

# Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

## Trip Information

- **Arrival airport: San Cristóbal Airport (SCY)**
- **Departure airport: San Cristóbal Airport (SCY)**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Embarkation and disembarkation locations may be subject to change. Please check your booking details carefully.

## Flights and Transfers

The liveaboard price includes transfer between San Cristóbal Airport or local hotels and Galapagos Master on the day of embarkation and disembarkation.

If you are staying on San Cristóbal Island before your liveaboard, please inform us of your hotel name; our staff will meet you at your hotel in the morning on embarkation day to pick up your luggage and they will inform you about the arrangements for the afternoon transfer to the boat.

We offer a range of domestic flights with preferential rates and airport assistance. We can also book hotels and excursions in the Galapagos Islands or on the mainland for before and/or after your trip.

## Advice on International Flights

We suggest that you book international flights to arrive into and out of Quito, Mariscal Sucre International Airport (UIO) in Ecuador, although you can use Guayaquil International Airport if it is more convenient. We also recommend that you arrive in Ecuador one day before your liveaboard departure date so that you are well-rested before the start of the cruise, and stay an additional night after to allow for possible domestic flight schedule changes or delays which could lead to you missing your international departure.

If you do not wish to stay in Galapagos or Ecuador for additional nights after disembarkation, please book an evening departure for your international flight to allow plenty of time for the domestic arrival and international check-in.

## Visa and Passports

Passport holders of most Western and Asian countries are permitted entry into Ecuador without a visa, for stays of up to 90 days. However, we advise guests to check their own government's travel advice website or with their nearest Ecuadorian embassy for eligibility and the most up-to-date information. Nationals of countries not included in Ecuador's visa exemption scheme are required to obtain a visa in advance of travelling.

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond the period you intend to stay in Ecuador. If you are travelling with medication, please ensure to bring your physician's prescription with you.

## Advice on Domestic Flights

Domestic flights to San Cristóbal operate from both Quito and Guayaquil.

Master Liveboards have a reserved seating allowance and preferential pricing on LATAM flights from Quito via Guayaquil which fit with embarkation and disembarkation dates and times for all guests boarding Galapagos Master in San Cristóbal. We recommend that you reserve your seat when confirming your liveboard booking to take advantage of our fixed preferential pricing and service which includes airport assistance, priority check-in and an increased checked luggage allowance of 2 x 23 kg.

Please refer to our [Domestic Flight Information](#) sheet, or contact our reservations team for further details and current pricing.

Please be advised that ***we are only able to offer airport and check-in assistance for guests who have booked their domestic flights through Master Liveboards.***

Our airport representative will also assist guests who have booked their flights through us in obtaining their TCT card\* which is required before flight check-in.

\*TCT / INGALA Transit Control Card is **not included in the flight price**. The cost is 20 USD per person, payable in cash only at the INGALA booth at Quito or Guayaquil Airport.

We can also book other flights into the islands if you wish to extend your stay; please enquire for details via [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Tickets will be issued no earlier than 14 days in advance of the inbound flight departure.

## Airport Terminal Fees & Taxes

Passengers travelling within and outside Ecuador are generally not required to pay additional airport terminal fees or departure tax, with costs normally included within your flight ticket. There are periodic postings on forums however where tickets bought from online agents do not include the taxes, so please check with your agent/ airline if it is not clear on your ticket.

A mandatory 20 USD fee for the Ingala Transit Control Card has to be paid by all domestic passengers at Guayaquil or Quito Airports, depending on where you board your Galapagos flight.

Upon arrival at the airport in San Cristóbal (or Baltra), a 100 USD\* Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee must be paid in cash.

**\*Galapagos National Park Fees will increase to 200 USD effective from 1st August 2024.**

## Insurance

***Insurance which covers scuba diving is mandatory*** aboard all Master Liveaboards vessels. Your insurance must cover all of your scuba diving and snorkelling activities, including the costs for recompression chamber treatment and emergency air evacuation. We therefore strongly recommend purchasing diving-specific insurance to cover any diving-related eventuality.

***All guests are also required to carry full travel and cancellation insurance***, as outlined under section 3 of our [Terms and Conditions](#). We cannot be held liable for delays occurring during the cruise, nor any delays or cancellations of flights, accommodations, or tours and transfers that we organise on your behalf.

For further details of why travel insurance is a crucial part of your holiday arrangements, take a look at our blog - [Do You Really Need Travel Insurance?](#)

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

***Travel health insurance is a mandatory requirement for entry into Ecuador.*** All foreign tourists are required to have travel health insurance which covers the entire duration of their intended stay in the country. **Travellers who are unable to provide proof of insurance may be denied entry.**

Master Liveaboards act as a referrer for DiveAssure who offer dive and travel insurance policies, including short-term and multiple-trip policies. Their comprehensive 'Dive & Travel Plus' plan has been specifically developed for diving liveaboard holidays and covers expenses in the event of missing your liveaboard departure due to flight delays or missed connections, and also provides cover for lost diving days if for any reason the boat is required to abort the cruise; for instance, due to a guest injury, mechanical breakdown of the ship, air supply failure, inclement weather conditions, etc.

Please consult our webpage for details and a direct link to DiveAssure's booking portal: [www.masterliveaboards.com/insurance](http://www.masterliveaboards.com/insurance).

## Diving Information

Diving in the Galapagos can be challenging, even for experienced divers. There are often tough conditions and strong currents at certain dive sites which may require a negative entry and make the diving **unsuitable for entry-level divers**, or for those who have not dived in similar conditions before. We provide surface marker buoys free of charge to all divers to assist in case of separation.

Due to the strength of currents, the last dive of the day must be made with plenty of daylight to ensure your safety and that of your fellow divers. Therefore, there are **no night dives** offered.

Technical diving and dives which exceed recreational no-decompression limits are not allowed due to the remoteness of the Galapagos Islands, local diving regulations, and insurance requirements.

Under local regulations, all guests are required to dive with a guide. Additionally, rebreather divers may only dive with a dedicated rebreather guide and remain within the recreational, no-decompression dive limits and times specified for open-circuit divers.

We regret that we are unable to support or provide guides for individuals wishing to dive with a rebreather on our standard Galapagos itineraries. However, in some circumstances, and with enough advance notice, it may be possible to make arrangements for groups of rebreather divers for which additional charges will apply.

### Guests' Level of Diving

It is **MANDATORY** for guests wishing to participate in Galapagos Master scuba diving activities to have a minimum of **PADI Advanced Open Water** certification, or equivalent, with at least **50 logged dives**, and to show their certification card(s) and record of logged dives when they are onboard.

*Any guests who do not meet the minimum mandatory certification and experience requirements, or who the crew feel have insufficient experience or skills to dive safely in certain conditions, may be denied participation in some or all dives during the liveaboard.*

**PLEASE NOTE: We are unable to offer any diving certification courses on Galapagos Master.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the diving conditions please contact our reservations team.

### Non-Divers

Some areas of the Galapagos Islands are suitable for snorkelling but, the majority of dive sites which are visited on Galapagos Master itineraries have strong currents and high surge in the shallows near the islands, and a lot of sharp rocks underwater, making it hazardous for swimming or snorkelling.

Island access is either prohibited or not viable in most areas of the Galapagos, except for the islands where we have scheduled land tours included as part of the itinerary.

## Fit to Dive

All divers are responsible for ensuring that they are fit to dive, and are required to complete a medical statement before commencement of the liveaboard itinerary. Guests who have any symptoms that could be restrictive to diving will need to obtain a doctor's note clearing them to dive, before embarkation. As this may not be possible in the destination we strongly advise guests to do so before travelling.

If you are unable to complete the statement as directed or provide a current doctor's certificate (less than 1 year old) clearing you to dive, you accept that you may not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you have booked with us.

The medical statement can be found on our website at [www.masterliveaboards.com/forms](http://www.masterliveaboards.com/forms).

## Diving Safety

Use of a dive computer and safety sausage (SMB) is compulsory on Galapagos Master.

Guests are responsible for their own dive profiles and must stay within the limits of their certification, follow dive computer guidelines and make a safety stop at the end of each dive.

## Flying after Diving

Current studies indicate that you should wait at least 24 hours after multiple days of repetitive diving before flying. Please keep this in mind when you book your onward international or domestic flights.

## Diving Emergencies

In the unlikely event that a diving-related accident occurs while in the Galapagos, there is a Hyperbaric Chamber in Puerto Ayora on the island of Santa Cruz. They operate a 24-hour emergency service with physicians, EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians), chamber operators, and patient attendants. All personnel are trained in hyperbaric medicine by accredited international associations. The Clinic has the latest technology and operates under rigorous international regulations and safety standards. We strongly urge all guests to dive well within recognised limits, follow dive guides' advice and have dive-specific insurance which covers emergency evacuation, recompression chamber and medical treatment costs.

As per our [Terms & Conditions](#), adequate **dive insurance and travel insurance are mandatory**.

## Diving Equipment

Essential dive gear to bring to Galapagos:

- Gloves (to hold on to rocks in current).
- Hood (water temperatures can drop to 15°C or lower)
- Vest (with or without hood) or extra thermal layers
- 20m - 30m reel for SMB deployment in currents

**We do not recommend or sell reef hooks** as the currents are too strong!

A 12 Litre (80 cu ft) cylinder, SMB, weight belt and weights are provided free of charge.

15 Litre (100 cu ft) cylinders are available by special request only for an additional cost, which must be pre-booked.

## RENTAL EQUIPMENT

**All rental equipment** is subject to availability and **must be pre-ordered** as it is not stored on the boat.

We have 7mm full-length wetsuits available to rent which can be used in conjunction with your own exposure equipment. **We strongly recommend that guests bring gloves and hoods with them** as we can not guarantee availability of these items either to rent or purchase onboard.

**IMPORTANT: *It is imperative that any guests wishing to use rental equipment let us know well in advance of their arrival.*** Please let us know of your equipment requirements when confirming your liveaboard booking.

We have a range of wetsuits, BCD, fins and boot sizes available which are kept in a storage facility onshore and brought onboard as required for each trip; In some cases, we may need to rent items from a local dive shop if demand exceeds our stocks. ***We can not guarantee items or sizes will be available if they have not been pre-booked.***

Equipment rental costs can be viewed under 'Extras' on the Galapagos Master page of our website: [www.masterliveaboards.com/boats/galapagos-master](http://www.masterliveaboards.com/boats/galapagos-master).

## General Information

### Advanced Passenger Information (API)

There are certain details that we require for the airlines and our administrative purposes before travel. All guests are required to submit the necessary information via our secure online portal at [www.masterliveaboards.com/portal](http://www.masterliveaboards.com/portal).

### Forms

It is a requirement for all guests to complete the following forms before or upon arrival on board: medical statement, liability releases, and safe standard practice statement, which can be found at [www.masterliveaboards.com/forms](http://www.masterliveaboards.com/forms).

To save some time, and to ensure you have no pre-existing conditions that could affect your diving, you can download the forms from the above link, fill them in, and bring them with you. By completing and signing the forms, you are confirming that you have read, understood, and agree to the conditions outlined in the forms.

If you cannot complete the forms as instructed, you accept that you may not be able to take part in certain aspects of the holiday you booked with us.

## Time Zone:

- The local time on the mainland of Ecuador is 5 hours behind UTC/ GMT
- The Galapagos Islands are an extra hour behind, i.e. UTC/ GMT -6hrs

## Money Matters

The local currency in Ecuador is the US Dollar (USD). Larger hotels, resorts, shops and restaurants will usually accept Visa and MasterCard, although smaller ones do not. Please be aware that, in some cases, you may be asked to pay a service charge for credit card handling which can range from 4% - 10%.

**PLEASE NOTE: *We are unable to accept credit or debit card payments on Galapagos Master.***

**All onboard payments need to be in cash only.** Please ensure you bring sufficient USD cash with you to cover any onboard extras that have not been paid for in advance as well as crew gratuities and other incidental charges.

## Language and Religion

The primary language spoken in Galapagos is Spanish; on the mainland, the indigenous language, Quechua, is also widely spoken.

The population is 80% catholic with the remainder being 10% protestant and 10% mostly atheist or agnostic. There is a resurgence of native belief systems that revere Pacha Mama (Mother Earth) and emphasise the harmonious coexistence with nature.

***All Dive and Safety briefings on Galapagos Master are conducted in English, although the crew also speak Spanish. If you or any of your group do not speak or understand either language, please let us know.***

## Health

**IMPORTANT:** It is a mandatory requirement for all foreign tourists entering Ecuador to have travel health insurance which covers the entire duration of their intended stay in the country.

There are two hospitals in the Galapagos Islands, although services are limited and the facilities are unsophisticated.

We recommend that travellers follow normal precautions with local food to prevent stomach upsets and be sure to drink either boiled or bottled water only whilst on land.

We produce our own purified water on board Galapagos Master; we recommend the use of electrolyte powders to ensure adequate hydration and advise bringing some with you as they are not available on the boat.

We also advise guests who are prone to motion sickness to bring preventative medication with them. However, many over-the-counter products can cause drowsiness so please check the possible side-effects of any motion sickness tablets you are bringing.

Please make sure you use insect repellent and cover exposed skin to prevent any insect-borne diseases.

## Vaccinations

We advise all guests to ensure that routine vaccinations such as MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) diphtheria, tetanus and polio are up to date before travel. Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Typhoid vaccinations are recommended for some travellers but not mandatory.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have had all of the required vaccinations for the countries you are visiting. Please contact your health adviser, pharmacy, or nearest travel clinic at least 8 weeks before departure for the latest advice if you are unsure which vaccinations you need.

If you have been in a country affected by yellow fever within six days of arriving in Ecuador, you will need an International Certificate of Vaccination for yellow fever to be allowed entry into the country. It is also recommended for those intending to travel east of the Andes.

## Climate and Water Temperatures

The Galapagos Islands straddle the equator and are affected by trade winds and the Humboldt Current which means the year is roughly divided into two seasons; 'warm' and 'dry'.

The warm season generally begins in December extending through to May/ June and is quite tropical with almost daily rain showers and cloudier skies.

The dry season, which runs from May/ June to November, has cooler temperatures with localised rain showers generally confined to the highlands of the larger islands.

Daytime temperatures range from an average of 21°C (70°F) during the dry season, up to 23°C (75°F) in the warm season, whilst evenings are marginally cooler but can drop to just 15°C (59°F).

**Water temperatures** across the archipelago range from 17°-26°C (62°-79°F) with a difference of several degrees between the southern areas and the north around Wolf & Darwin, and the coolest months being July - November.

Thermoclines are to be expected and temperatures can drop below 15°C (59°F) in some areas; divers are advised to **bring suitable additional thermal protection**, including a hood / hooded vest to wear underneath their wetsuit. Rental wetsuits on Galapagos Master are 7mm full-length.

We also advise the use of gloves, both to help keep you warm in cooler temperatures and to reduce the chance of stings or cuts if you need to hold on tight in the strong currents.

## Drones

Drones may be brought into the Galapagos Islands BUT, ***their use by tourists is not allowed anywhere in the Galapagos Islands***. The use of drones is only allowed under strict regulations for research and monitoring purposes, or with a special permit for commercial use.



## Life on Board

The main features of the vessel can be viewed on the Galapagos page of the Master Liveboards website: [www.masterliveboards.com/boats/galapagos-master](http://www.masterliveboards.com/boats/galapagos-master)

### Accessibility

Due to the layout of the boat, Galapagos Master may provide challenges, or be unsuitable for guests with limited mobility, and is generally not suitable for wheelchairs. Please contact us for further details if you have any questions or concerns.

### Accommodation

The maximum capacity on Galapagos Master is 16 guests in 8 double occupancy cabins. Single occupancy may be available on request and is subject to a supplemental charge.

### Cabin Facilities

All cabins have individually controllable air-conditioning and private en-suite bathrooms with centrally heated hot water. Other facilities include a hairdryer, towels and bathrobes.

NOTE: There are no lockable safety boxes/mini safes in guest cabins. However, your valuables can be sealed in large envelopes and locked in the safe in the captain's cabin for the duration of your time on board.

### Electricity

Power outlets on Galapagos Master are mostly US style, 3-pin (Type B) at 220V and 110V. There are also 2 pin sockets in the camera preparation and charging areas which fit US Type A plugs and European Type C and F.

There are no plug adapters available onboard so you will need to bring your own if your equipment has UK, Australian or other European-style plugs.

### Food and Drink

Meals are provided on a full board basis including a light breakfast, full breakfast, lunch and dinner served buffet style in the indoor dining area. A complimentary selection of carbonated soft drinks\*, fruit juices and teas are also available as well as instant and freshly brewed coffee. Guests may also select beer, wine, or spirits from the bar for an additional charge.

#### **\*PLEASE NOTE: DIET SODAS ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN GALAPAGOS**

Due to the government ban on plastics, **it is not possible to get Diet Coke, Coke Zero, Coke Light, Diet Pepsi, or any other diet sodas** in the Galapagos Islands. They may be available in a few places on the mainland but, as they are not produced in returnable glass bottles, they are not available in Galapagos.

We offer a choice of International and locally inspired cuisine and can usually cater to most special dietary requirements with advance notice. Should you have any specific dietary needs, allergies, or special requests, please advise your sales consultant at the time of confirming your liveaboard trip to ensure we are able to make provisions for your needs.

Please be aware that it can be very difficult if not impossible to find sugar substitutes such as Splenda, Equal, Sweet 'n' Low, etc., as well as low-fat or soya products and some other special dietary items that are common elsewhere, particularly for vegans.

While it is usually possible to get coconut milk, soya milk, almond milk, a variety of legumes and small vegan bites, **the following VEGAN items can NOT be found** in Galapagos:

- Portobello mushrooms
- Vegan cheese
- Vegan breads/pastries
- Vegan 'meats'
- Vegan yoghurt is NOT allowed in Galapagos.

It is also not possible to find Gluten Free cookies

We always do our best to accommodate dietary requests although we require plenty of advance notice to do so. Guests with very specific needs should consider bringing some of their preferred processed food items or snacks if the lack thereof may constitute a health risk, or seriously compromise your enjoyment of your holiday.

Please note however that ***you can not bring seeds, fresh fruit, plant materials or unprocessed food products into the islands***. Everything will be x-rayed by Galapagos National Park Authority personnel at Quito or Guayaquil airport and again upon arrival at San Cristobal or Baltra Airport and prohibited items will be confiscated.

Please refer to our Galapagos National Park [Prohibited items document](#) for further details.

## Clothing and Footwear

Dress on board is very casual and most guests feel comfortable in little more than swimwear, shorts and t-shirts. A sweater is advised for cooler nights, particularly after multiple dives. Galapagos Master is equipped with laundry facilities and our housekeeper is happy to launder your clothes during the trip for a nominal fee of 1.00 USD per item irrespective of size/weight.

We request that guests respect the wishes of others by donning clothing for meal times. Most guests prefer bare feet on board the vessels; however, island visits may require sturdy sandals or cross-trainers.

## Staying connected

Most cell or mobile phones which have 'roaming', or a locally purchased SIM card, will function periodically during your cruise. However, service signal strength can be very weak and some areas may have no signal at. Many of the sites visited during the Galapagos Master liveaboard itineraries are very remote and mobile phone connectivity is intermittent at best.

Galapagos Master is equipped with Starlink allowing wi-fi internet access for guests who wish to remain connected for the duration of their liveaboard itinerary. Access packages can be purchased on board only and cost 40 USD per guest for 7 nights or 60 USD for 10 nights. Each person purchasing a package can connect up to 3 devices and data is unlimited.

PLEASE NOTE: This is only available onboard and cannot be pre-booked or pre-paid.

We have satellite phone communication on the boat which can be used by guests in the event of an emergency, which will be charged at a per-minute rate.

Should your family need to contact you during the cruise, our out-of-office contact numbers can be found below; however, the numbers are reserved for emergencies only.

## Underwater Photography and Videography

Galapagos Master offers specialised features for underwater photographers and videographers which include:

- Indoor and outdoor workstations for the preparation and maintenance of cameras.
- Individual storage drawers for cameras and peripheral items.
- Large rinsing tanks with frequently changed fresh water.

Our crew are thoroughly trained in the handling of delicate camera equipment and will bring your cameras to/ from the tenders for you.

## Drones

The use of drones is only allowed under strict regulations for research and monitoring purposes, or with a special permit for commercial use. ***Tourists are not permitted to use camera drones anywhere in the Galapagos Islands.***

## Smoking

Smoking on board is permitted in designated outdoor areas only.

## Environmental considerations

All visitors and operators in the Galapagos Islands must comply with the National Park Rules, which can be found in the downloads section of the Master Liveaboards website, or directly using this link: [Galapagos National Park Rules](#)

We respectfully ask our guests to consider the following to help with our mission to reduce our environmental impact in the Galapagos Islands.

## Batteries

While some batteries may be available to purchase on board we advise bringing extras with you, especially if your personal dive and/or camera equipment requires a unique size, or will need a lot of replacement batteries during your trip. We also kindly request that you take spent batteries home so that they can be recycled or disposed of properly.

Alternatively, **consider using rechargeable batteries** as there are plenty of sockets to plug in a charger on board.

## Drinks Bottles

We do not provide any drinks in plastic bottles on board Galapagos Master. If you own a sports bottle please bring it with you, or you can purchase one on board. If you don't have one and

you don't want to purchase one, we have plenty of cups on board that you can use to ensure you remain well hydrated.

Additionally, due to the Galapagos Islands restriction on plastics, ***we are unable to offer Diet Coke, Coke Zero or any other diet sodas*** as they are not available in recyclable glass bottles.

### Plastic bags and wrappers

In accordance with the Ecuadorian Government's ban on single-use plastics in the Galapagos Islands, we do not provide plastic bags for purchases made on board, although reusable canvas bags are available for sale. Please help us minimise plastic waste by removing plastic wrappers and packaging from items before travelling.

### Toiletries & Sunscreens

We kindly ask that guests consider the type of products they are bringing with them and, where possible, bring environmentally-friendly toiletries and reef-safe sunscreens for use on board, and to take partially or unused products home with them.

## Payments on Board

### Onboard extras and payments

Additional charges for items such as laundry, alcoholic drinks, and Galapagos Master merchandise, as well as equipment and nitrox which have not been paid for in advance can be paid **on board in cash only**.

**PLEASE NOTE: *We are unable to accept any card payments on Galapagos Master.***

All prices on board are quoted in USD and payment is preferred in USD, although we can also accept Euro and GBP. However, due to extremely unfavourable bank exchange rates in the Galapagos, we strongly suggest that you **only bring USD cash** with you for any extra payments and crew tips on board and on land.

### Tipping

We believe that tipping is a matter of personal choice. Should you feel that your crew has made your holiday extra special then a tip is always appreciated. Crew and guides are dedicated to ensuring your safety and enjoyment throughout your time in Galapagos, and work extremely hard night and day to do so.

If you would like to show your thanks for all their hard work, you can leave a tip in the envelope provided. Please hand this directly to the Captain. All gratuities are divided equally between the eleven crew members including the dive guides.

If you are unsure how much to tip, other liveaboards in Galapagos typically propose a figure around 10% of the cruise cost which, in our case, is approximately 100 USD per day.

## Safety on Board

### Emergency Management & Equipment

Galapagos Master crew members undergo rigorous training in emergency management procedures and the vessel is equipped with many modern safety features such as automated life rafts, EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon), satellite communication, fire fighting and detection systems and emergency pumps.

A thorough boat briefing will be provided by your Cruise Director at the start of your trip during which all guests will be requested to participate in a life jacket drill. Further practice scenarios may be performed during your cruise to assist our crew in keeping their skills sharp.

### First Aid

Galapagos Master is equipped with a fully stocked medical first aid kit for treating minor injuries and ailments as well as for assisting trained medical professionals in remote locations. There is a full complement of medical-grade oxygen which can be administered to divers through DAN kits or unit-specific attachments. You will also find on board an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) which has been proven to greatly increase the survival rate in the eventuality of cardiac fibrillation.

Our dive team are all qualified emergency responders. Should you feel unwell at any point during your cruise, please seek the advice of your cruise director who will be able to assist you.

### CCTV on board

As part of our commitment to the safety and security of our guests and crew members, all Master Liveaboards vessels are equipped with CCTV cameras which are located in the following areas on each vessel:

- Engine room
- Dive platform
- Dive deck
- Sun deck
- Corridors
- Galley (kitchen)
- Communal indoor area(s), i.e. salon, camera prep area

We wish to assure all guests that the placement of all CCTV cameras is for the safety of all on board and that they are not set up or intended to invade privacy in any way.

## Extending your holiday

Travelling within Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands can be made exceptionally easy when you book with Master Liveaboards. As well as a range of domestic flights, we can also offer hotels, excursions and tour packages, which can be arranged for before and/or after your liveaboard itinerary.

## Optional Galapagos Package

After a night in Quito or Guayaquil, transfer to the airport and board the designated flight to San Cristóbal. On arrival in San Cristóbal, you will be met by a Galapagos Master representative who will transfer you to the boat. After the cruise, you will be transferred to San Cristóbal Airport for your flight back to Quito or Guayaquil where you will stay overnight before transferring to the airport for your international flight home. The offer can be tailored to your needs and includes:

- 2 nights hotel accommodation in Quito or Guayaquil (either side of your cruise)
- Return flights to San Cristóbal
- All Transfers

## Looking to spend some additional time exploring the Galapagos Islands?

We are happy to arrange one of the following 3-night, land-based extension packages for you, or we can tailor a shorter, longer or combined package to meet your requirements:

- [3 nights/ 4 days - San Cristóbal based](#)
- [3 nights/ 4 days - Santa Cruz based](#)
- [3 nights/ 4 days - Isabela Island based](#)

An overview of other suggestions can be downloaded [here](#)

## Quito-Guayaquil-Quito Devil's Nose Adventure

The journey from Quito to Guayaquil (or vice versa) is one of the most spectacular train journeys in the world, which re-opened in June 2013 after years of renovations. Dating back to the late 19th century, the line runs from Quito, high in the Andes, all the way to lowland Guayaquil on the Pacific coast, and connecting the Valley of the Volcanoes with the infamous Nariz del Diablo (Devil's Nose) - one of the steepest stretches of railway in the world.

The trains themselves offer a luxury travel experience, with dining cars, a lounge with large windows, as well as open carriages for passengers to experience the landscape to the fullest.

The trip along the entire length of the line takes four days/three nights, with time for excursions en-route and accommodation included. There are also shorter options available; there is the opportunity to join in for only selected parts of the line if your time is limited.

These are just some of the many domestic travel options to choose from. Prices for these and other add-ons vary depending on the time of booking.

Please contact our reservations team at [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com) or ask your agent for more information and other possibilities.

## FAQs

Should you have any questions that have not been answered here, please visit our website at [www.masterliveboards.com/faq/](http://www.masterliveboards.com/faq/) or e-mail [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com) and our team will be happy to assist you.

## Contact Information

### Thailand Office - Master Liveboards

10/512 Moo 3,  
Tambon Vichit,  
Muang Phuket 83000,  
Thailand

Open Monday - Friday 08:30 - 18:30 and Saturday 09:00 - 17:00 ICT (UTC+7)

Web: [www.masterliveboards.com](http://www.masterliveboards.com)

Email: [dive@masterliveboards.com](mailto:dive@masterliveboards.com)

Thailand Office: +66 (0) 76 367 444

UK number: +44 (0) 208 099 2230

USA (Toll Free): +1 866 258 6398

WhatsApp: +66 (0) 62 668 7136

### Galapagos pre-embarkation EMERGENCY ONLY

#### PLEASE NOTE:

- The Galapagos phone numbers below are available on WhatsApp, which is the preferred method of contact.
- If you are experiencing problems related to *flights, transfers or accommodation arranged through Master Liveboards*, please do not call the local operations number; please call the relevant local *Travel contact number* directly.
- Likewise, if your call is not travel related please contact the local operations number.

**Galapagos Master Local Operations** (UTC +6): +593 99 342 4409 (Juan Carlos)

**Local operations assistance** (UTC +5): +593 98 463 0496 (Ivonne)

**Domestic (LATAM) flights:** (UTC +5) +593 98 625 3890

#### Master Liveboards 24hr emergency number (Calls only):

In the event of an emergency, *if you are unable to get a response from the numbers listed above*, please call: +44 7862 126398. Please do NOT SMS this number.

## What to Bring

Our blog, [Packing for a Scuba Diving Liveaboard](#) provides useful tips on what to pack. The following is a checklist of essential items that you should ensure you bring with you for your liveaboard diving holiday. A complete packing checklist can be downloaded [here](#)

### Passport

☐

6 months validity and at least 2 empty pages for visa stickers and stamps

### Travel Documents

☐

Flight tickets - International & Domestic; hotel booking; excursions

### Cash & Credit Card for emergencies

☐

Recommended amount (additional to park fees): 250 - 500 USD  
Airport Departure Tax in local currency

### Diving Certification & Logbook

☐

Including Nitrox Card if certified & intending to use Nitrox

### Travel and Diving Insurance Documents

☐

To include emergency medical evacuation

### Essential Diving Items

☐

Dive computer with full battery

Gloves, hood, thermal layers, 20-30m reel

### Toiletries & Medications

☐

Including sunscreen & insect repellent  
Inform booking team of medical conditions

### Essential Clothing Items

☐

Swimwear, hat and lightweight jacket

*Guests are strongly advised to carry essential items in hand luggage in case of lost or delayed luggage through International or Domestic Flights.*