. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or **by December 18, 2023** (Tour I) or **January 15, 2024** (Tour II). **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager

SMOKING: Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Due to the early and non-refundable deposits we must remit to our supplier, we must amend our usual cancellation policy as follows: If cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure, **only \$625 of your tour deposit will be refunded.** **Note that \$200 is not refundable.** If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of that insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs outside of our cancellation policy as published in the itinerary (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii. We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated

reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

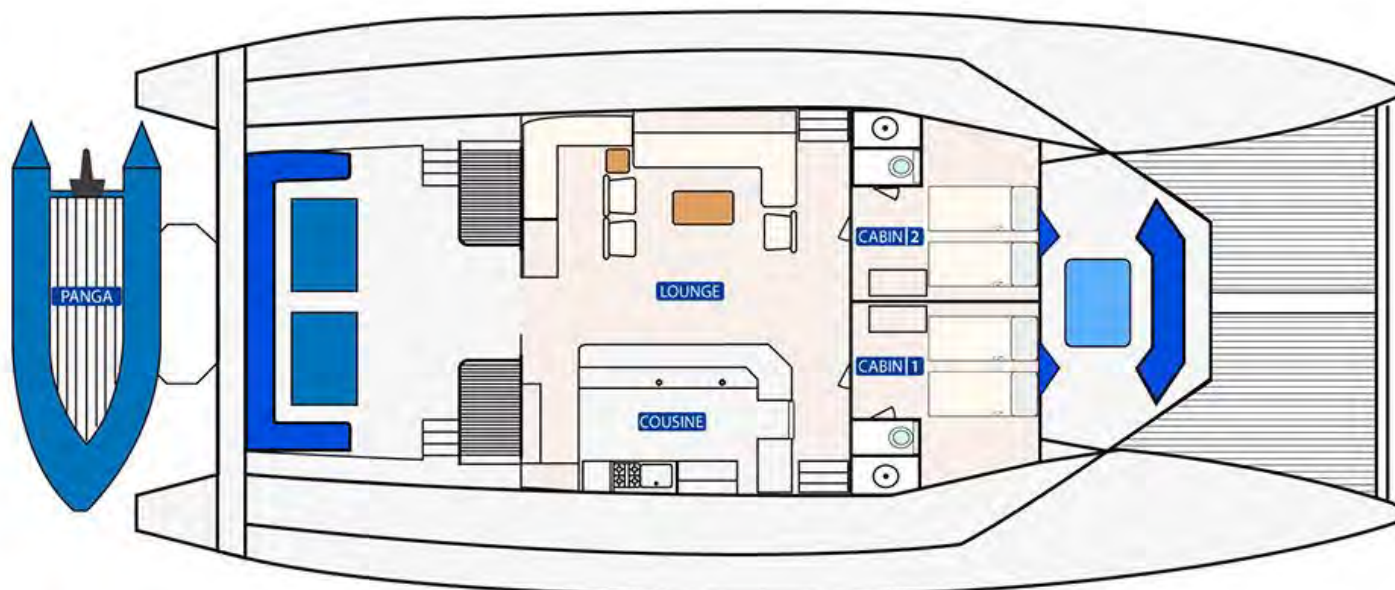
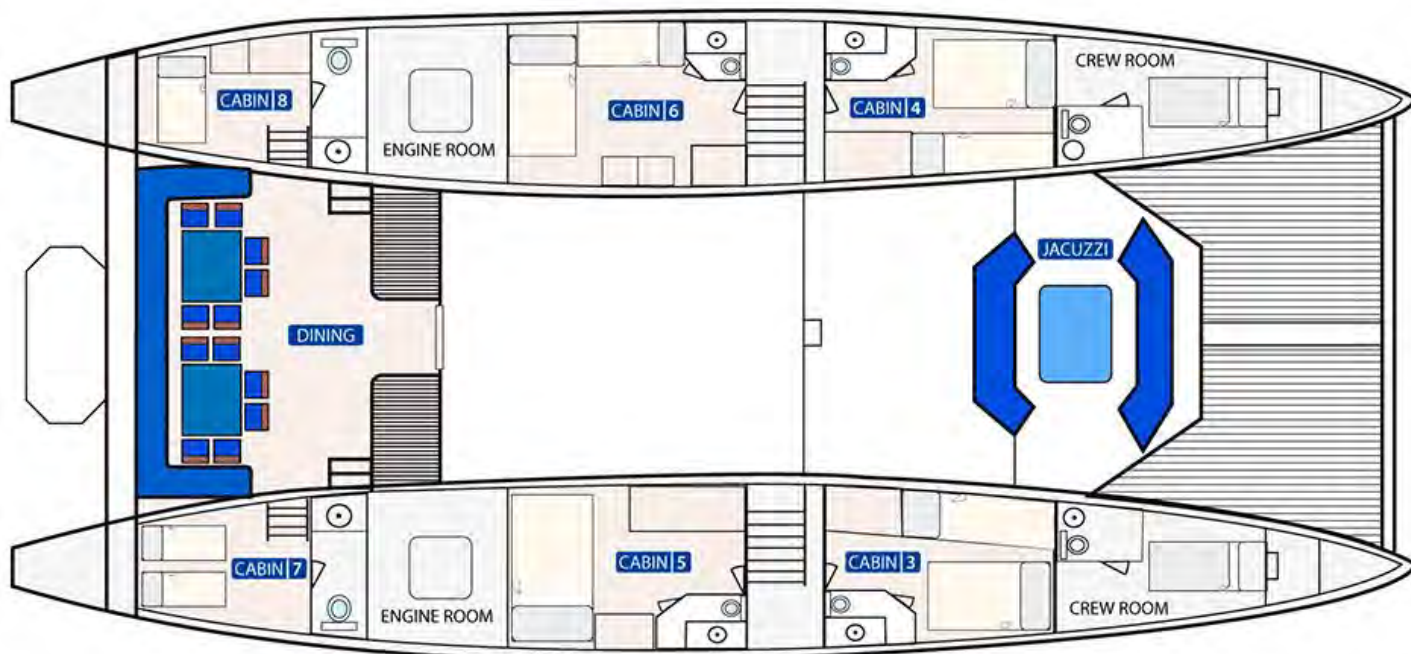
Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

NCP 7/2020

3/22NC; 4/22peg; 7/22NC; 10/23NC; 11/23peg

NEMO III



Specifications for the Nemo III

For more information on the Nemo III including photos of the cabins, go to <https://nemogalapagos.com/360/virtual-tour-nemo-3/>

NAME: NEMO III
 CATEGORY: First class
 CAPACITY: 16 passengers
 GUIDE: Naturalist guide, English speaking
 CREW: 6 members
 LOA: 23 mts.
 BEAM: 11.40 mts.
 DRAFT: 1.50 mts.
 ELECTRICITY: 12 V, 110 V, 220 V
 ENGINES: 2 engines / 200 HP
 FRESH WATER
 CAPACITY: 2.000 lts.
 EQUIPMENT: Jacuzzi
 snorkeling equipment
 2 sea kayaks
 1 dinghy

TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT:

Ice maker
 Freezer
 Water maker
 Hot water

TRANSMISSION: HF & VHF
 2 MOBILE VHF

SECURITY: 2 life rafts
 1 EPIRB (Satellite locator)
 1 SART (Radio Beacon)
 2 waterproof VHF
 20 life vests

ACCOMMODATIONS: Each cabin is equipped with en-suite facilities and shower and all of them are air conditioned:

Cabin 1: 2 lower single beds
 Cabin 2: 2 lower single beds
 Cabin 3: 1 lower double bed / 1 upper single bed (with stairs to go up)
 Cabin 4: 1 lower double bed / 1 upper single bed (with stairs to go up)
 Cabin 5: 1 double bed
 Cabin 6: 1 lower double bed / 1 upper single bed (with stairs to go up)
 Cabin 7: 1 set bunk beds, noisier – by engine room (**Category II cabin**)*
 Cabin 8: 1 double bed, noisier – by engine room (**Category II cabin**)*

***Note* One of these will be the guide's cabin.**

Note: For cabins 7 or 8, you must be able to maneuver steps getting in/out of this cabin.