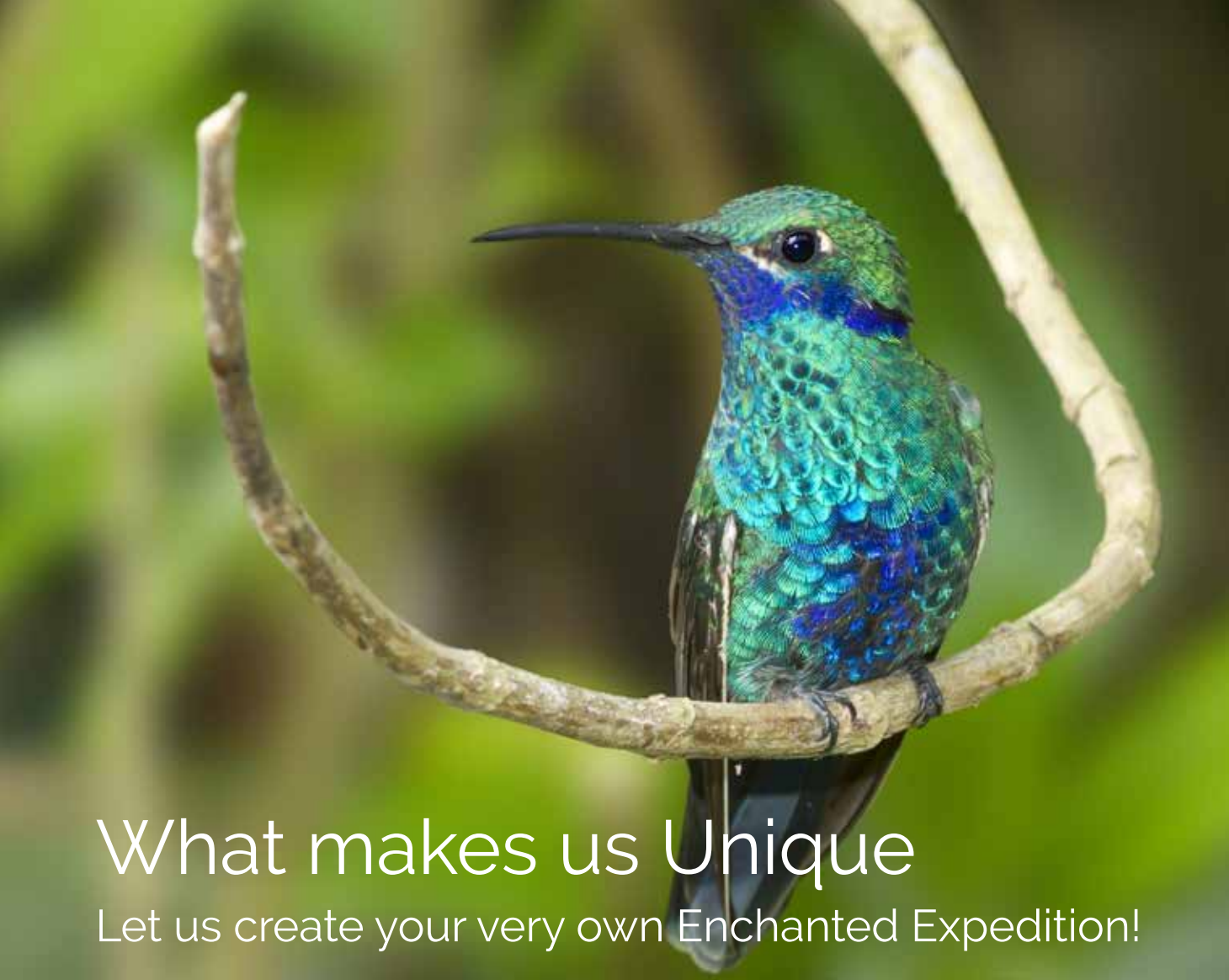




**Enchanted
Expeditions**
Ecuador & Galapagos





What makes us Unique

Let us create your very own Enchanted Expedition!



Enchanted Expeditions (formerly Angermeyer's Enchanted Expeditions) is one of the pioneers of small boat cruises and tours to the Galapagos Islands and the mainland of Ecuador. Our founder Judy Carvalho and her three partners have over 130 years of collective field experience as tour guides, researchers, conservationists and community tourism advocates in Ecuador.

Our ready-made and custom active travel vacations are designed for active, curious and conservation-minded travellers looking for uncompromising value and who crave authenticity, and making genuine connections with people, communities and wildlife while travelling with a 'small footprint'. We pride

ourselves on the personal attention we provide and our ability to tailor make tours to suit the needs of our clients.

We have built a reputation for excellent service; few can match our expertise and knowledge of all areas of Ecuador. These standards are reflected in our staff, our guides and our yachts. Enchanted Expeditions is the exclusive representative and owners of our yachts M/Y Beluga and M/Y Cachalote Explorer. Both these yachts have been awarded the Smart Voyager Certificate for adhering to conservation standards.

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About Our Company

Why choose the Enchanted way

Over thirty years ago while travelling around South America, Judy Carvalho, the founder of Enchanted Expeditions, fell in love with Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, settling thereafter. Judy first worked as a naturalist guide in the Galapagos, gaining valuable experience in the tourism business, before moving on to operate her own yachts, and then progressed to form her own company, which has helped pioneer the modern tourist industry in the Galapagos and mainland Ecuador: Enchanted Expeditions.

In 1987, after more than ten years in the Islands, Judy moved to the Ecuadorian capital Quito, well placed for the hands on direction of the company. An avid traveller; Judy has explored the length and breadth of Ecuador, and indeed much of the world, using her considerable knowledge and experience as a solid foundation for Enchanted Expeditions.

Judy's partners Martin Schreyer and Sergio Bernardi joined the company about 20 years ago. They contributed to the great success of Enchanted Expeditions. Martin, a native of the Galapagos and expert seaman with an extensive knowledge of the islands and every aspect of a boat, is in charge of our Galapagos yacht operation. Sergio brings with him years of experience as a naturalist/bird guide in the jungle and in the highlands of Ecuador.

Judy, Sergio and Martin— among the very first in Galapagos and Ecuador to conduct research and recognize the need for responsible tourism (this was many years before 'sustainable tourism was even recognized by the media and industry). They have a deep and heartfelt commitment to protect and preserve both the wildlife and culture of Ecuador; and thus offer unmatched local expertise, insight and connections to design both ready made and custom active travel vacations, all of which are specifically tailored.

Our Commitment to Sustainability

Enchanted Expeditions is completely committed to becoming a more sustainable organization with a strong focus on social responsibility and environmental responsibility. We strive to minimize our impact on the environment through resource conservation and by integrating positive environmental practices into our operation. We actively recognize our role in the communities and respect the cultures of the people of Ecuador.

We support local communities and buy local products; offer funding and donations to selected programs and organizations, and provide a safe and ethical work environment for our employees. We operate tours that meet our environmental and social standards whilst offering our clients the opportunity to make genuine connections with our communities. For more information about our sustainable practices, please refer to our Sustainability Policy.

Contact Us

Enchanted Expeditions

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Quito – Ecuador

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Fax: +593-2-334-0123

E-mail: headoffice@enchantedexpeditions.com

Main Website: www.enchantedexpeditions.com

Beluga Website: www.belugagalapagos.com

Cachalote Explorer Website: www.cachalotegalapagos.com

Sales Contact

Telephone: +593-2-334-0525

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sales1enchanted

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Galapagos Islands

The Enchanted Islands - A Window Upon Evolution

The Galapagos Islands a unique archipelago a unique experience. It is a dramatic yet beautiful world of volcanic landscapes and fearless animals: giant tortoises, fur seals, sea lions, marine iguanas, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies and much more. A visit to this National Park and UNESCO world heritage site will be an unforgettable, and unparalleled experience.

Located in the Pacific Ocean, roughly 1000km off the coast of Ecuador, straddling the equator. The isolation of these islands has permitted life forms to evolve into species found only in Galapagos. Notably observed by Charles Darwin, his research contributed to the fame of the islands. The archipelago encompasses over 50 islands and islets of volcanic origin that are spread out over an area of about 4500 sq. kms. The oldest of these is not more than 4.2 million years old, a baby in geological terms. The islands are among the most volcanically active group of islands in the world.

The Galapagos gained fame with the publication of Darwin's Voyage Of The Beagle and Origin Of The Species, but also with various scientific expeditions, notably, The California Academy of Sciences in 1906.

The Galapagos National Park was established in 1959 to protect the unique and therefore precious flora and fauna of the islands. In that same year the Charles Darwin Research Station was founded in Academy Bay on Santa Cruz Island. Both of these help to create the well managed and protected National Park we have today.





Cruising The Galapagos

The Yacht Experience: Galapagos Up Close and Personal

Enchanted Expeditions offers the opportunity to see the Galapagos Islands aboard our comfortable, (16 passengers max) motor yachts, the Beluga and the Cachalote Explorer. We exclusively own and represent these two yachts which have been outfitted for cruising the Galapagos Islands.

These small exclusive group sizes ensure that our passengers are able to gain access to all the best visitor sites, some of which are closed to the bigger cruise ships. Each boat has a full crew, including a fully trained and licensed multilingual naturalist guide.

Whilst visitors do not need any sailing experience, persons should be prepared for life on board. This will maximize the exhilarating experience waiting.

Both our yachts are Smart Voyager certified for adhering to conservation standards.

Embark upon a journey of a lifetime!

Traveling by yacht is the most authentic way to explore the Galapagos Islands!

Cruising through the Galapagos offers travelers the unique experience of visiting many areas of the archipelago that are only accessible by a live aboard boat. This really is the only way to truly appreciate the Galapagos wildlife, both on land and in the water. Each day guests awaken in a new part of the islands and disembark shortly after breakfast for the morning activities, which include a walk or hike on land followed by a snorkelling excursion. After lunch the boat moves to a new visitor site and during this time guests have the opportunity to rest and look for whales and dolphins from deck. Later in the afternoon the guests disembark for another nature walk, and perhaps another opportunity to snorkel and swim.



- All excursions led by high level naturalist guide.
- Visit two different visitor sites per day, one in the morning and afternoon.
- 2 Nature walks/hikes each day.
- 1-2 Snorkeling excursions each day.
- Opportunities to kayak at certain visitor sites.
- Search for whales or dolphins while cruising from one island to another.
- Guide briefing each evening after dinner.
- And, always time for a sundowner!

Our passionate guides and professional crew will ensure our guests have a memorable and comfortable trip while spending as much time as possible with nature and wildlife.





Galapagos Wildlife Cruise aboard the M/Y Beluga



Cruise the Galapagos in comfort aboard our premium motor yacht!

Embark upon our very spacious and comfortable "Superior First Class" motor yacht. With panoramic windows in the salon and great deck space, Beluga is a fantastic way to cruise the islands in speed and style.

Equipped with the most modern safety and mechanical equipment, Beluga accommodates 16 passengers in 8 double cabins; one of these has an additional berth which becomes a triple room which is suitable for families. Each cabin has their own private bathroom equipped with hot & cold water showers. Beluga is fully air-conditioned, has spacious social areas with all the comforts and facilities of a superior first class motor yacht: panoramic windows in the salon / dining area, and a large sundeck for relaxing, sightseeing or sunbathing. The Beluga's friendly and professional crew will make sure to fulfill our every need during your journey.

The Beluga is outfitted exclusively for the Galapagos Islands and has been awarded the Smart Voyager certification for adhering to conservation standards. Beluga also complies with all international maritime regulations and is SOLAS certified.



The Beluga

Technical Specifications:

The Beluga is a fully air conditioned, spacious and comfortable motor yacht. The salon is equipped with flat screen TV, DVDs, and a small library.

Mechanical Equipment: Twin Scania Diesel Electronic engines 450 HP each, 3 Perkins generators for 110v and 220v, 2 reverse osmosis water makers, sewage treatment plant

Safety Equipment: VHF DSC & HF DSC radios, EPIRB, SART, AIS, hunter satellite tracking device, 2 GPS's, 2 radars, depth sounder, auto-pilot, electronic charts, flares, basic first aid kits, 2 tenders with outboards, fin keels for extra stability, fire alarms and extinguishers, CO2 engine room fire suppression, bilge pumps and alarms, system flotation rings, life rafts with surplus capacity for all passengers and crew.

Guest Accommodation: 8 double cabins each with private bath and 110v. Hot/cold showers. Each cabin has its own security safe. 220v available in salon area.

Crew: All crew are fully trained and certified. Captain, multilingual naturalist guide, cook, 2 engineers, barman and 4 sailors.

Type: Motor Vessel, steel hull.

Category: Premium First Class

Capacity: 16 passengers

Length: 110 ft / 34 m

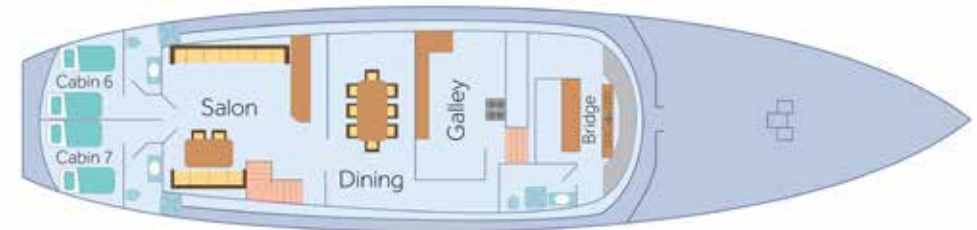
Beam: 23 ft / 7 m

Speed: 12 knots cruising

UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



LOWER DECK



Itineraries and Visits

Beluga offers options of 6 and 8 day itineraries that visit selected sites which are approved by the National Park; each of these is unique, rich and varied and offers the opportunity to experience the Galapagos up close and personal with a small group led by a highly experienced naturalist guide. The itineraries can be combined to form a 15-day itinerary which we highly recommend for those travellers that would like to have a complete, in-depth experience of the Galapagos Islands.

Tower Itinerary

Duration: 8 days and 7 nights

Start / End: Wednesday / Wednesday

Focus: Northern, Central and Southern Islands

Fernandina Itinerary

Duration: 8 days and 7 nights

Start / End: Wednesday / Wednesday

Focus: Western and Central Islands

Hood Itinerary

Duration: 6 days / 5 nights

Start / End: Friday / Wednesday

Focus: Central and Southern Islands

Isabela Itinerary

Duration: 6 days / 5 nights

Start / End: Friday / Wednesday

Focus: Western Islands

Complete Galapagos Itinerary

Duration: 15 days / 14 nights

Start / End: Wednesday / Wednesday

Focus: Western Islands, Southern Islands,
Central Islands and Northern Islands

*Itineraries are regulated by the Galapagos National Park and are subject to change without prior notice



Tower Itinerary: 8 Days / 7 Nights

Duration: 8 Days / 7 Nights

Start / End: Wednesday / Wednesday

Pick up / Drop off: Baltra / Baltra

- Day 1** — Baltra / Santa Cruz: Highlands & Charles Darwin Station
- Day 2** — Plazas / Santa Fe
- Day 3** — San Cristobal: Witch Hill (Cerro Brujo), Leon Dormido & El Junco
- Day 4** — Española (Hood): Gardner Bay & Punta Suarez
- Day 5** — Floreana Isl.: Pta Cormorant & Post Office Bay
- Day 6** — Santa Cruz: Dragon Hill / James: Sullivan Bay
- Day 7** — Tower Isl.: Darwin Bay & Prince Phillip's Steps
- Day 8** — Turtle Cove / Baltra

*This itinerary can also be started in San Cristobal on Day 3 and operated as a 6 day / 5 night itinerary.

Wildlife Highlights:

Fauna

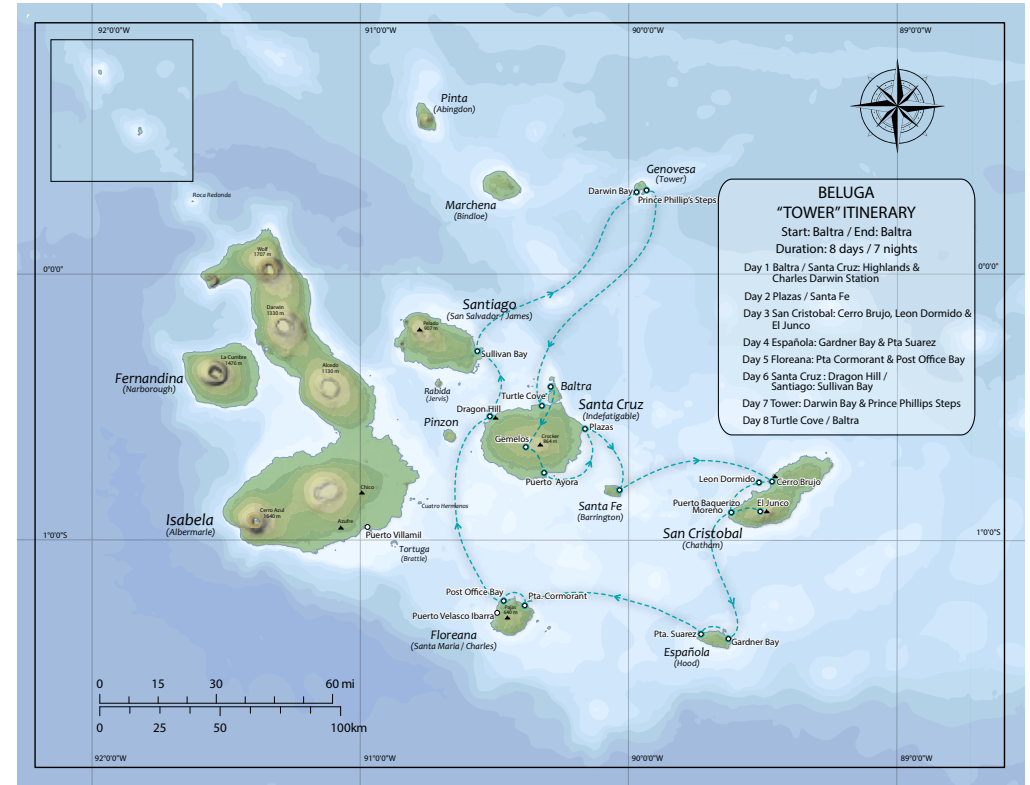
Land iguanas, marine iguanas, lava lizards, sea lions, fur seals, giant tortoise reserve, galapagos snake, waved albatross (March - December), darwin finches, yellow warbler, blue-footed boobies, red-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropic birds, hood mockingbirds, galapagos dove, galapagos hawk, storm petrel, short eared owl, lava herons

Flora

Tall opuntia cacti, salt bush, lantana, prickly pear cactus, manzanillo, palo santo, thorn bush, yellow cordia

Underwater

Golden mustard rays, eels, white tip reef sharks, sea turtles, possible hammerheads, varieties of fish



Fernandina Itinerary: 8 Days / 7 Nights

Duration: 8 Days / 7 Nights

Start / End: Wednesday / Wednesday

Pick up / Drop off: Baltra / Baltra

Day 1 — Baltra / Santa Cruz: Highlands & Charles Darwin Station

Day 2 — Sombrero Chino / Rabida

Day 3 — Isabela: Sierra Negra & Puerto Villamil

Day 4 — Isabela: Elizabeth Bay & Punta Moreno

Day 5 — Isabela: Urbina Bay & Tagus Cove

Day 6 — Fernandina: Pta Espinoza / Isabela: Pta Vicente Roca

Day 7 — Santiago: Playa Espumilla & Buccaneers Cove / Bartolome

Day 8 — North Seymour / Baltra

Wildlife Highlights:

Fauna

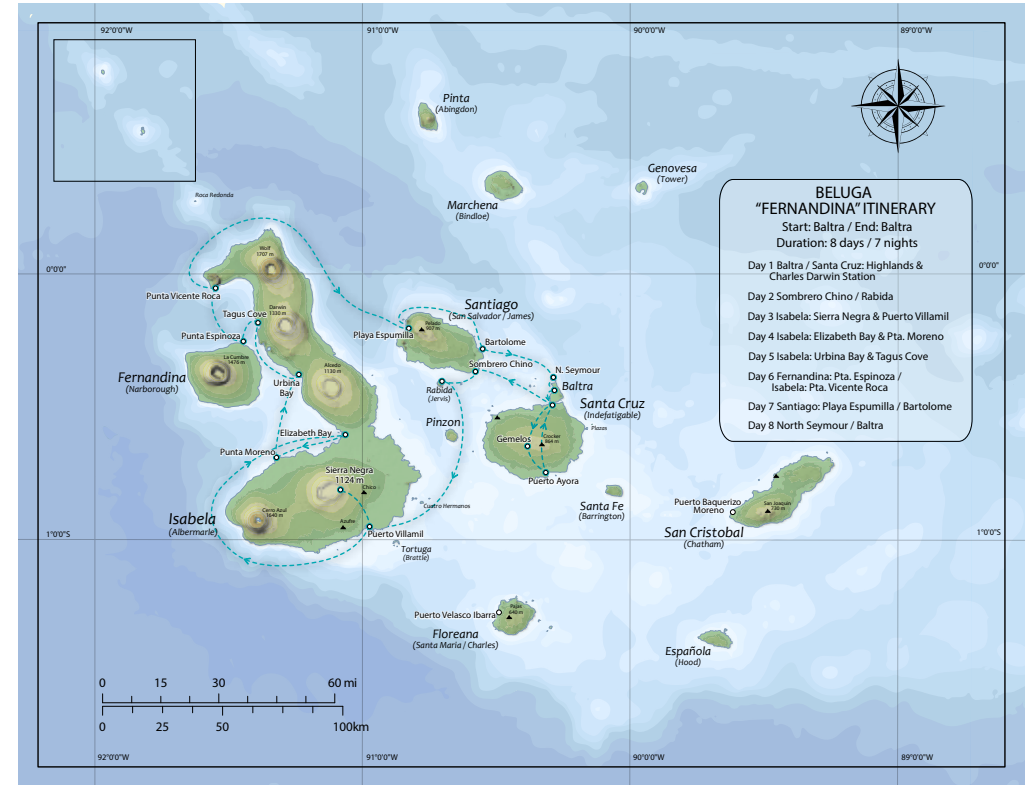
Tortoises, land iguanas, marine iguanas, lava lizards, sea lions, flamingos, penguins, flightless cormorant, brown pelican, Darwin finches, blue-footed boobies, whimbrels, lava gulls, swallow-tailed gulls, Galapagos hawk, Darwin finches, sally light-foot crabs, red-billed tropic birds, Galapagos snake, common gallinules

Flora

Salt bush, algodoncillo, jerusalem thorn, castela, lantana, red white and black mangroves, lava cactus, palo santo, manzanillo, yellow cordia, opuntia cactus

Underwater

Variety of fish, sea turtles, eels, rays, invertebrates, possible hammerhead sharks, sea urchins, possible sea horses



Combined 15 Day Itinerary

Duration: 15 Days / 14 Nights

Start / End: Wednesday / Wednesday

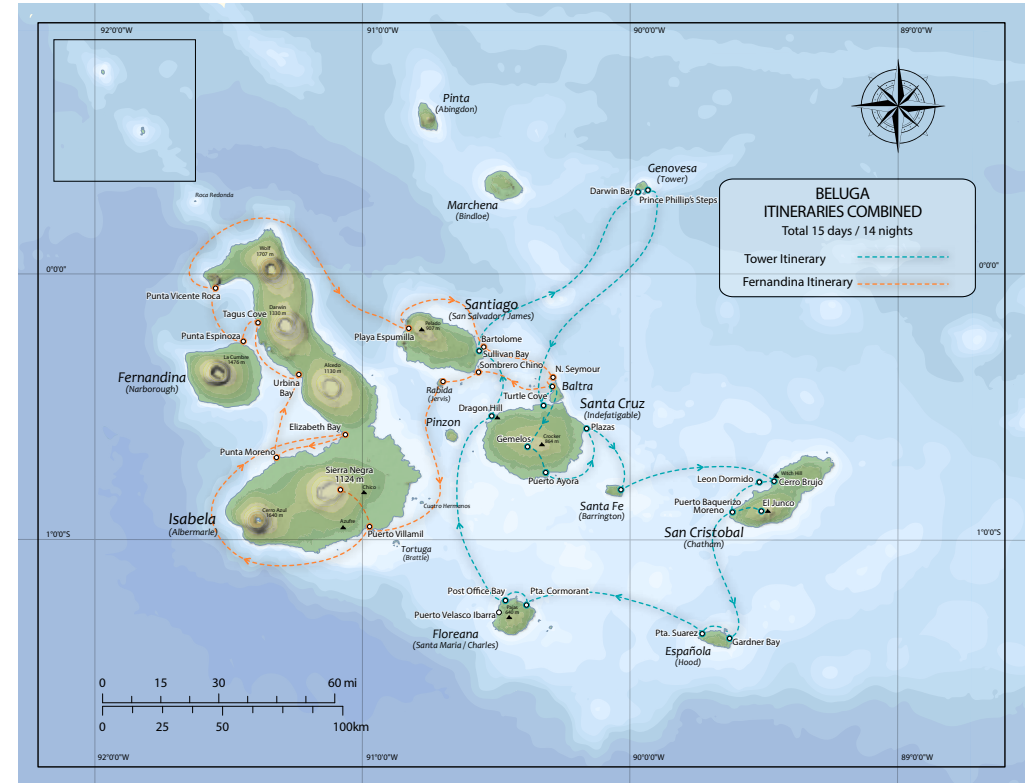
Pick up / Drop off: Baltra / Baltra

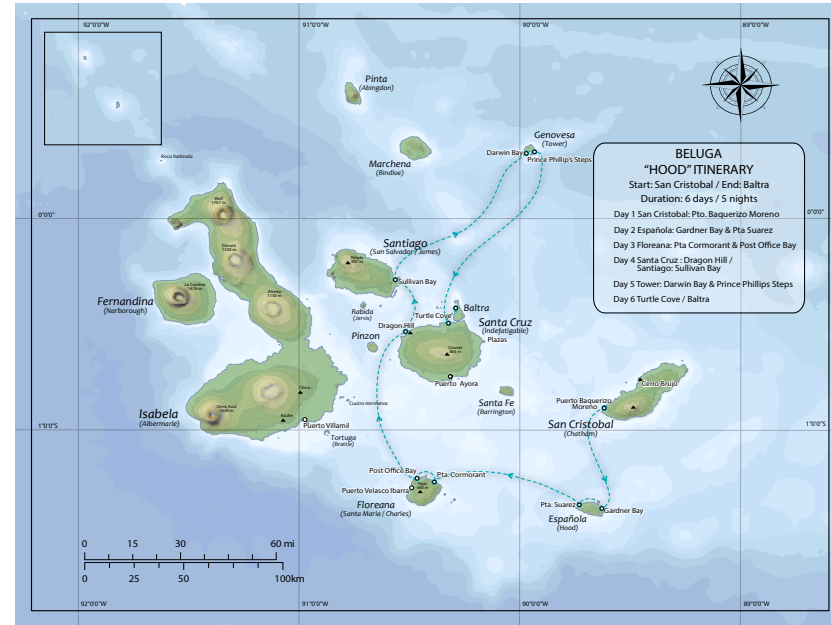
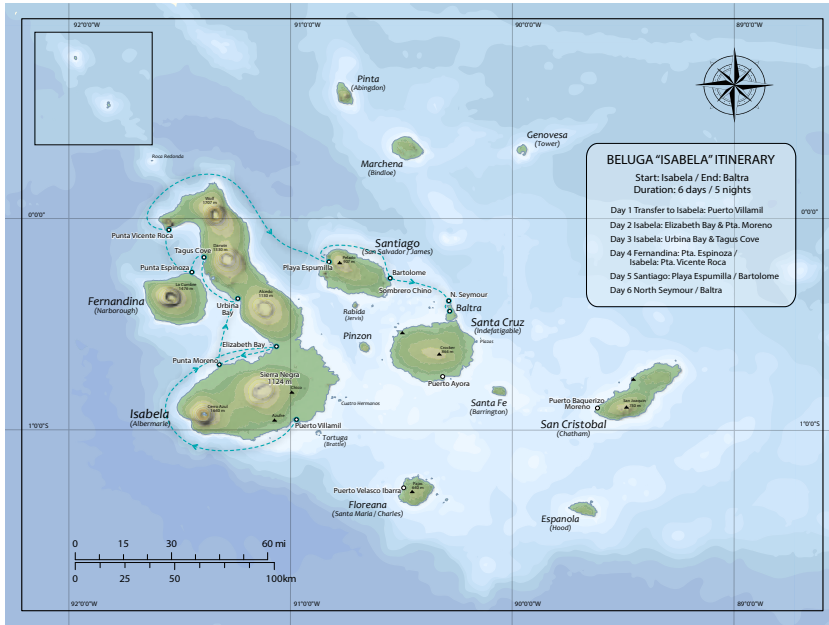
- Day 1** — Baltra / Santa Cruz: Highlands
- Day 2** — Plazas / Santa Fe
- Day 3** — San Cristobal: Witch Hill (Cerro Brujo), Leon Dormido & El Junco
- Day 4** — Española: Gardner Bay & Punta Suarez
- Day 5** — Floreana: Punta Cormorant & Post Office Bay
- Day 6** — Santa Cruz: Dragon Hill / Santiago Bay
- Day 7** — Tower: Darwin Bay & Prince Phillip's Steps
- Day 8** — Santa Cruz: Turtle Cove, Highlands & Puerto Ayora
- Day 9** — Sombrero Chino / Rabida
- Day 10** — Isabela: Sierra Negra & Puerto Villamil
- Day 11** — Isabela: Elizabeth Bay & Punta Moreno
- Day 12** — Isabela: Urbina Bay & Tagus Cove
- Day 13** — Fernandina: Pta Espinoza / Isabela: Pta Vicente Roca
- Day 14** — Santiago: Playa Espumilla & Buccaneers Cove / Bartolome
- Day 15** — North Seymour / Baltra

Wildlife Highlights:

Flora

Tortoises, land iguanas, marine iguanas, lava lizards, sea lions, fur seals, penguins, flightless cormorant, giant tortoise reserve, galapagos snake, waved albatross (march - december), Darwin finches, yellow warbler, blue-footed boobies, red-footed boobies, nascar boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropic birds, hood mockingbirds, Galapagos dove, Galapagos hawk, storm petrel, short eared owl, lava herons, whimbrels, lava gulls, sally light-foot crabs, Galapagos snake, common gallinules. Tall opuntia cacti, salt bush, lantana, prickly pear cactus, manzanillo, palo santo, thorn bush, yellow cordia, Salt bush, algodoncillo, jerusalem thorn, castela, red white and black mangroves, lava cactus





Isabela Itinerary: 6 Days / 5 Nights

Hood Itinerary: 6 Days / 5 Nights

Duration: 6 Days / 5 Nights

Duration: 6 Days / 5 Nights

Start / End: Friday / Wednesday

Start / End: Friday / Wednesday

Pick up / Drop off: Isabela / Baltra

Pick up / Drop off: Pto Baquerizo Moreno / Baltra

Day 1 — Arrive Baltra (start) / Transfer to Isabela:Pto Villamil

Day 1 — Pto Baquerizo Moreno

Day 2 — Isabela: Elizabeth Bay & Punta Moreno

Day 2 — Hood: Gardner Bay & Punta Suarez

Day 3 — Isabela: Urbina Bay & Tagus Cove

Day 3 — Floreana: Pta Cormorant & Post Office Bay

Day 4 — Fernandina: Pta Espinoza / Isabela: Pta Vicente Roca

Day 4 — Dragon Hill / Sullivan Bay

Day 5 — Santiago: Playa Espumilla & Buccaneers Cove / Bartolome

Day 5 — Tower: Darwin Bay & Prince Phillip's steps

Day 6 — North Seymour / Baltra

Day 6 — Turtle Cove / Baltra

Wildlife Highlights:

Tortoises, pintails, finches, blue-footed boobies, frigates, marine iguanas, land iguanas, sea lions, red-billed tropic birds, gulls, shearwaters, Galapagos hawk, doves, penguins, flightless cormorant

Wildlife Highlights:

Marine iguanas, lava lizards, sea lions, sally lightfoot crab, golden mustard rays, waved albatross (March to December), blue-footed boobies, red-footed boobies, galapagos hawk, darwin finches, nascar boobies

Galapagos Adventure Cruise aboard the M/Y Cachalote Explorer





Join us for an adventure aboard our explorer style vessel!

Cachalote Explorer is a comfortable motor yacht offering cruises in the Galapagos Islands and is ideal for those travelers that are enthusiastic about wildlife and enjoy being active. This adventure seekers yacht offers an authentic, intimate and thrilling experience in the Galapagos Islands while providing the guests with first class service. Whilst most of the day time is spent exploring the islands and snorkeling in this National Park and Marine Reserve, there is also time to relax on deck while the boat cruises from one visitor site to the next.

Cachalote Explorer is a comfortable and beautifully decorated yacht recently renovated in 2018 to meet all safety standards. Cachalote Explorer accommodates 16 passengers in her 8 cabins all with private en-suite bathrooms with hot/cold showers, and independent air conditioning units. There is plenty of deck space on three different decks with comfortable seats and loungers to relax in the shade or sunbathe during the cruise.

While cruising through the Galapagos Islands Cachalote Explorer's guests have the opportunity to observe unique and abundant wildlife, walk along unusual volcanic terrain, snorkel with diverse and amazing marine life, and spot dolphins and whales from deck. Come, relax and have fun on our new vessel!

The Cachalote Explorer has been awarded the Smart Voyager certification for adhering to conservation standards. Cachalote Explorer also complies with all international maritime regulations and is SOLAS certified.



The Cachalote Explorer

Technical Specifications:

The Cachalote Explorer is a fully air-conditioned spacious modern explorer style vessel. The comfy salon is equipped with flat screen TV, dvds, and a small library

Mechanical Equipment: 600 H.P Caterpillar diesel propulsion engine, 3 Isuzu generators for 110v and 220v, emergency battery system, reverse osmosis water maker, sewage treatment plant

Safety Equipment: VHF DSC & HF DSC radios. EPIRB, SART, AIS, hunter satellite tracking device, 2 GPS's, 2 radars, depth sounder, auto-pilot, electronic charts, flares, basic first aid kits, 2 tenders with outboards, flotation rings, fire alarms and extinguishers, CO2 engine room fire suppression system, bilge pumps and alarms, life rafts with surplus capacity for all passengers and crew.

Guest Accommodation: 8 double cabins each with private bath and 110v. Hot/cold showers. Each cabin has its own security safe.

Crew: All crew are fully trained and certified. Captain, multilingual naturalist guide, cook, 2 engineers, barman, and 3 sailors.

Type: Motor Yacht, steel hull

Category: Superior First Class

Capacity: 16 passengers

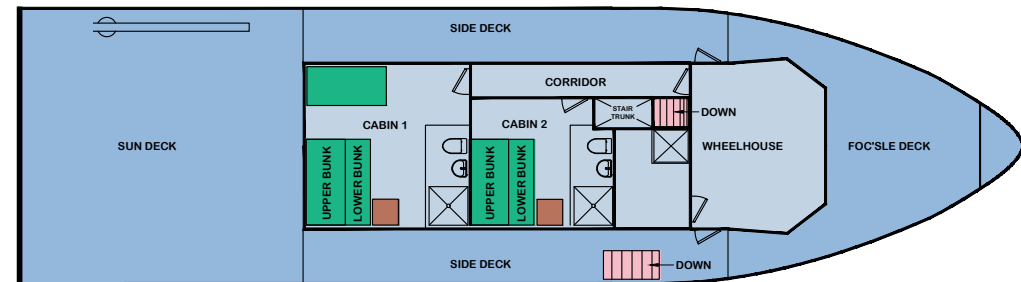
L.O.A: 88 ft / 27 m

Beam: 24 ft / 7 m

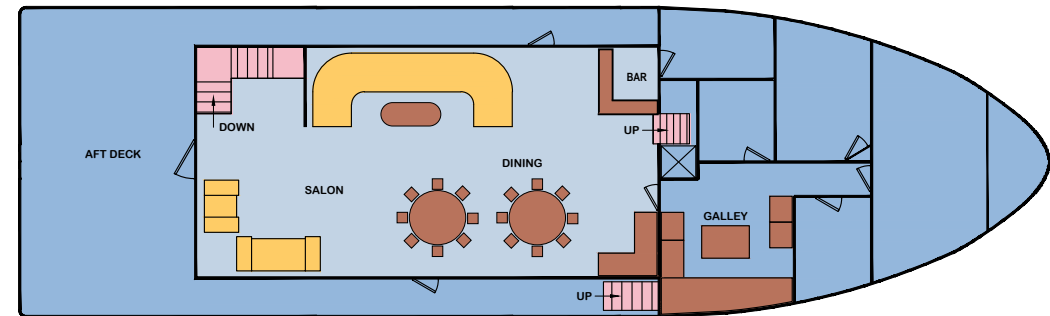
Speed: 8 knots cruising

Built: 1988 Vancouver, Canada and renovated in 2000 and 2018

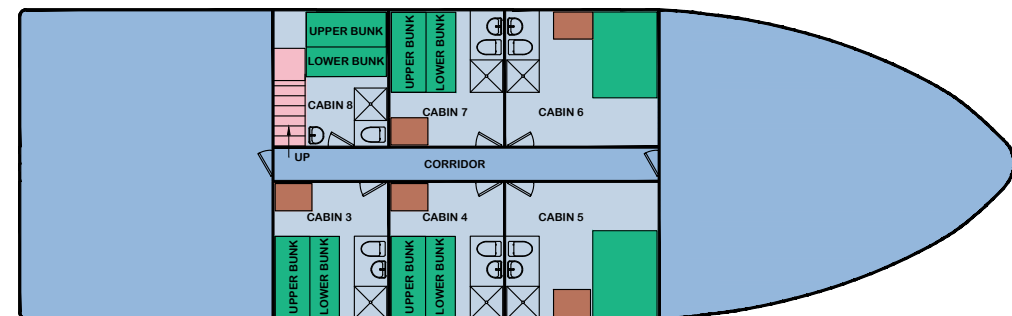
UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



LOWER DECK





Itineraries and Visits

Cachalote I offers the options of 6 day and 8 day itineraries that visit selected sites which are approved by the National Park; each of these is unique, rich and varied and offers the opportunity to experience the Galapagos up close and personal with a small group led by a highly experienced naturalist guide. The itineraries can be combined to form a 15-day itinerary that we highly recommend for those travelers that would like to have a complete, in-depth experience of the Galapagos Islands.

Tower Itinerary

Duration: 8 days and 7 nights

Start / End: Wednesday / Wednesday

Focus: Northern, Central and Southern Islands

Hood Itinerary

Duration: 6 days / 5 nights

Start / End: Friday / Wednesday

Focus: Northern, Central and Southern Islands

Complete Galapagos Itinerary

Duration: 15 days / 14 nights

Start / End: Wednesday / Wednesday

Focus: Western Islands, Southern Islands, Central Islands and Northern Islands

* Itineraries are regulated by the Galapagos National Park and are subject to change without prior notice

Fernandina Itinerary

Duration: 8 days and 7 nights

Start / End: Wednesday / Wednesday

Focus: Western and Central Islands

Isabela Itinerary

Duration: 6 days / 5 nights

Start / End: Friday / Wednesday

Focus: Western and Central Islands

Tower Itinerary: 8 Days / 7 Nights

Duration: 8 Days / 7 Nights

Start / End: Wednesday / Wednesday

Drop Off / Pick Up: Baltra / Baltra

Day 1 — Baltra (start) / Santa Cruz: Highlands & Charles Darwin Station

Day 2 — Plazas / Santa Fe

Day 3 — San Cristobal: Cerro Brujo & El Junco

Day 4 — Hood: Gardner Bay & Punta Suarez

Day 5 — Floreana: Pta Cormorant & Post Office Bay

Day 6 — Santa Cruz: Dragon Hill / James: Sullivan Bay

Day 7 — Tower: Prince Phillips steps & Darwin Bay

Day 8 — Turtle Cove / Baltra (end)

Wildlife Highlights:

Fauna

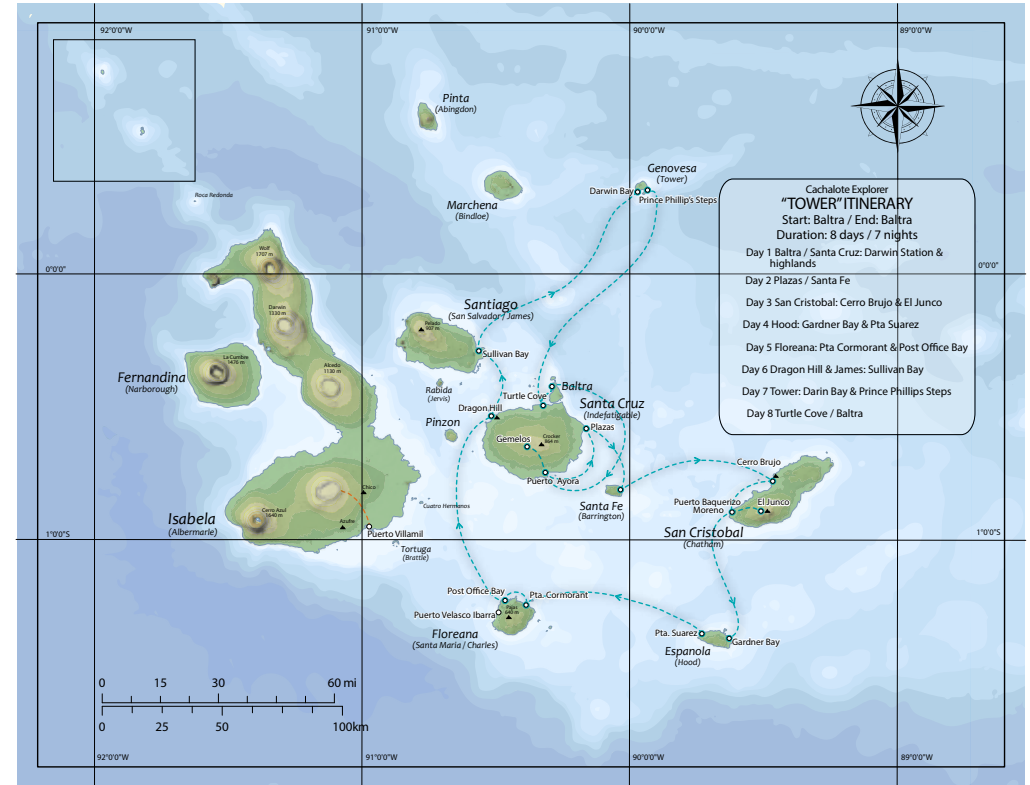
Land iguanas, marine iguanas, lava lizards, sea lions, fur seals, giant tortoise reserve, galapagos snake, waved albatross (march december), darwin finches, yellowwarbler, blue-footed boobies, red-footed boobies, nazca boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropic birds, hood mockingbirds, galapagos dove, galapagos hawk, storm petrel, short eared owl, lava herons

Flora

Tall opuntia cacti, salt bush, lantana, prickly pear cactus, manzanillo, palo santo, thorn bush, yellow cordia

Underwater

Golden mustard rays, eels, white tip reef sharks, sea turtles, possible hammerheads, varieties of fish



Fernandina Itinerary: 8 Days / 7 Nights

Duration: 8 Days / 7 Nights

Start / End: Wednesday / Wednesday

Pick up / Drop off: Baltra / Baltra

Day 1 — Baltra (start) / Santa Cruz: Highlands & Charles Darwin Station

Day 2 — Sombrero Chino / Rabida

Day 3 — Isabela: Pto Villamil & Sierra Negra

Day 4 — Isabela: Pta Moreno & Elizabeth Bay

Day 5 — Isabela: Urbina Bay & Tagus Cove

Day 6 — Fernandina: Pta Espinoza / Isabela: Pta Vicente Roca

Day 7 — Santiago: Pto Egas / Bartolome

Day 8 — N Seymour / Baltra (end)

Wildlife Highlights:

Fauna

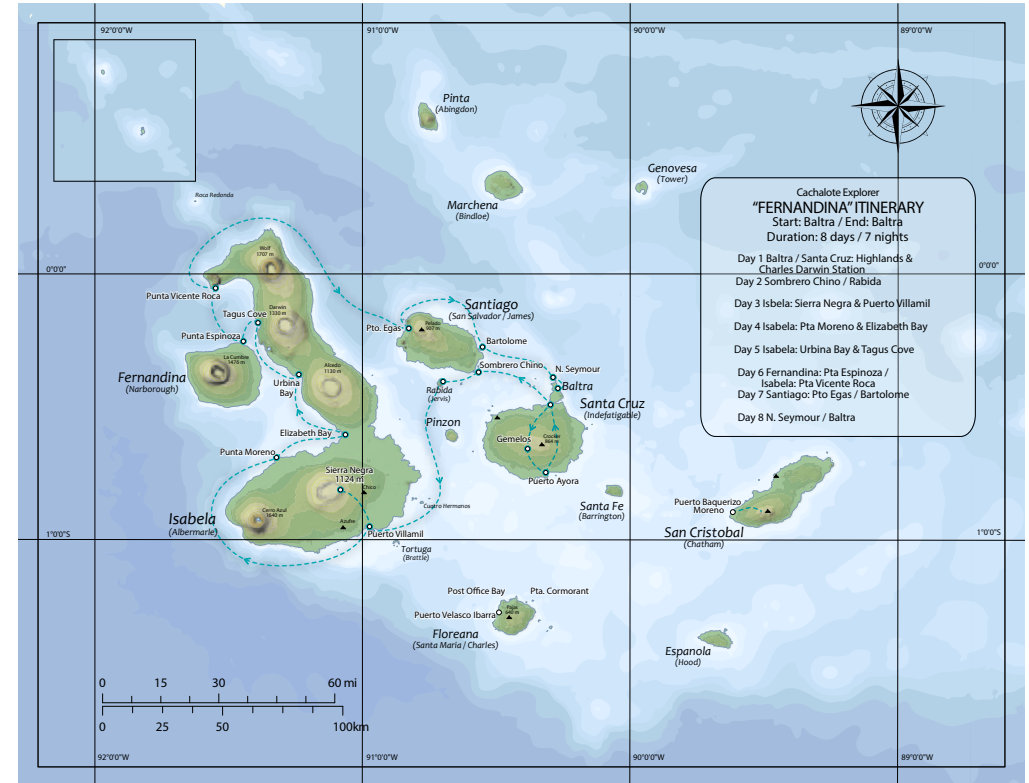
Tortoises, land iguanas, marine iguanas, lava lizards, sea lions, flamingos, penguins, flightless cormorant, brown pelican, Darwin finches, blue-footed boobies, whimbrels, lava gulls, swallow-tailed gulls, Galapagos hawk, Darwin finches, sally light-foot crabs, red-billed tropic birds, Galapagos snake, common gallinules

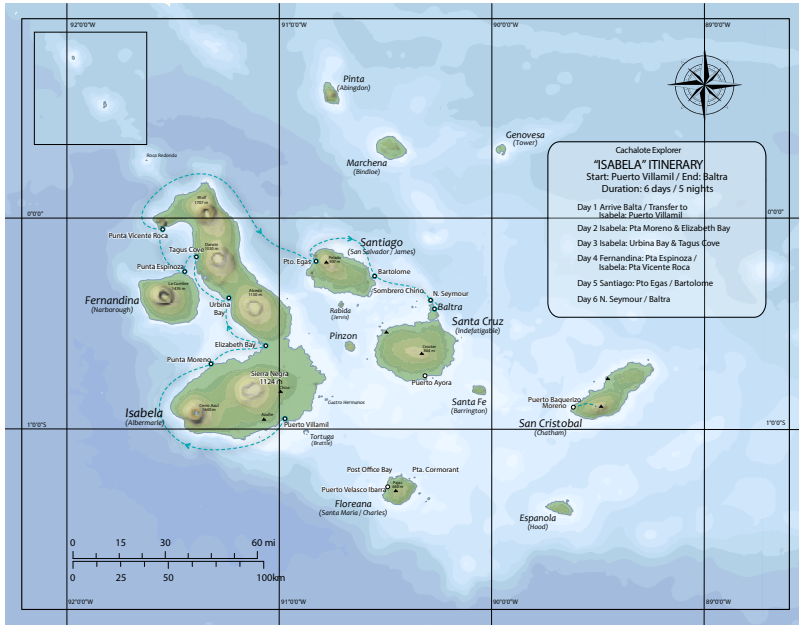
Flora

Salt bush, algodoncillo, jerusalem thorn, castela, lantana, red white and black mangroves, lava cactus, palo santo, manzanillo, yellow cordia, opuntia cactus

Underwater

Variety of fish, sea turtles, eels, rays, invertebrates, possible hammerhead sharks, sea urchins, possible sea horses





Isabela Itinerary: 6 Days / 5 Nights

Duration: 6 Days / 5 Nights

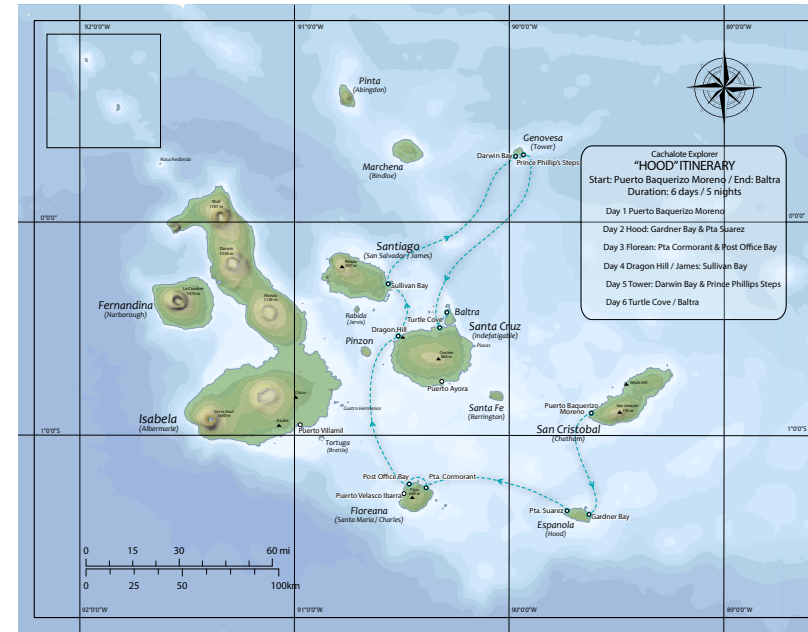
Start / End: Friday / Wednesday

Pick up / Drop off: Baltra / Baltra

- Day 1** — Arrive Baltra (start) / Transfer to Isabela:Pto Villamil
- Day 2** — Isabela: Pta Moreno & Elizabeth Bay
- Day 3** — Isabela: Urbina Bay & Tagus Cove
- Day 4** — Fernandina: Pta Espinoza / Isabela: Pta Vicente Roca
- Day 5** — Santiago: Pto Egas / Bartolome
- Day 6** — N Seymour / Baltra (end)

Wildlife Highlights:

Tortoises, pintails, finches, blue-footed boobies, frigates, marine iguanas, land iguanas, sea lions, red-billed tropic birds, gulls, shearwaters, Galapagos hawk, doves, penguins, flightless cormorant



Hood Itinerary: 6 Days / 5 Nights

Duration: 6 Days / 5 Nights

Start / End: Friday / Wednesday

Pick up / Drop off: Pto Baquerizo Moreno / Baltra

- Day 1** — Pto Baquerizo Moreno (start)
- Day 2** — Hood: Gardner Bay & Punta Suarez
- Day 3** — Floreana: Pta Cormorant & Post Office Bay
- Day 4** — Dragon Hill / James: Sullivan Bay
- Day 5** — Tower: Darwin Bay & Prince Phillips steps
- Day 6** — Turtle Cove / Baltra (end)

Wildlife Highlights:

Marine iguanas, lava lizards, sea lions, sally lightfoot crab, golden mustard rays, waved albatross (March to December), blue-footed boobies, red-footed boobies, galapagos hawk, darwin finches, nascar boobies

Combined 15 Day Itinerary

Duration: 15 Days / 14 Nights

Start / End: Wednesday / Wednesday

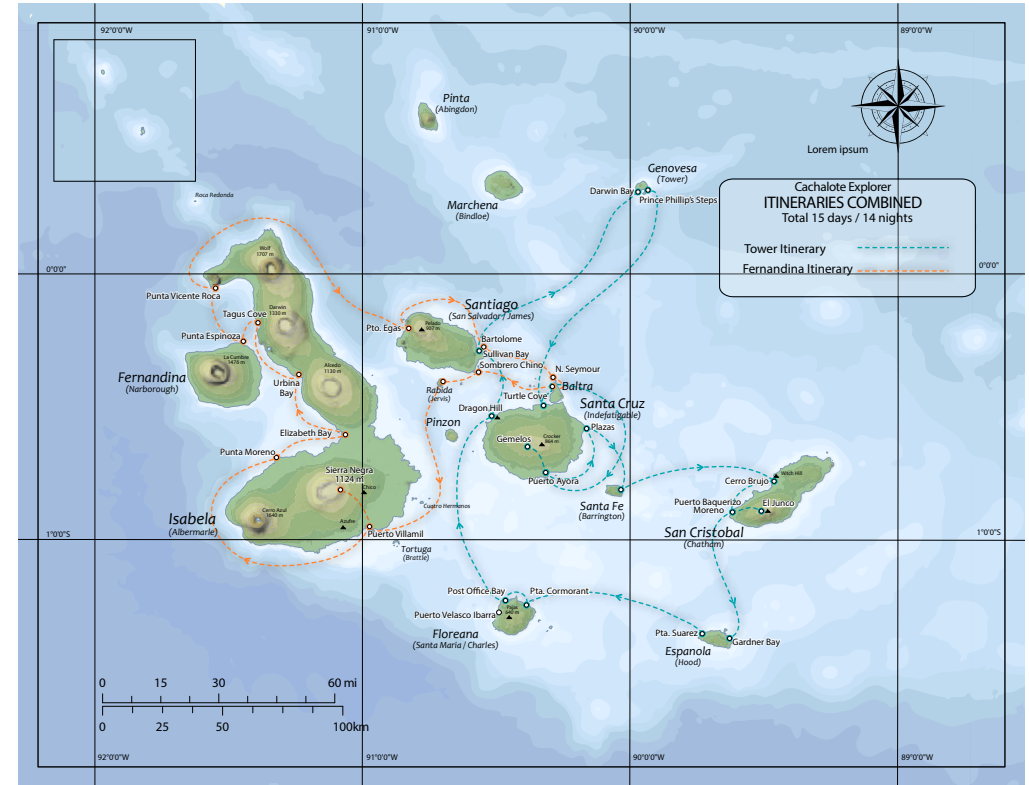
Pick up / Drop off: Baltra / Baltra

- Day 1** — Baltra (start) / Dragon Hill
- Day 2** — Santa Fe / Plazas
- Day 3** — San Cristobal: Witch Hill, Kicker Rock & Pto Baquerizo Moreno
- Day 4** — Hood: Gardner Bay & Puerto Suarez
- Day 5** — Santa Cruz: Darwin Station & Highlands
- Day 6** — Sombrero Chino & James: Sullivan Bay
- Day 7** — Tower: Darwin Bay & Prince Phillips Steps
- Day 8** — Turtle Cove / Baltra (contact us for options)
- Day 9** — Floreana: Pta Cormorant, Devil's Crown & Post Office Bay
- Day 10** — Isabela: Pto Villamil, Las Tintoreras, & Sierra Negra
- Day 11** — Isabela: Pta Moreno & Elizabeth Bay
- Day 12** — Isabela: Urbina Bay & Tagus Cove
- Day 13** — Fernandina: Pta Espinoza / Isabela: Pta Vicente Roca
- Day 14** — Santiago: Pto Egas / Bartolome
- Day 15** — N Seymor / Baltra (end)

Wildlife Highlights:

Flora

Tortoises, land iguanas, marine iguanas, lava lizards, sea lions, fur seals, penguins, flightless cormorant, giant tortoise reserve, galapagos snake, waved albatross (march - december), Darwin finches, yellow warbler, blue-footed boobies, red-footed boobies, nascar boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, red-billed tropic birds, hood mockingbirds, Galapagos dove, Galapagos hawk, storm petrel, short eared owl, lava herons, whimbrels, lava gulls, sally light-foot crabs, Galapagos snake, common gallinules. Tall opuntia cacti, salt bush, lantana, prickly pear cactus, manzanillo, palo santo, thorn bush, yellow cordia, Salt bush, algodoncillo, jerusalem thorn, castela, red white and black mangroves, lava cactus



An underwater photograph showing a large school of small fish swimming in a clear, blue-green water. In the foreground, the silhouettes of two divers are visible, one on the left and one on the right, both looking towards the school of fish. The lighting is bright, creating a high-contrast scene where the fish and divers stand out against the water.

Galapagos Island Hopping and Land Based tours



Enchanted Expeditions is happy to introduce land based holidays in the Galapagos Islands. Life in the three main populated areas (that make up 3% of the Galapagos Islands) has developed into thriving and interesting communities that can be best appreciated while staying in local hotels, interacting with those people who have decided to make home of these isolated islands, savoring locally grown produce, visiting farms and exploring by bike or on foot, or simply relaxing after a busy week travelling around the National Park.

These tours are a perfect compliment to exploring the Galapagos Islands by yacht, by staying at one of the local villages in the archipelago as an extension before or after a cruise. This may also be the option for those who prefer to only sleep on land, but would who still would like to get a 'taste' of the Galapagos Islands.

We also own and operate a wonderful lodge that is located in the highlands of Santa Cruz where our Galapagos cruise guests can spend a couple days relaxing after their cruise. We also offer multi-day lodge packages for those guests who want to make the most of their stay on land at our lodge.

Enchanted Galapagos Lodge



A peaceful getaway to relax and explore the Galapagos



This lovely, quaint and quiet lodge is located in the highlands of SantaCruz a mere 15 minutes away from Puerto Ayora and 15 minutes from the stunning Garapatero beach.

The Enchanted Galapagos Lodge is secluded and tranquil, the perfect place to relax and enjoy the lush and extensive grounds. One can enjoy the beautiful large pool and Jacuzzi , relax in the hammocks, take a walk or ride your bike along the country roads.

This small and personal hotel can sleep a total of 20 people in 10 rooms. Breakfast is included and dinner can be made on request. For those who wish to venture into town, we are happy to arrange a taxi service.





Island Hopping and Cruise Extensions

These tours allow guests to stay in the local villages while exploring visitor sites in and around the villages, or going on day tours to nearby islands. During this time guests will have the opportunity to interact with wildlife and visit pristine areas while also experiencing a bit of the local culture. We can also customize these trips to suit individual preferences and needs.

For those who love to dive, underwater Galapagos can be as exciting and interesting as Galapagos ashore. We offer diving tours that can be added as an extension to a cruise or offered as part of an island hopping land tour.

Discover Santa Cruz in 6 Days

Code: GL-04

Duration: 6 days / 5 nights

Start / End: Baltra (Santa Cruz) / Baltra (Santa Cruz)

Activities / Highlights: Wildlife viewing, walking, hiking, snorkel in a world renown marine reserve, fishing, boat rides Los Gemelos, Tortoise Reserve, visit uninhabited islands, Tortuga Bay, Cerro Mesa Reserve, and more!

Season: All year

Included: Accommodation in double rooms, all transfers mentioned in program, all excursions and activities mentioned in itinerary, snorkeling gear on days where there is snorkeling, meals mentioned in program

Not Included: Flights to and from Galapagos, Galapagos National Park entrance fee, Migratory card fee, any extra beverages on board (anything in a bottle), wetsuit rental, tips, personal expenses

Day 1: Arrival & visit Los Gemelos & El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve

Arrival at Baltra airport where you will be met by your local guide.

Transfer over the island stopping at Los Gemelos sink holes, and then continue on to El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve for lunch. You will spend some time walking the trails of this reserve to see many giant tortoises. In the late afternoon, continue on to Puerto Ayora and check into your hotel. Evening free to explore and try one of the many local restaurants. (L)

Day 2: Full day navigable tour to one of the uninhabited islands

In the morning you will make your way to the main dock to join your tour to one of the uninhabited islands. Transfer over land to the canal where you will board the motor yacht and then head out to one of the many uninhabited islands surrounding Santa Cruz. Depending on the day of the week, will determine what island you visit. Among the islands you can visit are: North Seymour, Bartolome, South Plazas, Santa Fe. This is also the best way to get up close and personal with the wildlife as you will be away from populated areas. (B/L)

Day 3: Snorkeling and local fishing tour

We head out on the water again today, but this time for a snorkeling/fishing adventure. We will try our luck to catch some fish on our way to one of the snorkeling sites. If we are lucky and get some fish, the guide and crew will prepare a rare treat for you, fresh sashimi and a bbq made right on the boat. After some snorkeling and lunch we will head to Playa Escondida, located on the coast of Santa Cruz. This is a beautiful beach is surrounded by red mangroves and also has crystal



clear water, an excellent place to snorkel. (B/L)

Day 4: Cerro Mesa Reserve and Tortuga Bay

In the morning visit Cerro Mesa Reserve, where you will be awarded with wonderful views of Santa Cruz Island. Here there are few trail options to explore, one leading down to the bottom of a crater. Afterwards visit a trapiche farm where local caña liquor is produced, learn about the process from start to finish, and sample some yourself! From here continue on to have lunch a local restaurant in the highlands. In the afternoon return to Puerto Ayora. You will still have some time to visit the stunning Tortuga Bay Beach. Walk 2.5km on a paved path through national park arriving at a beautiful white sand beach. (B/L)

Day 5: Full day navigable tour to one of the uninhabited islands

After breakfast you will make your way to the main dock for another trip to one of the uninhabited islands (different island that the last one). During this full day trip you will have the opportunity to snorkel and walk amongst different animal species. (B/L) **Optional – this day trip can be replaced with a fishing and snorkeling tour*

Day 6: Baltra

After breakfast, you will be picked up from your hotel and driven to the canal. From there you will continue on to the airport to catch your flight back to mainland Ecuador. (B)

Discover San Cristobal in 5 Days

Code: GL-08

Duration: 5 days / 4 nights

Start / End: Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristobal) / Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristobal)

Activities / Highlights: Wildlife viewing, walking, biking, boat rides, snorkel in a world-renown marine reserve, fish for some local fish, visit an uninhabited island (Española - one of Galapagos highlights), full day boat tour to circumnavigate San Cristobal, and much more!

Season: All year

Included: Accommodation in double rooms, all transfers mentioned in program, all excursions and activities mentioned in itinerary, snorkeling gear on days where there is snorkeling, meals mentioned in program

Not included: Flights to and from Galapagos, Galapagos National Park entrance fee, Migratory card fee, any extra beverages on board (anything in a bottle), wetsuit rental, tips, personal expenses

Day 1: Arrive at San Cristobal (Puerto Baquerizo Moreno) by boat or plane

Upon arrival at San Cristobal you will make your way to your hotel to check-in. Afterwards you will have the afternoon to do a little exploring on your own. You can visit San Cristobal's Interpretation Center where you will get to see an in-depth explanation of the history of Galapagos. There are also many trails surrounding the center where you can walk through native forests and visit secluded beaches full of underwater life. The town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno is situated next to a very active sea lion colony with hundreds of resident sea lions.

Day 2: Full day navigable snorkeling tour around San Cristobal (360 Tour)

Today you get up early to catch your boat at 7:30 am to do a full 360 loop around the island. This is a complete tour full of land visits, snorkeling and even some fishing! This tour includes many stops:



Rosa Blanca famous for its many picturesque beaches, then we stop at Punta Pitt where we will view many bird species from the boat as we slowly cruise by, then we head to Sardin Bay where we will get another chance to jump in the water to see some amazing sea life. Then we disembark at Punta Pucuna for a 45 min hike with amazing views of Cerro Brujo and Kicker Rock from a distance. We get back on the boat and head towards Cerro Brujo for a short scenic ride around the rock. Finally, we head out to the famous Kicker Rock, also known as 'The Sleeping Lion' (Leon Dormido). This is a magnificent small islet in the middle of the sea, standing up to 500 feet from the ocean. The wildlife that you can observe include black tip reef sharks, white tip reef sharks, Galapagos sharks, hammerhead sharks, eagle rays, marine turtles and sea lions. (B/L) *Note: This itinerary may change slightly do to the day of the week, time of year and weather conditions.*

Day 3: Morning free / Afternoon tour to El Junco by mountain bike or 4x4

You'll have the morning free to explore the town of San Cristobal, visit one of the nearby beaches, or rent a board and catch some waves. In the afternoon you will go up to the highlands to visit el Junco Lagoon, the only permanent freshwater lake in the Galapagos. You can either travel there by 4x4 truck or by mountain bike – depending on your

interest. El Junco Lagoon is located at 659 meters above sea level and a walk along the edge of the crater gives visitors a 360 degrees view of the island. Afterwards we will visit Finca Otoy (Otoy Farm) where we will walk the bamboo forest trails and have a chance to try exotic fruits. Then we continue on to La Galapaguera: a free range tortoise breeding center managed by the Galapagos National Park. Afterwards we will go to the beautiful beach of Puerto Chino. (B/L)

Day 4: Full day navigable tour to Española Island

On this day, we venture a little further out to Española Island. First we visit Punta Suarez; from April to December the Waved Albatross make their nests here. It is also the only place in the Galapagos where you can observe this magnificent bird. The island is also home to blue-footed boobies and Nazca boobies, along with several other bird species. Then we head to Gardner Bay for snorkeling. Here there is a good chance to see rays, sharks, turtles and many more tropical fish here. On the journey back to port, there is a chance to see dolphins or whales swimming by, if we are lucky! (B/L)

Day 5: Departure

Sadly this is your last day, you will be picked up from your hotel in the morning and taken to the airport for your departure back to the mainland.

Galapagos in 6 Days – Santa Cruz and Isabela

Code: GL-12

Duration: 6 days / 5 nights

Start / End: Baltra (Santa Cruz) / Puerto Villamil (Isabela)

Highlights / Activities: Wildlife viewing, walking, hiking, fishing, bike riding, snorkel in a world renown marine reserve, Los Gemelos, Tortoise Reserve, visit an uninhabited island, Tortuga Bay, Cerro Mesa Reserve, Sierra Negra Volcano, snorkel at Tintoreras, and more!

Season: All year

Included: Accommodation in double rooms, all transfers mentioned in program, all excursions and activities mentioned in itinerary, snorkeling gear on days where there is snorkeling, meals mentioned in program

Not Included: Flights to and from Galapagos, Galapagos National Park entrance fee, Migratory card fee, any extra beverages on board (anything in a bottle), wetsuit rental, tips, personal expenses

Day 1: Arrival and visit Los Gemelos and El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve

Arrival at Baltra airport where you will be met by your local guide. Transfer over the island stopping at Los Gemelos sink holes, and then continue on to El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve for lunch. You will spend some time walking the trails of this reserve to see many giant tortoises. In the late afternoon, continue on to Puerto Ayora and check into your hotel. Evening free to explore and try one of the many local restaurants. (L)

Day 2: Full day navigable tour to one of the uninhabited islands

In the morning you will make your way to the main dock to join your tour to one of the uninhabited islands. Transfer over land to the canal where you will board the motor yacht and then head out to one of the many uninhabited islands surrounding Santa Cruz. Depending on the day of the week, will determine what island you visit. Among the islands you can visit are: North Seymour, Bartolome, South Plazas, Santa Fe. This is also the best way to get up close and personal with the wildlife as you will be away from populated areas. (B/L)

Day 3: Cerro Mesa Reserve and Tortuga Bay

In the morning you will be picked up from your hotel and driver to the highlands to visit Cerro Mesa Reserve, where you will be awarded with wonderful views of Santa Cruz Island. Here there are few trail options to explore, one leading down to the bottom of a crater. Afterwards visit a trapiche farm where local caña liquor is produced, learn about the process from start to finish, and sample some yourself! From here continue on to have lunch a local restaurant in the highlands. In the afternoon return to Puerto Ayora. You will still



have some time to visit the stunning Tortuga Bay Beach. Walk 2.5km on a paved path through national park arriving at a beautiful white sand beach. (B/L)

Day 4: Arrival on Isabela / Land visit and snorkeling at Tintoreras

You will have to be at the dock at 6:30am to board the ferry to Isabela Island. Upon arrival to the Isabella dock you will be met by your local representative and taken to your hotel to check in. After you are settled, you will visit Isote Tintoreras. This island is a unique and fragile environment formed of A'A lava and home to an abundance of wildlife. After a one-hour walk, there will be a boat ride looking for penguins, birds and other marine life. Your snorkeling adventure will be determined by the tide. Your captain and guide will take you to either La Calera or Loberia Chica. Some of the marine creatures to be observed are marine turtles, rays and colorful reef fish, starfish, and look for octopus! (B)

Day 5: Hiking Volcano Sierra Negra & Volcan Chico OR Los Tuneles

OPTION 1: Enjoy a full day hike to the second largest volcanic crater in the world, which is 6 miles wide. Continuing our trek along a landscape of lava flows and then down through the moon-like environment until we reach Volcán Chico where we will view the active fumaroles. This is a 16 km hike and takes approximately 5-6 hours depending upon your rhythm and walking abilities. Before ending our day, we will stop at Conca de Perla for a refreshing swim! B/Box-lunch)

OPTION 2: This excursion starts with a 45-minute boat ride to Roca Union where we will circumnavigate this pinnacle rock in the middle of the ocean. We will see Nazca boobies, if we are lucky, blue-footed boobies, iguanas and sea lions perched on the rock. From here we continue our journey to Los Tuneles, keeping our eye out for giant manta rays. There are natural lava bridges and arches above the water that were formed by cooling lava after an eruption of Volcano Cerro Azul many years ago. You will have the opportunity to snorkel here and take a short walk on the lava rocks. The marine life is amazing. (B/Box-lunch) ***Please note there is an extra cost for the Tuneles option.*

Day 6: Transfer to airport or ferry

After breakfast you will check out of your hotel and be transferred to either the airport or the ferry dock for you departure from Isabela Island. (B)

Santa Cruz & Cristobal Underwater Discovery – 8 Days

Code: GL-16

Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

Start / End: Baltra (Santa Cruz) / Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristobal)

Activities / Highlights: Wildlife viewing, walking, diving, scuba dive and snorkel in a world renown marine reserve, fish for some local fish, fishing, boat rides, Los Gemelos, Tortoise Reserve, Tortuga Bay, Cerro Mesa Reserve, full day boat tour to circumnavigate San Cristobal

Season: All year

Included: Accommodation in double rooms, all transfers mentioned in program, all excursions and activities mentioned in itinerary, snorkeling gear on days where there is snorkeling, all diving gear on diving days, meals mentioned in program

Not included: Flights to and from Galapagos, Galapagos National Park entrance fee, Migratory card fee, any extra beverages on board (anything in a bottle), wetsuit rental, tips, personal expenses

Day 1: Arrival & visit Los Gemelos & El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve

Arrival at Baltra airport where you will be met by your local guide. Transfer over the island stopping at Los Gemelos sink holes, and then continue on to El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve for lunch. Depending on the time, either before or after lunch you will spend some time walking the trails of this reserve, and you will have the opportunity to see many giant tortoises. In the late afternoon, continue on to Puerto Ayora and check into your hotel. Evening free to explore and try one of the many local restaurants. (L)

Day 2: Full day dive tour (2 dives)

In the morning you will make your way to the dive office to get ready for your first diving adventure. Diving in the Galapagos is a unique and special experience; there are few places in the world where you can swim along hammerhead sharks, manta rays, sea turtles, sea lions, and giants schools of fish. Today you will dive at two different dive sites – these are determined by the day of the week and by the National Park Regulations. Once you have completed your two dives, return to town for a closing

briefing and for a chance to see some of the underwater photos your guide took while you were out in the water. (B/L)

Day 3: Cerro Mesa Reserve and Tortuga Bay

In the morning visit Cerro Mesa Reserve, where you will be awarded with wonderful views of Santa Cruz Island. Here there are few trail options to explore, one leading down to the bottom of a crater. Afterwards visit a trapiche farm where local caña liquor is produced, learn about the process from start to finish, and sample some yourself! From here continue on to have lunch a local restaurant in the highlands. In the afternoon return to Puerto Ayora. You will still have some time to visit the stunning Tortuga Bay Beach. Walk 2.5km on a paved path through national park arriving at a beautiful white sand beach. (B/L)

Day 4: Snorkeling and local fishing tour

We head out on the water again today, but this time for a snorkeling/fishing adventure. We will try our luck to catch some fish on our way to one of the snorkeling sites. If we are lucky and get some fish, the guide and crew will prepare a rare treat for you, fresh sashimi and a bbq made right on the boat. After some snorkeling and lunch we will head to Playa Escondida, located on the coast of Santa Cruz. This is a beautiful beach is surrounded by red mangroves and also has crystal clear water, an excellent place to snorkel. (B/L) **This tour can be switched for a full day tour to an uninhabited island, for an extra surcharge*

Day 5: Transfer to San Cristobal

In the morning, make your way to the dock to catch your ferry to San Cristobal that departs at 7am. Upon arrival to San Cristobal you will make your way to your hotel to check-in. Afterwards you will have the rest of the day free to do a little exploring on your own. You can visit San Cristobal's Interpretation Center where you will get to see an in-depth explanation of the history of Galapagos and where it is now in terms of conservation and what is being done to protect the islands. There are also many trails surrounding the center where you can walk through native forests and visit secluded beaches full of underwater life. The town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno is situated next to a very active sea lion colony with hundreds of resident sea lions. (B)

Day 6: Full day dive tour (2 dives)

In the morning you will make your way to the dive office to get ready for



another adventure! You have another opportunity to see what Galapagos beneath the surface is all about! (B/L)

Day 7: Full day navigable snorkeling tour around San Cristobal (360 Tour)

Today you get up early to catch your boat at 7:30 am to do a full 360 loop around the island. This is a complete tour full of land visits, snorkeling and even some fishing! This tour includes many stops: Rosa Blanca, Punta Pitt, Sardin Bay, Punta Pucuna, Cerro Brujo and finally the famous Kicker Rock. The wildlife that you can observe on this trip are various sea birds, black tip reef sharks, white tip reef sharks, Galapagos sharks, hammerhead sharks, eagle rays, marine turtles, sea lions and much more. (B/L) *Note: This itinerary may change slightly do to the day of the week, time of year and weather conditions.*

Day 8: Departure

Sadly this is your last day, you will be picked up from your hotel in the morning and taken to the airport for your departure back to the mainland.

Santa Cruz, San Cristobal, Española in 8 Days

Code: GL-14

Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

Start / End: Baltra (Santa Cruz) / Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristobal)

Activities / Highlights: Wildlife viewing, walking, hiking, snorkel in a world renown marine reserve, fish for some local fish, bike riding, boat rides Los Gemelos, Tortoise Reserve, visit uninhabited islands, Tortuga Bay, Cerro Mesa Reserve, El Junco Lagoon, Puerto Chino, full day boat tour to circumnavigate San Cristobal, visit Española Island, and much more!

Season: All year

Included: Accommodation in double rooms, all transfers mentioned in program, all excursions and activities mentioned in itinerary, snorkeling gear on days where there is snorkeling, meals mentioned in program

Not included: Flights to and from Galapagos, Galapagos National Park entrance fee, Migratory card fee, any extra beverages on board (anything in a bottle), wetsuit rental, tips, personal expenses

Day 1: Arrival on Santa Cruz and visit Los Gemelos and El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve

Arrival at Baltra airport where you will be met by your local guide. Transfer over the island stopping at Los Gemelos sink holes, and then continue on to El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve for lunch. Depending on the time, either before or after lunch you will spend some time walking the trails of this reserve, and you will have the opportunity to see many giant tortoises. In the late afternoon, continue on to Puerto Ayora and check into your hotel. Evening free to explore and try one of the many local restaurants. (L)

Day 2: Full day navigable tour to one of the uninhabited islands

In the morning you will make your way to the main dock to join your tour to one of the uninhabited islands. Transfer over land to the canal where you will board the motor yacht and then head out to one of the many uninhabited islands surrounding Santa Cruz. Depending on the day of the week, will determine what island you visit. Among the islands you can visit are: North Seymour, Bartolome, South Plazas, Santa Fe. This is also

the best way to get up close and personal with the wildlife as you will be away from populated areas. You may also get to swim with a few sea lions! (B/L)

Day 3: Cerro Mesa Reserve and Tortuga Bay

In the morning you will be picked up from your hotel and driver to the highlands to visit Cerro Mesa Reserve, where you will be awarded with wonderful views of Santa Cruz Island. Here there are few trail options to explore, one leading down to the bottom of a crater. Afterwards visit a trapiche farm where local caña liquor is produced, learn about the process from start to finish, and sample some yourself! From here continue on to have lunch a local restaurant in the highlands. In the afternoon return to Puerto Ayora. You will still have some time to visit the stunning Tortuga Bay Beach. Walk 2.5km on a paved path through national park arriving at a beautiful white sand beach. (B/L)

Day 4: Snorkeling and local fishing tour

We head out on the water again today, but this time for a snorkeling/fishing adventure. We will try our luck to catch some fish on our way to one of the snorkeling sites. If we are lucky and get some fish, the guide and crew will prepare a rare treat for you, fresh sashimi and a bbq made right on the boat. After some snorkeling and lunch we will head to Playa Escondida, located on the coast of Santa Cruz. This is a beautiful beach is surrounded by red mangroves and also has crystal clear water, an excellent place to snorkel. (B/L)

Day 5: Transfer to San Cristobal / El Junco Lagoon

In the morning, make your way to the dock to catch your ferry to San Cristobal that departs at 7am. Upon arrival to San Cristobal you will make your way to your hotel to check-in (we will provide a transfer service if required). Afterwards you will have the rest of the morning free to do a little exploring on your own. In the afternoon you will go up to the highlands to visit el Junco Lagoon, the only permanent freshwater lake in the Galapagos. You can either travel there by 4x4 truck or by mountain bike – depending on your interest. El Junco Lagoon is located at 659 meters above sea level and a walk along the edge of the crater gives visitors a 360 degrees view of the island. Afterwards we will visit Finca Otoy (Otoy Farm) where we will walk the bamboo forest trails and have a chance to try exotic fruits. Then we continue on to La Galapaguera: a free range tortoise breeding center managed by the Galapagos National Park.



We'll walk the grounds in search of wild giant tortoises and learn about the efforts this center does to support their conservation. Afterwards we will go to the beautiful beach of Puerto Chino. (B)

Day 6: Full day navigable snorkeling tour around San Cristobal (360 Tour)

Today you get up early to catch your boat at 7:30 am to do a full 360 loop around the island. This is a complete tour full of land visits, snorkeling and even some fishing! This tour includes many stops: Rosa Blanca, Punta Pitt, Sardin Bay, Punta Pucuna, Cerro Brujo and finally the famous Kicker Rock. The wildlife that you can observe on this trip are various sea birds, black tip reef sharks, white tip reef sharks, Galapagos sharks, hammerhead sharks, eagle rays, marine turtles, sea lions and much more. (B/L)

Day 7: Full day navigable tour to Española Island

On this day, we venture a little further out to Española Island. First we visit Punta Suarez; from April to December the Waved Albatross make their nests here. It is also the only place in the Galapagos where you can observe this magnificent bird. The island is also home to blue-footed boobies and Nazca boobies, along with several other bird species. Then we head to Gardner Bay for snorkeling. (B/L) **Please note this tour does not operate on Sundays – we will move around days to accommodate travel dates, if need be*

Day 8: Departure

Sadly this is your last day, you will be picked up from your hotel in the morning and taken to the airport for your departure back to the mainland.

Santa Cruz and Isabela Islands in 8 Days

Code: GL-13

Duration: 8 days / 7 nights

Start / End: Baltra (Santa Cruz) / Puerto Villamil (Isabela)

Activities / Highlights: Wildlife viewing, walking, hiking, bike riding, Los Gemelos, Tortoise Reserve, visit an uninhabited island, go on a fun fishing trip, snorkel in a world renown marine reserve, Tortuga Bay, Cerro Mesa Reserve, bike ride to the tortoise center in Puerto Villamil, Sierra Negra Volcano, snorkel at Los Tuneles, and more!

Season: All year

Included: Accommodation in double rooms, all transfers mentioned in program, all excursions and activities mentioned in itinerary, snorkeling gear on days where there is snorkeling, meals mentioned in program

Not included: Flights to and from Galapagos, Galapagos National Park entrance fee, Migratory card fee, any extra beverages on board (anything in a bottle), wetsuit rental, tips, personal expenses

Day 1: Arrival and visit Los Gemelos and El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve

Arrival at Baltra airport where you will be met by your local guide. Transfer over the island stopping at Los Gemelos sink holes, and then continue on to El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve for lunch. Depending on the time, either before or after lunch you will spend some time walking the trails of this reserve, and you will have the opportunity to see many giant tortoises. In the late afternoon, continue on to Puerto Ayora and check into your hotel. Evening free to explore and try one of the many local restaurants. (L)

Day 2: Full day navigable tour to one of the uninhabited islands

In the morning you will make your way to the main dock to join your tour to one of the uninhabited islands. Transfer over land to the canal where you will board the motor yacht and then head out to one of the many uninhabited islands surrounding Santa Cruz. Depending on the day of the week, will determine what island you visit. Among the islands you can visit are: North Seymour, Bartolome, South Plazas, Santa Fe. This is also the best way to get up close and personal with the wildlife as you will be away from populated

areas. You may also get to swim with a few sea lions! (B/L)

Day 3: Cerro Mesa Reserve and Tortuga Bay

In the morning you will be picked up from your hotel and driver to the highlands to visit Cerro Mesa Reserve, where you will be awarded with wonderful views of Santa Cruz Island. Here there are few trail options to explore, one leading down to the bottom of a crater. Afterwards visit a trapiche farm where local caña liquor is produced, learn about the process from start to finish, and sample some yourself! From here continue on to have lunch a local restaurant in the highlands. In the afternoon return to Puerto Ayora. You will still have some time to visit the stunning Tortuga Bay Beach. Walk 2.5km on a paved path through national park arriving at a beautiful white sand beach. (B/L)

Day 4: Snorkeling and local fishing tour

We head out on the water again today, but this time for a snorkeling/fishing adventure. We will try our luck to catch some fish on our way to one of the snorkeling sites. If we are lucky and get some fish, the guide and crew will prepare a rare treat for you, fresh sashimi and a bbq made right on the boat. After some snorkeling and lunch we will head to Playa Escondida, located on the coast of Santa Cruz. This is a beautiful beach is surrounded by red mangroves and also has crystal clear water, an excellent place to snorkel. (B/L)

Day 5: Transfer to Isabela by ferry / Bike tour the Tortoise Breeding Center

In the morning, make your way to the dock to catch your ferry to Isabela that departs at 7am. Upon arrival in Isabela, you will be picked up from the dock and taken to your hotel for check-in. When we are ready, we will hop on our bikes and begin our bike tour that will take us to see flamingos in two different lagoons. We will visit the breeding center to see the various species of land tortoises from early hatchlings through 100 years old. After learning about our Galapagos tortoises, explore the town and finally ending with a refreshing swim and snorkel in Concha de Perla! (B)

Day 6: Snorkelling day trip to Los Tuneles

This excursion starts with a 45-minute boat ride to Roca Union where we will circumnavigate this pinnacle rock in the middle of the ocean. We will see Nazca boobies, if we are lucky, blue-footed boobies, iguanas and sea lions perched on the rock. From here we continue our journey to Los Tuneles, keeping our eye out for giant manta rays. There are natural lava bridges and arches above the water that were formed by cooling lava after an eruption of



Volcano Cerro Azul many years ago. You will have the opportunity to snorkel here and take a short walk on the lava rocks. The marine life is amazing. (B/Box-lunch)

Day 7: Full day hiking excursion to Sierra Negra Volcano

Enjoy a full day hike to the second largest volcanic crater in the world, which is 6 miles wide. Continuing our trek along a landscape of lava flows and then down through the moon-like environment until we reach Volcán Chico where we will view the active fumaroles. This is a 16 km hike and takes approximately 5-6 hours depending upon your rhythm and walking abilities. Before ending our day, we will stop at Concha de Perla for a refreshing swim! (B/Box-lunch)

Day 8: Departure

In the morning you will be taken to the dock to board the ferry back to Santa Cruz (departs at 6am). On arrival in Santa Cruz you will be met by a local representative at the dock who will escort you to your transport service that will take you back to the canal, and then to the airport for your flight back to mainland Ecuador.

Best of Galapagos in 10 Days of Island Hopping

Code: GL-17

Duration: 10 days / 9 nights

Start / End: Baltra (Santa Cruz) / Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristobal)

Activities / Highlights: Wildlife viewing, walking, hiking, snorkel in a world renown marine reserve, fishing, bike riding, boat rides, scenic flight, Los Gemelos, Tortoise Reserve, visit uninhabited islands, Tortuga Bay, Cerro Mesa Reserve, Sierra Negra Volcano, circumnavigate San Cristobal, and much more!

Season: All year

Included: Accommodation in double rooms, all transfers mentioned in program, all excursions and activities mentioned in itinerary, snorkeling gear on days where there is snorkeling, meals mentioned in program

Not included: Flights to and from Galapagos, Galapagos National Park entrance fee, Migratory card fee, any extra beverages on board (anything in a bottle), wetsuit rental, tips, personal expenses

Day 1: Arrival and visit Los Gemelos and El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve

Arrival at Baltra airport where you will be met by your local guide. Transfer over the island stopping at Los Gemelos sink holes and El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve where you will see tortoises and stop for lunch. In the late afternoon, continue on to Puerto Ayora and check into your hotel. Evening free to explore and try one of the many local restaurants. (L)

Day 2: Full day navigable tour to one of the uninhabited islands

Transfer over land to the canal where you will board the motor yacht and then head out to one of the many uninhabited islands surrounding Santa Cruz. Depending on the day of the week, will determine what island you visit. Among the islands you can visit are: North Seymour,

Bartolome, South Plazas, Santa Fe. (B/L)

Day 3: Cerro Mesa Reserve and Tortuga Bay

In the morning you will be taken to the highlands to visit Cerro Mesa Reserve, where you will be awarded with wonderful views of Santa Cruz Island and explore a few trails. Afterwards visit a trapiche farm where local caña liquor is produced. After lunch return to Puerto Ayora and you will still have some time to visit the stunning Tortuga Bay Beach. (B/L)

Day 4: Transfer to Isabela by ferry / Bike tour the Tortoise Breeding Center

In the morning, make your way to the dock to catch your ferry to Isabela that departs at 7am. Upon arrival in Isabela, you will be picked up from the dock and taken to your hotel for check-in. When we are ready, we will hop on our bikes and begin our bike tour that will take us to see flamingos, visit the breeding center to see the various species of land tortoises, explore the town and finally ending with a refreshing swim and snorkel in Concha de Perla! (B)

Day 5: Full day hiking excursion to Sierra Negra Volcano

Enjoy a full day hike to the second largest volcanic crater in the world, which is 6 miles wide, and continuing on to Volcán Chico where we will view the active fumaroles. This is a 16 km hike and takes approximately 5-6 hours depending upon your rhythm and walking abilities. Before ending our day, we will stop at Concha de Perla for a refreshing swim! (B/Box-lunch)

Day 6: Snorkeling at Tintoreras / Free afternoon to enjoy beach

Your visit begins with a short boat ride to Tintoreras. After an easy one-hour walk observing wildlife, there will be a boat ride looking for penguins, birds and other marine life. Your captain and guide will take you to either La Calera or Loberia Chica for some snorkeling. You will be back in town in time for lunch, and afterwards you have the rest of the day free to enjoy the town on your own. (B)

Day 7: Scenic flight to San Cristobal / Free afternoon

You will have some free time in the morning before you are taken to the airport to board your small flight to San Cristobal Island. You will have the afternoon to do a little exploring on your own. (B)

Day 8: Full day navigable snorkeling tour around San Cristobal (360 Tour)

This is a complete tour full of land visits, snorkeling and even some fishing! The tour includes many stops: Rosa Blanca, Punta Pitt, Sardin Bay, Punta Pucuna, Cerro Brujo and finally the famous Kicker Rock. The wildlife that you can observe on this trip are various sea birds, several types of sharks, eagle rays, marine turtles, sea lions and much more. (B/L)

Day 9: Morning free / Afternoon tour to El Junco by mountain bike or 4x4

You'll have the morning free to explore the town of San Cristobal. In the afternoon you will go up to the highlands to visit el Junco Lagoon, the only permanent freshwater lake in the Galapagos where visitors are rewarded with a 360 degrees view of the island. Afterwards we will visit Finca Otoy (Otoy Farm) where we will walk the bamboo forest trails, La Galapaguera which is a free range tortoise breeding center, and finally the beautiful beach of Puerto Chino. (B/L)

Day 10: Departure

Sadly this is your last day, you will be picked up from your hotel in the morning and taken to the airport for your departure back to the mainland.



Complete Galapagos Experience – 12 Days

Code: GL-18

Location: Galapagos Land Tours

Duration: 12 days / 11 nights

Start / End: Baltra (Santa Cruz) / Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristobal)

Activities / Highlights: Wildlife viewing, walking, hiking, snorkel in a world renown marine reserve, fish for some local fish, bike riding, boat rides, scenic flight, Los Gemelos, Tortoise Reserve, visit uninhabited islands, Tortuga Bay, Cerro Mesa Reserve, Isabela Tortoise Breeding Center, Sierra Negra Volcano, full day boat tour to circumnavigate San Cristobal, visit the island of Española, and much more!

Season: All year

Included: Accommodation in double rooms, all transfers mentioned in program, all excursions and activities mentioned in itinerary, snorkeling gear on days where there is snorkeling, meals mentioned in program

Not included: Flights to and from Galapagos, Galapagos National Park entrance fee, Migratory card fee, any extra beverages on board (anything in a bottle), wetsuit rental, tips, personal expenses

Day 1: Arrival and visit Los Gemelos and El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve

Arrival at Baltra airport where you will be met by your local guide. Transfer over the island stopping at Los Gemelos sink holes, and then continue on to El Manzanillo Tortoise Reserve for lunch. Depending on the time, either before or after lunch you will spend some time walking the trails of this reserve, and you will have the opportunity to see many giant tortoises. In the late afternoon, continue on to Puerto Ayora and check into your hotel. Evening free to explore and try one of the many local restaurants. (L)

Day 2: Full day navigable tour to one of the uninhabited islands

In the morning you will make your way to the main dock to join your tour to one of the uninhabited islands. Transfer over land to the canal where you will board the motor yacht and then head out to one of the many uninhabited islands surrounding Santa Cruz. Depending on the day of the week, will determine what island you visit. Among the islands you can visit are: North Seymour, Bartolome, South Plazas, Santa Fe. This is also the best way to get up close and personal with the wildlife as you will be away from populated areas. You may also get to swim with a few sea lions! (B/L)

Day 3: Snorkeling and local fishing tour

We head out on the water again today, but this time for a snorkeling/fishing adventure. We will try our luck to catch some fish on our way to one of the snorkeling sites. If we are lucky and get some fish, the guide and crew will prepare a rare treat for you, fresh sashimi and a bbq made right on the boat. After some snorkeling and lunch we will head to Playa Escondida, located on the coast of Santa Cruz. This is a beautiful beach is surrounded by red mangroves and also has crystal clear water, an excellent place to snorkel. (B/L)

Day 4: Cerro Mesa Reserve and Tortuga Bay

In the morning visit Cerro Mesa Reserve, where you will be awarded with wonderful views of Santa Cruz Island. Here there are few trail options to explore, one leading down to the bottom of a crater. Afterwards visit a trapiche farm where local caña liquor is produced, learn about the process from start to finish, and sample some yourself! From here continue on to have lunch a local restaurant in the highlands. In the afternoon return to Puerto Ayora. You will still have some time to visit the stunning Tortuga Bay Beach. Walk 2.5km on a paved path through national park arriving at a beautiful white sand beach. (B/L)

Day 5: Transfer to Isabela by ferry / Bike tour the Tortoise Breeding Center

In the morning, make your way to the dock to catch your ferry to Isabela that departs at 7am. Upon arrival in Isabela, you will be picked up from the dock and taken to your hotel for check-in. When we are ready, we will hop on our bikes and begin our bike tour that will take us to see



flamingos in two different lagoons. We will visit the breeding center to see the various species of land tortoises from early hatchlings through 100 years old. After learning about our Galapagos tortoises, explore the town and finally ending with a refreshing swim and snorkel in Concha de Perla! (B)

Day 6: Full day hiking tour to Sierra Negra Volcano

This tour begins with a 40-minute drive from Puerto Villamil town. Then you will begin your hike. During the first hour, the trail goes gently uphill until we reach the second largest volcanic crater in the world, which is 6 miles wide. Continuing our trek along a landscape of lava flows and then down through the moon-like environment until we reach Volcán Chico where we will view the active fumaroles. This is a 16 km hike and takes approximately 5-6 hours depending upon your rhythm and walking abilities. (B/Box-Lunch)

Day 7: Snorkeling at Tintoreras / Free afternoon to enjoy beach

This island is a unique and fragile environment formed of A'A lava and home to an abundance of wildlife. Your visit begins with a short boat ride to Tintoreras. After an easy one-hour walk observing wildlife, there will be a boat ride looking for penguins, birds and other marine life. Your captain and guide will take you to either La Calera or Loberia Chica for some snorkeling. You will be back in town in time for lunch, and afterwards you have the rest of the day free to enjoy the town on your own. (B)

Day 8: Scenic flight to San Cristobal / Free afternoon

You will have some free time in the morning before you are taken to the airport to board your small flight to San Cristobal Island. Upon arrival to San Cristobal you will make your way to your hotel to check-in. Afterwards you will have the afternoon to do a little exploring on your own. The town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno is situated next to a very active sea lion colony with hundreds of resident sea lions. At night there is hardly any space left on the beach in front of the town and it is quite a spectacle to watch. (B)

Day 9: Full day navigable snorkeling tour around San Cristobal (360 Tour)

Today you get up early to catch your boat at 7:30 am to do a full 360 loop around the island. This is a complete tour full of land visits, snorkeling and even some fishing! This tour includes many stops: Rosa Blanca, Punta Pitt, Sardin Bay, Punta Pucuna, Cerro Brujo and finally the famous Kicker Rock. The wildlife that you can observe



on this trip are various sea birds, black tip reef sharks, white tip reef sharks, Galapagos sharks, hammerhead sharks, eagle rays, marine turtles, sea lions and much more. (B/L) *Note: This itinerary may change slightly do to the day of the week, time of year and weather conditions.*

Day 10: Morning free / Afternoon tour to El Junco by mountain bike or 4x4

You'll have the morning free to explore the town of San Cristobal. In the afternoon you will go up to the highlands to visit el Junco Lagoon, the only permanent freshwater lake in the Galapagos where visitors are rewarded with a 360 degrees view of the island. Afterwards we will visit Finca Otoy (Otoy Farm) where we will walk the bamboo forest trails and have a chance to try exotic fruits. Then we continue on to La Galapaguera: a free range tortoise breeding center managed by the Galapagos National Park. Afterwards we will go to the beautiful beach of Puerto Chino. (B/L)

Day 11: Full day navigable tour to Española Island

On this day, we venture a little further out to Española Island. First we visit Punta Suarez; from April to December the Waved Albatross make their nests here. It is also the only place in the Galapagos where you can observe this magnificent bird. The island is also home to blue-footed boobies and Nazca boobies, along with several other bird species. Then we head to Gardner Bay for snorkeling. (B/L)

**Please note this tour does not operate on Sundays – we will move around days to accommodate travel dates, if need be*

Day 12: Departure

Sadly this is your last day, you will be picked up from your hotel in the morning and taken to the airport for your departure back to the mainland.

Andean Highlands Cities in the Sky





Quito

Quito, 2.850 m. high, capital of Ecuador and former Northern capital of the Inca Empire is a museum of Indian and Colonial art, beautiful cathedrals, elegant old world mansions, interesting museums, plazas and parks with statues of historical personalities, first class hotels and charming boutique hotels, delightful restaurants, fashionable shops and street markets selling a wealth of Ecuadorian jewels, arts and crafts. This fascinating city sits on a cool Andean plateau, surrounded by majestic mountains, some of which are snow-capped year round.

Please note: Entrance fees to museums, churches, etc. are not included



Tours of Quito and the surrounding areas

City Tour of Quito: A UNESCO World Heritage Site

Duration: 3 hours

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Iglesia Compañía and Quito's historical centre

Code: QC-01

Visit the colonial centre, South America's oldest capital (appx. 500 years), with its narrow streets and hanging balconies. The tour includes the Independence Plaza flanked by the presidential and archbishop palaces; and La Compañía Church with its impressive gold-leaf altar, is considered the most beautiful church in the Americas. Drive to "El Panecillo Hill" for a panoramic view of the city and admire the 45 m. high (148 ft.) statue of the "Virgen de Quito", the only Madonna with wings.

City Tour of Quito by Night

Duration: 3 hours

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, dinner

Activities/Highlights: Iglesia Compañía and Quito's historical centre, dinner at a typical restaurant

Code: QC-01a

Same as QC-01, but visiting the historical centre at night with a breath-taking view of the colonial buildings and churches all lit up. No visit inside the buildings. Dinner at a traditional Ecuadorian restaurant (D).



Visit to Quito's Archaeological and Gold Artefact

Duration: 2.5 hours

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Excellent collection of archaeological artefacts

Code: QC-02

This Museum has an outstanding collection of archaeological gold and ceramic artefacts and three dimensional displays which depict Ecuador's human history from pre-Columbian times and an anthology of paintings and sculptures from colonial to contemporary times.



Contemporary Art Tour: Half Day

Duration: 3 hours

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary

Activitiesw/Highlights: View artwork by well-known Ecuadorian artists

Code: QC-03

Admire the works of many famous Ecuadorian artists including Osvaldo Viteri and world renowned contemporary painter Osvaldo Guayasamin. Visit the folklore shop of Olga Fisch with its vast variety of tapestries, rugs, carvings, antiques and other artefacts.



Equatorial Monument: Half Day

Duration: 3 hours

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Equatorial Monument

Code: QC-04

Twenty-five kilometres (15 miles) North of Quito is the Equator Memorial at latitude 0°00', which marks the place where an 18th century expedition established the exact geodetic position of the Equator. Visit the monument, the ethnographic museum, and time permitting a visit to a private smaller museum and take part in an assortment of experiments demonstrating effects of being on the equator.



NEW Northern Ecuadorian Andes Loop: 4 Days

Duration: 4 days and 3 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, meals mentioned in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Nature and wildlife viewing, cultural encounters, markets, hiking or walking, photography, train ride, Otavalo known for weavings and handicrafts, Cotacachi for leather goods, San Antonio de Ibarra for woodcarving, Angel Ecological Reserve or train ride from Salinas, historical haciendas overnights and Indigenous community homestay.

Code: QC-11

Option One:

Otavalo-Peguche- Cotacachi-San Antonio de Ibarra-Angel Ecological Reserve

Day 1: Early departure from Quito driving through stunning mountain scenery towards Otavalo; visiting Calderon, famous for bread-dough figures, then onto the colourful Indigenous Otavalo market. We will visit a weaver in the village of Peguche; learn about her techniques and way of life before heading to Cotacachi, a town famous for its leatherwork; then onto San Antonio de Ibarra, village where woodcarving is a way of life. Lunch (not included) will be at a historical hacienda and overnight at the recently renovated Piman Hacienda, rich in cultural heritage and tucked into an oasis-like valley surrounded by arid mountains.

Day 2: After breakfast we journey north up scenic roads to the Angel Ecological Reserve. Here we explore two unique ecosystems:

The Frailejon or Espeletia forest; the Frailejon is a treelike shrub with grey-white, hairy leaves and yellow flowers, growing up to six feet and is endemic to this area of the Andes. It covers 85% of the reserve and adds to the 'paramo' or moorlands of El Angel quite a striking appearance.

The other is the Polylepis forest; this forest is said to be hundreds of years old and some trees over 2000 years. This area is one of the very few places on earth where this tree can be seen. Because of their low canopy, twisted growth pattern and striking red peeling bark these forests are described as bewitching. The genus holds the world record for growing in the highest altitudes.

The reserve is also home to many lakes and a number of important wildlife species such as: marsupial frog, Andean teal, condor, carunculated caracara, American kestrel, Andean seagull, turtledove, wild rabbit, paramo fox and deer, among others. Lunch will be at the Polylepis lodge (not included in price).

After lunch we travel to San Clemente, a small village on the hills of the Imbabura Volcano. The indigenous "Kichwa-Caranqui" families who live here are mostly dedicated to agriculture; however, in order to improve

Quito City Tour and Equatorial Monument: 1 Day

Duration: Full day

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, lunch

Activities/Highlights: Iglesia Compania and Quito's historical centre, visit the Equatorial Monument

Code: QC-05

QC-01 (Quito City Tour) combined with QC-04 (Equatorial Monument Tour) with lunch at a typical Ecuadorian restaurant. (L)

*Any of the two museum visits can be combined with the Quito city tour



Option Two: Otavalo-Peguiche- Cotacachi-San Antonio de Ibarra-Salinas Train ride

Day 1: Same as Option One

Day 2: After breakfast we travel to Ibarra to board the train for Salinas. This is a fun ride on the restored railway line. From lush green valleys and towering volcanoes, the 30 kilometre trip from Ibarra to Salinas takes its passengers through landscapes that are as diverse as they are picturesque.

Dancers greet the train in Salinas, entertaining with music, song and traditional dances. Stop to lunch at a traditional restaurant. (Not included in price)

Nearby, the Chota Valley is home to a unique cultural group here in the Andes. The Afro- Ecuadorians who live here have a lively culture of art, sculpture, distinctive cuisine, dance and the vibrant musical form known as La Bomba. These live mainly from agriculture (sugar cane and cotton). Many of Ecuador's top soccer players come from this valley of merely 20000 inhabitants.

In the afternoon, we travel to San Clemente, a small village on the hills of the Imbabura Volcano. The indigenous "Kichwa-Caranqui" families who live here are mostly dedicated to agriculture; however, in order to improve their quality of life, inhabitants of the village decided to receive tourists into their homes, sharing with their guests the Andean cultural ways, beliefs, philosophy, the Inca calendar and methods of planting and harvesting.

Here we have the opportunity to experience life with the indigenous families while living in their homes, sharing meals, working in the field, folkloric dances and story time. The homes are simple, clean and tidy, with all amenities including private bathrooms with hot and cold water. Overnight San Clemente Community. (B)

Day 3: After lunch we head to Hacienda Zuleta along a very picturesque country road. (Description same as the 3rd day on OPTION ONE)

Overnight at Hacienda Zuleta. (B)

Day 4: Enjoy all the activities Zuleta has to offer before returning to Quito. (B)

their quality of life, inhabitants of the village decided to receive tourists into their homes, sharing with their guests the Andean cultural ways, beliefs, philosophy, the Inca calendar and methods of planting and harvesting. Here we have the opportunity to experience life with the indigenous families while living in their homes, sharing meals, working in the field, folkloric dances and story time.

The homes are simple, clean and tidy, with all amenities including bathrooms with hot and cold water. Overnight at San Clemente Community. (B)

Day 3: After lunch we head to Hacienda Zuleta along a very picturesque country road. Zuleta is a colonial working farm of 4,000 acres (2,000 hectares) belonging to the family of Mr. Galo Plaza, a former president of Ecuador. It was chosen as one of the world's "Top Ten Finds" by

Outside magazine and named as one of the best Ecuador Hotels by National Geographic Traveller. The mountain setting is just magical. This is an opportunity to catch a glimpse of life on a working Hacienda.

The activities available are: strolling the beautiful gardens; horseback riding; walking or biking along the trails of the hacienda; or take a ride on the horse drawn carriage around the grounds to observe the milking, the agriculture, mountain views and the tranquil life of the community, visit the small cheese factory and the embroidery co-operative and the Condor Huasi Project to

see the Andean Condor. Good chance of spotting the Spectacled Bear on one of the hikes. Overnight at Zuleta (B)

Day 4: Enjoy all the activities Zuleta has to offer before returning to Quito.



Cuenca

The city of Cuenca, considered Ecuador's most beautiful relic, marks the beginning of the Southern Sierra; a remote and traditional region that boasts some of Ecuador's most unusual indigenous communities and the country's most famous Inca ruins.

Situated at 2560 mts., Cuenca is the third largest city in Ecuador, and is the capital of the Azuay province. Famous for its arts and crafts, cathedrals, and colonial architecture, this city is proudly listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Trust site. A pleasant drive from the city will take you to the largest Incan ruins in Ecuador, Ingapirca. Built in the 15th century, this pre-colonial fortress features magnificent mortar less stonework, indicating that this must have been an important Incan site.

Tours of Cuenca and the surrounding areas

Tour Cuenca, with its cobblestone streets and flowery plazas: Half Day

Duration: 3 hours

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Cuenca's cathedral, arts and crafts, Panama Hat factory

Code: QC-06

The Old Town is best visited on foot. Our tour takes you along the cobblestone streets admiring the historic buildings, hanging balconies, carved wooden doors, the craft fair and colorful flower market, the main plaza with the Old Cathedral, which has been converted to the Museum for Religious Art, and the magnificent blue-domed Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. See silversmiths at work and handicrafts of almost every kind. We end the tour with a visit to the Panama Hat factory.

Ingapirca, Fortress of The Incas: Half Day

Duration: 3 hours

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Inca Ruins, countryside

Code: QC-07

Early departure for the 2-hour drive to Ingapirca. On the way, we visit a toquilla weaver and stop off at the Neo-Gothic church Virgen del Rocío, perched on the side of a steep rock cliff. Ingapirca is Ecuador's most important Incan site, with the finest example of Incan stonework in Ecuador. Ingapirca was the Incan ceremonial center of the area and was built about 50 years before the arrival of the Spaniards. The guide will explain the historical significance of this complex with stone structures that surround the prominent sun temple. You will appreciate the mastery of the stonework, while enjoying the beauty of the surrounding hills and pastures.





Quito to Cuenca along the Avenue of the Volcanoes: 3 Days

Duration: 3 days and 2 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all visits and activities in itinerary, accommodation, and meals mentioned in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Cotopaxi National Park, highland railway, spectacular Andean countryside, Ingapirca, Cuenca city tour

Code: QC-08

One of Ecuador's special attractions is the highland railway, dubbed 'the most difficult railway in the world' because of a near vertical wall of rock. The solution was to carve a series of tight zig-zags out of the rock, which allows the train to go backward and forwards so as to climb 800m (2624 ft). Built at the turn of last century, it took over 35 years to complete. Sitting in the carriage, one captures the beauty of the typical Ecuadorian highlands and scenery and the patchwork of fields rising up the slopes of the Andes, while appreciating this great engineering feat.

Please Note: We are not responsible for any delays or cancellations of train service. In case the train is not operative on the day required, the tour will be completed overland.

Day 1: Leaving Quito, drive south along the Avenue of the Volcanoes visiting the Cotopaxi National Park, home to the world's highest active volcano at 5897 m (19347 ft). Here we can spot the Andean Teal, the Andean Coot, the Ecuadorian Hillstar endemic to Ecuador and the giant Andean Condor, with its 3m wingspan. Observe the low growing vegetation and typical plants of the Paramo and spectacular scenery. Depending on weather conditions and group interests, hike up to the snow line at approximately 5000 m (16400 ft). Visit to an Indigenous market is included only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. Overnight Riobamba.

Day 2: In the morning board the famous Devil's Nose train to travel through the Andean countryside; enjoying spectacular mountain scenery, while observing indigenous people at work in the patchwork of fields perched along the steep mountain face. The train ride ends in the picturesque town of Alausi. We continue on to the Incan ruins of Ingapirca, with the finest example of Incan stonework in Ecuador. Continue to Cuenca, considered by many Ecuadorians to be the most beautiful city in the country. Overnight Cuenca.

Day 3: In the morning a city tour of Cuenca. See QC-06 for description (B) Pm. Transfer to airport for flight to Quito or Guayaquil.



Quito-Cuenca Overland 'The Route of The Incas': 5 Days

Duration: 5 days and 4 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all visits and activities in itinerary, accommodation, and meals mentioned in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Cotopaxi National Park, highland railway, spectacular Andean countryside, Ingapirca, Baños, Cuenca and surroundings

Code: QC-09

Day 1: Leaving Quito, drive south along the Avenue of the Volcanoes to the Cotopaxi National Park, home to the world's highest active volcano at 5897 m (19347 ft). Here we can spot the Andean Teal, the Andean Coot, the Ecuadorian Hillstar endemic to Ecuador and the giant Andean Condor, with its 3m wingspan. Observe the low growing vegetation and typical plants of the Paramo and spectacular scenery. Depending on weather conditions and group interests, hike up to the snow line at approximately 5000 m (16400 ft).

We spend the night at a Hacienda in the area.

Day 2: Morning visit to an Indigenous market then on to the cloud forests of Baños. Accommodation at a hotel on the outskirts of Riobamba. (B)

Day 3: In the morning board the famous Devil's Nose train to travel through the Andean countryside; enjoying spectacular mountain scenery, while observing indigenous people at work in the patchwork of fields perched along the steep mountain face. The train ride ends in the picturesque town of Alausi. We continue on to the Incan ruins of Ingapirca, with the finest example of Incan stonework in Ecuador. Lunch at the ruins. Continue to Cuenca, considered by many Ecuadorians to be the most beautiful city in the country. (B)

Accommodation at one of Cuenca's colonial hotels.

Day 4: During this tour we have the opportunity to enjoy Cuenca's scenic countryside, stopping off in villages where artisans have been creating for generations. In San Bartolome we meet craftsmen making handmade guitars with the most amazing wood inlay. We visit Chordeleg famous for ceramic pottery, silver and gold filigree jewelry, in Gualaceo one can stroll around the local market learning about the local fruit, maybe taste a typical dish. In Bulcay, a family dedicated to keeping alive the dying craft of pre-Columbian Ikat weaving, will show us how these intricate patterns are created, dyed and woven.

During this tour one can observe people weaving Panama hats and other straw items. Lunch at a local Hacienda. (B) Accommodation at one of Cuenca's colonial hotels.

Day 5: AM visit Colonial Cuenca. The Old Town is best visited on foot. Our tour takes you along the cobblestone streets admiring the historic buildings, hanging balconies, carved wooden doors, the craft fair and colourful flower market, the main plaza with the Old Cathedral, which has been converted to the "Museum for Religious Art", and the magnificent blue-domed Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. See silversmiths at work and handicrafts of almost every kind. We end the tour with a visit to the "Panama Hat" factory. (B)

PM return to Quito or Guayaquil.

Quito-Cuenca by Air: 3 Days

Duration: 3 days and 2 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all visits and activities in itinerary, accommodation, and meals mentioned in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Cuenca, Panama Hat Factory, Ingapirca Ruins, artisans, villages around Cuenca

Code: QC-10

Day 1: Morning flight to Cuenca. Visit the colonial city. The Old Town is best visited on foot. Our tour takes you along the cobblestone streets admiring the historic buildings, hanging balconies, carved wooden doors, the craft fair and colourful flower market, the main plaza with the Old Cathedral, which has been converted to the "Museum for Religious Art", and the magnificent blue-domed Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. See silversmiths at work and handicrafts of almost every kind. We end the tour with a visit to the "Panama Hat" factory. Accommodation at one of Cuenca's colonial hotels.

Day 2: Early departure for the 2-hour drive to Ingapirca, Fortress of the Incas. On the way we visit a toquilla weaver and stop off at the Neo-Gothic church Virgen del Rocio, perched on the side of a steep



rock cliff. Ingapirca is Ecuador's most important Incan site, with the finest example of Incan stonework in Ecuador. Ingapirca was the Incan ceremonial center of the area and was built about 50 years before the arrival of the Spaniards. The guide will explain the historical significance of this complex with stone structures that surround the prominent sun temple. You will appreciate the mastery of the stonework, while enjoying the beauty of the surrounding hills and pastures. Accommodation at one of Cuenca's colonial hotels. (B/L)

Day 3: Cuenca Countryside and Village Tour. In the morning, we have the opportunity to enjoy Cuenca's scenic countryside, stopping off in villages where artisans have been creating for generations. In San Bartolome we meet craftsmen making handmade guitars with the

most amazing wood inlay. We visit Chordeleg famous for ceramic pottery, silver and gold filigree jewelry, in Gualaceo one can stroll around the local market learning about the local fruit, maybe taste a typical dish. In Bulcay, a family dedicated to keeping alive the dying craft of pre-Columbian Ikat weaving, will show us how these intricate patterns are created, dyed and woven.

During this tour one can observe people weaving Panama hats and other straw items. Afternoon return flight to Quito or Guayaquil. (B/L)



NEW Cuenca, Cajas National Park and more: 4 days

Duration: 4 days and 3 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all visits and activities in itinerary, accommodation, and meals mentioned in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Cuenca, Panama Hat Factory, Ingapirca Ruins, Cajas National Park, villages around Cuenca, visit a cacao or banana plantation

Code: QC-12

Day 1: Morning flight to Cuenca followed by a visit to this colonial city. The Old Town is best visited on foot. Our tour takes you along the cobblestone streets admiring the historic buildings, hanging balconies, carved wooden doors, the craft fair and colourful flower market, the main plaza with the Old Cathedral, which has been converted to the "Museum for Religious Art", and the magnificent blue-domed Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. See silversmiths at work and handicrafts of almost every kind. We end the tour with a visit to the "Panama Hat" factory. Accommodation at one of Cuenca's colonial hotels.

Day 2: Early departure for the 2-hour drive to Ingapirca, Fortress of the Incas. On the way, we visit a toquillo weaver and stop off at the Neo-Gothic church Virgen del Rocío, perched on the side of a steep rock cliff. Ingapirca is Ecuador's most important Incan site, with the finest example of Incan stonework in Ecuador. Ingapirca was the Incan ceremonial center of the area and was built about 50 years before the arrival of the Spaniards. The guide will explain the historical significance of this complex with stone structures that surround the prominent sun temple. You will appreciate the mastery of the stonework, while enjoying the beauty of the surrounding hills and pastures. Accommodation at one of Cuenca's colonial hotels. (B)

Day 3: Cuenca Countryside and Village Tour. In the morning, we have the opportunity to enjoy Cuenca's scenic countryside, stopping off in villages where artisans have been creating for generations. In San Bartolome, we meet craftsmen making handmade guitars with the most amazing wood inlay. We visit Chordeleg famous for ceramic pottery, silver and gold filigree jewelry, in Gualaceo one can stroll around the local market learning about the local fruit, maybe taste a typical dish. In Bulcay, a family dedicated to keeping alive the dying craft of pre-Columbian Ikat weaving, will show us how these intricate patterns are created, dyed and woven.

During this tour one can observe people weaving Panama hats and other straw items. (B)

Day 4: Early departure to visit The Cajas National Park. The highlight is a walk or drive, through the park (3050m-4450m. high or 10000 ft-14600 ft) to admire the amazing variety of ecosystems. A stunning area of 28300 hectares (70000 acres) with about 270 glacier lakes and lagoons. Many plant species are endemic to the paramo or moorlands of the Cajas. Above 3000m. (9800 ft.) we find the bewitching Polylepis forest with its red peeling bark and in the lower parts of the park, the cloud forest.

The Park is home to a number of important wildlife species: the condor, the Curiqingue, the violet-throated metaltail, endemic to Cajas and surrounding valleys and the largest hummingbird in the world. Good chance of spotting deer, alpaca, llama, the elusive puma, fox and rabbits. Forty-four mammalian species have been identified in the park. At least seventeen species of amphibians live around the lagoons of Cajas. On our way to Guayaquil, we will enjoy a picnic lunch before visiting a cacao plantation or a banana plantation. Both these crops are significant to Ecuador's economy. (B)



NEW Cajas National Park: 1 Day

Duration: 1 day

Included: Bilingual guide, all visits and activities in itinerary, lunch at Hosteria Dos Chorreras

Activities/Highlights: Hiking or walking, variety of ecosystems, glacier lakes and lagoons, paramo (moorlands) of Cajas, Polylepis forest, wildlife

Code: QC-13

The highlight this day is hiking, walking or driving through the Cajas National park (3050m-4450m. high or 10000 ft-14600 ft) to admire the amazing variety of ecosystems. A stunning area of 28300 hectares (70000 acres) with about 270 glacier lakes and lagoons.

Many plant species are endemic to the paramo or moorlands of the Cajas, the dominant one being the straw grass. Above 3000 m. (9800 ft.) we find the "bewitching" Polylepis forest with its red peeling bark

and in the lower parts of the park, the cloud forest.

The Park is home to a number of important wildlife species: the condor, the Curiquingue, the violet-throated metal tail, endemic to Cajas and surrounding valleys and the largest hummingbird in the world. Good chance of spotting deer, alpaca, llama, the elusive puma, fox and rabbits. Forty-four mammalian species have been identified in the park. At least seventeen species of amphibians live around the lagoons of Cajas. (L)



NEW Cuenca City and Surrounding Villages: 1 Day

Duration: 1 day

Included: Bilingual guide, all visits and activities in itinerary, lunch at a local hacienda

Activities/Highlights: Touring Cuenca's historical centre, visit local villages, lunch at local Hacienda, Panama Hat Factory, handmade guitars of San Bartolome, ceramics and jewelry of Chordeleg, fruit market of Gualaceo, pre-Columbian Ikat weaving of Bulcay

Code: QC-14

In the morning you will visit the city of Cuenca, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Old Town is best visited on foot. Our tour takes you along the cobblestone streets admiring the historic buildings, hanging balconies, carved wooden doors, the craft fair and colourful flower market, the main plaza with the Old Cathedral, which has been converted to the Museum for Religious Art, and the magnificent blue-domed Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. See silversmiths at

work and handicrafts of almost every kind. We end the tour with a visit to the Panama Hat factory.

After the city tour you will have lunch at a local Hacienda. Then we will head out of the city where you will have the opportunity to enjoy Cuenca's scenic countryside, stopping off in villages where artisans have been creating for generations. In San Bartolome, we meet craftsmen making handmade guitars with the most amazing wood inlay. We visit Chordeleg famous for ceramic pottery, silver and gold filigree jewelry, in Gualaceo one can stroll around the local market learning about the local fruit, maybe taste a typical dish. In Bulcay, a family dedicated to keeping alive the dying craft of pre-Columbian Ikat weaving, will show us how these intricate patterns are created, dyed and woven.

During this tour one can observe people weaving Panama hats and other straw items. (L)

NEW Cuenca Countryside and Village Tour: Half Day

Duration: 4 hours

Included: Bilingual guide, all visits and activities in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Handmade guitars of San Bartolome, ceramics and jewelry of Chordeleg, fruit market of Gualaceo, pre-Columbian Ikat weaving of Bulcay

Code: QC-15

During this tour, we have the opportunity to enjoy Cuenca's scenic countryside, stopping off in villages where artisans have been creating for generations. In San Bartolome, we meet craftsmen making handmade guitars with the most amazing wood inlay. We visit Chordeleg famous for ceramic pottery, silver and gold filigree jewelry, in Gualaceo one can stroll around the local market learning about the local fruit, maybe taste a typical dish. In Bulcay, a family dedicated to keeping alive the dying craft of pre-Columbian Ikat weaving, will show us how these intricate patterns are created, dyed and woven. During this tour one can observe people weaving Panama hats and other straw items. Lunch at a local Hacienda.





Andean Markets

Colorful Markets and Elaborate Handicrafts

Markets are a way of life in Ecuador. Somewhere, on any given day, there is sure to be a colorful market on display in some quaint town square. The settings can be truly breathtaking, with towering volcanoes keeping watch from above.

There are many specialty markets, with towns renowned for their specific handicraft, such as Cotacachi for its leather goods, or Pujili for its ceramics, or markets with a wide range of Indian goods like colorful Saquisilí, which includes an animal market.



Market Tours in the Highlands

Saquisilí Market, a colorful view of native life: 1 Day

Duration: 1 days, Thursdays

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, lunch

Activities/Highlights: Animal market, handicrafts, lunch at Hacienda

Code: MK-01

Two hours South of Quito sits the town of Saquisilí with one of the most colorful and complete Indian markets in Ecuador. The whole town is a market on this day and one can walk around, shopping for handicrafts of all kinds. Especially attractive is the animal market. Lunch served at La Cienega, a 300-year-old restored hacienda, now a beautiful country inn. After lunch explore the gardens of the hacienda, or stroll along the country lanes. Late afternoon departure back to Quito. (L)

Pujilí Market, an authentic market known for its ceramics: 1 Day

Duration: 1 day (Sundays and Wednesdays)

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, lunch

Activities/Highlights: Ceramics, wooden masks, colorful market, lunch at Hacienda

Code: MK-02

Departing from Quito to the South for some 90 km is Pujilí, a town known for its ceramics. Many Indians gather here, with their llamas loaded with colorful fruits, vegetables and other goods. Visit this picturesque scene and enjoy the taste of a real Andean market. Lunch at La Cienega, a 300-year-old restored hacienda, now a beautiful country inn. Return to Quito in the afternoon. (L)

Zumbahua Market, a typical mountain market: 1 Day

Duration: Full day (Saturdays)

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, box-lunch

Activities/Highlights: Desolate Andean terrain, indigenous market, Quilotoa crater lake

Code: MK-03

Start very early in the morning going along the Avenue of the Volcanoes. Reaching the city of Latacunga, we turn towards Pujili and then up the old road to the coast. Here we see the desolate Andean terrain with an occasional shepherd in the distance. Zumbahua is a typical mountain market where llamas and riding horses are traded. After the market, we visit Quilotoa lake, which is a beautiful aquamarine-colored crater lake. From the crater rim, the view of the surrounding countryside is spectacular. PM return to Quito. (BXL)



Otavalo Market, one of South America's most famous: 1 Day

Duration: 1 day (daily)

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, lunch

Activities/Highlights: Weavings, indigenous communities, lunch at local restaurant

Code: MK-04

In a very packed day, visit Otavalo and Peguche, towns known for their weavings and for some of the best handicrafts in the country. Continue on to Cotacachi, known for its leather goods. Lunch at a local restaurant. Along the way, see the fascinating agricultural mosaic of rural Ecuador. (L)

Note: When this tour is run on Saturday, visit the famed Otavalo Market.





Otavalo Market and Countryside Tour: 2 Days

Duration: 2 days and 1 night (starts Fridays or Saturdays)

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, meals mentioned in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Calderon's bread doll village, weavings, leather town, beautiful landscape

Code: MK-05

Day 1: Travel North to Calderon, town famous for its bread dough figures, then on to San Pablo lake via the Eastern side of Mt. Imbabura, passing through picturesque Indian villages. Overnight at a hacienda.

Day 2: Market day at Otavalo: excellent shopping for weavings and sweaters and a delight for the photographer. Then on to Cuicocha crater lake. Hike around the area. Visit the town of Cotacachi, known for its leather crafts. Late afternoon return to Quito, with a stop at the Equator en route. (B)

Note: The order of the activities may be inversed, depending on departure day.

Spend three days exploring the Imbabura province: 3 Days

Duration: 3 days and 2 nights (starts Thursdays, Fridays or Saturdays)

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Calderon's bread doll village, ruins, market, weavings, leather village, beautiful landscape

Code: MK-06

Day 1: Travel North to Calderon, town famous for its bread dough figures, then visit the pre-Inca ruins of Cochasqui, before arriving to San Pablo lake via the Eastern side of Mt. Imbabura, passing through picturesque Indian villages. Overnight at a hacienda.

Day 2: A visit to one of the weaving communities, then on to Cuicocha crater lake. Hike around the area. Visit the town of Cotacachi, known for its leather crafts. Overnight at a hacienda. (B)

Day 3: Market day at Otavalo: excellent shopping for weavings and sweaters and a delight for the photographer. In the afternoon, stop at the Equator line before returning to Quito. (B)
Note: The order of the activities may be varied according to departure day, in order to accommodate the visit to the Otavalo market.





Visit a highland market, Salasaca weavers, and Baños: 2 Days

Duration: 2 days and 1 night

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, meals mentioned in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Indian market, Salasaca weavers, Baños, thermal springs

Code: MK-07

Day 1: Depending on the day of the week we will visit a different Indian market, then stop at the Salasaca Indian weavers before descending to Baños, where we spend the night.

Day 2: Up early for a soak in a thermal spring at the foot of Mt. Tungurahua. Hike along the slopes of the Pastaza River canyon in the cloud forest with its waterfalls, lush vegetation and many species of birds. Afternoon return to Quito. (B)

Optional: MK-01, 02 and 03 may be extended to two-day programs. The first day visit Cotopaxi with overnight at a Hacienda and the second day visit an Indian market. MK-01 & 02 may be altered upon request to have a box lunch and continue on to Cotopaxi volcano or Quilotoa crater lake. The scenery en route is spectacular, with desolate Andean countryside cultivated by indigenous communities, as they did centuries ago.



NEW Cotopaxi National Park, Zumbahua Market, Quilotoa Lake: 2 Days

Duration: 2 days and 1 night - Friday/Saturday or Saturday/Sunday

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, meals mentioned in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Mountain market, Cotopaxi Volcano, Quilotoa Crater Lake, walking/hiking

Code: MK-08

Day 1: Leaving Quito, drive south along the Avenue of the Volcanoes visiting the Cotopaxi National Park, home to the world's highest active volcano at 5897 m (19347 ft). Here we can spot the Andean Teal, the Andean Coot, the Ecuadorian Hillstar endemic to Ecuador and the giant Andean Condor, with its 3m wingspan. Observe the low growing vegetation and typical plants of the Paramo and spectacular scenery. Depending on weather conditions and group interests, hike up to the snow line at approximately 5000 m (16400 ft). Overnight at Hacienda.

Day 2: Start very early in the morning going along the Avenue of the Volcanoes. Reaching the city of Latacunga, we turn towards Pujili and then up the old road to the coast. Here we see the really desolate Andean terrain with an occasional shepherd and oxen at work. Zumbahua is a typical mountain market where llamas and riding horses are traded. After the market, we continue to Quilotoa. This is a volcanic crater filled by a dazzling aquamarine lake. From its rim the view of the surrounding volcanoes is breathtaking. Also, for the adventurous, the hike down the steep winding trail to the lake is really worthwhile. Picnic lunch. PM return to Quito. (B/PL)



NEW Pujili Market and Cotopaxi National Park: 2 Days

Duration: 2 days and 1 night – Tuesday and Wednesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Saturday and Sunday or Sunday and Monday

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Pujili Market and ceramics, lunch at 300-year-old hacienda, Cotopaxi National Park, walking/hiking, nature viewing, photography

Code: MK-09

Day 1: Departing from Quito to the South for some 90 km is Pujili, a town known for its ceramics. Many Indians gather here, with their llamas loaded with colorful fruits, vegetables and other goods. Visit this picturesque scene and enjoy the taste of a real Andean market. Overnight at Hacienda.

Day 2: We visit the Cotopaxi National Park, home to the world's highest active volcano at 5897 m (19347 ft.). Here we can spot the Andean Teal, the Andean Coot, the Ecuadorian Hillstar endemic to Ecuador and the giant Andean Condor, with its 3m wingspan. Observe the low growing vegetation and typical plants of the Paramo and spectacular scenery. Depending on weather conditions and group interests, hike up to the snow line at approximately 5000 m (16400 ft.). (B)
PM return to Quito.

NEW Saquisilí Market and Cotopaxi National Park: 2 Days

Duration: 2 days and 1 night – Wednesday and Thursday or Thursday and Friday

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Animal market at Saquisilí, lunch at 300-year-old hacienda, Cotopaxi National Park

Code: MK-10

Day 1: Two hours South of Quito sits the town of Saquisilí with one of the most colorful and complete Indian markets in Ecuador. The whole town is a market on this day and one can walk around, shopping for handicrafts of all kinds. Especially attractive is the animal market. Lunch served at La Cienega, a 300-year-old restored hacienda, now a beautiful country inn. After lunch explore the gardens of the hacienda, or stroll along the country lanes. Overnight at La Cienega.

Day 2: We visit the Cotopaxi National Park, home to the world's highest active volcano at 5897 m (19347 ft.). Here we can spot the Andean Teal, the Andean Coot, the Ecuadorian Hillstar endemic to Ecuador and the giant Andean Condor, with its 3m wingspan. Observe the low growing vegetation and typical plants of the Paramo and spectacular scenery. Depending on weather conditions and group interests, hike up to the snow line at approximately 5000 m (16400 ft.). (B)
PM return to Quito.



Adventure



The adventure starts here, where it finishes is up to you

The Enchanted Expeditions Adventure Tours are set up for the more intrepid explorer. Ecuador is able to provide a varied and exhilarating experience from the ambitious beginner to even the highly experienced adventurer.

From trekking to hiking to white water rafting, Ecuador offers an adventure for anyone. The magnificent mountain peaks, plunging valleys, and rolling hills will match your experience with truly magnificent scenery. Not to forget is the rich cultural heritage of Ecuador that will be ever present on whatever tour you chose to travel.



Trekking Tours

Ecuador offers some of the most accessible and varied treks in South America, from high paramo vegetation to sub-tropical forests. Dependent on experience and time available, we try to tailor our treks to meet our clients' interests. We have included here three of our most popular treks, which vary in terrain and scenery.

Technical information applicable to all trekking tours

Each trekking party will be in the competent hands of an experienced Group Leader who will be assisted by several local staff to help with the pack animals and campsites. We provide high quality equipment including a complete camp kitchen, 2-person tents and all accessories such as water purification equipment, compasses, altimeters and topographical maps. In most instances, we use pack mules to carry our equipment. All the programs place the trekker in intimate contact with Mother Nature, generally at substantial elevations above sea level. Attire, to be supplied by the trekker, should include clothing appropriate to all weather conditions, from warm sunny afternoons to chilly, damp (or wet) mornings and evenings. A polar jacket with a rain poncho (or Goretex rain gear), a sleeping bag, hat, sunglasses, insect repellent, personal toiletry articles and sunblock are absolutely essential for a comfortable stay and in order to enjoy your holiday to the utmost.

Trekking Tour Descriptions

Trek Along the Old Inca Trail: 5 Days (a favorite)

Duration: 5 days and 4 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation (in two-person tents during trek), meals mentioned in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: Trekking, Ingapirca Ruins, rural villages, Cuenca

Code: TK-01

Explore the ancient road network of the Incas and their ruins while getting to know the contemporary way of life of the Indian peasants that live in this area.

Day 1: From Quito, travel by private transportation through the Avenue of the Volcanoes, passing such snow-capped giants as Cotopaxi (5.897m), Illinizas (5.263m) and the tallest peak in Ecuador, Chimborazo (6.310m). On the way to Alausi, from where a small steep mountain road leads to Achupallas (3.400m), we pass through several communities where the biggest and most colorful Indian markets in the country are held on specific days each week: Saquisilí (Thursdays), Latacunga (Tuesdays/Saturdays) and Ambato (Mondays). Lunch provided. Dinner prepared at overnight campsite near Achupallas. (L/D)

Day 2: Awaken in an area which has not changed much in the last five centuries, and begin the trek to Ingapirca. The Inca road follows Rio Cadrul through hilly country on the way to Laguna de las Tres Cruces, passing Cerro Callana Pucara on the West and the pyramidal Cerro Mapaihuana (4.365m) to the East. To reach the lagoon, pass through a natural rock arch and cross the river before climbing to 4.000m. From this point it is only a few kilometers to the lagoon and campsite. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are prepared by our staff. (B/L/D)

Day 3: Breakfast. Continue Southward through a mountainous pass with fantastic views of Laguna Sanshavin and Cerro Quilloloma. Follow the ancient road to Laguna Culebrillas and the nearby Inca ruins at Paredones, arriving two hours later. Pitch camp and dinner under the stars near the quarry from which the Incas mined Diorite, the igneous stone used in the construction of Ingapirca. (B/L/D)

Day 4: Morning devoted to the trek to Ingapirca along a portion of the Inca road, which is up to 7 meters wide. Lunch. Exploration of ruins, visit the on-site museum and question local guides about Incan culture. Private transportation to the charming colonial city of Cuenca for dinner and hotel accommodation. (B/L/D)

Day 5: In the morning a city tour of Cuenca. Lunch. Fly to Quito. (B/L)





Trek from the Chimborazo to the Carihuairazo: 5 Days

Duration: 5 days and 4 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation (in two person tents at campsites), breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Trekking, Chimborazo, paramo vegetation, Baños

Code: TK-02

This trek will bring us near to the famous Mt. Chimborazo, the highest peak in Ecuador (6,310m / 20,703ft) and Carihuairazo (5,020m / 16,471ft), its sister volcano. Both snowcapped volcanoes are very well known among mountain climbers, but hiking around in

this area for a few days will be an unforgettable experience as well. Our trek will pass between the two mountains among the typical “paramo” vegetation, allowing for great views of these and other volcanic peaks, like Tungurahua in the east and El Altar in the southeast.

Day 1: Private transportation from Quito 150 kilometers South on the Panamerican Highway, also known as the Avenue of the Volcanoes, to our first camp near Mochapata. On the way down visit a typical Indian market. (L)

Day 2: Breakfast. AM hike through beautiful highland vegetation. Set base camp around midday. PM hike to Cerro Negro close to the Mt. Carihuairazo glaciers. Pack animals will carry our gear to all

campsites. (B)

Day 3: Continue westward, crossing Quebrada (ravine) Aucacan. Set up camp early afternoon. Many interesting side-trips. (B)

Day 4: Hike to the area around Nido de los Condores (Condor’s nest) on the old route to Chimborazo. Possibly see the enormous, ecologically important birds (Vultur gryphus). By midday reach El Arenal. Drive to Chimborazo refuge. Hike. Drive to Baños (1800m), known as the gate way to the jungle. Hotel accommodation in Baños. (B)

Day 5: Visit Baños and its surroundings (subtropical, lush vegetation, waterfalls). Return to Quito. (B)



Trekking in the Vilcabamba Valley: 5 Days

Trekking in the Vilcabamba Valley; famous for the longevity of its residents

Duration: 5 days and 4 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation (in two person tents at campsites), or rustic refuge close to Podocarpus National Park, meals mentioned. (airfare not included)

Activities/Highlights: Trekking, Vilcabamba: Podocarpus National Park, Vilcabamba, tree canopy tour

Code: TK-03

This trekking tour begins in the valley of Vilcabamba (Podocarpus National Park), 50 km from the provincial capital Loja, in Ecuador's most southerly province on the Peruvian border. The valley, at 1500 m, lies in hill country where the peaks generally only rise to 3500 m. In place of snowcapped mountains, the area offers lush vegetation

and a mild, warm climate as well as a highly varied animal population. The sights, sounds and aromas in this highland environment equate those of the teeming jungle but without the humidity. Aside from its untouched natural beauty, the Vilcabamba Valley is known in the scientific world for the large number of native people who live well past the age of 100. The climate, the total absence of industry and the clearest, purest water in South America all contribute to this longevity.

Day 1: We take the early morning flight to the city of Loja. Our 2 1/2-hour bus trip to the valley of Vilcabamba will take us through areas growing coffee, tea, sugar cane, papaya and passion fruit, among other crops. Our destination is a charming cabaña resort close to the community of Vilcabamba, where we will receive a warm welcome and brunch. The afternoon will be devoted to local excursions. Dinner and overnight accommodation at the cabaña resort. (L/D)

Day 2: By the time we have eaten our breakfast, the pack animals will be loaded and ready for the journey. We start on a southeasterly uphill

course to reach our goal for today; the Las Palmas reserve located between Cerro Los Helechos (3175m) and Cerro Cresta de Gallo (3658m). Trails explore parts of the midrange cloud forests and lead to the Las Palmas waterfalls. Box-lunch en route. Participants will be grateful for a good rest while our staff prepare dinner. (B/L.D)

Day 3: An ancient trail, frequented by animals crossing the Cordillera, leads up to one of Vilcabamba's "sacred lakes" providing the only natural and undestroyed access to the Podocarpus National Park lake & paramo regions from Vilcabamba. PM back to our base camp/refuge at Las Palmas. (B/L.D)

Day 4: A hike through the cloud forest, including a visit to some more waterfalls and a tree canopy tour; a zip line into the tree tops, two aerial bridges and a zip back out. All safety equipment is provided! PM back to the village and last night in Vilcabamba. (B/L.D)

Day 5: We return to Quito by air. (B)

Walking from North to South: 13 Days

Duration: 13 days and 12 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation; breakfast, (airfare Cuenca-Quito not included)

Activities/Highlights: Walking, Cotopaxi National Park, Andean scenery, Baños, overnights at typical Haciendas

Code: WK-01

This tour provides the opportunity for a close-up view of the authentic rural Ecuador: as you walk on back roads, between the tilled fields, you can observe the indigenous women washing their clothes in the rivers, the ancient agricultural methods used, as well as experience the sights, smells and sounds of life in rural Ecuador. A knowledgeable resident naturalist guide will accompany you on this extraordinary journey on foot through the highlands of Ecuador.

The journey begins in Quito, the capital city, initially heading to the northern Province of Imbabura. Walking 4 to 6 hours daily on trails and back roads you get a firsthand experience of life in the Andean highlands. The scenery is breathtakingly beautiful, and you will visit areas such as Cuicocha Lake, Zuleta and San Pablo. Overnight accommodations are at traditional Ecuadorian haciendas that have been converted into charming hotels.

After 3 nights in this area, return to Quito for one night. The journey then continues to the South along the "Avenue of the Volcanoes" to Cotopaxi National Park at the foot of Cotopaxi, which at 5897 m is considered the highest active volcano in the world. Depending on weather conditions, either hike up to the refuge at 4800 m or walk at lower elevations within the park. This area is striking with its almost equatorial glaciers and its tundra-like vegetation. With a bit of luck, you may also be able to observe the typical wildlife of the park. Accommodation for two nights in this area is in the Hacienda La Cienega, one of the oldest haciendas in Ecuador.

The next leg of the tour takes you to Baños, situated at the base of the Tungurahua volcano, 1800 m above sea level. The dramatic change from highland vegetation to lush subtropical flora is fascinating and one of the highlights of this excursion. From here the tour continues to the South to Ingapirca, one of the most important Inca ruins in Ecuador. This area is fascinating for its historical significance as well as its landscape which, while being in the highlands, is very different from the scenery experienced further north.

Note: This tour can also be custom-designed and/or shortened, in accordance with the clients' wishes and time availability. Please contact our office for more information.





Mountaineering Tours

The adventure starts here, where it finishes is up to you.

Ecuador offers some of the most accessible and varied treks in South America, from high paramo vegetation to The Andean mountain range stretches from the North to the South of the country. With over thirty volcanoes and one of the largest concentrations of active volcanoes in the world, Ecuador has something to offer to every would-be climber, from the enthusiastic beginner to the highly experienced.

With proper acclimatization, any of these summits can be conquered. With the different climatic zones, good climbing is possible all the year round.

Lastly, a note on equipment: we provide climbing boots, crampons, ice axe, harness and rope. You should bring Fleece Jacket, Gore-Tex Parka, Gore-Tex Pants or Bib, Gaiters, Glove Liners, Wool Gloves/Mitts, Gore-Tex Over-mitts, trekking shoes, Cap/Hat, Balaclava, Headlamp, Glacier Glasses, Backpack, Sleeping Bag, Outer Socks, Long Underwear, One-Liter Poly Bottles, Insulated Mug with snap lid, sun cream (40), Trekking/Ski Poles, Personal Toilet/First Aid Kit, Camera with extra batteries. (All equipment can also be rented at an additional cost).

Mountaineering Tour Descriptions

Climbing the Pichincha, North Illiniza and Cotopaxi mountains: 5 Days

Duration: 5 days / 4 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Climbing, impressive mountains and landscape

Code: MO-03

Day 1: Acclimatization: Pichincha (4794m /15,724ft)

We take our first acclimatization ascent to the 4794m (15,724ft) peak of the active volcano Guagua Pichincha. Quito is nestled in the valley of this active volcano. Our primary goal here is to help each team member to begin testing his or her response to higher elevation and to give our bodies a chance to get used to the altitude, while enjoying the many photographic opportunities. Afternoon drive back to Quito.

Day 2: Acclimatization: Illiniza North Refuge (4600m/15,092ft)

After breakfast we will have a mid-morning departure to the Illinizas. We travel as far as the takes us, which is to an area called the Virgin. From here it is a 3 hour hike up to the refuge, located at 4600m. (B)

Day 3: Illiniza North (5.125m/16,815ft)

Wake-up early, eat breakfast, and depart for our 5,000m+ summit attempt on North Illiniza. This peak is normally a straight forward climb that sometimes requires the use of fixed rope. It takes around three hours to reach the summit. After our descent, private 4x4 transportation will take us to the hotel near Cotopaxi volcano. (B)

Day 4: Cotopaxi (4600m/14,924ft)

Mid-morning departure from La Estación on the Panamerican Highway southbound where we will cross a



rich green and fertile valley, commonly referred to as “The Valley of the Volcanoes”. After half an hour, we head east into the Cotopaxi National Park. From the parking area, located at 4600m (14,924ft.), we take a forty-five- minute hike with full packs up to the Jose Rivas Refuge on the flank of Cotopaxi at 4800m (15,744ft.) Upon arrival at the hut, we will enjoy a hot tea and a short rest before heading out to the glacier for an afternoon of technical training and equipment familiarization. Back to the refuge, dinner and then early to bed at 6:30 pm. (B)

Day 5: Cotopaxi (5.897m/19.348ft)

Wake up at midnight. Breakfast and equipment check- up. We leave the refuge at 1:00 am. We will pass a group of uniform slopes and ice ramps of 30 and 35 degrees before reaching a glacier platform. We enjoy one of the most spectacular color displays in the Andes. From this point, we see the valley below us where the morning sunrise welcomes us with incredible colors. Our route will pass under a base of rock 400 feet wide called Yanasacha. The Indians called it the route of the moon. Here we begin climbing glacier slopes of 35 and 45 degrees; at the top of which, after 15 more minutes of climbing we will reach Ecuador’s second highest summit: Cotopaxi Volcano at 5897m (19,427ft.) Our approximate climbing time will be 7 hours. Return to the refuge around 9 or 10:00 am. Rest and drive to La Cienega, a beautiful country-side hacienda located at the base of Cotopaxi. PM return to Quito. (B)



Climb along the Avenue of the Volcanoes: 15 Days

Duration: 15 days and 14 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Climb Imbabura, Illiniza North, Cotopaxi, and Chimborazo mountains

Note: For Beginners in good physical shape

Code: MO-04

Day 1: Meet at the airport and transfer to Hotel Sierra Madre (or similar) Accommodation at Hotel Sierra Madre (or similar).

Day 2: AM Colonial Quito City Tour with Equatorial Line. Our guide will get in touch with you in order to establish pick up time. Accommodation at Sierra Madre (B). PM – (17H00) Our climbing crew will meet clients for a briefing (all guides are members of the ASEGUM, the Ecuadorian mountain guide association). They will get in touch with you in order to establish exact time.

Day 3: Drive to Otavalo, hiking Cuicocha lake. Accommodation Hostería Chorlaví (B).

Day 4: Climb Imbabura. PM Back to Quito and accommodation at Sierra Madre or similar (B)

Day 5: Mid-morning departure for Mt. Illinizas. Travelling South on the Avenue of the volcanoes. From the Illinizas parking area called “the virgin”, it is a 3 hour hike up to the refuge, situated at 4600m. (B).

Day 6: Wake up early, eat breakfast and depart for the 5000 m summit attempt on Illiniza North. After our descent, private 4x4 transportation will take us to La Estación hotel, situated in Machachi. (B).

Day 7: Depart in the morning to the Cotopaxi National Park. Hiking in the park and driving up to the Cotopaxi parking area from where we have a 45 minute hike up to the Jose Rivas refuge. After a short rest, a technical training session is scheduled (B).

Day 8: Cotopaxi Glacier School day. We continue adjusting to altitude and acclimatizing. After 5 hours training we return to the refuge. Preparing mountain gear for a midnight departure for Mt. Cotopaxi summit (B)

Day 9: AM Climb Cotopaxi. PM Drive to Riobamba, our 4WD will bring us to the Hostería Abraspungo for overnight (B).

Day 10: Resting day in Riobamba. Accommodation al Hostería Abraspungo (B).

Day 11: Drive Mt. Chimborazo, exercises. Refuge. (B).

Day 12: Climb Chimborazo. PM Drive Baños. Accommodation at Hotel in Baños (B)

Day 13: Spare summit day or activities in Baños. Accommodation at Hotel in Baños (B).

Day 14: AM Free in Baños. PM Back to Quito. Accommodation at Sierra Madre or similar (B).

Day 15: Transfer from hotel to the airport and international flight (B).





Horseback Riding Tours

Horseback riding through the highlands of Ecuador is an unforgettable experience. As you ride on back roads, between the tilled fields, you can observe the indigenous women washing their clothes in the rivers, the ancient agricultural methods used, as well as experience the sights, smells and sounds of life in rural Ecuador.



Horseback Riding Tour Descriptions

Horseback Riding in the Ecuadorian Highlands

Duration: Varied

Code: HS-01

We can tailor horseback riding tours ranging from a half-day to several days long, in accordance with your specific interests.

Please contact us for more information if you are interested in this unique experience.





White Water Rafting

Many of Ecuador's rivers can be run year round, other more technical ones are only navigable during certain seasons. The Toachi and Blanco rivers are a fantastic introduction to the rivers in Ecuador. Flowing off the coastal side of the Andes, these rivers have some of the longest navigable sections of white water in the country. Combine this with the sights and sounds of the forest environment we pass through and you are guaranteed a time to remember.

White Water Rafting Tour Descriptions

Toachi & Blanco Rivers: 1 Day

Duration: 1 day

Included: Rafting guide, all activities in itinerary, meals mentioned in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: White water rafting, picnic lunch

Code: RA-01

Leave Quito very early in the morning, drive west down through beautiful cloud forest to the shores of the river. Trip takes 2-3 hours depending on which section of the river we are going to run - water levels change throughout the year so we choose the best section at the time of your trip with safety and enjoyment as our priorities. Picnic lunch at river bank. Back in Quito at approx. 7 pm. (BXL)

The Headwaters Run: 2 Days

Duration: 2 days and 1 nights

Included: Rafting guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Quijos river rafting, jungle scenery

Code: RA-03

The Quijos river is set to become Ecuador's premier white water trip with mile after mile of class IV-IV+ rapids and spectacular jungle scenery. Expect to run more white water in a day than you'd do in a week elsewhere. This trip is for experienced rafters that are confident swimmers.

Two days of Rafting along the Toachi & Blanco Rivers: 2 Days

Duration: 2 days and 1 nights

Included: Rafting guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, meals mentioned in itinerary

Activities/Highlights: White water rafting, picnic lunch

Code: RA-02

Day 1: Same as RA-01

Day 2: More white water action, amidst splendid surroundings. Return to Quito in late afternoon.

Note: These programs can be operated on private or sharing basis. Please contact us for more information.

Day 1: Depart from Quito, 6h30 am. Drive to Baeza. On arrival you'll be provided with wet- suits, life jackets and helmets. After a short drive to the put-in the Trip Leader will give a thorough safety briefing and conduct a swim test. Then you'll split into groups for an intensive in-boat paddle practice with your guide. Once we set off we're straight into the action but with some easier rapids to warm up. Along the way we'll stop for a riverside picnic lunch. In the afternoon we'll raft through the first canyons of the Quijos running big, technical rapids. At the end of the day we pull the boats into shore and take a short ten-minute walk up to the lodge where we have cold beer, hot showers and a good meal waiting for us. (L/D)

Day 2: After a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast we'll pull on our wet-suits again and head back to the river for a lot more white water



action. Today you should be prepared for one of the most exciting days of your life. And to top it off you'll be doing it all in one of the most beautiful parts of Ecuador. This river is set to become a legend. From the take-out we'll head back to Quito stopping at Papallacta Hot Springs for a well-earned soak in the volcanically heated mineral waters. Arrive approx. 8pm or spend a night at Papallacta (night at Papallacta is not included). (B)

River Grading: IV - IV +
October to February. (Minimum 4 pax)

Note: We also tailor 3 to 8 day rafting tours upon request.



Amazon Rainforest



Complex Diversity; Rich Ecosystems

The Amazon ecosystem, particularly its tropical rain forest, is considered one of the richest and most complex communities of plant and animal life in the world. The region is characterized by huge and diverse amounts of flora and fauna with extraordinary variations in their habitats and micro habitats.

The principal Amazon artery for visitors is the Napo River, a major tributary of the main Amazon River. Its basin is 870 miles long and one to three miles wide. As a result of fluvial dynamics, the Napo's 130 islands are covered by forests, which provide refuge and nesting sites for a multitude of bird species, many of them migratory.

Historically, the indigenous communities of the Amazon basin have been able to maintain a productive subsistence within the existing ecosystems of vast forest preserve. The most representative are: the Siona-Secoya, Cofan, Huaorani, Shuar and Ashuar.



Visiting the Amazon Rainforest

Crossing the Andes towards the East, one drops down from 4000 m (13123 ft.) to the headwaters of the mighty Amazon, passing from high "paramo" to tropical jungle in less than 150km. Seeing this green world with hundreds of species of birds, beautiful butterflies, and strange animals in their natural habitat, then onto your lodge with the soft sounds of the forest night, is a unique experience. Awakening in the morning to an orchestra of bird music, traveling in a dugout canoe, visiting isolated Indigenous communities, all add to this adventure.

Amazon Lodges and Tours

Cuyabeno Jungle Tour: 5 Days

Duration: 5 days / 4 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast, airfare Quito-Lago Agrio-Quito not included)

Activities/Highlights: Canoe ride, jungle walks, wildlife

Code: JU-01

Day 1: Arrival in Lago Agrio. Bus ride to the bridge over the Cuyabeno River (3 hours). Box lunch. Motorized dugout canoe downstream on the Cuyabeno river (3 hours approx.) to camp or lodge. Dinner. Night walk.

Day 2: Breakfast. Forest walk to learn about medicinal plants and explore the amazing ecosystem. Lunch. Piranha fishing. Dinner. (B)

Day 4: Bird watching. Breakfast. Hike in the forest. Lunch. Visit the indigenous village Puerto Bolivar to add a culture aspect to the tour. Dinner. (B)

Day 5: Breakfast. Canoe back upstream on the Cuyabeno River. Meet the bus at the bridge and back to Lago Agrio to catch the flight to Quito. (B)



Cuyabeno Jungle Tour: 4 Days

Duration: 4 days / 3 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast, (airfare Quito-Lago Agrio-Quito not included)

Activities/Highlights: Canoe ride, jungle walks, nature and wildlife

Code: JU-02

Same as JU-01, but one day shorter

Note: Tours can be operated on private or sharing basis. Please contact us for more information.





Sacha Lodge Tour: 4 or 5 Days

Duration: 4 days and 3 nights, or 5 days and 4 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation and all meals at lodge (airfare Quito-Coca- Quito not included)

Activities/Highlights: Canoe ride, jungle walks, nature and wildlife watching, canopy walk

Code: JU-03

This lodge is located in the province of Sucumbíos, in the Northeastern part of Ecuador. A 40-minute flight will take you from Quito to Coca. Then you travel by motorized dugout canoe for 2 hours (approximately) down the Napo River, after which a 30-minute walk will get you to the lodge. The lodge is located in a very lovely setting

surrounded by primary forest. The program consists of a combination of jungle walks on narrow trails - through different types of forests (Primary, Secondary, Varzea etc.) – and canoe rides on local lakes and rivers. In addition, an observation tower and a 275 meters long canopy walkway enable visitors to climb 36 m. into the canopy for an unobstructed view of intact rainforest, as well as a possible close-up view of mammals, plants and dozens of species of birds.

Groups of 5 to 8 people at the most will be formed and led by an English/Spanish speaking naturalist guide plus a local native guide. At the lodge, you will find comfortable accommodations in rustic cabins of native design that blend in with the surrounding rainforest. At the same time, you will be provided with the comforts you would expect of a first-class hotel: modern bathrooms with hot running water, screened rooms with a magnificent view of the rainforest; bottled water free

of-charge; and excellent, international cuisine that incorporates the delicious tropical fruits of the region.

Day 1: Trip from Quito to Sacha Lodge.

Days 2-4: The standard activities are hikes in the tropical forest, canoe rides, night walks to spot nocturnal fauna, visit to the observation tower, the canopy walkway and butterfly house. The exact itinerary will be decided upon arrival, based on the clients' interests. (B on all days)

Day 5: Return trip to Quito. (B)

La Selva Jungle Lodge: 4 or 5 Days

Duration: 4 days and 3 nights, or 5 days and 4 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast (airfare Quito- Coca-Quito not included)

Activities/Highlights: Canoe ride, jungle walks, nature and wildlife watching

Code: JU-04

This program is quite similar to that of Sacha Lodge. La Selva Jungle Lodge is located in the same area.

Please contact us for more detailed information on this program.



Kapawi Lodge

Code: KO-01

Please contact us for more information on this lodge.



Napo Wildlife Centre: 4 or 5 Days

Duration: 4 days and 3 nights, or 5 days and 4 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast, (airfare Quito-Coca- Quito not included)

Activities/Highlights: Canoe ride, jungle walks, nature and wildlife watching

Code: JU-05

Another option for a stunning jungle experience is the NWC. Upon your arrival in Coca, a comfortable 2-hour motorized canoe ride down the Napo River takes you to the “bocana”. The access from there to the lodge is via a 2.5 km guided walk or a 1.5-hour paddle along a creek by dugout canoe. Whichever option you decide, the views of the lodge on arrival are outstanding. This ecofriendly lodge is situated on Anangucocha Lake which lies inside the 1 million hectares Yasuni National Park.

The ten cabins are in keeping with traditional native design and each include king-size or twin beds, private bathroom with hot water on demand, 24 hour electricity generated by hybrid power system, ceiling fan, screened windows and mosquito nets. They also boast a private porch providing lake and forest views.

A wealth of daily activities are provided for you to choose from; hikes, bird watching, nocturnal excursions on trails and lake night exploration for cayman (alligator) watching, visit the local community of Añangu who works in partnership with the lodge, and a visit to the unique parrot clay licks. Here, parrots, macaws and a variety of parakeets gather in abundance.

Accompanied by a native park ranger and bilingual naturalist guide you will learn about medicinal plants, tropical forest biology and will be made constantly aware of wildlife movement. The guides’ expertise and enthusiasm will make for an educative, fun experience!



Nature and Wildlife



A Rapport with Nature

Ecuador is a nature lover's paradise. The country supports a startling variety of vegetation; from high Paramo to Tropical Rainforests and mangrove swamps, making it the home to a great variety of species. In fact, it is home to more species of birds than any other Latin American country, estimated at over 1500 species of birds, plus 3000 different species of orchids. Our tours are specially selected to give visitors the greatest cross-section of countryside, and therefore wildlife.

Ecuador is home to toucans and parrots, several species of hummingbirds, the red-billed quetzal, black-billed peppershrike, prince-hawk, red-backed hawk, the masked trogon, mountain tanagers, plush-capped finch, solitary eagles, clack and chestnut eagles, military macaws, band bellied owls, white capped parrots, orange breasted falcons, Andean potoos and emerald toucanets, just to name a few.



Nature, Bird and Whale Watching Tours

Cotopaxi National Park, home to the highest active volcano: 1 Day

Duration: 1 day

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, box-lunch

Activities/Highlights: Andean birds, paramo (highland) vegetation, highest snowcapped volcano

Code: NA-01

Travel South 60km to the base of Cotopaxi, the world's highest active volcano at 5.897m, home to the Andean Teal, the Andean Coot, the Ecuadorian Hillstar endemic to Ecuador and the giant Andean Condor, with its 3m wingspan. Observe the low growing vegetation and typical plants of the Paramo. Depending on weather conditions and group interests, hike up to the snow line at approximately 5.000 m. Picnic lunch served in park area - Return to Quito in the late afternoon. (BXL)

Note: When this tour is run on Thursday, Saquisilí Market can be visited.

Visit the dazzling Quilotoa Crater Lake: 1 Day

Duration: 1 day

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, box-lunch

Activities/Highlights: Crater lake, remote and isolated Andean terrain

Code: NA-02

We leave Quito and drive South along the Avenue of the Volcanoes, enjoying the wonderful Andean scenery, until we reach the town of Latacunga. There we head to the Southwest up the Western Cordillera to the village of Zumbahua. The route we follow takes us through desolate Andean terrain, with its patchwork fields, the occasional shepherd and oxen at work. From Zumbahua continue to Quilotoa. This is a volcanic crater filled by a dazzling aquamarine lake. From its rim the view of the surrounding volcanoes is breathtaking. Also, for the adventurous, the hike down the steep winding trail to the lake is really worthwhile. (BXL) On Saturdays, we stop at the Zumbahua market on the way to Quilotoa.

NEW Antisana Ecological Reserve: 1 Day

Duration: 1 day

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, box-lunch

Activities/Highlights: High mountain forest; paramo; flora & fauna; great photography; walking/trekking.

Code: NA-04

Early departure from Quito to the Antisana Ecological Reserve. Enjoy this wild ecosystem from high mountain forests to the paramo grasslands. A wide variety of flora and fauna inhabit this area. The spectacular Andean scenery with its changing landscapes provides great photographic opportunities. Birding at the Antisana reserve is one of its highlights. You don't need to be an expert to spot and enjoy many of its local species of birds: from the majestic Andean Condor, hawks, buzzard-eagles, falcons, ground tyrants, cinclodes to the rare Black Faced Ibis are some of the long list of birds frequently seen in the area. The Mica Lake provides habitat to Andean Gulls, Coots and Teals as well as many ground birds. Among the mammals' present are the Andean Fox, White Tailed Deer, Dwarf Deer, rabbits and the elusive pumas, Spectacled Bears and Mountain Tapirs. By the middle of the day we find a sheltered place to enjoy our picnic lunch before returning to Quito.

Note: This tour could be ideally combined with an overnight at the nearby hotel of Termas de Papallacta where we could enjoy a relaxing bath in the thermal hot springs before bed or at Guango Lodge in the Andean Cloud Forest area of Cosanga which will create an attractive option for the more serious bird-watchers. Please check with our office staff for the Antisana bird list, additional information and prices for possible overnight options and extension tours. (BXL)



Pasocha Nature Reserve: 1 Day

Duration: 1 day

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, box-lunch

Activities/Highlights: Andean forests, Pasocha Nature Reserve, variety of Bird life.

Code: NA-03

Early morning departure, for a 30-minute drive South of Quito, to Pasocha. Here we find one of the few remaining Andean forests on the slopes of a dormant volcano and home to a substantial variety of bird life; over 11 Hummingbird species, Tyrant Flycatchers and Honeycreepers amongst them, making it an excellent introduction to the ornithology of Ecuador. (BXL)





Nono to Mindo Road Tour: 1 Day

Duration: 1 day

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, box-lunch

Activities/Highlights: Nono-Mindo Road, Andean bird species

Code: NA-05

The Nono - Mindo Road is the one of two rarely used cobblestone roads out of Quito towards the Western lowlands. A dream for the serious birdwatcher; we will slowly drive down the road looking out for the Andean guan, the Andean Cock-of-the-rock, and other rare species for which Ecuador is well known. (BXL)

Optional: The Nono-Mindo Road tour can be extended to include a stay at a bird lodge in the Tandayapa/Mindo area (NA-06).



Baños Cloud Forest Tour: 2 Days

Duration: 2 days and 1 night

Included: Bilingual naturalist guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast.

Activities/Highlights: Village of Salasaca, Baños, large variety of bird life, desolate Andean terrain

Code: NA-08

Day 1: Head South from Quito via the Avenue of the Volcanoes. Stop at the Indian village of Salasaca, well known for weavings and wall hangings. Before arriving in Baños, visit cloud forest area, with an enormous variety of plant and bird life. Proceed to Pastaza canyon and its thermal baths. Overnight in Baños.

Day 2: All day hiking or horseback riding around Baños. Return to Quito in the late afternoon. (B)

Tandayapa/Mindo Bird Lodges: 2 Days

Duration: 2 days and 1 night

Included: Bilingual birder guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Tandayapa valley, cloud forest, Andean bird species

Code: NA-06

Several bird lodges are located in the valley of the same name, less than two hours away from Quito. The Tandayapa valley extends for 6 km along the old Nono- Mindo road, from 1650m to 2350 m. above sea level, amid the mid-altitude cloud forest. It is an excellent area to experience the marvel of the Andean mixed species feeding flocks, as well as to observe species that are endemic to this area. The lodging is comfortable and neat, and the food is very good. For the serious

bird watcher, the lodges are strategically located as a base camp to explore the incredible diversity of the entire surrounding area.

Day 1: Early departure from Quito. Slow drive along the old Nono-Mindo Road until we reach the lodge. Lunch at the lodge. Afternoon free to explore the area. Evening hike after dinner. Overnight at the bird lodge.

Day 2: Morning hike. Return to Quito after lunch. The exact itinerary for the hikes is agreed upon there, depending on the specific interests of the client. Optional. The tour may be extended to up to four days for the serious birdwatchers interested in exploring the entire surrounding area. (B)



Bird watching in the Highlands, Cloud Forest and Rainforest: 8 Days

Duration: 8 days and 7 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, most meals

Activities/Highlights: Variety of bird species, cloud forests, subtropical forests, Andean highlands

Code: NA-11

Ecuador is a nature lovers' paradise. The wide variety of habitats - from tropical rainforests, to cloud forests, to high paramo, to mangrove swamps, to the dry Pacific coast- make it home to the highest diversity of birds in the world and to one of the greatest number of species of flora and fauna. The following 8-day sample itinerary gives a glimpse of the different regions that can be visited. Tours can be designed to include all or some of the areas described. Please contact us for further information.

The tour starts in Quito to the famous, bird-rich Nono-Mindo Road. Passing the crest of the western Andes and down into the subtropical forest to about 1500 m, we can observe species such as the sickle-

winged guan, prince hawk, red-billed parrot, red-backed hawk, golden-headed quetzal, black-billed peppershrike, booted rackettail, cock of the rock and a great number of hummingbirds, just to mention a few of the long list of birds found here. Overnight at a lodge in the Tadayapa/Mindo area for the next two nights. This area also has a great variety of orchids.

The journey continues along the Nanegalito – Puerto Maldonado – Santo Domingo Road, bird watching along the way. Here we experience the transition between cloud forest and subtropical rainforest, with its great variety of bird species of the area. At the private reserve of Tinalandia we spot species like the masked trogon, rufous-breasted anthrush, mountain tanagers, black-chinned mountain tanager, plush-capped finch and rufous-naped brush-finch, to name just a few.

Return to the highlands, driving from Santo Domingo on this spectacular route where we can experience dramatic changes from subtropical forest, cloud forest to inter-Andean highlands. Our destination is La Cienega, a colonial hacienda which is now a beautiful hotel. The historical importance of this hacienda, its beautiful gardens and easy bird watching make this a delightful stop. PM bird watching in the grounds. Next stop on this tour is the Cotopaxi National Park,

the base of the highest active volcano in the world. At higher altitudes (3600-4400 m) we may view the puna hawk, bar-winged cinclodes, Andean teal and brown-backed chat tyrant. This will also be our best opportunity to see the rare Andean condor. PM drive to Papallacta. We climb up the Eastern Cordillera to reach the pass, at an altitude of 4100 m. About three km below the pass, there is an extensive Polylepis woodland, and the pass itself is a good example of Paramo ecosystem. This area is wonderful for observing sword billed hummingbirds, mountain avocetbill, blue mantled thornbill, Andean tit spinetail, among many other species. We continue the journey to the Guango/Baeza area where we will spend the next two days before returning to Quito.

We visit the Guango Trail to observe the incredible variety of birds there. Then we continue our drive Eastward down the Eastern Andean cordillera to Cosanga. The Baeza–Cosanga area, which lies at approx. 2000 meters' altitude, and includes the Guacamayos Ridge, is very rich in bird species. We might observe, among others, solitary eagles, black and chestnut eagles, orange breasted falcons, rufous breasted woodquails, military macaws, band bellied owls, white capped parrots, vermiculated screech owls, Andean potoos, black mandibled toucans and emerald toucanets.



NEW Cajas National Park: 1 Day

Duration: 1 day

Included: Bilingual guide, all visits and activities in itinerary, lunch at Hosteria Dos Chorreras

Activities/Highlights: Hiking or walking, variety of ecosystems, glacier lakes and lagoons, paramo (moorlands) of Cajas, Polylepis forest, wildlife

Code: QC-13 (This tour is also listed in "Cuenca and Surrounding areas")

Hike, walk or drive through the Cajas National park (3050m-4450m. high or 10000 ft-14600 ft.) to admire the amazing variety of ecosystems. A stunning area of 28300 hectares (70000 acres) with about 270 glacier lakes and lagoons. Many plant species are endemic to the paramo or moorlands of the Cajas, the dominant one being the straw grass. Above 3000m. (9800 ft.) we find the "bewitching" Polylepis forest with its red peeling bark and in the lower parts of the park, the cloud forest.

The Park is home to a number of important wildlife species: the condor, the Curiqinga, the violet-throated metal tail, endemic to Cajas and surrounding valleys and the largest hummingbird in the world. Good chance of spotting deer, alpaca, llama, the elusive puma, fox and rabbits. Forty-four mammalian species have been identified in the park. At least seventeen species of amphibians live around the lagoons of Cajas. (L)

NEW Pujili Market and Cotopaxi National Park: 2 Days

Duration: 2 days and 1 night

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Pujili Market and ceramics, lunch at 300-year-old hacienda, Cotopaxi National Park, walking/hiking, nature viewing, photography

Code: MK-09

Day 1: Departing from Quito to the South for some 90 km is Pujili, a town known for its ceramics. Many Indians gather here, with their llamas loaded with colorful fruits, vegetables and other goods. Visit this picturesque scene and enjoy the taste of a real Andean market. Overnight at Hacienda.

Day 2 We visit the Cotopaxi National Park, home to the world's highest active volcano at 5897 m (19347 ft.). Here we can spot the Andean Teal, the Andean Coot, the Ecuadorian Hillstar endemic to Ecuador and the giant Andean Condor, with its 3m wingspan. Observe the low growing vegetation and typical plants of the Paramo and spectacular scenery. Depending on weather conditions and group interests, hike up to the snow line at approximately 5000 m (16400 ft.). (B) PM return to Quito.

NEW Cotopaxi National Park, Zumbahua Market & Quilotoa Lake: 2 Days

Duration: 2 days and 1 night

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Mountain market, Cotopaxi Volcano, Quilotoa Crater Lake, walking/hiking

Code: MK-08

Day 1: Leaving Quito, drive south along the Avenue of the Volcanoes visiting the Cotopaxi National Park, home to the world's highest active volcano at 5897 m (19347 ft.). Here we can spot the Andean Teal, the Andean Coot, the Ecuadorian Hillstar endemic to Ecuador and the giant Andean Condor, with its 3m wingspan. Observe the low growing vegetation and typical plants of the Paramo and spectacular scenery. Depending on weather conditions and group interests, hike up to the snow line at approximately 5000 m (16400 ft.). Overnight at Hacienda.

Day 2: Start very early in the morning going along the Avenue of the Volcanoes. Reaching the city of Latacunga, we turn towards Pujili and then up the old road to the coast. Here we see the desolate Andean terrain with an occasional shepherd and oxen at work. Zumbahua is a typical mountain market where llamas and riding horses are traded. After the market, we continue to Quilotoa. This is a volcanic crater filled by a dazzling aquamarine lake. From its rim the view of the surrounding volcanoes is breathtaking. Also, for the adventurous, the hike down the steep winding trail to the lake is really worthwhile. Picnic lunch. PM return to Quito. (B)





NEW Saquisili Market & Cotopaxi National Park: 2 Days

Duration: 2 days / 1 night

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Animal market at Saquisili, lunch at 300-year-old hacienda, Cotopaxi National Park

Code: MK-10

Day 1: Two hours South of Quito sits the town of Saquisili with one of the most colorful and complete Indian markets in Ecuador. The whole town is a market on this day and one can walk around, shopping for handicrafts of all kinds. Especially attractive is the animal market. Lunch served at La Cienega, a 300-year-old restored hacienda, now a beautiful country inn. After lunch explore the gardens of the hacienda, or stroll along the country lanes. Overnight at Hacienda

Day 2: We visit the Cotopaxi National Park, home to the world's highest active volcano at 5897 m (19347 ft.). Here we can spot the Andean Teal, the Andean Coot, the Ecuadorian Hillstar endemic to Ecuador and the giant Andean Condor, with its 3m wingspan. Observe the low growing vegetation and typical plants of the Paramo and spectacular scenery. Depending on weather conditions and group interests, hike up to the snow line at approximately 5000 m (16400 ft.). (B) PM return to Quito. This tour can be operated on Thursday/Friday switching the order of places visited.

Soak in the Thermal Springs of Papallacta: 1 Day

Duration: 1 day

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, lunch

Activities/Highlights: Scenic lower paramo area, Papallacta thermal springs

Code: AH-01

Leaving Quito, cross the Eastern Cordillera along a dramatic glacier-carved canyon in the paramo. These thermal springs are nestled in these beautiful Andean Highlands. Upon arrival hike or walk this lower paramo area then enjoy these curative sulphate alkaline thermal waters, and the extraordinary landscape. PM drive back to Quito. (L)

Note: Optional overnight at cabañas Termas Papallacta. Price upon request.

NEW Antisana Ecological Reserve and Papallacta Thermal Hot Springs: 2 Days

Duration: 2 Days and 1 nights

Included: Accommodation, bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Antisana Ecological Reserve and the Mica Lake, Papallacta hiking trails, Papallacta Thermal Springs

Code: NA-14

Day 1: Early departure from Quito to the Antisana Ecological Reserve. Enjoy this wild ecosystem from high mountain forests to the paramo grasslands. A wide variety of flora and fauna inhabit this area. The spectacular Andean scenery with its changing landscapes provides great photographic opportunities.

Birding at the Antisana reserve is one of its highlights. You don't need to be an expert to spot and enjoy many of its local species of birds: from the majestic Andean Condor, hawks, buzzard-eagles, falcons, ground tyrants, cinclodes to the rare Black Faced Ibis are some of the long list of birds frequently seen in the area.

The Mica Lake provides habitat to Andean Gulls, Coots and Teals as well as many ground birds. Among the mammals' present are the Andean Fox, White Tailed Deer, Dwarf Deer, rabbits and the elusive pumas, Spectacled Bears and Mountain Tapirs. By the middle of the day we find a sheltered place to enjoy our picnic lunch. Overnight at The Papallacta Thermal Springs.

Day 2: The thermal springs are nestled in these beautiful Andean Highlands. Spend the day in these curative sulfate alkaline thermal waters, enjoying the extraordinary landscape and if lucky a breathtaking view of the snowcapped Antisana. Take the opportunity to hike the trails along the rushing river while enjoying the unique endemic species of flora and fauna. More than 160 species of birds, including hummingbirds, tangaras and occasionally the great Andean Condor have been recorded.

In addition, visitors have the opportunity to visit the "Exploratory" research and interpretation center, which offers audiovisual information on those species only found around Papallacta. (B) PM return to Quito



Whale Watching: 4 Days

Duration: 4 Days and 3 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast, (airfare Quito-Manta/Portoviejo – Quito not included)

Activities/Highlights: Machalilla National Park, whale watching (from June to September), Agua Blanca

Code: NA-10

This is the only coastal park in the country, created in 1979 to protect one of the last remaining habitats of its kind. Covering approximately 60.000 hectares, it combines many different climatological zones: desert, tropical dry forest, matorral and mountain wilderness areas and two off-shore coral islands that have some similarities to the Galapagos. It is populated by a large variety of endemic flora and fauna like mountain tapirs, guantas, iguanas and pumas, parrots, pelicans, frigates and a wide range of cacti, succulent bromeliads and flowering trees. Several natural bays and wide sandy beaches curve between the many rocky cliffs of its shores, the most famous being "Los Frailes", a virgin, white-sanded beach with clear blue water. Machalilla also has important archaeological sites such as Agua Blanca, the ancient seat of successive cultures, Valdivia, Guangala, Bahía, Chorrera and Manteña.



Day 1: Morning flight to Manta or Portoviejo. Private bus to lodging. Lunch. Visit archaeological museum and animal sanctuary at Salango. Return to lodge for swim and overnight accommodation.

Day 2: Breakfast. Boat ride to Isla de la Plata, a 2-hour journey. From June to September we offer unique viewing of the Humpback whales off the coast of Machalilla accompanied by a naturalist guide. Hundreds of whales come up from the Antarctic to breed in the tropical waters of the Ecuadorian coast. On the islands one sees a multitude of sea birds: Blue Footed Boobies, Frigatebirds, Pelicans and Petrels. After disembarking, walk from Drake Bay to Playa Escondida, possibly seeing Albatross and Sea Lions on the way. Picnic lunch en route. Snorkelling to see the coral marine life. Return to lodge late afternoon. (B)

Day 3: Hike through tropical dry forest to see the characteristically bottle shaped trees (Prosopis Juliflora), Kapok trees, Figs, Laurels and Palo Santo trees. In this strange-looking forest, 119 species of birds, deer, Guantas, Anteaters, Iguanas and Lizards, among others, have been recorded. If time allows, visit the beach of Los Frailes for a refreshing bath before returning to the lodge. (B)

Day 4: Visit Montecristi, a town famous for its Panama hat manufacturing. Late afternoon/evening arrival in Quito. (B)

NEW Whale Watching with visits to Agua Blanca and Cacao Plantation: 4 Days

Duration: 4 Days and 3 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Whale watching (from June to September), Agua Blanca Ruins, Cacao Plantation, snorkeling

Code: NA-15

Day 1: Early morning departure from Guayaquil to Salinas to board whale watching boat. From June to September we sight Humpback whales off the coast. Hundreds of whales come up from the Antarctic to breed in the tropical waters of the Ecuadorian coast. In the afternoon, we travel to Puerto Lopez. Overnight here.

Day 2: In the morning we whale watch and snorkel and in the afternoon, we visit the Agua Blanca Archeological Community, which was established as part of the pre-Colombian Manteña culture over 1,200 years ago, and is the only surviving indigenous group in this region. The Manteña people moved along the coast to find the spondylus—a giant oyster-like shellfish, whose shell was used as currency. They were expert navigators, and traveled as far as Mexico on large balsa wood rafts.

At the visitor centre and archaeological museum, visitors will learn about the local culture and history of the people before taking a tour around Agua Blanca. (B) Overnight Puerto Lopez.

Day 3: Morning Whale watching with option to snorkel. At 11 am return to Guayaquil with a stop en route to a Cacao Plantation. Ecuador's cacao is regarded as one of the best in the world. See how this plant is grown, harvested and made into chocolate. (B)





Special Interest



A Cultural Bonanza

Ecuador's wide variety of landscapes, its pre-Columbian cultural heritage, and, most importantly, its assortment of people from different ethnic groups, make the country a fascinating treasure to be visited. It is an ideal location for tours of a special interest. Discover ancient legends as they are portrayed through traditional arts and crafts that are still practiced today, walk the paths of the ancient cultures and learn what is known of their culture, or come to meet with contemporary Ecuadorian artists who re-engage traditional motifs in their work.

Family Holidays and Educational Tours

Family holidays and educational tours are designed based on the interest of the group. You may explore a variety of subjects, such as nature, pre-Columbian art or indigenous cultures. Explore any of the exciting and beautiful destinations in Ecuador while engaging in activities of your choice, anything from relaxing on the beach to horseback riding to visiting archaeological sites. We will design the trip that best suits your group.



Community Tourism

We offer community tours for those whom are interested in getting involved with local projects and local communities.

Cultural Tours

From fine historical haciendas to the trails of ancient cultures, these special interest tours will explore archaeology, education, arts, and important historical sites in Ecuador.

Hacienda and Spa Tours

These tours are specifically focused on the traveler who is looking for a more relaxed and slower paced experience. We visit Ecuador's finest and oldest haciendas, allowing us a glimpse into history, while offering the highest quality comforts and luxury. The fine historical setting helps create a relaxing ambiance, perfect for forgetting the stress and worries of modern life.



Follow the Trails of Traditional Crafts and Modern Art in Ecuador: 13 Days

Duration: 13 days and 12 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast,(airfare Cuenca-Quito not included)

Activities/Highlights: Arts and crafts, Cotopaxi, Quilotoa, Cuenca, Ecuadorian art

Code: SI-01

Ecuador's wide variety of landscapes, its pre-Colombian cultural heritage and, most importantly, its assortment of people from different ethnic groups, make the country a fascinating treasure to be explored. Discover it, by following the trails of human beings' first artistic creations and contemporary expression of art and crafts.

The earliest fragments of pottery found in Ecuador are 6900 years old. Throughout history, coastal, highland and Amazon cultures have come and gone, leaving their traces and telling

their history through their crafts. Objects of both daily and sacred use continue to be made even today using traditional techniques. The varying shapes and designs are symbols of their evolving cultures and of their mystical and cosmic view of life.

Our trip takes us first to the Northern highlands and the province of Imbabura. Then we drive Southward passing by green mountains, patch worked with corn fields, and the stark majestic snowcapped volcanoes. We visit the Cotopaxi volcano and Quilotoa crater lake area and finally arrive in Cuenca; a beautiful colonial city known as a crafts and arts center, both traditional and modern.

While in the countryside we will become acquainted with the shapes, designs and techniques of Indian traditions. In Cuenca and the surrounding villages, we the homes and workshops of artisan families who are pleased to share their skills and experience with us. In Quito and Cuenca, we will have the opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas and insight face to face with Ecuadorian artists as they show us their personal interpretation of traditional motifs in modern art. The towns we visit also give us the opportunity to relax, stroll through the cobbled streets of their colonial centers and visit some of the local museums. The pleasure of urban nightlife will add to our trip.

Following the Trails of Ancient Cultures through Ecuador: 13 Days

Duration: 13 days / 12 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast,(airfare Manta-Quito not included)

Activities/Highlights: Archeological museum, Ingapirca ruins, Machalilla National Park, Agua Blanca ruins

Code: SI-02

On the Pacific coast, in the highlands and in the wilderness of the Amazon rainforest, traces of different cultures that developed, flourished and disappeared, can still be found.

Discover these many wonders. Starting in Quito, with its charming colonial center and its interesting archaeological museum, then travel on the Avenue of the Volcanoes to Ecuador's largest archaeological Inca site, Ingapirca. This fortress built by the Incas, boasts a "tambo", a sun temple and storehouses. The last part of our trip takes us from Cuenca to Guayaquil, to explore the beautiful Pacific coastal region. Drive North to Puerto Cayo, a small fisher's village. In addition to the sandy beaches of Machalilla National Park, the area also offers the Agua Blanca ruins. Archaeologists working here to uncover the mysteries of the Machalilla culture will tell us about their work, including the small but very interesting museum in Salango, with its carefully chosen collection of artefacts from the area. From Manta fly back to Quito.





Rest and relax at boutique hotel haciendas, world-class spas, and healing hot springs

Duration: 5 days and 4 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Hacienda visits, pampered comfort, Andean Condor breeding center, horse-riding

Code: SI-03

This journey takes the traveler to the finest haciendas in Ecuador, transporting the visitor into another time while offering the highest quality comforts and luxury designed to forget the daily worries and liberate the stress caused by the accelerated pace of contemporary life.

Accompanied by a specialized guide with in-depth knowledge of the visited areas, the tour begins with a 2-hour drive South from Quito to Cotopaxi National Park. After spending the morning in the park enjoying views of Mt. Cotopaxi (5897 m), the trip continues to San Agustin de Callo. Built on the site of an important Inca Palace, this working farmhouse, luxuriously furnished, offers today's discerning traveler an unrivalled glimpse into Ecuador's rich and colorful past.

The following day the journey continues to the Northern province of Imbabura, for two nights at Hacienda Zuleta, a colonial working farm of 4,000 acres (2,000 hectares) belonging to the family of Mr. Galo Plaza, a former president of Ecuador. It was chosen as one of the world's "Top Ten Finds" by Outside magazine and named as one of the best Ecuador Hotels by National Geographic Traveler. The mountain setting is just magical. The activities available are: strolling the

beautiful gardens; horseback riding; walking or biking along the trails of the hacienda; or take a ride on the horse drawn carriage around the grounds to observe the milking, the agriculture, mountain views and the tranquil life of the community, visit the small cheese factory and the embroidery co-operative and the Condor Huasi Project to see the Andean Condor.

The last night of this amazing tour is spent at La Mirage Garden Hotel and Spa, the only Relais & Chateaux member in Ecuador. Here the luxury and pampering reach a climax: each room or suite is individually decorated, the service is impeccable, the cuisine extraordinary, and the hotel is equipped with a spa which rivals any first-class spa in the world. Note: this tour can be custom designed to be shorter or longer and/or include the Papallacta Hot Springs spa.

Tulipe Archeological Site: 1 Day

Duration: 1 Day

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, lunch

Activities/Highlights: Tulipe ruins and interpretation center

Code: SI-10

Tulipe was built by the Yumbo people, who inhabited the north and northwestern valleys and mountains around Quito from around 800 to 1660 AD. It's thought that the Yumbo people migrated to the Amazon after a great eruption of the Pichincha Volcano in 1660, and this theory is currently being investigated.

Although disregarded by the Spanish chroniclers and subsequent historians, the site at Tulipe, as well as the 2,000 pyramids and mounds now unearthed, point to an important nation. It's thought that it controlled this crucial trade route between the Pacific coast, the Andes and the Amazon to the east. The remains at Tulipe suggests it was the civilizations' main ceremonial site. It is made up of eight structures, one of which is of Incan construction, since the conquering Incas built their temple on top of the existing one. Water played a primordial role at Tulipe, with many pools reflecting its ceremonial importance.

The "Yumbo People Interpretation Centre" was inaugurated in 2007. It houses didactic information on the site and the Yumbos, and is the starting point for the future investigation of the geometric mounds, paths, cemeteries, petroglyphs and swimming pools which abound in the area.



Experience the Ecuadorian Easter Week Traditions: 8 Days

Duration: 8 days and 7 nights

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast

Activities/Highlights: Cultural traditions, Religious art, Church visits, Colonial Quito, Cotopaxi National Park, Quilotoa Crater Lake

Code: SI-04

Holy Week is one of the few times in the year when thousands of people come together in Quito. The week is comprised of a series of religious events, the expressions of which are profound and very public. During this tour one experiences the customs up close while visiting the highlights of this Heritage city and surroundings.

Day 1: Palm Sunday - Early morning stroll through the Colonial center of Quito to witness the Palm Sunday Procession, which ends with the Open Mass and a blessing of the palm fronds carried by the people. These woven fronds are then taken home where they remain until the following year when they are burned and the ashes used during Ash Wednesday ceremonies. (B)

Day 2: After breakfast we travel south along the Avenue of the Volcanoes to the Cotopaxi National Park; here we take a short hike on the slopes of the Cotopaxi Volcano. Then, we will leave the park to visit the Monastery of Tilipulo with its charming chapel and the Cuicuno church with the famous representation of "Christ on the Tree" where we learn about this interesting local belief. Overnight near Cotopaxi. (B)

Day 3: After breakfast we leave our hotel and head towards the village of Zumbahua. The route we follow takes us through desolate Andean terrain, with its patchwork fields, the occasional shepherd and oxen at work. From Zumbahua continue to Quilotoa. This is a volcanic crater filled by a dazzling aquamarine lake. From its rim the view of the surrounding volcanoes is breathtaking. Also, for the adventurous, the hike down the steep winding trail to the lake is truly worthwhile. In the afternoon, we return to Quito for overnight. (B)

Day 4: On Holy Wednesday, an impressive and almost forgotten religious ritual takes place in Quito. This ritual known as the 'Arrastre de Caudas' (dragging of capes). The tradition dates back to the Roman Empire. The tradition was adopted by the Catholic Church and at one time performed throughout the Catholic world, but is now only performed in three cities worldwide: Quito, Seville and Lima. The ceremony is performed in honor of Jesus. The Archbishop waves a large black flag with a red cross over 8 priests (called canónigos) who are prostrated before him, symbolically transferring the Christian spirit. Overnight in a hotel in the Colonial Center.

Day 5: Thursday of Mysteries. We will take you for another interesting visit in the Colonial area. Along the tour, we include a stop at each of the Seven Churches. Visiting seven of the main churches in Quito has a very deep meaning for the most devoted Catholics in preparation for the death of Jesus Christ. This is known as the Tour of the Seven Crosses. Later, at the Metropolitan Cathedral the Archbishop of Quito washes the feet of the canon priests as a recollection of Christ's own deed to the Apostles. (B)

Day 6: Good Friday. Quito gets ready for the Procession of Jesus del Gran Poder (Jesus of the Great Power), the Patron of the city. More than a quarter of a million people will descend on the Plaza of San Francisco, on Good Friday - some to observe, others to participate. At 12pm noon, the hour in which Pontius Pilot condemned Jesus to death, the procession begins from the San Francisco Church, and returns to the same location approximately 3 hours later, the hour in which Jesus was crucified. During the procession people dressed and veiled in purple garments precede the image of Jesus. The men are known as Cucuruchos (meaning, 'cones' for their pointed headdress) and the women are called Veronicas, after the woman who offered her veil for Christ to wipe his face. The cones are a sign of humility, the purple, the color of penitence. Those who wear them do so as an act of faith. (B)

Day 7: Holy Saturday. On this day, we will drive north to visit the Otavalo market, the most famous in Ecuador. Apart from the handicrafts



and colorful textiles sold at the market, we will witness different manifestations of Catholic nature in this small town. Lunch at a local restaurant. Return to Quito in the afternoon for overnight at your hotel. (B)

Day 8 Easter Sunday. The Roman Catholics commemorate the Resurrection of Christ on this day after his Crucifixion, which marks the end of the Passion of Jesus. Most churches will be full during the special mass held on this very special day. After mass, we will take you to your hotel. Rest of the day free. Overnight at hotel.

Remarks: Roman Catholic manifestations play an essential role in the Ecuadorian Culture and thus, Religious Art and Catholic Traditions are widely spread throughout the country.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where are the Galapagos Islands?

A: The Galapagos Islands (or Archipelago de Colon) is a Province of Ecuador located 600 miles (1000 km.) west of the Ecuadorian coast. They lie directly on the equator.

Q: What is the climate like?

A: As the islands lie directly on the Equator, you can expect it to be warm for most of the year. The hottest season is generally from December to April with average temperatures ranging from a low of 70 to a high of 84 F (22 - 31 C). It is during this period that you may expect short but heavy showers. The sea is generally calm this time of the year and the water temperature warmer. May to November is considered the "cool" season with average temperatures ranging from a low of 68 to a high of 82 F (19 - 27 C).

Q: How do we get there?

A: From North America and Europe there are daily flights to Quito and Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Q: How do we get to Galapagos from Quito and Guayaquil?

A: Flights to Galapagos depart daily from both Quito and Guayaquil. We will arrange the Galapagos flight for you. As boat owners in Galapagos we will block book spaces on those flights to ensure our passengers are on the flight to meet the boat.

Q: May we fly to Galapagos from Quito and just back to Guayaquil (or vice versa)?

A: Yes, we would be able to arrange that for you.

Q: Are all your prices in US dollars?

A: All our rates are quoted in US dollars.

Q: When do we have to pay?

A: A 20% deposit is required at the time you decide to confirm your reservation and the balance is due 60 days before departure.

Q: What form of payment do you accept?

A: Payment may be made by international money order or bank draft.

Q: What is included in the rates for the boats?

A: The boat rates includes accommodations and all meals aboard

the boat, island sightseeing, all guide and lecture services, transfers in the islands and between the airport and yacht in Galapagos.

Q: What is not included?

A: Galapagos flights, Galapagos Entrance Fee (includes the municipal tax, currently \$100 US payable in cash to the national park authorities in Baltra), Galapagos Govt. Control ID Card currently at \$20 US per person payable beforehand or at airport in Quito or Guayaquil, tips (it is customary to tip the guide, chef and crew) soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and any other extras not specifically mention

Q: Can you make hotel and other tour reservations for us in Ecuador?

A: Yes! We will be glad to plan an efficient itinerary and all arrangements that will make the most of the time you have available and at a price you can afford.

Q: How do we receive our vouchers and tickets for the Galapagos and/or mainland Ecuador?

A: We will e-mail (if requested) a receipt and voucher that is valid for all arrangements with us. The ticket for the Galapagos flight will be issued to you once you are in Ecuador.

Q: What level of Naturalist Guide will be aboard the boat and do they speak English?

A: All the boats we use employ highly experienced and qualified level II and III naturalist guides who are fluent in English (and often other languages as well).

Q: How much should we tip the guide and crew?

A: This is a very sensitive matter for us. We are often asked what gratuity is appropriate to leave for the guides and crew members. We prefer that our guests reward our crew based on their performance. The following is a guideline based on the average of what has been left in the past for the crew and guide, if they have performed to your expectation, and their service has been excellent:

- USD \$100 per person per week for the whole crew (to be divided between the crew members), and USD \$50 per person per week for the guide. Therefore, the total tip would be USD \$150 per person. Please understand that this is a suggestion: tipping and gratuities

are a very personal matter. Please deposit the gratuities for the crew members inside the box provided for this purpose. The guide is handed his/her gratuity separately.

Q: Will there be time for snorkeling?

A: There is plenty of time for snorkeling for those who are interested. Snorkelling gear is provided on our boats. For better fit we recommend that you bring your mask and snorkel.

Q: Is there a rental charge for snorkeling equipment?

A: No

Q: How many kilos of luggage can I bring to the Galapagos?

A: No more than 20 kilos of luggage per person may be checked on board flights to the Galapagos Islands. In addition, each passenger is allowed a carryon flight bag and camera case. Arrangements may be made to leave extra luggage at one's hotel or at our office in Quito.

Q: Is a wet-suit necessary for snorkeling?

A: We suggest that you bring a 2mm shorty to help keep you warm. These can be rented on board for a fee of \$30 for the week.

Q: Will we have to exchange any money before we travel to Ecuador or once in the country?

A: Not if you have US dollars. Ecuador has adopted the US dollar as its official currency.

Q: What should we bring to the Galapagos?

A: Guests should bring summer clothing with a jacket or sweater, in a soft bag for easy stowage. Also essential are comfortable walking shoes, sandal's, a hat, bathing suit, sun protection lotion, insect repellent and a memory card(s) with plenty space - you will be taking hundreds of pictures. All boats carry first aid, but guests should bring a supply of personal medicines including motion sickness medication for those who are not accustomed to boating.

A Gastronomic Tour through Ecuador: 9 Days

Duration: Varies - with option of a Galapagos extension

Included: Bilingual guide, all activities in itinerary, accommodation, breakfast and lunches

Activities/Highlights: Regional food and dishes, Ecuadorian countryside

Code: SI-05

The biological mega-diversity of Ecuador transcends its many ethnic groups and their traditional cooking styles. There is great diversity and contrasts of the Ecuadorian cuisine; every region boasts its speciality.

In Ecuador, we find one of the largest varieties of soups in the world. A great array of products is used in the preparation of these delicious and nutritious soups, such as quinoa, maize, barley, green plantain, and varieties of beans, manioc or potatoes.

The various geographical zones and climates allow for the production of native fruits and vegetables in addition to temperate and tropical plants introduced by the Conquistadores.

This tour takes you through various regions of Ecuador where you will sample the typical foods and dishes of those areas. Then there is the option of going on to Galapagos on board one of our vessels. There you will have the chance to savor all the dishes from all the regions (this will add 8 more days to the journey.)

Please contact us for a detailed itinerary.



Family Holidays

Duration: Varies - please contact us for options

Code: SI-08

Ecuador, being a small, compact country with a diversity of landscapes as well as cultural settings, is an ideal country for family travel. There are activities for all interests and age groups, such as travel to the Galapagos, rafting, horseback riding, biking, relaxing on the beach, among many other activities.

If you are interested in a family holiday in Ecuador, please contact us, stating your interests, and we will design a tour to suit your wishes.



Educational Tours

Duration: Varies - please contact us for options

Code: SI-09

As mentioned above, Ecuador is a small country with many different landscapes and fields of interest. Therefore, it is an ideal location for educational tours. We have many years of experience designing trips for student groups interested in a variety of subjects, such as nature, indigenous cultures, pre-Columbian and colonial art, etc.

Please contact us for more information. We will gladly tailor an educational tour for your specific needs and fields of interest.



Travelers Information

Welcome to Ecuador!

Straddling the Equator, this small nation is richly endowed with snowy Andean peaks towering over emerald-green slopes, rivers winding through tropical jungles, and beyond all this, in the Pacific Ocean, lay the Galapagos Islands. Ecuador offers an interesting blend of the colonial and indigenous cultures: charming towns and villages, colorful indigenous markets, pre-Columbian artefacts, and impressive architecture.

Population

12,500,000 (2002) census: 40% indigenous 40% mestizo, 10% European, 10% others (African/Asian origins). 48% of the population lives on the coastal plain, 47% in the Andean highlands and, 5% in the Eastern lowlands

Climate

Central Highlands and Quito: The weather is spring-like most of the year. The dry months are July through October, when the temperature averages 20 degrees C during the day and 11 degrees C during the evenings. **The Coast:** The average temperature on the coast is 32 degrees C. January to April is the hot season and May to December is the dry season. **The Eastern plains:** In the jungle, the weather is tropical year round, with average temperatures of 31 degrees C. It rains here most of the year, but heavier from June to November. It is this time the jungles is at its best and the rivers most navigable.

Size

Ecuador is one of the smallest countries in South American, with an area totaling at: 283.520 sq. km. It is 685 km. from North to South.

Main Cities

Quito: The capital, in the highlands; altitude 2,850 m; population: 2,239,191
Guayaquil: Largest city and main port; population: 2,350,000
Cuenca: Main city of southern highlands; altitude 2,560 m; Population: 330,000

Electricity

110 volts, 60 cycles, A.C.

Local Time

Mainland Ecuador: G.M.T -5 hours Galapagos Islands: G.M.T -6 hours

Currency

As of 2000, the monetary unit of Ecuador is the US dollar.



History

1527: First Spanish contact; Pizarro's men land at Esmeraldas, in Northern Ecuador.

1822: Ecuador gains independence from Spain after the battle of Pichincha, May 24, under the leadership of Mariscal Sucre. It is incorporated into the Gran Colombia.

1830: Becomes fully independent under its first President, Juan Jose Flores.

1959: The Galapagos National Park is established

1978: The Archipelago of Galapagos and the City of Quito become UNESCO heritage sites

1983: Sangay National Park becomes a UNESCO heritage site

1999: Historic Centre of Santa Ana de los Ríos de Cuenca becomes UNESCO heritage site

2014: Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System becomes a UNESCO heritage site

General Information for Trips

The Nature of the Tours

It is important to understand that even the most meticulously planned arrangements can go wrong. Conditions are such that there may be moments of discomforts and delays. Clients booking any of the arrangements in this brochure implicitly accept the above; we cannot be held responsible for the results of delays and alterations beyond our control. Clients accept that their baggage and property travel entirely at their own risk. Clients acknowledge that in participation in a tour, certain risk may occur, including, but not limited to, the hazards of travelling in mountainous terrain, the forces of nature and the limited medical facilities of some regions. What's Included in the Tour All services and transport facilities are clearly detailed in the respective tour. If in doubt we kindly ask you to contact us.

Meal Policy

Where a tour is less than half a day no meals are included unless otherwise stated. Where a tour is more than 24 hours, meals included are stated in tour description.

Health & Age Limit

Most arrangements offered in this brochure are tailor-made to the individual and, as such, there is literally no age limit. On the few group arrangements included here we impose only the restrictions that common sense would impose; you have to be fit and able-bodied to go trekking up volcanoes. Inoculations and advice on health should be checked with your local health authority. Travelers with heart conditions should check with their doctor about high altitude travel.

Preparing for Your Trip

It is your responsibility to verify visa requirements. No visa is required for North American and most European citizens, but things could change and we therefore suggest you confirm with your local Ecuadorian Embassy or Consulate.

Insurance

See booking conditions, section 11

What to Bring

Items relevant to particular tours are listed in the appropriate section. We recommend the following clothing: Lightweight clothes for the day, adding a sweater or jacket for the evenings. More formal wear is required for certain restaurants. A rain jacket is useful during the wet months and a heavy sweater or jacket for mountain travel.

For the jungle, tropical clothes are needed with long pants and long-sleeved shirts for jungle walks. T-shirts, bathing suit, shorts, comfortable shoes, hat and rain poncho are also suitable items to bring along. Please bring insect repellent, sunscreen, a flash-light and extra batteries for your cameras.





Islands' Climate

The islands have two seasons. December to April is the hot and rainy season; one should expect occasional short but heavy showers. The sea is generally calm this of the year and the water temperature warmer. May to November is the "garua" or misty, cooler season. Average temperatures throughout the year range between 21 – 27 Celsius (70 – 81 Fahrenheit).

What to bring

Guests should bring summer clothing with a jacket or sweater, in a soft bag for easy stowage. Also essential are comfortable walking shoes, thongs, a hat, bathing suit, sun protection lotion, insect repellent and extra batteries for your camera. All boats carry basic first aid, but guests should bring a supply of personal medicines.

How to get there

Passengers fly from the mainland of Ecuador (either Quito or Guayaquil) to Baltra where your yacht will be waiting.

Luggage

No more than 20 kilos of luggage per person may be checked on board flights to the Galapagos Islands. In addition, each passenger is allowed a carry-on flight bag and camera case. Arrangements may be made to leave extra luggage at one's hotel or at our office in Quito.

National Park and Municipality Fees

Galapagos National Park and Municipality Fees are not included price. The entrance fee for the Galapagos National Park is currently \$ 110 and is paid in cash upon arrival in Galapagos

Purchases on Board

Credit cards and US dollars are accepted for payment of incidentals on board such as alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, tips, etc.

Helpful Information for Amazon Rainforest Trips

Health

It is always advisable to consult your physician about health measures and vaccinations before travelling to a foreign country. Although these lodges are well isolated from local populations and tropical diseases are extremely rare here, during your stay in Ecuador you may pass through areas of slightly higher risk. Please note that your trip to the jungle will bring you from Quito, which is located at almost 9000 feet (2850 meters) above sea level, to the lowland tropical rainforest region at less than 900 feet (300 meters) above sea level. Please take any medication you may need with you, as the selection of medicines in our first-aid kit is limited.

Luggage

For the flight to Coca, the airlines require that checked luggage be limited to a weight of 14 kilos per person. However, heavier items such as cameras and books may be taken in carryon bags if necessary.

On the Canoe

For the ride to the lodge from Coca the canoe is covered against sun and rain, but a light jacket can be useful for the wind and spray. Be sure to wear sun protection, as the sun's reflection off the water can sometimes cause a burn. All suitcases will be placed in waterproof bags for the trip down the river, for protection against spray and rain.

Weather

In the tropical rainforest, it is best to be prepared for all kinds of weather. A common question we receive is about the "dry and rainy seasons" of the Amazon, but it is best not to trust such generalizations to plan a trip. At times, it can be hot and sunny, but a cool rainstorm may appear at a moment's notice during any time of the year.

Clothing

Lightweight pants and long sleeved cotton shirts are ideal for walks in the forest. However, if you are more comfortable wearing short sleeves, remember that exposed skin may need a light dousing with insect repellent. During the rain, full waterproof clothing can be uncomfortable as it often gets you wet with sweat instead of water, but rain ponchos are recommendable for tropical cloudbursts. Rubber boots are supplied up to men's size 14 for walks in the forest interior. Comfortable shoes (or sandals), shorts and t-shirts are fine for walking on boardwalks and around the Lodge during meals and free time. And don't forget your bathing suit!



Packing List

If you have already decided to visit us, here is a packing list and some recommendations to help you get ready:

- Passport
- Binoculars
- Flashlight and batteries
- Camera and flash
- Insect repellent
- Sun protection (sun cream, sunglasses, hat or cap)
- Water bottle
- Lightweight long pants and long sleeve shirts for walks
- Shorts, short sleeve shirt and bathing suit for the lodge
- Comfortable shoes and extra socks
- Small day pack
- Plastic bags to protect cameras, binoculars, phones, etc.,



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