

Tour: Ecuador: Quito, the Amazon & The Galapagos Islands
Destination: Ecuador, South America
Itinerary: 10-days / 9-nights in Ecuador

Ecuador: Quito, the Amazon & the Galapagos - Sample Itinerary			
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1	Travel to Quito, Ecuador; transfer & hotel check-in; Welcome, Safety & Orientation		Hotel Dinner
2	Introduction to Ecuador: French Geodetic Mission, Equator Line, Intiñan Solar Museum (Temple of the Sun), Quito Historical Center - Independence Square, Archbishop's Palace, Government Palace, Metropolitan Cathedral & more		Hotel Dinner
3	<i>Travel to the Amazon region</i> - private journey through the Andes Highlands and on to Napo River, private canoe to La Casa el Suizo; welcome reception upon arrival		Hotel Dinner
4	The Amazon - Dugout canoe journey & Amazon Jungle Tropical Bird Hike	AmaZOOnico Rescue Center - coatis, tapirs, monkeys, snakes & birds	Quichua Culture Master Class series in Ahuano - Amazon Cooking, Cleansing Rituals & BlowGun Target Shooting Contest
5	Amazon Jungle Medicinal Plant Hike	Explorer Master Class - Raft Building, River Float & Navigation	"The Island" Plant & Insect Walk + Mariposario Butterfly House
6	Return to Quito - stop at Termas de Papallacta thermal waters with Volcano Water Master Class		Hotel Dinner
7	<i>Fly to the Galapagos Islands</i>	Ferry to Santa Cruz Island	Puerto Ayora Village Ecological Reserve / Charles Darwin Research Station
8	Galapagos Island Guided Exploration - choose from Isabela Island, Santa Fe Island, Plazas Island, San Cristobal or Pinzon Island		Hotel Dinner
9	Galapagos Island Guided Exploration - 2nd Day Island option		Hotel Dinner
10	Hotel check-out & transfer to airport; domestic flight to Quito, international flight Home		



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



Get ready for a fascinating adventure! You are about to discover the country which bears the name of the imaginary line that divides our planet in two hemispheres... A magic blend of landscapes, climates, ecosystems, ethnic groups and cultures, ancient and modern that coexist within the country's Four Worlds: the Pacific Coast, the Andes, the Amazon Rainforest and the unique Galapagos Islands.

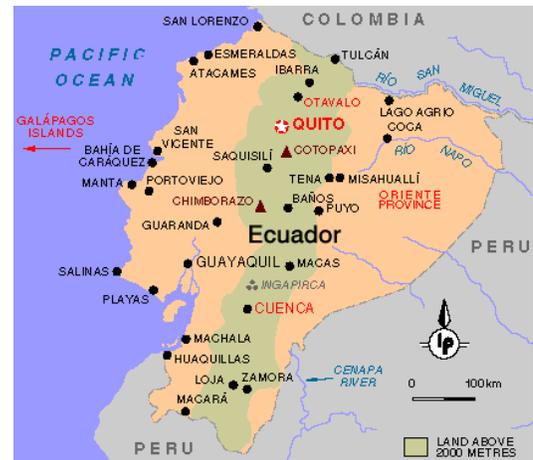
Day 1 – Welcome to Ecuador!

Meals in flight; dinner in destination

Travel to Quito, Ecuador via air, arriving in the evening hours or an overnight flight arriving in the morning. After boarding your transportation, you will be transferred to your hotel.

Quito... Quito is one of the most compelling cities in Ecuador. Nestled in a long, narrow valley in

the Andes between the Volcano Pichincha to the west and the Machángara River Canyon to the east, Quito enjoys a spectacular natural setting. The Ecuadorian capital city's mix of colonial and modern architecture creates a fascinating environment. In addition to being the site of the Ecuadorian government, Quito is also the nation's cultural capital, with an impressive selection of museums, festivals, and nightlife.



Quito is the perfect place to begin exploring Ecuador. See the historic sites of Quito's Old Town and the city's dozens of museums and other attractions, visit its hundreds of shops, cafes, and restaurants and take advantage of the plethora of hikes and climbs in the surrounding areas.

Quito's history is very much linked to general Ecuadorian history. During the pre-Columbian era, several indigenous groups inhabited present-day Quito including the Quitus from whom the city took its name. In the beginning of the 16th century, while the Incas controlled Ecuador, Quito served as the capital of the northern half of the Incan Empire. In 1533, the Inca General Rumiñahui destroyed Quito so that it would not fall into the hands of the advancing conquistadors. Just a year later, after the Spanish conquered the Inca, the Spanish Lieutenant Sebastián de Benalcázar began rebuilding Quito from the rubble that Rumiñahui left behind.



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Ecuador was part of the Viceroyalty of Peru from 1544 until 1720, when it joined the newly created Viceroyalty of Nueva Granada. In 1563, Quito became a Royal Audiencia of Spain, thus permitting it to deal directly with Madrid on certain matters instead of going through Lima. Ecuador gained independence from Spain in 1809.

Modern Quito is a city of two halves, old and new. The Old City remains much the same as it did at the end of the colonial period but the New City bears no marks whatsoever of its colonial past. While the New City does not benefit from the area's brilliant history, it shines in its own right. Take the time to explore both sides of the city, neither will disappoint you.

Ecuador Fun Facts

- ✓ The national tree of Ecuador is the cinchona tree which produces Quinine, the first drug used to prevent and treat malaria.
- ✓ In 2008, Ecuador was the first country to officially recognize the rights of nature. Rather than treating nature as property, Ecuador recognizes that nature has constitutional rights and has the “right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles.”
- ✓ Ecuador has granted political asylum to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Under investigation by the US government and facing extradition to Sweden, Assange sought refuge at the Embassy of Ecuador in London. He has been there since June 2012.
- ✓ The summit of Mount Chimborazo, Ecuador’s highest mountain, is the point on Earth closest to the sun. Due to the mountain’s location along the equatorial bulge, its summit is the farthest point from the Earth’s core. This also means that Ecuador is the closest country to space.
- ✓ Ecuador is one of 17 megadiverse countries in the world and has **the most biodiversity per square kilometer of any nation.**
- ✓ It is well known that Ecuador is named after the equator which runs through the country. It is, in fact, the only country in the world officially named after a geographical feature. The official name, República del Ecuador, translates as “**The Republic of the Equator**”.
- ✓ The equator is widely promoted at the tourist attraction Ciudad Mitad del Mundo (Middle of the World City) 26km north of the capital, Quito. This is supposed to be where one can stand with one foot in the northern hemisphere and one in the southern. Unfortunately, thanks to modern re-measurements, the exact equator is said to lie 240 meters north of the marked line and monument. Oops!
- ✓ Ecuador has the world’s first and second UNESCO World Heritage Sites. At the inaugural UNESCO World Heritage conference in 1978, 32 sites were initially designated. Every World Heritage Site has a number – site #1 is the Galápagos Islands and #2 is the city of Quito.
- ✓ Quito is 2,850m above sea level, making it the highest official capital city in the world. La Paz in Bolivia is higher, but it cheats a little as it is not the constitutional capital (that’s Sucre), only the seat of government.
- ✓ Charles Darwin visited Ecuador’s Galápagos Islands in 1835 and largely based his theory of evolution on the discoveries he made there.
- ✓ Guinea pig, known as ‘cuy’, is considered a delicacy in Ecuador, its consumption seen as an ancient tradition.
- ✓ Ecuador is one of three countries created in 1830 following the collapse of Gran Colombia. After independence from the Spanish colony, the Viceroyalty of New Granada, the short-lived republic



of Gran Colombia (1819–30) was created. It included the territories of present-day Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama as well as parts of northern Peru, western Guyana and northwest Brazil.

- ✓ The Panama hat is actually from Ecuador. Straw hats woven along the Ecuadorian coast were taken to Panama initially to be sold to canal workers and, after the canal opened, to affluent westerners passing through the Panama Canal.
- ✓ Ecuador is the world's largest exporter of bananas, accounting for up to 29% of all bananas exported globally.
- ✓ Ecuador has been voted as the best country for expats for the second year running. Quality of life, cost of living and personal finances have all been cited as excellent reasons to pick up and head to the equator.
- ✓ There are at least 14 recognized languages spoken in Ecuador. Spanish is the official language while 13 indigenous languages are also recognized including Quichua and Shuar.
- ✓ Ecuador is divided into four main and unique geographic regions: La Costa or "the coast", La Sierra or "the highlands", La Amazonía also known as El Oriente or "the east" and La Región Insular, the region comprising the Galápagos Islands.

Day 2 – Quito Colonial, Temple of the Sun Museum & Middle of the World

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Quito! Today we're off to the middle of the earth – literally! We'll travel to the Equator Line and brush up on our geography as we learn about the equator dividing our earth's surface into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

In geography, the equator is an imaginary line drawn around a planet, halfway between the poles, where the surface of the roughly spherical planet is parallel to the axis of rotation. The latitude of the equator is 0 by definition. The length of Earth's equator is about 40,070 km.



Next, we'll continue to another pace with latitude 0°0'0" where we'll visit the **Temple of the Sun Museum** which will guide us through the wonderful world of the Andean cosmovision, culture and traditions.



Temple of the Sun Museum - Pachacuti was a 15th century Inca ruler who created a vast empire along the east coast of South America including today's Ecuador. While spreading the Inca Sun Cult, Pachacuti was considered to be the "son of the sun". Inti was the name of the Inca sun god. The Temple of the Sun Museum celebrates the history of these Ecuadorian ancestors. It also displays the founder's paintings and sculptures portraying indigenous images. Locally-born Ortega Maila is considered among the best contemporary painters in the Americas.

In the afternoon, we'll have lunch in Quito and then enjoy a wonderful tour through the main streets and squares of Quito, founded in 1534, which became the first city in the world to be declared a World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO in 1978.



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Quito Historical Center - The history of this beautiful colonial city, full of legends woven over more than 400 years is still alive in the memory of its inhabitants. At the beginning of the 16th century, the city adopted a monumental style with the construction of the impressive churches by the various Catholic missions of San Francisco, Santo Domingo, San Agustin and the Cathedral. The visit will take you to iconic places such as the Plaza Grande or Independence Square to have a view of important colonial buildings: The Archbishop's Palace, The Metropolitan Cathedral, The Government Palace, as well as other representative examples of colonial art and architecture such as the Santo Domingo Convent.

Tonight, we'll have dinner at our hotel and get ready for another fabulous day tomorrow!

Day 3 – Quito to the Andes Highlands to the Amazon

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning Ecuador! The journey to La Casa del Suizo departs from Quito via private transportation. The route along a scenic stretch of road, takes us out of the majestic **Andes Highlands**, and down into the "Oriente", or Amazon region. Along the way, there are several opportunities to stop for photographs, overlooking **lush green valleys** and **sparkling waterfalls**. The road ends at Punta Ahuano, a tiny port town on the north bank of the Napo River, where canoes await for a late afternoon, 15-minute ride downstream to our destination, La Casa del Suizo. We arrive at our amazing eco-lodge in the rainforest with time to be settled and enjoy the sunset with a welcome beverage, saluting the incredible Amazon!

La Casa del Suizo – Sample Hotel: Sate your curiosity for the Amazon rainforest in one of the best jungle lodges in Ecuador. Each day on the Napo River promises new adventure: the monkeys you spot on your way to the activities, the local community you witness, and the raft you build with your own hands. As the sun sets over La Casa del Suizo, head to the swimming pool to gaze at the stunning jungle view! Rooms are comfortable and modern with river-facing balconies and well-equipped bathrooms. Each room has its own terrace and hammock to take in the exquisite river and jungle views. Full electricity, ceiling fans and hot water ensure the most comfortable of stays! **Rooms have 2 beds to sleep 2 pupils per room.**



Day 4 – The Amazon

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

After breakfast at our lodge, we'll depart for an amazing day!

Canoeing & Amazon Nature Hike - Groups will board a dugout canoe and navigate 20-minutes down the scenic Napo River. Our destination is Cosano, where we'll have a private guide take us on a 2-hour Amazon Birding Hike to discover some fantastic creatures that call the Amazon rainforest their home. We'll seek out interesting vegetation and animals too!



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In the afternoon, we'll travel just across the river from La Casa del Suizo to AmaZOOnico.

AmaZOOnico – is a rescue center for wounded and displaced tropical rainforest animals. Here we will see coatis, tapirs, and several species of monkey, snakes, and a variety of colorful birds, many of which wander around freely. Within 5 hectares, the staff care for more than 400 animals that can't be released back into the wild, and offer guided tours focused on conservation, to more than 20.000 visitors every year.



In Ecuador, It is illegal to have, sell or buy wild animals. The ministry of environment will confiscate the animals, bringing them to wildlife rescue centers to help the conservation of the species and the forests. In 1993, a Swiss-Quichua couple wanted to protect the fauna of the Amazon, so they created an NGO called AmaZOOnico, a center that would receive, rehabilitate, and reintroduce wild animals that had been confiscated from illegal trade.



AmaZOOnico has become one of the biggest animal rescue centers in Ecuador. For those who can be released to their natural habitats, they are rehabilitated with “barely human interaction” and released in one of the three stations within Selva Viva. Of 3500 animals that have been brought to AmaZOOnico since they were born, 1500 are already in their permanent home.

Mid-afternoon, we continue on to the village of Ahuano, where we learn about traditional Quichua culture.



Quichua Culture Master Class - Learn about the jungle way of life of indigenous families. A local host shows us how to make chicha, a typical beverage (tasting optional!) and demonstrates the spiritual cleansing rituals still practiced today throughout the surrounding community. We also will participate in a blowgun target-shooting contest – but don't expect to beat the natives!

After dinner at our hotel, the night is ours for discovery!



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Day 5 – The Amazon

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

We begin the day with an early breakfast and then we're off for more Amazon discovery.



Medicinal Plant Hike & Master Class - Walking through primary and secondary forest trails, we observe distinct species of birds and insects as well as a great variety of trees and medicinal plants. The guides explain how such plants are used not only in medicine, but also in construction and other local activities. Along the trails, there are several opportunities to up the adventure factor, with hanging bridges and vines for swinging from tree to tree like Tarzan.

In the afternoon, we go on to experience the true adventure of explorers' past!

Explorer's Master Class – Learn how to build and navigate a raft! On a small river island our guide shows us how to bind balsa logs together with rope to form a 'vessel', so we can experiment with floating down the Napo. After building our rafts, our float lasts approximately an hour in route back to La Casa del Suizo. The total time of this segment is approximately 4-hours.



The Island Master Class Walk - During the later afternoon, we'll participate in "The Island" - a one-hour walk around a totally flat river island where we can spot a great variety of plants and insects.

Butterfly House Visit - Finally, we wrap up our gorgeous day by visiting the Mariposario (Butterfly House) where we witness the awesome life-cycles of butterflies.

Day 6 – Depart the Amazon to Papallacta to Quito

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Today we head back to Quito to prepare for the third leg of our Ecuador adventure. After breakfast, we'll get moving. We'll make a stop to enjoy the Termas de Papallacta en route.



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Termas de Papallacta – Termas de Papallacta is a hot springs spa area located in a magical **High Andes** landscape. It is known as an integral holistic experience that will awaken the senses! Visitors can enjoy a spectacular view of Antisana Volcano, elevation 5704 meters above sea level. Characterized by its thermal waters that come from rainwater infiltrated in the volcanic caldera, the spa waters acquire the caloric energy, magma and mineral-medicinal priorities. 5 thermal pools equipped with various water jets plus 1 polar pool.

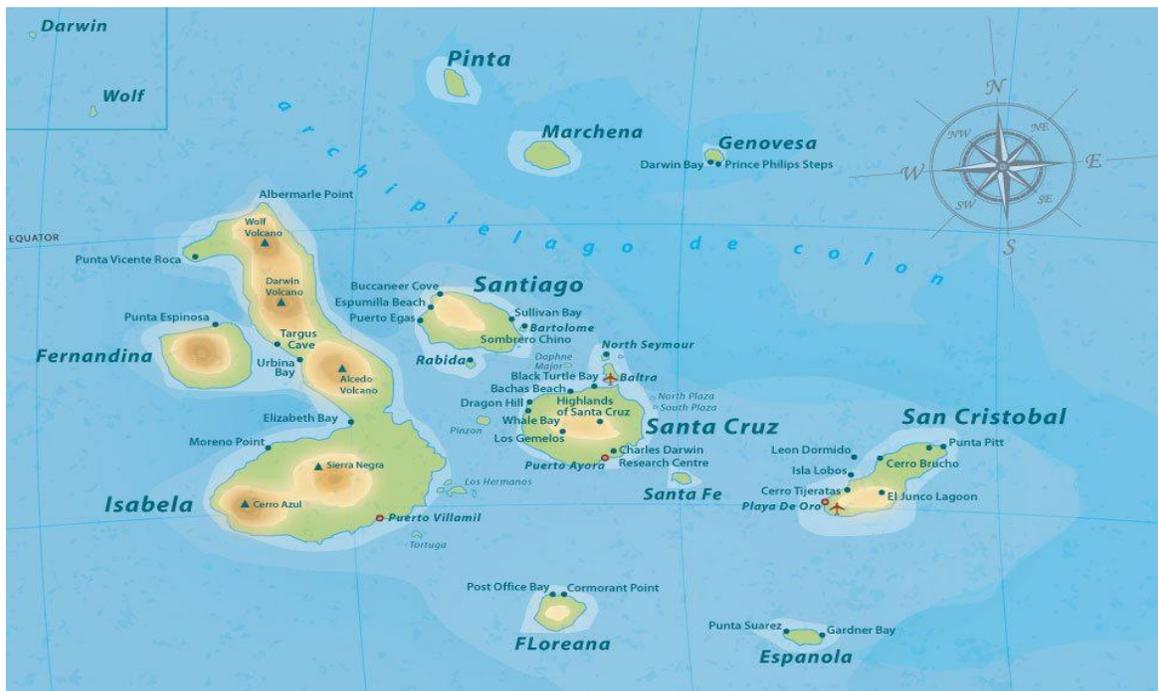
After our stop, we'll carry on our travels back to Quito. Dinner will be served at our hotel.

Day 7 – Quito to the Galapagos Islands

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Today we set off for the amazing **Galapagos Islands**! Heading to the airport, we'll fly from Quito to the Baltra Airport in the Galapagos. Upon landing, we'll be required to handle "migration procedures" and submission of Ingala TCT Card (pay direct, \$20 USD per person, subject to change) and also payment for the entrance fee to the Galapagos National Park (pay direct, currently \$100 USD per person, subject to change).

[The Galapagos Conservancy](#)



Upon arrival, we'll be transferred by bus, approximately a 10-minute ride with shared services, to Itabaca Channel. We'll cross the channel by public ferry to Santa Cruz Island, and then be transferred to Puerto Ayora Village. Puerto Ayora is the most visited place in the Galapagos Islands. It's a charming, bustling port town where sea, sun, seabirds and sailboats coexist in happy equilibrium.



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Santa Cruz - Santa Cruz is the main tourism hub for all of Galapagos, given its proximity to the airport on Baltra to the north. It is the only island in Galapagos where tourists can readily experience the interior and higher elevations of a Galapagos island. Santa Cruz has the longest paved road in Galapagos, which runs north-south across the island, taking people from the airport ferry at Itabaca Canal on the north coast into the highlands and through a few smaller towns on its way down to Puerto Ayora, the island's largest city located on the southern coast of the island in Academy Bay.

In the afternoon, on the town's outskirts, you'll find the headquarters to the world-renown Charles Darwin Research Station.

Charles Darwin Research Station – For decades CDRS has worked on conservation, restoration and sustainable development projects to ensure that the archipelago is well-managed. More than a hundred scientists, educators, research assistants, support staff and volunteers from all over the world have participated in this effort. Currently, the organization's staff is composed by more than 75% Ecuadorians and is committed with the professional training of the permanent residents of Galapagos.



Learn about the island's flora and fauna, and local conservation issues. The highlight of the Station is its tortoise breeding program, with 150-year old Lonesome George as its poster tortoise. The younger tortoises seem to find the Station a perfect environment, as the Station's repopulation program is continuing strong after five years. Stroll through the Station and see tortoises of all ages starting at two weeks old. The Educational Center provides a photo exhibit with information about the Island's unique flora and fauna.

Galapagos Giant Tortoises – At the Ecological Reserve, we'll be able to meet the giant tortoises in their natural habitat. The most famous resident of the Galapagos Islands is the Galapagos giant tortoise. In fact, the very word 'Galapagos' derives from an old Spanish word for tortoises!



The giant tortoise arrived in Galapagos from mainland South America 2-3 million years ago, where they underwent diversification into 15 species, differing in their morphology and distribution. After the death of Lonesome George in 2012, the last Pinta island tortoise, ten living species remain in Galapagos for certain. Their population is currently estimated at 20,000 individuals.



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Giant tortoises show large variation in size and shape, but all 15 species can be classed into two main shell types: domed and saddle-backed. Dome-shelled tortoises lack an upward angle to the front of their carapace (shell), restricting the extent to which they can raise their heads. They tend to live on large, humid islands where there is lots of vegetation to eat. Saddle-backed tortoises have an upward curve to the front of their carapace, which allows them to stretch up to reach higher growing plants. They tend to live on arid islands in Galapagos, where food is less abundant.

The Galapagos giant tortoise spends an average of 16 hours per day resting. The rest of their time is spent eating grasses, fruits and cactus pads. They enjoy bathing in water but can survive for up to a year without water or food. Small birds, such as Galapagos finches, can often be seen sitting on the backs of giant tortoises. The birds and tortoises have formed a symbiotic relationship in which the birds peck the ticks out from the folds of the tortoises' skin. Breeding primarily occurs during the hot season (January to May), although mating may be seen at any time of year. Mating may last for several hours, with the male making loud roaring noises throughout. After mating, the female migrates to a nesting area, where she digs a hole with her back feet into which she lays 2 to 16 eggs, each the size of a tennis ball. The eggs are incubated by the sun, with the young tortoises hatching after around 130 days.



In the evening, we'll settle into our new accommodation and have dinner.

Sample Hotel: Hotel Cucuve – Enjoy the Galapagos experience at Cucuve; a small facility with large rooms, where guests can sleep in doubles and triples. The rooms are warm and elegant with a balcony, hammock and chairs to enjoy the starry nights in Santa Cruz. Located just a few steps from the best restaurants and souvenir shops on the main tourist route from the port. Resort amenities include air conditioning, hair dryers, televisions, mini-bars, safes and wi-fi.



Day 8 – The Galapagos Islands
Breakfast, light lunch & dinner included



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Today is a day to explore! We'll have a choice of 5 islands for a full-day tour. Please note that islands may already be at visitation capacity as only a specific amount are allocated daily. Please get your requests in as early as possible.



ISABELA ISLAND - Located to the west side of the Galapagos Islands, Isabela is the biggest island of the Archipiélago. Here we will visit either Concha Perla Bay or Islote Tintoreras (dependent upon availability when booking), the Interpretation Center and Flamingo's Lagoon.

SANTA FE ISLAND - The island is located to the Southeast of Santa Cruz. It is one of the oldest islands in the Archipelago with a volcanic origin. At Santa Fe, you will find sea lion colonies in the beach; Galapagos hawks can often be seen on the bushes. There is a trail toward the cliffs with a magnificent view of the ocean. Giant cactus is very common, being the preferred food of land iguanas. There is also a forest of Palo Santo Trees.

PLAZAS ISLAND - This small island, with steep cliffs, was formed by rising lava and it is now covered by cactus and sesuvium plants, which change from green in the rainy season to red during the dry season. This island is the home of sea lion colonies and land iguanas.

SAN CRISTOBAL: TIJERETAS & PUNTA CAROLA - Visit the Interpretation Center where we'll find important information about the natural history of the Islands. We'll continue to Cerro Tijeretas, a small hill and habitat of frigate birds with a beautiful view of the islands. Punta Carola is another site included in this excursion, a great place to observe a big colony of sea lions and marine iguanas lying on the rocks. We can also observe marine birds here. Finally, we head towards La Loberia, located 10-minutes from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Here's will be able to find a large colony of sea lions lying on the beach.

PINZON ISLAND - Pinzon Island, also called Duncan Island, forms part of the Galapagos Archipelago. It is an uninhabited island with an area of 18 km² and a maximum altitude of 458 meters. It has no visitor or tourist sites, as it is mainly used for diving and snorkeling, offering beautiful wildlife to see and allowing you to know up close a lot of marine life. Pinzón is home to giant tortoises, sea lions, marine iguanas, dolphins, eels, eagle rays and even lobster, among other endemic species. The tour includes 4 different sites for snorkeling; each session lasts around 20 to 30-minutes in beautiful turquoise and crystalline waters. The beach is wonderful! Do not be surprised if hammerheads sharks surround the boat while navigating to the snorkeling sites.

GALAPAGIS NATIONAL PARK – IMPORTANT NOTES:

- ❖ Please note that the itineraries and visits to the different islands are subject to availability and to the operational dates which are approved by the Galapagos National Park authorities. **The island to be visited will be confirmed only one week in advance of your arrival date.** Programs are subject to change without previous notice due to weather conditions or change in the regulations of the Galapagos National Park.



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- ❖ Please understand that the island tours are mixed with other passengers visiting the island and are not considered private for groups. Island tours do not include transfers to/from hotel to dock or meeting point, as distances are short, easy to walk and easy to find. Guests will be notified about specific details and times the night prior to the visit. If a transfer is required because you are unable to walk, please do let us know as an additional transfer fee will be required.
- ❖ Programs in the Galapagos Islands are provided with 1 guide for every 16 passengers within National Park areas. Bigger groups are divided and may be mixed with other passengers.

After an amazing day, we'll return to our hotel in the late afternoon.

Day 9 – The Galapagos Islands

Breakfast, light lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Ecuador adventurers! Today promises to be amazing! We'll have one more day of island discovery in the incredible Galapagos. Choose from:

ISABELA ISLAND SANTA FE ISLAND
PLAZAS ISLAND PINZON ISLAND
SAN CRISTOBAL: TIJERETAS & PUNTA CAROLA



In the evening, we'll have our last dinner and start to get packed up for tomorrow's return journey home.

Day 10 – Goodbye Ecuador

Breakfast

Today is departure day. After breakfast, our local Ecuador team will bid us goodbye as we board our flight to Guayaquil. Once there, we'll transfer to our international flight, bringing us back home. We hope you leave taking away memories that will last a lifetime.

Adios Ecuador!



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ECUADOR: Quito, the Amazon & the Galapagos islands

Minimum Booking Numbers: 15 students

What's Included:

Roundtrip flights - flying into Quito, out of Guayaquil
Domestic Air from Quito to the Galapagos
Airline baggage fee costs on Day 7 (max 20 kilos / 44lbs)
9-nights' accommodation (3-nights in Quito, 3-nights in Amazon rainforest, 3-nights in the Galapagos)
Ecuador airport transfers plus group transportation for noted activities
Breakfasts, lunches & dinners daily starting with dinner on your night of arrival and ending with breakfast on your day of departure
Quito Colonial Guided Tour
Temple of the Sun Museum & Middle of the World Tour
Canoeing in the Amazon Rainforest
Guided Nature Hikes & Amazon Birding Hikes
AmaZOOnico Excursion
Quichua Culture Master Class
Medicinal Plant Hike & Master Class
Raft Building & Navigation Master Class
"The Island" Walk & Mariposario (Butterfly House) Excursion
Termas de Papallacta (Hot Springs Spa) Excursion
2 Galapagos Island days with specialized tours & activities, dependent on assignment
Charles Darwin Research Station & Tortoise Breeding Center
Assigned Bilingual Galapagos Naturalist
Personal Tour Ambassador
Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest
Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest
24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

Airport transfers in your home area
Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Ecuador Departure Tax for Guayaquil – generally \$30 per person but may be already included in the cost of airline ticketing; please enquire
Beverages other than water during mealtimes
Termas de Papallacta Spa/Massage treatments
Galapagos Ingala TCT Card – pay direct, approx. \$20 USD pp
Galapagos National Park – pay direct, approx. \$100 USD pp
Galapagos transfers to island boats, if needed
Transportation not indicated in itinerary
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Additional sightseeing & entertainment options
Hotel incidental bills – meals, mini-bar items, purchases billed to room, etc
Any gratuities – coach drivers, maid services, tour ambassadors, Amazon guide(s), Galapagos guides(s)
Additional taxes, fuel surcharges or service charges levied by the governments or our suppliers
Luggage handling



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Important Notes:

- **To enter Ecuador, a passport is required to be valid for a minimum of 6 months after the return date noted on flight ticketing.**
- Please take note that Migration Authorities of Ecuador may require each passenger to present a proof of their medical Insurance when entering Ecuador, which covers any medical assistance during their visit to Ecuador.
- Amazon and Galapagos programs are subject to change without previous notice due to weather conditions.
- Limit luggage weight for Galapagos as well as on any local domestic flights is 20 kilos. If passengers have additional weight, it will be required to be paid locally, or if passengers are departing to the Galapagos starting in Quito and ending in Guayaquil (which most groups will), excess luggage may be able to be left in hotel storage and then brought to the return location for pick-up (i.e. Quito to Guayaquil). In this situation, if extra fees are incurred for transport, individuals should be prepared to pay any supplemental fees locally.
- Storage space in the Galapagos is limited; therefore, passengers should take only what is required.

Adventure Activities & Non-Conventional Programming

Some activities involve inherent risk of personal harm. Examples include rafting, canoeing, mountain biking, horseback riding, etc. Please be aware of activities and their potential injury/harm which may result from participation.

Conditions of excursions in Galapagos

- Excursions are subject to availability and change according to Galapagos National Park regulations.
- Day Tour Navigation Excursions will be confirmed one week before departure.
- All tourism activities at the Galapagos Islands are regulated by Galapagos National Park Authorities. Daily programs and itineraries are subject to change.
- Galapagos Authorities requires passenger registration at INGALA to issue the Migration & Transit Control Card (TCT) before arrival to the Islands. Check-in on flights to Galapagos will only be guaranteed when individual passenger information has been provided and TCT issued.

GENERAL COUNTRY FACTS

Capital	Quito	
Surface Area	256.370 square kilometers	
Population	14,483,499	
Languages	Spanish, Quechua	
Religion	Predominantly Christian	
Government	Democratic Republic	
Currency	US DOLLAR	
Update info	Weather www.weather.com	News www.elcomercio.com.ec
Time	-5GMT in Galápagos -6GMT Continental Ecuador	
Electric Power	110 volts Hotels can provide a convertible for 220 volts	
Vaccinations	None; however, if you are traveling to the Amazon, please ask your physician as a Yellow Fever vaccination might be required.	

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

