



ECUADOR ANDINO AND GALAPAGOS ISLAND

10 days/ 09 nights

Ecuador, officially the Republic of Ecuador is a country in northwestern South America, bordered by Colombia on the north, Peru on the east and south, and the Pacific Ocean on the west. The country's capital is Quito and its largest city is Guayaquil. The territories of modern-day Ecuador were once home to a variety of Indigenous groups that were gradually incorporated into the Inca Empire during the 15th century. The territory was colonized by Spain during the 16th century, achieving independence in 1820 as part of Gran Colombia, from which it emerged as its own sovereign state in 1830.

The Galápagos Islands is a volcanic archipelago in the Pacific Ocean. It's considered one of the world's foremost destinations for wildlife-viewing. A province of Ecuador, it lies about 1,000km off its coast. Its isolated terrain shelters a diversity of plant and animal species, many found nowhere else. Charles Darwin visited in 1835, and his observation of Galápagos' species later inspired his theory of evolution.

On this tour, our offer includes both, continental Europe and the Galapagos Islands. Enjoy the colonial **Quito** and go to the center of the planet. Make a selfie with a foot on the northern hemisphere and the other on the southern part. Then, start your journey heading to **Guayaquil**, visiting the **Cotopaxi National Park** and **Baños**. You will continue to **Riobamba** through the Waterfall route Pailón del diablo. To get to **Cuenca**, you will cross the Inca trail arriving finally in **Guayaquil**. In **Galápagos**, you will see the Fausto Llerena breeding center, Tortuga Bay, Twin Craters, Cerro Tijeretas, Punta Carola and Playa Mann. Need an upgrade and want to do an island hopping on a cruise instead? Talk to us and we can plan it. Come to our Ecuador and Galapagos tour and live your adventure!

DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN QUITO

After a long flight you arrive in Quito, the capital city in Ecuador. At the airport, our guide will be welcoming and assisting you before your transfer to the city center, to the Swissotel***** or similar. The rest of the day is free for private activities.

DAY 2 QUITO

Breakfast at the hotel. Today you will visit San Francisco de Quito situated at 2850 meters above sea level at the foot of the Pichincha volcano, embedded in a green Andean valley. The city was founded by the Spanish conquistador Sebastián de Benalcázar in 1534. In the morning visit to the historic center of Quito, one of the oldest cities in South America and also one of the few cities that was able to preserve numerous monuments and artistic treasures from the Spanish colonial era. The old town was listed as a world monument by UNESCO in 1978. In the afternoon you will head to the middle of the world, including a visit to the museum. About an hour's drive north of Quito, in the middle of a dry valley, is the famous "Middle of the World" Equator monument. On the way you will visit the first Museum – Factory and Distillery in Ecuador, created in honor of the Andean agave culture. Here you will find knowledge, uses, tools, agave garden, tasting, and all the magic of this ancient Ecuadorian tradition. Back to the Swissotel and free time to enjoy the hotel facilities or scroll on the colonial district, shopping, eating... Overnight. (B)

**PRICE PER PERSON
IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY**
EUR 3.281.-
Increase Hab. Simple
EUR 960.-

**DEPARTURES EVERY
TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND
FRIDAY**

Jan 08 – Dec 15, 2024

**PRIVATE SERVICES
upon request**

Inclusions

- ✚ 9 nights at selected hotels with breakfast
- ✚ All excursions and transfers mentioned in the program.
- ✚ All tickets to museums and national parks
- ✚ English speaking driver/guide
- PROGRAM INCLUDES in Galápagos:**
- ✚ Reception and dispatch at Baltra airport
- ✚ Hotel accommodation of your choice in double and triple accommodation
- ✚ Breakfasts
- ✚ Maritime and land transport in shared service
- ✚ bilingual guides of the Galapagos National Park
- ✚ Visits and excursions according to itinerary in shared service
- ✚ Hotel taxes.

NOT INCLUDED

- International flight to/from Ecuador
- Flight to/from Galapagos Island
- Meals and drinks and other services not mentioned in the program.
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters.
- Personal expenses





DAY 3 QUITO – COTOPAXI NATIONAL PARK - BAÑOS

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning you will head towards the south of the country, to the province of Cotopaxi. You will continue along the "Avenue of Volcanoes", as Alexander von Humboldt once called it, until you reach the Cotopaxi region. Discover the impressive Cotopaxi National Park. On the Limpiopungo plateau (3,830 m) you will acclimatize and take a short walk through the area to learn about the diverse high Andean flora and observe birds. You will continue by vehicle until you reach an altitude of 4,500 m. From there it is possible to climb to the José Ribas refuge at 4,800 m and walk to the beginning of the glacier. In the afternoon travel to the city of Baños, where you will have your accommodation at Samari Spa Hotel **(B)**

DAY 4 BAÑOS – RIOBAMBA Waterfall route Pailón del diablo

After breakfast we head to the tropics. In the morning we will visit the waterfall route. This innovative valley is also known as the gateway to the Amazon rainforest. In this beautiful valley we take a peaceful walk and also visit the roaring waterfall known as "Pailón del Diablo". In the afternoon we continue our trip to Riobamba. Overnight at the hotel Hacienda Abraspungo 3***. **(B)**

DAY 5 RIOBAMBA – CUENCA On the Inca trail to Ingapirca

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure in the morning to the south of the country, with a stop at the Balbanera church, and at the Colta lagoon. Continuation to the Devil's Nose viewpoint, where the guide will explain the history of the train. We continue along an ancient Inca road, to the most important Inca fortress in Ecuador, Ingapirca. The path leads mainly downhill: highest point approximately 4,000 m, destination at 3,200 m. On the way we passed through small mountain towns with a predominantly indigenous population. In the afternoon we arrive to the wonderful city of Cuenca and we will visit the beautiful colonial city, which has been declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO since 1999. A fantastic tour of this city awaits you. Overnight at the Hotel Boutique Santa Lucia 4****. **(B)**

DAY 6 CUENCA - CAJAS NATIONAL PARK – GUAYAQUIL

Breakfast at the hotel. We will drive through Cajas National Park. We cross the 4,200 m high pass and drive through a beautiful area of mountain lakes, where we will have a hike. Through different climatic and vegetation zones we enter the tropical lowlands passing through banana, cocoa and rice plantations until we finally reach the port city of Guayaquil. We stroll along the El Malecón promenade to the historic district of Las Peñas and enjoy the panoramic view from Cerro Santa Ana. Overnight at the Wyndham Hotel 4****. **(B)**

DAY 7 GUAYAQUIL – BALTRA – SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Breakfast at the hotel. Early transfer to the airport in Guayaquil. Domestic flight to the Galapagos Island (flight tickets not included). Upon arrival at Baltra Island airport, reception by our National Park guides. We continue with the visit to the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, which is located in the Galapagos National Park, on Charles Darwin Avenue, at a distance of 1 km from the Gus Tourist Dock Angermeyer, spending a time of 40 minutes walking. The attraction is part of the Charles Darwin Foundation's network of visiting sites. The FAUSTO LLERENA BREEDING CENTER is a research and conservation center for biodiversity in the Galapagos Islands, which plays a fundamental role in the protection of natural resources and in the education and dissemination of information about the unique fauna and flora of the Galapagos Islands. Next door is the Charles Darwin Station, named in honor of the British naturalist who visited the Galapagos Islands in the 19th century and whose observations of the local fauna and flora led him to develop his theory of evolution by natural selection. You visit the VAN STRAELEN Interpretation Center, learn about the endemic species, observe the reproduction of giant tortoises, participate in field activities and take guided walks along trails where you can observe the flora and fauna. After the visits, transfer and overnight at the hotel Solymar Puerto Ayora 3***. **(B)**





DAY 8 SANTA CRUZ ISLAND – TORTUGA BAY - TWIN CRATERS – UPPER PART

Breakfast at the hotel. In the morning we visit the beautiful Tortuga Bay beach, which is among the 25 best beaches in the world. We will take a walk of approximately 45 minutes to the beach. It is a beach approximately 2 km long, white sand formed by fish bones and white coral; considered a sanctuary for iguanas, sea turtles and other species where you can swim and do activities such as snorkeling and beach games. The return to the hotel can be on foot or we can take the boat that will leave us at the dock. Then we visit the UPPER PART. This tour covers the main attractions of the northern part of Santa Cruz Island where we will visit RANCHO PRIMICIA. In this spectacular place we can find giant tortoises in their natural state and take great photographs. We will continue towards THE LAVA TUNNELS of volcanic formation. We will walk inland at a distance of approximately 100 m, and our guide will give you an explanation about the types of volcanic eruptions that formed the islands. We will have time for lunch. Then, we will make a short stop at LOS GEMELOS DE SANTA CRUZ. These are two craters that were formed when the islands had a lot of volcanic activity that generated several eruptions. These sinkholes have very green areas. The view from this point is impressive and you can admire the great size of these and where at some point millions of years ago there was lava located at the shores of the Salt Lake, very good furnished and in the middle of nowhere. You may experiment cold temperatures, even if the hotel is provided of heating in every room. At the end of the afternoon, we will find the ideal place to watch the sunset accompanied by a coca drink as a welcome drink. Return to the hotel. Overnight. **(B)**

DAY 9 SANTA CRUZ ISLAND – SAN CRISTOBAL – CERRO TIJERETAS – PLAYA MANN

Breakfast at the hotel. We leave very early to take the ferry that will take us to San Cristóbal Island. We will visit Cerro Las Tijeretas, which is located north of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, capital of the Galapagos Islands, on the trail that connects the Galapagos Interpretation Center, Punta Carola beach and Cerro Tijeretas with its pier. On Cerro las Tijeretas (558 km2 in area) there are viewpoints, from where you can observe the flight of frigate birds, a species of bird representative of the place, commonly known as "Tijereta" due to the shape of its tail. We continue with the next visit to Punta Carola and Playa Mann. Beach located towards the north - west of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. The beach has an extension of approximately 300 meters, which is made up of dry forest vegetation. On the beach there is a large colony of sea lions (*Zalophus californianus wollebaeki*) among the vegetation and on the rocks there are marine iguanas (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*). In this place you can practice surfing. Continue to the hotel Opuntia Boutique Hotel 3*** **(B)**

DAY 10 SAN CRISTOBAL – RETURN FLIGHT

Breakfast at the hotel. At the agreed time our transportation will take us to the airport for your flight back to the continent and then take the flight to your next destination or back home. End of our services. **(B)**

(B) Breakfast **(L)** Lunch **(D)** Dinner

