

BEST TIME TO COME TO GALAPAGOS

CALENDAR OF NATURAL EVENTS

All year around the Galapagos Islands are a spectacular showcase of nature's natural processes, and every month has its unique features. The Galapagos Islands have two seasons: THE HOT TROPICAL RAINY SEASON from December to June and THE SUB-TROPICAL DRY SEASON from July to November. Ocean currents are largely responsible for the climate of the Islands. Though located on the Equator the temperatures are much milder than one would imagine due to the cold current traveling north from Antarctica.



AIR TEMPERATURE WATER TEMPERATURE	RAIN	MONTH	WEATHER	ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR	RECOMMENDATIONS
21°C / 70°F 24°C / 75°F 27°C / 80°F 29°C / 85°F		JANUARY	Beginning of the rainy season. Water and air temperatures rise and stay warm until June. Air Temperature 30°-22°C / 86°-72°F Water Temp. 25°C / 76°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magnificent and Great Frigate birds nesting (All year-round) Land iguanas begin reproductive cycles Land birds start nesting, generally after first rain The green sea turtles arrive on beaches for egg-laying period 	Ideal time for snorkeling. Great underwater visibility. The sun is very intense during this month. We Recommend sun-block SPF 30 or higher.
		FEBRUARY	Water reaches the highest temperature. This temperature remains constant until April. Air Temperature 30°-24°C / 86°-75°F Water Temp. 25°C / 77°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine iguanas nesting season Few penguins are sighted (most have followed the cool waters back to the west or near upwelling areas) Nesting season of the Galapagos Dove reaches its peak Bahamas' pintail ducks (Black-tailed pintail) start breeding season Giant tortoise are still hatching 	Great underwater visibility High water temperature (until April) The sun is very intense during this month. We Recommend sun-block SPF 30 or higher.
		MARCH	The rainy season reaches the highest precipitation with sporadic tropical rains. Intense sun, hot climate, high humidity. Air Temperature 31°-24°C / 88°-75°F Water Temp. 25°C / 77°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine iguanas nesting season Magnificent and Great Frigate Birds nesting (All year-round) Penguins still active in the water, next to tropical fish! Hatching season of giant tortoise's eggs continues 	Ideal time for snorkeling. Snorkelers will remain long periods of time in the water. Rainy season reaches its peak in the highlands. The sun is very intense during this month. We Recommend sun-block SPF 30 or higher.
		APRIL	While the rains have ended, the islands remain green. Best water and air temperatures. Air Temperature 31°-24°C / 88°-75°F Water Temp. 25°C / 77°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start mating dance of blue-footed boobies Magnificent and Great Frigate Birds nesting (All year-round) End of hatching season of the giant tortoises Eggs of green sea turtles begin to hatch Eggs of land iguanas begin to hatch 	Best visibility for snorkelers. With April & May are the best months in Galapagos (weather, animals, water temp). We Recommend sun-block SPF 30 or higher.
		MAY	Best water and air temperatures. Along with June, offers the most pleasant weather. Air Temperature 28°-22°C / 82°-72°F Water Temp. 24°C / 76°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue-footed boobies have their courtship Most marine iguanas' eggs hatch from nests Ban-rumped storm petrels begin their first nesting period 	Good time for snorkeling. The intense hot climate of earlier months begins to cool off, but there are still plenty of hours of clear skies. Palo Santo trees begin to shed their foliage
		JUNE	Beginning of the garúa season (cool dry season) it lasts until December. South-east trade winds return. Currents become a bit stronger. Seas pick up in surge and wave action. Air Temperature 26°-21°C / 79°-70°F Water Temp. 23°C / 73°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giant tortoises migrate from the highlands to the lowlands in search of suitable nesting places Many red pouches by males of Magnificent Frigate Birds Beginning of the nesting season of giant tortoises Southern migrants have started their journey towards the north and Galapagos is a rest stop for such birds Some species of cetaceans also follow this pattern of migration Some groups of Humpback whales that migrate up to Equatorial latitudes along the coast of Ecuador, can reach the Galapagos too 	Along with the month of May, this month offers the most pleasant weather. The intense hot climate of the earlier months begins to cool off, but there are still plenty of hours of clear skies.
		JULY	Water temperature starts dropping down. This month has more pronounced winds. Air Temperature 26°-19°C / 79°-66°F Water Temp. 21°C / 68°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flightless cormorants perform beautiful courtship rituals and nesting activities. Magnificent and Great Frigate Birds nesting Sea bird communities are very active (breeding), especially the blue-footed boobies Lava lizards initiate mating rituals until November Cetaceans (whales & dolphins) are more likely to be observed Great month to see the four stages of nesting in blue-footed boobies: eggs, chicks, juveniles and sub- adults 	The presence of the Humboldt Current begins to strengthen, making nutrients in the water more abundant and marine life more active. Snorkeling is great during this period. Dolphin and Whale spotting.
		AUGUST	The temperature of the ocean drops. Oceans are quite choppy, currents at the strongest levels; surge can be expected along the shores that face west or south Air Temperature 26°-19°C / 79°-66°F Water Temp. 18°C - 22°C / 64°F - 72°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giant tortoises return to the highlands Magnificent and Great Frigate Birds nesting (All year-round) Migrant shore birds start to arrive staying on the islands until March Pupping season (births) of sea lions has started. Western and central islands are common places for such sightings Lots of sea birds at nest sites 	The sub-tropical dry season starts with the annual arrival of the cool oceanic Humboldt current coming from the south. Snorkeling is great also during this period. Dolphin and Whale spotting. This month has pronounced winds.
		SEPTEMBER	Peak of the cold (garúa) season. The air temperature reaches its lowest levels. Air Temperature 26°-19°C / 79°-66°F Water Temp. 22°C / 72°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Galapagos Penguins show remarkable activity. Since May swimmers and snorkelers can be delighted at Bartolome with penguins active at the surface or torpedo-like while underwater Sea lions are very active. Females have reached estrus stage, and so harem-gathering males are constantly barking and fighting. Shore fighting is heavy. Western and central islands are the most active ones in terms of sea lions' activities Most species of sea birds remain quite active at their nesting sites 	It does not rain in the sunny, arid lowlands. In the southern slopes of the highlands in the bigger islands, the moisture accumulates brought with the southern winds and a fine mist with drizzle rain surrounds the volcanic mountains and hides the islands. Snorkeling is great also during this period.
		OCTOBER	Days are not always sunny. Garúa (drizzle) can be expected. Most days have a misty start but after few hours it burns off. Sunrises can be quite beautiful after the garúa covers only certain locations of the western volcanoes. Summits are clear, but low-lying fog covers the shoreline. Air Temperature 27°-20°C / 81°-68°F Water Temp. 23°C / 73°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue footed boobies raise chicks Magnificent and Great Frigate Birds nesting (All year-round) Lava herons start nesting until March The Galapagos fur sea lions begin their mating period Giant tortoises are still laying eggs 	The drizzle rain surrounds the volcanic mountains making the islands "disappear" from sight. This is the reason why Galapagos are called "The Enchanted Islands". Northern slopes and smaller lower islands almost always remain sunny and dry, where guests will enjoy our exciting day exploration programs.
		NOVEMBER	Seas are calm. South-east trade winds have decreased strength. Water temperatures are slowly rising. Generally great weather due to transition between one season and the next. Air Temperature 28°-21°C / 82°-70°F Water Temp. 23°C / 73°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breeding season for the brown noddies Ban-rumped storm petrels begin their second nesting period Pupping of sea lions continue Sea lions are sexually active on the eastern of the archipelago Sea lion pups play aqua-aerobics next to snorkelers. Most pups here are curious enough to nibble at fins of snorkelers. The average age of most pups is 3-4 months 	The Humboldt Current is strong, making nutrients in the water more abundant and marine life more active. Snorkeling is very good during this month and amazing marine encounters are very common. Winds are still present.
		DECEMBER	The rainy season begins and plants of the dry zone produce leaves. Galapagos becomes "green", but eastern islands remain dry. Great weather, mostly sunny days. Waters continue to warm up but still cool for long snorkeling periods. Air Temperature 29°-22°C / 84°-72°F Water Temp. 23°C / 74°F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hatching of giant tortoise's eggs begins and last until April Green sea turtles display their mating behavior First red pouches of great frigatebirds seen Magnificent and Great Frigate Birds nesting (All year-round) The first young waved albatrosses fledge Northern migrants have started their journey towards the south. Galapagos is a rest stop for these birds. Some species of Cetaceans also follow this pattern of migration 	This is the start and the end of the breeding and mating seasons for many animals in Galapagos, making wildlife encounters very attractive. The sun starts to get more intense during this month. We recommend guests to use sun-block SPF 30 or higher, at least for the first few days.