

*International Galapagos
Tour Operators Association*

IGTOA



An Important Part of the
Galapagos Ecosystem

Membership Information



Our Challenge

"The Pribilofs, the Galapagos of the North..."

"Al Dabra, the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean..."

"The island of Soqutra, called 'the Galapagos of the Indian Ocean'..."

"Haida Gwaii are Canada's Galapagos..."

"Okinawa has been called the 'Galapagos of the East'..."

"The Farallon Islands, a largely undisturbed wildlife haven that biologists call California's Galapagos..."

They are the standard by which other island groups measure themselves...

If we can't preserve the Galapagos, what can we preserve?

www.igtoa.org



Why become an IGTOA Member?

Give Back

IGTOA offers an effective way to support the Galapagos. Our Members donate funds for each passenger we send. We work with conservation organizations to determine the best use of our funds. We solicit funding proposals each year, listen to presentations during our annual meeting, and monitor how our funds are used. An example of our funding can be found on our web site, www.igtoa.org

Be Involved & Stay Informed

IGTOA keeps you up-to-date on current events in the Galapagos and Ecuador on matters that will affect your travelers.

If you're sending travelers to the Galapagos, you need to stay informed. Your clients will want to deal with a knowledgeable company that is fully engaged. If there are boat problems, political events, changes in park regulations, new conservation issues, new boats or travel opportunities, we keep you informed through our e-newsletter and special alerts. During our annual Members' Meeting, we present guest speakers from the Galapagos National Park, the Charles Darwin Foundation, and other organizations.

"Mountain-Travel Sobek is proud to be a member of IGTOA... We believe that the future of the Galapagos lies with concerned companies such as ours, which attempt to give back to the areas that we visit."

Build Your Business

IGTOA Members get referrals and leads.

By being a part of a professional organization that is exclusively devoted to the Galapagos, you will show your professionalism and inside knowledge. If you're handling affinity groups, your IGTOA membership may well mean the difference between you or another company getting the business.

We get frequent inquiries from travelers researching tour operators. If they inquire about an IGTOA member we tell them that by being a member in good standing the company has demonstrated a commitment to conservation and responsible travel. That's a good recommendation. Even getting one or two extra travelers a year will more than cover membership dues.



Promote High Professional Standards

IGTOA is helping to create high professional standards for the tourism industry, including ship safety, guide quality, consumer protection, and your own protection as well. IGTOA stands up for its members. If you have a problem with a boat or its crew, a local operator, a guide, or some other aspect of your operations, we will help investigate the situation and get the problem resolved. You don't have to go at it alone.

"As a member of IGTOA, Galapagos Network receives up-to-date and accurate news...Through IGTOA, we help contribute to worthwhile conservation projects that we could not otherwise do on our own."

IGTOA



How Your Company Benefits

- Preserve the Galapagos for future generations of travelers.
- Use IGTOA's logo in your marketing materials.
- Promote your company on IGTOA's website.
- Give IGTOA as a reference for travelers.
- List special offers to travelers (Full Members).
- Learn quickly about issues affecting travel.
- Get information on boat and passenger safety.
- Contact us with boat and guide issues.
- Learn about issues through our newsletter.
- Network with other members and share information.
- Get a discount of 15% on a membership with Sustainable Travel International.
- Give your travelers a 25% discount on a membership with South American Explorers.
- Get a 10% discount on membership in the Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA).

**For information on membership,
email: exd@igtoa.org**

Membership is open only to commercial and nonprofit organizations. But we also welcome the involvement of individuals. You can sign up to receive Action Alerts, help petition for change, and support important project funding

Visit our web site: www.igtoa.org

*Color photos compliments of Tui de Roy and Minden Pictures.
b/w tortoise: Ron Rosenstock.*



"The travel industry and travelers themselves need to be primary supporters of conservation and sustainable development in Galapagos. I hope that you will support IGTOA's efforts and help usher in a new era of travel in the Galapagos Islands."

*— Dr. Graham Watkins,
Executive Director, Charles Darwin Foundation*

The Travel Industry Has a Vital Role to Play in Galapagos Conservation.

IGTOA is a nonprofit association of travel companies, conservation organizations, and other groups throughout the world that are dedicated to the complete and lasting protection of the Galapagos.

Our mission: to preserve the Galapagos Islands as a unique and priceless world heritage that will provide enjoyment, education, adventure and inspiration to present and future generations of travelers.

IGTOA uses its collective strength to petition and encourage the government of Ecuador, support other organizations involved in conservation, and help Galapagos residents to be stewards of their own natural heritage.

