

Galapagos Entry Requirements: Step-by-Step Guide

The Galapagos Islands are one of the most protected ecosystems on Earth, and to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site, every visitor must follow a mandatory entry procedure. Below you will find a detailed, step-by-step breakdown of the process you'll go through before and upon arrival. Please read this carefully to ensure a smooth start to your island adventure.

Before Departure: TCT Card (Transit Control Card)

To travel to the Galapagos, every visitor must obtain a TCT (Tarjeta de Control de Tránsito) issued by the Consejo de Gobierno del Régimen Especial de Galápagos.

You can get the TCT card either online in advance or at the airport in Quito or Guayaquil.

Option 1: Online Pre-Registration

- Visit: siig-cgreg.gobiernogalapagos.gob.ec
- Accept the data processing policy.
- Watch the required informational video.
- Fill in the form and verify your email.
- Provide your travel and accommodation details.
- Accept the declaration and pay online via credit or debit card.
- Download the TCT or check your email to retrieve it.

Option 2: On-site at the Airport

- Go directly to the Consejo de Gobierno de Galápagos counter.
- Located near the check-in area of all Galapagos flights in Quito (UIO) and Guayaquil (GYE).
- Bring: Passport, flight ticket, and any tour confirmation you have.

TCT Fee:

- \$20 USD per person (cash or card, depending on the counter—cash is faster and more reliable).

Luggage Inspection – SICGAL Biosecurity Check

Once you've received your TCT card, proceed to the SICGAL (Sistema de Inspección y Cuarentena para Galápagos) checkpoint.

Here, your checked and hand luggage will be inspected via a special x-ray machine to ensure no organic matter or invasive species are brought to the islands.

Forbidden items include:

- Fruits, vegetables, seeds, animal products, live animals, plants, or anything that could harm the local ecosystem.

After passing inspection, your checked bag is sealed and cleared for check-in.

Check-In with Airline

Now that you've completed your paperwork and biosecurity check, head to your airline's check-in counter.

Present:

- Passport
- TCT card
- Flight reservation

Your bag should have the SICGAL seal; otherwise, the airline won't accept it for boarding.

Upon Arrival in Galapagos: National Park Entrance Fee

After landing in Baltra (GPS) or San Cristóbal (SCY) airport, all travelers must pay the Galápagos National Park entrance fee at a booth just past immigration.

Park Entrance Fee:

- 200 USD per person (foreigners, ages 12 and older)
- 100 USD for children ages 2–11
- Only payable in CASH (no cards or foreign currencies accepted)

Bring exact amount if possible to speed up the process.

This fee directly supports conservation, park management, and community development on the islands.

Pro Tips

- Carry at least 220 USD in cash per person for the TCT and national park fee.
- Don't pack fruits, seeds, or souvenirs made from animal products (they will be confiscated).
- Check our website terrasurtravels.com for a ton of [Travel guides](#), [Blogs](#), and the most important information for travelling Latin America.

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Disclaimer: Entry requirements in Ecuador and Latin America are subject to change. Please verify all information through the provided links and consult official government websites for the most up-to-date regulations.