

ECUADOR and GALAPAGOS

7 DAYS / 6 NIGHTS

DAY 1, TUE, DEC 3rd

WELCOME TO ECUADOR!

Arrive in Quito. Upon clearing Immigration and Customs, private transfer to GoQuito. Accommodation for 2 nights in standard rooms, breakfast and local taxes included.

Quito is one of the most fascinating and vibrant destinations in South America.

Located at the foothills of the Andes, Quito is known for its rich colonial history, stunning architecture, and picturesque landscapes. The city is home to a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is the largest and best-preserved historic center in South America.

As you walk through the cobble streets of Quito, you will be mesmerized by the stunningly preserved colonial architecture and the beautiful churches and monasteries scattered throughout the city. Additionally, Quito's vibrant culture is reflected in its colorful festivals, traditional markets, and delicious local cuisine.



DAY 2, WED, DEC 4th

CITY TOUR OF QUITO

PICK UP TIME: 9:00 am

Enjoy a tour of Quito that is sure to impress! It starts in old colonial Quito in the main square, where the presidential palace, the main cathedral and some other important buildings can be appreciated. Then it continues to Plaza San Francisco, with a quick stop in the way so that you can try the typical sweets of Quito. San Francisco is the oldest church in Quito, and it is full of history and legends.

Our final stop will be Iglesia de la Compañía de Jesús, one of the most beautiful churches in South America, or perhaps the world, truly a treasure.

(B, L)

DAY 3, THU, DEC 5th

FLY TO GALAPAGOS & BOARD THE LEGEND

Private transfer to the airport. Fly to Galapagos. Upon arrival, passengers are picked up at the airport by our naturalist guides and taken on a ten-minute bus drive to the pier to board the M/V Galapagos Legend.

Begin your 4-night cruise through Darwin's "Enchanted Islands".

All cabins are spacious and feature a private bath/shower and air-conditioning. All meals, lectures and shore excursions are included. The excursions and cultural programs are led by category "3" naturalist bilingual guides with years of experience in guiding in the Galapagos Islands.

PM – Mosquera Islet

Wet Landing, Mosquera Islet is located between North Seymour and Baltra Island. This flat, sandy island has a large colony of sea lions. It is also an excellent site to observe shorebirds such as herons and lava gulls. There is no trail on the islet, the visitor can enjoy the open area. Most of the islet is covered with sand and barren lava rock. Very little sesuvium portulacastrum (sea purslane) plants grow on the sand.

Difficulty level: easy

Type of terrain: sandy

Duration: 1 ½-hour walk & snorkeling

(L, D)



DAY 4, FRI, DEC 6th

CRUISING THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

AM – Egas Port (Santiago Island)

Wet landing. Egas Port is a black volcanic sand beach, visited by Darwin in 1835. The first section of the trail is formed of volcanic ash (eroded tuff) and the other half is an uneven terrain of volcanic basaltic rock.

The unique, truly striking layered terrain of Santiago shore is home to a variety of animals including the bizarre, yellow-crowned night heron and marine wildlife including lobster, starfish and marine iguanas grazing on algae beds alongside sally light-foot crabs. It is easy to see colonies of endemic fur seals swimming in cool water volcanic rock pools.

Difficulty level: intermediate

Type of terrain: flat & semi-rocky

Duration: 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling

PM – Rabida Island

Wet landing. Dark-red sand covers the unique beaches of this island, home of sea lions colonies; Rabida is considered the epicenter of the Galapagos Islands due to the diversity of its volcanic geology. Nesting brown pelicans are found from July through September plus nine species of Darwin's famous finches. Here a dinghy

ride along marine cliffs is done, to observe nesting seabirds. Snorkel off the coast, where marine life is particularly active.

Difficulty level: easy

Type of terrain: sandy

Duration: 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling / 1-hour dinghy ride

(B, L, D)

DAY 5, SAT, DEC 7th

CRUISING THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

AM – Urbina Bay (Isabela Island)

Wet landing (might be difficult due to the tide). Volcanic black beach, depending on the season, it is possible to find giant tortoises, land iguanas, and the unusual flightless cormorant. After a short walk inland it's snorkeling time, a chance to swim with sea turtles, sea lions, and countless tropical fish. Urbina Bay features a wide variety of plants with different range of colors in flowers, attracting different insects, birds, and reptiles. One of the highlights of the island is the uplifted coral reef that resulted from the 1954 seismic activity; here the views of Alcedo Volcano are remarkable. When navigating from Urbina to Tagus Cove whale watching is usual in May – December.

Difficulty level: intermediate

Type of terrain: flat & rocky

Duration: 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling



PM – Tagus Cove (Isabela Island)

Dry landing on Galapagos' largest island where we will learn about the eruption of the five volcanoes that form it. The trail leads to Darwin's salt-water crater lake and excellent views of lava fields and volcanic formations. We will return by the same path for a dinghy ride along a shoreline full of marine wildlife, where we will admire a variety of seabirds, such as Blue-footed Booby, Brown Noddy, terns, Flightless Cormorant and depending on the season, a large number of Galapagos Penguins which are only 35 cm tall; the only penguin species in the world to live in the tropics.

The population of penguins on the islands is about 2,000 individuals, most of which live on this western portion of Isabela; others are scattered further south. We will have an opportunity to snorkel in deep water. Graffiti believed to have been left by 19th-century pirates is a curious reminder of an intriguing past.

Difficulty level: intermediate/difficult

Type of terrain: steep/steep

Duration: 2-hour walk / 40-minutes dinghy ride / 1-hour deep water snorkeling

(B, L, D)

DAY 6, SUN, DEC 8th

CRUISING THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

AM – Punta Espinosa (Fernandina Island)

Dry landing. From Espinosa Point, it is possible to admire a wide view of Isabela Island across the Bolivar Channel, an area that boasts some of the highest diversity of endemic sea fauna in the Galapagos. Here the largest, most primitive-looking marine iguanas are found mingling with sea lions and Sally Lightfoot crabs. Fernandina displays a wonderful opportunity to encounter flightless cormorants at their nesting sites, Galapagos penguins and the “King” of predators on the islands, the Galapagos hawk. Pa-hoe-hoe and AA lava formations cover the majority of Fernandina terrain. Vegetation is scarce inland, with few brachycereus cacti. Along the shore mangroves can be found.

Difficulty level: intermediate

Type of terrain: flat/semi rocky

Duration: 1 ½-hour walk / 1-hour snorkeling



PM – Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela Island)

Great deep-water snorkeling at one of the richest marine havens on Earth, the Bolivar Channel. Accessible by water, we take a dinghy ride along the coast to observe a great diversity of sea and coastal birds; Nazca and blue-footed boobies, noddies, brown pelicans, penguins, flightless cormorants. The upwelling of cold-water currents in this part of the Galapagos gives rise to an abundance of marine life, a perfect place for deep snorkeling.

Difficulty Level: moderate / high

Type of terrain: water

Duration: 1-hour snorkeling / 1-hour dinghy ride

(B, L, D)

DAY 7, MON, DEC 9th

CRUISING THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

AM – Highlands Tortoise Reserve (Santa Cruz Island)

Dry landing. In the mountains of Galapagos it is possible to admire different kinds of birds, such as: tree and ground finches, vermilion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (usually standing on the tortoises' shell). The journey to the reserve offers great opportunities to see the contrast that the island offers in reference to the variety of ecosystems. The road goes from the coast through the agricultural zone and straight up to the dense humid forests. Often, Galapagos Giant Tortoises are also seen on the way, wandering through pastures in the paddocks. This spot is a birdwatchers' haven, since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here.

Type of Terrain: flat, & muddy (depending on season)

Difficulty level: easy

Duration: 45-minutes' drive / 1 ½-hour walks



PM: TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

Check-in and flight back to Guayaquil. Assisted by the guide and some crew members the dinghy will bring you and your luggage to Baltra, where we will board a private bus to the airport. Your guide will accompany you to the check-in counters in the departure hall. We expect that you will return home with stunning pictures and unforgettable memories for life!

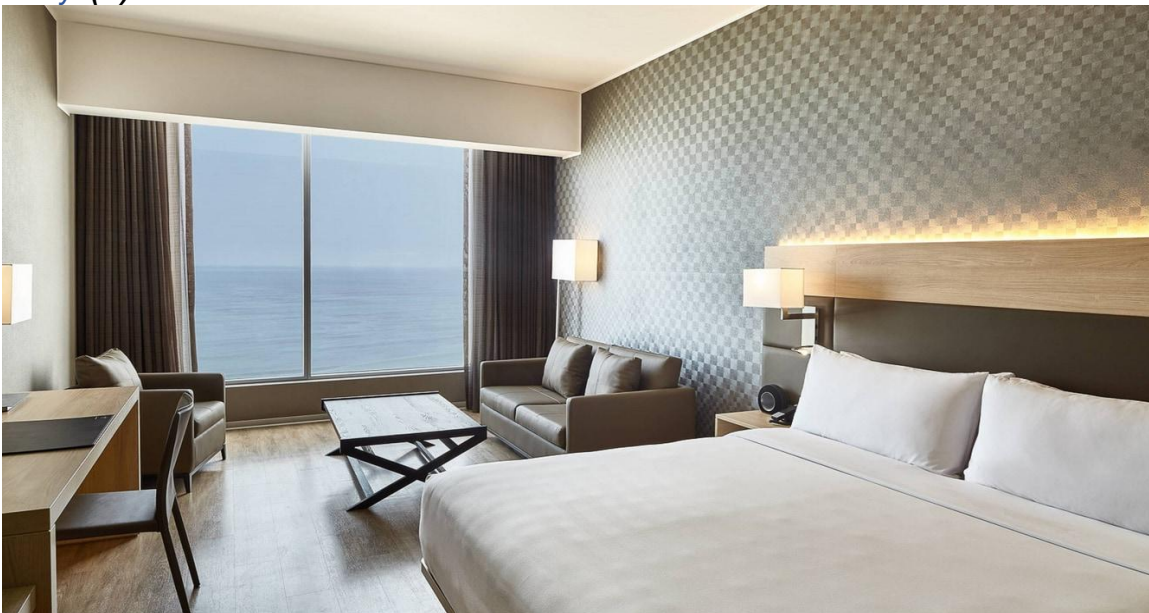
PERU PROGRAM EXTENSION

07 DAYS /06 NIGHTS VISITING LIMA, SACRED VALLEY, MACHU PICCHU, CUSCO –Starting on Dec 9th, 2024

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1, DEC 9th, MON ARRIVE TO LIMA

Upon your arrival in **Lima**, you will be met by your transfer-man, member of Machu Picchu Inc., who will assist you with your luggage and check-in procedures at your hotel. You will receive a contact information Package with all the hotel's information as well as our office's contact information for each city and the 24-hour emergency numbers for any further assistance you may require. **Accommodation at AC LIMA MIRAFLORES HOTEL, for two nights in Ocean View Deluxe rooms. Hotel taxes and services charged for today. (D)**



DAY 2, DEC 10th, TUE

HD CITY TOUR OF LIMA, LARCO MUSEUM WITH LUNCH (PRIVATE)

This morning on a half-day tour, you will take a guided sightseeing tour to the most attractive and important sites in Lima, the "City of Kings". The tour includes Lima's Historical Centre, passing by Plaza San Martin, Plaza Mayor, the Government Palace, the City Hall, the Cathedral, and its Religious Art Museum. Its construction began on the city's foundation on January 18, 1535. We will visit the Convent and Church of San Francisco, considered by some as the greatest architectural complex of Colonial Art in America and Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The underground galleries or Catacombs that during the Viceroyalty served as a cemetery for the city. You will continue with a visit to the **Larco Herrera Museum**, founded in 1926, which showcases remarkable chronological galleries providing an excellent overview of 3000 years of development of Peruvian pre-Columbian history. The museum, located in a unique vice-royal mansion of the 18th century built over a 7th century pre-Columbian pyramid, has many fine examples of textile works, one example of which has a record breaking 398 threads per inch; materials and tools used by ancient Peruvians to produce their work in ceramics and metal, it also features the finest gold and silver collection from Ancient Peru.

After the tour, you will enjoy lunch in the beautiful gardens of the Café del Museo Larco, located at the same museum. After Lunch, return to your hotel. **(B, L)**

DAY 3, DEC 11th, WED

LIMA – CUSCO – SACRED VALLEY

At the appropriate time, you will be met by your transfer-man who will assist you with your flight to Cusco. On arrival in Cusco, meet and greet your guide who will assist you with your luggage and will drive you to your hotel located in the Sacred Valley. The Sacred Valley is located at a lower altitude than Cusco city which aids the acclimatization of the city.

TRANSFER TO THE SACRED VALLEY WITH VISIT ON ROUTE (PRIVATE)

On the way, visit **Awanacancha textile** center to observe traditional Andean weaving and to see the four types of camel-related Andean animals – llamas, guanacos, alpacas, and vicuñas. Alpacas have thick wool and are the most used while the vicuñas are small and delicate with fur considered the finest. This textile center is a weaving center with the goal to keep alive the traditional textile arts. Here you can meet these four types of camelids, learn about the harvesting of the different wools, the natural dyeing techniques and have a chance to see native weavers from different areas showing their different weaving secrets and lifestyle.

After the visit, arrive at your hotel located In the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Set menu Lunch will be included at the hotel. *Accommodation at **TAMBO DEL INKA, A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL**, for three nights in Deluxe Terrace rooms. **(B, L)***



DAY 4, DEC 12th, THU

FD OLLANTAYTAMBO, PISAC MARKET & RUINS WITH LUNCH (PRIVATE)

After breakfast continue to the fortress of **Ollantaytambo** which was believed to be constructed to guard the entrance to this part of the valley and protect it from invasions of tribes from the jungle lowlands. Later, it served as a temporary capital for Manco Inca, leader of the Inca resistance in 1,537 during the Spanish conquest of Peru, who fortified the town to stop the advance, as Cusco had fallen under Spanish domination. Additionally, this place is a ceremonial center dedicated to the purification and worship of water with 150 steps built with perfectly carved stones. The archaeological site includes a series of superimposed terraces and stunning finely carved stone blocks located on the upper terrace or Temple of the Sun. Then, take a journey in time through the Ollantaytambo town with its straight streets with perfectly laid stones that feature a canal for water to run through the town. After the visit, transfer to the other side of the Sacred Valley of the Incas.

Lunch will be served at Hacienda **Sarapampa**. Opened to visitors in 2015, Hacienda Sarapampa offers a unique live experience on a working farm where you can learn first-hand about Cusco's giant white corn and its production, hacienda life, and feast on a farm lunch while enjoying the surroundings. landscape of the farm and the Sacred Valley. Feel like a unique guest and experience the true flavor of the Sacred Valley of the Incas, accompanied by **Andean Harp music**.

After the tour, you will continue your day with a visit to the town of **Pisac**, where the Incas built an observatory for the study of astronomy, as well as an impressive network of cultivated terraces. After this, IF time permits,

you will have the opportunity to bargain with the vendors at the local handicraft **market in Pisac**. After the tour, return to your hotel in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. **(B, L)**

DAY 5, DEC 13th, FRI



SACRED VALLEY / MACHU PICCHU

FD TOUR TO MACHU PICCHU VIA RT VISTADOME TRAIN (PRIVATE)

This morning, you will be transferred to your train station in Ollantaytambo which is located close to the site where the old Inca hanging bridge crossed the Urubamba. Onboard the **VISTADOME train** you will move along the tracks following the river's course into the jungle lowlands to Aguas Calientes a.k.a.

Machu Picchu Pueblo (a 2-hour ride). This is the last stop before getting to the famous archaeological complex. You will find crafts, books, restaurants, and an array of hotels in this buzzing town. The bus zigzags up the steep side of the mountain for nearly 20 minutes. The pre-Hispanic engineering marvel unveils itself gradually; this was the site Pachacutec Inca (1438-1572) chose as royal retreat and where his "malqui" or mummified remains were to be worshiped. Machu Picchu or "Old Mountain" is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders, yet the traveler senses a beauty unmatched by these or any other title. How was such a work accomplished? Granite stone buildings that seem to naturally sprout from the earth instead of being constructed on it. Andean mountain aesthetics can truly be appreciated at Machu Picchu; explore the site at your own pace. Visit the Royal Mausoleum or take the path to the Inca Bridge, or the central flight of steps to reach Intihuatana. Or simply contemplate the sacred geography all around; the Urubamba nearly encircling the site and Mount Salkantay ("Wild"), overlooking the citadel from the southeast. *Buffet lunch* will be served at Tinkuy restaurant in Belmond Sanctuary lodge, beside Machu Picchu citadel.

Note. - There are various shifts for the visit of Machu Picchu citadel. You are scheduled to visit at any of these turns (not both) and the shift confirmed will depend on the train schedule that we will be able to confirm upon booking time. (For passenger traveling with Hiram Bingham train, visit to Machu Picchu will be provided in the afternoon)

In the afternoon, together with your guide, head to the train station of Aguas to take your afternoon **VISTADOME train** back to Cusco city. Upon arrival at the respective train station, private transfer to your hotel in Cusco. *Accommodation at PALACIO DEL INKA, A LUXURY COLLECTION HOTEL, for two nights in Deluxe rooms. (B, L)*

DAY 6, DEC 14th, SAT

AM: HD CUSCO CITY TOURS & NEARBY RUINS (PRIVATE)

Inca rulers once called Cusco the "Navel of the World". Cusco remains today a city that blends colonial Spanish charm with older, more austere remains of pre-Columbian glory. One can see the foundations of Inca structures on many of its city streets today. Today you will go on a guided visit of the Imperial City of Cusco. In this Cusco city tour, you will visit the Main Plaza, which has been the scene of great historical events in the Capital of the Incas, the main Cathedral church, built of great slabs of red granite in renaissance style and thus contrasting with the baroque style silverwork which decorates its interior. You will then continue

to the Santo Domingo church, built upon the foundations of the Inca temple Koricancha, which was dedicated to Sun worship. Get to know the 12 cornered stones and know all the interesting facts this archaeological remain must tell.

Following, you will head to the City's nearby ruins; the fortress of Sacsayhuaman, a magnificent example of Incan military power; Qenqo, a ritualistic site with subterranean galleries that form an underground maze; Puca Pucara, the red fortress and finally Tambomachay, also known as the Incan Baths. After this amazing educative Cusco city tour, you will be driven back to your hotel. Balance of the day at leisure. *Farewell dinner* is included at the MAP Café restaurant, at walking distance from the hotel. **(B, D)**



DAY 7, DEC 15th, SUN CUSCO / LIMA

Early in the morning, your guide will take you to Cusco airport in time for your flight to Lima. Upon your arrival to Lima our representative will meet you and will assist with your international departure flight back home. **(B)**

End of Exclusive Ecuador & Machu Picchu Inc. services.

*All touring arrangements herein are subject to change without notice and can be operated in a different sequence, depending on operational considerations, weather conditions and **BIO-SECURE PROTOCOLS**. All hotels are subject to availability and can be replaced with similar hotels. Each passenger must have a valid passport with a minimum of 6 months of remaining validity, before its date of expiration. Visitors arriving with less than 6 months of remaining passport validity to any foreign country risk immediate return to the airport where they boarded the arriving flight. If any visas are required, they are the sole responsibility of each passenger. All payments for custom-designed itineraries are non-refundable in the event of cancelation by passengers. **Travel insurance is mandatory.***

NOTES:

- No reservations have been placed.
- This is a preliminary costing; hotels may vary according to availability.
- All services stipulated above are subject to availability at the time of final booking/ reservation.
- No international nor airport taxes included in given rates.
 - Domestic Airfare Lima / Cusco / Lima are included in the quoted price per person but are subject to potential airfare surcharges and are subject to change.
 - Airport taxes are to be included in the above air fare
 - International departure tax from Lima should be included in your int'l air fare

- Air fares included in the price are referential only. Actual rates are subject to availability at time of purchase and type of ticket (refunds and changes allowed/not allowed, penalties apply/not apply, etc.). Tickets are non-refundable and non-endorsable in case of cancellation.
- All entrance fees are subject to change without previous notice.
- All tips are optional and voluntary.
- *For every payment with Credit Card, we are forced to apply 5% more out of the total due to bank fees.*
- *The only way to confirm the Entrances fees for Huayna Picchu and Machu Picchu and the trains to Machu Picchu, is by purchasing the entrances tickets ahead of time, for that we do require the deposit. Also, once the tickets have been purchased, no refunds or endorsement applies.*
- Rates valid for 2024, except on Inti Raymi dates (Jun22/27), Christmas & New Year (Dec23/Jan02) and any other National or Religious Holidays which may have special rates; please verify
- Rates are subject to change without prior notice in case supplier conditions change and/or if there are USD exchange rate variations in Peru.
- Transfers services are based on group rates, in case of individual transfers prices will suffer increases.

PRICE:

\$12,425 per person based on double occupancy. No single supplement available.

The Ecuador portion of the trip the price includes:

- Accommodation in standard rooms (double occupancy) at Go Quito for 2 nights
- Accommodation on Galapagos Legend in Junior Suites (double occupancy)
- Meals as described on this itinerary.
- Soft beverages such as water, coffee and tea
- Transfers in Quito and in Galapagos (Airport - boat - airport)
- Excursions daily
- English speaking Naturalist Guide category III
- The use of snorkeling gear
- Domestic air Quito to Galapagos to Guayaquil + international air to Lima, Peru

Price does not include:

- International air tickets (except Guayaquil to Lima)
- Other soft drinks
- Alcoholic beverages
- Wetsuit rental
- Gratuities
- Personal expenses
- Medical or travel insurance

For the Peruvian portion of the trip the price includes:

- Private services with local English or Spanish speaking guide, except where otherwise specified.
- All entrance fees to the sites mentioned above.
- Meals: As indicated in the itinerary
- 01 Round train ticket to/from Machu Picchu via Vistadome coach per person
- 01 Entrances ticket to Machu Picchu per person.
- 01 Entrances ticket to Huayna Picchu OR Machu Picchu Mountain per person.
- 02 Shuttle bus ticket to/from Machu Picchu per person
- 06 nights hotel accommodations.
- All tips (except hotel staff & guides); additional tips are optional and voluntary. However, we provide the following guidelines:
 - Guide/transfer man: US\$ 10.00 per guest per day
 - Driver: US\$ 5.00 per guest per day
 - Restaurant Tips: 10% of the total check
- Permanent assistance during the trip
- Domestic air – Lima to Cusco to Lima

Price does not include:

- International airfares.
- Meals or any other item not described in the itinerary.
- Early check-in, late check-out, services, and non-mentioned meals in the itinerary

- Personal expenses.
- Drinks during meals, hotel extras and personal spending
- Tips to guides and hotel staff
- Airport taxes
- Local VAT taxes (18% applicable only to Peruvian and foreign residents of Peru; to be exempted you will need to show your passport and the Andean Immigration card given at Customs at Lima Airport upon your arrival to Peru.). Foreigners should also have stayed not longer than 60 days in Peru, otherwise Peruvian taxation will apply at hotels.

Important note: *On the train journey to Machu Picchu, you will be limited to one piece of luggage weighing no more than 11 pounds and a total linear dimension (length + width + height) of 62 inches. You may keep excess luggage at your hotel in Cusco city.*

Please see [World Exposures/Exclusive Ecuador/Machu Picchu - Terms and Conditions](#).

¡Este será un viaje épico!

(This is going to be an epic adventure!)

Sue

Susan Sheats

World Exposures

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