

PRE- DEPARTURE TRAVEL INFORMATION

**Preparing for Your Journey to the most Pristine Islands on
Earth**

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Contact Information

The following is the contact number you may need as reference
during your expedition on board the Galapagos Elite:

24/7 Emergency cell phone number:

+593 98 589 9950

ELITE CATAMARAN Galapagos Luxury Cruise

1. GENERAL FACTS ABOUT ECUADOR & GALAPAGOS

➤ Cultural Perspective

Latin Americans are proud and independent people. Special attention should be taken to show respect for clerks, taxi drivers, waiters, and other trades people.

Please try to avoid unfavorable comparisons of conditions in South American countries to conditions in your countries.

➤ Language

Spanish is the official language of Ecuador. Most of the hotel staff and boat crew also speak some or fluent English and your guide will speak both English and Spanish.

Please keep in mind; however, that any efforts you make to speak Spanish will be met with great appreciation by locals. We highly recommend a pocket-sized Spanish to English dictionary.

➤ Time Zone

Ecuador mainland is located in the Eastern Standard Time zone, and the Galapagos Islands are 1 hour behind. There is little seasonal variation in dawn (approximately 6:00 AM) and dusk (6:00 PM); thus, Ecuador does not observe Daylight Saving Time.

➤ Telephone Codes

- When dialing a land-based number outside Ecuador, drop the "593" country code and add a "0" to the beginning of the number.
- When dialing a land-based number within Ecuador dial only the last seven digits.
- When dialing a mobile number from another mobile number, or when dialing a mobile number from a land-based number within Ecuador, drop the "593" country code and add a "0" to the beginning of the number.

➤ Currency

The dollar is the official currency of Ecuador.

➤ Cash

We suggest that you have sufficient cash on hand to pay for tips, incidentals, meals not included in the itinerary, alcoholic beverages, gratuities, and souvenirs.

Do not bring \$100 or \$50 bills with you, as they are not accepted in most places through your journey in Galapagos and Ecuador. Local banks might change high denomination bills in smaller bills.

We recommend bringing crisp, new small bills (\$1's, \$5's and \$10's) if you are visiting the Otavalo Market. Please note that vendors will rarely have change for bills larger than these. Larger bills (\$20's and \$50's) are fine for gratuities, bar tabs, etc.

➤ **Traveler's Checks**

Traveler's checks are difficult to cash while on our expedition and thus, are not recommended.

If you do bring traveler's checks, they should be cashed at the airport in your country or in Quito / Guayaquil. Hotels generally do not have enough currency on hand to cash them, and they are not accepted by most shops and restaurants.

➤ **Credit Cards**

Most shops and restaurants in Quito / Guayaquil and Galapagos take credit cards. Visa and Mastercard are much more widely accepted than American Express.

➤ **ATMs**

In the Galapagos archipelago, ATMs are only available in ports.

➤ **Gratuities**

The fees do not include the customary gratuities for your guide or the other service providers who work to provide you with an unforgettable experience.

We feel strongly that people should tip based upon the level of service they feel that they have received, and hence, we have chosen not to include these costs in the price of our trips.

We suggest guidelines below for your convenience. These amounts are entirely at your discretion and should reflect your level of satisfaction with services rendered.

MAINLAND DRIVER

If you participate in any local excursions while in Quito / Guayaquil or other city in Ecuador mainland, we recommend a gratuity of US\$5 per person per day.

MAINLAND GUIDE

While in Quito / Guayaquil or other city in Ecuador mainland, you will be accompanied by a local guide who will assist you in airport transfers and check-ins, as well as escort you in any local excursions you have arranged. We recommend a gratuity of US\$ 10 per person per day.

*Please check our guidelines below to find tipping suggestions for vessel's crew & naturalist guide.

➤ Money Safety & Theft

In large cities, there is always a possibility of theft. Please do not carry your valuables when walking around the cities.

➤ Climate

Quito

Quito is known as "The City of Eternal Spring" because of its beautiful climate that gets cool at night and warm during the day. There is always the possibility of an occasional light rain shower (45°F/7°C to 75°F/25°C)

Guayaquil

Guayaquil, the largest city in Ecuador, is often referred to as "The Pearl of the Pacific." It earns this nickname due to its stunning location along the Guayas River and its proximity to the Pacific Ocean.

Guayaquil's climate is known for its warm and humid conditions, with temperatures ranging from around 75°F/25°C to 95°F/35°C during the day. The evenings tend to cool down slightly, with temperatures dropping to about 70°F/21°C.

Galapagos islands

Weather in the Galapagos is quite different from that of higher latitudes. Its location on the equator imparts a stabilizing influence on the climate, but the nearby ocean currents bring a unique seasonality. Only two seasons are evident: the warm, rainy season and the cool, garua season.

The garua season extends from July through November. Cool waters from the Humboldt Current (coming from the coast of South America) and the Cromwell Current (an equatorial countercurrent bringing cool water from deep in the ocean) bring a foggy overcast known in South America as "garua." This overcast is widespread and quite moist.

The highlands of the islands receive most of their annual moisture from the fog-drip that accompanies the garua. In fact, this cool, garua season is actually the wet season relative to the rainy season!

Daytime temperatures during this season seldom exceed 75°F / 24°C and water temperatures range from the low 70s throughout most of the islands, down to about 60°F on the west side of Isabela.

These cooler waters also bring a distinct plankton bloom and a richer environment that supports the great seabird populations of the Galapagos.

The warm, rainy season (which is paradoxically the drier season) spans the months of January through June. It results from the slackening of the Humboldt and Cromwell Currents, and the disappearance of the garua.

During the rainy season, there are often warm, sunny periods interspersed by rain showers and occasional downpours. Generally, it is very pleasant.

The ocean is clearer and warms to the high 70s or even 80 degrees; air temperatures can reach the low 90s, and the garua is replaced with clouds that gather around the higher islands.

These clouds are formed from evaporation of the warmer waters and occasionally result in rain, often confined to the higher elevations of the islands. In some years, it is quite scarce.

El Nino is the annual slackening of the Humboldt Current; or more accurately, a seasonal reduction in the upwelling along the South American coast. It generally occurs around Christmas time, hence the name El Nino or "Christ Child." Periods when this phenomenon occurs earlier or is more intense become known as "El Nino Years."

The ocean is less productive because there are fewer nutrients available for the plankton to grow. Weather patterns can also be affected in unpredictable ways due to a strong El Nino. The months of December and June are transition months, and their climates can alternate between seasons from one year to the next.

Wildlife is always present, and birds breed at different times, so even within a single species, you can witness courting behavior or young in nests in any given month. The best time to see the waved albatross is April through mid-December.

The ocean starts to get a bit choppy in July and is at its roughest from August to October. The best time to view the pacific green sea turtle is November to January, when considerable mating activity can be observed in the water.

➤ **Health & Medical Information**

There are a few basic health matters that require special care and attention. We can only provide recommended guidelines for your health and well-being during this expedition.

Please consult your physician for additional or specific instructions and medicine.

➤ **Vaccines**

If you are traveling to other countries before or after our expedition, we suggest that you research the requirements of those countries.

➤ **Medications**

As it will be nearly impossible to obtain any medication during our trip, plan to bring a full supply of any prescribed or over-the-counter medications that you take on a regular basis. Keep all prescriptions in their original, labeled containers.

➤ **Altitude Sickness**

Please keep in mind that the air is thinner in Quito than you may be used to, as the city is located at 9,300 feet above sea level. It is possible that upon arrival you will feel a bit lethargic and short of breath at times.

It is important to take it easy for the first couple of days. To lessen the effects of altitude sickness, we highly recommend avoiding alcohol while in Quito.

In contrast to Quito's high altitude, Guayaquil welcomes you with its lower elevation. Located near sea level, the city's atmosphere feels invigorating, allowing you to explore its vibrant streets and attractions with ease.

Also, proper hydration is essential: drink plenty of water, particularly on your international flight to Ecuador and on your last day in the islands before returning to Quito / Guayaquil.

➤ **Pregnancy**

Please check with your doctor at home before starting your travels, and please make sure to bring a doctor's certificate.

➤ **Children**

Seven-year-old children and older are accepted on board. For infants and children younger than 7, a responsibility waiver will be sent to you to be signed.

➤ **Sea Sickness**

If you are at all susceptible to motion sickness (or if you are unsure), we highly recommend that you bring medication with you. Please check with doctor.

➤ **Sun Protection**

The sun is very strong on the equator, especially from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We schedule our visits in the early morning and late afternoon to avoid the most intense part of the day.

It is still important that you use a sunscreen appropriate for your level of sensitivity to the sun and wear a protective hat and sunglasses.

➤ **Food and Water**

Be aware that changes to your customary diet and drinking water could lead to an upset stomach.

Here are some guidelines to follow if traveling on your own before or after the trip:

- Drink only bottled or filtered water.
- Use bottled or filtered water for brushing your teeth.
- Order your drinks without ice if you are unsure of the origin of the water used to make it.
- Do not eat food purchased from street vendors, raw vegetables; fruits not peeled yourself and raw, partially-cooked or cold seafood. A good rule of thumb is: if you can't peel it or cook it, don't eat it.
- Keep away from dairy products unless you are certain that they have been pasteurized.

➤ **Physical Requirements**

Walking, sometimes over rocky and uneven terrain, can present physical challenges. Wet landings can also be tricky due to the motion of the waves.

Please make sure to have a check-up prior to your trip to verify your heart condition before going snorkeling and participating in other activities on your daily excursions.

All activities are optional, and that travelers should only participate in activities that they feel comfortable with.

Travelers are not required to participate in all excursions and may choose to remain on the boat if they feel unable to participate or would just like to relax. Unfortunately, as all visitors to the islands must be escorted by a guide, it is not possible in most cases to simply go ashore and wait on the beach for your group.

If you are concerned with your own physical fitness, please contact our office for details regarding the specific physical requirements for this expedition.

➤ **Safety**

Your safety is our primary concern, and every precaution is taken to ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable experience. However, these trips take place in a wilderness environment where medical services are often very limited.

Engaging in activities like hiking, swimming and exploring contains certain inherent risks. If at any time you have concerns about your own safety, please advise your Cruise Service Office or Guide.

2. TRAVEL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

➤ **Passport**

A valid passport is required for all international citizens traveling to Ecuador. Your passport must remain valid for at least 6 months AFTER your expected return date to your country, or you may not be allowed to enter Ecuador.

Be sure to check your passport! If your expiration date is within 6 months of your return date, you must have your passport renewed.

Make colored copies of the information pages of your passports to carry separately from your passport or scan your travel documents and store an electronic copy in your email account. If your passport is lost or stolen, this copy will help in the replacement process.

➤ **Visa**

Visas are not necessary for U.S, UK and most European Citizens traveling to Ecuador. Please verify with your embassy and consulate if you need a visa to come to Ecuador.

If you are not a citizen of the countries listed above, please check with your local authorities regarding documents required for your entry.

➤ **Travel Insurance Verification**

It is mandatory to purchase a travel and health insurance for your own safety.

If passengers must disembark due to force majeure, such as extreme weather conditions, health issues or other unforeseen circumstances, all accommodation and food expenses must be covered by the passengers.

➤ **Requirements for entering Ecuador & the Galapagos archipelago**

All tourists must purchase the TCT (Transit Control Card) prior to entering the archipelago.

All tourists must pay the Galapagos Tax prior to entering the archipelago.

All tourists must have a return ticket with set dates.

➤ **Traveling With Children Under 18**

If children under the age of 18 are accompanied on this expedition by only one parent, we highly recommend that the adult have in possession a certified / notarized letter of consent from the absent parent.

Likewise, guardians (grandparents, etc.) should carry a notarized letter granting temporary guardianship from the parents for each child in their care.

➤ **Immigrations & Customs**

All international travelers must pass through Immigration and Customs upon their first entry into Ecuador. All bags, including both checked and carry-on luggage, are subject to inspection.

When departing Ecuador, all travelers must once again pass through Immigration before boarding their outbound flight. All baggage is also subject to inspection during this process. Upon arrival in your country, travelers must pass through both Immigration and Customs.

➤ **SICGAL**

Non-native plants and animals pose the biggest threat to the conservation of Galapagos, as they often become pests that displace native and endemic species, in addition to transporting foreign diseases.

The Ecuadorian Animal and Plant Health Service and the Quarantine and Inspection System of Galapagos (SICGAL) have developed a program to prevent exotic species from arriving to the islands.

To minimize the entry of exotic species, we request your cooperation in filling out the declaration form given to you on your flight to the Galapagos. Please declare any products you are transporting to the islands.

We also request your cooperation and patience with quarantine officers as they inspect your luggage.

➤ **Flight arrangements**

To enter the Galapagos Islands, visitors need to have a round-trip ticket that coincides with the dates and times of the cruise aboard the Elite. If tickets are not purchased through the M/C Elite, it is the responsibility of the visitors or the agencies to purchase tickets that coincide with the dates and times of the cruise.

Please be aware that in case flight tickets are issued directly, our Commercial Team will send a waiver to be signed and send back to the M/C Elite.

➤ **Air schedule to and from Galapagos**

Please consider that flights are subject to change without prior notice. We will advise your tour operator or you directly if the hours change.

We always have an Airport Assistance Representative in Quito and Guayaquil airports. Our representative will help you with your check-in and will deliver your boarding passes. You must be at the airport at least 2 hours before the flight departure time.

If you booked your flights directly, please make sure to meet our Airport Assistance Representative either in Quito or in Guayaquil on time based on the flights we use to embark and disembark the Elite.

If your luggage gets lost or damaged during your flight to the Galapagos, please contact the airline directly. Assistance from a representative will only be provided on the days the Elite sails from or arrives to port.

Arranging international connections one day before and one day after your Galapagos cruise is highly recommended. Please ensure that the names shown on your cruise confirmation are the same as those shown in your passport to avoid paying fines on the day of your flight.

➤ **Luggage Allowances**

- **International flights**

Most international airlines enforce baggage weight limits; you should consult your airline directly to confirm baggage limits for your flights.

We suggest one large, strong, water-resistant or waterproof bag and one carry-on daypack per person. We strongly recommend that you use collapsible, soft-sided luggage, as it is easier to carry and storage.

- **Local flight to Galapagos**

On the flight to the Galapagos, you are limited to one checked bag weighing no more than 23 kg. You may bring one carry-on bag as well of 10 kg.

Excess baggage is subject to being left behind or may be brought along at an additional cost to you.

Information regarding additional weight allowance should be obtained at the ticket counter upon checking in.

- **Transit control card**

All tourists visiting the Galapagos Islands must purchase a Transit Control Card for \$20 per person (price subject to change). Please keep this card until you leave the Galapagos Islands, as it will be required by the authorities, as this document is your proof that you entered and left the islands.

It is mandatory to have this document to travel to the Galapagos Islands.

In order to ease logistics at the airport in Ecuador mainland, the M/C Elite handles the pre-payment of the Transit Control Card for all guests, as long as the Galapagos flights are taken within the vessel's operational days.

- **Galapagos National Park Fee – only cash**

If you do not prepay the Galapagos National Park fee with your agency, the entrance fee of \$200 per adult (subject to change) will need to be paid in cash upon arrival to the Galapagos Islands.

The park tax for children under the age of 12 is \$100 (subject to change). To receive this discounted rate, we must have a clear copy of each child's passport at least 1 month prior to departure.

Take in mind that you can pre-pay this fee with M/C Elite as long as you are flying to the Galapagos within the vessel's operational days.

3. PACKING LIST

Travel light! Our experience tells us that the lighter you pack, the happier you will be. Dress is strictly casual, and camping-style attire is the rule.

Pack a change of clothing, rain gear and any essentials (including TSA acceptable travel-sized toiletries) in a carry-on bag in the unlikely event that your luggage is delayed or lost by the airlines.

Following are some packing guidelines and a checklist to help you determine the right amount of gear to bring with you.

GENERAL PACKING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Due to the hot and humid conditions found at sea, we highly recommend that you bring clothes made of synthetic, quick drying material. If damp from rain, seawater or sweat, cotton items may not always dry completely.

- Hairdryers are available in all suites on the vessel.
- Carry any travel documents, money, medications and other vital supplies, in your carry-on bag and not in your checked luggage.
- Leave expensive jewelry at home! A good rule of thumb: if you would be heartbroken to lose the item, then do not bring it along.
- If you plan to lock your luggage, make sure it works

➤ **Essential Gear**

- ☐ Lightweight, breathable waterproof rain jacket with hood
- ☐ Warm fleece (for cooler nights on the boat and while in Quito)
- ☐ Tennis shoes or lightweight hikers for land excursion, crocs for wet landing and sandals for inside the yacht.
- ☐ Sport sandals (i.e. Tevas, Chacos, etc.)
- ☐ Water-resistant sport sandals are highly recommended for getting in or out of the skiffs during wet landings. You must not go barefoot while wading in the water, as the sharp coral can cut like glass. Flip flops are not recommended.
- ☐ Small, water-resistant daypack (to carry camera gear and other equipment during island walks)
- ☐ Sun hat (with brim for protection)
- ☐ Make sure that you have something to secure your hat when it is windy. You do not want it to get blown overboard during your trip.

➤ **Clothing**

- ☐ Pairs of comfortable lightweight pants
- ☐ Pair of nylon, zip-off pants (useful for warm days and cooler mornings and nights on the vessel)
- ☐ Long-sleeved shirts
- ☐ Short-sleeved T-shirts (you may also want to bring an extra T-shirt to wear while snorkeling if you sunburn easily)
- ☐ Pairs of shorts (you may not need as many pairs of shorts if you are bringing zip-off pants)
- ☐ Swimsuits (for daily snorkeling excursions)

➤ **Additional Gear**

- ☐ Camera equipment, including all implements for underwater photography

- ☐ Non-DEET insect repellent
- ☐ Sunglasses (with UV filter and secure strap)
- ☐ Toiletries available on board, unless you want to bring your own.
- ☐ Sunscreen & lip balm. By regulation of the Galapagos National Park, the use of sunscreens containing chemicals like OXIBENZONE, OCTINOXATE, and others harmful to marine ecosystems is restricted. (We request that the sunscreen be colorless/transparent.)
- ☐ Motion sickness medication. If you are sensitive to motion sickness, please bring medicine for it
- ☐ Small medical kit
- ☐ Prescription glasses/contact lenses
- ☐ Zip-lock baggies to protect electronic devices
- ☐ Spanish/English dictionary
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Ear plugs in case you are a light sleeper
- ☐ Hand sanitizer/alcohol
- ☐ From June to November, due to the drop in sea water temperature, it is recommended to bring neoprene gloves and cap.

➤ **Money**

- ☐ Souvenirs
- ☐ Extra drinks and bar tab
- ☐ Gratuities
- ☐ Personal spending money
- ☐ Travel money for before and after your trip (and for any extensions)

4. ONBOARD EXPERIENCE AND GALAPAGOS EXPEDITIONS

➤ **Galapagos national park rules & regulations**

- ✓ When visiting the Galapagos Islands, a National Park and World Heritage Site, all visitors are expected to act responsibly and to treat the environment with respect.
- ✓ Visitors to any protected areas within the Galapagos National Park must be accompanied by a naturalist guide authorized by the GNPD
- ✓ Remain on marked trails at visitor sites and always respect signs for the protection of wildlife, and for your safety. Please stay within the designated path

- ✓ Maintain a distance of at least six feet (two meters) from wildlife to avoid disturbing them, even if they approach you
- ✓ Never feed wildlife, as this can cause health problems
- ✓ The Introduction of foreign elements to the islands is strictly forbidden
- ✓ Flash photography is not permitted when taking photos of wildlife
- ✓ Do not take as memories elements from the island's ecosystem
- ✓ Do not buy any products or souvenirs made from banned substances, including black coral, shells, lava rock, animal parts, or any native wood or vegetation prior to leaving Galapagos
- ✓ Practice "leave-no-trace" principles in order to maintain the beauty of the environment
- ✓ Pack out all trash and dispose of or recycle it in the populated areas or on your vessel
- ✓ Only Authorized Fishing is permitted, through local operators
- ✓ Fire Camps and Smoking are strictly prohibited within the Galapagos National Park
- ✓ Motorized water sports are not allowed
- ✓ Traveling With Photography Equipment & Film
- ✓ Drones are not allowed in the Galapagos archipelago
- ✓ Underwater cameras are allowed and recommended
- ✓ If your main objective to visit Galapagos is to film for professional and commercial purposes, a special request must be submitted to acquire a license.

➤ **Briefings**

Every day, your naturalist guide will give informative talks about the activities for the following day. These talks will be held in the living room located on the main deck of Elite.

➤ **Space Allocation**

You will have your own suite and full use of all social areas aboard the Elite. Further information will be provided upon your arrival to the vessel.

The cruise reserves the right to revoke or otherwise restrict drinking privileges of any guest, regardless of age. The minimum drinking age for all alcoholic beverages is 18 according to the Ecuadorian law.

➤ **Crew**

Since a trip of this nature requires that travelers and crew reside together in relatively small quarters, common courtesy is necessary so that all can enjoy themselves.

The captain and his crew will be helpful and will try to satisfy your needs within the limitations imposed upon them.

➤ **Naturalist Guides**

You will have the services of a naturalist guide who will remain with you during your time in the Galapagos.

Our Galapagos guides are certified by the Galapagos National Park and have a minimum of 5 years of experience guiding in the Galapagos Islands; their knowledge, skills and love of the islands are key factors when selecting our guides.

Your Galapagos naturalist will guide you on two site visits per day, as well as recap your activities and tell you about the following day.

➤ **Meals & drinks**

- Soft drinks and snacks are included delicious and refreshing snacks are given in the mornings and afternoons. Enjoy a cup of coffee at our 24 hours coffee station.
- As a reference, meals on board will usually be served at the following times:
 - Breakfast: 07:00 am
 - Lunch: 12:30 pm
 - Dinner: 07:30 pm
- All meals, as described in the itinerary, are included in the cost of your trip.
- On board the Elite, all meals include soft drinks.
- You can enjoy one complimentary glass of Maipo red wine or Santa Cruz Brewery beer per person daily, at any time during your cruise. Simply request it from any member of our crew, and let us enhance your experience as you explore the Galapagos.
- Vegetarian and other reasonable special dietary needs can be accommodated on most occasions if ample notice is given prior to departure. Please keep in mind that food must be shipped to the Galapagos, so resources are limited.
- Alcoholic beverages are available at an additional cost.
- Due to new guidelines dictated by the Galapagos National Park, beverages in plastic bottles are now banned in the archipelago.
- These beverages include diet soft drinks currently only available in plastic bottles in mainland Ecuador.
- For low-sugar or sugar-free beverages, please contact your Cruise Service Officer for options available on board.

➤ **Bar Tabs**

Credit cards can be used to pay bar tabs on board the boat. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted. Bar tabs can also be paid in cash.

There is a mandatory 25% tax (including a 10% service charge) that will be included in the price of all drinks purchased on board.

Our bartender will be happy to assist you upon request. We offer a great variety of wines and liquors.

➤ **Corkage policies**

Please note that guest may bring bottles of wine and/or spirits aboard with corkage fee of \$30 + VAT per bottle (subject to change).

➤ **Alcoholic Beverage Policy**

Guests who violate any alcohol policies (overconsuming, providing alcohol to people under the age of 18, demonstrating irresponsible behavior, or attempting to conceal alcoholic items at security and/or luggage checkpoints or any other time), may be disembarked or not allowed to board at their own expense.

➤ **Dress Code**

The dress code during the entire voyage on board will be casual. For daily activities, please use expedition/beach outfits.

Please dress according to your daily excursions.

➤ **On-board drinking water station**

The Elite comes equipped with a next-generation water purification system, which includes a 6-stage inverse osmosis filtering process as well as selective ultrafiltration, providing our guests with a constant source of pure drinking water.

The system includes a hands-free option for filling water bottles and canteens.

➤ **Waste Management**

A waste management system and garbage-recycling program has been implemented on our vessel. Garbage receptacles are placed on all decks, with separate containers for recyclable trash and other waste.

All washroom amenities provided on board the Elite are bio-degradable, and all containers are recycled.

Please help us to recycle! Signs are posted in your suites to remind you to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Personal refillable water containers will be provided to all our guests.

Fresh, purified water, 24/7 available in our Water Station.

➤ **Smoking**

Smoking is not allowed on the islands.

Smoking is not allowed in suites and balconies.

The only area designated for smoking is located on the upper deck. It is the shaded terrace at the stern.

➤ **Noises**

Please note that eventually the engine makes a low humming sound and also when lowering and raising the anchor.

➤ **Electrical Current**

On board the Elite, we have 110 and 220 volts available in all suites and 110 volts in social areas.

➤ **Internet**

Enjoy complimentary internet access for your first device per guest, keeping you connected as you experience your unforgettable Galapagos adventure.

➤ **Daily activities on the islands**

Based on your itinerary the following activities and excursions will be carried out:

Land excursions, snorkeling, kayaking, dinghy rides, paddle-boarding, swimming.

Your Naturalist Guide and Cruise Service Officer will keep you informed daily about our activities on the islands. You can also check our itineraries on the following link: www.EliteGalapagosCruise.com

➤ **Dry and wet Landings**

On most of the expeditions, the specific island destinations located within the Galapagos National Park are only accessible on a small boat under the supervision of a naturalist guide.

On some islands, the dinghy can get close enough to the shore to disembark on dry land. For a dry landing against a natural dock of lava rocks, you will need to wear shoes. These landings can be a bit tricky because the panga is moving with the wave action, and the rocks are often slippery. It is important that you watch what you are doing and listen to your guide, who will offer you a hand as you disembark.

However, on other islands, you could get your feet wet when disembarking along the beach shores. The naturalist guide will inform you of the kind of landing you will have prior starting the expedition.

Every time that you hear the words "dry landing", you can use your socks and shoes without worrying about getting them wet.

Nevertheless, in the case of a "wet landing", the panga cannot make it all the way to shore so you will have to step into a foot or so of water. Please use waterproof sandals, crocs, or any other model that you feel comfortable using to wade in the water. If you are adventurous enough, you can even do it barefoot!

➤ **Expedition gear**

Snorkeling equipment (neoprene suit, flippers), stand-up boards, paddles, kayaks and trekking sticks will be available onboard.

Furthermore, binoculars will be provided on board to enhance your experience.

This equipment will be given to you before the first activity. In case of loss, partial or total damage of the mentioned gear, passenger agrees to recognize and pay the replacement of the equipment.

Please help us take care of the equipment.

➤ Tipping | crew and guides

Gratuities are based on the level of service received during your stay on board the Elite. If the quality of service received has been excellent, the following gratuity ranges are suggested:

Your crew

These amounts will be divided evenly between the crew members.

3-Night cruise: \$100 - \$120

4-Night cruise: \$125 - \$150

7- Night cruise: \$200 - \$240

10-Night cruise: \$275 – \$330

11-Night cruise: \$300 – \$360

14-Night cruise: \$375 – \$450

*Amount per guest

*All prices are labeled in American dollars

Your naturalist guide

3-Night cruise: \$60 - \$80

4-Night cruise: \$75 - \$100

7-Night cruise: \$120 - \$160

10- Night cruise: \$165 – \$220

11- Night cruise: \$180 – \$240

14- Night cruise: \$225 – \$300

* Amount per guest

*All prices are labeled in American dollars

If you would like to tip a specific crew member or guide, you are welcome to do so. These tips must be given in person. These amounts are merely suggestions. Tips for crew and guides can be paid by credit card and/or cash. Nevertheless, we recommend to pay tips with cash on board the Elite.

Credit cards accepted: Visa, Mastercard, and American Express.

5. SUSTAINABILITY BIO

Through our Sustainability Project creates an ecosystem where our guests and crew evolve into agents of change, “working together for sustainable experience.”

Our purpose is to give back to the islands in appreciation for everything that they have given us.

Elite has become a CO2 Neutral catamaran since January 2023 by obtaining an International Carbon Neutral Certification.

The vessel worked with VERSA Certifier and SICMA Verifier on a technical study of Elite to reduce fossil fuel consumption, enhanced waste management protocols implemented according to international standards, in order to create a more sustainable experience for all our guests.

In achieving international recognition, Elite followed the guidelines and criteria established in the ISO 14064-1:2018(es) standard for quantifying and reporting greenhouse gas emissions.

How do we neutralize our carbon footprint?

International Carbon Neutral Certification

- Innumerable benefits of social and environmental impact for the community of the Galapagos Islands
- The health of the ocean and its ecosystem.
- The tranquility of our passengers for living a luxury and sustainable experience in the middle of nature.

ISO 14064 validation and independent verification of Greenhouse Gases

- Quantification regarding the consumption of fuels, electrical energy, inputs of the operation, refrigerants, waste management
- Commitment to reduce our GHG both at the operational level in the Islands, and at the organizational level in offices
- The reduction plan, focuses on rationalizing the consumption of operational and administrative inputs.

Neutralize Carbon Emissions

- Additionally, to neutralize our remaining GHGs, we contributing financially to UN compensation bonds to continue minimizing our carbon footprint
- Golden contributes to Sahyadri Industries Limited, renewable energy generation with the installation of 14 windmills – India
- Supports the recognition of the flora and fauna of the Tinguiririca river in Chile, which supplies zero emission power to the Chilean central power grid.