








MAGICAL ECUADOR & THE GALAPAGOS

Ecuador



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Let your imagination soar

Journey overview

Experience a taste of magical Ecuador and the glorious Galapagos, on this grand 7-day itinerary. Ecuador boasts varied landscapes and territories between the Andes, the Amazon, beautiful coasts and of course: the Galapagos islands.

Your journey begins in the second highest capital and most scenic city in the world, Quito. This bustling capital of Ecuador is steeped in a rich cultural history perfectly juxtaposed with a contemporary ambiance. Historically fascinating, the iconic Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, showcases an astounding array of monuments and colonial architecture, all built on the ruins of an Incan city. Bustling markets give way to a flourishing commercial centre, while tranquil neighbourhoods offer insight into the everyday life of its inhabitants.

The next leg of your adventure takes you to a mecca for nature enthusiast, Situated 972 kilometres (604 miles) west of the mainland. Made famous by Charles Darwin who studied the island's fantastic array of species, which ultimately contributed to his theory of evolution, the island's endemic fauna and flora are as fascinating today as they were in 1835. The islands' moonlike landscapes, interspersed with rugged vegetation, certainly create an ethereal atmosphere, yet they are haven to a flourishing population of marine iguanas, sea lions, giant tortoises and an exceptional array of birds such as the blue-footed boobie, frigate bird and flightless cormorant

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ITINERARY:

- Private explorations in Quito
- Chocolate tasting and cooking class led by a resident gourmet chef
- A close encounter with the wildlife of Galapagos Islands
- Specialist guides during your Island visits
- Amazing photographic opportunities
- Combination of lodge stay and exploration by yacht.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR ADVENTURE:

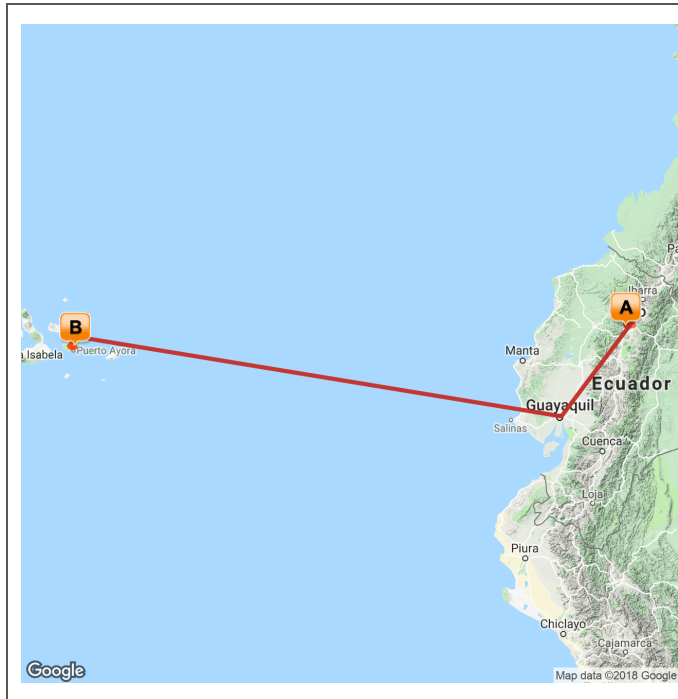
- Extend your stay by adding Amazon or Cloud forest

SPECIALLY CREATED FOR:

- Photographic enthusiasts
- Travellers with a passion for wildlife and biology
- Travellers looking for a luxurious adventure experience
- Nature lovers



At a glance



6 nights / 7 days

2 guests

DAY	PROGRAMME
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private transfer from Mariscal Sucre International Airport to Plaza Grande Hotel • Included activities: Rest of the day at leisure • Overnight: Plaza Grande Hotel
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included activities: Exploration with private guide of the city, visiting the highlights of the historical district of the city of Quito, Chocolate making and tasting in Galeria Ecuador, Cooking class , Visit to Equatorial Monument, the middle of the world • Overnight: Plaza Grande Hotel
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private transfer from Plaza Grande Hotel to Mariscal Sucre International Airport • Scheduled flight from Mariscal Sucre International Airport to Jose Joaquin de Olmedo International Airport • Scheduled flight from Jose Joaquin de Olmedo International Airport to Baltra Airport • Transfer from Baltra Airport to Pikaia Lodge • Included activities: Access to the VIP lounge at Baltra Airport • Overnight: Pikaia Lodge
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included activities: A full-day yacht exploration to North Seymour and Bachas Beach Islands • Overnight: Pikaia Lodge
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included activities: Choice of one or two half-day explorations led by Pikaia Guides • Overnight: Pikaia Lodge
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included activities: A full-day yacht exploration to Bartolomé Island and Sullivan Bay • Overnight: Pikaia Lodge
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer from Pikaia Lodge to Baltra Airport

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scheduled flight from Baltra Airport to Jose Joaquin de Olmedo International Airport• Scheduled flight from Jose Joaquin de Olmedo International Airport to Mariscal Sucre International Airport• Departure |
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Expect the extraordinary

Plaza Grande Hotel

Quito, Ecuador

Day 1

Upon arrival at Quito Airport, you will be welcomed by your English-speaking guide, and transferred to your hotel. The land on which The Boutique Hotel Plaza Grande Hotel resides belongs to prestigious and aristocratic families, who decided to build the first luxury hotel in the city. The legendary building, a marvel of eclectic architecture broke the mould of colonial houses. Boasting a unique location in the main plaza of the historic centre of Quito, breathtaking views reveal the Government Palace, Cathedral, ancient domes of old churches, the Panecillo and the Town Hall.

Situated in a circle of Andean peaks, Quito is the world's second highest capital, with arguably one of the finest settings in the world. Originally established by the Quito tribe in the first millennium, Quito was an important part of the Inca Empire, before being destroyed and re-founded by Spanish conquistador Sebastián de Benalcázar in 1534. The colonial centre - declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1978 - is one of the largest and best preserved in Latin America. It is home to excellent museums, churches and art galleries..

Overnight in Plaza Grande Hotel

Included activities:

- Rest of the day at leisure

Day 2

Today, your city tour begins downtown, passing through the modern section of Quito towards the city's historic district. Sit in Independence Square, flanked by the Presidential Palace, the Cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace and the City Hall. Stroll past El Sagrario Church and marvel at the exquisite stone facade of La Compañía Church. Visit the San Francisco Church, built over the ruins of an Inca Palace in the 16th century. Ride up the road to the Panecillo or the Itchimbia hills for a breathtaking view of Quito. Your private guide will enlighten you on the history of Quito.

During this tour, savour a delicious chocolate tasting in Galeria Ecuador, where you will learn how to cultivate cacao plants, and the process of transforming the cacao plant into chocolate. Play an interactive game, where kids and adults can practice how to sow and cultivate cacao. You will be provided with cooking implements to prepare chocolate truffles, and a variety of delectable ingredients including cinnamon, salt from Cuzco, chocolate nibs, peanuts, almonds, cacao, sugar, etc. A guide specialising in chocolate will teach you how to prepare these ingredients, and in just a few minutes, you will be relishing scrumptious self-made truffles.



After this tasty activity, you will be driven to the Café Plaza Grande where you will participate in a Cooking Class with the opportunity to create two typical Ecuadorian dishes. A professional chef will be your teacher during this activity, and he will show you how to prepare "ceviche" and the famous "helado de Paila" (an ice-cream made with fresh typical pulp fruits, considered one of the most iconic foods of Ecuador). The Chef will guide you and once your ceviche is ready, you will continue with the preparation of the dessert. Then it will be time to sit down and enjoy your delicious lunch.

Afterwards, you will visit the Equatorial Monument, built as a tribute to the French scientists who determined the shape of the earth in the 1700's. Visit the Ethnographic Museum inside the monument, where the colourful way of life of the different ethnic groups of Ecuador is on display. There is also the Intiñan interactive museum that reveals the different theories around the Incas.

Included activities:

- Quito: Quito City Tour, incl Chocolate tasting, cooking class and visit of the Equatorial Monument (Full Day)



Expect the extraordinary

Plaza Grande Hotel

Quito, Ecuador

The Hotel Plaza Grande sits in the Plaza De La Independencia, in front of the Cathedral Church and the Presidential Palace. The location of the Hotel Plaza Grande is unique as it's very close to the iconic buildings of colonial Latin America.

Hotel Plaza Grande has 15 suites furnished with fine woods and following patterns of Spanish colonial times. The suites combine a taste of vintage times with minimal detail and modern 5-star amenities. The 2 hotel restaurants serve gourmet cuisine as well as Ecuadorian dishes. Diners at the La Belle Epoque can enjoy a live opera show while admiring the old city views from the balcony. And diners at the Café Plaza Grande get to enjoy the sounds of an Ecuadorian soul guitar duo show.



Expect the extraordinary

Pikaia Lodge

Santa Cruz Island, Ecuador

Day 3

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport in Quito for your flight to the Galapagos Islands.

Once in Baltra Airport, you will have access to the VIP Lounge, and a Pikaia representative will meet you. Cruise through the Itabaca Channel, for a seven-minute ferry crossing to Santa Cruz Island, followed by a 50-minute private scenic trip to **Pikaia Lodge**.

Perched on top of two extinct volcanic craters, Pikaia Lodge offers one of the most spectacular view points in the Galapagos.

Following check-in at the lodge, lunch will be served at their Evolution Restaurant or on the Pool Terrace.

In the afternoon, you will have the chance to relax and familiarize yourself with the lodge surroundings. Enjoy a range of activities at your own pace and leisure, including walking, jogging, cycling trails, or a swim in the pool. It is very common to encounter the property's giant resident tortoise.

You will be briefed on the following days' activities in the DNA bar, while enjoying complimentary welcome cocktails.

Dinner: Evolution Restaurant

Overnight: Pikaia Lodge

Day includes:

Breakfast at the hotel

Lunch at the lodge

Dinner at the lodge

Included activities:

- Access to the VIP lounge at Baltra Airport

Day 4

Take to the water on a yacht cruise, onboard the M/Y Pikaia I, where a private cabin has been assigned to you. Enjoy a delicious breakfast onboard the yacht, and upon arrival on the island, get adventurous with hiking or snorkelling activities until midday. Relish a lunch buffet of traditional Ecuadorian food as the yacht sails to North Seymour for an afternoon exploration.

The island of North Seymour is fascinating for flora and fauna, with abundant birdlife such as blue-footed boobies, colonies of frigate birds, and others marine species. Watch colonies of sea lions frolic in the deep, spot hammerhead sharks, marine turtles, land and marine iguanas, and the endemic beauties of the endangered Palo Santo (Holy Wood) dry forest.



At Bachas Beach, walk along pristine white sandy beaches, separated by outcrops of lava rocks. Enjoy the opportunity to view pacific green sea turtles, flamingos, lava gulls, and red Sally lightfoot crabs. If you like you can enjoy a swim and snorkel.

Two hours before sunset, the yacht will set sail for Pikaia Lodge. While sailing, you can rest, shower, or freshen up in the air-conditioned private cabins, soak in the Jacuzzi, watch a Galapagos documentary, join a discussion with guides, sunbathe, or look out for dolphins.

Dinner: Evolution Restaurant

Overnight: Pikaia Lodge

Day includes:

Breakfast on board

Lunch on board

Dinner at the lodge

Included activities:

- A full-day yacht exploration to North Seymour and Bachas Beach Islands

Day 5

Enjoy an early breakfast, and then embark on a morning exploration program. Each morning activity is planned according to satellite weather imagery and tidal charts. You will join a group of maximum 16 people for the land tour, and two or three activities will be chosen from the list below.

Los Gemelos Sinkholes & Scalesia Forest

Giant tortoises farm in Rancho Chato II

Volcanic craters and giant tortoises at Cerro Mesa

Lava tunnels

Tortuga Bay Beach

Charles Darwin Scientific Research Centre

Garrapatero Beach

If you prefer you can relax and enjoy your day at the lodge. Mountain bikes, helmets, snorkelling equipment, and wetsuits are available without extra charge at the front desk or onboard the yacht. (Early pre-booking is recommended.)

Lunch will be served at Pikaia Lodge, and in the afternoon there will be further excursions.

Dinner: Evolution Restaurant

Overnight: Pikaia Lodge

Day includes:

Breakfast on board

Lunch on board

Dinner at the lodge



Included activities:

- Choice of one or two half-day explorations led by Pikaia Guides

Day 6

Start the day early at the coffee station at the Pikaia Lodge reception, before a 50-minute transfer to the port. Board the M/Y Pikaia I, and sail through the Ithabaca Channel to Bartolomé Island while enjoying breakfast.

Bartolomé Island is the most recognized, most visited, and most photographed of all the Galapagos Islands. It is most notably famous for Pinnacle Rock, a towering spear-headed obelisk jutting out of the ocean - perhaps the best known landmark throughout the entire Galapagos National Park.

You need to climb more than 300 stairs to the summit of Bartolomé; here you can find some of the most beautiful landscapes in the entire archipelago including pink and white-sand beaches. Dive into the deep for an unforgettable snorkelling experience, complete with Galapagos penguins, perhaps whitetip and Galapagos sharks, rays, multitudes of sea lions, a kaleidoscope of tropical fish, and green sea turtles.

Buffet lunch will be onboard M/Y Pikaia I and in the afternoon you will visit Sullivan Bay, a site of great geological interest. Located on the south-east side of Santiago Island, originally named James Island, the area is covered by solidified and wave-shaped lava flows.

Enjoy a walk here finding pockets of green trees in the volcanic-rock surrounds, and unique vegetation.

Conservation work over the last decade, has rehabilitated much of the vegetation, and many of the native species.

The Sullivan Bay's famous lava is known as Panoehoe, which is Hawaiian for string. It gets this name from the string or rope-shapes formed by the cooled lava eruptions.

Head back to Pikaia Lodge where dinner will be served at Evolution Restaurant.

Dinner: Evolution Restaurant

Dinner: Evolution Restaurant

Overnight: Pikaia Lodge

Day includes:

Breakfast at the lodge

Lunch at the lodge

Dinner at the lodge



Expect the extraordinary

Pikaia Lodge

Santa Cruz Island, Ecuador

Located in Santa Cruz, Ecuador, Pikaia Lodge is perfect for the physically active and adventurous traveller, who seeks close contact with the unique natural wonders of the Galapagos.

Rooms at the lodge range from terrace rooms to suites, each featuring airconditioning, private bathroom, safe, minibar, and TV.

Guests can enjoy dining at the onsite Evolution Restaurant which offers an unrivalled view of the infinity edge pool and the pristine Galapagos National Park with mist covered volcanic cones. Lodge amenities include two lounges, a spa, bar, and wine cellar.



Expect the extraordinary

Departure

Santa Cruz Island, Ecuador

Day 7

Your adventure comes to an end, and after breakfast your check-out time and transfer will be arranged according to your flight. You will be driven to Baltra Island Airport and assisted with check-in for your return flight to Guayaquil. Relax in the VIP lounge pending your flight departure.

Upon arrival at Guayaquil Airport from Galapagos Islands you will be met by an English-speaking guide, who will assist you with your international flight connection.

Day includes:

Breakfast at the lodge



Journey overview

Validity: Jan 15th - Dec 15th 2021

Rate per person in double base: USD 11,435

Total program: USD 22,870

Flights

DAY	DETAILS
Day 3	Mariscal Sucre International Airport to Jose Joaquin de Olmedo International Airport
Day 3	Jose Joaquin de Olmedo International Airport to Baltra Airport
Day 7	Baltra Airport to Jose Joaquin de Olmedo International Airport
Day 7	Jose Joaquin de Olmedo International Airport to Mariscal Sucre International Airport

Transfers

DATE	DETAILS
Day 1	Mariscal Sucre International Airport to Plaza Grande Hotel
Day 3	Plaza Grande Hotel to Mariscal Sucre International Airport
Day 3	Baltra Airport to Pikaia Lodge
Day 7	Pikaia Lodge to Baltra Airport

Accommodation

DATE	DESTINATION	ACCOMMODATION	DETAILS
Day 1 to 3	Quito	Plaza Grande Hotel	1x Double Room Breakfast
Day 3 to 7	Galapagos Islands	Pikaia Lodge	1x Double Room Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Journey overview

What's included:

- All nights of accommodation mentioned in the program
- Private transportation in the best available vehicles in each city
- Private English speaking local guide in Quito.
- Naturalist English speaking guide in Galapagos in sharing basis
- Meals as indicated in the program
- Daily excursions according to the itinerary in sharing basis
- Private transfers in Galapagos upon arrival and departure
- Entrance tickets to enter in Galapagos and all sites mentioned in the itinerary.
- Migratory Card
- VIP Lounge in / out Baltra airport
- Taxes included, where applicable
- Air tickets Quito / Galápagos / Quito

What's not included:

- Early check in or late check-out charges
- Items of personal nature like laundry, phone calls, etc.
- Any video/still camera fee during the trip
- Gratuities Quito,
- Drinks in Quito
- Excess of baggage,
- Insurance

The details are in the fine print
