



GALAPAGOS AGGRESSOR III

Darwin's Enchanted Islands deliver an abundance of big-animal encounters during a bucket-list trip like none other on Earth

The Galapagos Islands off the coast of Ecuador offer encounters that are the stuff of myth: hundreds of scalloped hammerheads, golden, mobula and eagle rays, mola mola, whale sharks, false killer whales, sea lions, fur seals, sperm whales, blue-footed boobies and massive schools of yellowfin tuna. These animals are part of a complex ecosystem that inspired Charles Darwin to formulate his theory of evolution. But while

Darwin was preoccupied with finches, visiting divers are treated to a spectacular buffet of ocean fauna and flora.

It's as if the Galapagos were conjured by divers. Perhaps most sought after are the electrifying hammerhead encounters—these beautiful fish can school in the hundreds—but the action is rarely confined to just one marine species. Instead, sea lions, mobula rays or yellowfin tuna will join the parade unfolding before your eyes.

BOAT SPECS Length/Beam 100 feet/22 feet **Passenger-to-Staff Ratio** 16-9 **Staterooms/Beds** 8/16 **Bathrooms** Staterooms have private head and shower, individual climate control and hair dryer **Sundeck** Yes, with Jacuzzi, wet bar and shaded area **Food/Beverages** Yes, including local beer and wine **WiFi Available** Email is available on board through the satellite system; there is a charge for incoming and outgoing email



NEED TO KNOW

HOME PORT

Baltra, Galapagos

DIVE SEASON

Year-round

DIVE CONDITIONS

65–80°F

TRAVEL TIP

Whether you fly into Guayaquil or Quito, you must make a domestic flight to the Baltra airport. Let Aggressor book your domestic flights for better baggage allowance. Bring enough cash to cover the national park fee and transportation.

On a *Galapagos Aggressor III* itinerary, you will be treated to masses of big fish.

Big pelagics strut their stuff at Wolf Island, located in the north of Galapagos National Park. Here, Galapagos sharks, schools of hammerheads so thick that they blot the sun, formations of eagle rays, massive schools of tuna and wahoo, and silky sharks make your bottom time disappear all too quickly. Luckily, as long as conditions permit, you will make multiple dives at Wolf—you won't want to



From top: Hammerheads abound in the Galapagos Islands, sometimes schooling by the hundreds, but they are nowhere near the only big-animal species that frequents this hotspot of marine biodiversity en masse; dine on fresh chef-prepared meals every day while traveling aboard *Galapagos Aggressor III* [opposite]; dives at the iconic Darwin's Arch site are sure to be sharky—don't miss unforgettable encounters with whale sharks, Galapagos sharks, hammerheads and tiger sharks.

skip any of them.

Darwin's Arch may be one of the world's most famous sites, and for divers, it may be one of the sharkiest. At the right time of year, you will hook into the reef and watch whale sharks, Galapagos sharks or hammerheads out in the blue. Depending on your dive plan, you may unhook and let the current pull you into a shallow channel where the shark fest often continues with tigers.

The water temps at Punta Vicente Roca are generally lower than elsewhere in the islands, but many marine species are drawn to the nutrient-rich waters, including mola mola, penguins, marine iguanas and sea lions.

Cousins Rock is another standout site. Massive schools of barracuda can gather in the current just off the rock, while Galapagos sea lions will dive-bomb past you at head-swiveling speeds.

Galapagos Aggressor III is offering a brand-new itinerary, in compliance with Galapagos National Park regulations. You'll love every minute.

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GET MORE

Hidden in the forested hills of the central island of Santa Cruz, Pikaia Lodge is an incredible environmentally conscious retreat. The black volcanic rock and glass building is ultra contemporary, carbon neutral and powered by alternative energy sources. This Aggressor Adventures Exploration Package is designed for adventure travelers who also like creature comforts. The itinerary allows guests to explore the land-based wonders of the nearby islands, with secluded white-sand beaches and incredible wildlife, and when you're not exploring, you can unwind in the lodge's spa or pool.