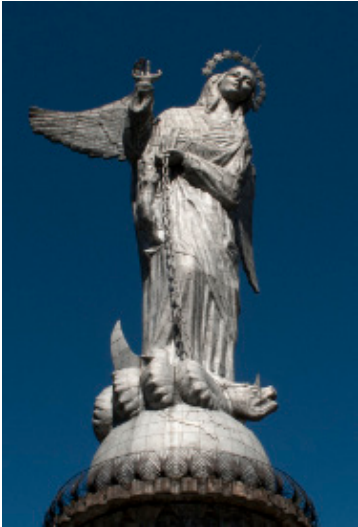
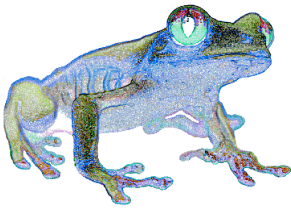


# Galapagos Photography Odyssey

## Nature Photography Adventures

*April 16-26 2027*



### **Day 01: 16 April, Friday**

#### **QUITO Meet and arrival transfer**

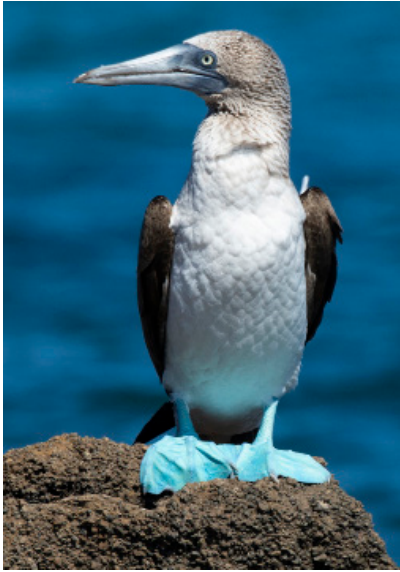
Upon arrival at Quito's international airport, you will be met by our hotel's representative and transferred to the hotel. Overnight EB (Eurobuilding) (or similar)

### **Day 02: 17 April, Saturday**

#### **QUITO Full day tour of Old Quito, a World Heritage Site.**

We have laid out a driving and walking route that will present outstanding photography opportunities including the Statue of the Virgin of Quito, the Monastery at the Cathedral of Santa Fe, the Basilica del Voto Nacional, and other cathedrals in the World Heritage site of Old Central Quito, and the main plaza of Old Quito. Overnight EB (Eurobuilding) (or similar)





**Day 03: 18 April, Sunday**

**MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands**

**AM: Fly from Quito to Baltra**

**PM: Get underway on the Nemo II, visit North Seymour Island**

We will rise early to transfer to the airport for our flight out to the Galapagos Islands. After landing on Baltra Island, we will navigate the Galapagos National Park arrival process (designed to make sure we don't introduce species to these protected islands and waters). We will be met by a representative of the Nemo II who will help us gather luggage and take a short bus ride to the harbor where we will board the Nemo II for our adventure.

After lunch and a short sail, we will make our first landing on the Galapagos - a dry landing on North Seymour, where we will walk amongst the largest blue-footed booby colony in the Galapagos. We may witness courtship, the odd dancing and singing. There should be nesting great and magnificent frigate birds. We may have our first opportunity to photograph those famous inflated red pouches - as males vie for attention from the females. We will also seek photographic opportunities with swallow tailed gulls and tropicbirds.

Evening Navigation to Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz



**Day 04: 19 April, Monday**

**MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands**

**AM: Santa Cruz highlands**

**PM: Charles Darwin Scientific Station and Breeding Center**

This is a very special day focused on the giant tortoises that the Galapagos are named after!

We will wake up in a bustling harbor this morning - and we will be bustling too. We will take a dinghy to the dock and find modern transportation to the highlands. We will explore collapsed lava craters and their "forested" ecosystems, finding impressive landscapes, and perhaps some of Darwin's finches!

Then we will make our way to a tortoise reserve, where we will be able to observe and photograph giant tortoises, unfenced, moving freely. Stealth and patience are your friends. Great images are possible!

We will be back on the Nemo for lunch. We will go back ashore for an afternoon stop at the Charles Darwin Research Station and Breeding Center - a chance to learn about the impressive efforts to recreate wild populations of tortoises. We will learn about several populations that were on the brink of extinction, but are now recovered or recovering. More tortoise photography of course!

Dinner on the Nemo II. Evening and night navigation to Punta Moreno.





**Day 05: 20 April, Tuesday**  
**MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands**  
**AM: Punta Moreno, Isabela Island**  
**PM: Urbina Bay, Isabela Island**

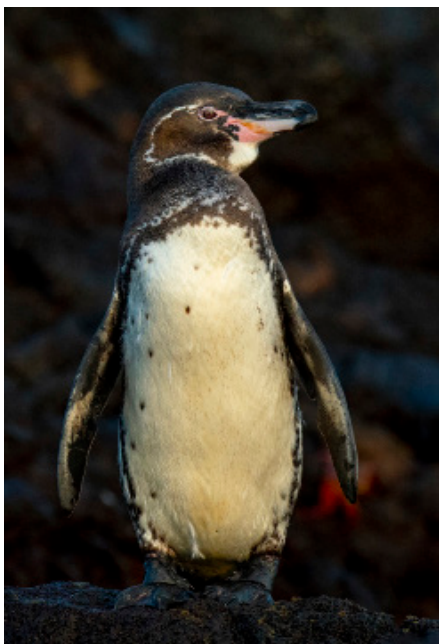
This morning, we will challenge our photographic design skills with an amazing walk on a young lava flow at Punta Moreno (dry landing). Here, we will be astounded at the tenacity with which life clings to tiny opportunities to gain footholds – and we will be tested as we strive to interpret that tenacity in ways that truly capture both the stark nature of a lava flow and the inspiring beauty of plants colonizing it! We will have serious black-on-black issues to deal with – but the results will be amazing! As we venture further onto the lava field we will encounter rich oases where lava tubes have collapsed and support pools of brackish water surrounded by lush growth and some waterfowl. We may be lucky enough to discover flamingos resting or feeding in one of the oases. There will also be great opportunities to design abstract images from both lava patterns and from the large cactus we will encounter. The end of this trail holds an amazing surprise – be sure and bring your polarizer!

While we are lunching, the Nemo II will navigate to Urbina Bay. Today will also be our first chance to snorkel – a shallow water snorkeling adventure!

In the afternoon we're headed to Urbina Bay (perhaps our roughest wet landing) on Isabela Island. Urbina Bay is the site of an earthquake in 1954 that uplifted a large area, creating  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile of new shoreline. This "new" land became a perfect nesting area for land iguanas – and the land iguanas of Urbina Bay are the largest of the Galapagos. One year we witnessed males literally fighting over a good sunny spot to dig a nest – iguana scales were flying in the air. We may also spot tortoises as we walk the trails here. The tortoises will have come down from the highlands to mate and lay eggs close to the shoreline. We've had extremely good luck capturing images of spiders and spider webs, of fossils (a rarity among these igneous islands) exposed by the uplift, and of skeletal pieces along the shoreline!

Evening navigation to Tagus Cove





**Day 06: 21 April, Wednesday**  
**MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands**  
**AM: Tagus Cove, Isabela Island**  
**PM: Espinoza Point, Fernandina Island**

Directly east of Fernandina, Tagus Cove is a spectacular landscape outing (dry landing). It is a beautiful, well-protected cove sheltered by the shoulders of two volcanic craters and has been used as an anchorage for over 300 years. We will ascend a nature trail to a point where we can look over Darwin Lake, a true crater lake filled with salt water. We will also have views of both Darwin and Wolf volcanoes. You will want a variety of lenses – and a polarizer to capture the colors in the crater and cove. Oh, not that it's important... we may also catch our first glimpses of Galapagos Penguins and flightless cormorants.

While we dine, we will navigate to Espinoza Point on Fernandina Island. Deep water snorkeling is on the books today!

After lunch we will climb into dinghies and go ashore (probably a dry landing) at Punta Espinoza on the young island of Fernandina. Fernandina is an island in the making. In 2009 we narrowly missed photographing an eruption that had lava pouring into the sea! But, at Punta Espinoza the focus is on life! This is the place where we will see hundreds, of marine iguanas. We will photograph them sunning, swimming, and everything in between. We may spot lava lizards grooming the iguanas – or even posing on top of their heads! Chances are good that we will be able to photograph flightless cormorants and, in the past, we've focused on formations of blue-footed boobies diving for fish! This is one of the best places to photograph sea turtles – and we often do well here with Sally Lightfoot crabs. Oh, and there may well be an opportunity to capture a Galapagos hawk in flight! Wildlife aside, there are amazing lava flows here – it will be great to learn how all of this happened – and to challenge yourself to capture black-on-black images of lava art! And there will be great opportunities to design striking images of cactus on lava flows and mangroves in juxtaposition with lava! We will be ashore longer than other groups – but you'll be begging for another hour when we absolutely have to leave!

Evening navigation to Santiago Island







**Day 07: 22 April, Thursday**

**MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands**

**AM: Puerto Egas, James Bay, Santiago Island**

**PM: Buccaneers Cove, Santiago Island**

We will make a wet landing at James Bay. In the past, the landing at James Bay has resulted in some really incredible photographic opportunities! We've captured oystercatchers and other exciting waders here. It is our opportunity to photograph Galapagos fur seals – and we will find them close to (or even in) a series of pools created by collapsed lava tubes along the shoreline. Depending on tides, we will have great opportunities to photograph marine iguanas in shallow pools with mirrored reflections – great fun compositionally! And this has been a great place to capture images of Sally Lightfoot crabs reflected in still pools!

We will lunch back on the Nemo II and then navigate by panga to Buccaneers Cove. This is a great chance to photograph dramatic eroded volcanic cliffs! And to learn about history – as this cove was a great protected anchorage for pirates, sailors, and whalers. We will have a wet landing on a beach with coffee-colored sand!

Deep water snorkeling today!

Evening Navigation to Rabida Island



**Day 08: 23 April, Friday**

**MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands**

**AM: Rabida Island**

**PM: Sullivan Bay, Santiago Island**

This is a landscape day. Sure there will be animals, but we're going to see some dramatic landscapes!

This morning we visit a small island off the southern tip of Santiago – Rábida. Here, lava flows were rich in iron, which has rusted to a distinct red. We will walk a red sand beach to photograph a nursery of Galapagos sea lions. We will find brown pelicans resting and nesting in saltbushes. Sometimes we have found a couple flamingos here.

Do take time to make some striking landscape images! The vivid red sand and cliffs contrast with blue skies. And a short trail gives us a vantage point over a bay and rock formations!

Lunch aboard the Nemo II. Shallow water snorkeling today!

Then a panga ride to a dry landing on the famous pahoehoe lava flows of Sullivan Bay. Ropey lava formations, where it looks like they were just stopped with a short exposure. Black with shiny highlights. Oh, this will bring out your design skills. This isn't a long walk, but you may get caught up designing and find yourself wishing you had more time!

Evening navigation to Genovesa!







**Day 09: 24 April, Saturday**  
**MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands**  
**AM: Prince Phillip's Steps, Genovesa**  
**PM: Darwin Bay, Genovesa**

What an exciting final full day in the Galapagos! Genovesa. Tower. El Barranco – Bird Island. These are all names for this bird-rich island formed by the rim on an extinct volcanic crater!

We will start the morning with a panga ride to a dry landing – and our most challenging ascent on this journey together – Prince Phillip's Steps. Following a crevice in a steep wall of the crater that defines Genovesa, steps lead us up to a world of nesting birds. Red footed boobies and frigate birds will present themselves first. Then storm petrels nesting in crevices in the lava – we will watch for a short-eared owl to try and catch a storm petrel as it leaves the nest! We have made so many images, over the years, of red-footed and Nazca booby nests with eggs or youngsters. Family portrait time! And, we will watch for red-billed tropicbirds screaming as they fly to nesting sites tucked into the sides of the crater walls as we motor back to the Nemo for lunch!

Lunch on the Nemo. Shallow water snorkeling.

Now, Darwin Bay. Here the cliff tops are crowded with frigate birds, red-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropicbirds and more, many of them here to court and nest. We will go ashore (wet landing) to observe and photograph the courtship antics and displays of red-footed boobies and frigate birds. We will find lava herons and sea lions. We will compose images of Darwin's finches, Galapagos doves, and mockingbirds as they seek seeds and insects. This is where you'll make those close-ups of red-footed booby feet – and the inflated pouches of male frigate birds desperately trying to appeal to a female.

Farewell cocktail and dinner. Evening Navigation to Daphne.





**Day 10: 25 April, Sunday**  
**MV Nemo II amongst the Galapagos Islands**  
**AM & PM: Daphne and Baltra – then Quito**

Pack your bags the night before. Settle your bar bill. Give a great tip to the crew that has made life on the Nemo II so wonderful. Download and back up all your images.

This morning we will sail around Greater or Lesser Daphne Island – one last look at the landscapes and life that drew us – and many before us – to these Galapagos Islands. We will anchor in the same protected harbor on Baltra, where our journey began!

Then, it's a transfer to the airport at Baltra. After checking in, there will be time to visit some gift shops and to have your passport stamped with the famous Galapagos stamp.

From Baltra, we fly back to Quito, where we will be met by our guide and transferred to our hotel. We will have one last great night in Quito where we can relive our great voyage over food and drink. Overnight EB (Eurobuilding) (or similar)

