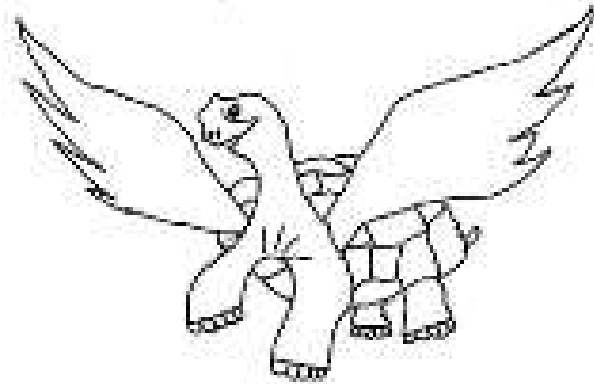


Formal Itinerary and Price Quote For "2024 Come To Galapagos Marathon Packages", 10 days, Aug. 2 through Aug. 11 or Oct. 11 through Oct. 20, maximum group size 12 (we can comfortably handle four groups for each date). Plus available "add ons" Quito/Andes before or after tour and Santa Cruz+Bartolome after tour



Notes:

-This will be the fourteenth year of the Come to Galapagos Marathon. We will hold the event in the same manner we have the last ten years as a private event for international runners, each of whom sponsors a local runner by

paying for their entrance fee (included in the tour price) and optionally sending them running gear before or bringing it to them. The event is open to international runners that also participate in the Come to Galapagos Marathon Tour Packages, Aug. 2 through Aug. 12 and Oct. 11 through Oct. 21, 2023

-We will have a marathon, half marathon and we're bringing back the 10K this year.

-Each marathon runner has a personal caddy. This is a man or woman on a small scooter or truck who drives ahead two kilometers and waits for you to provide you with water or Gatorade or whatever gels etc. you have. He can take articles of clothing etc. He will stop where the race changes course, be sure you make the change then drive ahead two kilometers again. Runners love this set up and I like it because I can keep track of where every runner is and how each runner is doing. Also, it gives us some flexibility, for example a family member will want to run a ten K, but they would like to run with their father or daughter who are running the marathon, they can either do it the first or last ten kilometers of the race. Sometimes significant others just ride in the car the whole way. Taking pictures etc.

-The people overseeing the event will be the Come to Galapagos family: hotel owners, farm workers, restaurant staff, fishermen, Galapagos Park guides, all the people that will be benefiting from the runner's arrival.

-Meals on San Cristobal will feature locally caught fish (you may be catching it), locally grown produce and fruits, cheeses and yogurt.

-Below this itinerary and price quote is a little blurb about the 2014 marathon, a course description and notes from other marathons.

-Registration fees for the marathon are included in the package.

-When booking your flights: Multiple destination:

-Arriving Guayaquil GYE on Aug. 2 or Oct. 11

-Arriving San Cristobal, Galapagos Aug. 3 or Oct.12 Guayaquil-San Cristobal. That's GYE-SCY

-Aug. 12 or Oct.21 Baltra-Guayaquil. That's GPS-GYE

-Aug. 12 or 13 or Oct. 21 or 22 Guayaquil-returning international flight. That's GYE-to wherever you are headed.

Note, of course “add ons” will have different flights and please be sure to let us review the flights you have booked within your grace period in case of any errors.



Fri. Aug. 2 or Oct. 11: Arrive from US on flights scheduled by travelers. Wyndham Hotel shuttle receives guests. We like the Wyndham in Guayaquil because it is close to the airport, reliable with its shuttle services and has English speaking help. Despite any propaganda you may read or hear there really isn't much reason to be anywhere else in Guayaquil except ready to leave.



Sat. Aug. 3 or Oct.12: Flight to San Cristobal Galapagos (arranged by guests, see note above) where you'll be met by your Galapagos National Park guide and me and or my wife or son. Typical arrival time 11 AM. Welcome lunch, orientation, race registration, bus tour of course. Traditional “pasta diner” and early to bed.



Galapagos Notes:

With recent changes in airline booking procedures, it is now easier and cheaper for international travelers to book their flights to the Galapagos at the same time they book their international flights.

Travelers also can use or gain "miles" doing this. These are booked as Multiple destination:

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-Arriving San Cristobal, Galapagos Aug. 3 or Oct. 12 Guayaquil-San Cristobal. That's GYE-SCY

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-Aug. 13 or Oct. 22 Guayaquil-returning international flight. That's GYE-to wherever you are headed.

Please run your flights by us to be sure you have this correct before the expiration of your free cancellation period.

Your bilingual Galapagos National Park guide will be available dawn to dusk while you are in the Galapagos for whatever you may need.

He/she has a thorough knowledge of the geology, biology, history, current status and gossip of the Galapagos, as well as the experience of living here and knows when and where to be in order to make the most of your time, whether it's iguana watching, sunset viewing, snorkeling or hammock location. These are some of the nicest, most personable people you have ever met.

On San Cristobal you will be staying at Seaside Hotel. The property is located within easy walking distance of a several snorkel sites, the interpretation center and all of the restaurants in town. On Isabela you will be staying at Isabela Beach House. Double occupancy in all hotels.

We will provide snorkel equipment or any parts of it you don't have, but I would highly recommend you bring at least your own masks and snorkels and practice with them a time or two in a pool before you get here. These you need to be comfortable with. You do not want to spend any of your precious time here figuring out how to make your mask fit properly, because while you are doing that some of the things you have come here to see will be swimming right below you.

Pack light, laundry can be done.



Seaside Hotel



Isabela Beach House

Should anyone wish to, Salsa dancing is available some late nights at the local's club where you'll be the only gringos in the place and the locals will likely be buying drinks and showing you some steps.

It is entirely possible to snorkel every dawn and sunset with the sea life. Your guide has years of experience snorkeling with everyone from deep water free divers to complete novices. Most of them are certified Dive Masters. Their goal is to be sure you enjoy all the riches of the Galapagos to the fullest and quite a few of those riches are to be found underwater.





Sun. Aug. 4 or Oct. 13: The Marathon and half marathon have the same start and end point. Race start times will be adjusted for volume of runners and weather. Some years are hotter than others. We want to keep you out of the sun as much as possible, but also have you get as much sleep as possible.



This is a rural course, you will not be running through throngs of people in city streets. Beware of wild giant tortoises which occasionally can be seen crossing the roads.



The sections which follow dirt roads are relatively flat. You will be passing farms with pigs and cows. Yes, that is a rainbow over the town where the race finishes.



In the parts of the course that run along the coast, beware of sea lions which will occasionally situate themselves in the middle of the road.



Mon. Aug. 5 or Oct. 14: Light walking, recovery day. All day tour of the far side of the island: Commune with the Giant Tortoises in their reserve, visit the local farms where much of the food provided is grown, bananas, bamboo, papaya, guavas etc. People are often surprised at how entertaining this visit actually is.

We have been pioneering a program with local farmers to purchase produce from them. The town has grown accustomed to purchasing its produce from the continent where the large corporate farms can afford to grow, ship the produce and sell for a price that has made farming here a non profitable enterprise. We know generally months in advance how many people are coming and can go to the farmers and tell them on this date we are going to need X number of tomatoes, lettuce, etc. Many of these crops they can plant and grow knowing they will have a secure market for them.





Mon. Aug. 5 or Oct. 14 PM: Fish with locals. This is a trip out with the local fishermen where they'll explain/discuss how they fished in the past, what's happened to the fisheries, what's happening now and then you'll go catch some fish for the night's meal which you will have with the fisherman's family. We were pioneers in developing this fishing with locals program with the National Park. The commercial fishermen must give up their commercial fishing license irrevocably to be able to have the license to take visitors out fishing. For the environment this means instead of harvesting thousands of fish a year to survive, they only harvest hundreds, all of which are eaten here thus also reducing the carbon footprint of importing or exporting food. For the fishermen themselves this allows them direct contact with people from outside the Galapagos (one of our "hearts" is sponsoring a fisherman's son to study in the US) and for our visitors it allows them a glimpse into a different life style and a first hand account of the history of life in the Galapagos.



Tues. Aug. 6 or Oct. 15: Chartered boat trip to islets. Snorkeling with rays, turtles, sharks and sea lions. Visit nesting grounds of Frigate Birds, Pelicans, Boobies, Tropical birds, etc. Roam gorgeous, deserted, pristine beaches that could make travel posters cry.





Note sea iguana eating underwater Friendly and curious sea lion pups



Wed. Aug. 7 or Oct. 16: Early morning travel to Isabela Island. This involves a short inter island plane flight. The flight is very scenic and an opportunity few tourists receive to view the Galapagos Islands from the air. The plane lands in Puerto Villamil, Isabela where you will check into Hotel Isabela Beach House. Luggage allowance is 25 lbs per person, overweight charges \$2 an lb.



The town fronts a long sand beach where occasionally flamingos can be seen wading in the surf.



That is my son stalking iguanas and penguins directly in front of the hotel on Isabela

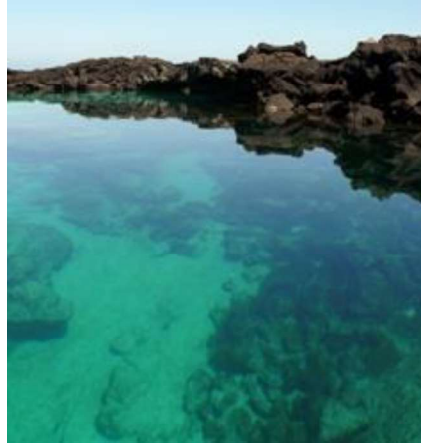


We will have scheduled a chartered boat to Tintoreas where there's penguins, marine iguanas, sea turtles, etc. nice snorkel site.



Thur. Aug. 8 or Oct. 17: Chartered boat trip to Tuneles. This is a really remarkable spot few visitors to the Galapagos get to see, the geologic formations, the wild life in and out of the water. Really one of the greatest hits of the Galapagos.





Fri. Aug. 9 or Oct. 18: Hike to volcano Sierra Negra, lunch in the highlands at Restaurant Hauser.



Active volcano crater last erupted 2005

Entrance to private farm

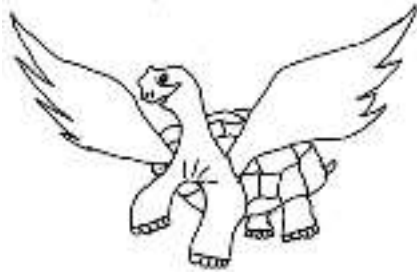


Sat. Aug. 10 or Oct. 19: Commuter boat Isabela to Baltra airport where you'll catch your return flight to Guayaquil. Wyndham shuttle receives guests in Guayaquil.



Sun. Aug. 11 or Oct. 20: Return International Flight. Wyndham shuttle insures that all arrive in the international terminal with your luggage, photos, smiles on your faces and hopefully a place in your hearts for Ecuador and the Galapagos.

[Add on options Quito/Andes and Santa Cruz+Bartolome are below package details.](#)



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**Included:**

- All airport transfers in Guayaquil and the Galapagos
- All ground transportation to tours and boat trips in the Galapagos
- Breakfasts in Guayaquil.
- All breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and non-alcoholic beverages, some snacks in the Galapagos. We have some of the best foods on the islands.
- Two nights double occupancy Wyndham Hotel, Guayaquil
- Bilingual Galapagos National Park guide while in the Galapagos.
- National Park entrance fees and airport taxes
- Four nights (double occupancy) Seaside Hotel San Cristobal
- Marathon and half marathon race registration for runner and local runner
- All day tour of the far side of the island (tortoises/ see itinerary
- Fishing with locals
- An all day privately chartered boat tour to islets and far side of island (see details on itinerary)

- Inter island flights San Cristobal-Isabela
- Three nights (double occupancy) Isabela Beach House, Isabela
- Chartered boat to Tintoreas
- Chartered boat to Tuneles
- Visit to volcano Sierra Negra
- Chartered boat to Baltra from Isabela
- Snorkeling equipment for duration of Galapagos leg of tour

Not included: Food other than breakfasts while in Guayaquil, International and Galapagos airfare, over-weight charges on inter-island airline (**25lbs allowed without charge**), alcoholic beverages and tips.

Per person cost 6 to 12 in group **\$5,755**  
Single Supplement \$850

Initial deposit is one half of the tour cost. Final payment is due no later than 75 days prior to your tour date. We can begin making reservations upon receipt of deposits.

We **highly** recommend that you purchase travel insurance. Connecting flights arrive late, people get sick before they travel, all kinds of things. Weather for example. The best insurance to not need travel insurance is to purchase it, reverse Murphy's law. We have to honor our cancellation policy as it reflects industry standards here for hotels, guides etc. Please request a quote

Payment in full is due seventy-five days prior to departure. **May 18 or July 28, 2024**

Please be sure to have read and understand "Terms and Conditions" available on our web site [www.cometogalapagos.com](http://www.cometogalapagos.com) . Sending a deposit to Come To Galapagos, LCC is an acknowledgement of your acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.

Thank you for traveling with Come To Galapagos, LLC. We look forward to seeing you here.

Siempre Amor,  
Rick, Christina, Soup, Gizmo, Pugs, Pump, Underbite and the rest of  
the Come To Galapagos family

Information about the course and previous years races below.

**Add Ons Double occupancy, minimum two, Quito and Andes can be  
either before or after marathon tour, Santa Cruz + Bartolome only  
after, food and beverages not included.**

--One day private tour with guide and car of Quito and Andes--



Saturday after Galapagos tour or international flight  
arriving Thur. before tour transfer service picks you up at  
airport and delivers you to La Palma Polo Club.



LA PALMA

POLO CLUB

PUEMBO



Fri. or Sun.: Guided tour of Quito and or surrounding areas  
with guide and car. We have a wonderful guide working for  
us in Quito and she will be in contact with you regarding  
where you might want to go and what you might want to  
see. There's a lot of fun stuff that is pretty close to where  
you're staying.



Papallacta Hot Springs, you might think about ending the day there.



Sat. or Mon.: Transfer service takes you to airport.

Per person add on cost \$325

## SANTA CRUZ + BARTOLOME



Sat.: Arrive with rest of tour group on Baltra. Guide picks you up and you'll tour the highlands, wild giant tortoises and lava tubes and perhaps wish to visit the Charles Darwin Station. Check into Hotel Semilla Verde.



Sun.: Boat trip to the island of Bartolome on the famous Windrose inter island cruiser. [windrosegalapagos.com](http://windrosegalapagos.com) Bartolome on any given day can change your life.



Mon: Guide takes you back to Baltra for your international flight.

Per person add on cost \$675

**VARIOUS NOTES ON MARATHONS AND COURSE DETAILS**



During the sixth annual Come to Galapagos Marathon, everyone finished and no one got hurt. As a race director those are your first goals.



You might say everyone enjoyed themselves, though while running a marathon there may be some joyful moments, there are always some pretty tough kilometers so that much of the joy of running a marathon can be of the retro variety, much of the joy comes after the fact. For the Come to Galapagos marathon runners that becomes heightened in that they are touring the Galapagos for a week.

The two most remarkable things that happened this year were: one we had two women racing in their 260<sup>th</sup> marathon and 400<sup>th</sup>, Domitilia Santos and Susan Dailey. The two knew each other from other international marathons. It was only a coincidence they both happen to be here for this one. Domitilia's photo here [marathon #260](#).



and two a couple who finished the marathon 5 hours after the winner Cilia Kujala did. Celia ran a tough course in 3:59:37, just 27 minutes off the course record. The course changes a little year to year depending on road conditions etc. so she actually holds the record for the fastest time in the history of the world for this course! But, back to the couple that finished in 9 hours and 15 minutes, that was something to have seen, quite an accomplishment.

Each marathon runner has their own Caddy that supplies them every second kilometer, always there, always ready should someone get hurt, always ready should someone want to quit. It would have been so easy to just get in the cab. That particular couple, one of them crossed the starting line hobbling, the other one is in love with the first, never left her side for the last few hours. We don't have a cut off time, mostly because everyone has travelled so far to get here, but also exactly because sometimes the most important thing is finishing or helping your loved one finish.

We held the fourth annual marathon here Oct. 19, 2014.

The only hick ups we had were some lost luggage (fortunately handled, luggage delivered same day from Baltra thanks to some hard working chaps) and some late entrants who happened to be super athletes. We were lucky in that they were locals and knew the course. They ran a really tough 21.1 K course in one hour

and twenty minutes (incredibly fast, they were "training"), which happened to be a little ahead of the schedule for setting up the later stage aid stations, not to mention the finish line. They were sitting on the steps waiting for our people to show up, give them their metals, t-shirts and run times.

The only reason I can smile and I am while writing this is that they didn't need the aid stations or their running times, were grateful for us setting up the course, getting them up to the start and the t-shirt and medal which was paid for by our visiting runners.

We had a 42k "real" marathon (here the word maratón is used rather loosely. Very few people associate the word to ancient Greece, any distance can and is called a maratón). To me, the most important thing is no one needed emergency care and everyone finished the course. The second most important thing is that everyone is/was happy; which we seemed to have accomplished.

We handled this a little different this year than we have in the past. We made this a private event as opposed to public. The visiting runners sponsored local runners. We had all of the visiting runners spend the night in the highlands, close to the start point in a kind of communal setting, spaghetti dinner together, get up early, which saved them an hour to an hour and a half of sleep as they didn't need to be transported up to the starting line at 4 AM (me too as I was with them).

There were only six people running the full marathon, which allowed me the ability to assign a vehicle to each runner, forego a ton of aid stations, coordinating signs etc. and to know exactly where each of them were and how they were doing at all times. Their "driver" just had to point them in the right direction, drive ahead two kilometers and stop to hydrate them and stop at every intersection where they had to change course, then drive ahead two kilometers to wait for them again until they crossed the finish line. That's what we'll do next year.

The half marathon runners had a very simple course and only three aid stations. We showed everyone the course the afternoon before on a bus ride, ending at a sea lion filled beach and the finish line.

The weather did exactly what it was supposed to that time of year; cloudy, light drizzle in the highlands, dry and cloudy at the coast, perfect running weather.

In four tries I've never had a more relaxing time managing this event, not that I was relaxed until the last runner finished, but you can imagine the difference between not being sure and knowing exactly where and how everyone of these runners were doing.

The people that were involved in this event are as excited about the next one as am I. It's pretty fun not only being able to show you guys the Galapagos outside

the "tourism envelope" , but also to watch you cross the finish line of a marathon before you even start really getting to know the Galapagos.

The marathon course starts at 574 meters above sea level on the highest part of the paved road which crosses the island. It ends at a beach in town. The course is run on asphalt, cement or inlaid blocks with the exception of two stretches of dirt road, 4 kilometers and 2.3 kilometers. These two stretches are within the first 18 kilometers of the race. There are two stretches that run along the coast. The runners will pass through 5 vegetation zones (miconia, scalesia, transitional, arid and costal). Figuring in all of the undulations the course has an approximate net downhill of 808 meters (2,650.9 ft.) and an approximate net uphill of 234 meters (767.7 ft.). The last 10 kilometers have a net rise of 75 meters (246 ft.) and fall of 95 meters (311.5 ft.). The last 3 kilometers are flat.

The half marathon is run entirely on asphalt, cement or inlaid blocks. It starts at 574 meters above sea level on the highest part of the paved road which crosses the island. It ends in the soccer stadium in town at 19 meters above sea level, has an approximate net downhill of 584 meters (1,916 ft.) and an approximate net uphill of 42 meters (137.8 ft.).

-At the beginning of the Marathon and half marathon the temperature will be around 68 degrees, with a five to 10 knot breeze, some mornings stronger and possibly there will be some drizzle. Runners may want to begin running with a windbreaker. We will attach a second "mini bib" to your windbreaker. This will allow you to discard it at one of the first four aid stations, the last of these four is at kilometer 12.5. These stations are ready to receive your jacket, store it and have it waiting for you with your back pack at the end of the race.

-If there is drizzle the first 2 kilometers of the race are on a wide dirt road, it may be a little slippery. Be careful, at kilometer 1.9 you will reach asphalt.

-At the end of the race the temperature will be around 75 degrees, may be sunny, partly sunny or overcast.

-There are limited bathroom facilities (two) at the start of the marathon and half marathon due to the lack of portable bathrooms in the Galapagos and national park directives. Please do your best to void yourself before you get on the bus. As you probably know "your best" has as much to do with the time of your last meal and what that meal consisted of as it has to do with anything else.

Please write with any questions. We're looking forward to an exciting, unique event and hope to see you here.