

QUITO CITY & GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Quito – Otavalo – Santa Cruz – Navegable Tour – Isabela – Baltra
8 days / 7 nights



Itinerary:

Day 01:

Quito - Transfer in

Welcome to Ecuador!

Arrival at Quito's airport, reception, and transfer to the hotel in the Quito district, check-in (15:00 hours). Overnight.

Day 02:

Quito City Tour – Mitad del Mundo - Teleferico / (B, L)

Breakfast in the hotel. Pick up from the hotel in Quito. The tour will then continue from the Basilica Church, where we will make a brief stop to visit it. After walking through the colonial streets, we will then stop at the Independence Plaza to admire the Cathedral and the Government's Palace. We will also visit La Ronda Street, The Company Church, Santo Domingo's Church, The Sagrario's Church, and San Francisco's Church, which was built during the 17th century. After visiting the historical sights, we will go to Teleferico. This is one of the best ways to enjoy our city with views of beautiful valleys, snow-capped mountains, and the capital, Quito. From a point of more than 13,000 feet (4000 m), you will enjoy magnificent views of the city. After lunch, you will head to the Middle of the World monument, where you can stand right in the middle of the equatorial line and straddle the two hemispheres. In addition, you will have a chance to participate in several

experiments at the Intiñan Museum such as watching the water go down a drain in a different direction (only inches away from either side of the equator), or balancing an egg on a nail or using an ancient sundial and much more. At this place complex, you will also be able to visit a fascinating ethnographical museum that gives a great overview of the many distinct cultures of this small country. You will also enjoy the amazing landscape in Pululahua inhabited crater just 5 minutes from the Equatorial line. Overnight Quito.

Day 03:

Otavalo Market – Cuicocha Lake / (B, L)

Breakfast in the hotel. This full day starts with early morning pickup from your hotel in Quito. From there, we will drive in a private vehicle to Otavalo and its marketplace to learn all about their culture. On our way, we can admire the gorgeous scenery and the Andes Mountain range. We will stop at San Pablo's Lake viewpoint to take some pictures and where we will try some delicious bizcochos (local traditional buttery cookies). Once we will reach Otavalo, you will have the opportunity to walk through the market to see the different stands and local people exhibiting their multicolored handicrafts and souvenirs and purchase some if you'd like. We will also visit a weaving workshop in Peguche. After that, you will enjoy lunch and then visit Cuicocha Lake before heading back to Quito. Overnight in Quito.

Day 04:

Quito – Baltra – Santa Cruz / (B, L)

Breakfast in the hotel. Transfer to the airport in Quito and flight to Galapagos. You will be picked up at the airport by your guide. Then, we will move to the Itabaca Canal and cross on a ferry. Later we will drive with the vehicle to the ranch "El Chato" in the highlands to see giant outdoor turtles. We will visit the Charles Darwin Station, which is primarily an international scientific research station located on the outskirts of Puerto Ayora. We will go to your interpretation center to learn about the geology, climate, natural history, and conservation of the Galapagos Islands. In the evening, you can choose from many restaurants near the pier for dinner on your own. Overnight in Santa Cruz

Day 05:

Full Day Navigable Tour / (B, BL)

Breakfast in the hotel. Depending on the dates and/or navigable site available, pick-up from the hotel will be early in the morning (6 or 7:00 am) to take you to the small vessel at the embarkation point in Puerto Ayora for a unique experience with Galapagos wildlife and endemic vegetation. The destination can be either Santa Fe, Pinzon, or Floreana (the destination depends on availability and regulations of the National Park). The activities will include hiking, snorkeling, swimming, and breathtaking sightseeing. After land and sea excursions, we will return to the hotel in Santa Cruz where you can relax and later have dinner at the restaurant specified by the guide. Overnight in Santa Cruz.

Day 06:

Isabela - Tintoreras / (B, L)

At 6:30 am, you will take the speed boat to Isabela, (2 hours). Upon arrival, a guide will transfer you to your hotel and you will have the rest of the morning free. If you want, you can walk to the nearby flamingo lagoon to spot these graceful birds or visit (entrance free) the tortoise breeding center. In the afternoon, we will visit "Las Tintoreras," a chain of small islets full of the cove and hidden beaches. The islet of Tintoreras is situated in the south of Puerto Villamil. It has a bay where it is possible to see sea lions, marine turtles, iguanas, manta rays, etc. This bay is connected by a superficial crack with crystalline water which is closed off during low tide. In this crack, it is possible to see the sharks from Blanca Point swimming with the rest of the tropical fish and sea lions (snorkel). Overnight in Isabela.

Day 07:

Isabela - Cabo Rosa Tuneles – Santa Cruz Island / (B, BL)

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure by boat to Cabo Rosa (45 min by boat), where lava flowed into the ocean and formed beautiful lava tunnels. There you will see penguins, blue-footed boobies, and sea turtles. However, the highlight is diving. You could see sharks, turtles/sea lions, sea lions, rays, seahorses, and many tropical fish. The tour to Cabo Rosa lasts approximately 5 hours. Then, we will take a speedboat to return to Santa Cruz Island. Overnight in Santa Cruz.

Day 08:

Transfer to Baltra / (B)

This day, you will have breakfast and departure to Baltra and catch your flight back to the mainland – your flight shall depart at 11:30 am minimum, not before. Board on the flight to Quito or Guayaquil. Arrival and connection with international flight.

Note: Itineraries are subject to change without notice due to seasonal changes, last-minute weather conditions, and adjustments to Galapagos National Park policies.

Includes:

- 07 nights lodging at selected hotels.
- Transportation: International and domestic airport transfers, comfortable land transportation, and sea transportation.
- Meals mentioned in the itinerary (7 breakfast, 4 menu lunch, 2 box lunch)
- Certified English / Spanish speaking guides
- Snorkeling Equipment (mask, fins, tube, wetsuit)
- Personal assistance.

- Private vehicle in Ecuador & Galápagos
- Guided activities
- Entrance activities tickets in Quito y Otavalo.

Not Includes:

- Travel insurance.
- Domestic flights Quito-Galápagos-Quito
- Galápagos National Park Fee USD \$100.
- Transit control Card USD \$20.
- Pier uses in Isabela USD \$10.
- Tips.
- Drinks and not specified meals.
- Single supplement solo travelers
- Transportation Itabaca Channel – Baltra Airport – USD 5 p.p. (subject to change).
- Transportation Baltra Airport – Itabaca Channel – USD 5 p.p. (subject to change).