



## Galapagos & Amazon Quest - 10 Days (#20449)

**Note:** Price printed on this PDF is valid until **13-02-2025** and is subject to change without notice due to Partner changes and currency fluctuations

### Overview

Experience the best combination adventure in Ecuador by exploring The Galapagos and Amazon, kayaking, snorkelling & trekking all in one trip! Travel to Galapagos to witness wildlife closer than anywhere else on the planet. Swim with sea lions, sea turtles, penguins, sharks, and the only marine iguana in the world. Hike the top of active volcanoes in Isabela Island and search for the famous giant tortoises. Discover the high biological diversity of the pristine Amazon rain forest and share time with the local Kichwa community and learn about their ancestral customs, while enjoying your stay at the Amazon-Lodge.

Departure on Sunday.

### Trip Highlights

Quito-Galapagos-Amazon

### Detailed Itinerary



### Day 01

#### Day 01: Arrive Quito

Welcome to Quito! The largest, best-preserved colonial city of America – declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978. The city is considered the Cultural Capital of South America and is located on the equator in a valley at the foothills of the Pichincha volcano.

Depending on your arrival time, you can spend your day exploring the old town of Quito and the surrounding area. ADVENTURE JOURNEYS can help you to organize a day trip (please request in advance). In the evening, one of our trip leaders will meet you at the hotel's lobby for a welcome briefing at 18:00 hours. At this time we will discuss the details and questions you may have regarding the adventure. Our first day is an acclimation and information day.

**Hotel:** Sheraton Quito Hotel or similar.

**Meal:** No Meal

### Day 02

#### Day 02: Galapagos and Isabela Island

Today we get ready to explore the most amazing archipelago in the Pacific coast and the place where Charles Darwin based his theory on the evolution of species. We will board a morning flight from Quito to the island of Baltra. Once we arrive, we head to the town of Puerto Ayora, the largest town in the Galapagos. From here we will take a quick boat to the largest island in the archipelago and where most of the volcanic activity in the Galapagos is reported. The island was formed by six shield volcanoes, Alcedo, Cerra Azul, Darwin, Ecuador, Sierra Negra and Wolf; five of them are still active which makes the island one of the most volcanically active places on earth.

The Galapagos Islands is located 600 miles (965.6 km) from the coast of Ecuador, it is really important to understand that you will have to take air, road and sea transportation to get there.

**Hotel:** Albemarle or similar.

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 03

#### Day 03: Snorkel at Lava Tunnels

Explore the amazing formations of lava created by the last eruptions of the volcanic island along the seashore. This magical place has historically been filmed by BBC and National Geographic for their documentaries. It is a labyrinth of lava arches



made of crystal clear water full of sea turtles, eagle rays, sea lions, sharks and more. The turtles navigate their own highway from the mangroves to the open sea through “Los Tuneles”. Here, we will have the best snorkeling opportunity with all these beautiful animals, including the curious Galapagos penguins playing around.

Before or after the trip, you can enjoy some optional activities such as snorkelling at “Concha de Perla”, biking or just relaxing on the exotic white-sand beaches of Isabela Island. We recommend you to take some time to visit the giant tortoise breeding centre located walking distance from the hotel.

**Hotel:** Albemarle or similar.

**Meal:** Breakfast and Lunch

#### Day 04

#### Day 04: Hike and Kayak

After driving up from Puerto Villamil to the trail head, we will prepare our backpacks for the hike into a young forest ecosystem, a world of recent geological history. Our destination is the rim of Sierra Negra Crater, an active volcano which last erupted in June 2018.

Upon arrival, we take in breathtaking views and explore the circumference of the massive, lava-filled crater, a caldera that is over six miles across at its widest point. If we feel energetic enough, we can continue our hike to Volcan Chico, a secondary crater that has a wild landscape of puffing fumaroles and colourful lava formations; great examples of the dramatic geological events that have formed the Galapagos Islands over millennia.

In the afternoon we will visit Tintorerías Islet, located at a short distance from Puerto Villamil and home to a great variety of wildlife. Its turquoise, crystalline waters are inhabited by white-tipped reef sharks, Galapagos Penguins, marine turtles and sea lions. One of its beaches, surrounded by mangroves, is one of the few sites where marine iguanas can reproduce successfully.

**Hotel:** Albemarle or similar.

**Meal:** Breakfast and Lunch

#### Day 05

#### Day 05: Charles Darwin Research Station

In the morning, traverse from Isabela to Santa Cruz Island to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. Once we arrive, we will check in at the hotel. We will then visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn more about many of the endemic species seen in the wild, as well as the ongoing conservation and management efforts on the Galapagos Islands. In the



afternoon, we will head to the 'Primicias' reserve in the highlands of Santa Cruz, home to the famous Galapagos tortoises. Hiking through Primicias' beautiful landscape with these lumbering giants is an unforgettable experience! We will also see other highland wildlife, such as pintail ducks, egrets, flycatchers, finches and frigatebirds, which gather to wash the salt off their feathers at a freshwater lake. Afterwards, return to Puerto Ayora to spend the evening in Galapagos' most populous town.

**Hotel:** La Isla or similar.

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 06

### Day 06: Flight back to Quito

After our final breakfast on the Galapagos Island and the last photos taken of sea lions, we have a transfer to Baltra's airport in time to catch the flight back to the mainland.

**Hotel:** Sheraton Quito Hotel or Similar

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 07

### Day 07: First Amazon Exploration

Early in the morning, we will drive down along a curved panoramic road towards the Amazon Rain Forest; as we descend from an altitude of 3000 m to 500 m (9843 ft to 1640 ft), you will observe how the landscape and vegetation change drastically between climates. Later, we also stop at the "Guacamayos-Macaw Lookout," located between Antisana and Sumaco National Reserves (low elevation cloud forest), to observe the magic blanket of clouds that covers the Amazon rainforest, until we finally arrive at the Arajuno River, where a motor canoe will take us 20 minutes up the river to the Eco Lodge. Then have a short break and before dinner there is an optional nocturnal hike to view insects.

**Hotel:** Amazon Jungle

**Meal:** Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

### Day 08

### Day 08: Amazon Hike and Kichwa People



Early in the morning with the sunrise we take a canoe up the Arajuno river to go visit the Saladero, this is how the locals call a Parrot's clay lick, here we will have a very close wildlife encounter, as this birds come almost every morning, they like licking this clay as it is full of minerals they need to be able to digest, this is because their main diet are nuts. After breakfast we will go for a hike in the Amazon pristine forest to learn more about the flora, fauna and the techniques of survival that people need when living here. In the Afternoon we will visit the nearby Kichwa community, they will share their traditions and stories with us.

**Hotel:** Amazon Jungle

**Meal:** Breakfast, lunch and Dinner

### Day 09

### Day 09: Hot Springs

Today we head back to the Andes Mountains and before going to Quito we will stop at Papallacta hot springs to soak in the volcanic pools, it is optional to take any spa treatment.

**Hotel:** Sheraton Quito Hotel or Similar

**Meal:** Breakfast

### Day 10

### Day 10: Departure

Today our trip will end with your International departure. Take with you your memories and photos and leave a piece of your heart, as you will want to return to Ecuador soon to experience more of this spectacular paradise. We wish you a "Buen viaje!"

**Meal:** Breakfast

## Inclusions

Transportation: Airport transfers (national flights), sea transportation Santa Cruz – Isabela islands round trip, comfortable land and sea transportation, canoe in the Amazon.

Accommodation based in double occupancy: 5\* hotel in Quito, 3+ star hotels in Galapagos, Amazon Lodge.

Meals: 9 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches and 2 Dinners.

Activities: Trekking to Sierra Negra active volcano in Isabela Island, snorkeling in Tintorerías and Lava Tunnels, visit the



Charles Darwin Research Station, hiking in Santa Cruz highlands, hiking in the Amazon, visiting local Kichwa Community, night jungle walk, swimming in volcanic hot springs, hiking in the cloud forest.

Gear: Hiking sticks, sit on top kayaks, life vest, paddles, snorkeling mask and fins.

Trip Leader: Certified expert English-speaking adventure Trip Leader and naturalist local guides in Galapagos National Park.

## Exclusions

International flights.

Flight to/from Galapagos (Rates available on request).

Galapagos Ingala Card – AUD 48.

Galapagos National Park Fee – AUD 476.

Isabela Pier Fee – AUD 24.

Airport transfers.

Travel insurance (suggested).

Meals not described in the itinerary (Rates available on request).

Tips for guides, drivers and hotels (Rates available on request).

## Note

Departure on Sunday.

Please note that the prices are starting from and that upon sending a new request with specific date we will send the applicable rate and availability.

Unique Experiences:

Visit a native local family in the middle of the Amazon jungle and look for monkeys.

Snorkel through lava formations with sea turtles, penguins, sea horses, sea lions and sharks.

## Program Touring / Guide

Escorted Experience

## Periodic Departure



**17 Dec, 2024 to 31 Dec, 2025**

2-3 pax

AUD 8,582 P P twin share

AUD 9,188 P P single

ON REQUEST

4-5 pax

AUD 7,319 P P twin share

AUD 7,925 P P single

ON REQUEST

6 plus

AUD 6,553 P P twin share

AUD 7,159 P P single

ON REQUEST

