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## **Rules for visitors to the Galapagos Islands**

1. Because of its unique nature, the plants, animals and rocks should stay on site so that there is no alteration. Nothing may be taken from the islands except photos.
2. Each island in the archipelago is a unique place because of its flora, fauna and scenery. Introduction of foreign organisms such as animals, seeds, plants and insects causes serious problems. Your cooperation is very important in avoiding that this occurs.
3. Galápagos animals should not be touched or petted for your safety and because they can quickly lose their tameness and change their behavior.
4. The endemic and native fauna of Galápagos has its natural form for feeding. Therefore, do not give them any type of food because it could harm them.
5. Each year millions of people visit the Galápagos Islands. Imagine what would happen if each of them took a shell, plant or disturbed an animal?
6. The Galápagos marine birds leave their nests if you disturb or follow them. They let their eggs or chicks follow on the ground or leave them exposed to the sun. Therefore you may watch the birds at a distance of no less than two meters.
7. To keep the islands in their best possible natural state, bringing any live organism from the continent or even relocating one from the islands is prohibited. Plants, seeds, insects, plagues and illnesses are dangerous for the fragile island ecosystem.
8. Visitors' sites at the Galápagos National Park are marked and indicated to guarantee your safety. You cannot leave the paths.
9. Fishing on board tourist ships is not permitted.
10. Garbage of any type interferes with natural processes and takes away the enchantment of the unique island scenery. Do not throw away garbage at visitors' sites, in the ocean or

near the islands. Sea lions take cans that they deposit at the bottom of the sea and play with them hurting their noises. Plastic can be eaten by marine tortoises and they can die from an intestinal blockage. Do not leave anything on the islands except for your footprints.

11. On the inhabited islands you can buy objects with Galápagos themes made of wood, ceramics, etc. Purchasing souvenirs made of black coral, marine tortoise shells, sea lion fangs, and shells goes against the principles of conservation.
12. Writing the name and phrase of any type on rocks, walls, etc. is a sign of bad manners and rudeness and damages the scenery. Remember: "Your immortality is not more important than the nature of the islands."
13. Fire or smoking within the areas of the Park is not allowed. Remember that a fire could start with a match or a cigarette that is not put out completely. Through negligence in 1985 and 1994 Isabel Island suffered great fires.
14. If you want to camp at authorized tourist sites you must request a permit from the Park Director.
15. Professional filming requires special authorizations from the Director of the Galápagos National Park.
16. Before you endanger a visitor's safety and that of the National Park, please advise a Park Ranger, Police authorities, Ecuadorian Navy or CAPTURGAL.
17. Don't be embarrassed to show your conservationist attitude. Explain to others the rules of Galápagos National Park and make them follow them.