

GALÁPAGOS & AMAZON RAINFOREST ADVENTURE, ECUADOR



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The Galápagos Islands are located in the Pacific Ocean, about 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) off the coast of Ecuador. The archipelago consists of 13 large islands, 6 smaller islands, and more than 100 islets and rocks. The islands were first inhabited by humans in the 16th century, when pirates and whalers began using them as a base.

Today, the Galapagos Islands are home to a unique mix of wildlife. Along with endemic species like the Galapagos giant tortoise and the marine iguana, you'll find introduced species like dogs, cats, donkeys, and goats. They are an important ecological region and also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The islands served as a laboratory for Charles Darwin's studies of evolution, and they continue to be a place where scientists can observe how plants and animals adapt to new environments.

The Amazon Rainforest is famous for being the world's largest tropical rainforest and is often called the 'lungs of the planet' and is home to 10% of the world's known species, many of which are found nowhere else on the Earth.



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Day by Day itinerary:

Day 1: Quito Airport

Hotel close to the airport (Airport Garden)

Day 2: Galápagos: Baltra, Santa Cruz; Charles Darwin Foundation

Fly from Quito to Baltra on Santa Cruz island. From there, we transfer to our accommodation in Puerto Ayora. On the way, we pass through the highlands, where you visit a reserve of turtles in a wild state and pass through a lava tunnel. After check-in at the hotel, we will have a guided tour of the famous Charles Darwin Foundation. Later we will hike to Tortuga Bay Beach where we can see the sea lions. For dinner, there is a great selection of restaurants within a short walk of the hotel. (Breakfast)

Day 3: Snorkelling day tour (Santa Fé, Plazas, Bartolomé or Seymour)

Boat tour to an uninhabited island. The wildlife we see will depend on which island we visit. For example, on Santa Fé and Plazas, you can spot endemic land iguanas. Bartolomé is known for its beautiful lava scenery. You can see frigate birds, land iguanas, and blue-footed boobies on Seymour. (Breakfast & Lunch)

Day 4: Speed boat to Isabella

After an early start (6 am at the port), we arrive at Isabella at 9am to 9:30am. First stop will be the Hotel where you can leave your bags and from there we head out in kayaks to paddle to the Tintoreras lava formations where we will see colonies of penguins and walk across lava platforms where you can see many marine iguanas - both on land and swimming, Galapagos sharks, sea turtles, and sea lions. After snorkeling, return to the Hotel for lunch. In the afternoon, we will visit the Turtle Breeding Center, wetlands, and Flamingo lagoon. (Breakfast & Lunch)

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Day 5: Los Tuneles / Cabo Rosa, Puerto Villamil

Los Tuneles / Cabo Rosa Tour. At 7:30am we start the day trip to Los Tuneles / Cabo Rosa. In this trip, you visit an area with underwater lava tunnels where you can snorkel and see white tipped sharks, sea turtles, and a big colony of Galapagos penguins besides a lot of sea life. (Breakfast & Lunch)

Day 6: Sierra Negra volcano hike

Visit the Sierra Negra Volcano, which has the second largest crater in the world and is located in the most active volcanic areas of the Galapagos; the last activities were in July 2018. Then early afternoon, we will take the boat ride back to Santa Cruz, then check-in to hotel. Afternoon / evening you are free to explore Santa Cruz. (Breakfast & Lunch)

Day 7: Pack and transfer to the airport in Baltra, Transfer to Tena

In the morning, after breakfast, the transport will pick you up to go to Baltra airport. Flight to Quito - Transfer to accommodation in Tena. (Breakfast)

Day 8: Tena morning / afternoon Canyoning

After a relaxing morning in Tena, we will spend the afternoon canyoning (class 3, moderate level) on Rio Blanco, just a short drive away. (Breakfast & Lunch)

Day 9: Rafting

The Upper Rio Napo is also known as the Rio Jatunyacu, which means "BIG WATER" in Quechua. "Big" is probably the best word to describe this river - BIG WAVES and BIG FUN! An excellent trip for both beginners and experts alike, it has the perfect combination of exciting rapids, calm pools, and fabulous jungle scenery to delight everybody. (Breakfast & Lunch)

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Day 10: Rainforest Trip - Transfer to Quito - Night in Quito

We will take a guided walk through the rainforest to learn more about the eco system, and also visit a waterfall. Later you can visit a zoo in Tena where there is a variety of rescued species. Then we will return to Quito. (Breakfast)

Day 11: City Tour - Transfer to the airport

Formally San Francisco de Quito, this is the capital and the largest city of Ecuador, and at an elevation of 2,850 meters (9,350 ft) above sea level, it is the second-highest official capital city in the world. It is located on the eastern slopes of Pichincha volcano. In 2008, the city was designated as the headquarters of the Union of South American Nations. The historic center of Quito has one of the largest, least-altered and best-preserved historic centres in the Americas. Quito was among the first World Cultural Heritage Sites declared by UNESCO, in 1978. (Breakfast)

After the tour, transfer to Quito airport for the flight home



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WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- UK Expedition leader
- Guided excursions on the Galapagos
- Transfers from and to the airport in Quito
- Transportation
- 10 nights of accommodation
- Canyoning adventure
- White water rafting
- Snorkeling
- Flights to Galapagos
- Photos & Film (including underwater)
- Technical snorkelling rash vest.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary, personal expenses
- INGALA transit card (50 USD p. p.)
- Entrance fee Galapagos National Park (100 USD for adults, 50 USD for children aged less than 12 years)
- In country team tips

SPECIES YOU CAN SEE ON THIS ADVENTURE

- Sea lions
- Frigate birds
- Blue-footed boobies & Nazca boobies
- Swallow-tailed gulls
- Tropicbirds
- Marine iguanas
- Sharks
- Rays
- Penguins
- Giant tortoises
- Turtles
- Darwin finches
- Mockingbirds

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