

Wildlife Galapagos Nina Galapagos Cruise



Deluxe catamaran – private balconies – large cabins – stable in the water – launched in 2008 – sixteen passengers – comprehensive itinerary – single cabins available – carbon neutral – outdoor jacuzzi

Explore the unique Galapagos Islands on board a luxurious motor catamaran.

A strong cruise route taking you to a wide variety of islands including Espanola and Fernandina.

Lots of opportunity to walk and snorkel each day of your trip.

Enjoy the comforts of what is currently the newest boat in the Galapagos.

This is a Pura *handpicked* holiday with an activity level of *low* and a comfort rating of *premium*.



The deluxe class catamaran, Nina.



"A wonderful yacht. Clean, spacious and very friendly staff. Food was delicious and plentiful. Our guide was fun, energetic and very knowledgeable. He was very passionate about his job and the well being of the islands. We saw so many animals and marine life." Greg W.

Holiday Itinerary

Nina's itinerary starts on a Saturday.

Nina offers various different cruise options within her 14-night circuit. You can join the cruise from:

Day 11 to day 15 (four nights)

Day 01 to day 06 (five nights, route A)

Day 06 to day 11 (five nights, route B)

Day 01 to day 08 (seven nights, route A)

Day 08 to day 15 (seven nights, route B)

Day 01 to day 15 (14 nights)



Comfortable and relatively spacious cabins on board Nina.

Day 01 | Rabida | **sea lions**

Fly to the Galapagos early this morning, a flight of around three hours since the islands are some 600 miles offshore.

When you arrive in the islands, you pay the national park entrance fee before heading to the dock to board your boat.

Please note: the following route is subject to change by the Galapagos National Park.

Guides meet you at the airport, collect your luggage and escort you on the short bus ride to the harbour.

Small motorized rafts, called 'Pangas' take you out to your boat where the crew welcome you onboard.

After a briefing and a light lunch set off towards the island of Rabida, where the unusual coloured sand makes the beach look red from a distance.

Mangroves border a saltwater lagoon here, a popular resting place for flocks of pelicans. Enjoy the opportunity to snorkel from the beach.

Settle in to your cabin before dinner on board.

Cabins are on one of two decks, all are of a very good size (at least 19sqm/200sft) with small private balcony.

The two single cabins are slightly smaller. (l,d)

To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Wildlife Galapagos Nina Galapagos Cruise



Nesting waved albatross on Espanola



Fernandina Island: a marine iguana pile-up.



Isabela Island: blue footed boobies on the rocks.



Lots of opportunity to explore the underwater world

Day 02 | Fernandina | marine iguanas

Punta Vicente Roca is an amazing geological site which lies almost on the equator. It is an outstanding example of how the Islands were formed and how the forces of change have transformed the landscape and shaped the wildlife.

Explore the dramatic coastline in zodiacs as you look for wildlife both above and below the water. When the waters are calm enough the snorkeling is great as the walls of the tuff cones are full of colorful invertebrates and rich algae which sea turtles love to eat.

Visit the youngest of the Galapagos Islands, Fernandina.

Here you walk to the jagged lava of Punta Espinosa to see marine iguanas warming themselves on the lava. You may well need to watch where you are treading as there are lots and lots of them piled up against each other for warmth. (b,l,d)

Day 03 | Isabela | turtles and penguins

Land in Urbina Bay this morning. Walk to see if you can see giant tortoises in the wild. You will almost certainly see land iguanas.

Return to the beach to swim or snorkel directly offshore possibly with rays, sea turtles and sharks.

For those of you less inclined to swim, you can take time to relax and read a book on the beach. Visit the cliff-side gallery of Tagus Cove for a clear view of some 19th century pirate graffiti. It's strange to see vandalism in such a pristine place.

A dry landing leads to a 2km trail through lava formations leads you to Darwin Lake via some wonderful views of the surrounding volcanoes.

The lake itself is a salt-water crater lake, possibly formed by a tidal wave. (b,l,d)

Day 04 | Isabela | turtles and penguins

Land at Punta Moreno, a stretch of land which has existed for only about 50 years.

There is very still little sign of life on these fairly new lava fields although a couple of isolated lagoons are now home to some vegetation and birdlife.

Pass flightless cormorants on your way back to the boat. Make your way directly to a nearby stretch of shore where you snorkel.

Get into the zodiacs (small boats) to explore the coastline around Urbina Bay.

First stop is a couple of small rocky outcrops where you should see penguins living alongside marine iguanas and blue-footed boobies.

Carry on in-shore to a series of mangrove rimmed lagoons. Cut off the engines as you drift in the silence of the late afternoon looking for sea turtles, sharks and penguins in this unusual setting. (b,l,d)

Day 05 | Isabela | turtles and penguins

Explore the harbour bay by boat as you travel to the small island of Tintoreras.

Apart from the ever-present sea lions and pelicans, you will see a colony of the tiny Galapagos penguin.

To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Wildlife Galapagos Nina Galapagos Cruise



Comfortable modern interiors.



Outdoor bar and dining area.



Indoor dining area.



Private balconies for all cabins

Walk across surreal lava landscapes to a huge iguana colony.

The mangrove-lined beaches are also home to sea lions.

Land in the small town of Puerto Villamil – the only inhabited part of Isabela Island.

Travel into the highlands of Isabela above the town of Puerto Villamil to walk on the *Volcan Chico* side of the Sierra Negra volcano which has one of the largest craters in the world.

Up here you should see lots of bird life, including short-eared owls. The views are also wonderful. (b,l,d)

Day 06 | Santa Cruz | **giant tortoises**

Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station today to learn about their breeding, conservation and education programs.

Walk amongst giant land tortoises in the extensive enclosures of the centre.

Meet 'Lonesome George', long thought to be the last of the Pinta Island giant tortoise sub-species but now enjoying something of a purple patch since they found him a mate.

Today is a transition day. If you are staying on board, you may be joined by new clients today.

After a wander through the town of Puerto Ayora, set off towards North Plaza where you walk close to the fearless wildlife: Sally Lightfoot crabs, sea lions and land iguanas. (b,l,d)

Day 07 | Espanola | **seabirds and sea lions**

Start today with a landing on 'sea lion beach'. This is your first chance to get into the water.

Wander along the beach and enjoy watching them play in the surf.

Return for lunch on board and an hour or so navigation to the next landing site on the west of the island.

Mid-afternoon snorkeling excursion to the nearby bay where you might get to swim with sea lions.

Walk to the rugged cliffs of Punta Suarez to see a spectacular blow-hole.

Along the way you should see a broad spectrum of birdlife, including blue-footed boobies, Galapagos hawks and albatrosses. (b,l,d)

Day 08 | San Cristobal | **masked boobies**

Land at La Galapaguera beach to walk and explore. This is one of the best places to see giant tortoises in the wild. You are also likely to see mockingbirds and lava lizards along the way.

At the end of your walk, cool off with a swim or snorkel off the beach.

Those leaving the boat continue to the airport.

Today is a transition day. If you are staying on board, you may be joined by new clients today.

Sea Lion island is about an hour north of San Cristóbal and is home to a large colony of sea lions.

Enjoy a panga ride amongst the sea lions as they play in the waters around you.

This island is also a great place for snorkeling.

To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Wildlife Galapagos Nina Galapagos Cruise



A land iguana in close up.



Humans and sea lion waiting to be picked up at Bartolomé.



Walking up Bartolomé island

Continue to Kicker Rock, a magnificent rock formation rising 120m from the sea with a split with towering vertical walls on either side. The cliffs are home to frigate birds, blue-footed and masked boobies. (b,l,d)

Day 09 | San Cristobal | **frigate birds**

Sea Lion Island is about an hour north of San Cristóbal and home to a large colony of sea lions.

Enjoy a panga ride amongst the sea lions as they play in the waters around you.

This island is also a great place for snorkelling.

Punta Pitt is a colourful place with its different types of lava and diverse vegetation.

Arguably the most spectacular visitor site on San Cristobal, it is home to a diverse range of species such as sea lions, lava lizards, marine iguanas, frigate birds, pelicans and boobies.

In fact, Punta Pitt is the only place where you can see three species of boobies nesting in the same area.

There is a beautiful golden sand beach here. (b,l,d)

Day 10 | Floreana | **snorkel and walk**

After breakfast, land at Punta Cormorant to walk across Floreana island.

Enjoy the somewhat incongruous sight of flamingoes feeding in a lagoon just inland.

Carry on along a good path to a very pretty sandy beach where you can spot rays and sea turtles.

Return to the boat mid-morning to get ready to go snorkeling in the distinctive Devil's Crown crater.

Swim through pretty coral formations and teeming marine life.

You should see some sea lions and lots of fish. With luck you will see sharks – on a good day you might see hammerheads here.

Travel the short distance around the island to land at Post Office Bay. Here the old sailors' postal system still functions.

You leave your letter in a barrel but not before taking out mail bound for your home port.

This way, all letters are slowly distributed around the world for free.

Walk down into a deep lava tunnel for a close look at the geology of these young islands. (b,l,d)

Day 11 | Bartolome | **fur seals and views**

Start today at the small, barren outcrop of Isla Bartolomé.

Walk to the top of the island on a wooden walkway for beautiful views across the eastern Galapagos Islands.

Head back down the hill to snorkel around the base of the emblematic Pinnacle Rock.

The visibility here is amongst the best of the week. You might be lucky and swim with penguins and sharks.

Certainly the channels and rock formations underwater make for a beautiful snorkeling environment.

Today is a transition day. If you are staying on board, you may be joined by new clients today.

This afternoon you land on North Seymour island, an uplifted island which is home to large colonies of blue footed boobies and frigate birds.

To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Wildlife Galapagos

Nina Galapagos Cruise



Fernandina Island: a marine iguana sunbathing.



Galapagos lizard.



The mating dance of the Blue Footed Boobie.

Along the coast sea lions and marine iguanas surf on the waves. Here you have another chance to get in the water to snorkel, this time in fairly deep water. (b,l,d)

Day 12 | Genovesa | watch birdlife

Tower Island is basically formed by what remains of a submerged volcanic crater.

Being so remote, it is one of the less visited islands and therefore has some of the most abundant wildlife.

This morning you explore Darwin Bay, a coral sand beach, home to many frigate birds.

After the walk, you can swim in the relatively warm northern waters perhaps with fur seals.

This afternoon you land at Prince Philip's Steps where you climb to a plateau passing red-footed boobies, and possibly short-eared owls. (b,l,d)

Day 13 | Santiago | fur seals

Land on Santiago this morning. Walk along the coastline to see Galapagos fur seals basking in pools along the shoreline. The water here is improbably pretty.

Because you are walking on lava, this is one of the places in the islands where you have a degree of freedom to wander.

Return to the beach for some great snorkeling. Here you might be swimming with white-tipped sharks, sea turtles, sea lions and a colourful variety of fish.

This afternoon land on Rabida Island to see some of the rarest bird species of the Galapagos.

The trail starts along the red sand beach and then to the top of a hill where you will have a great view of the surrounding landscape. (b,l,d)

Day 14 | Santa Cruz | giant tortoises

South Plaza is a small island off the east coast of Santa Cruz. Despite its size it is home to a great diversity of species and is famous for its extraordinary flora.

Walk an easy trail to the cliff tops to watch the waves crashing below as birds fly in front of you.

The island is also home to land iguanas and a sea lion colony which always seem to include some playful pups. The prickly pear cactus trees complete the picture on this lovely, compact visitor site.

Drive up to the Santa Cruz highlands to see giant tortoises in the 'wild'.

Really this is a farmer who has created a network of trails on his land where you will usually find giant tortoises.

Interesting but probably the most crowded part of your time in the Galapagos and the most stage-managed.

Visit some very pretty rock formations and walk through the mature vegetation of the highlands. (b,l,d)

Day 15 | Mosquera | sea lions and snorkel

This morning visit Mosquera which, at just 160m across, is less an island than a reef.

It is home to one of the largest sealion colonies in the Galapagos and is also home to many seabirds.

Enjoy a dinghy ride and/or a snorkel around the islet. If you are very lucky you may see orca.

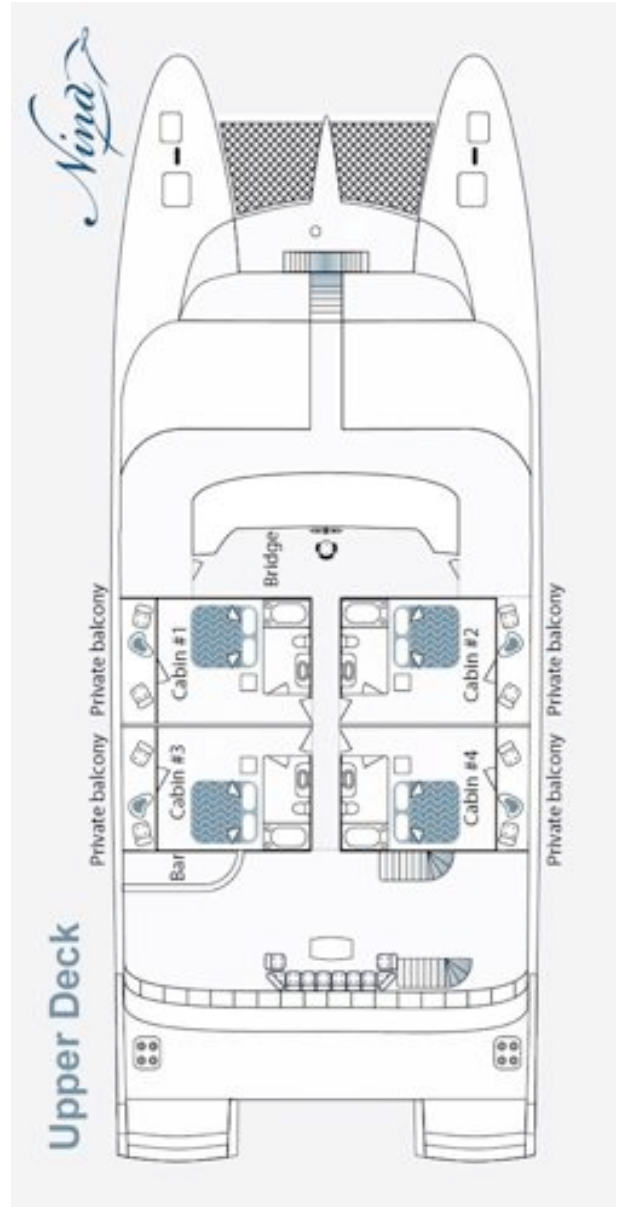
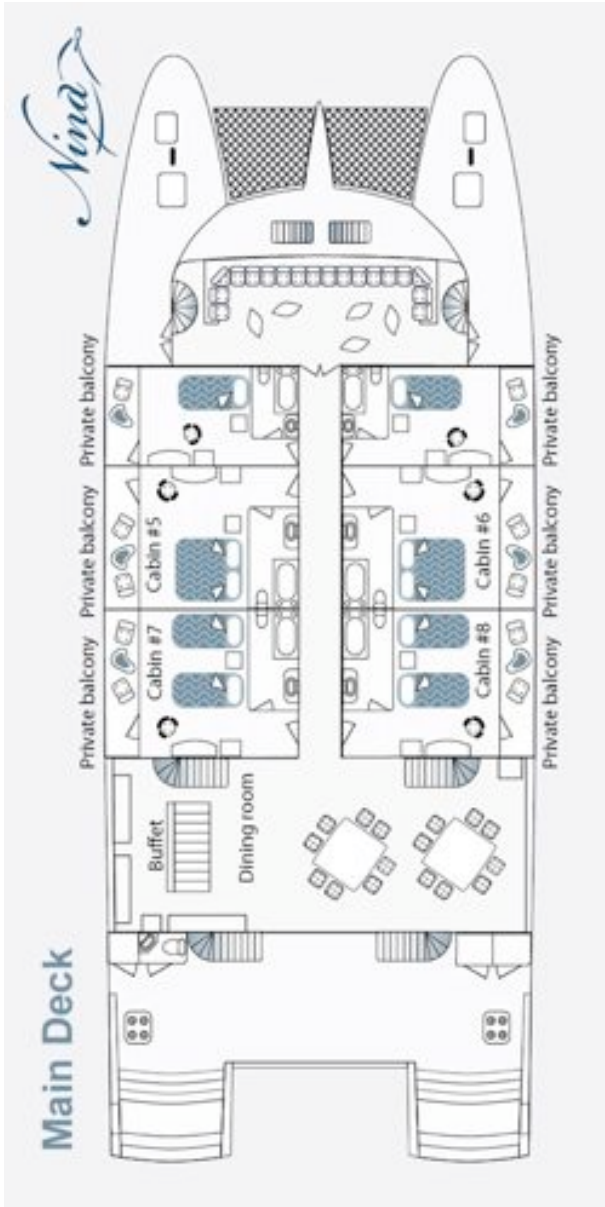
Disembark for your flight off the Islands. (b)

To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Wildlife Galapagos Nina Galapagos Cruise



To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**
info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Wildlife Galapagos Nina Galapagos Cruise



Holiday Information

Pura's opinion

Although still new, Nina is owned and operated by the same people as Athala, another luxury catamaran. She therefore has a very strong pedigree. Catamarans are quick and relatively very stable so Nina offers a very comfortable ride. Add to this the good sized cabins, small private balconies and very comfortable furnishing and you have a really delightful experience.

Meals are a highlight with buffet breakfasts and lunches, dinner generally a la carte.

Light snacks, tea and coffee are served between meals. Some lunch buffets and barbecues are served al fresco on the upper deck.

The itinerary is not the neatest as there is some doubling back on yourself but since most navigation happens overnight, this is of marginal impact.

Star rating

Deluxe class catamaran.

Accommodation

All cabins are a good size, certainly by the standards of small boats.

The eight double cabins are minimum 19sqm. The single cabins 16sqm.

All are outside with lower beds, some twin, some double. All have a/c controls within the cabin. All have wardrobes. All have private balcony.

The communal areas are large and very comfortable with plenty of different seating areas a sun deck up top with a jacuzzi.

Stability

Being a catamaran Nina is very stable. In addition she has bulbous hulls for even greater stability.

Nina's route also keeps her at least partially protected from the prevailing winds coming from the south east. You will still get some movement in the water and this will be most noticeable between July and October.

Noise

You should be aware that on any small boat you can expect some noise from generators and from the engine when travelling.

On Nina the engines and generators are towards the rear of the hulls, well behind the level of the passenger cabins. You are unlikely therefore to notice much noise.

Nina boat specification

Length on deck: 31.5m/103ft

Boat width (beam): 12m/40ft

Hull depth underwater (draft): 1.4m/4.6ft

Average maximum speed: 13 knots

Crew: 9 plus guide plus cruise director.

How active?

In the Galapagos, wildlife viewing is the main activity. There is some gentle walking and snorkeling.

Conditions underfoot in the Galapagos can sometimes be rough as the islands are volcanic. You should therefore be prepared for some walking over uneven terrain. You can always opt out of excursions.

When should I go?

In the Galapagos, wildlife viewing is excellent year round. Weather and sea conditions do vary somewhat through the year: September is the coolest and choppiest-sea month. From October onwards the weather warms up and the waters calm down until the hottest, calmest-sea month of February.

Not based in the UK?

We are very happy to discuss your requirements if you are not travelling to and from the UK.

Please call us on **+44 1273 676712** between 9am and 6.30pm weekdays.

Not quite right?

We have a range of boats in the Galapagos so if this one doesn't suit then please visit the Galapagos cruises section of our website, email us or call **+44 1273 676712** for further advice.

We are open between 9am and 7pm weekdays.

Prices & departures

2011 low	04 nights us\$2,995pp 05 nights us\$3,695pp 07 nights us\$4,695pp 14 nights us\$9,390pp
2011 high	4 nights us\$3,395pp 5 nights us\$4,195pp 7 nights us\$5,295pp 14 nights us\$10,590pp
Price includes	Galapagos cruise with all meals, excursions and guiding while on board. Snorkel equipment, wet suit hire. All non-alcoholic drinks on board. <i>Please call us for details of any special offers, discounts and promotions.</i>
Not included	Galapagos park entrance fee (us\$110); flights to the Galapagos; personal expenses; tips.
Seasons	High season runs from April 23-30, July 02 – August 20, November 19 – 26 and December 17 – 31.

Prices per person based on two sharing. Prices quoted in US dollars but payment is made in pounds sterling at a rate set at time of payment. Please reconfirm prices at time of booking.

WGCONA11

To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.



Wildlife Galapagos

Nina Galapagos Cruise



A year in the Galapagos

January

Beginning of the rainy season. Land birds start nesting, generally after the first rain. On Hood (Española) Island adult marine iguanas become brightly colored (green/red/black). The green sea turtles arrive at beaches to lay eggs. Land iguanas mate on Isabela Island. Both water and air temperatures rise and stay warm until June. Ideal time for snorkeling.

February

On Floreana Island flamingos start nesting in greater numbers. Marine iguanas nest on Santa Cruz Island. Peak nesting season for the Galapagos dove. Breeding season begins for black-tailed pintail ducks. End of nesting season for Nazca (masked) boobies on Hood islands. The highest water temperature reaches 25C (77F) temperatures remain high until April. Penguins move from Bartolomé Island to follow the cool waters back to the west.

March

Height of the rainy season (this does not mean it rains everyday). Sporadic tropical rains, intense sun and hot climate. Air temperature can reach up to 30C (86F) high humidity. Warm waters excellent for snorkelers. Penguins still active in the water next to tropical fish! Deep surge from the northern currents on some shores, wet landings at places like Puerto Egas, Gardner Bay, Bartolomé can sometimes be a challenge. Marine iguanas nest on Fernandina. March 21st, the beginning of the summer equinox signals the arrival of the waved albatross to Española. Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela) can be an amazing site.

April

Massive arrival of waved albatrosses at Española, amazing courtship starts. Eggs of green sea turtles begin to hatch. Eggs of land iguanas hatch on Isabela. End of hatching season for the giant tortoises. While the rains have ended, the islands continue to be quite green. Good visibility in the water for snorkelers.

May

North Seymour's blue-footed boobies begin their courtship. Sea turtles are still hatching on Gardner Bay, Punta Cormorant and Puerto Egas. Most of marine iguanas' eggs hatch from nests on Santa Cruz. Palo santo trees begin to shed their foliage. Waved albatross on Española start laying their eggs. Ban-rumped storm petrels begin their first nesting period.

June

Beginning of the cold (garúa) season. Giant tortoises migrate to the lowlands on Santa Cruz island for the nesting season. South east trade winds return. Currents become a bit stronger. Seas pick up in surge and wave action. Male frigatebirds show off their red pouches on North Seymour. Southern migrating birds stop in the Galapagos on their journey north. Some groups of Humpback whales migrate up to equatorial latitudes along the coast of Ecuador reach Galapagos.

July

Sea bird communities are very active (breeding), specially the Blue footed boobies on Española. Flightless cormorants perform beautiful courtship rituals and nesting activities on Fernandina. American oystercatchers nest along the shores of Puerto Egas

(Santiago Island). Lava lizards initiate mating rituals until November. Cetaceans (whales & dolphins) are more likely to be observed, specially off the western coast of Isabela. Great month to see the four stages of nesting in Blue footed boobies: eggs, chicks, juveniles and sub-adults. Water temperature around 21C (68F).

August

Galapagos hawks court on Española and Santiago. Nazca (masked) boobies and Swallow-tailed gulls nest on Genovesa Island. The temperature of the ocean drops to 18C (64F), this varies according to the geographic zones among the islands. Migrant shore birds start to arrive. Giant tortoises return to the highlands of Santa Cruz. Oceans are quite choppy, currents at the strongest levels, surge can be expected along the shores that face west or south. Popping season of sea lions has started. Western and central islands are common places for such sightings.

September

The air temperature reaches its lowest levels (19C-66F). Galapagos Penguins active around Bartolomé. Snorkelers can swim 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 common. Most intense sea lion activity on western and central islands. Most species of sea birds remain quite active at their nesting sites.

October

Lava herons start nesting until March. The Galapagos Fur Sea lions begin their mating period. Blue footed boobies raise chicks all over Española and Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela). Giant tortoises are still laying eggs. Days are not always sunny. Garúa can be expected in most locations, except the western islands where most days have a misty start but after few hours of daylight it burns off. Sunrises in the west can be quite beautiful as the garúa covers only certain locations of the western volcanoes. Summits are clear, but low-lying fog covers the shoreline.

November

Popping of sea lions continues. Sea lions are sexually active on the eastern part of the archipelago. Breeding season for the brown noddies. Some species of jellyfish can be seen around the islands. The Genus Physalia is commonly seen floating around Gardner and Tortuga Islets. Some can also be seen stranded on the shores of Flour Beach (Floreana). Band-rumped storm petrels begin their second nesting period. Seas are calm. South east trade winds decrease, generally great weather. Water temperatures rising and good visibility for snorkelers. Sea lion pups (specially at Champion Islet) play aqua-aerobics next to snorkelers. Most pups here are curious enough to nibble at fins of snorkelers.

December

Giant tortoise eggs begin to hatch. Green sea turtles display their mating behavior. The rainy season begins, all of the plants of the dry zone produce leaves. Galapagos becomes "green". The first young waved albatrosses fledge. Great weather.

To book or for more information call us on **01273 676 712**

info@pura-aventura.com | www.pura-aventura.com | Pura Aventura, 18 Bond Street, Brighton, BN1 1RD. UK.

