

Strabo Photo Tour Collection

*Travel with Strabo Photo Tour Collection*

The Galápagos Islands  
Natural History & Family Photo Adventure  
With Photo Leader Karen G. Schulman  
June 15-25, 2012



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For more information or to register contact  
the Strabo Photo Tour Collection:

607-756-8676

[www.phototc.com](http://www.phototc.com)



Photo Tour  
Collection

## Galápagos Program Highlights

- 10-day land and cruise program to the Galápagos Islands, including Quito, Ecuador.
- Child discount pricing available on this family departure. Bring your children ages 7-17.
- Price includes Quito/Galápagos Islands Airfare, Galápagos National Park Fee, and tourist card.
- Photo Instruction with Karen Schulman.
- 7-night cruise aboard the 20-passenger motor yacht The **Eric, Flamingo, or Letty**. The small boat experience provides the most in-depth and personal way to experience the islands, with your photo instructor and two Galápagos naturalist guides.
- Features of this family departure: age-appropriate activities from instruction on snorkeling and sea kayaking for teens to briefings geared toward the younger set with kid-friendly meals. Children can visit the bridge and learn about astronomy, navigational charts, and tie nautical knots with the Captain. Special games, contests, and movies with popcorn.
- Yacht features included: safety, comfort, air-conditioned spacious cabins, private bathrooms, hot water, library, flat screen TV, restaurant, bar, observation areas and sundeck, snorkeling gear, and kayak.

The Galápagos archipelago is a distinctive world heritage site. Since Charles Darwin's famous voyage, it has provided a wealth of information and inspiration for people throughout the world. The "Enchanted Islands" still continue to play an important role in our understanding of life on earth. This remote volcanic archipelago remains much as it was millions of years ago, some 600 miles off the coast of South America. Over the course of centuries, animal and plant life from the Americas reached the islands and gradually evolved into new forms. Many of its species are unique to the rest of the world.

The Galápagos offer a way to magically step back in time, to visit an isolated, relatively untouched place where you can be at one with nature as nowhere else. Animals have no fear of humans — birds light on your arm, curious sea lions come to get acquainted, fur seals and penguins join you for a swim in the clear waters.

You will visit nurseries where young Galápagos sea lions cavort among the rocks under the watchful eyes of their mothers and the huge male beachmaster. You will see elegant Red-billed Tropicbirds with their long plumed tails, marine and land iguanas basking on black lava rocks, parrot and puffer fish, morays and moorish idols, and brilliant sally lightfoot crabs. Blue-footed Boobies show off their unique footwork and perform their graceful courting ritual. Throughout the islands are Darwin's finches, whose unique adaptations helped to lead Charles Darwin to his revolutionary theory of evolution. At the world-famous



Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz, you will be within arm's reach of the *galápagos* themselves, the huge land tortoises for which the islands were named.

The Galápagos offer a good example in which tourism has been instrumental in preserving a fragile island ecosystem. While island groups throughout the world have had their wildlife and habitat devastated, the Galápagos have yet to lose a single native species. Nature tourism and the Galápagos Islands are now interdependent, relying on each other for survival.

## Your Tour Leader

Photographic artist, writer and educator, **Karen Gordon Schulman** is based in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. She majored in education and psychology at Penn State and continued her studies at UCLA in 1979 to shift gears and study fine art and commercial photography. She uses a camera to capture the essence of a place and as a tool in the lifelong process of self-discovery. She is known for her hand colored black and white imagery and eclectic travel photography. Her current passion is exploring the exciting world of "iPhoneography." Since 1985, when Karen created Focus Adventures, she has been offering small group photographic workshops and tours that emphasize using the camera for enrichment of creative spirit and development of personal vision. She has experience working with all ages, from 7 to 70 and beyond, and is dedicated to incorporating trip participants' personal awareness with once-in-a-lifetime travel opportunities. Karen has been working with Strabo Photo Tour Collection since 2000.

*"I encourage each person to give themselves permission to make mistakes, permission to create," Karen says. "The more we learn to "see" with our mind, heart, and spirit, the more of an adventure life becomes. I welcome all skill levels and enjoy offering guidance to those with stronger left-or right-brain approaches to photography, to strengthen the other side."*

*"On a photo tour, I enjoy guiding participants to expand their creativity and/or technical skills, increase their confidence and have fun! Instruction can be as much or as little as they prefer. I look forward to seeing you on one of my tours!" [www.focusadventures.com](http://www.focusadventures.com)*

## Itinerary

### June 15 Home – Quito

Today fly to Quito, Ecuador. At 9,000 feet in elevation, Quito is one of the world's highest capitals, and one of South America's most historic and charming cities. Arrive this evening, and be taken to the 4-star hotel for the night. The hotel is graced with a veritable tradition of hospitality and top quality services, located right in the middle of Quito's tourist and business center, close by the historical downtown. Overnight Quito. (meals on plane)



### June 16 Ecuadorian Highlands

After breakfast you will drive up to the moorlands on the Northern slope of Pichincha Volcano, following the route of the hummingbird. Within thirty minutes your surroundings are transformed from the urban streets into lush greenery of the Ecuadorian highlands. The village of **NONO** is a small town where countryside people work at haciendas. In one of the country houses you will enjoy hiking possibilities and the chance to take photos of the beautiful scenery, hummingbirds, and Andean flowers. After lunch you depart to the Solar Museum of Intinan on the Equator; the museum is a small, privately-owned institution with fascinating exhibits on the indigenous awareness of the Equator.

Dinner is on your own tonight and can be experienced at a number of excellent and inexpensive restaurants within a few blocks of the hotel. Overnight Quito. (B, L)

### June 17 Quito – San Cristobal

This morning fly from Quito to the Galápagos and begin your exciting week of discovery on board the *Eric, Flamingo, or Letty*. Upon arrival to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **SAN CRISTOBAL** Island, you will be escorted to your anchored yacht. After the welcome briefing, buffet lunch and safety drill, travel by bus into the interior of San Cristobal to visit **La Galapaguera Cerro Colorado**, where the National Park has established

a breeding program for the tortoises and set up an information center for visitors. Along the trail, find the San Cristobal (Chatham) Mockingbird and Calandrinia plant, both endemic to this island. Here, you will see the terrestrial tortoises living in their natural habitat but also learn about their origin, evolution and threats by introduced animals. (B, L, D each day on cruise)

June 18                      San Cristobal

This morning visit **Cerro Brujo**, a breathtaking white power-sand beach, said to be one of the most spectacular in Galápagos and have an opportunity to snorkel or kayak right from the beach. This afternoon, visit the northeast tip of San Cristobal, **Punta Pitt**, a tuff formation that serves as a nesting site for many sea birds including Blue-footed Boobies, Red-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies, frigatebirds, gulls, and petrels. Punta Pitt is considered to be a first class site for birds and equal to Genovesa (Tower) Island.

June 19                      Española (Hood) Island

This morning have a dry landing at **Punta Suarez, ESPAÑOLA**, where you will witness the highest rate of endemic species in Galápagos. Sea lions noisily greet you as you land on their beach. Curious Hood Mockingbirds peck at your shoelaces. From April to November, the Waved Albatross, found only on Española, perform their wild mating ritual. Colonies of Blue-footed Boobies engage in "sky-pointing" to show off for potential mates. Nazca Boobies busily care for their young. Stunning Swallow-tailed Gulls are the only nocturnal gulls in the world. Red-billed Tropicbirds take shelter under the cliffs. You will also find Darwin's finches, doves, and hawks. Observe a unique species of marine iguana identified with traces of red and green colorings. Colorful Sally Light-foot crabs crawl along the shoreline near to the famous "blow hole".

In the afternoon, there will be a wet landing on **Gardner Bay, ESPAÑOLA (HOOD)**. Walk along seemingly endless stretches of this white sandy beach where you'll find large colonies of sea lions. There is no trail to follow so this is a chance to explore. Swim with sea lions right from the beach, explore by kayak or just relax. There's an excellent snorkeling site off Gardner Islet with a colorful diversity of sea life near Tortuga Rock, explore caves covered with invertebrates.

June 20                      Floreana Island

This morning step ashore at **Punta Cormorant, FLOREANA (Charles)**. One of the few populated islands in the Galápagos. Floreana presents a rich history with mystery and intrigue. Set foot on a green-sand beach alive with the sounds of sea lions. Follow a trail to a brackish lagoon, home of the Pintail Ducks, Common Stilts, and the pinkest Flamingos in the world. Wind your way past a rich variety of plants including Morning Glory, Cut Leaf Daisies, Palo Verdes and Scalesia leading to a beach with power soft sand. Sea turtles lay their eggs in the sand dunes and rays swim in the shallow water. After the walk, there is an opportunity to snorkel at **Devil's Crown**, a shallow sunken crater colonized by a brilliant array of colorful fish and coral. This afternoon visit **Post Office Bay**, not the most scenic, but probably the most famous site in the Galápagos. Here is where a post barrel was put into use in the late 18th Century by English whaling vessels. You are invited to leave a post card and to pick up any mail from your home area.



June 21                      Isabela

This morning visit a hidden gem on **ISABELA** Island called **Los Humedales and Muro de Lagrimas** which translates to "wetlands" and "wall of tears". This area has trails from which you find all four species of mangroves, secluded sandy beaches with rocky shores, lava tunnels and natural pools. View migratory birds including Whimbrels, Short-billed Dowitchers, Wilson's Phalarope, Common Tern, Osprey, Semi-palmated



Plovers as well as mating Flamingos. The national park has released young tortoises from the breeding center in this area so you may encounter tortoises in the wild. The Wall of Tears was constructed between 1946-1959, when Isabela was a penal colony. In the afternoon, visit **Sierra Negra Volcano**, located in the Southwest portion of Isabela, and considered the oldest and largest volcano on Isabela. From Puerto Villamil, travel by motorized vehicle to Santo Tomas. From here, continue by horseback to the rim of the caldera, traversing a lava field through a series of craters and fumaroles until you reach Volcan Chico. Along the way, you will usually spot the Vermillion Flycatcher, Galápagos Martins, Whimbrels, Great Egrets, Galápagos Hawks, and possibly the Dark-billed Cuckoo.

June 22 Bartolomé

This morning visit **Black Turtle Cove (Caleta Tortuga Negra)** where you take a zodiac ride through a series of coves surrounded by mangroves. Here you may view the whitetip reef shark, spotted eagle ray, and beautiful yellow cow-nosed ray, provided you remain quiet while the engines are turned off. This afternoon visit **BARTOLOMÉ**, where it seems like you are walking on the moon. This young Island is inhospitable to most plants and animals. After a dry landing, climb 30 minutes up stairs leading to the summit of a once active volcano. Along the way, pause to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones and cinder cones. From the top of the wooden stairs, you can gaze out across the island for a panoramic view of the island and "Pinnacle Rock", an eroded tuff cone. Crystal clear water is an invitation to snorkel from the beach or Zodiac with schools of tropical fish and Galápagos Penguins.

June 23 South Plaza / Santa Cruz

This morning, visit **SOUTH PLAZA**, a small geological uplift with tall cliffs offering spectacular views. After a dry landing, the trails lead us through Prickly Pear cactus or Opuntia and Sesuvium. Here you can find the Galápagos Land Iguana feeding on the cactus leaves. Toward the end of the hill, encounter a colony of bachelor sea lions. The dominant bulls are in various stages of recovery from battles lost over prime beach territory. You will also find Swallow-tailed Gulls, Shearwaters and Red-billed Tropicbirds who build their nests along the cliffs. Travel by bus to the **highlands of SANTA CRUZ** Island. The scenery gradually changes as you wind your way through all seven vegetation zones found in Galápagos. Here, visit the tortoise reserve at one of the private farms in the highlands where you will encounter giant tortoises in their natural habitat. Visit *Los Gemelos*, Spanish for "The Twins", a pair of large pit craters where you find the bright red male Vermilion Flycatcher. Stop at "the tunnels," the largest lava tubes found in Galápagos.

June 24 San Cristobal – Quito

Visit the Interpretation Center opened on San Cristobal Island in 1999. Here, you gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the Islands. Afterwards, spend time in port before heading to the airport for your flight back to the mainland, departing at noon time.

You will be transferred to the hotel upon your arrival in Quito. Dinner will be on your own this evening. Overnight Quito. (B)

June 25 Quito – Home

You will be returned to the Quito airport this morning for flights home. (B)

*This itinerary has been carefully constructed to assure participants the best this destination has to offer; however, should events arise that are beyond our control, activities and hotel arrangements are subject to change without notice. Above is a summary of typical areas you will explore. Be assured that we will make substitutions that are as similar in quality and interest as possible.*



Strabo is a member of the International Galápagos Tour Operators Association, an organization of tour companies and non-profit organizations whose goal is to preserve the island's unique natural heritage, and to provide a safe and healthy environment for travelers. IGTOA funds projects and provides equipment for the Charles Darwin Station and the Galápagos National Park, and is working with boat owners to upgrade standards and train crew members and guides.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**To register: Complete and return reservation form and include \$750 deposit per person.**

**Land/Cruise cost: \$5795** per person/double occupancy, **(includes \$420 Galápagos airfare and \$110 national park fee and tourist card)**, based upon minimum of 10 paying participants. There is a small group surcharge of \$200 if 6-9 participants. One child discount rate given per every adult family member paid, with limit of two per family. **Age 7-11 at time of sailing: discount \$900, Age 12-17 at time of sailing: discount \$400.**

*Note:* The land costs on international tours are based upon current exchange rates. Although the rate has been relatively stable, should it change, there may need to be an adjustment in the land cost.

### **The land cost includes:**

- Group transportation for tour events in the tour van and yacht.
- Accommodations based on two people sharing a room.
- Services of driver, cultural guide (bilingual if applicable) and photographic leader, during the tour.



- Meals as listed in itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner).
- Park entrance fees, day tours and excursions as shown in the itinerary.
- Extensive pre-departure information and services.

**The land costs do not include:** International air fare; other airfare if noted in exceptions; air fare tax; airport departure tax; airport transfers; additional transfers or accommodations that may be required by those not traveling with the group; excess baggage charges; meals not included in itinerary; activities listed as optional, or those taken on your own; passport/visa expenses; personal medical or travel insurance; any expenses of a personal nature, such as room service, laundry, beverages not included with meals, medical expenses, film or processing, any activities not specified in tour itinerary or listed as optional, or any items not listed in what is included; upon the completion of your trip, modest gratuities to the local guides and the drivers are customary; tips for meals not included in itinerary.

### Deposits, cancellations and refunds

A deposit of \$750 per person is required with reservation form. Payment in full is required when bookings are made less than 120 days before the departure date. Space is subject to cancellation by Strabo if payment is not received when due.

If a passenger wishes to cancel they must send notification in writing to: Strabo International Tour, Co., P.O. Box 580, Dryden, NY 13053; fax 208-545-4119. At the time we receive your notification, the following per person charges apply:

- **121 days or more before departure:** \$500 cancellation fee.
- **91-120 days before departure:** \$750 cancellation fee, plus Strabo' costs, as well as fees that are charged by the suppliers providing the services included in your tour, and/or the airlines providing the air transportation.
- **31-90 days before departure:** 50% of tour cost.
- **30 days or less before departure or anytime after departure:** NO REFUND.

Refunds for services that are voluntarily not used by you cannot be made.

### Fitness and Health

To get the most out of this trip you should be reasonably fit, as the days are very active. There will be several hours of walking each day, sometimes in heat or mud, or at high altitude. It is important that you are able to get around easily, since you'll be climbing in and out of boats, walking over uneven rocks and loose boulders, and hiking rough trails. This departure is geared toward both the strengths and weaknesses of the children's activity level. Accommodations on the yacht are in upper and lower berths. If you have any questions about your ability to participate in this trip, please contact Strabo at 607-756-8676 for more information.

### Insurance

*Each participant must be covered by medical insurance that is valid overseas.*

**We strongly urge you to evaluate your risk and to take out insurance on your trip.** It is vital for you to realize that if you experience a delay or find it necessary to cancel or cut short your trip for any reason, you will lose part or the entire sum you've invested in it (see the section "Deposits, Cancellations and Refunds" in the trip brochure).

Travel insurance helps to minimize the risk of monetary losses you would incur in the event of a delay of your departure due to weather, airline strike, missed connection, etc., your inability to travel for reasons such as illness, injury, unforeseen financial complications and other personal circumstances, or if you were required to cut your trip short for medical or any other reasons.

**There are restrictions and limitations on any insurance program.** For this reason, please read carefully the enclosed pamphlet, which outlines their program of trip cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance. Trained agents are available to answer your questions, so don't hesitate to call the toll free number in their brochure. It is to your advantage to apply for insurance at the earliest possible time, so don't delay in making a decision.

### What to Expect

The Galápagos will give you a wonderful opportunity for photographing birds, reptiles, seascapes and volcanic landscapes. Wildlife is easy to approach, and has virtually no fear of humans at all. You can get within feet of a nesting bird or inches away from a resting marine iguana. Long telephoto lenses are not often required.

There are some restrictions for Galápagos visitors. We must abide by the national park rules and heed the advice of our guide. Although approaching birds is easy, discretion must be used to avoid having a bird abandon a nest. The rule is that you should not get closer than two meters from a bird (although a mockingbird might fly right up and perch on your lens).

We are restricted to staying on the trails, a regulation that is quite important. This restriction, however, does not cause much of a sacrifice to our photography. If you see an interesting animal in the distance, chances are you will

see the same animal around the next corner next to the trail. Tripods can be used, but again they must be used on the trails. Flash is not allowed.

We must wait until first light to venture onto the islands; and we must be off well before dark. But we should have plenty of time for lingering and photographing what we like. Our boat holds twenty passengers.

Each day, there will be ample time for photographic instruction on board the boat, as we rest during island visits after lunch. Our naturalist guide will also give us briefings in the evening about the next day's activities and the natural history of the island we'll visit. Our guide will also give on-shore talks about biology, geology, and conservation.

Pack as much as you can into your carry-on luggage, of course. There is usually plenty of space in the overhead compartments. Pack tripods and other less fragile equipment in the check-in luggage. If you have any questions about weight limitations, let us know.