

*Dear Friends,*

Nature Galapagos & Ecuador would like to extend to you a warm welcome to Ecuador and the marvelous Galapagos Islands! We thank you for your confidence in our company.

Before your trip, we would like to offer you a few tips.

Remember, for your flight to the Galapagos Islands you should arrive at the domestic terminal 1 and ½ hours before your flight is scheduled to depart. The permitted baggage: 1 bag of 20 kilos. There, you will have to go through three steps, and then one more step when you arrive at the islands:

1. In order to get a Migration Control Card, you must go to the **INGALA** office in the terminal and give them your original passport and your air tickets provide in this envelopment with \$20.00 USD to pay the card per person.
2. You then proceed to the **SIGAL** office where they will check your luggage for seeds, flowers, or other elements whose introduction could cause damage to the Galapagos ecosystem.
3. Once you have completed these parameters and they have given you the corresponding documentation, your luggage will be checked on the **airline that corresponds to your e-ticket.**

Later, after approximately two and a half hours (if your flight leaves from Quito and stops in Guayaquil), you will arrive in the Galapagos.

4. Upon your arrival to the airport in Galapagos you will have to pay \$100.00 USD per person (cash only) to enter the **Galapagos National Park** with your original passport. ***You should only pay this fee once!***

Once you arrive, **the guide should have a sign with the name of the company and/or the passengers' names**, or sometimes they will call out the name of the company and/or passengers' names. Be alert for your name.

Below are some general suggestions on what you may need when traveling to the Galapagos Islands:

#### **IMPORTANT REMARKS**

\* Your **passport must be valid** for at least **6 months** after the end of your trip in order to enter Ecuador

#### **Cash and banks**

- \* There are cash machines and banks in Santa Cruz and San Cristóbal Islands however, they seldom work properly.
- \* Isabela Island has **NO cash machines or banks.**
- \* **We highly recommend** bringing cash in small denominations from the continent

#### **Medical attention in the Galapagos**

\* Given the remote location of the Galapagos Islands, medical and health services are very basic and severely limited. Access to even basic medical care may be at least 48 hours away. Serious injury or illness is to be treated on the Ecuadorian mainland. Regulations to preserve the environmental integrity of the islands, and local permissions required to permit aircraft to

land in Baltra or San Cristobal, may delay air ambulance flights even in the case of serious medical emergencies.

### **Travel Insurance**

\* NG&E highly recommends all travelers to hold a travel insurance covering material losses, accidents, delays, air ambulance services and life loss. NG&E **does not** provide any sort of **travel insurance** along with the programs (either on the Galapagos or the mainland). The costs of the programs offered by NG&E do not comprise coverage for accidents or events beyond our control.

### **Clothing**

It is advisable to bring casual clothes that are light weight and comfortable to wear and walk around in. Please consider that the flights to Galapagos limit you to a **maximum of 20kg**.

- \* A light jacket or sweater (especially if you will be passing through Quito, which can get cold due to the high altitude)
- \* Shorts
- \* Comfortable T-Shirts or tank-tops
- \* One or two pairs of pants (for the plane and chilly nights, again especially in Quito)
- \* A dress shirt (for evening dinners on some cruise boats)
- \* Comfortable walking shoes
- \* Teva-style sandals (NO FLIP-FLOPS)
- \* A swimsuit or two

### **Sun Protection**

- \* Hat or a cap
- \* Sunglasses
- \* Sunscreen (EXTREMELY IMPORTANT)
- \* Aloe Vera cream or gel for sunburn (Just in case)

### **Camera Gear**

- \* Camera (Underwater cameras preferably)
- \* Extra memory cards for digital cameras.
- \* Waterproof bag for your camera or a plastic bag to keep things from getting wet.
- \* Video Camera
- \* Extra Batteries and the battery charger
- \* Extra film

### **Money & Security**

- \* Original Passport
- \* Copy of passport
- \* Diving License (in case you'll be diving in Galapagos)
- \* Credit card(s).
- \* U.S. Cash (Ecuador's national currency is the U.S. Dollar, which means there is no need to change money if you are coming from the States. It is advisable to bring small bills as many places do not except any bills larger than \$20. Do not bring travelers checks as they are not accepted anywhere, not even at most banks)

### **Other Gear**

- \* Travel Alarm Clock
- \* Binoculars and a flash light
- \* Sturdy Water bottle or Nalgene bottle

- \* Toiletries
- \* Shampoo
- \* Insect repellent
- \* Small day pack

In the case that you encounter a problem in the airport or during your trip, don't hesitate to contact us at our **emergency number: 099-2747-880**

We hope that this brief guide will be useful to you in your travels in the Galapagos Islands.

Enjoy your trip!

Sincerely,

Nature Galapagos & Ecuador