

The Best of Ecuador and Galapagos
8 days/7 nights
Quito - Otavalo - Galapagos Islands - Guayaquil
Wildlife, Ecotourism, Culture, History

Quito

Situated in a circle of mountainous peaks of the Andes, Quito has one of the most magnificent settings in the world. Its colonial old town was the first location in the world to be designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Altogether the city has to offer 86 churches and monasteries of the 16th and 17th century. Due to its beautiful churches and monasteries, Quito is known as the "Convent of America". This attractive city is located only 22 km (13, 7 mi) away from the "Middle of the World", the Equatorial Line.

Guayaquil

Ecuador's largest city Guayaquil is the industrial and commercial center of the country and home to over 2, 5 million people. It is situated on the western banks of the Río Guayas, about 35 miles from its outflow into the Gulf of Guayaquil. The Pacific Ocean enters through the gulf of Guayaquil into the city's harbor. Guayaquil's port is the main door to 90% of all Ecuadorian imports as well and half of its exports. The climate is hot in the first semester of the year and a nice cool breeze blows the rest of it. In the recent past the city has seen some great changes with the construction of a beautiful riverfront promenade: Malecon 2000, green areas, and modern shopping arcades that attract tourism from inside and outside the country.

Day 1: Quito

Welcome to Quito! Upon arrival transfer to your hotel. Remainder of the day at leisure to explore the city on own.

Day 2: Quito (Colonial City Tour & Middle of the World☺)

Your half day tour will take you through five centuries of history ranging from modern quarters to varied colonial facades on churches and private residences decorated and balconies built hundreds of years ago. See the gothic Basilica of Jesus' Heart, the Independence Square developed during the past five centuries and flanked by the Presidential and the Archbishop's palaces dated back to XVII and XIX centuries. Walk through the charming colonial quarter towards the Metropolitan Cathedral with excellent samples of the Spanish renaissance. Visit the Jesuit temple, a perfect example of baroque art considered the jewel of the crown of the colonial architecture in Quito, then continue to the Plaza of San Francisco, which displays a rich sample of artistic and cultural heritage. Your tour ends with a visit the "Middle of the world" monument situated at 0°0'0" latitude. [B]

Day 3: Quito (Otavalo Market)

On the approximately two-hour panoramic bus ride to famous Otavalo market, you will visit the small town of Calderón, where the typical miniature bread figurines are made, admire the arid and fertile Guayllabamba gorge and village, and pass the Lago San Pablo with its great background – the rock massive Taita Imbabura. Once in Otavalo discover the worldwide known Indian handicrafts market. The local Indians have achieved economic prosperity as a result of their skill in weaving a tremendous variety of designs in belts, tapestries, ponchos and other clothing items. It's time to test your bargaining skills! Your next stop is in Cotacachi, a crater lake at an altitude of 3.000m. The small town Cotacachi itself is Ecuador's center of leatherworks. Here you can stroll through the small streets choosing one of the various shops as your favorite. In the afternoon you go back to Quito. [B]

Days 4-6: Quito, Galapagos Cruise

Early morning transfer to the airport to take your flight to the Galapagos' Islands. Enjoy a 3-night top quality cruise aboard M/Y Coral I & II or M/V Galapagos Legend. Only a special few have the chance to travel through this paradise, sailing on a charming ship, with nautical interior decoration of wood and brass, featuring ample outer decks, sea-view cabins and suites, Jacuzzi, pool, bars and more. See prehistoric iguanas, giant tortoises, exotic birds, and plants, beautiful landscapes of volcanoes, lava

cones and magma flows. Swim and snorkel at any time of the year in the warm clear waters among tropical fish, manta rays, sea lions, swordfish, sea turtles and other marine wildlife.

Multilingual naturalist guides lead shore excursions twice a day to a place unlike any other full of wildlife that has no fear of man. Lectures explaining the geology, history, evolution, flora and fauna of the islands are provided in several languages. A fine selection of meals will delight you, from buffet breakfast to gourmet dinners, ice cream festivals, and evening barbecues. [B/L/D]

Day 7: Galapagos Cruise, Quito or Guayaquil

End of the cruise and transfer to the airport to board your flight to Quito or Guayaquil. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel [B]

Day 8: Quito or Guayaquil

Day at leisure. At agreed time transfer to the airport and board your flight to the USA or to the next destination [B]



[B] = Breakfast | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Your Tour Includes:

- Round trip transfers between airports and hotels
- Accommodation for 7 nights
 - Quito - 3 nights
 - Galapagos - 3 nights (cruise)
 - Quito or Guayaquil - 1 night (last night)
- Meals:
 - Daily breakfast
 - 3 Lunches
 - 3 Dinners
- Tickets to attractions mentioned
- Local English-speaking guides
- All transfers and tours are on shared basis
- All hotel taxes

Tour does not include:

- International or domestic air tickets*
- Taxes and surcharges related to airline tickets
- Transit Control Card \$20
- National Park Entrance Fee \$100
- Fuel charge \$50
- Early check-in or late check-out at hotels
- Services and food not listed in the itinerary
- Beverages during the meals
- Hotel extras, and personal expenses.
- Tips for guides, drivers and in restaurants

*Flight to/from Galápagos \$449 must be booked through HWDT

Hotels in your Tour:

Location	Hotel Name	Room Type	Tripadviso
First Class			
Quito	Hotel Mercure	Standard room	4
Galapago	M/Y Coral I & II or M/V Galapagos	Standard Plus	n/a
Guayaquil	Hotel Oro Verde	Standard room	5

All hotels and cruises are subject to confirmation at the time of booking

Tour Prices:

Season	From
First Class	
January - December	\$2,899

Rates are minimum per person sharing a room and may change without notice.
 Rates may change depending on the date of travel
 Prices for single room or for 3 passengers sharing a room are available on request
 Valid through 20 December 2020. Not valid for Holidays and big Conventions.
 Other blackout dates may apply.

Tour Code: EQ02UIO20IDM

Important Cruise Schedules and Conditions:

Cruise Schedules:

The schedules depend on your day of departure.

M/V LEGEND		
3 night Cruises		
Mon	AM	Arrival in Baltra and transfer to boat
	PM	Santa Cruz: Highlands / Pitt Craters
Tue	AM	Santiago: Egas Port / Salt Mines
	PM	Bartholomew Island
Wed	AM	Santa Cruz: Dragon Hill
	PM	North Seymour Island
Thu	AM	Santa Cruz: Bachas Beach
		Transfer to the Baltra airport
4 Day Cruise C		
Mon	AM	Arrival in Baltra and transfer to boat
	PM	Mosquera Islet
Tue	AM	South Plazas Island
	PM	Santa Fe Island
Wed	AM	San Cristobal: Pitt Point
	PM	San Cristobal: Witch Hill
Thu	AM	San Cristobal: Colorado Hill
		Transfer to the San Cristobal airport
M/V CORAL		
Itinerary A - 4 days - 3 nights		
Sun	AM	Arrival in Baltra and transfer to boat
	PM	Santa Cruz: Fausto Llerena Breeding Center
Mon	AM	Dragon Hill
	PM	Bartholomew Island
Tue	AM	Rabida Island
	PM	Bachas Beach
Wed	AM	Black Turtle Cove and transfer to the airport
Itinerary C - 4 days - 3 nights		
Sun	AM	Arrival in Baltra and transfer to boat
	PM	Santa Cruz: Fausto Llerena Breeding Center
Mon	AM	Mosquera Islet
	PM	North Seymour
Tue	AM	Santa Fe Island
	PM	South Plaza
Wed	AM	Interpretation Center & Tijeretas and transfer to the

Conditions

Payment

Deposit upon confirmation \$500 (five hundred) dollars per person

Full payment: 61 days prior to departure or at time of reservation if less than 61 days before departure

Cancelation:

Up to 121 days before departure cruise deposit is fully refundable

120 to 61 days before departure: full deposit will be forfeited (\$500 per person)

60 to 0 days: Non-refundable

Changes:

Name changes on same departure

120 to 61 days before departure: \$150 penalty per person

60 to 0 days: Not permitted

Change of cruise dates:

120 to 61 days before departure: \$150 penalty per person

60 to 31 days before departure, a 80% penalty will apply for same names.

Price adjustments apply depending on available date, ship, and cabin(s). Above conditions do not apply Dec 18th through January 10th.