

## GALAPAGOS ISLANDS MONTH BY MONTH

MONTH	WEATHER	BIRDS	OTHER WILDLIFE
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wet season begins</li> <li>Moderate to high rainfall</li> <li>Land temperature: 80°F/26°C</li> <li>Water temperature: 75°F/24°C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land birds, such as finches and warblers, begin to nest</li> <li>Mockingbird and finch mating rituals season</li> <li>Hawks feast on young marine iguanas on Fernandina Island</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Española marine iguanas are still in their bright colors</li> <li>Green sea turtles lay eggs; it may be possible to see some on shore</li> <li>Isabela land iguanas begin breeding season</li> </ul>
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waters begin to cool, despite the wet season</li> <li>High rainfall</li> <li>Land temperature: 80°F/26°C</li> <li>Water temperature: 79°F/26°C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flamingos begin nesting</li> <li>Penguins return to the cooler waters of Isabela and Fernandina</li> <li>Pintail ducks begin breeding season</li> <li>Nazca booby nesting season ends</li> <li>Galapagos doves nest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Santa Cruz marine iguanas begin nesting</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wet season in full swing: one of the hottest months in the Galapagos</li> <li>High rainfall</li> <li>Land temperature: 80°F/26°C</li> <li>Water temperature: 79°F/26°C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On San Cristobal and Genovesa, frigate birds begin their mating season</li> <li>Male Frigates inflate their dazzling red throat sacs</li> <li>Waved albatrosses begin returning to Española for the mating season</li> <li>Penguins common on Isabela and Fernandina</li> <li>Most migratory shorebirds have gone by the end of the month</li> <li>Sometimes hawk chicks are visible in nests.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fernandina and North Seymour marine iguanas nest</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wet season in full swing: one of the hottest months in Galapagos, although water cools drastically</li> <li>High rainfall</li> <li>Land temperature: 80°F/26°C</li> <li>Water temperature: 79°F/26°C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waved albatrosses perform courtship dances on Española</li> <li>Blue-footed boobies courtship dances</li> <li>Frigatebird mating season in full swing</li> <li>Frigatebird pouches visible on Genovesa.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Giant tortoise hatching season ends</li> <li>Sea turtle eggs begin to hatch</li> <li>Isabela land iguana eggs hatch</li> </ul>

<p><b>May</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition from warm to dry season.</li> <li>• Waters begin to warm up again</li> <li>• Moderate rainfall</li> <li>• Land temperature: 78°F/25°C</li> <li>• Water temperature: 77°F/25°C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waved albatrosses begin laying eggs</li> <li>• Storm-petrels begin the nesting season.</li> <li>• Booby mating season continues</li> <li>• Frigate birds begin laying eggs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green sea turtles hatch on Punta Cormorant, Puerto Egas, and Gardner Bay</li> <li>• Santa Cruz Marine Iguanas hatch</li> </ul>
<p><b>June</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of dry season</li> <li>• Low rainfall</li> <li>• Land temperature: 75°F/24°C</li> <li>• Water temperature: 73°F/23°C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrating birds visit the Galapagos</li> <li>• Short-eared owls on Genovesa begin nesting season</li> <li>• Boobies nest and lay eggs</li> <li>• A good month to see Frigatebird pouches on North Seymour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Santa Cruz giant tortoises migrate down from the highlands to the lowlands to begin mating season.</li> <li>• Humpback whales migrate through the Galapagos</li> <li>• Good time to see whale sharks off of Darwin and Wolf until November or so</li> </ul>
<p><b>July</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warm Season</li> <li>• Low rainfall</li> <li>• Land temperature: 71°F/21°C</li> <li>• Water temperature: 72°F/22°C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flightless cormorants court and nest on Fernandina</li> <li>• American oystercatchers nest on Santiago</li> <li>• Booby and frigate bird eggs begin hatching</li> <li>• Good time to see migratory birds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lava lizards begin mating behavior which includes “push-ups”. Will continue into November</li> <li>• Whales and dolphins common, especially in the waters between Isabela and Fernandina</li> </ul>
<p><b>August</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry season, one of the coolest months in the Galapagos</li> <li>• Low rainfall</li> <li>• Land temperature: 70°F/22°C</li> <li>• Water temperature: 70°F/21°C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flamingos begin mating rituals</li> <li>• Frigatebird and booby eggs continue to hatch on North Seymour</li> <li>• Migratory shorebirds common</li> <li>• Nazca booby birds nest</li> <li>• Galapagos hawks begin courtship</li> <li>• Galapagos penguins start moving to central Islands</li> <li>• Swallow-tailed gulls nest on Genovesa</li> <li>• A good month to see red-footed boobies on Genovesa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giant tortoises on Santa Cruz migrate back to the highlands</li> <li>• Meet the pups: Galapagos sea lions give birth. Abundant pups population.</li> </ul>
<p><b>September</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry season, one of the coolest months in the Galapagos</li> <li>• Low rainfall</li> <li>• Land temperature: 70°F/21°C</li> <li>• Daily water temperatures around 70°F/21°C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galapagos penguins begin mating on the central islands</li> <li>• Most seabirds nest. Good time to see them</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea lions very active, the breeding season kicks off.</li> <li>• Males often fight on land and in the water to defend their harems</li> </ul>

<p><b>October</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry season</li> <li>• Low rainfall</li> <li>• Land temperature: 71°F/22°C</li> <li>• Water temperatures around 72°F/22°C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue-footed booby chicks common</li> <li>• Lava herons start nesting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Galapagos fur sea lion mating season begins</li> </ul>
<p><b>November</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dry season</li> <li>• Low rainfall</li> <li>• Land temperature: 73°F/22°C</li> <li>• Water temperature: 72°F/24°C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brown noddies are breeding</li> <li>• Storm-petrels nest for the second time</li> <li>• Nazca booby chicks are common</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good time to see sea lion pups inshore nurseries</li> </ul>
<p><b>December</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of dry season</li> <li>• Low rainfall</li> <li>• Land temperatures around 75°F/24°C</li> <li>• Water temperatures around 73°F/23°C</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waved albatross chicks are big enough to fly</li> <li>• Albatrosses leave Española until March</li> <li>• Boobies are busy fishing, uncommon sightings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giant tortoise eggs begin to hatch. This will last until April.</li> <li>• Green sea turtles often mating in shallow waters</li> </ul>