



Please see the **NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES** at the bottom of this sample itinerary for details on program changes.



GALÁPAGOS: Preserving Nature's Wonders™

Encounter different species of exotic island and marine life, many of them found nowhere else on Earth!

OVERVIEW

On this program, you will experience one of the most pristine natural environments in the world, where Charles Darwin first developed the Theory of Evolution. Volunteer alongside conservationists to help preserve this UNESCO-designated heritage site and unique ecosystem. Besides volunteering, you'll have the opportunity to explore two different islands, snorkel with sea lions, and see the world-famous Galápagos tortoises. Galapagos, being so unique, truly is the experience of a lifetime.

HIGHLIGHTS

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- ★ Restore the habitat of native Galápagos tortoises
- ★ Explore the natural wonders of two majestic islands
- ★ Snorkel with sea lions and spot iguanas, sea turtles, and blue-footed boobies
- ★ Work on infrastructure projects with a local school

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

14-Day Program

June 13 - June 26, 2024

June 30 - July 13, 2024

July 05 - July 18, 2024 (B)

July 17 - July 30, 2024

Tuition: \$5,699

Service Hours: 26

Max Group Size: 20

Age Range: 14-18

Student-to-Staff Ratio:
6-to-1

Airport: Quito (UIO)



SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

The native wildlife of the Galápagos faces danger to its local habitat and biodiversity from invasive plant species introduced to the archipelago by mankind. Prepare to get your hands dirty! Work at a tortoise refuge center, digging up invasive plants, helping with groundwork, and preparing habitat for the tortoises. You'll plant trees to help protect endemic species and restore the natural habitat of the local wildlife.



SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

The actual schedule of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.



DAYS 1 - 2: GETTING ORIENTED

Fly into Quito, Ecuador's capital, where GLA staff will be waiting to greet you! We'll drive to the hotel near the airport where our group will spend our first and second nights while we prepare for Galapagos with Leadership Curriculum and team- building. Depending on how smooth airport arrivals go, we may get the chance to visit Mitad del Mundo, a monument built exactly where the Equator line passes through Ecuador.

DAY 3: JOURNEY TO THE GALÁPAGOS

We'll catch an early morning flight to the Galápagos archipelago and journey to our destination island of Santa Cruz, the second largest island in the Galapagos Island chain. On arrival, we take our bags, meet our local guides and make our way to our Home Base. Settle in and take the afternoon to move our legs as we walk to the Charles Darwin Center and National Park Breeding Center to learn about their work on the islands. This will help us to wrap our heads around the delicate and unique ecosystem of the islands and help frame our service work that is to come.

DAY 4 SERVICE ORIENTATION

Today, you'll receive an orientation to our service site – a tortoise reserve located in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. We will work to restore the landscape to its once pristine state, which just happens to be a prime habitat for the giant Galápagos tortoises. This is laborious and dirty work, but our efforts are incredibly important to the islands' long-term health and preserving this unique landscape.

DAYS 5-7: SERVICE & ADVENTURE

Over the next three days, we'll continue our work eradicating invasive species that have taken over the land. In the afternoons, we'll take excursions to some of the Galapagos' most unique locations, such as Las Grietas, a stretch of inland emerald green water at the bottom of an earth fracture! Swim in crystal clear water or perch on a volcanic rock nearby to take in the beauty of your surroundings. You'll also see two impressive earth craters – Los Gemelos – and walk through a massive lava tunnel! Lastly, we'll explore Tortuga Bay, a lovely beach named for the black sea turtles that nest here. Relax and soak in the day with your peers and spot wildlife. We will do some leadership activities on the beach and reflect on how we can bring the culture and learnings back home.

DAY 8: JOURNEY TO SAN CRISTÓBAL

Today, we journey to San Cristóbal, the easternmost island in the Galápagos archipelago and one of the oldest geologically. Once we arrive,

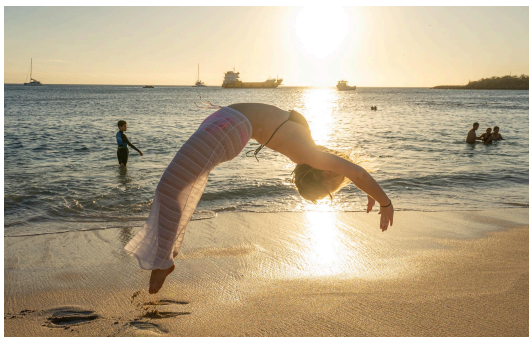




we will settle into our Home Base in town, enjoy an energizing lunch, and spend the afternoon exploring as we hike to Mann beach, where we can enjoy ice cream and start to relax into the rhythms of life on this new island. If conditions are right, we can snorkel here.

DAY 9: SERVICE & SNORKEL

Start the day with some fresh air and movement as we take a short ride and mellow walk to La Loberia beach to snorkel. You may even have a chance to swim with sea lions as you watch for majestic sea turtles and fish. We will have lunch at a local restaurant to recharge before heading to a school to help with infrastructure projects. We may do some structure refurbishing, painting, or beautification projects -- whatever the school requests at the time of the program. We will spend the evening wrapping up our time on the islands, discussing how this once-in-a-lifetime experience has impacted us.



DAY 10: ISLA LOBOS ADVENTURE & SCHOOL SERVICE

Today, we explore the unique Isla Lobos! Isla Lobos is a small, flat island off San Cristóbal Island's coast. Beside its rocky shores lie calm waters where conditions for swimming and viewing marine life are optimal, and visibility can reach up to 40 feet. The island is most known for its resident sea lion population that plays in the turquoise waters and dots the white sands. Birdwatch for blue-footed boobies, Darwin finches, brown pelicans, and frigate birds. Enjoy time exploring this otherworldly landscape before returning back to San Cristobal. In the afternoon, we'll visit a local primary school where we'll enhance the learning environment through a small maintenance or beautification project.



DAY 11: CONSERVATION, HISTORY, HIKING, & SNORKEL

After a hearty breakfast, hike to the Cristóbal information center to learn about the conservation work. Next, we will continue our walk to enjoy another snorkel location at Tijeretas Beach. On the Galápagos Islands, there is always something new and unique to see! In the afternoon, we will continue our service journey, meeting with a local woman who works to keep the islands clean by recycling plastic and other materials. She aims to educate local people and change the mentality around single-use plastics. We will spend a few hours learning about her work and participating in a unique recycling workshop.



DAY 13: SCHOOL SERVICE & SHOPPING IN TOWN

On our final day on the archipelago, we will finish up our service project with the school, and take some time to enjoy the town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, buying souvenirs, and taking it easy with our newfound GLA community. After dinner, we'll reflect in a group on leadership topics, personal motivations, and the community's issues that we've observed: the challenges of balancing human needs with biological protection and preservation and the pressure to develop the islands. Gather in Mentor groups for deeper discussion.





DAY 13: TRAVEL TO QUITO AIRPORT

Today, we will catch our flight back to Quito. Take a final look at the stunning Galapagos islands from above as we lift off over the Pacific.

DAY 14: DEPARTURE

After an early breakfast and final goodbyes, we'll head to the airport. The GLA team will help you check in and see you off on your return flight home! ¡Adiós Ecuador!

NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

Every year brings new and exciting opportunities for experiences we can offer students on our programs. While this program is being planned for 2024, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

TRAVELING TO ECUADOR

GLA HOME BASE | At the start and end of our journey, we'll stay at a local hotel in Quito. In the Galápagos, we'll spend four

nights on San Cristobal Island and five nights on Santa Cruz Island. On the return to Quito, we stay in a hotel near the airport.

FOOD | Ecuadorian meals usually consist of rice or noodles with fish or chicken. Other common dishes include soups and patacones (fried plantains). Resources are limited in the remote Galápagos, so we'll be conscious of eating locally and sustainably..

CLIMATE | Located 600 miles west of Ecuador, the Galápagos has a tropical and semi-arid climate but experiences a cool, dry season each summer. We're likely to experience clouds and mist during our time of travel.

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times

 **USA TODAY**

 **NBC NEWS**

The Boston Globe
seventeen

OUR EXPECTATIONS

Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and physically and mentally present for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

No tolerance

GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

Community-Led Experiences

GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

Mentorship

GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

Contact Us

Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

Enroll Now

We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as possible! In fact, our most popular programs fill early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at www.experiencegla.com/enroll.

