

TRIP ID: EC005-AMZGPS10N

Amazon and Galapagos Islands in 11 Days

Highlights • Quito • Equatorial Museum • Amazon Rainforest • Itamandi Eco Lodge • Baños • Isabela Island and Highlands • San Cristobal Island • Santa Cruz Island • Santa Cruz Highlands • Charles Darin Station • Puerto Ayora • Guayaquil



Quito, Ecuador



Day 1 • Quito, Ecuador Arrival

Meet and greet at Quito airport by your personal tour guide. Private transportation to your selected hotel for registration. 2-Nights hotel accommodation in Quito.

Day 2 • Full Day Quito Panoramic and Equatorial Tour (B)

09:00 pickup from hotel for a guided group tour of Quito. 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 Jesús. This Jesuit church is one of the great baroque masterpieces in South America. All the work took 160 years. We continue to the Middle of the World and to Quito's 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. 17:00 Transfer back to the hotel.

Day 3 • Quito • Tena • Itamandi Eco Lodge, Amazon (B/L/D)

08:30 pickup from hotel and private transportation to Tena (3-4 hours). From the Arajuno River pier, continue by motorboat through the Amazon rainforest to the Itamandi Eco Lodge (20 minutes). Welcome drink and familiarization meeting with your naturalist guide. Welcome lunch. Explore the area.

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Parrot Clay Lick, Amazon



Day 3 • Itamandi Lodge (continuation)

Optional night walk through the Rainforest (not included). A flashlight and camera are the most important tools on this night adventure, which allows guests to listen to and to capture the nocturnal sounds of fishermen bats, owls, insects, tarantulas, toads, frogs and other wildlife. With a clear sky, enjoy breathtaking vistas of the cosmos. 2-Nights at the Itamandi Eco Lodge.

Day 4 • Itamandi Lodge, Amazon (B/L/D)

05:45 we take a 15-minutes upriver canoe trip to visit the Parrot Saladero. Here parrots and parakeets gather to obtain important minerals from the earth. Hundreds of colorful birds descend to a clay wall to take

in valuable minerals. Bring binoculars! Return to the lodge for breakfast. 09:30 departure from the lodge for an interpretative hike through the jungle (3 hours). After lunch, we visit the Kichwa community. Learn about their ancient way of life in the Amazon and share a fermented-cassava welcome beverage with the village chief. You can participate in the preparation of this popular drink and try some of their traditional meals. Join a customary dance before returning to the lodge. Dinner and overnight.

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Baños de Agua Santa

Day 5 • Amazon • Tena • Baños • Avenue of the Volcanoes • Quito (B)

After breakfast transportation by motorized canoe on the Aranjuno River to Tena. Meet with your drive-guide. Private transportation to Baños (2 hours). In Baños the setting is amazing: you can see waterfalls, hike through lush forests, rest your bones in steaming thermal springs, hike down impossibly steep gorges, bike and marvel at the occasional eruption of nearby Volcán Tungurahua. Travel along the amazing route of the waterfalls and take a ride on an open gondola across the roaring Pastaza River for a close-up view of one of the cascades. Transportation to selected restaurant or to the Baños Market Place. The market is a good place for fresh fruit shakes, ceviche and other local dishes like llapingachos (potato pancakes stuffed with cheese), and to pick up fruit and veggies. Order a fish and watch them buy it and cook it up in front of you! Optional lunch (not included). After lunch, stroll through Baños town. Transportation to Quito through the Avenue of the Volcanoes, passing by the town of Latacunga. 18:00 approximately arrival time at your selected hotel in Quito. 1-Night hotel accommodation in Quito.

Day 6 • Quito • Santa Cruz Island • Isabela Island, Galapagos (B/L/D)

Private transfer to the Quito Airport. Assistance. Departure to Baltra, Galapagos Islands. Assistance, meet and greet on Santa Cruz Island upon arrival. Travelers have to pass an airport inspection to insure that no foreign plants or animals are imported. 14:00 after lunch, we navigate on a speedboat-ferry to Isabela Island (2hrs). Transportation to your selected hotel for registration. Enjoy a brief rest before heading on to the Flamingo Lagoon, the largest coastal inlet and breeding ground for flamingos on the Galapagos Islands. Return to your hotel for dinner. 3-Nights hotel accommodation on Isabela Island.

Day 7 • Sierra Negra Volcano • Concha Perla Snorkeling (B/BOXL/D)

08:00 after breakfast, go hiking with your guide to the Sierra Negra Volcano (bring comfortable clothes, walking shoes and a light rain jacket). The Sierra Negra volcano is one of five volcanos on Isabela, and

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Galapagos Islands



Day 7 • Snorkeling (continuation)

Boasts the second largest volcanic caldera in the world. Go trekking on the rim of a six-mile wide crater and across an alien looking landscape of lava fields and fumaroles. Make sure your camera is stored in waterproof bags, and wear sunscreen. Bring water and a hat! We continue by truck to another trail for a 12 km hike (4 hours). This route is not strenuous, optional horses are available for rental (horses are not included). From the summit of the Chico Volcano, enjoy spectacular

vistas of the shoreline. Box lunch. Return to your hotel. After a short rest, we go snorkeling to Concha Perla. Swim with sea lions, colorful fish, sea turtles and rays. Return to your hotel for dinner.

Day 8 • Kayaking Puerto Villamil • Bike Ride in Humedales (B/BOXL/D)

After breakfast, walk to the island docks with your guide to board your kayak. After a mandatory safety briefing and putting on your life jackets, start paddling towards Puerto Villamil Bay and Tintoreras Islet. Observe local marine life from your kayaks! Look for penguins, blue-footed boobies, and sea iguanas. From El Faro outlook had back to your hotel (2- hours) for a tasty lunch. In the afternoon, we travel to Humedales. Enjoy a fun bike ride to the giant tortoise-breeding center. Learn about this enormous reptiles and its habitat. Continue on your bikes through the popular Isabela Lava Tunnel, the Mirador Orquilla, the Estero de Isabela, and the Beach of Love. From the beach, we continue on to the nearby Wall of Tears. Isabela Island housed a large penitentiary from 1943 to 1959. Prisoners built a big wall from volcanic rocks. The name (wall of tears) derives from the arduous labour and harsh conditions prisoners endured. Many convicts lost their lives. Return to your hotel on time for dinner.

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Hiking on Isabela Island



Day 9 • Isabela Island • Santa Cruz Highlands Charles Darwin Research Station (B/L)

Early wake up! 06:00 hotel check out and departure to the nearby Isabela docks. 07:00 guided speed-boat-ferry transportation to Santa Cruz Island (2-hours). Upon arrival in Puerto Ayora, enjoy breakfast, hotel registration and a short rest. 10:00 transportation to the Santa Cruz Highlands by van (2 hours). Today enjoy hiking inside the Cerro Chato Reserve. The scenery here is breathtaking! Look for Giant Galapagos Tortoises in their natural habitat. Incredible lava formations have shaped this unique landscape. Our naturist guide will identify the infamous Galapagos Vampire Finches and many other

endemic birds along the trek. After your encounter with the local flora and fauna, we return to Puerto Ayora for lunch we recommend visiting to the nearby www.darwinfoundation.org on your own.

2-Nights hotel accommodation on Santa Cruz Island.

Day 10 • Galapagos Island Cruise Excursion (B/L)

06:00 pickup from hotel and transportation to the nearby Puerto Ayora pier. Today we explore the natural wonders of the Galapagos Islands on a first class yacht. Depending on weather conditions, we cruise to Bartolome Island, to Seymour Island or to Santa Fe Island. Enjoy swimming, snorkeling and hiking on some of the most popular island spots. Lunch on board the motor-vessel. Transportation back to Puerto Ayora in the afternoon. Disembarkation. Walk back to your nearby hotel. After sunset, stroll through the popular streets of Puerto Ayora. Restaurants, bars, nightclubs and shops occupy the main road.

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Galapagos Islands

Day 11 • Santa Cruz Island • Baltra Airport • Guayaquil Departure (B)

Pickup from hotel and transportation to the Baltra Airport. Departure to Guayaquil (or to Quito).

Optional city tour (not included). Depending on your departure time from Ecuador, you could join our optional guided city tour of Guayaquil. Description: Assistance, meet and greet by your personal guide upon arrival in Guayaquil. Traveling along the main streets and avenues of the town, we visit the Simon Bolivar Park, the Guayaquil embankment, la Rotonda with the statues of Bolivar and Saint Martin. We also explore Las Peñas, Guayaquil's artistic and colonial neighborhood. Enjoy great panoramic vistas of the city and the Guayas River before returning to the airport. Duration: 4-hours. Includes transportation and guide.

Amazon and Galapagos Islands in 11 Days. Package Includes:

Guaranteed weekly departures • 10-Nights hotel accommodation • Assistance, meet and greet as per program • Private airport transfers • Transportation and guided sightseeing tours as per program • Daily guided Amazon program • Speedboat transfers between the Galapagos Islands • Galapagos full day cruise excursion • 22-Meals included: (B) 10 Breakfasts, (L) 7 Lunches, (D) 5 Dinners • Local English-speaking naturalist guides • Entrance fees and taxes as per program • English-speaking assistance as per program

Not Included:

International and domestic flights, Galapagos National Park Fee USD \$100

Isabela Dock Fee USD \$10 and migratory control card USD \$20;

Ferry Itabaca Channel to Baltra Airport USD \$5 on day eight (subject to change);

Optional tours, Water taxis from piers to ferry-speedboat (San Cristóbal, Isabela and Santa Cruz Islands total USD \$7; Gratuities for local guides USD \$5 pp/day drivers USD \$2 pp/day.

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Hotel Solymar Galapagos

Category Superior Tourist and First Class Hotels

3-Nights Quito, Ecuador • **Holiday Inn Express** www.hiexpress.com

2-Nights Amazon • **Itamandi Ecolodge** www.itamandi.com

3-Nights Isabela Galapagos Islands • **Hotel San Vicente** www.hotelsanvicentegalapagos.com

2-Nights Santa Cruz Galapagos Islands • **Hotel Fiesta** www.galapagoshotelfiesta.com

Category Superior First Class Hotels

3-Nights Quito, Ecuador • **Dan Carlton Hotel** www.hotelesdann.com

2-Nights Amazon • **Itamandi Ecolodge** (River View) www.itamandi.com

3-Nights Isabela Galapagos Islands • **Casa de Marita** www.galapagosisabela.com

2-Nights Santa Cruz Galapagos Islands • **Hotel Solymar** www.hotelsolymar.com.ec

Domestic Flights to The Galapagos Islands (not included)

Quito-Baltra Galapagos • Avianca 1688-Daily Flight • 09:10-10:24

Baltra Galapagos-Guayaquil • Avianca 1633-Daily Flight • 10:05-12:58

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