

Ecuador Highlands to Islands Promotion – 16 days Northwestern Galapagos Islands

16 days, multiple amazing and unique environments in the same country!

Available departure dates:

Saturday October 18

Saturday November 15

Saturday November 29

Minimum 2 passengers, double or triple occupancy. Single supplement may apply if any single passenger requires a single room on board the yacht or a single room in hotels.

Saturday:

Arrival at Quito Airport where you will be met by our driver to take you to your boutique hotel in Quito's Old Town district. Depending on your arrival time there will be time to explore Quito a bit more or to have a great dinner in one of many excellent restaurants near your hotel.

Meals included: - / - / -

Sunday:

Today you will depart in the morning for a city tour of Quito, visiting Mitad del Mundo and Quito's historic old town. Return to your hotel in the late afternoon.

Meals included: B / - / -

Monday:

Early morning departure for a day tour to Cotopaxi National Park, including a visit to the refuge below this majestic volcano and an optional hike to the glacier line. Return to your hotel in the late afternoon.

Meals included: B / L / -

Tuesday:

Today you will depart early in the morning to the amazing Galapagos Islands to begin your cruise on board the Beagle, a first class sailing yacht. Transfer to the Quito airport is included.

Note: Cruise does not include your migration document (\$10 pp), National Park Entrance Fee (\$100 pp), wetsuit rental if desired, alcoholic beverages and sodas, tips and personal expenses.

Upon arrival at Baltra Airport all visitors pay their entrance fee to the Galapagos National Park. You will then be met by The Beagle's naturalist guide who will assist you with your luggage collection and accompany you on a short bus ride to the harbor to board The Beagle. After a light lunch, the Beagle will navigate to Las Bachas, located on the northern shore of Santa Cruz Island. Las Bachas is a white sand beach that is a major nesting site for the green sea turtles. The name Las Bachas ("potholes") refers to the indentations left in the sand by laying turtles or departing hatchlings. On the shore there are marine iguanas, and in the lagoon area flamingos are common. Visitors are welcome to swim from the beach.

Meals included: B / L / D

Wednesday:

GENOVESA ISLAND

After a dry landing you climb up the fairly steep Prince Philip's Steps that take you onto a lava rock trail leading you through Palo Santo forest full of nesting birds. There's a good chance of seeing the unique short-eared owl at this site.

After lunch and a snorkel along the amazing cliff sides, you visit the beach area of Darwin Bay, home to frigate birds, red-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, flycatchers, lava gulls, storm petrels and Darwin finches, to mention some of the birds found in this bay, formed from a caldera collapse.

Meals included: B / L / D

Thursday:

SANTIAGO ISLAND

After a wet landing at James Bay onto a black beach, an easy stroll takes you near the coast line to observe tidal pools, marine birds, iguanas and sea lions, and often migratory birds are present in this area. This is also a good place to observe the Galapagos hawk. The trail ends at the fur sea lion grottos and, being nocturnal feeders, the fur seals sleep in and around the grottos during the day. On returning to the beach visitors may snorkel or swim.

After lunch the Beagle will start navigating to the west side of Isabela Island.

Meals included: B / L / D

Friday:

ISABELA AND FERNANDINA ISLANDS: PUNTA VICENTE ROCA AND PUNTA ESPINOZA

At Punta Vicente Roca, we take a short trip in our dinghy to observe the diverse marine life at this site, arriving to a snorkel area where underwater wildlife take full advantage of the nutrient-rich Cromwell current that upswells in this area.

Fernandina is the youngest island of the archipelago. As you disembark at Punta Espinoza, you must be careful not to step on the marine iguanas piled up together to retain body heat. This visiting site is rich in wildlife, sea lions, flightless cormorants, penguins, herons, Sally light-foot crabs and much more, all living side by side on this small point with its mangrove forest.

Meals included: B / L / D

Saturday:

ISABELA ISLAND: TAGUS COVE AND URBINA BAY

We begin the day with a 30 minute hike at Tagus Cove, arriving at the top of a cliff to view the volcanic landscapes of Darwin Volcano and Darwin Lake, the latter an uplifted ultra-saline lake saltier than the sea. Historically used as an anchorage site by pirates and whalers, this site is again an excellent place for marine and land birds.

Located to the south at the foot of the western side of Alcedo Volcano, Urbina Bay was uplifted in 1954 from the seabed leaving coral heads sitting out of the water. There is a large colony of land iguana, which has grown since the feral dogs and goats have been controlled through Project Isabela. It also affords an opportunity to see the Alcedo Volcano tortoise in its natural habitat.

Meals included: B / L / D

Sunday:

ISABELA ISLAND: ELIZABETH BAY AND PUNTA MORENO

Elizabeth Bay is a marine visitor site so our excursion is by dinghy to the Mariela Rocks, home to an important colony of Galapagos penguins. We continue into a cove surrounded by red mangroves, where in these quiet lagoons we might see green sea turtles, spotted eagle rays, golden rays, brown pelicans, small shark and flightless cormorants.

We then walk across lava to a series of lagoons with plenty to see along the way. Darwin's finches, Galapagos doves, penguins, blue-footed boobies, mockingbirds and flightless cormorants are some of the abundant wildlife we could spot. Still on Isabela, the largest island in Galapagos, you will explore Punta Moreno, a desolate and pristine landscape of impressive black lava flows affording good views of the Alcedo and Sierra Azul volcanoes.

Meals included: B / L / D

Monday:

ISABELA: SIERRA NEGRA VOLCANO AND PUERTO VILLAMIL

After breakfast, we begin a hike to the Sierra Negra volcano, the second largest volcanic crater in the world. It sits in the southern part of Isabela Island. We travel by bus to the end of the road, followed by a 45-minute walk along a trail to the top of the volcano from where the caldera can be viewed.

Upon returning from the hike, we visit the Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center to see the giant tortoises. Lunch is served upon your return to the Beagle, and afterwards, those who wish can swim in one of the coves of Puerto Villamil.

In the afternoon the boat begins traveling toward Puerto Ayora.

Meals included: B / L / D

Tuesday:

SANTA CRUZ: LOS GEMELOS AND DEPARTURE

After breakfast, depart by bus from Puerto Ayora to visit Los Gemelos (the twin craters) on the way to the Baltra airport. Return to Quito, where you will be met at the airport and taken to your boutique hotel in the Mariscal district of Quito.

OPTIONAL: After your arrival to Quito from the Galapagos, instead of an overnight in Quito, we can arrange transportation directly to Papallacta and overnight at the Termas de Papallacta resort, offering semi-private hot springs and spa services in a gorgeous region. Additional \$80 per person including transportation for 2-3 pax; \$60 per person for 4 or more.

Meals included: B / - / -

Wednesday:

Early departure for the nicest hot springs in Ecuador in the community of Papallacta. Day to enjoy the pools of varying temperatures and soak in the spectacular surroundings, and take an optional hike into the high altitude cloud forests or paramos of the area. Return to your hotel in Quito for the night.

Meals included: B / - / -

NOTE: Optional overnight at Termas de Papallacta does NOT include breakfast

Thursday:

Morning departure for a 2 day / 1 night stay at the Bellavista Cloud Forest lodge. Breakfast at the lodge, followed by a guided hike through the pristine cloud forest reserve. Lunch, then a chance for another hike or birdwatching in the afternoon. Dinner, overnight at the lodge.

Meals included: B / L / D

Friday:

Early morning bird walk, breakfast, then a hike to one of the waterfalls in the Bellavista reserve. Lunch, then a chance for another short hike or a rest, then return to Quito in the afternoon. Overnight at your Quito hotel.

Meals included: B / L / -

Saturday:

Day trip to visit Otavalo and the local indigenous market, the largest in Ecuador. After the market, lunch, then a visit to the Peguche falls and the impressive crater lake of Cuicocha. Return to Quito, and enjoy a special dinner for your last night (dinner included, drinks additional). Overnight Quito.

Meals included: B / - / D

Sunday:

Free time depending on your flight departure time. Transfer to the airport for your departing flight.

Meals included: B / - / -

EXTENSIONS POSSIBLE TO VISIT THE AMAZON RAINFOREST, CUENCA, OR FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES – PLEASE ASK US IF INTERESTED

PACKAGE INCLUDES:

8 day/7 night Galapagos cruise aboard the Beagle
2 day/1 night stay at Bellavista Cloud Forest reserve
Bilingual, licensed guides during day trips (guide may be your driver)
Use of snorkel equipment on Galapagos cruises (wetsuits additional)
All meals as indicated above
Flights to and from the Galapagos
All mentioned airport transfers and ground transportation in Ecuador
All accommodations (hotels 3 star or better; double or triple rooms)
Dinner on last evening (drinks additional)
OPTIONAL Night at Termas de Papallacta includes entrance to the hot springs in Papallacta

PACKAGE EXCLUDES:**All not mentioned as included above**

International airfare
Meals not specifically mentioned as included
Entrance fee and visitor registration card for the Galapagos (\$110,-)
Wetsuit rental for Galapagos cruise (if desired)
Personal expenses
Alcoholic beverages, sodas, drinks with some meals
Entrance fees (if applicable)
Tips
Travel Insurance

NOTES:

- All Galapagos itineraries are subject to change or modification due to weather conditions, park regulations, or other circumstances outside of the control of the yacht operators.