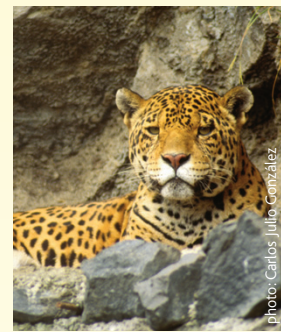




# epic treks THE ANDES & AMAZON

An extraordinary collection of treks in Ecuador's most amazing parks and nature reserves of the Andes and Amazon. Exclusive trails filled with unique landscapes, wildlife and wonder. Encounter Indian communities with living traditions and revive the mythical legends of the ancient cultures. Combined with classic historic haciendas, spas, and eco lodges this trip is a hiker's adventure of a lifetime.

Exclusive paramo, cloud forest, rain forest and dry forest trails. Best possible wildlife viewing. Archaeological sites seldom visited. Ancient trails of the Yumbos and Panzaleo cultures. Equatorial Andean lakes. Kichwa communities including the Waira Churis (Wind Dancers). Hot springs and spa. Trek on the highest active volcano in the world. Get amazing views of the erupting Tungurahua Volcano. Great variety of landscape and vegetation. Perfect blend of nature, culture and accommodations. Visit six different national parks and nature reserves. Top notch naturalist certified guides. Sleep with soothing jungle sounds at a rainforest eco lodge. Enjoy some of the best historic haciendas of Ecuador.



The development of new routes for biking, trekking, birding, adventure racing, or just plain fun is what led our guides to find and open these hidden treasures for you to enjoy. Supported by space imaging, topographic maps, and GPS we can assure easy and safe navigation in these wonderful natural areas.

**DAY 1 • Latitude 0° in the Pululahua Volcano.** Walking: 5 hours. 11 km. ☀ Home to a large diversity of birds including hummingbirds, mountain tanagers, eagles and hawks. At the top of the old crater rim, lunch is served at an archeological site – a solar calendar built 2000 years ago by the pre-Inca indigenous people known as the Yumbos. Breathtaking views of the valleys beneath.

**DAY 2 • Cuicocha Crater Lake.** Walking: 4 hours. 10 km. ☀ Find species such as Pumamaqui, Quishuar, chilca, bromarea, fushia, lupins, calcelaria, and colorful flowers. Stunning views to the lake and the Cotacachi, Mojanda and Imbabura volcanoes. Watch for mammals and birdlife such as the great Andean Condor. Visit a leather market and an indigenous bazaar filled with handmade items.

**DAY 3 • Continental Divide to hot springs trek.** Walking: 4 hours. 10.6 km. ☀ Drive to the Atlantic-Pacific continental divide. Hike through the Cayambe-Coca Reserve offering some of the best scenery in the country. Seek out three different species of deer, the elusive spectacled bear and birdlife on Amazon side. End this hike in the Papallacta hot springs and it's mineral-rich waters.

**DAY 4 • Macaw Jungle Trail.** Walking: 7.5 hours. 12 km. ☀ Scenic drive to the Sumaco National Park, featuring the (active) Sumaco Volcano. At the Guacamayos (Macaw) range see spectacular views to the flatlands. See the cock-of-the-rock, toucans, caciques, oropendolas, manakins, military macaws and many unique species. Visit a Kichwa family that lives in the town of Archidona. Learn about the jungle life through the Waira Churis (Wind Dancers). Overnight at a river front jungle lodge.

**DAY 5 • Rainforest walk & explore the Pastaza River Gorge.** Walking: 2 hours. 3 km. ☀ Tropical lowland rainforest hike. Learn about the traditional use of plants for daily living and medicinal purposes. Visit a local Kichwa community. Climb back up through the Pastaza River Gorge. Continue to Baños de Agua Santa, on the slopes of the erupting Tungurahua volcano.

**DAY 6 • Mysteries of the Llanganates.** Walking: 4 to 5 hours. 10.7km. ☀ A great variety of birds and animals including hard-to-see species such as the spectacled bear are likely to be found on this hike with great views of the surrounding volcanoes. Descend into the Patate Valley through the ancient Panzaleo Trail. Overnight at La Cienega, a hacienda with 300 years of history.

Ask us about further details, and suggested packing tips.

# meet ecuador

## GEMS OF ECUADOR QUITO, THE CENTER OF THE WORLD, GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CRUISE & HISTORIC GUAYAQUIL

**DAY 1 • Arrive in Quito** ☀ Airport assistance and welcome. Leisure day.

**DAY 2 • Departure for Tour Quito and Center of the World** ☀ Visit downtown and the colonial quarter (a UNESCO World Heritage Site). See Independence Plaza, flanked by the Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, the Municipal Building and the Archbishop's Palace. Visit the temple of La Compañía de Jesús and the Monastery of San Francisco. Stand with a foot on each hemisphere at the Equatorial Monument – the exact middle of the world. Visit the Ethnographic Museum and a colonial-style town. Tour panoramic Quito by night. Twinkling lights cover the valley as you enjoy dinner at one of the finest restaurants in the city.



**DAY 3 • Fly to Galapagos Island** ☀ Board M/V Santa Cruz. • **Las Bachas (Santa Cruz Island)** ☀ Military barges were abandoned here on a beach that is now an important nesting area for the east Pacific green sea turtle. Enjoy a glorious white beach with several lagoons which are the feeding grounds of various wading birds, from stilts to flamingos. Get acquainted with snorkelling gear and techniques.

**DAY 4 • Buccaneer Cove (James Island)** ☀ Enjoy a coastal exploration and learn the history of Santiago Island, its whalers, pirates and conservation projects. See marine birds, sea lions, and inter-tidal organisms. Enjoy fantastic natural formations and an impressive natural cave. A great site for snorkelling too! • **Puerto Egas (James Island)** ☀ See land and marine birds. At low tide, marine iguanas graze upon algae beds and there is a colony of fur-sea lions. Snorkel and swim.

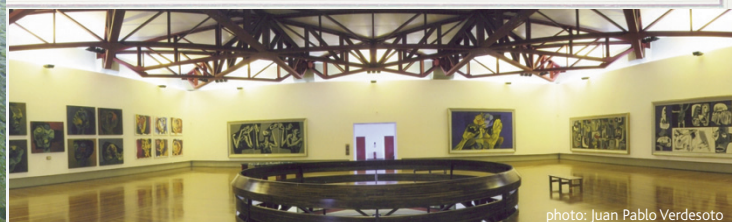
**DAY 5 • Rábida Island (Jervis)** ☀ Share the beach with a large colony of sea lions, iguanas, mockingbirds, warblers and Darwin's finches. Close by is a salt pond where greater flamingos migrate. Snorkel to view underwater species and landscapes, or enjoy a ride on the glass bottom boat. On the way to our next island, dolphins are often spotted. • **Bartolomé Island** ☀ Hike to the summit for a view worth the effort. Dinghy ride around colossal Pinnacle Rock, then enjoy the beach and snorkelling, possibly with Galápagos penguins, or ride in the glass-bottom boat.

**DAY 6 • Prince Philip's Steps (Tower/Genovesa Island)** ☀ A panga ride along the cliffs and then a steep climb up some stairs is followed by a walk to observe large colonies of Nazca boobies, red footed boobies, great frigate birds and storm petrels. Or continue the panga ride along the cliffs. • **Darwin Bay (Tower/Genovesa Island)** ☀ Hundreds of birds to see. Optional walk over uneven terrain for dramatic views, or return to the beach to enjoy swimming and snorkelling, or join us in a glass bottom boat ride.

**DAY 7 • Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristóbal (Chatham) Island)** ☀ Option to see the breeding programme of giant tortoises at Cerro Colorado. Flight back to the mainland. • **Flight to Guayaquil** ☀ Welcome and transfer to the hotel.

**DAY 8 • Guayaquil Museum Tour** ☀ Choose to visit two or three museums: the Municipal Museum; Museum Nahim Isaias Barquet; Museum of Anthropology and Contemporary Art (MAAC); Museum of Gold of the House of Culture. Enjoy an Ecuadorian style lunch.

**DAY 9 •** Catch your flight home.



# your way naturally



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Complete Terms and Conditions are available on our website.

cover photos: monkey, Carlos Julio González; monument, T. Ochi; boat, Pete Oxford. Acknowledgement: Banco de Imágenes Metropolitan Touring





# todo ecuador

**Embark on a journey of discovery through Ecuador's natural mega-diversity, and its four worlds, each different, each inspiring.** Explore the jungles of the Amazon rainforest beneath gigantic trees, paddle dugout canoes and climb observation towers for a close encounter with the forest canopy, haven of monkeys, sloths and screeching parrots. See the snow-capped volcanoes, green valleys, and the gleaming façades of the churches of Quito. The capital city was the first to be named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Warm yourself on the tropical beaches and watch the sun set over the Galápagos Islands, far out in the Pacific Ocean. Visit this archipelago – part of Ecuador's national park system – and walk among many unique species. Unthreatened by predators, Galápagos creatures are undisturbed by visitors, who come away inspired and changed by their experience of nature here.

Unveil the magic of this hidden jewel. Discover the many faces of contemporary Ecuador, its culture, history and traditions together with world-class lodging and cuisine.

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS



PACIFIC OCEAN



## CRUISING GALAPAGOS ISLANDS M/V SANTA CRUZ

Travel Galapagos island on-board the 43 cabin M/V Santa Cruz, boasting worldwide recognition for its excellent standards, including superb service, expert crew, the most knowledgeable multilingual naturalist/guides and menus that feature the very best international cuisine and celebrated Ecuadorian dishes.

**Monday • Baltra Island** ☀️ Arrive and transfer to board the M/V Santa Cruz. Welcome with lunch. • **Las Bachas (Santa Cruz Island)** ☀️ After WWII, US military barges were abandoned here on the beach that has become known as "Bachas", now an important nesting area for the east Pacific green sea turtle. On the north shore enjoy a glorious white beach with several brackish lagoons which are the feeding grounds of various wading birds, from stilts to flamingos. This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with snorkelling gear and techniques.

**Tuesday • Buccaneer Cove (James Island)** ☀️ After breakfast, enjoy a coastal exploration along the impressive cliffs of Buccaneer Cove. Learn the history of Santiago Island, its relevance for the whalers, pirates and early researchers, including Darwin's voyage in 1835, and the conservation projects. The cove is home to a large number of marine birds, sea lions, and inter-tidal organisms. Enjoy fantastic natural formations such as the "Elephant Rock", "The Bishop" and an impressive natural cave. This is a great site for snorkelling too! Lunch on board. • **Puerto Egas (James Island)** ☀️ A great opportunity to see land and marine birds. At low tide, marine iguanas graze upon the algae beds and there is a colony of fur-sea lions. Opportunity for snorkelling and swimming from the beach.

**Wednesday • Rábida Island (Jervis)** ☀️ Disembark on this red-coloured beach and stroll along the beach of this small island. Observe a large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finches. Close by is a salt pond where at times greater flamingos migrate. Snorkel from the beach to view underwater species and submarine landscapes, or enjoy a ride on the glass bottom boat. On the way to our next island, dolphins are often spotted. • **Bartolomé Island** ☀️ A moderately steep hike for a view from the summit is worth the effort. Dinghy ride around colossal Pinnacle Rock, then enjoy the beach and some snorkelling, possibly with Galápagos penguins, or else a ride in the glass-bottom boat for great views of the underwater world.

**Thursday • Prince Philip's Steps (Tower/Genovesa Island)** ☀️ A panga ride along the cliffs and then disembark on rocks for a steep climb up some stairs followed by a walk of about a mile to the other side of this small island, observing large colonies of Nazca boobies, red footed boobies, great frigate birds and storm petrels. Those not wishing to disembark can enjoy a longer panga ride along the cliffs. • **Darwin Bay (Tower/Genovesa Island)** ☀️ Hundreds of birds to see. Optional walk over uneven terrain for dramatic views, or return to the beach to enjoy swimming and snorkelling, or join us in a glass bottom boat ride. Farewell cocktail.

**Friday • Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristóbal (Chatham) Island)** ☀️ Optional departure to see the breeding programme of giant tortoises at Cerro Colorado. Airport transfer and flight back to the mainland.

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NOTE: Itineraries & programme subject to change without notice.



## HOTELS

Travel your own route and be assured of accommodation. We can offer a variety of locations all across Ecuador.

Here is a sample, ask us about more:

### ANDES

- Abraspungo
- Grand Victoria
- Guango Lodge (Andean Slopes to Amazonia)
- Hacienda Cusin (close to Otavalo)
- Hacienda Hato Verde (close to Cotopaxi)
- Hacienda Leito (close to Baños)
- Hacienda Manteles (close to Baños)
- Hacienda Pinsaqui (close to Otavalo)
- Hacienda Zuleta
- Hosteria Chorlavi
- La Cienega (close to Cotopaxi)
- Mansion Santa Isabel (Riobamba)
- La Mirage (close to Otavalo)
- Puerto Lago (close to Otavalo)
- Sachatamia (area of Mindo)
- Samari Spa
- San Agustin Del Callo (close to Cotopaxi)
- San Isidro (Andean Slopes to Amazonia)

- Termas De Papallacta (Andean Slopes to Amazonia)
- Tierra Del Volcan
- Mashpi Lodge

### COSTA

- Barcelo Miramar (Salinas on the Beach)
- Casa Ceibo (Bahía de Caráquez)
- Faro Escandinavo (close to Manta)
- (30 min from Manta)
- Hacienda El Castillo (close to Guayaquil)
- (45 min from Guayaquil)
- Mantarraya

### GUAYAQUIL

- Courtyard by Marriott
- Four Points Sheraton
- Hampton Inn
- Hilton Colon
- Howard Johnson
- Mansión Del Río
- Oro Verde
- Sonesta Hotel

### CUENCA

- Carvallo
- El Dorado
- Mansión De Alcazar
- Santa Lucia

### QUITO

- Akros
- Anahi
- Cafe Cultura
- Casa Aliso
- Casa Gangotena
- Dann Carlton
- El Crater

### GRAND HOTEL MERCURE

- Alameda Quito
- Hilton Colon
- Holiday Inn Express
- Hostal La Rabida
- Hotel Quito
- Jw Marriott Hotel
- La Casona De La Ronda
- La Vieja Cuba
- Le Parc
- Mansion Del Angel
- Nü House
- Patio Andaluz
- Plaza Grande
- Relicario Del Carmen
- Sheraton
- Stubel Suites & Café
- Swissotel

### GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

- Finch Bay Eco Hotel
- Royal Palm
- Solymar
- Isla Sol
- Silberstein
- Red Booby
- Mainao
- Verde Azul
- Casa Natura
- Casa Opuntia
- Miconia

### AMAZON LODGES

- Huaorani
- Casa Del Suizo
- La Selva
- Manatee
- Kapawi
- Napo Wild Life
- Sacha

Ask about our great rates on car & hotel packages.

## LAND TOURS & OTHER ATTRACTIONS



photo: Francisco Galizapanta

- Visit Quito and the Center Of The World
- Otavalo Markets
- Avenue of the Volcanoes: Cotopaxi
- A Walk In The Clouds: Crossing the Andes
- Historical Guayaquil and the beaches
- Pure Nature: Papallacta Pass Thermal Springs
- Artisana Ecological Reserve
- Mindo Cloud Forest
- Birdwatching: Papallacta And Bosque Nublado
- Adventure Tours:
  - Biking: Cotopaxi And Illinizas
  - Rafting: Amazon River Rafting
  - Kayaking: Cuicocha Crater Lake
  - Trekking: Pasochoa and Cotopaxi National Park
  - Epic Treks Of The Andes & Amazon (7 days - 6 nights, from Quito)
  - Multisports: Western Andes Multisports (3 days)

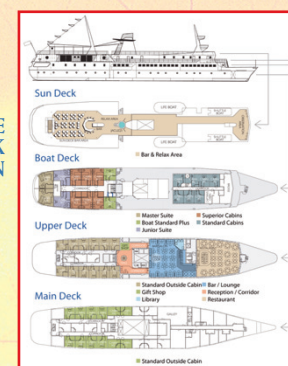
## GALAPAGOS CRUISES



photo: Ramiro Salazar

- YACHT LA PINTA
- YACHT ISABELA II
- M/V SANTA CRUZ
- M/Y CORAL I
- M/Y CORAL II
- M/V GALAPAGOS LEGEND

SAMPLE DECK PLAN



Charters for groups and incentives.

## EXPLORE THE CITIES

If making your own path is more your style, ask us about air only arrangements. Call about our friendly service to these destinations:

- Ambato
- Arajuno
- Babahoyo
- Bahía de Caráquez
- Baños de Agua Santa
- Cuenca
- Durán
- Esmeraldas
- Guaranda
- Guayaquil
- Ibarra
- La Libertad
- Latacunga
- Loja
- Macas
- Machala
- Manta
- Milagro
- Nueva Loja
- Portoviejo
- Piñas
- Pintag
- Quevedo
- Quito (capital)
- Riobamba
- Santo Domingo de los Colorados
- Salinas
- Shell Mera
- Tulcán



Contact us for rates and availability.