

SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND - WELCOME ABOARD!

Saturday, December 10th, 2022

Sunset: 1756

Low tide: 0959 0.9 ft. /0.3 m

On behalf of Lindblad Expeditions, the National Geographic Society, our captain, his officers, crew and the natural history staff, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to everyone on this voyage of the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ENDEAVOUR II in the Galápagos Islands. This promises to be an exceptional experience and we are thrilled to be able to share this coming week with you.

You landed today on San Cristóbal Island (formerly known as Chatham), third largest and easternmost island of the group. The airport is located in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, a town of over 8,000 inhabitants that is the capital and administrative center of the Ecuadorian province of Galápagos. It is located on the southwestern coast of San Cristóbal and is home to a picturesque waterfront, several beaches and a branch of Quito's San Francisco University. The bay is also home to one of the largest Galápagos sea lion colonies in the archipelago, and they are everywhere to be seen – on the beaches, along the coastline and vying with the human inhabitants for the best spots on the waterfront benches!

The National Geographic Endeavour II is at anchor in the infamous Wreck Bay. As soon as you arrive on board, lunch will be served. We will deliver your luggage to your cabins during this time and we encourage everyone to check that all is in order as soon as possible, to advise us quickly should anything be amiss in this regard. After lunch, we will have an orientation briefing in the lounge. This is an important opportunity to share some insights into our trip, as well as much practical information about the logistics of visiting the Galapagos and shipboard life.

This evening before dinner your expedition leader Paula Tagle will give you a briefing on the Galápagos National Park rules philosophy as well. Please keep in mind that we are visiting an extremely delicate environment, and one of the best managed and most strictly protected national parks in the world. We must therefore adjust our own behavior accordingly, and ensure zero impact from our visit. The animals and plants have the right of way here, reminding us of the incredible privilege we are enjoying by sharing their world. Galapagos is truly unique on our planet, and so helping to protect it is a responsibility we all share.

SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND, Saturday's Schedule

Continued

- 1330 Lunch is served in the dining room.
- 1500 Welcome and orientation briefing by expedition leader Paula Tagle and hotel manager Melissa Barrazueta, in the lounge.
- ~ 1600 Abandon ship and safety drill.
- 1645 Join us at the observation deck for a special welcome cocktail as we sail along “Leon Dormido” and “Stephen’s Bay”.
- 1845 Captain’s Welcome Aboard Cocktail Party including officers & staff introductions, followed by a briefing on the Galápagos National Park rules philosophy and about tomorrow’s activities.
- 1930 Dinner is served in the dining room.

**Helpful hint: use the National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions ribbon with your name or cabin number written on it, to identify YOUR water bottle – they all look alike!*

IMPORTANT SHIPBOARD COVID PROTOCOL REMINDERS:

100% of those on board, both fellow guests and shipboard crew are fully vaccinated and twice tested. Despite this, due to the highly infectious nature of the COVID virus we ask you to all please follow the protocols below at all times, and for the duration of the week:

- PLEASE WEAR A FACEMASK AT ALL TIMES while in the interior spaces of our ship (unless actively eating and/or drinking), and while you are getting on and off the Zodiacs. These can be removed once ashore, unless you encounter groups from other ships, and on the outer decks.
- Please sanitize your hands regularly - touch-free hand sanitizer dispensers are located around the ship and will be refilled regularly.
- Keep adequate social distance from fellow guests and shipboard personnel. Avoid crowding in the lounge or at disembarkation areas.
- Please wait to be called before approaching the disembarkation area, do not go ahead of time there avoiding unnecessary crowding.

PLEASE HELP US REDUCE THE SHIP’S ATTRACTION TO INSECTS (POTENTIAL INTER-ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES) BY JOINING YOUR FELLOW GUESTS IN CLOSING YOUR BLINDS AT NIGHT!