

Galapagos
Quito to Guayaquil
9 Nights, 10 Days

Day 1

Quito

Arrive in Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and transfer to the Hotel Hilton Colón Quito where you will overnight

Day 2

Quito

Enjoy a walking tour of historic downtown Quito, with the best-preserved Colonial historic center in Latin America. Drive up El Ventanal for a bird's-eye-view of the city. You may purchase an optional excursion to Antisana, the 4th tallest volcano in Ecuador. Your welcome dinner is at the Theatrum Restaurant, overnight at the Hilton Hotel. **BD**

Day 3

Baltra Island & North Seymour Island

Transfer to the airport for your morning flight to Baltra Island and transfer to the dock to board the *Isabella II*. Set sail as you hear a welcome introductory briefing, and enjoy lunch. Dry land at North Seymour Island for a walk along the coast, observing bird colonies of blue-footed boobies frigate birds, swallows tailed gulls and also sea lions and marine iguanas. A shorter walk is also available. Back onboard, welcome cocktails are offered by the Captain. Your Naturalist's briefing on the next day's activities will precede dinner. **BLD**

Day 4

Espanola (Hood) Island

Wet land at a white coral beach where you can take a short walk and watch the sea lions, mockingbirds and finches or enjoy the beach. There is great snorkelling in this area (snorkelling equipment is available for guests at no extra cost), or ride the glass-bottom boat. This afternoon, dry land at Punta Suarez for an exciting walk on lava terrain to visit its unique sea bird colonies, including the Waved Albatrosses and the famous blowhole. A shorter walk is also available. Your Naturalist's briefing occurs before dinner. **BLD**

Day 5

Floreana Island

Wet land at Point Cormorant for an easy walk to see the flamingos that inhabit a brackish-water lagoon, and other birds like ducks, stilts and sandpipers. There is great snorkelling at this site or enjoy kayaking from the beach. Wet land at the historical Post Office Bay to learn about the human side of the islands, its early inhabitants and the

adventures of pirates and whalers. Then, a panga ride will take you to nearby islets to observe sea lions, rays and sea turtles, boobies and possibly the Galapagos penguin. **BLD**

Day 6

Santa Cruz Island

Dry land to visit the highlands of Santa Cruz Island, a Scalesia forest and the twin pit craters Los Gemelos. Enjoy lunch at the Finch Bay Eco Hotel. Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and the giant tortoise pens, an impressive giant prickly pear cactus forest and many land birds. Then take a stroll along the main street of Puerto Ayora before embarking on the *Isabella II*. **BLD**

Day 7

Genovesa (Tower) Island

Wet land for an easy stroll observing thousands of birds, mainly frigate birds, red footed and masked boobies, gulls, herons, finches and mockingbirds. If you wish, you can continue walking over sharp lava and uneven terrain, or just go back to the beach and enjoy swimming and snorkelling at this beautiful natural harbor.

Take a panga ride along the cliffs and then dry land on rocks for a steep climb (90 feet) and a levelled walk for about a mile to the other side of this small island observing large colonies of masked boobies, frigate birds, storm petrels and the short-eared owl. **BLD**

Day 8

Isabela Island & Fernandina Island

Early risers will enjoy cruising right in front of famous Ecuador Volcano, which rises off the water line with one of its halves completely collapsed, and now resting underwater, while crossing the Equator.

On the northwest of Isabela, secluded Tagus Cove was in past centuries a favourite anchor for pirates and whalers. Old graffiti is still found on its walls. The vegetation in the area includes the unusual Palo Santo trees that are leafless and look dead most of the year. An uphill hike through Palo Santo forest takes guests to the back of Darwin Crater, filled with salt water. The view at the end of the trail is worth the climb. Darwin is one of Isabella's 6 volcanoes, a remarkable contrast to the lower islands to the east of the archipelago.

Dry land for a 1-mile walks on Fernandina Island. Punta Espinoza has an amazing combination of barrenness with lots of wildlife. Having no introduced mammals, Fernandina has a very unique environment with the highest density of marine iguanas, sharing their space with sea lions, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hawks, penguins and the flightless cormorant. **BLD**

Day 9

Santiago Island & Bartolome Island

Wet land at Puerto Egas for a mid-length walk. Most of the landscape is tuff-stone layers and lava flows. At low tide, marine iguanas graze upon the algae beds and there is a colony of fur-sea lions. There are good snorkelling and swimming opportunities from the beach.

Dry land at Bartolomé Island for a hike to the summit. This is a steep climb aided by a wooden staircase, and the view from the top is worth the effort. There will be time for a panga ride around Pinnacle Rock to observe penguins, to enjoy the beach, snorkelling and swimming, or a ride in the glass-bottom boat. Tonight enjoy farewell cocktails and the departure briefing. **BLD**

Day 10

Guayaquil / Depart

After breakfast fly to Guayaquil to catch your flight back home, or to continue on to your Machu Picchu post trip. **B**