



Galapagos Photography Odyssey

Nature Photography Adventures

April 19-29 2024

Day 01: 19 April, Friday

QUITO Meet and arrival transfer

Upon arrival at Quito's international airport, you will be met by our hotel's representative and transferred to the hotel.

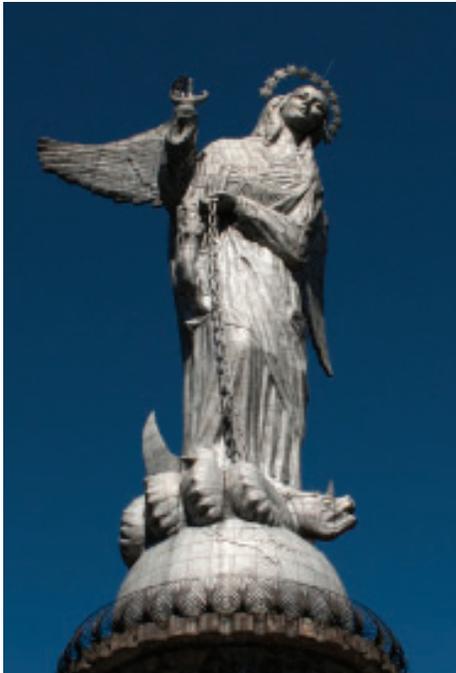
Overnight EB (Eurobuilding) (or similar)

Day 02: 20 April, Saturday

QUITO Full day tour of Old Quito, a World Heritage Site.

We have laid out a driving and walking route that will present outstanding photography opportunities including the Statue of the Virgin of Quito, the Monastery at the Cathedral of Santa Fe, the Basilica del Voto Nacional, and other cathedrals in the World Heritage site of Old Central Quito, and the main plaza of Old Quito.

Overnight EB (Eurobuilding) (or similar)





Day 03: 21 April, Sunday

MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands

AM: Fly from Quito to Baltra

PM: Get underway on the Nemo II, visit Bachas Beach

We will rise early to transfer to the airport for our flight out to the Galapagos Islands. After landing on Baltra Island, we will navigate the Galapagos National Park arrival process (designed to make sure we don't introduce species to these protected islands and waters). We will be met by a representative of the Nemo II who will help us gather luggage and take a short bus ride to the harbor where we will board the Nemo II for our adventure. After lunch and a short sail, we will make our first landing (wet landing) on Bachus Beach where we will do a nature walk and snorkeling. Great blue herons and small waders.

Welcome cocktail. Evening Navigation to Genovesa

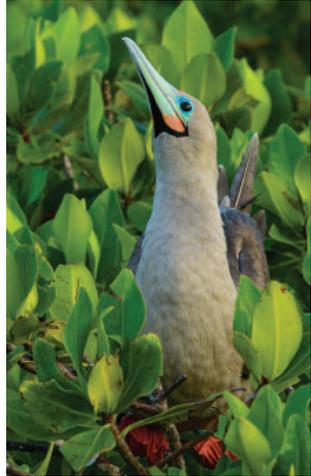
Day 04: 22 April, Monday

MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands

AM: Darwin Bay, Genovesa

PM: Prince Phillip's Steps, Genovesa

Genovesa. Tower. El Barranco – Bird Island. These are all names for this bird-rich island formed by the rim on an extinct volcanic crater!



Darwin Bay. Here the cliff tops are crowded with frigate birds, red-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropicbirds and more, many of them here to court and nest. We will go ashore in the early morning light (wet landing) to observe and photograph the courtship antics and displays of red-footed boobies and frigate birds. We will find lava herons and sea lions. We will compose images of Darwin's finches, Galapagos doves, and mockingbirds as they seek seeds and insects. This is where you'll make those close-ups of red-footed booby feet – and the inflated pouches of male frigate birds desperately trying to appeal to a female.



We will take a panga ride to a dry landing – and our most challenging ascent on this journey together – Prince Phillip's Steps. Following a crevice in a steep wall of the crater that defines Genovesa, steps lead us up to a world of nesting birds. Red footed boobies and frigate birds will present themselves first. Then storm petrels nesting in crevices in the lava – we will watch for a short-eared owl to try and catch a storm petrel as it leaves the nest! We have made so many images, over the years, of red-footed and Nazca booby nests with eggs or youngsters. Family portrait time! And, we will watch for red-billed tropicbirds screaming as they fly to nesting sites tucked into the sides of the crater walls as we motor back to the Nemo.

Evening navigation to Santiago

Day 05: 23 April, Tuesday

MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands

AM: Sullivan Bay, Santiago Island

PM: Rabida Island

This is a landscape day. Sure there will be animals, but we're going to see some dramatic landscapes!

In the morning we do a wet landing on the famous pahoehoe lava flows of Sullivan Bay. Ropey lava formations, where it looks like they were just stopped with a short exposure. Black with shiny highlights. Oh, this will bring out your design skills. This isn't a long walk, but you may get caught up designing and find yourself wishing you had more time!

Snorkeling from the beach.

This afternoon we visit a small island off the southern tip of Santiago – Rábida. Here, lava flows were rich in iron, which has rusted to a distinct red. We will walk a red sand beach to photograph a nursery of Galapagos sea lions. We will find brown pelicans resting and nesting in saltbushes. Sometimes we have found a couple flamingos here.

Do take time to make some striking landscape images! The vivid red sand and cliffs contrast with blue skies. And a short trail gives us a vantage point over a bay and rock formations!

Deep water snorkeling.

Evening navigation to Santa Cruz





Day 06: 24 April, Wednesday

MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands

AM: Santa Cruz highlands

PM: Charles Darwin Scientific Station and Breeding Center

This is a very special day focused on the giant tortoises that the Galapagos are named after!

We will wake up in a bustling harbor this morning - and we will be bustling too. We will take a dinghy to the dock and find modern transportation to the highlands. We will explore collapsed lava craters and their “forested” ecosystems, finding impressive landscapes, and perhaps some of Darwin’s finches!

Then we will make our way to a tortoise reserve, where we will be able to observe and photograph giant tortoises, unfenced, moving freely. Stealth and patience are your friends for great images.

We will be back on the Nemo for lunch. We will go back ashore for an afternoon stop at the Charles Darwin Research Station and Breeding Center - a chance to learn about the impressive efforts to recreate wild populations of tortoises. We will learn about several populations that were on the brink of extinction, but are now recovered or recovering. More tortoise photography of course!

Dinner on the Nemo II. Evening and night navigation to Isabela



Day 07: 25 April, Thursday

MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands

AM: Elizabeth Bay, Isabela Island

PM: Urbina Bay, Isabela Island

Panga ride through the mangroves. Morning swimming, deep water snorkeling and more.

While we are lunching, the Nemo II will navigate to Urbina Bay.

In the afternoon we're headed to Urbina Bay (perhaps our roughest wet landing) on Isabela Island. Urbina Bay is the site of an earthquake in 1954 that uplifted a large area, creating $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of new shoreline. This "new" land became a perfect nesting area for land iguanas – and the land iguanas of Urbina Bay are the largest of the Galapagos. One year we witnessed males literally fighting over a good sunny spot to dig a nest – iguana scales were flying in the air. We may also spot tortoises as we walk the trails here. The tortoises will have come down from the highlands to mate and lay eggs close to the shoreline. We've had extremely good luck capturing images of spiders and spider webs, of fossils (a rarity among these igneous islands) exposed by the uplift, and of skeletal pieces along the shoreline!

Evening navigation to Tagus Cove, Isabela





Day 08: 26 April, Friday
MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands
AM: Tagus Cove, Isabela Island
PM: Espinoza Point, Fernandina Island

Directly east of Fernandina, Tagus Cove is a spectacular landscape outing (dry landing). It is a beautiful, well-protected cove sheltered by the shoulders of two volcanic craters and has been used as an anchorage for over 300 years. We will ascend a nature trail to a point where we can look over Darwin Lake, a true crater lake filled with salt water. We will also have views of both Darwin and Wolf volcanoes. You will want a variety of lenses – and a polarizer to capture the colors in the crater and cove. Oh, not that it's important... we may also catch our first glimpses of Galapagos Penguins and flightless cormorants.

While we dine, we will navigate to Espinoza Point on Fernandina Island. Deep water snorkeling is on the books today!

After lunch we will climb into dinghies and go ashore (probably a dry landing) at Punta Espinoza on the young island of Fernandina. Fernandina is an island in the making. In 2009 we narrowly missed photographing an eruption that had lava pouring into the sea! But, at Punta Espinoza the focus is on life! This is the place where we will see hundreds, of marine iguanas. We will photograph them sunning, swimming, and everything in between. We may spot lava lizards grooming the iguanas – or even posing on top of their heads! Chances are good that we will be able to photograph flightless cormorants and, in the past, we've focused on formations of blue-footed boobies diving for fish! This is one of the best places to photograph sea turtles – and we often do well here with Sally Lightfoot crabs. Oh, and there may well be an opportunity to capture a Galapagos hawk in flight! Wildlife aside, there are amazing lava flows here – it will be great to learn how all of this happened – and to challenge yourself to capture black-on-black images of lava art! And there will be great opportunities to design striking images of cactus on lava flows and mangroves in juxtaposition with lava! We will be ashore longer than other groups – but you'll be begging for another hour when we absolutely have to leave!



Evening navigation to Santiago Island



Day 09: 27 April, Saturday

MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands

AM: Espumilla Beach, Buccaneer Cove, Santiago Island

PM: James Bay, Santiago Island

We will make a wet landing at Espumilla Beach. In the past, the landing here has resulted in some really incredible photographic opportunities! The excursion begins just a short distance beyond the tidepools and heads to the fur seal grotto. Fur seals and sea lions can be seen swimming in the rocky lave ringed pools. A short walk inland leads to a mangrove forest inhabited by the common stilt. Sea turtles also rest in the mangroves. Beyond the mangroves, is a brackish lagoon where flocks of pink flamingos and white-cheeked pintails can be found.

Next we will explore Buccaneer Cove - a wet landing on a beach with coffee-colored sand! This is a great chance to photograph dramatic eroded volcanic cliffs! And to learn about history – as this cove was a great protected anchorage for pirates, sailors, and whalers.

After lunch, we will make a wet landing at James Bay. In the past, the landing at James Bay has resulted in some really incredible photographic opportunities! We've captured oystercatchers and other exciting waders here. It is our opportunity to photograph Galapagos fur seals – and we will find them close to (or even in) a series of pools created by collapsed lava tubes along the shoreline. Depending on tides, we will have great opportunities to photograph marine iguanas in shallow pools with mirrored reflections – great fun compositionally! And this has been a great place to capture images of Sally Lightfoot crabs reflected in still pools!

Farewell cocktail. Navigation to Daphne Island



Day 10: 28 April, Sunday

MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands

AM & PM: Black Turtle Cove and Baltra – then Quito

Pack your bags the night before. Settle your bar bill. Give a great tip to the crew that has made life on the Nemo II so wonderful. Download and back up all your images.

This morning we will sail by panga to Caleta Tortuga, also known as Black Turtle Cove – one last look at the landscapes and life that drew us – and many before us – to these Galapagos Islands. We may find sea turtles, sharks, and rays.

We will anchor the Nemo II in the same protected harbor on Baltra, where our journey began! Then, it's a transfer to the airport at Baltra. After checking in, there will be time to visit some gift shops and to have your passport stamped with the famous Galapagos stamp.

From Baltra, we fly back to Quito, where we will be met by our guide and transferred to our hotel. We will have one last great night in Quito where we can relive our great voyage over food and drink. Overnight EB (Eurobuilding) (or similar)





Day 11: 29 April, Monday

Quito, Transfers to international flights

Breakfast is included – one last time to say goodbye to your friends!

The EB will provide shuttles every half hour to get you to your international flight home!

2026 Galapagos Photography Odyssey Prices

\$8,800 – Per Person Double Occupancy

(note that we built in the internal flight, Quito/Galapagos, this year)

\$15,900 – Single Occupancy (2 spaces available after we have 8 double occupancy signups)

What is included:

Final Dinner in Quito

Breakfasts in Quito

All meals, water, juice, coffee and tea aboard the Nemo II
Quito/Galapagos flights

Not included:

Lunches and Two Dinners in Quito

Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks aboard the Nemo II (Cash, Visa, or Mastercard)

Tips

Nemo II Crew – Approximately \$100-200

Nemo II Guide – Approximately \$100-200

Land Guide – Approximately \$30

Drivers, Baggage handlers, bellboys – Approximately \$50

Entry fee in the Galapagos - \$100 (this could increase)

Snorkeling equipment included, except for wetsuits at \$5 per day



NORTH ITINERARY

