



# 9-DAY QUITO- GALAPAGOS WESTERN ISLANDS EXPEDITION CRUISE





# ITINERARY

DAY BY DAY



The travel experience leads visitors through colonial Quito and the Ecuadorian Andes and Galápagos Islands to experience their unique natural wonders. The daily schedule features a series of planned activities, including exploring cities while receiving wellness treatments and observing wildlife and volcanoes. This travel plan serves people who want to experience new places while finding peace through nature-based activities.

## DAY 1, WEDNESDAY. ARRIVAL IN QUITO.

Upon arrival at Quito airport, you will meet with your guide, who will transfer you to your hotel. Situated in a circle of Andean peaks, **Quito** is the world's second-highest capital, with arguably one of the finest settings in the world. Originally settled by the Quito tribe in the first millennium, Quito was an important part of the Inca Empire before being destroyed and re-founded by the Spanish conquistador Sebastián de Benalcázar in 1534.

The colonial center, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1978, is one of the largest and best-preserved in Latin America. It is home to excellent museums, churches, and art galleries.

Overnight, Wyndham Garden or similar

## DAY 2. HALF-DAY QUITO CITY TOUR

After breakfast, you will have a half-day city tour where you can choose a visit to the Historical Center, the Equator Line, or the Teleferiqo.

"Equatorial line" complex. Its monument is located at the latitude 0° 0' 0" and provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to straddle both hemispheres or hop between the two in the blink of an eye.

The monument forms the focal point of a park and leisure area with gift shops and restaurants. The site occupies an important place in the solar-based Andean cosmivision since ancient Andean people were aware of its significance many thousands of years ago.

The Ethnographic Museum at the complex provides a fine overview of Ecuador's varied cultures and geography.

The largest historical center in the Americas, in a unique adventure, the route takes us along the street of the Seven Crosses. Enjoy the view of the old colonial houses and the facades of the churches, before entering Quito Main Square, known as Independence Square, which is located at the Government Palace.

Enjoy a scenic ride up the Teleférico to one of the highest viewpoints in Quito. As you ascend the slopes of Rucu Pichincha, the city unfolds beneath you with breathtaking panoramic views of the Andes. At the top, take time to explore the trails, breathe the fresh mountain air, and capture incredible photos of Quito's dramatic landscape. A short but memorable experience that lets you see the capital from an entirely new perspective.

Overnight Wyndham Garden or similar

## DAY 3, FRIDAY. GALAPAGOS SEAMAN JOURNEY - 7D/6N ITINERARY C

After breakfast, a representative of the staff will pick you up from the hotel in order to take you to the airport. Today, you will fly to the **Galapagos Islands**. Pay a fee of \$20 USD for the migration control card at the airport before going through security.

After landing in Santa Cruz, go through an inspection point to prevent the introduction of foreign plants and animals. You will also pay the entrance fee to the Galapagos National Park: \$200 for foreign passengers and \$100 for children under 12 as of September 2024.

Your guide will meet you at the airport, help with your luggage, and take you to the bus for the ferry across the Itabaca Channel. You will then visit Ranch Manzanillo or a similar farm in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. Wear comfortable shoes, light clothing, and bring a waterproof jacket, sunblock, a camera, and repellent. Enjoy a picnic lunch and a short walk before boarding the Motor Catamaran. Your luggage will go directly to the **M/C Seaman Journey**.

At Santa Cruz, observe wild Galapagos tortoises. Explore lava tubes, sinkholes, and craters in the highlands. After this visit, you will travel to the M/C Seaman Journey.

(B/L/D)

## DAY 4 SATURDAY. MORENO MORENO POINT & FERNANDINA ISLAND

**AM: MORENO POINT, ISABELA ISLAND.**

Punta Moreno sits on Isabela Island's west coast, at the entrance of the Bolivar channel. The trail follows a Pahoehoe lava flow into coastal lagoons. Spot various bird species, including blue-footed boobies and flightless cormorants, near the lakes and mangroves.

**PM: FERNANDINA ISLAND, MANGLE POINT.**

Mangle Point, off Fernandina's eastern coast, is an excellent snorkeling site. Ride in a panga or zodiac through mangrove groves. You may see sea lions, tortoises, pelicans, rays, and numerous sea birds.

(B/L/D)

 **DAY 5 SUNDAY. ISABELA ISLAND**

**AM: ISABELA ISLAND, URBINA BAY.**

Urbina Bay sits at the base of Alcedo Volcano on Isabela's west coast. This area was uplifted in 1954, stranding marine life. It offers great snorkeling and features a 3,200-meter trail with sand, pumice, lava, coral, and coastal vegetation. Look for iguana burrows, and when snorkeling, you may swim alongside penguins and observe red and blue lobsters.

Here, you might see Darwin's finches and land iguanas, which are larger than those on South Plaza Island. Giant Tortoises also roam the area. The vegetation includes chamomile, Rosewood, and Darwin's cotton flowers, which are endemic to the Galapagos.

**PM: ISABELA ISLAND, TAGUS COVE.**

Tagus Cove, west of Darwin Volcano, was a favorite spot for pirates and whalers; it is possible to observe pirate graffiti. You will see a cave with inscriptions from the 1800s. The area is known for volcanic rocks, including "lapilli," small spherical rocks. The trail is a small challenge and leads to a lookout above Darwin Lake and the bay below. The trail allows you to spot finches and mockingbirds.

It is also a very good snorkeling and sea kayaking spot. There is a colony of flightless cormorants.

(B/L/D)

 **DAY 6 MONDAY. FERNANDINA ISLAND & VICENTE ROCA POINT**

**AM: FERNANDINA ISLAND, ESPINOZA POINT.**

Espinoza Point is famous for its marine iguana colonies, looking like armies covering entire areas. Also home to unique species like the flightless cormorant, Galapagos penguin, Galapagos hawk, and Galapagos snake. This is one of the most pristine and remote areas of the Galápagos archipelago.

### **PM: VICENTE ROCA POINT.**

Vicente Roca Point, on Isabela's northwestern coast, features high cliffs and lava formations. This bay is rich in marine life. Look for seahorses, sea turtles, and Mola-mola (sunfish). Enjoy panga rides and snorkeling to see penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, and sea lions.

(B/L/D)

## DAY 7 TUESDAY. SANTIAGO ISLAND.

### **AM: SANTIAGO ISLAND, ESPUMILLA BEACH**

Espumilla Beach lies on Santiago Island's northern coast, within James Bay. The site has a very picturesque coastline, which shows erosion and different formations created by the action of the sea. Explore the Palo Santo forest, mangroves, and see nesting baby sea turtles in the dunes, as well as a Flamingo colony in the coastal lagoon. Vegetation varies in short distances from dry to humid; here, you can see the damage done by introduced species like feral goats that were finally eradicated. Main wildlife includes sea lions and fur seals, marine turtles, marine iguanas, oystercatchers, herons (great blue heron, and other seabirds. You can also spot land birds like the Galapagos dove, Darwin's finches, and hawks.

### **PM: PUERTO EGAS, SANTIAGO ISLAND**

Puerto Egas features a black beach with volcanic tuff deposits. There is a vibrant contrast between the dark minerals and the red Sally-lightfoot crabs that are sprinkled on the rocks. This site was once used for salt extraction, which ended due to low prices on the continent. The abandoned infrastructure remains. The trail passes a sea lion colony and leads to the playful grotto where fur seals (smaller than the sea lions) swim around and play in the tidal pools.

Snorkel with marine iguanas, playful sea lions, and other marine life.

## DAY 8, WEDNESDAY. RABIDA ISLAND & CHINESE HAT

### **AM: RABIDA ISLAND**

Rábida Island stands out for its red rocks and sand. The volcanic material here is porous, changing color due to oxidation. A short trail leads to a lagoon where you can see land birds and a colony of flamingos. It is interesting to observe the pelicans diving in for fish. The red beach contrasts with the green vegetation.

Snorkeling is amongst the best, as you swim along the coastline, playful sea lions join you. You can spot moray eels, small sharks, starfish, and lots of colorful fish.

## **PM: CHINESE HAT - SOMBRERO CHINO**

Chinese Hat is a small islet off Santiago Island's southeastern tip. This recent volcanic cone resembles a Chinese hat. Explore lava formations and observe sea lion colonies, lava lizards, marine iguanas, and Galapagos penguins. This is an island of colorful contrasts, the red vesuvium flowers, the Sally lightfoot crabs, and the orange beaks of the American oystercatchers contrast beautifully with the pahoe hoe lava fields and lava cacti.

It is also a nice spot for deep water snorkeling, the channel formed between Sombrero Chino and Santiago island creates a protected area with calm turquoise waters, yet deep enough to attract white-tipped reef sharks that sleep in the small caves formed below. You can also observe sting rays, parrot fish, Galapagos penguins, marine turtles, and, with luck, dolphins and the rare visit of a whale shark.

## **DAY 9, THURSDAY. BLACK TURTLE COVE, SANTA CRUZ ISLAND**

Enjoy a dinghy ride to Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz's north coast. The boat will explore the mangrove-protected cove with the engines off.

In the calm waters, you may see sea turtles feeding and mating, along with black-tip, white-tip, and Galapagos sharks. Spot groups of spotted rays, golden cow rays, egrets, and herons.

After the visit, you will be transferred to Baltra airport for your flight back to the mainland

# RATES

**From \$6387**  
per person



## Includes

- Transfer in/out,
- Accommodations in double rooms
- Accommodation on board in a double suite or double cabin
- Guided tours
- Indicated Meals
- Transportation
- Bilingual naturalist guide
- Activities mentioned in the itinerary
- Emergency contact 24/7



## Not Includes

- Tips
- Wet suits
- Domestic Flights
- Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages
- Personal expenses
- Meals not described in the program
- Galapagos Islands fees (TCT and National Park Entry)

### **Hotel:**

**Quito:** Dann Carlton or Similar

**Galápagos :** on board Seaman Journey

# HIGHLIGHTS

- Immersive cultural and sensory experiences in colonial Quito
- Close encounters with wildlife in the Galápagos Islands
- Enjoy an experience in Galapagos 360
- Discover Uninhabited Islands and pristine beaches

# TRAVEL TIPS

- Adjust to Quito's altitude gradually—stay hydrated and rest upon arrival.
- Pack lightweight, breathable clothing and layers for varying climates.
- Bring insect repellent, sunscreen, and a reusable water bottle.
- Respect local customs and wildlife—observe but never disturb.
- Prepare waterproof gear for rainforest and island excursions.

# WEATHER PREPAREDNESS

- **Quito & Andes:** Cool to mild temperatures (50–70°F); chilly evenings.
- **Galápagos:** Warm and sunny (70–85°F); sea breezes can feel fresh.

Pack versatile layers and quick-dry clothing to adapt to the changes.

## **Fitness Requirements**

Moderate fitness is recommended. The itinerary includes walking tours, short hikes, light kayaking, and optional spa treatments. Participants should be comfortable with humidity and occasional uneven terrain. The wellness therapies focus on relaxation rather than strenuous activity, suitable for travelers seeking a mindful yet active experience.

# FAQS

## **1. Is this tour suitable for first-time travelers to Ecuador?**

Yes, it offers a balanced introduction to Ecuador's key ecosystems, Andes, Amazon, and Galápagos while maintaining a relaxing pace.

## **2. What kind of activities are included?**

Transfers and transportation during the tour, City Tour, museum visits, and activities inside of the cruise.

## **3. Will I encounter wildlife up close?**

Yes, in both the Amazon and the Galápagos, you will see diverse species in their natural habitats under the guidance of expert naturalists.



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