

# Tondelayo's Voyage

Two weeks in the Galapagos

March 12 - March 27, 2003

 [iguanabeach\\_t.jpg \(22774 bytes\)](#)

Iguanas hanging on Tortuga Beach - pic by Karen on Priceless


 [watertaxi.jpg \(44623 bytes\)](#)

March 12 We arrived early after 10 days out, with only a brief stop in Cocos. We had arranged with our friends on Priceless to take on fuel and water immediately, so we got that done, and headed for shore. Everyone takes water taxis, for 50 cents each way, it is a pretty good deal. What do they get in Catalina now, \$4 or something?

March 14 Checked into the Port. Fees: \$73 to Port Captain, and Customs, and \$20 per person to immigration. This allowed us a 20 day stay at ONLY Academy Bay. So, now that we were legal, we went over to the Darwin center, and checked out the Galapagos Tortoise breeding program. They are pretty cute and very active until they get older. Once they reach shoebox size, after about 3-4 years, they are released into the wild to fend for themselves. There are 14 subspecies of the tortoises, 2 of which are extinct, and 1 of which (Pinto Island) has only 1 remaining individual, named Lonesome George. They are trying to breed him with a similar subspecies, but no luck yet.

 [tortisebro.jpg \(49229 bytes\)](#)

March 15 Went early to the Saturday market to see what was around for our last provisioning next week. Bought a few interesting things, like a couple pounds of goat. I turned it into some delicious curry, which everyone agreed was quite tasty even though it was not normal gringo fare.

 [Lisasail.jpg \(36542 bytes\)](#)

March 18 Project day on Tondelayo. Changed the oil, and most important, got some stitching done on the sails. Karen on Priceless was nice enough to let us use her Sailrite and do some much needed work on the main and the Yankee.

March 19 Andrew was feeling a bit under the weather due to some strange swelled toe disease, but everyone else went on a hike over to Tortuga Beach with the white powdered sugar beach, and marine iguanas. They also discovered the tracks and nest of a sea turtle from the night before.

March 20-21

Just hanging around relaxing. Spent a lot of time at the internet, and just hanging around. Found

some really good, cheap places for lunch.

 [market2\\_t.jpg \(39735 bytes\)](#)

March 22

Stocked up at the market. Lots of fresh veggies, and a few fruits, etc. Even bought a whole stock of bananas. Went out for dinner at a the restaurant overlooking the water with Mike and Karen on Priceless and had a really good time. Food was delicious and reasonable.

March 23 Sailed over to Isla Isabela, even though technically we are not supposed to. We had heard from others that the Port Captain will let us stay for a few days, as long as we tell future boats that you can only stop at one island, so go straight to Isabela!!!

March 24 Dropped in at the Port Captain, checked out the town and arranged for a horseback ride and hike up to the crater and lava flow of a recent (100 years ago) eruption. Cost: \$20 USD. Pat an Lisa checkout the penguins and did some snorkeling, while the Skipped relaxed in the quiet anchorage. Ahhh, peace at last...

 [horse\\_t.jpg \(30462 bytes\)](#)


 [lava3\\_t.jpg \(31593 bytes\)](#)

 [hammock.jpg \(42275 bytes\)](#)

March 25 A truck ride up to the mountains, followed by a bit of and adventure. Having never been on a horse, I can say that it is definitely easier than walking. All those people that say horseback riding is very tiring, I say, not true, try walking yourself. It can, however, be a bit of a pain in the bum, but other than that, not too much of a problem. After an hour or so, we left to beasts, to take a hike over to the volcano. The terrain change abruptly from grasses and small trees, to moonscape. No vegetation, just black and red lava. The different types of lava around the volcano was very interesting, looking at the ways it flowed, and cooled, you are able to visualize the mechanics of the eruption. Then back to the horses for lunch and the ride back. The guide let us trot and lope (gallop) the horses a bit, which is a bit distressing in my opinion. Maybe this seems like a sane idea when you have a full sized horse with a real saddle, but these little mountain horses and their saddles made of intertubes and plastic bags, seemed a bit much to me. Well, we did make it back without anyone getting thrown off and killed, and headed back to the beach for a few (about 20 22oz) beers at sunset. An excellent day, and cheap as well!

 sealions\_t.jpg (31819 bytes)

 penguins.jpg (36626 bytes)

 dingy.jpg (35960 bytes)

March 26 Only 1 more day on land, so we did a little provisioning, some snorkeling, checked out the penguins again. We saw the biggest stingray I have ever seen. The thing was huge, maybe prehistoric, 6 or more feet across, and a foot thick. Amazing. Lots of the usual fish and stuff and the occasional sneaky sea lion to scare the hell out of you. Also dropped by the penguins again, and said 'HI' to the sea lions hanging out on a nearby fishing boat. Then Priceless arrived, and we all went to dinner at Henri's Club Notice and had an excellent meal of grilled Marlin, with all the trimmings.

March 27 [Sailing west to the Marquesas](#)