

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## Galapagos Aggressor III



### Reservations Office Contact Information

Office Hours are Eastern Daylight Time:

Monday-Friday: 8 am – 6 pm EDT

Saturday: 9 am – 5 pm EDT

Office (USA): 800-348-2628      +1-706-993-2531

[galapagos@aggressor.com](mailto:galapagos@aggressor.com)      [www.aggressor.com](http://www.aggressor.com)

**Emergency & Delay in Travel: (after hours) +1-706-664-0111**

Local Guayaquil Office

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 5:15 pm

Office: 011-593-4371-1670 ext. 532

Cell: 011-593-99841-8853



## ABOUT 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 III 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.

## AVIANCA AIRLINES DOMESTIC FLIGHTS– ECUADOR TO GALAPAGOS

**Must Be Purchased At Least 30 Days Prior to Departure**  
*Flight Times Are Subject to Change*

Airline tickets to/from Guayaquil/Quito to Baltra may be purchased from Aggressor Fleet. With reserved block seats on the charter embark and disembark dates, reservations must be made and paid for **at least 30 days prior to departure date**. Tickets may be purchased up to 6 months prior to departure date. Tickets purchased less than 30 days prior to departure date are not guaranteed space on the flight.

We highly recommend spending one night in Guayaquil (instead of Quito) the night before your charter start date and flying to Baltra. Your prepayment to Aggressor Fleet confirms your airline ticket. Passengers who are not at the airport timely will be considered a ‘no show’ and will incur loss of reservation. 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. *After your domestic airline ticket is purchased, no changes may be made, i.e. name, schedule changes, etc.*

Quito – UIO Guayaquil – GYE / Baltra – GPS Local times: Quito/Guayaquil GMT – 5 Galápagos GMT - 6

### Quito – Guayaquil – Baltra *(no airplane change for those traveling from Quito to Baltra)*

AV 1684	Quito – Guayaquil	10:25 am - 11:20 am
AV 1684	Guayaquil – Baltra	12:00 pm - 12:50 pm

### Baltra – Guayaquil – Quito

AV 1633	Baltra – Guayaquil	10:10 am - 01:00 pm
AV1633	Guayaquil – Quito	01:40 pm - 02:35 pm

#### *July 1 to August 31*

Quito to Baltra/Quito	\$628
Quito to Baltra/Guayaquil	\$599
Guayaquil to Baltra/Guayaquil	\$559
Guayaquil to Baltra/Quito	\$588

#### *January 1 – June 30 & Sept. 1-December 31*

Quito to Baltra/Quito	\$573
Quito to Baltra/Guayaquil	\$550
Guayaquil to Baltra/Guayaquil	\$516
Guayaquil/Baltra/Quito	\$540

### Airport Check in Time

AeroGal – Baltra departure                      Quito 8:30 am                      Guayaquil 10:00 am

*Baggage limit is 70 lbs./32 kilos and carry on 22 lbs./10 kilos when ticket is purchased through Aggressor Fleet. (subject to change without notice and weight allowance not always guaranteed)*

## 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. In addition, the new Quito International Airport is located over one hour from downtown Quito. 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 evening)

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 Baltra Thursday morning. If there is a schedule change, this would affect your airport meeting time.

On the day of departure to the Galapagos Aggressor III, 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 Guayaquil Airport to 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 \$20 for the Galapagos Visitors Card. This will be paid at the “**Consejo de Gobierno de Galapagos**” counter.

Once you arrive at the Baltra 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 Aggressor III, it is necessary to call the Galapagos Aggressor III office in Guayaquil (numbers on first page) to advise them of your plans. In case of flight problems please call either of these numbers to inform the staff.*

If you are already in Galapagos and making your own way to the boat, you will need to meet on the dock at the Baltra side of the Itabaca Channel at 12.00 noon on the departure date. This is the channel between Santa Cruz (Puerto Ayora town) and Baltra Island (airport).

## ITINERARY

**The weeklong trip on the Galapagos Aggressor III starts and ends in Baltra every Thursday.** The Galapagos Aggressor III itinerary in compliance with the Galapagos National Park regulations which requires companies with permits to follow an exact itinerary. A maximum of four dives will be offered daily; two in the morning and two in the afternoon. In addition, one night dive and two land excursions per week will be offered. Aggressor Adventure Travel, Aggressor Fleets exclusive travel agency offers extended land tour packages, visit [www.aggressortravel.com](http://www.aggressortravel.com) or email [info@aggressortravel.com](mailto:info@aggressortravel.com).

*New diving areas* have been added to the itinerary: Bartolome Punta, Cousins Rock and Cabo Douglas. The Galapagos itinerary is controlled by the National Park who grants approval for normal itineraries.

**The following itinerary provided is based on tides, currents, winds and weather conditions. Below is a sample itinerary and may vary:**

**Thursday:** Baltra Airport Afternoon Greeting by Crew, Bus Transfer to the Itabaca Channel (Canal) and Boarding. Welcome, and Orientation Dive at North East Coast of Baltra Island.

**Friday:** 2 Morning dives; Punta Carrion (Santa Cruz Island) and Bartolome Punta. 1 afternoon hike to Bartolome Punta and panga ride at Pinnacle Rock.

**Saturday:** 4 Dives at Wolf; 2 morning, 1 afternoon and (June-Dec 1 night dive).

**Sunday:** *January to May:* 2 morning dives at Darwin and 2 afternoon dives at Wolf.

*June to December: 4 dives at Darwin; 2 morning, 2 afternoon.*

**Monday:** *January to May: 4 dives at Cabo Marshall; 2 morning dives, 1 afternoon and 1 night dive.  
June to December: 2 morning dives at Darwin; 2 afternoon dives at Wolf.*

**Tuesday:** 2 morning dives at Cabo Douglas and 2 afternoon dives at Punta Vicente Roca.

**Wednesday:** 1 morning dive at Cousins Rock.

Wednesday afternoon the Galapagos Aggressor III will arrive at Itabaca Channel or Puerto Ayora. After lunch guests will disembark and go ashore for a private bus tour to see the beautiful Highlands of Santa Cruz Island. This will include a scenic view over Santa Cruz and a Tortoise Reserve to see giant tortoises.

After the hike, guests can walk through town, shop and visit the tortoise-breeding center Fausto Llerena at the Charles Darwin Research Station. Guests will have dinner ashore at a local restaurant of their choice (only meal not included in the cruise).

The Galapagos Aggressor III will depart at 10 pm from Puerto Ayora town to Baltra.

**Thursday:** Guests will have a full breakfast then check out and depart to the Baltra Airport. Be sure to remember the suggested 24-hour no-fly rule when planning your departure.

Itinerary is subject to change without notice.

## **WELCOME**

As you prepare for your diving adventure aboard the Galapagos Aggressor III, 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.aggressor.com](http://www.aggressor.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 an overnight bag that includes a swimsuit, change of clothes, medication and toiletries in your carry on bag. Having these few items with you can make an unexpected luggage delay more bearable. Don't forget to use your Aggressor luggage tags. They will help the crew identify you and your bags at the airport.

## **PASSPORTS & DOCUMENTATION**

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months beyond your period of stay, have adequate funds to support yourself, and a return airline ticket to travel to Ecuador then Galapagos. 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.***

## **PACK for a PURPOSE®**

Small Space. Little Effort. Big Impact.

The Galapagos Aggressor III is proud to be a member of Pack for a Purpose, an initiative that allows travelers to make a lasting impact in the community. If you can save just a few lbs. of space in your suitcase and bring supplies for area schools you'll make a priceless impact in the lives of local children and families in Ecuador. The Galapagos Aggressor III has chosen Escuela Fiscal Mixta Julio H. Puebla Castellanos which is a school serving 40 children between the ages of 5 and 10 years old. Their immediate needs are:

Age appropriate story books in English or Spanish, Alphabet flash cards in English or Spanish, Biology text books, Chalk, Colored construction paper, Colored pencils, Compasses, Craft scissors, Crayons, Dictionaries in English or Spanish, Encyclopedias in English or Spanish, Erasers, Exercise books in English or Spanish, General science text books, Glue sticks, Hand held pencil sharpeners, Health text books, Human body educational wall charts, Language educational wall charts in English or Spanish, Language/grammar text books in English or Spanish, Math educational wall charts, Math flash cards, Math text books, Markers, Pencils, Pens, Protractors, Rulers, Science educational wall charts, Solar calculators, Watercolor paints, Word flash cards in English or Spanish, World maps. Flash drives/memory sticks, Printers, Solar-powered working laptops, Working laptops, USB cables.

**Additional Needs:** Scrabble, stuffed animals/soft toys, netball/basketballs, soccer balls, team uniforms/kits for soccer, new or gently used children's clothing and children's shoes.

### **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 14% on all purchases in Ecuador. Spanish is the official language of Ecuador.

For travel throughout the Galapagos Islands, the Galapagos Aggressor III 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 III require each guest to complete a Cruise Application and Waiver prior to departure and boarding the yachts. 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 prior to boarding 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.aggessor.com](http://www.aggessor.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 - USD**)
- \$20 Galapagos Visitors Card (**cash only - USD**)
- 14% 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 III has a 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 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 Galapagos Aggressor III is 100 feet long, built and powered for comfort, safety and stability. She is diesel powered, cruise at an average speed of 10 knots and have 110 and 220 volt power onboard. Comfortable accommodations include four deluxe staterooms which have two twin beds and three portholes and six master staterooms 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/Blue Ray DVD, stereo CD player, temperature controls and safe storage box. The Galapagos Aggressor III sleeps 16 guests in privacy and comfort.

The Galapagos Aggressor III has a beautiful spacious salon, large sun deck 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, damaged or stolen items. We highly recommend extremely caution and care be taken if you plan to travel onboard with electronic equipment. This equipment should always be stowed after use to avoid the risk of damage.

The Galapagos National Park does not allow drones or reef hooks.

## **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. 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 III, 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 III provides 80 cubic feet tanks, weight belts, and weights. All tanks have K-valves (American type), no DIN (European) valves. Nitrox is available for an additional fee, see our website for details.

We suggest you pack the following: mask, fins, snorkel, regulator with visible pressure gauge, depth gauge, dive computer, buoyancy compensator, light for night diving, batteries 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.aggessor.com](http://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, Silky Sharks, Bullhead Sharks, Reef Sharks, Mola Molas and Whale sharks. Occasionally, there is sighting of Whales, Marlin, Dolphin and Orcas. You will see a rare combination of warm and cold-water creatures including Sea Lions, Mantas, Penguins, Flightless Cormorants, Sting Rays, Eagle Rays, Turtles, Moray Eels, Sea Horses, Marine iguanas 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 inflatable’s) 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.

## **DIVING SUPERVISION**

You’ve chosen a LiveAboard vacation for the diving freedom that it offers. While in the water, you and your buddy are in charge. Every dive starts with a dive briefing from our staff. However, as a certified diver, you and your buddy are responsible for planning and conducting your own dives within the limitations set forth by the briefing. The staff will be on the dive deck providing surface support for divers. We will also have staff in the water offering support, u/w photography and videography, and critter spotting services as well. On some dive sites a staff member will offer to lead a group and assist them in locating specific points of interest. However the yacht does not offer direct supervision of dives. If you start out with a group, as long as you and your buddy remain in contact with each other and are ok – you may follow your own dive plan. Divers who desire more personal attention and structured/supervised dives should consider taking one of our numerous specialty courses. An underlying skill featured in all of specialty training is planning, executing, and debriefing after your dive in order to build a more confident diver.

## **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 7mm 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 III offers 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 III has a strobe charging station and large camera table 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 III accepts cash, Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Sorry, personal checks, travelers 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.aggressor.com](http://www.aggressor.com).

## **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, 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.aggressor.com](http://www.aggressor.com) and go to the Captain's log to find out water temperature, visibility, and sightings or facebook.