

# Break Escapes – Galapagos

## Day 1: Arrive in Quito

- **Arrive in Quito, Ecuador:** Meet your WorldStrides Course Leader and begin your once-in-a-lifetime experience!
- **Overnight:** Quito

## Day 2: Arrive in Baltra

- **Breakfast**
- **Transfer by Internal Flight to Baltra:** Arrive in Baltra Island, Ecuador.
- **Transfer to Santa Cruz Island by Bus and Ferry** (approximately 3 hours)
- **Check in at the Charles Darwin Research Station:** Identify team meeting spot, drop off luggage, and refresh.
- **Lunch at the CDRS**
- **Meet Team:** Walk to Research Station.
- **Tour Charles Darwin Research Station:** Introduction talk about the research center, founded in 1959, with a primary focus on conservation and sustainability in the Galapagos Islands. Examine and learn about the climate, geography, and ecology of the area in preparation for your immersive experience.
- **Welcome Party!** Enjoy a locals' welcome party complete with Ecuadorian food/drink and customs before catching some well-deserved shuteye.
- **Overnight:** Darwin Station

## Day 3: Conservation of Ecosystems (CDFRS)

- **Breakfast**
- **Meet Team:** Walk to Research Station.
- **Classroom Instruction:** Research Station experts brief team on biodiversity/ecosystems processes; the importance of marine ecosystems and the protection of priority species; and the importance of terrestrial ecosystems and priority species.
- **Lunch / Brain Break:** Enjoy local fare and socialize with team and scientists.
- **Field Experiences** (one in the morning and one in the afternoon):
  - o **Marine focus:** Snorkel with the sharks while being briefed by local experts on the importance of the coexistence of sharks and humans.
  - o **Terrestrial focus:** Hike to El Mirador and look for Darwin's finches.
- **Meet Team:** Walk back to town.
- **Team Debrief:** Round-table discussion on the day's events
- **Dinner:** A free night to choose food/drink at a local eatery
- **Boulevard of Puerto Ayora:** Spend the evening taking in the local sights/sounds with the team before returning home and calling it a night.
- **Overnight:** Darwin Station

## Day 4: Ecosystem Restoration (CDFRS)

- **Breakfast**
- **Meet Team:** Walk to Research Station
- **Classroom Instruction:** Research Station experts brief team on recovery of threatened species and recovery of threatened ecosystems.
- **Lunch / Brain Break:** Enjoy local fare and socialize with team and scientists.
- **Field Experiences** (one in the morning and one in the afternoon):
  - o **Ecosystem focused:** Visit Los Gemelos restoration project for observation and view the Twin Craters.
  - o **Species focused:** Hike along the giant tortoise migratory routes, including a stop at a giant tortoise breeding facility.
- **Meet Team:** Walk back to town.
- **Team Debrief:** Round-table discussion on the day's events
- **Dinner:** A free night to choose food/drink at a local eatery
- **Downtime:** Enjoy a laid-back evening with no agenda or timeline.
- **Overnight:** Darwin Station

## Day 5: Sustainable Development and Human Well-Being (CDFRS)

- **Breakfast**
- **Meet Team:** Walk to Research Station.
- **Classroom Instruction:** Research Station experts brief team on provisions and protection of ecosystem services; sustainable food production; and prevention of impacts caused by invasive species.
- **Lunch / Brain Break:** Enjoy local fare and socialize with team and scientists.
- **Field Experiences** (one in the morning and one in the afternoon):
  - o **Ecotourism:** See changes in action that have been designed to limit the impact of tourism on Galapagos' fragile ecosystem.
  - o **Responsible harvest:** Visit the Santa Cruz fish market and be briefed on tactics to preserve threatened species while increasing human well-being. Buy dinner while you're at it!
- **Team Debrief / Farewell Dinner:** Round-table discussion on the day's events during this special farewell reception & dinner. Enjoy a fresh seafood extravaganza that includes only local, sustainably caught species prepared especially for you
- **Dance the Night Away!** Put your dancing shoes on and enjoy a night at one of the lively local clubs.
- **Overnight:** Darwin Station

## Day 6: Santa Cruz – Isabela Island

- **Breakfast**
- **Meet Team:** Get ready for your next adventure.
- **Boat Transfer:** Transfer by boat to Isabela Island (7am).
- **Las Tintoreras:** Take a guided excursion and come face to face with some of the Galapagos more interesting residents: marine iguanas, Galapagos penguins, sally lightfoot crabs, green sea turtles, resting white tip reef sharks, and more.
- **Soccer Match with Locals:** After a full day of exploring, enjoy a friendly soccer game with locals.
- **Dinner:** Round-table discussion on the day's events while enjoying food / drink at a local eatery
- **Overnight:** Isabela Island

## Day 7: Isabela Island

- **Breakfast**
- **Meet Team:** Transfer to Sierra Negra Volcano
- **Sierra Negra Volcano Excursion:** Guided excursion through the Sierra Negra Volcano area. Hike the rim of the six-mile-wide crater, then trek across the lava fields and fumaroles. Along the way, consider the unique ecological landscape and learn how to correctly identify the different types of volcanic rock.
- **Lunch:** Take a break and recharge over a picnic lunch.
- **Farewell Dinner:** Round-table discussion on the day's events during this special farewell beach dinner
- **Downtime:** Get packed up and ready to depart (or head back out on the town—your choice, but be ready for an early wakeup call!)
- **Overnight:** Isabela Island

## Day 8: Isabela – Baltra – Quito

- **Breakfast**
- **Meet Team:** Walk to the dock. Transfer by boat Baltra Island via Itabaca Canal.
- **Airport/Transfer:** Catch the flight to Quito.
- **Quito:** Free time to explore Quito
- **Overnight flight home**