

ALVARO'S ADVENTURES
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Galapagos

The Enchanted Isles.

2024

June 29 – July 9, 2024

Andes post tour - July 9 – 13, 2024

**Guided by Alvaro Jaramillo, National Park Guide and
Local Guides**



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Six hundred miles (960 km) off the coast of Ecuador lie the volcanic Galapagos islands, famous for a wealth of unique plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. The Galapagos Islands were the place where Charles Darwin was able to convince himself that he was correct in his theory of natural selection as the mechanism for evolution, and they remain a priceless living laboratory for scientists today. The sheer number and variety of wildlife both on land and in the water of the Galapagos is quite remarkable. Because of the islands' isolation and remoteness, many of these species are found only here, and have specialized to the environment in interesting ways. The Galapagos' famous Marine Iguanas, albatross and giant tortoises continue to amaze scientists and delight tourists. Many unique species occur in great concentrations. For example, Marine Iguanas bask on the rocks by the hundreds, and on certain islands hundreds of seabirds may be seen at one time. The Galapagos Islands are a mecca for tropical seabirds, including Blue-footed, Red-footed, and Nazca boobies, Flightless Cormorants, Great and Magnificent frigatebirds, Red-billed Tropicbirds, Waved Albatross, Swallow-tailed Gulls, the very rare Lava Gulls, Galapagos Penguins, and many more. Seabirds provide some of the greatest opportunities to observe wildlife in the islands – especially in the large breeding colonies. One of the magical aspects of visiting the Galapagos is how everything is tame! From birds, to sealions and even the lizards. It is one a place where you can take great wildlife photos even with a cell phone!

The land birds show ample amount of diversity as well, from Galapagos Rails to Galapagos Martins, the Brujo Flycatcher (now confirmed to be a separate species from Vermilion Flycatcher on the mainland), and Dark-billed Cuckoo to name a few. Although the Darwin's Finches have all the fame, it was in fact the mockingbirds that captured Darwin's attention while he was on the islands. It was these birds that convinced him that there was but a single colonization by the mockingbird, and it has speciated into the various forms on separate islands. Genetic work we can do now confirms that he was indeed correct. The Darwin's finches are much more complex, showing all sorts of different bill sizes, and behaviors. In fact, Darwin did not realize that these finches were all related while he was on the islands! He surmised there were finches, warblers, and grosbeaks involved based on the very different beak sizes. Only when he returned to England with the specimens did the importance of these finches become apparent.

Our focus will be on birds, with plenty of time to study and discuss Darwin's finches, but there are many other treasures to pursue in the emerald isles. We'll also enjoy the Giant Tortoise, Iguanas and Lava Lizards, mammals of the Galapagos, and will have our hands full identifying a few of more than 500 species of native plants that have evolved on this remote volcanic landscape. It is worthy of note that more than 30% of native plant species found in Galapagos are not found anywhere else on earth. One aspect that is often forgotten with respect to the Enchanted Isles, is that there are some nice opportunities to find whales and interesting offshore fish like Mobula Rays, and even sharks. Birds, whales, marine iguanas, fish, cacti, volcanoes, and history.... Is there anything missing from the Galapagos? This is not an understatement, if you are amazed

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and enchanted by wildlife, you absolutely have to visit the Galapagos in your life. Alvaro and our Galapagos guide will make it fun, informative and unforgettable.



Española Ground-Finch - Española Island.

Our tour is different than many Galapagos trips in that we are not doing a set itinerary, but a customized one. We are interested in visiting as many of the areas that have specialty birds and wildlife so that in one trip you can hopefully have a chance at seeing most if not nearly all of the bird species one can see on the Galapagos and nowhere else. Most trips to the islands do not allow for experiencing this level of

diversity and focus. Non- customized itineraries are restricted to a smaller number of islands, so you will miss some key spots, and specialty birds, on those trips! We will also visit highlands and lowlands in several of the larger islands. Furthermore, Alvaro is trained as an evolutionary biologist, with a great interest in speciation which he will be happy to share with the group. He was recently co-author on a paper that determined that the Vermilion Flycatcher on the Galapagos is a different species from the one on the mainland. Sadly, this study also determined that the San Cristobal Vermilion Flycatcher may be the Galapagos' first extinct bird species. We will have a great deal of time not only look at the birds and wildlife, but really understand what all of this means! Why these islands are so important to scientists still, and what we are learning about the entire process of speciation, evolution and the contemplation of diversity on our planet.

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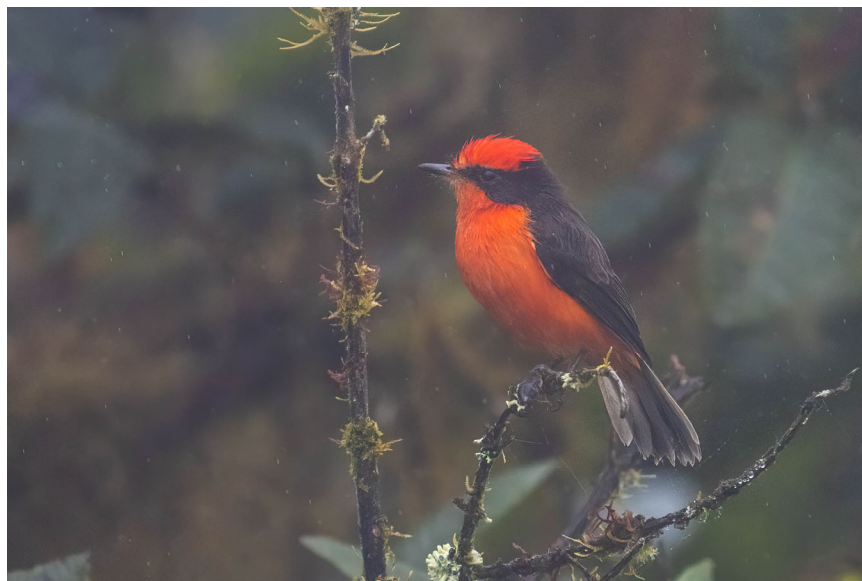
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Marine Iguana

Note that in the last few years there are more restrictions regarding itineraries and which landings are possible and which are out of the question. Cruise lengths tend to be just under a week, and either go to the more northern group of islands, or the more southern group of islands but not a mix. We are trying to mix it up a bit with our itinerary, so that we can maximize the chance of

visiting most of the islands with endemic or specialty birds! This is a unique trip for a birder. Keep in mind that seeing the Mangrove Finch has become impossible in recent years, as restrictions to visits of its habitat are in place. We hope that our special itinerary will allow us to sample a much greater diversity of birds, landscapes and wildlife than most trips, but realize that the final itinerary is not given the go ahead by the National Park until very shortly before we depart. Galapagos is spectacular, and amazing, you will love the trip we have in store for you. Our smaller group size, on a stable catamaran, allows for a more intimate visit than on a larger ship. The Galapagos is best with a small boat and group, giving an intimate and once in a lifetime type of experience.



Brujo Flycatcher – Alvaro was instrumental in the work to separate this as a different species from Vermilion Flycatcher!



The Birding Sites We Visit



Isabela Island. This seahorse-shaped island was originally named Albemarle Island for the Duke of Albemarle by Ambrose Cowley, one of the first people to ever set foot on the islands, in 1684. It is the largest of all the islands, measuring 120 km long and greater in size than all of the other islands combined. One of the younger islands, Isabela Island was formed by the joining of six shield volcanoes – from north to south – Ecuador, Wolf, Darwin, Alcedo, Sierra Negra, and Cerro Azul. All of the volcanoes except Ecuador are still active. Between volcanic sites and lagoons, some of the highlights on this island are American Flamingo, Galapagos Hawk, White-cheeked Pintails, Green Sea Turtles, Flightless Cormorants, and Galapagos Penguins. Isabela is sometimes where we find the Galapagos Martin. Note that the water between Isabela and Fernandina, the Bolivar Channel, is very rich, and we may find whales here as well as interesting seabirds. An intriguing dark winged version of the Galapagos Shearwater is found here, and we will look for it. Isabela is one of the islands where we visit the wetter forest of the highlands, and may find tree finches, and Green Warbler Finch among others, maybe even a Galapagos Rail, or Dark-billed Cuckoo with the Galapagos Flycatchers.

Fernandina Island is home to the largest colony of the Marine Iguana in the islands. They rely on the heat from the sun to raise their body temperatures and on the oceanic breeze to cool them down when they get too hot. They regulate their body temperature by positioning themselves appropriately - and are unique among reptiles in this regard. Flightless Cormorants also breed on Fernandina, as do our familiar friends, the Galapagos Sea Lion, now considered a species separate from the California Sea Lion. Note that the itinerary may include Isabela and Fernandina, but sometimes Fernandina is excluded. As no wildlife is exclusive to Fernandina, this is generally not such an inconvenience, but we will be boating close enough to Fernandina that you can get a nice view of this newest of islands.

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Española Island, previously known as *Hood*, is one of the smaller Galapagos Islands, measuring 7 by 14 km and reaching an elevation of just over 200 m. Española is the oldest Galapagos Island, or at least the island on which the oldest lavas have been found. These lavas are 3.4 million years old as determined by K-Ar dating. It hosts the main world colony of Waved Albatross, magnificent birds of enormous wingspan. The southern cliffs provide the elevation these large birds need to take off. Many other birds, such as the Red-billed Tropicbird, may also be seen there and often this island is a great place to see not only the nesting boobies and Swallow-tailed Gulls but predatory Galapagos Hawks. The Española race of marine iguanas have particularly striking red coloration. In the northeast of the island at a site called the *blowhole*, wave energy focused by cracks in the rocks produces enormous geyser of seawater to the delight of onlookers. The friendliest of the Galapagos mockingbirds is found here, the Española Mockingbird and it has an endemic Darwin's Finch, the Española Ground-Finch.



A Young Nazca Booby flies over.

San Cristobal Island is made up of two coalesced volcanoes. The southwestern half is a symmetric shield volcano made up of gently dipping lavas and capped by a thick, deeply weathered pyroclastic blanket and numerous satellite cinder cones. The northeastern half of the island is a more recently active volcano, dominated by eruptions from NE-trending fissures. The most recent flows are no more than a few centuries old. This is the only home of the San Cristobal Mockingbird, a great island to seek the Vegetarian Finch, and

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where an endemic and different looking Woodpecker Finch is found. Here they are streaked below!

Floreana Island boasts a storied human history unlike most of the emerald isles including a mysterious disappearance of a self-described Baroness from Austria in the 1930s, who arrived here with two lovers. We will hear about this history as well as that of the German Wittmer family who started the colonization of the island. But for our focus perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the island will be the highland area where this family lived, as here in the forests we can see the Medium Tree-Finch, found nowhere else on earth. There are also varieties of other finches, Galapagos Flycatchers, and in recent years Paint-billed Crake has become findable here. We may be able to visit Cormorant Point, which offers two contrasting beaches: the first is a green sand beach, made green by the presence of olivine crystals, and the second is Flour Beach, made of fine, pulverized coral. The main highlight here is the flamingo lagoon, where we can watch American Flamingoes wade through brackish water, sifting through the mud for brine shrimp. White-cheeked Pintails, Black-necked Stilts and Galapagos Flycatchers, several species of finch, and many shorebirds can also be seen here. Cormorant Point has a greater diversity of plants than most other areas, including some endemic to the Point and surrounding areas. We finish the day by looking for the critically endangered Floreana Mockingbird on Champion Is, an offshore islet where much of the world population lives.

Santa Cruz Island is home to Giant Tortoises, there are several reserves where we can view these magnificent animals at close range. In the highlands here we also look for two of the sneakiest species on the islands, the Galapagos Rail and the Paint-billed Crake. The upland habitat is also a site for the brilliant *pajaro brujo* (witch bird) which was previously lumped with the Vermilion Flycatcher. Twelve subspecies of the pre-split Vermilion Flycatcher had been identified, based on variations in plumage coloration. Of these, *two* are restricted to the Galapagos Islands. Alvaro has aided grad student Ore Carmi on his study of the systematics of the Vermilion Flycatcher and documenting vocal differences between it and the mainland forms – it is molecular data confirms that the two forms on the Galapagos islands are different species from those on the mainland! Sadly, the San Cristobal Vermilion Flycatcher may now be extinct, and the Brujo Flycatcher as it is now known, is becoming quite rare! The major town of Puerto Ayora is on Santa Cruz Island, and we shall stay here in a hotel after we finish the boat portion of our trip. Santa Cruz is a great spot to see the Lava Gull, as well as many highland species like the Large Tree-Finch. Note that we will fly in and out of the airport on Baltra Island, immediately north of Santa Cruz and accessible via a short ferry and bus ride.

Genovesa Island is a horseshoe shaped island located in the northeastern region of the Galapagos Archipelago, formerly known as Tower Island. Its distinct shape was formed from the eruption of a shield volcano (a volcano with broad, gentle slopes built up over time by repeated lava flows and resembling a “shield”) and the eventual collapse of one

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side of the caldera. The resulting submerged crater formed Darwin Bay, which is surrounded by steep cliffs that provide homes for many seabirds, and hammerhead sharks. Genovesa has developed a reputation as “The Bird Island” because of the numerous and varied bird species that nest there. Visitors can explore two visitor sites and will be impressed with the abundance of frigatebirds, Nazca and Red-footed Boobies, Swallow-tailed Gulls, Red-billed Tropicbirds, to mention a few. Genovesa is one of the few places in the Galapagos Islands where Red-footed Boobies are found breeding. The marine iguanas found along the shoreline are the only reptile on Genovesa and are the smallest in the archipelago. Most amazing is Genovesa’s colony of Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel. Not only is it full of activity, but here these seabirds attend the colony in the day unlike all other storm petrels in the world! You can see them going in and out of their burrows, and sometimes we see the endemic and very dark golden colored Galapagos race Short-eared Owl here. The Genovesa Cactus-Finch here is an endemic species. Similarly, the Genovesa Ground- Finch is now an endemic species to this island.

In addition to these specific locations where we will spend high-quality time and effort looking for birds and wildlife while in transit from one location to another, we will always be on the lookout for species of interest.



About the Physical Requirements & Pace

This is a moderately paced trip, and one that is accessible to most people. Participants should be sure-footed as visits to the islands are a series of adventures involving moving to and from the Nemo III onto a motorized zodiac known as a “panga.” Landings can be either wet or dry landings, dry landings are on to a rock or pier, while in wet landings we walk from the panga in shallow water with a sandy bottom to the shore. While your guides and the crew will do everything they can to ensure your safety, we cannot physically lift guests in and out of boats and/or onto shore. If you have balance issues, this is likely not the trip for you.

There will be a fair amount of open trail birding with most trail excursions on easy to moderate hiking trails, although sometimes muddy and steeper in highland sites. Some

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birding will be on dirt country roads in the highlands. The Galapagos are volcanic islands. There will be some excursions on lava rock. These vary, some are shorter and with more rounded rock, or walking between bigger rocks, to more complicated terrain with sharper lava rock. Some people consider some of these walks a tad treacherous and difficult, and they do require attention while walking. These walks are in flatter terrain, but you may want to have walking sticks, and certainly you will want adequate footwear with good ankle support and traction. As noted, walking sticks may also be helpful to those who use them regularly for maintaining balance. Your guides will provide ample notice of the trail conditions to be expected prior to departing the boat; we usually prepare people for the next day's events on the evening before. There may be some hot days in the desert lowlands, so water bottles are important. We shall take our time and make sure we stay well hydrated, there is plenty of drinking water available for us on the boat to take on walks. We eat breakfast, lunch and dinner on the boat, so outings tend to be either in the morning or the afternoon, so none are full day hikes.

Our days on-board ship will always begin with an early wake-up call, for coffee and breakfast with departure soon after. We will return to the boat for lunch. In some areas there may be snorkeling opportunities, either directly from the Nemo III or from the Panga at a nearby location. Evenings will be spent dining on-board the Nemo III and the nights will often have us in transit from one island to another. Since we are traveling longer distances on this trip, trying to see a maximum number of islands, there may be some daytime boat travel as well. These will be our pelagic trips, and when some of the deeper water birds are found such as Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Galapagos Petrel, or something more unusual.





Itinerary - Birding the Galapagos Islands.

The following notes and itinerary are “the best approximation pre-arrival.” As a custom itinerary, the National Park reserves the right to alter our plan as they see fit, and final itinerary may not be available until we are on the boat. However, our guides, the captain and National Park Guide will help fine-tune our itinerary all the way up to our day of departure and will help maximize the birding and nature watching opportunities for the group. While last minute changes or decisions out of our control may affect our itinerary, the overwhelming majority of the islands will be available to us, and our custom itinerary will ensure that we see the best the emerald isles have to offer.

June 29, 2024 (Day 1) Transit to Quito, Ecuador. Guests can arrange a flight anytime for arrival on June 3. Please coordinate with Alvaro if you wish to arrive early, and he can help with booking extra hotel nights. We will depart early on the 30th for the Galapagos and for this reason, guests may consider arriving a day earlier than the 29th to allow for lost bags to appear, and to rest up after travel. **Night: Puembo, near Quito airport.**

June 30, 2024 (Day 2). Fly to Galapagos, begin our adventure on the Nemo III. We'll have an early flight to Isla Baltra in the Galapagos with a stop in Guayaquil en route. After arrival and transit to our boat we'll have lunch, orientation, and be on our way to our first stop, at one of the closer islands or beach landings. Often, we go to North Seymour on our first afternoon. **Night: Nemo III**

July 1 - 6, 2024 (Days 3-8). Galapagos Islands Adventure. Each of these days will feature a different island (see sites above). Typically, we'll arrive at our island of the day overnight or in the early morning, waking up to a new and exciting place each morning. After a hearty breakfast on board, we will depart in on our “panga” for a morning jaunt to see the island's specialties. We will return to the boat for lunch and have a break or snorkeling before continuing with our afternoon plans. In the afternoon, we'll motor to a different part of the same island or to a nearby island for a hike of a different spot. Before dinner we have some time for a cocktail or drink, while we listen to either a short lecture on the biology of the Galapagos Islands, and gain an introduction to tomorrow's activities. **Night: Nemo III**

July 7, 2024 (Day 9). Santa Cruz Island. Sadly, we must leave the Nemo III behind and transfer to our land-based hotel on Santa Cruz Island. But our adventures continue with some highland birding in search of the endemic Galapagos Rail, Woodpecker Finch, Large Tree Finch, and giant tortoises. We'll set aside time to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station in the afternoon. **Night: Puerto Villamil - Santa Cruz Island**

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July 8, 2024 (Day 10). Return to Quito. This is a travel day as we fly from Santa Cruz Island back to Quito. There might be some time to visit a spot on the way to Baltra Island, or perhaps today we shall have time to see the Darwin Station if we have not done it the day before and our flight is later in the day. All will depend on timing of our flight back to Quito. **Night: Puembo, near the Quito airport.**

July 9, 2024 (Day 11). Return home. For those not on the post tour extension, you are homeward bound today. International flights out of Quito are generally early and should allow for participants to arrive on the east or west coast by the end of the day.



Galapagos Rail



Itinerary – East Slope of the Andes Post Tour (Optional).

This Post Tour will be led by an experienced bilingual Ecuadorian Guide. Alvaro will not be co-guiding this post tour.



Chestnut-breasted Coronet

July 9, 2024 (Day 1). Morning birding the Papallacta Pass in the Andes. We will look for Andean Condor, Tawny Antpitta, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe among others. Box lunch in the field. Afternoon arrival to Guango, birding the hummingbird gardens, where Sword-billed and a great number of gorgeous hummingbird species are found. Night Guango.

July 10, 2024 (Day 2). Morning birding at Guango's forests, lunch at Guango. Among the great birds possible here: Black-and-chestnut Eagle, Masked Trogon, Turquoise Jay, Grass-green Tanager, Plushcap, and a plethora of hummingbirds perhaps the Purple-backed Thornbill! Afternoon drive to San Isidro, where night birding is a possibility for the "San Isidro Owl". Night San Isidro

July 11 - 12, 2024 (Day 3-4). Day 3, all day in San Isidro, where we may visit the Guacamayos Ridge trail, an area where several specialty species may be found. Day 4, Early morning birding around the gardens where many birds come to eat the insects gathered around the lights. Visit to the Antpitta feeding Stations (White-

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bellied and Chestnut-crowned). Rest of the day birding the trail system. Lunch at San Isidro. We return to Puenbo during mid-afternoon drive back to Quito. Night in Puenbo.

July 13, 2024 (Day 5). Return to the USA. Homeward Bound: International flights out of Quito are generally early and should allow for participants to arrive on the east or west coast by the end of the day.

About the Ship



The Nemo III is a large Trans-oceanic 75-foot multi-hull yacht for cruising and charters. It has been in the Galapagos since 2014. This large and comfortable catamaran was specially built to take up to 16 passengers housed in 8 cabins, each with private bathroom. It has a Jacuzzi on deck, and sea kayak for exploring during down time. See the back pages of this



itinerary for more information on the Nemo III.

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There are tradeoffs to any boat, the Nemo III is a catamaran, so it is more stable than the average single hulled vessel. In the situations where the wind is in our favor, we may be able to cruise with sail power, which is a great experience. It is a smaller boat, which allows us to see the Galapagos with a smaller group, rather than in a large crowded group. But a smaller boat means that the cabins are not spacious, they are functional and comfortable. Keep in mind that we will be outside doing things for much of the daylight hours, and people tend to spend little time in the cabins, they are mainly for sleeping. My experience is that the Nemo boats are meticulously clean, the crew tend to be incredible, and it is a superb experience. Food is good and hearty, and there is always choice including a vegetarian option, meals are served buffet style. The two cabins in the back of the boat have an entrance down a side hatch, with a short ladder. One of these is Alvaro's cabin, and the other is offered at a lower rate than the rest of the cabins. In my many trips on the Nemo III, we have found that on the last day we are very sad to leave our little home away from home, in other words, the tradeoffs of these boats work, and people have a great Galapagos experience with the smaller group and the great Nemo crews.

Your Guides

Alvaro Jaramillo was born in Chile but began birding in Toronto, where he lived as a youth. He was trained in ecology and evolution with a particular interest in bird behavior. Research forays and backpacking trips introduced Alvaro to the riches of the Neotropics, where he has traveled extensively. He is the author of the Birds of Chile, an authoritative yet portable field guide to Chile's birds. Alvaro writes the Identify Yourself column in Bird Watcher's Digest. Among various projects he recently wrote the ABA Field Guide to Birds of California, part of the New World Sparrow chapter for the Handbook of Birds of the World, and is writing a photo guide to the birds and wildlife of Patagonia. Alvaro was granted the Eisenmann Medal by the Linnean Society of New York, it is awarded occasionally for excellence in ornithology and encouragement of the amateur. Alvaro lives with his family in Half Moon Bay, California.

We will also have a **National Park guide** with us at all times, licensed to lead on the Galapagos and trained as an all-round naturalist. We are working hard to have a park guide who is also keen on birding, who knows exactly what we are interested in. Although keep in mind that Alvaro has been on the islands many times, and can identify and find the birds, still a full bird, whale, nature-oriented team is always preferred.

The **post trip** will be led by an experienced bilingual guide who is extremely experienced in the East Slope of Ecuador.



Financial Information

FEE: Double occupancy - \$7,650.00 (Category I) or \$7,250 (Category II), from Quito, Ecuador, *internal flights from Quito to Galapagos are included in tour cost.*

Category I -- \$7,650.00 per person, Six cabins, with lower double and upper twin bed, or two twin beds.

Category II -- \$7,250.00 per person, One slightly smaller cabin with double bed, in aft of boat.

Small group surcharges: Requires a minimum of 10 participants. Per participant small group surcharge 10 participants \$1000 per person, 11 participants \$800 per person. We expect a sold-out trip, however.

OPTIONAL POST TOUR FEE: \$1900, from Puembo (airport hotel), immediately after the Galapagos Tour ends. Single Supplement for post tour, \$350.

Fees do *not include* international airfare to Quito, bar bills, laundry costs, and incidentals. and. Fees do *include* entrance fee to the National Park, group tips for the National Park Guide and the crew of the Nemo III.

DEPOSIT: \$500 per person

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: Mar 1, 2024

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$450 for land-based hotels (2 nights Quito and 1-night Santa Cruz Island only). Single cabins are not available on the Nemo III unless we are not sold out, so while on the boat you will be sharing a cabin. Depending on the number of couples, singles and genders of those who have signed up a single might be possible on the trip, and we will likely know this 120 days before the trip begins. If this is a possibility and you are traveling as a single on the boat, an additional single supplement of \$900 applies, this additional to the on land single supplement (\$450). If you are interested in waiting to see if a single is available, let Alvaro's Adventures know.

LIMIT: 14 MINIMUM: 10 (see small group surcharges above)



Additional Information

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid for six months beyond the date of your return is necessary for US citizens to enter Ecuador. If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Ecuadorian consulate for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or phone or e-mail Alvaro's Adventures (alvaro@alvarosadventures.com) and we can look this up. Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. We will keep you informed if there are any additional Covid related entry requirements at the time.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Please plan to arrive in Quito by the evening of June 29, 2024. If you would like to arrive a day early to rest up it can be arranged by contacting Alvaro's Adventures. Note that we are planning on an early morning flight on June 30 so arriving early on the 29th or even a day before on the 28th will give you more of a buffer if your flight is delayed. Flights back home at the end of the tour on July 9, 2024 (or July 13 you are taking the extension) can be booked for any time but best in the morning or early afternoon as checkout time at our hotel is mid-morning. Late check out may be available. Various North American airlines fly to Quito, from several different hubs. Be sure to check with Alvaro's Adventures to confirm that the flights you have chosen will work with our itinerary and to confirm that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. We are not responsible for these fees.

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The tour fee is tiered, based on the accommodations available in the Nemo III, and applies to one person in double occupancy from Quito. Price: \$7650 (Category I), and \$7250 (Category II). Internal return flights to Quito are included in the price. The tour price includes all lodging from Day 1 through Day 10, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on Day 11, all ground transportation, Galapagos entrance fees, tips for baggage handling and meal service, tips for captain and crew, and the guide services of the tour leaders.

The above fees do not include your airfare to and from Quito, airport taxes, visa fees, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature. Alcoholic drinks are not included.

The single supplement for the tour is \$450 (land-based hotels only). Due to nature of this boat-based trip, we require that two people share a cabin. If you do not have a roommate, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement, see above for details. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee.

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TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, complete the enclosed Registration/Release and Indemnity form and return it with a **deposit of \$500** per person, payable by check. If registering by e-mail, a deposit and the Release and Indemnity form must be received within fourteen days, or the space will be released. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 120 days prior to departure, or by **Mar 1, 2024**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 119 days prior or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.** Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate.

SMOKING: This is a non-smoking tour.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Should you need to cancel a trip reservation, please contact Alvaro's Adventures as soon as possible. See below for our cancellation policy. If Alvaro's Adventures cancels a scheduled trip, you will be refunded in full.

| Cancellation Policy | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Number of Days Prior to Trip Start | Per Person Cancellation Fee | Refund |
| 120 Days prior to trip | \$150 (no fee during Covid) | In full – less cancellation fee |
| 90 Days prior to trip | N/A | Trip cost - less 35% |
| 60 Days prior to trip | N/A | Trip cost - less 25% |
| 30 Days prior to trip | N/A | No refund |

Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable.

This policy only applies to payments made to Alvaro's Adventures for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of the insurance is not refundable so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airlines restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. The right is reserved to substitute another guide for the original one. Where this is necessary, notification will be given to tour members, and they will have the right to cancel their participation and receive a full refund.

Alvaro's Adventures is a Registered Seller of Travel in the State of California (CST # 2105497). Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. This ensures your right to a prompt refund: Upon cancellation of the

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transportation or travel services, where the passenger is not at fault and has not canceled in violation of any terms and conditions previously clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger, all sums paid to the seller of travel for services not provided will be promptly paid to the passenger, unless the passenger advises the seller of travel in writing, after cancellation. This provision does not apply where the seller of travel has remitted the payment to another registered wholesale seller of travel or a carrier, without obtaining a refund, and where the wholesaler or provider defaults in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service. In this situation, the seller of travel must provide the passenger with a written statement accompanied by bank records establishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a wholesale seller of travel, proof of current registration of that wholesaler.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, we cannot offer any refund when cancellation occurs within 30 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 30 to 119 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Alvaro's Adventures, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Alvaro's Adventures acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Alvaro's Adventures accepts no responsibility

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for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Alvaro's Adventures reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Alvaro's Adventures reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, and other pertinent matter provided by Alvaro's Adventures. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

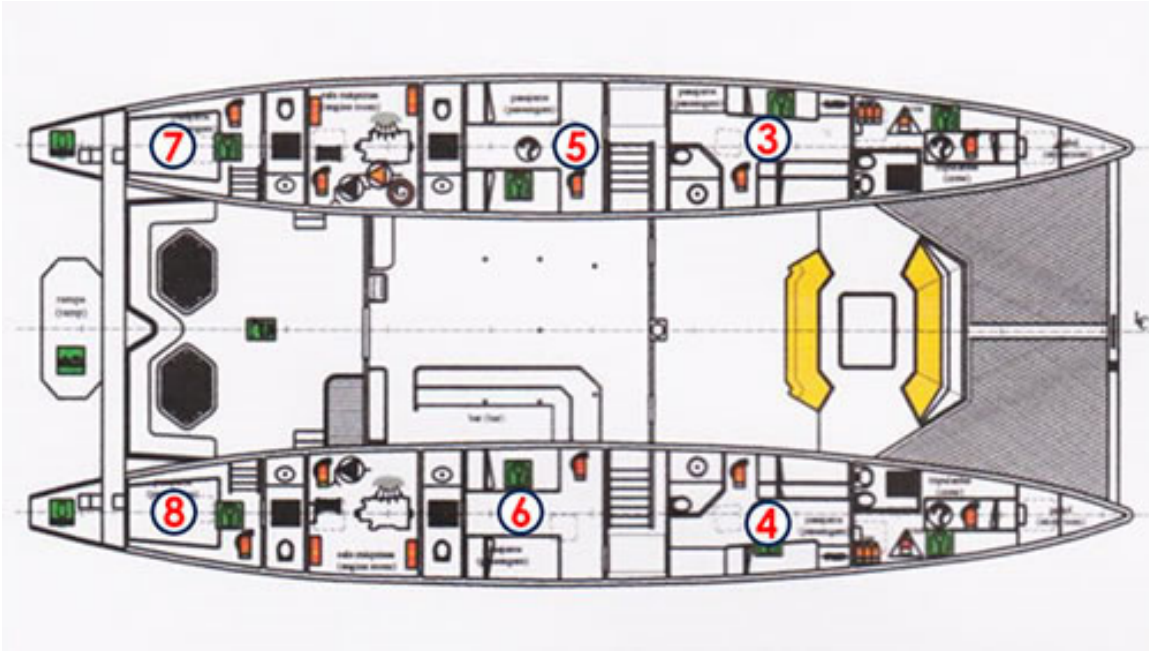
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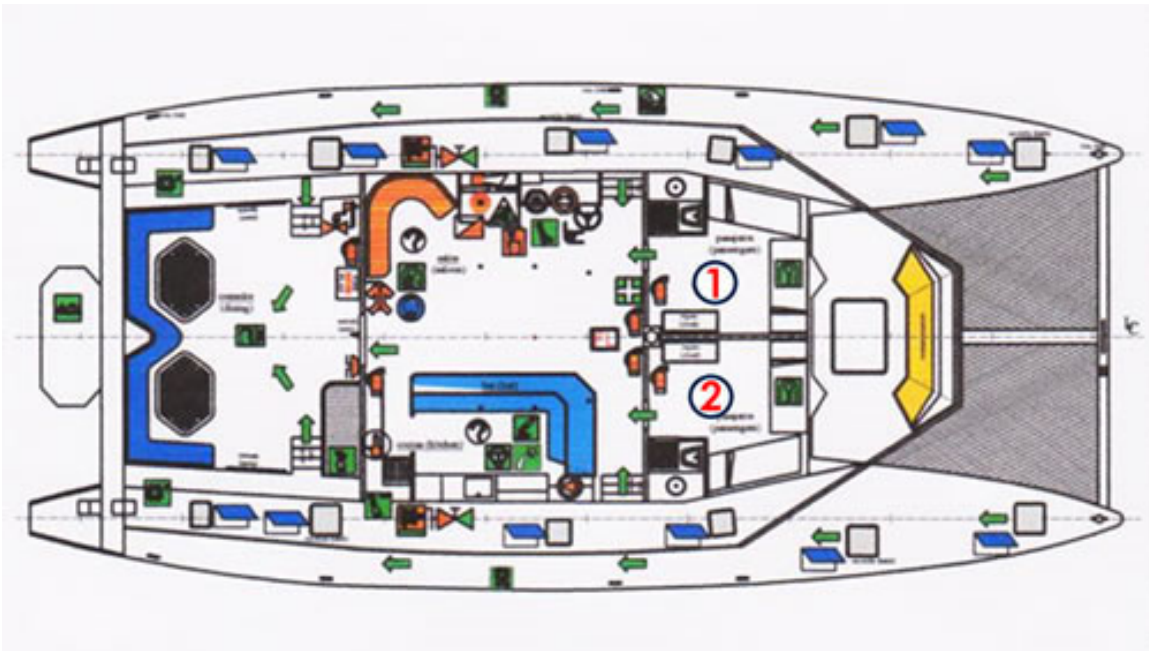
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Ship Diagram – lower level



Ship Diagram – deck plan



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- **NAME:** NEMO III
- **CATEGORY:** First class
- **CAPACITY:** 16 passengers
- **GUIDE:** Naturalist guide English speaking
- **CREW:** 6 members
- **LOA:** 23 m (75 feet)
- **BEAM:** 11.40 m
- **DRAFT:** 1.50 m
- **ELECTRICITY:** 12 V, 110 V, 220 V
- **ENGINES:** 2 engines / 200 HP
- **FRESH WATER CAPACITY:** 2.000 lt.

Equipment and amenities

- Hot and cold water
- Double cabins with private bathrooms
- Air conditioning
- room and beach towels
- Jacuzzi in sundeck
- Snorkeling equipment
- sea kayak
- 1 dinghy (panga)

Safety:

- 2 life rafts
- 1 EPIRB (Satellite locator)
- 1 SART (Radio Beacon)
- 2 waterproof VHF
- life vests for all on board.