

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO Galapagos Aggressor I & II



## Reservations Office Contact Information

Office Hours are Eastern Daylight Time:  
Monday-Friday: 8 am – 6 pm. EDT  
Saturday/Sunday: Closed

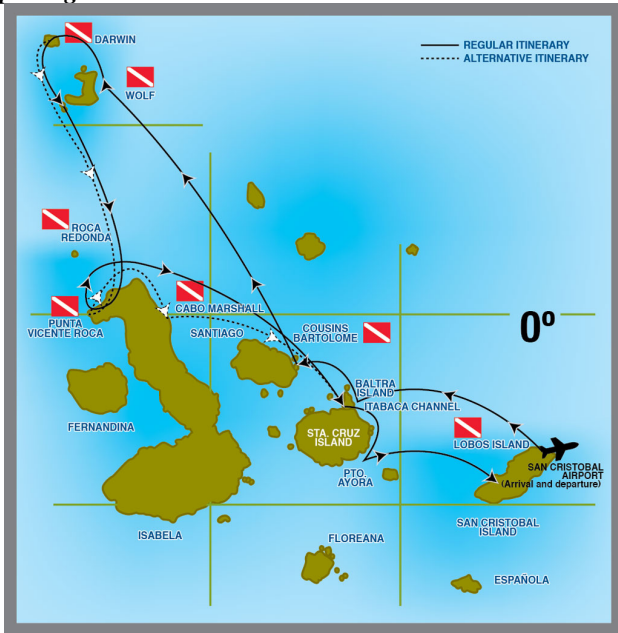
Office (USA): 800-348-2628 +1-706-993-2531  
[galapagos@aggressor.com](mailto:galapagos@aggressor.com) [www.aggressor.com](http://www.aggressor.com)

Airline/Tour Dept.: 800-348-2628 +1-706-664-0110  
[info@liveboardvacations.com](mailto:info@liveboardvacations.com)

Cell Phone (after hours) +1-706-664-0111  
Email: [wecare@aggressor.com](mailto:wecare@aggressor.com)  
**(Delay in travel and emergency only)**

Local Office (Guayaquil)  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 5:15 pm  
Office: 011-593-4259-9932  
Cell: 011-593-9841-8853  
Email: [info@galapagos-aggressor.com](mailto:info@galapagos-aggressor.com)

**Important Note:** Airline tickets from Guayaquil/Quito to San Cristobal are purchased from Aggressor Fleet and picked up at the Guayaquil/Quito Airports. Airline tickets must be purchased at least 30 days prior to departure. See times and pricing below.



## WHERE ARE THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS?

The “Enchanted Islands” of Galapagos are found in the Pacific Ocean 600 miles west of Ecuador. Made famous by the studies of Charles Darwin that became his “Theory of Evolution,” the volcanic islands of Galapagos have been declared a National Park of Ecuador and the second largest Marine Reserve in the world, with many wonders to discover, both on land and underwater. The Galapagos Islands National Park features an amazing diversity of indigenous animals, many endemic, which are unusually tame due to lack of predation and many years of protection. This protection must continue to preserve the uniqueness of Galapagos for future generations.

## GALAPAGOS AGGRESSOR I & II INCLUDES:

All staterooms are air conditioned and fitted with private toilets, showers, sinks, and hair dryers. Linens are changed mid-week and fresh towels are placed in each stateroom as needed.

Breakfast (cooked to order), buffet lunch and an elegant chef prepared meal at dinner with tableside service are served in addition to fresh mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks. Beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) are complimentary while onboard. Filled tanks, weights and weight belts are included.

## SINGLE TRAVELERS & SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

All rates are quoted on a share basis; therefore you will be roomed with another person of the same gender. If you would like a private room, the cost is 1 ½ times the charter rate and will guarantee you a private stateroom.

## ITINERARY

The Galapagos Aggressor I & II offer a new itinerary in compliance with the Galapagos National Park regulations which required companies with permits to choose either land excursions or diving (there are no permits offering both). A maximum of three dives will be offered daily; two in the morning and one in the afternoon. LiveAboard Vacations, Aggressor Fleets exclusive travel agency offers extended land tour packages at [info@liveaboardvacations.com](mailto:info@liveaboardvacations.com).

New diving areas have been added to the itinerary: Punta Carrion (Santa Cruz) and Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela Island). The yachts continue to dive Cousins Rock but will no longer dive Gordon Rocks or Seymour Island due to park regulations. The Galapagos itinerary is controlled by the National Park who grants approval for normal itineraries and accepts requests for special itineraries.

**Thursday:** Afternoon Boarding, Welcome, and Orientation Dive At Isla Lobos

**Friday:** Morning dive at Punta Carrion (Santa Cruz Island), Afternoon dive Cousins Rock

**Saturday:** Morning and Afternoon dive at Wolf

**Sunday:** Morning and Afternoon dive at Darwin

**Monday:** Morning dives at Darwin and afternoon dives at Wolf. (alternative Jan.-May, Punta Vicente Roca/Isabela Island)

**Tuesday:** Morning and afternoon dives at Punta Vicente Roca (alternative Jan. - May, Cabo Marshall/Isabela Island)

**Wednesday:** After a full breakfast, guest will disembark by panga at 8 am to shore. A private bus will greet and take everyone to see the beautiful Highlands of Santa Cruz. This will include Los Gemelos (The Twins) that are two enormous

sinkholes; Scalesia Forest for a scenic view over Santa Cruz, a Tortoise Reserve to see giant tortoises, and Lava Tubes. The tour will end in the quaint town of Puerto Ayora where guests will have lunch onboard the Galapagos Aggressor. In the afternoon guests will visit the tortoise breeding center Fausto Llerena and the Charles Darwin Research Station and spend time shopping and walking the streets of downtown Puerto Ayora.

**Thursday:** After a full breakfast, check out is at 8 am when you will be transported to the San Cristobal Airport.

## **WELCOME**

As you prepare for your diving adventure aboard the Galapagos I & II, we extend a most hearty welcome. The enclosed information will help you prepare for your trip. Please download or view the most recent "Know Before You Go" before your vacation from [www.aggessor.com](http://www.aggessor.com). It is important to notify our office of last minute changes concerning your airline arrival and departure times or any changes in your e-mail address and telephone numbers. The Reservations Office and the yachts are in constant communication. In the event of an emergency family and friends may contact you at the above numbers.

We recommend you pack a regulator, mask, fins, swimsuit, change of clothes, medication and toiletries in your carryon bag. Having these few items with you can make an unexpected luggage delay more bearable. Don't forget to use your Aggressor ribbons. They will help the crew identify you and your luggage at the airport or host hotel.

## **EXTENDED TRAVEL**

We highly recommend adding an extension to your itinerary. Liveaboard Vacations, Aggressor Fleet's in-house travel department specializes in extended packages and can provide you information on land tours. For more information, email [info@liveboardvacations.com](mailto:info@liveboardvacations.com).

## **ARRIVAL**

Your travel arrangements should include a one-night stay (prior to the yacht's departure) in Guayaquil (we highly recommend Guayaquil) or Quito. Please be aware that if you are traveling through Quito, your plans might change due to the activity of the volcanoes surrounding that city. A one-night stay in Guayaquil or Quito is also recommended after the charter due to airline schedules. (A few airlines offer a red-eye flight Thursday evenings)

It is important you notify the Aggressor Fleet Reservations Office of your choice hotel so you can be notified if there is a flight schedule change to San Cristobal Thursday morning. If there is a schedule change, this would affect your airport meeting time which is normally not known until the day prior to departure.

On the day of departure to the Galapagos Aggressors, be sure to be at the airport in Quito or Guayaquil at least 2 hours before departure. An Aggressor representative will meet you at the airport and assist you with your tickets and check-in. Prior to check-in at the airline ticket counter at the Quito or Guayaquil Airport, you are required to pay \$10 for the Galapagos Visitors Card. This will be paid at the INGALA (Galapagos National Institute) counter.

Once you arrive at the San Cristobal, Galapagos Airport, you will be asked to pay the \$100 USD National Park fee in cash. Please keep your Park Fee receipt. An Aggressor Guide will be there to welcome you, take care of your luggage and transport you to the yacht.

If you plan to make your own way to the Galapagos Aggressors, it is necessary to call the Galapagos Aggressors office in Guayaquil at TEL: 593-4259-9932 or Quito at TEL: 593-2243-5046 to advise them of your plans. In case of flight problems please call either of these numbers to inform the staff.

## **PASSPORTS & DOCUMENTATION**

Visitors must have a current passport, adequate funds to support themselves, and a return airline ticket to travel to Ecuador then Galapagos. US citizens require a passport that must be valid for 6 months from date of entry. It is the travelers' responsibility to ensure they have the proper documentation to travel into each country on his or her itinerary as well as for re-entry and return to their country. Please check with the appropriate consulate to ensure you have the proper documentation. Always check your passport and visa requirements. US citizens may go to the US Department of State website at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for more information. The website also has information for consulates by country to assist with requirements. There are special requirements for children leaving the US and many countries have adopted requirements for the protection of children. Since regulations vary by country, contact your consulate or embassy of your

country for the requirement. *The Reservation Office and Staff cannot assume responsibility for passengers not having correct documentation.*

## **AIRLINE TRAVEL, WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS, GENERAL INFORMATION**

Regularly scheduled flights to Ecuador are available on American, Delta, Continental, AeroGal, TACA, Lan Ecuador and Lan Chile Airlines. They depart from Miami, New York, Atlanta or Houston. Please note that Continental only allows 2 checked bags for the return flights to the US.

On local flights, AeroGal, passengers are allowed a carryon bag with weight limit of 22 lbs. and one or two pieces of checked luggage, which is limited to 35 kg. (approx. 75 lbs) total. Luggage over 35 kg. is subject to an excess baggage fee. Continental only allows 2 checked bags on return flights to the US. *(Information subject to change without notice)*

## **CURRENCY, TIME, LANGUAGE**

The U.S. dollar is Ecuador's standard currency. Ecuador is in the same time zone, as Eastern Standard Time in the U.S.A. Daylight Savings Time, however, is not observed. There is a sales tax of 12% on all purchases in Ecuador. Spanish is the official language of Ecuador.

For travel throughout the Galapagos Islands, the Galapagos Aggressor I & II must submit the necessary paperwork which is extremely important. This includes, name as it appears on the passport, nationality, passport number, date of birth, airline arrival/departure details. Failure to submit this information could cause being denied boarding.

## **C-CARDS & DIVE THE WORLD CLUB**

Remember to bring your c-card or proof of certification. The divemaster requires proof of certification before the first dive. If you are a repeat guest, you are automatically enrolled in the Dive the World Club and will receive onboard discounts. Your membership is indicated on the Captain's rooming list.

## **GUEST INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)**

The Reservations Office and the Galapagos Aggressor I & II require each guest to complete a Cruise Application and Waiver form, prior to departure and diving. The GIS (Guest Information System) allows guests to interactively complete all required paperwork that includes the application/waiver, special requests and travel information. If you haven't received a link to access the GIS, please contact an Aggressor Fleet agent. Passengers who fail to complete the GIS or an application/waiver will be denied boarding. Many Aggressor destinations require passenger information for itinerary approval.

## **INSURANCE**

We strongly recommend each guest purchase comprehensive accident, medical, baggage and trip cancellation and interruption insurance when space is reserved. Trip insurance will protect you from financial disappointment if you are prevented from making your scheduled trip due to illness, family illness or in the event that unforeseen circumstances prevent the airline or yacht from making its scheduled trip. In the event you cancel your trip, be familiar with Aggressor Fleet's cancellation policies, which can be found on [www.aggressor.com](http://www.aggressor.com). More information can be found on DiveAssure or Divers Alert Network insurance on our website.

## **FEES & TAXES (per person)**

The following taxes and fees are charged during your trip to Galapagos:

- \$100 Galapagos Park Entry fee (**cash only**)
- \$10 Galapagos Visitors Card (**cash only**)
- 12% Sales tax on all onboard services

Onboard fees and charges may be paid in cash, Travelers Checks or credit card. Government fees are subject to change without notice. Fees, taxes and fuel surcharge (when applicable) are not included in the charter rate.

## **HEALTH**

The Galapagos Aggressor I & II have a comprehensive first aid kit onboard, including oxygen and an AED. You may want to bring motion sickness medication if you feel you might need it. We suggest you bring over the counter motion sickness medication or consult your doctor about prescription brands, such as the trans-dermal patch or Scopace tablets. Currents and winds may cause moderate movement of the yacht at times. We recommend a complete physical before your trip. Both Guayaquil and the Galapagos are at sea level, while Quito is at 7,500 above sea level. If you are affected by altitude, we suggest not overdoing it with excess physical activities, food or drink.

Aggressor Fleet yachts and their staff are unable to accept any medication brought onboard for safekeeping including those that require refrigeration. Should a guest have a medication requiring temperature control, they will need to travel with a travel cooling case or small storage cooler with several blue ice packets. The crew will be happy to store and recharge the blue ice but are unable to accept possession or responsibility for the proper care and storage of medication. This should be kept in the stateroom. **Smoking is not allowed inside the yacht or on the dive deck.** Smoking is only permitted on the rear of the sun deck.

## **THE YACHT**

The identical Galapagos Aggressors are 100 ft. yachts built and powered for comfort, safety and stability. They are diesel powered, cruise at an average speed of 10 knots and have 110 and 220 volt power onboard. Comfortable accommodations include four deluxe cabins which have 2 twin beds and three port holes and three master cabins with a queen bed (which can be modified to 2 twin beds) and a large window. Each cabin has a private toilet, shower, hair dryer, TV/DVD, stereo CD player, temperature controls and safe storage box. The Galapagos Aggressors each sleep 14 guests in privacy and comfort.

The Galapagos Aggressors have beautiful spacious salons, large sun decks with shading, chaise lounges and deck chairs, bar, grill, hot tub, and a complete photo/video center. The onboard video format is both NTSC and PAL. The yacht is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

## **INTERNET/EMAIL**

Email is available onboard through the satellite system. There is a charge for incoming and outgoing email. Private calls may be made from the yacht by satellite phone.

## **FOOD**

The menu aboard is varied and plentiful, with a variety of American feasts, barbecues and local cuisine. If you have any special dietary requirements, please add this to your reservation through the GIS and speak to the yacht chef once onboard so he/she can adequately prepare to meet your needs. You will wake up to fresh fruits, hot entrees, cereals and juices. Lunches are buffet-style, featuring hot soups, homemade breads, salads and sandwiches and/or entrees. Dinners are chef prepared and served each evening and include salads, vegetables, seafood, beef or chicken with a fresh homemade dessert. Certain special dietary and beverage requests may not be available due to the remote nature of this location so we highly recommend you bring these items with you.

## **BEVERAGES**

The Aggressor's selection includes fruit juices, soft drinks, iced water, iced tea, coffee, and a limited selection of local beer and wine, which are complimentary. Due to the high duty charged on liquor, we suggest you bring your favorite brand. Due to local regulations, the bar will be closed while the yacht is in port. Drinking and diving do not mix. Once you consume alcohol, you become a snorkeler until the next day.

## **CLOTHING**

Please plan to travel light as on all live-aboard dive yachts, space is limited. We recommend that you pack your gear in soft luggage such as a duffel bag for easy stowage and to add to your comfort in your cabin. Clothing should be lightweight, comfortable sportswear and swimsuits and sunscreen are a must. A windbreaker or sweatshirt and sweatpants are ideal for evenings. Dress is always casual and informal. Additional items you may want to bring are sunglasses, insect repellent, a hat and walking shoes for your time on shore.

The Galapagos Islands have many different climates, which change with the seasons. The cooler months are June through November, when the air temperatures range from 65°F (evening) to 85°F (day). During the warmer months from December through June, the temperature ranges from 75°F (evening) to 100°F (day). If you need additional clothing items see our onboard boutique.



## **ENTERTAINMENT**

Whether it's your anniversary, birthday, honeymoon, wedding or you are celebrating a 100<sup>th</sup> dive, please let us know so the crew can celebrate your occasion. Kindly advise the US office prior to traveling so the crew is notified in advance.

There is a variety of nightly entertainment, including diving, fish identification presentations, movies, games and more. If you have a favorite movie, power point presentation or a video to share, we encourage you to bring it along. The crew especially loves new releases of DVD's, movies, CD's, recent magazines and books. A small library of books for exchange is maintained onboard as well as fish identification books for reference. Guests may also enjoy watching Blu-Ray movies in the lounge (Blu-Ray players not available in each cabin.)

## **DIVING**

The crew of the Galapagos Aggressor I & II, with their unique combination of talents, offers the ultimate in service. While onboard you may pick a buddy of your choice or dive with one of the yachts crewmembers. There is ample storage space for your diving equipment in your personal locker. The Galapagos Aggressor I & II provides 80 cubic feet tanks, weight belts, and weights. All tanks have K-valves (American type), no DIN (European) valves.

We suggest you pack the following: mask, fins, snorkel, regulator with visible pressure gauge, depth gauge, dive computer, buoyancy compensator, and dive gloves. Strongly recommended: Spare mask, safety sausage, whistle, Dive Alert, mirror and/or other safety devices. Dive computers are mandatory for each guest. Each piece of gear should be marked with waterproof paint or tape. Please see our "Captain's Log" on our website for current diving conditions.

The waters of the Galapagos Islands are a unique mixture of warm and cold water, ranging between 65°F and 85°F, with thermoclines about 65°F. We recommend you bring a 5mm-7mm wet suit with hood and gloves or a dry suit with light underwear all year round. The cruises to some of the islands can be rough and we recommend you take precautions against motion sickness. See the "Captain's Log" on the Galapagos page, [www.aggressor.com](http://www.aggressor.com), for current diving conditions.

The diving in Galapagos can be strenuous, due to its currents and surge, varying water temperatures, limited visibility, and diving from dinghies. The trip is recommended for intermediate and advanced divers.

The primary attraction in Galapagos is the large pelagics such as schooling Hammerhead sharks, Galapagos sharks, Hola Holas and Whale sharks. Occasionally, there is sighting of Whales, Marlin, Dolphins and Orcas. You will see a rare combination of warm and coldwater creatures including Sea Lions, Mantas, Penguins, Flightless Cormorants, Rays, Turtles, Moray Eels, and enormous schools of unusual fish. Many of the marine creatures are found nowhere else on earth!

The best diving around the Galapagos Islands is made possible through the use of dinghies (or inflatables) manned by our crewmembers. Few dives are directly from the main vessel itself. Dinghy diving is made easy for you! Once your dive is completed, you hand your weight belt to the dinghy driver, take off your BCD and climb in.

## **CONSERVATION LAWS**

The Galapagos Islands are a National Park and a Marine Reserve. Conservation laws do not permit spear fishing, fish feeding or collecting.

## **RENTAL DIVE EQUIPMENT**

A full line of **Aqua Lung** rental gear is available aboard including regulators, BCs and dive computers. You may rent a wetsuit with hood for \$70 per week. If any of your dive equipment fails while onboard, the crew will loan you equipment free of charge, compliments of **Aqua Lung**.

## **CERTIFICATION & SPECIALTY COURSES**

Several diving specialty courses are offered onboard including Nitrox, Advanced Open Water, UW Photography, Master Diver and more. The list of available courses and prices are available on our website.

## **PHOTO/VIDEO EQUIPMENT**

The Galapagos Aggressor I & II offer a complete digital photo facility including a PC for downloading photos. The Photo pro is available for free coaching with equipment rental. Photo equipment is available to rent separately or as a complete set

up. The Galapagos Aggressor I & II have strobe charging stations and large camera tables available for your camera and video equipment. Guests should bring their own battery chargers.

**Please refer to our web site, [www.aggessor.com](http://www.aggessor.com) for detailed information and costs of rental equipment, certification courses, and photo/video equipment.**

## **UNDERWATER VIDEO/DVD**

The Video Professional can capture your diving adventure onboard the yachts to share with family and friends. The video of the week/DVD (includes all guests and crew) is \$65 USD.

## **SHIPS BOUTIQUE & CREDIT CARDS**

There is a mini-boutique onboard with assorted t-shirts and miscellaneous items. Due to limited availability, we recommend bringing extra batteries and CD/DVD's for photos. The Galapagos Aggressor I & II accepts cash, traveler's checks, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Sorry, personal checks or Discover cards are not accepted. After returning home if you still want boutique items, please visit the Aggressor Fleet online boutique at [www.aggessor.com/shop](http://www.aggessor.com/shop).

## **GRATUITIES**

Crew gratuities are not included in the charter. We believe gratuities should be voluntary and based upon the quality of service the crew has provided. When settling your account on Tuesday, the Captain will have an envelope for gratuities that will be divided equally among the crew. Cash, traveler's checks or credit cards may be used for gratuities.

## **THURSDAY CHECKOUT**

After a full breakfast, checkout time is 8:00 a.m. Thursday morning. The crew will transport you and your luggage to the local Galapagos airport and assist you with the check-in.

## **CAPTAINS REPORT**

Each week we post the Captain's log of the previous charter. Please feel free to visit [www.aggessor.com](http://www.aggessor.com) and go to the Captain's log to find out water temperature, visibility, and sightings.

## **AEROGAL AIRLINES FLIGHT DETAILS TO GALAPAGOS**

**The following information pertains to flights scheduled through Aggressor Fleet on charter embark and disembark dates.**

We highly recommend staying overnight in Guayaquil instead of Quito before flying to San Cristobal, Galapagos as the flight schedule allows you more time for check-in at the airport, lower priced domestic ticket, later flight than Quito, and the Galapagos Aggressors local office is located in Guayaquil. Due to Ecuadorian laws, interisland flight tickets must be picked up in Ecuador. Your pre-payment to Aggressor Fleet confirms your tickets. Aggressor Fleet has no control over any airline price increases.

Passengers who are not at the airport timely will be considered a "NO SHOW," and will incur additional penalties and the chance of losing their reservation. Each traveler must purchase a Galapagos Visitors Card for \$10 USD prior to checking in with the airline in Quito or Guayaquil which takes time. It is VERY important to notify Aggressor Fleet of your hotel reservation as soon as it is made. In Quito and Guayaquil, you must make your own way to the airport. *\*Flight schedule and prices are subject to change. After ticket is purchased, no changes can be made, i.e. name, schedule changes, etc.*

### **Local times: Quito/Guayaquil**

**GMT – 5 Galápagos GMT - 6**

### **Year Round**

### **Quito – Guayaquil – San Cristobal**

AeroGal (2K) #30	Quito – Guayaquil	10:15 am - 11:00 am
AeroGal (2K) #30	Guayaquil – San Cristobal	11:45 am - 12:40 pm

*(no airplane change for those going from Quito to San Cristobal)*

**San Cristóbal – Guayaquil – Quito**

AeroGal (2K) #31      San Cristóbal – Guayaquil      1:15 pm - 04:10 pm  
AeroGal (2K) #31      Guayaquil – Quito      04:45 pm - 05:30 pm

**Domestic Airfare Rates (not included in the Charter rate)**

<u>High Season</u>		<u>Low Season</u>	
Nov 1 to April 31 & June 15 – Sept 14		September 15-October 31 & May 1-June 14	
Quito to San Cristobal/Quito -	\$474	Quito to San Cristobal/Quito -	\$419
Quito to San Cristobal/Guayaquil -	\$451	Quito to San Cristobal/Guayaquil -	\$401
Guayaquil to San Cristobal/Guayaquil -	\$424	Guayaquil to San Cristobal/Guayaquil-	\$380
Guayaquil to San Cristobal/Quito -	\$448	Guayaquil/San Cristobal/Quito -	\$398

Quito – UIO / Guayaquil – GYE / San Cristóbal – SCY

**Airport Check in Time**

AeroGal – San Cristobal departure      Quito 8:30 am      Guayaquil 10:00 am

**Weight Limits**

Checked luggage 35 kilos (75 pounds) Carry on 10 kilos (22 pounds)

Excess weight charge is 1% per kilo (approximately \$2.50 USD per kilo) of the ticket value.





