

Galápagos Islands Packing List



Practical information for your journey

Once you've booked your expedition, it's time to start thinking about what to pack to be ready for anything throughout your trip!

When embarking on a Galápagos expedition, you should be prepared for two seasons: a dry, warm, humid and tropical climate with occasional rainstorms all year round.

The Galápagos Islands are situated right on the Equator, which means they are an ideal destination throughout the year. These islands are unusually cool, humid, and dry for the tropics. Due to the influence of marine currents, they have a cool season from June to November and a warm season from December to May.

The list below has been curated by our Expedition Experts to help you prepare the right gear and clothing items that are essential for your Galápagos adventure.



What to pack

LIFE ONBOARD

Experience the ultimate luxury expedition vacation onboard *Silver Origin*, shipboard attire is always casual.

During the day, casual wear, similar to five-star resort sportswear, is suitable for daytime activities. Shoes should be non-skid, flat, or low-heeled for deck activities.

Evening attire is also casual: open-neck shirts, trousers, and sports outfits are appropriate, with the exception that jeans and shorts are not permitted in The Restaurant.

ESSENTIALS CLOTHING ITEMS

When travelling on an Expedition voyage, many of the experiences will involve Zodiac®cruising and remote areas ashore. These may involve different type of landings:

- **Dry Landing** means you will disembark the Zodiac on a landing platform or rocky surface.
- **Wet Landing** means you must step into the water and wade to shore – wearing reef or water shoes.

It's important to be prepared with the proper clothing and gear. For additional expedition gear visit [Ship to Shore](#).

Tops

- **Rain jacket/poncho:** Bring a lightweight rain jacket or rain poncho to stay dry during sudden downpours.
- **A light-weight loft jacket, pullover or vest:** Chosen one that compacts down for easy packing. Loft garments are water-repellent and windproof, and ideal garments to stay warm on cool evenings. A fleece is also a good option.
- **Shirts:** Protect against sun, heat and insects. Pack quick-drying, breathable long-sleeve shirts. Choose light colours as dark shades can attract mosquitoes. Furthermore, be cautious with bright colours like yellow, red, and orange, as they can attract wasps on certain trails within the Galápagos National Park. We also suggest a shirt with UV protection.
- **Rash guard or ozone top:** Keep your core warm while snorkeling and stay safe from sunburn and stingers

Bottoms

- **Lightweight, long pants:** We recommend packing lightweight, quick-drying pants for activities along the shoreline or through mangrove forests, as they can provide protection against sunburn or during the cool early morning tours.
- **Shorts:** Pack comfortable loose-fitting and breathable shorts.
- **Convertible pants:** Travel with ease and flexibility in lightweight, quick-drying convertible pants that can easily transform into shorts as needed, as the climate is consistently warm and often hot and humid.

- **Pareos/sarongs:** This is the most versatile garment in the tropics. Wear it as a skirt, a wrap, or to sit on.

Hat

- Shade from the sun by wearing a wide-brimmed hat with a chin-strap to secure it while on Zodiac® rides.

Footwear

- **Hiking/Walking shoes:** Shoes with breathable materials, sturdy soles and good traction are essential expedition wear for volcanic terrain. We recommend shoes with toe protection as they offer extra durability and support.
- **Water shoes:** Sturdy sandals that don't chafe when wet are essential expedition wear. Water shoes are essential to protect your feet while near coral and sharp stone beaches. Add socks at night to reduce insect bites. We strongly recommend not to step off the Zodiac in flip-flops, as they might get washed away or you might stumble into the shallows.
- **Tennis shoes:** We also recommend packing closed-toe, lightweight tennis shoes for Zodiac tour outings and for some of the milder nature walks ashore.

SNORKELING & KAYAKING OUTINGS

During the voyage, you'll have access to snorkeling equipment available onboard. We offer a diverse selection of complimentary short-sleeved wetsuits for both adults and children (2mm thickness), as well as masks, snorkels, fins in various sizes, and flotation vests.

In addition, we'll provide you with a mesh bag to carry all the snorkeling gear, a towel, and a bottle of water.

It's important to be aware that Silversea snorkeling excursions do not allow the use of full-faced masks.

- **Swimwear:** If you have the space, consider packing more than one swimsuit, as there will be multiple opportunities for swimming and snorkelling on the same day.
- **Rash guard or sunsuit:** To safeguard yourself from sunburn and potential stingers while snorkeling, it's crucial to maintain a comfortable core temperature. Please note that Silver Origin only provides short wetsuits. Given that the water in certain areas may be cold, we recommend wearing an additional layer beneath your wetsuit to prolong your time in the water. This not only provides extra insulation but also protects you from sunburn. In addition, these garments are useful for kayaking adventures to keep you warm and protected from the equatorial sunshine.
- **Prescription mask or goggles:** Onboard Silver Origin, quality snorkel gear is provided, so there's no need to bring your own. However, if you own a mask that fits well consider bringing it with you. Moreover, if you usually wear contacts or if you use glasses with a strong prescription, it might be worth considering investing in a prescription mask, as we do not provide them.

What to pack

ACCESSORIES

- **Backpack:** We provide a lightweight and water-resistant backpack on board, which is perfect for carrying items ashore and keeping your arms free for embarking and disembarking the Zodiacs. However, if you plan to carry a lot of camera equipment and don't intend to use plastic seal-proof bags, it's recommended to pack a waterproof backpack to keep your gear safe and dry.
- **Seal-proof waterproof bags:** Keep your camera, film, binoculars, and other gear safe from the elements while on the go. Utilise heavy-duty plastic bags to store these items in your backpack, ensuring their protection. Don't let unexpected weather conditions ruin your equipment. Take the necessary steps to safeguard your gear with heavy-duty plastic bags.
- **Trekking poles:** A lightweight, collapsible walking staff (also called a trekking pole) provides a sense of security, and increases balance, and confidence when walking on rugged terrain.
- **Binoculars:** For spotting birds and other wildlife. These are an essential part of your field gear and will enhance your experience.

ALSO RECOMMENDED

- Sunglasses or goggles with UV filter protection: Protect your eyes and enjoy your outings to the fullest! Choosing a pair of polarised sunglasses is a smart move to shield your eyes from the intense reflection of light off the volcanic material and the ocean.
- Ocean-friendly or reef-safe sunblock lotion for body, lips, hands and face. We recommend a minimum of 50 SPF. When visiting areas with equatorial sun, it's crucial to prioritise your skin's health. Even on overcast days, it's recommended to use a strong sunblock. Opt for a mineral-based and ocean-friendly or reef-safe brand to protect both your skin and the environment. Please note that no sunscreen is entirely waterproof, so reapplication is necessary. If experience sunburn, aloe vera gel is a natural and effective post-sun remedy.
- Camera, film, memory cards and extra batteries. Bring more film and/or memory cards. Certain film types will be difficult to purchase or unavailable once the trip begins. Test your camera before leaving home to ensure it's working properly, and pack the manual for reference should unexpected problems arise.

- Consider bringing a camera beanbag to support a 300mm+ lens to help stabilise your shots.
- Insect-repellent: Fortunately, mosquitoes aren't a major concern in the Galápagos Islands. The environment makes them rare, especially when you're out at sea. However, if you still have concerns, it's a wise idea to pack a small roll-on of bug repellent, just in case.
- Motion sickness remedies
- Spare contact lenses or glasses
- Reading and writing materials

OTHER ITEMS TO PACK

Some toiletries are available onboard. However, we do suggest you pack a substantial supply of essential items since they may be unavailable in foreign ports and remote destinations.

Also, be sure to bring an ample supply of over-the-counter medications and prescription drugs in your carry-on hand luggage.