

Galapagos Islands – What Not to Bring

To protect the unique and fragile ecosystem of the Galápagos Islands, there are strict rules about what you can and cannot bring with you. Many plants, seeds, nuts, fruits, and animal products are either **restricted or completely prohibited**. Bringing these items can introduce diseases or invasive species that could seriously harm the islands' natural environment.

Why these rules exist:

- The Galápagos ecosystem is very delicate and easily affected by new plants, animals, or diseases.
- To prevent this, there are **several checks and controls**:
 - Luggage inspections before boarding flights to Galápagos from Quito and Guayaquil.
 - Disinfection of the airplane before arriving in Galápagos.
 - Additional luggage inspections upon arrival at San Cristóbal or Baltra airports.

Prohibited plant products include (but are not limited to):

- Apricots
- Sugar Apple (Anona / Sweetsop)
- Coffee beans
- Star Apple (Caimito)
- Sugar cane
- Cherries
- Thorn Apple (Chamico)
- Custard Apple (Cherimoya)
- Raspberries
- Passion fruit
- Pomegranate
- Currants
- Guava
- Banana leaves
- Fresh vegetable leaves
- Lucuma fruit
- Blackberries
- Oranges
- Yam
- Fresh medicinal plant leaves, roots, or seeds
- Taro
- Wheat
- Prickly pears
- Unshelled/raw nuts*

* **Note:** Nuts are only allowed if **shelled (no shell)**, **industrially processed**, and have sanitary registration with production and expiration dates.

Prohibited animal-derived products include:

- Animal feed
- Raw meat
- Cow's liver
- Fresh milk
- Fermented milk
- Pasteurized milk
- Fresh cheeses (such as buffalo mozzarella)

Important:

- A **full list** of permitted, restricted, and prohibited items is available (in Spanish) here: <https://bioseguridadgalapagos.gob.ec/lista-de-productos/>
- Even some **allowed items** must meet specific conditions to enter the islands.
- The **ban on plastics** in Galápagos also influences what food and drinks can be offered locally, including on tours.