

Galapagos Aggressors I & II

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



Reservations Center Contact Information

Office Hours are Central Daylight Time

Monday-Friday

8-5 CDT

Saturday/Sunday

Closed

Office (USA): +1-985-385-2628

galapagos@aggressor.com

www.aggressor.com

Airline Dept. info@liveaboardvacations.com

Cell Phone: After Hours +1-985-714-1300

E-Mail: info@aggressor.com

(Delay in travel and emergency only)

Galapagos Aggressor Office

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Cell 011-593-9841-8853

Office 011-593-4268-1950

Fax 011-593-4268-1955

E-Mail info@galapagos-aggressor.com

M/V Galapagos Aggressor I & II

Boat E-mail N/A

Boat SSB radio/AT&T credit card

COMMUNICATIONS IN GALAPAGOS

The Reservations Center and Galapagos Aggressor office in Guayaquil are in constant communication. In the event of an emergency, family and friends may contact you at the above numbers.



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. As you prepare for your adventure aboard the Galapagos Aggressor I or II, we extend a most hearty welcome.

In the event you receive this document more than 90 days prior to traveling, please download the most recent “Know Before You Go” from www.aggressor.com. It is important to notify our office of last minute changes concerning your hotel accommodations, departure

itinerary, or any changes in your address and telephone numbers. Don’t forget to use your Aggressor luggage tags. They will help the crew to identify you.

GALAPAGOS ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

The Galapagos Islands feature 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.

PASSPORTS & DOCUMENTATION

Visitors must have a current passport, (at least 6 months before expiration) adequate funds to support themselves and a return airline ticket to travel to Galapagos. It is the travelers’ responsibility to ensure they have the proper documentation to travel to the destination 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 for more information. *The Reservation Center cannot assume responsibility for passengers not having correct documentation.*

TAXES AND FEES

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

- \$100 Galapagos Park Entry fee (**cash only**)
- \$30 Departure tax(Guayaquil)
- \$10 Galapagos Visitors Card (**cash only**)
- 12% Sales tax on all on board services

Onboard fees and charges can be paid in cash, Travelers Checks or credit card.

AIR TRANSPORTATION & PACKING

Regularly scheduled flights to Ecuador are available on American, Continental, Aerogal, Taca, and Lanchile Airlines. They depart from Miami, New York, 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 to carry on bag with weight limit of 22 lbs. and one-two pieces of checked luggage, which is limited to 35 kg. (approx. 75 lbs). Any 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 ZONE, 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. Ecuador. There is a sales tax of 12% on all purchases in Ecuador. Spanish is the official language of Ecuador.

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 member of the Dive the World Club, you will receive onboard discounts.

WAIVER, APPLICATION & PASSPORT INFORMATION

The Reservation Center and the Galapagos Aggressors require each guest to complete a Cruise Application and Liability Waiver form prior to departure and diving. The completed and signed Application/Liability Waiver must be received by the Reservation Center at least 90 days prior to departure and may be completed on the website by going to www.aggressor.com and going to the "Download" section. *Passengers who fail to complete one, will be denied boarding.*

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.

INSURANCE

We highly recommend each guest purchase comprehensive dive, accident, medical, baggage and trip cancellation insurance when your reservation is made. Trip insurance will protect you from financial disappointment if you are prevented from making your scheduled trip. Insurance companies sell different layers of insurance which you should fully research and decide what is right for you. Visit our website for more information.

HEALTH

The Galapagos Aggressors have first aid kits on board, including oxygen and defibrillators. Rough seas may be encountered during your trip, and we recommend you bring motion sickness medication. We recommend a complete physical before your trip. There is NO smoking allowed inside the boat or on the dive deck. Smoking is only permitted on the sun deck. No inoculations are required by Ecuador. However, if you are traveling to a third country, please check their health regulations.

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 activities, food, or drink.

ARRIVAL

Your travel arrangements should include a one-night stay over (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 over, in Guayaquil or Quito, is also required after the charter.

It is important you notify the Reservations Center of your choice hotel, as a "Welcome Letter" will be waiting for you upon check in at the hotel. The airport meeting time on the Welcome letter may be different from prior information you may have received from the Reservations Center. This is due to possible flight schedule changes, which are not known to us until the day prior to departure.

On the day of departure for the Galapagos Aggressors, be sure to be at the airport in Quito or Guayaquil at least 2 hours before departure as stated in your Welcome letter. 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 fees. 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 boat.

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: 593-4268-1950 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.

THE YACHTS

The Galapagos Aggressors are 100 ft. built and powered for comfort, safety and stability. They are diesel-powered and cruise at an average speed of 10 knots and have 110 and 220 volt power on board. Accommodations include (4) deluxe cabins with twin beds and (3) deluxe with queen beds. Each cabin has a private head, TV/DVD, stereo CD player, temperature controls and safe storage box. The Galapagos Aggressors each sleep 14 guests in privacy and comfort. They have beautiful spacious salons with entertainment centers, large sun decks with chaise lounges, deck chairs and hot tub.

MEALS

The menu onboard is varied and plentiful, with a variety of fresh tropical fruits, local and international cuisine. Each morning, breakfast is served with fresh fruits, cereals and juices, with the hot entrée of your choice. Lunches feature hot soups, salads and sandwiches and/or entrées. Dinners are diverse, including seafood, beef or chicken. Each evening, enjoy fresh homemade desserts. Please notify our office of any special dietary requests and feel free to bring your favorite candy or snack!

BEVERAGES

Soft drinks, ice tea, local beer and wine are complimentary. Unfortunately, the vessels are unable to offer diet coke due to not being available in returnable bottles. Due to the need of limiting cans in Galapagos because of trash, this is not available. We suggest you bring your favorite brand of liquor from the U.S. or pick-up some at the last duty-free port before entry into Ecuador. Drinking and diving do not mix. Once you consume alcohol, you become a snorkeler until the next day.



CLOTHING

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, ask for the onboard boutique.

Dress is very casual on board. For the cool evening, we recommend you pack a light sweatpants and sweatshirts. Since you will be doing several land tours, we suggest you bring a comfortable pair of walking shoes, sunglasses, sunscreen, binoculars, a hat, water bottle, bug spray, and a small backpack. There is limited storage space, so we suggest packing in a soft duffel bag for easy luggage storage.

ENTERTAINMENT

There is a variety of nightly entertainment, including fish identification slide shows, movies, games, and more. The crew especially loves new releases of musical CD's, DVD movies, recent magazines, and books. Feel free to bring along your favorites.

DIVING

The crew of the Galapagos Aggressors, with their unique combination of talents, offers the ultimate in service. While on board, you may pick a buddy of your choice or dive with one of our dive masters/instructors, who go along with the group on every single dive.

There is ample storage space for your diving equipment in your personal locker. The Aggressors provide 80 cubic ft. tanks, weight belts, weights, Dive Alerts, and dive flags.

The Galapagos Aggressors' itinerary is designed to give our guests the opportunity to experience the best sites above and below the surface. This diving itinerary is subject to change and is based on the weather conditions at the time. Special itinerary requests can be made six months in advance of the charter, and are at the discretion of the Captain and National Park Authorities.

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, particularly the northern route. So, we recommend you take precautions against motion sickness. See the "Captain's Log" on the Galapagos page, www.aggessor.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, and whale sharks. Occasionally, there is sighting of whales, marlin, dolphins, and orcas. You will see a rare combination of warm and cold water creatures, including sea lions, mantas, penguins, ray, turtles, moray eels, and enormous schools of unusual fish. One third of the in-shore marine creatures are found nowhere else on earth!

The best diving around the Galapagos Islands is made possible through the use of dinghies (or inflatable) manned by our crewmembers. There is almost no diving 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 your BCD off and climb in.

DIVE GEAR SUGGESTIONS

We suggest you pack the following: mask, fins, snorkel, regulator with visible pressure gauge, depth gauge, dive vest or buoyancy compensator, and a 5mm-7mm wet suit with hood, gloves, and booties, or a dry suit with light underwear. We highly recommend: Safety Sausage, Dive Alert, mirror, spare mask, dive watch, and dive light. Dive computers are mandatory. Each piece of gear should be marked with waterproof paint or tape. We suggest packing your mask, especially prescription mask,

and your regulator in a carry-on bag. See the "Captain's Log" online for current diving conditions.

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 Rental Dive Gear including: Regulators, BC's, and Dive Computers are available onboard. You may rent a wetsuit with hood for \$70 per week. *This is the only Aggressor destination, which rents wetsuits. Reserve in advance.

CERTIFICATION COURSES

The crew of the Galapagos Aggressors offers a variety of specialty courses such as Advanced Open Water, Nitrox, and Underwater Photographer.

PHOTO CENTER

All Aggressor yachts offer complete digital photo/video facilities with a full line of digital underwater photo equipment. Photo-pros are available for free coaching with equipment rental. Photo equipment is available to rent separately, or as a complete set-up. Unique opportunities, above and below the surface, await photographers in Galapagos.



Please visit our web site, www.aggressor.com, for detailed information and costs of rental equipment, courses, and photo/video equipment. Also, please reserve equipment and courses in advance to ensure availability.

UNDERWATER VIDEO/DVD

Our video professional can capture your diving adventure on board the Galapagos Aggressors to share with family and friends.

DVD of the Week US\$65 per person

SHIPS BOUTIQUE & CREDIT CARDS

American Express, Visa, and MasterCard are accepted for onboard purchases. Personal checks are not accepted.



WEDNESDAY

Wednesday afternoon the Galapagos Aggressor I or II stops at Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz for provisions for the next week. Guests will visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. The Galapagos Aggressors' crews host a cocktail party Wednesday evening. Dinner is not served on board. This is the only meal not provided with the

cruise. The crew will recommend a restaurant in town. You will need cash; many restaurants and shops do not accept credit cards. The Aggressors depart for the dock late Wednesday night.

TIPS

We believe gratuities should be voluntary and based upon the quality of service the crew has provided. When settling your account, the Captain will have an envelope for gratuities, to be divided equally among the crew.

CHECK OUT

After a full breakfast, checkout time is between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. Thursday morning. The crew will transport you and your luggage, with the group, to the local Galapagos airport, and assist you with the check-in.

CAPTAINS LOG

Each week the Captains post a log of the previous charter. Please feel free to visit www.aggressor.com and go to the Captains log to find out water temperature, visibility, sightings etc.

For more information on the itinerary, please visit www.aggressor.com www.darwinfoundaton.org.



Aggressor Fleet

209 Hudson Trace

Augusta, Georgia 30907 USA

Ph: +1-985-385-2628 (800) 348-2628

Fax: +1-985-384-0817

E-mail: galapagos@aggressor.com

Web: www.aggressor.com

1/12/2010

AeroGal Airfare Flight Information to Galapagos

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. Even though you are confirmed, tickets are not processed until one week before your charter date. Due to this, the price of the ticket can change which you will be responsible for. 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. There is a new regulation and everyone has to purchase a Galapagos Visitors Card which is \$10; prior to checking in with the airline in Quito and Guayaquil. It is **VERY** important to notify Aggressor Fleet of your hotel reservation as soon as it is made. You will receive a detailed letter at your hotel explaining when and where to meet at the airport to receive your tickets. 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	09:45 am - 10:30 am
AeroGal (2K) #30	Guayaquil – San Cristobal	11:15 am - 11:45 am

San Cristóbal – Guayaquil – Quito

AeroGal (2K) #31	San Cristóbal – Guayaquil	12:45 pm - 03:30 pm
AeroGal (2K) #31	Guayaquil – Quito	04:00 pm - 04:45 pm

Domestic Airfare Rates (not included in the yacht 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 8:15 am	Guayaquil 9:30 am
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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.

