

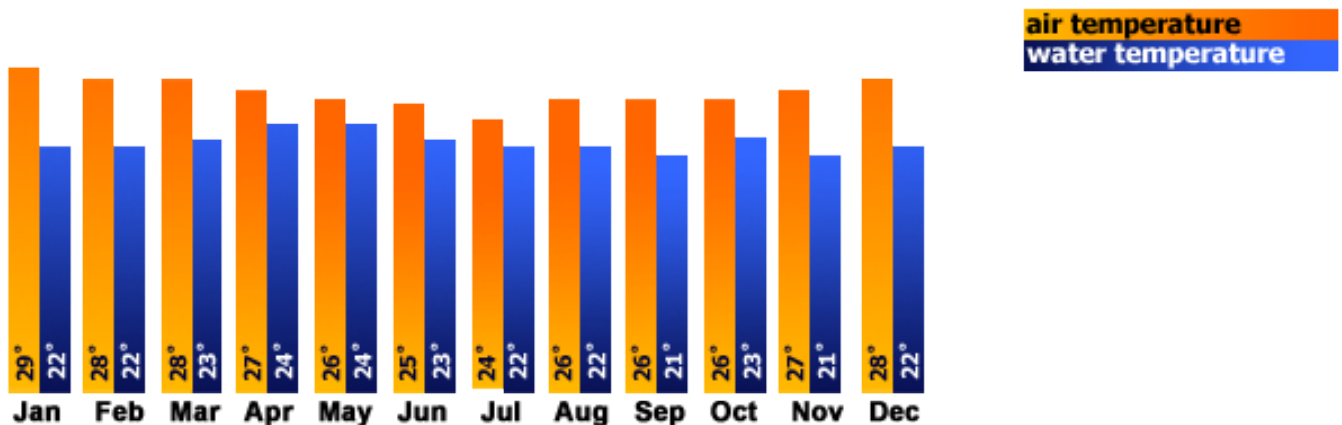
Location: The Galápagos Islands are an archipelago of volcanic islands distributed around the equator in the Pacific Ocean, 972 km west of continental Ecuador. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site: wildlife is its most notable feature. Explored by Charles Darwin in the 19th century, it is now of the world's top dream destinations.

Languages: The official language, Spanish, is spoken by 90% of the population. 10% of the American Indian population speak Quechua dialects. English is hardly spoken.

Religion: Christianity, with 95% Roman Catholic.

Time: GMT - 7 (GMT - 6 from the last Sunday in March to last Sunday in October)

Weather & Water Temperature: The weather is dry and moderate all year round on the Galapagos Islands, but the best climate conditions are found during the months of January, June, July, August and December. Air temperature varies from 24°C - 29°C and water temperature is around 23°C. Please choose your exposure suit accordingly or contact us for advice for your holiday.



Electricity: 120 volts AC, 60Hz. Plugs used are American-style (two perpendicular flat blades above a circular grounding pin) and Japanese-style (two perpendicular flat blades). It's advisable to take an adaptor. We also highly recommend that you take a surge adaptor with you if using expensive and valuable appliances. If you have a specific electrical requirement please contact one of the Scuba Team who can discuss this with you and advise you accordingly.

Currency: US \$ is Ecuador's standard currency. We suggest taking small denominations US \$. Don't take sterling, as its is virtually impossible to change. All major credit cards are accepted onboard the liveboards, however a surcharge does apply on credit cards Personal cheques are not accepted onboard. On the Galapagos Islands Mastercard currently is the only accepted card.

Tipping: 10% service charge is usually added to the bill in hotels and restaurants. If you are unsure what to give please do hesitate to speak with the local dive guide or contact us.

Visas: No visa is required for UK passport holders for stays of up to 90 days. Non UK passport holders can contact the Ecuador Embassy on +44 (0)207 584 1367.

Taxes: The departure tax for international departures for Quito is approx \$41. Guayaquil's departure tax is approx. \$26. Please be aware that these prices are subject to change.

Food & Drink: The biggest form of health problems with divers and tourists alike is being dehydrated. Please drink plenty of water before and after a dive as well as throughout the day. We also advise that you don't drink the local water and only drink bottle water and wash all fruit beforehand.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Travel Advice: For up to date advice on foreign travel please visit <http://www.fco.gov.uk>.

Health & Vaccinations: Requirements vary from country to country, your own GP is the best person to speak to regarding relevant requirements. Make your GP aware that you will be scuba diving, as some medication is not recommended for Scuba divers.

Clothing: Lightweight natural fabrics; rainwear in subtropical areas. We recommend warmer clothes for cool evenings as well as taking a beach towel to use after diving. Shoes are never worn on the liveaboard. Importantly remember sunscreen, hats and sunglasses. For shore excursions good comfortable wearing shoes / trainers are advised.

Passports: Passports must be valid for at least 6 months on your return to the UK.

Please note that although we maintain and revise this information frequently, the information contained within these documents is subject to change without notice. Please check with one of our travel consultants for the latest information.