

TRIP ID: EC004-UIOAMZ14N

Fascinating Ecuador in 15 Days

Highlights • Quito • Equatorial Museum • Galapagos Islands • M/V Odyssey • Cotopaxi • Quilotoa Lagoon • Riobamba • Alausi Devils Nose Train Ride • Ingapirca Ruins • Guayaquil • M/V Manatee Amazon Explorer.



Quito, Ecuador



Day 1 • Quito, Ecuador Arrival

Meet and greet at Quito airport by your personal tour guide in Ecuador. Private transportation to selected hotel for registration. 3-Nights hotel stay in Quito.

Day 2 • Quito Panoramic and Equatorial Tour (B/L)

09:00 pickup for a small group guided Quito city tour. Built on a carpet of ancient Incan ruins, Ecuador's bustling capital was the first city to be declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We visit the historic city

center and San Francisco the first church built in Quito. We proceed to La Compañía de Jesus. This Jesuit church is one of the great baroque masterpieces in South America. All the work took 160 years. We continue to La Mitad del Mundo (The Middle of the World) and Quitsato Mitad del Mundo Monument. A visitor with one foot in either hemisphere, straddling the Equator. Ciudad La Mitad del Mundo is a complex set up on the site where, in 1736, French explorer and scientist Charles-Marie de la Condamine made his final calculations to determine the precise equatorial line. Lunch included. Transfer back to the hotel.

Day 3 • Quito • Baltra Airport • Galapagos Islands • Santa Cruz Island (B/L/D)

Private transfer to the Quito Airport. Assistance at the airport. Departure to Baltra, Galapagos Islands. Assistance, meet and greet at Baltra airport, Santa Cruz Island. The island of Santa Cruz has the largest and most developed town in the Galápagos. Travelers pass through an airport inspection point to insure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands. Guided transportation to the harbor or to your hotel. A visit to the Charles Darwin Research Center is always included in our programs. Stop by the baby-tortoise house! Select your **hotel stay** on the island, an **island hopping program** or an **inclusive cruise tour** with daily guided shore excursions on board your preferred Galapagos vessel.

Please find three of our favorite Galapagos vessels on the next page:

Program can be customized. For further assistance or reservation, please contact your travel agent.

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Galápagos Odyssey Yacht

Day 4-6 • Galapagos Islands (3B/3L/3D)

For detailed Galapagos cruise programs, please visit one of our listed websites (other cruises available):

1-Odyssey Galapagos Cruise www.yachtgalapagosodyssey.com

2-Archipel I and Archipel II Catamaran Galapagos www.catamaranarchipel.com

3-Treasure of Galapagos Catamaran I www.catamarantreasure.com

We recommend cruising the Galapagos Islands on a catamaran, because catamarans can access the shores and beaches easily and during navigation catamarans are smooth sailing, preventing seasickness.

1-Motor Yacht Galapagos Odyssey welcomes you on board to discover with your own eyes the unique wonders of the Galapagos Islands. We take you around the remote and most exceptional islands of the archipelago. Our certified professional crew, attentive cruise director and the knowledgeable, bilingual naturalist guide on board will do their utmost to convert your once in a lifetime cruise into the trip of your life! Participate with a naturalist guide on daily shore excursions. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily on board. Non-alcoholic beverages during meals are included. Snorkeling gear is also included. Wet suites rental is available. On your vacation aboard the Galapagos Cruises daily activities allow you to perceive the Galapagos Islands from different perspectives: Guided hikes, snorkeling, swimming, optional scuba-diving and wildlife observation will give you the opportunity to experience the closest and most intimate encounters with this unique landscape. We visit the following islands and sites. Rabida Island, Black Turtle Cove, Chinese Hat Islet, Genovesa Island, Darwin Bay, Bartolome Island, The Sullivan Bay, Santiago Island and the highlands on Santa Cruz Islands. Please be aware that listed itineraries may change due to park restrictions and/or unforeseen local weather conditions.

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Cotopaxi Volcano



Day 7 • Santa Cruz • Baltra • Quito (B)

Guided land excursion to visit the highlands on Santa Cruz Island in the morning. Shuttle transportation to the Baltra airport. Departure flight back to Quito. Assistance, meet and greet at Quito airport by your personal tour guide. Private transfer to your hotel. Registration. 2-Nights hotel accommodation in Quito.

Day 8 • Otavalo Indian Market Tour (B/L)

07:30 pickup from the hotel for a private guided full day excursion to visit Otavalo. Otavalo is one of Ecuador's most popular destinations.

Otavaleños have been famous for their masterful artisanship for centuries. The artisans market in Otavalo is world-renowned. Otavaleños still wear traditional clothing and cling to their heritage. Even non-shoppers will love Otavalo and its surroundings. The town is nestled in the Sunrise Valley in the shadow of two protective volcanoes, Cotacachi and Imbabura. Outside Otavalo we visit weavers' studios in Peguche, leather shops in Cotacachi, and woodcarving workshops in San Antonio de Ibarra. Lunch. Return

Day 9 • Quito • Cotopaxi Volcano • Quilotoa Lagoon • Salcedo • Riobamba (B/L)

07:00 pickup and departure after breakfast. Private escorted journey. We travel towards the Cotopaxi Volcano for a brief visit to the park museum. We continue towards the spectacular Quilotoa Lagoon. One of our most popular excursions is a circuit known as the Quilotoa Loop. The roads pass through lovely, isolated mountain villages and hamlets, many of whose inhabitants cling to their ancient indigenous heritage and ways. Whichever direction you choose, Laguna Quilotoa, a beautiful, high-mountain lake formed in the broad crater of an extinct volcano. The views of the emerald-green lake are striking from the parking area, but many folks are tempted to hike down the steep slopes of the crater to the water's edge. The distance to the water seems deceptively short, and the climb down is relatively quick, but the climb back up is quite steep and can take over an hour. Optional mule-ride-back to the top USD \$10 pp. approximately. Other hiking options include the narrow and rugged trail around the crater rim, where the vistas are breathtaking. For lunch, we drive to the beautiful www.rumipamba.com restaurant in Salcedo.

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The Devils Nose Railway



Day 9 • Salcedo • Riobamba (continuation)

After lunch, we continue our journey to the picturesque town of Riobamba 2,750 meters. Hotel registration. Shadowed by five spectacular snowcapped peaks in the heart of the Ecuadorean central highlands, Riobamba is an enchanting small city, with attractive 18th century architecture, lush parks, interesting museums, and charming churches. 1-Night hotel in Riobamba.

Day 10 • Riobamba • Alausi • Devils Nose Train Ingapirca Inca Ruins • Guayaquil (B/L)

06:00 early departure to the Alausi railway station.
10:00 travel by train on the famous Devil's Nose

track. Enjoy this amazing journey over the Andes Mountains. Arrival at Sibambe station for a cultural performance. Return by train to Alausi. 13:00 we proceed towards the ancient Ingapirca ruins. After lunch, participate on a private guided visit of the historical Inca site. Ingapirca means the wall of the Inca, and you can see some fine examples of the famed Inca masonry here. The highlight of the site is El Adoratorio | Castillo, an elliptical structure believed to be a temple to the sun.

We continue to Guayaquil. Private guided panoramic city tour of Guayaquil. Guayaquil's new ravishing waterfront is right next to Santa Ana Hill, its oldest neighborhood, and iguanas roam freely at Bolivar Park in the heart of downtown. Guayaquil is Ecuador's natural port and its largest city with a population of two million. It is also the country's financial and commercial center. Founded in 1547, this tropical city lies on the banks of the Guayas River, twelve miles inland from the Gulf of Guayaquil. The people of Guayaquil are outgoing and open. Transfer to your selected hotel in the afternoon. Optional dinner at selected restaurant. 1-Night hotel accommodation in Guayaquil.

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Manatee Amazon Explorer River Cruise

Day 11 • Guayaquil • Quito • Coca • Amazon Manatee Cruise • Yasuní National Park • Napo River (B/D)
Private guided transfer to Guayaquil airport. Departure to Coca via Quito. Meet and greet upon arrival. Transportation to the river to board the Manatee Amazon River Cruise. Welcome cocktail. This is a journey into the endless heart of the Amazon Basin. Explore the rainforest on a fabulous, state-of-the-art vessel set to explore this truly unique environment. The inspiring adventure will provide many unexpected, astonishing encounters. After boarding the M/V Manatee, we cruise downstream. Enjoy the exciting features of our cruise ship: the spacious social areas, comfortable suites, and an observation deck that offers spectacular views. Join a guided evening walk after sunset and discover the forest's nocturnal activity while listening to the amazing sounds of nature. 4-Nights Manatee Amazon River Adventure Cruise.

Day 12-14 • Amazon Manatee Cruise (3B/3L/3D)

Inclusive program. For program details, please visit www.manateeamazonexplorer.com. We also offer the www.anakondaamazoncruises.com. Discover the Yasuní (the largest of Ecuador's continental National Parks), a wild and untamed realm in the heart of the Ecuadorian Rainforest. We will climb observation towers to enjoy unique perspectives of the forest and explore black water rivers escorted by otters and turtles. Explore nature trails and learn about the Ecuadorian Amazonia with your native guides.

Day 15 • Manatee Cruise • Coca • Quito Departure (B)

After breakfast disembarkation. Transfer by motorized-canoe to Coca (a 90-minute navigation). 11.40 Flight back to Quito. Departure from Quito.

Domestic Galapagos Flight Schedule

Quito-Baltra • Latam 1557 • 09:05-10:15
Baltra-Quito • Latam 1552 • 12:45-15:45

Domestic Amazon Flight Schedule

Guayaquil-Quito • Tame Airlines 302 • 07:00-07:50
Quito-Coca • Tame Airlines 211 • 10:20-11:00
Coca-Quito • Tame Airlines 212 • 11:40-12:20

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