



GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS FROM \$7,659*

Departs 16 April 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▲ Four night cruise around the Galapagos Islands
- ▲ Visit Charles Darwin Research Station
- ▲ Santa Fe, North Seymour and Bartolomé Islands
- ▲ Visit the Otavalo textile market
- ▲ Walking tour of Quito



Explore the beautiful colonial architecture of Quito, the capital of Ecuador, and visit a textile market in Otavalo. Cruise the spectacular Galapagos Islands and explore the diverse flora and fauna both on land and below the sea. Witness land and marine iguana, sea lions, numerous bird colonies and green sea turtle in their natural habitat, accompanied by an Australian Museum expert.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 QUITO

On arrival into Quito, the capital of Ecuador, you will be transferred to your hotel. Enjoy a walking tour of Quito's colonial quarter, the largest and best preserved in South America, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stroll through Independence Plaza, flanked by the Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, the Municipal Building and the Archbishop's Palace. Visit the temple of La Compañía de Jesús and its awesome gilded interior. Continue to the Monastery of San Francisco, one of the great religious buildings of the New World. The tour ends at a lookout point with a great view of Quito. (D)

DAY 2 QUITO - SANTA CRUZ

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the Galapagos Islands. Arrive at Baltra Airport and transfer to the Itabaca Channel for a ferry across to Santa Cruz Island. A bus ride takes you to a restaurant in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island for a delicious lunch. Continue to Puerto Ayora. After driving down from the highlands, visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and the giant tortoise pens. Late in the afternoon, board your yacht, *Isabela II*. Tonight there will be a Captain's welcome cocktail and dinner. (B)(L)(D)

DAY 3 SANTA CRUZ - SANTA FE

A stunning anchorage provides the jumping-off point for your visit to Santa Cruz's sandy white beach, home to many sea lion harems. Galapagos hawks are often observed here, perched atop salt bushes. The endemic land iguana, unique to this island, may be spotted during the walk. Snorkelling and swimming, kayaking or a ride in our glass-bottom boat rounds off the visit to Santa Fe. Cruise to South Plaza, where the turquoise waters of the channel contrast brilliantly with the white sand and black lava of the shoreline. Along the coastline you'll find sea lion colonies, while sea birds play with the thermals that form along the cliffs of this small island. (B)(L)(D)

DAY 4 SANTA FE - NORTH SEYMOUR

The morning starts with an enjoyable walk along the coast and the interior of this island, observing numerous bird colonies as well as sea lions and marine iguanas. Cruise to Las Bachas on Santa Cruz Island. After WWII, US military barges were beached and abandoned here. Locals referred to the beach as the barges beach, a name that morphed to "bachas". Today it is an important nesting area for the east Pacific green sea turtle.

Located on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, it is a glorious white beach, with several brackish lagoons. These lagoons are the feeding grounds of various wading birds. (B)(L)(D)

DAY 5 NORTH SEYMOUR - SANTIAGO ISLAND

This morning, a Galapagos icon awaits: Bartolomé Island. A steep climb up a wooden staircase is worth the effort - you'll be rewarded with amazing views. Following the walk, take the dinghies for a ride around colossal Pinnacle Rock. After lunch, board the pangas to land at Sullivan Bay, a white coral sand beach that is great for swimming, with a trail over a lava field that flowed here less than 100 years ago. This is the perfect place to see and feel the volcanic origin of Galapagos while observing its wildlife. (B)(L)(D)

DAY 6 SANTIAGO ISLAND - QUITO

Transfer to Baltra Airport for the flight back to Quito. The remainder of the day is at leisure. (B)

DAY 7 QUITO

Today's excursion travels north to the land of the Otavalos and South America's most famous Indian fair. Drive along the Pan-American Highway through dramatic mountain scenery to the textile market of Otavalo, where you will enjoy visiting the many stalls full of ponchos, scarves, blankets, wall hangings, woven belts (fajas), hats, handbags and much more. Here Otavaleños barter in silence, in marked contrast to the raucous noise of other markets. Proceed to Peguche, an Indian village near Otavalo that is home to the artisans who do the weaving in their homes. Lunch is at one of the charming country inns or haciendas of the area. (B)(L)(D)

DAY 8 QUITO

Your Galapagos adventure ends with a transfer to the airport for your departure flight. (B)

INCLUSIONS

Four nights cruise and three nights hotel accommodation, meals as indicated, sightseeing, activities and entrance fees as specified in itinerary, services of a local English speaking guide, transportation as specified, return flights between Quito and Baltra Island, local taxes and surcharges and an Adventure World travel wallet and backpack (one per room).



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***TERMS AND CONDITIONS** Price is per person twin share based on 16 Apr 17 departure. Price is correct as at 12 Sep 16 and is subject to change. Price includes the 10% discount for Australian Museum members. All care has been taken to promote correct pricing at time of printing, but is dependent on availability and will be confirmed at time of reservation. The trip requires a minimum number of passengers to operate. Strict deposit and final payment details apply. For more information please contact Adventure World Groups. Package can change without notification due to fluctuations in charges and currency. Credit card surcharges apply. International airfares are not included unless otherwise stated. For full terms and conditions visit adventureworld.com/terms-and-conditions

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