

Ecuador Multisport Tour and Galapagos Islands Adventure Cruise

From Islands to Highlands: An Inn- and Catamaran-Based Hiking, Swimming, Snorkeling, Horseback Riding and Wildlife Viewing Adventure!

Ecuador is a country of contrasts, remarkable bio-diversity, unique cultural encounters, and rare wildlife sightings. Regarded as one of the world's greatest nature destinations, the Galapagos Islands feature emerald-green coves, sunken craters, tree-sized cacti, and a diversity of wildlife found nowhere else. See gigantic tortoises and swim and snorkel alongside sea lions, sea turtles and tropical fish. Then join us in the Andes as we journey among snow-capped volcanoes and explore the spectacular countryside by foot, train and horseback.

Day 1, Thursday. Arrival in Quito, Patio Andaluz
(011-593-2-2280830 / private bath)
www.hotelpatioandaluz.com

We are met on arrival at Quito airport and transferred to our hotel to relax after our flight. No activities or meals.

Day 2, Friday. Flight to Baltra Island and Boarding the Journey I for our Cruise to Plazas Island

We transfer to the airport for an early flight to the Galapagos. Upon arrival on the island of Baltra, we make a short transfer to board our private yacht *Journey I* and depart for Plazas Island.

The *Journey I* is a power catamaran built in Ecuador in 2006 to the highest standards of luxury and comfort. She offers accommodations in 6 twin bed cabins (151 sq. ft. each) located in the main deck and 2 suite cabins (193 sq. ft. each) on the upper deck. All cabins feature private bath, locker, closet and air conditioning. *Journey I* also has a beautiful sundeck, library, TV-DVD room, dining room, bar and lounge and Jacuzzi. Visit www.anahicatamaran.com for more information.

Some of the most interesting and outstanding species of the Galapagos archipelago occur on Plazas Island. Watch for land iguanas resting in the shade of a cactus. Nesting on the rugged southern cliffs are swallow-tailed gulls and various other sea birds. Yellow-tailed mullets, Audubon's shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, frigate birds, and brown pelicans are also seen gliding past the cliffs. The protected rocky seashore is a prime habitat for a large colony of noisy sea lions.

Day 3, Saturday. San Cristobal Island

We visit the interpretive center on San Cristobal in the morning. Built with the cooperation of the Spanish Science Center, it provides an excellent introduction to the Galapagos Islands and the marine and land fauna and

flora. It is located in the outskirts of the small city of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, capital of the Galapagos Province.

The drive to Tijeretas Hill takes approximately 30 minutes. Once there we are treated to a spectacular view of white sand beaches on one side and the roofs of Puerto Baquerizo on the other. The hill is often visited by frigate birds, giving it its name. Here it is possible to see Magnificent Frigate birds and Great Frigate birds in the same colony. This is the perfect place to compare and learn to distinguish them.

We then have an opportunity to snorkel without strong currents—a great place for beginners. Frequently seen are sting rays, barber fish and butterfly fish.

An hour boat ride this afternoon takes us to Lobos Island, where blue-footed boobies nest and sea lions rest upon its rocky shores.

Day 4, Sunday. Espanola Island

Located on the northeastern coast of Espanola (Hood) Island is Gardner Bay. Here we have a beautiful beach for relaxing and observing sea lions by the dozens. One of the trip's highlights is swimming here with these playful creatures. It's also possible to observe sharks offshore in the crystalline waters.

We motor after lunch to Suarez Point, a rocky promontory of land that sustains one of the world's densest and most diversified concentrations of wildlife. The area is famous for its marine iguanas with unique copper-red patches, swallow-tailed gulls, lava lizards, finches, long-billed mockingbirds, blue-footed and masked boobies and oystercatchers. This is also the only place where the majestic giant waved albatross has a permanent breeding ground. From the high cliffs rising up from the sea along the southern shore we get spectacular views of soaring birds and the blowhole,

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where water spouts 50-75 feet into the air depending on the intensity of the surf.

Day 5, Monday. Floreana Island

Floreana Island has a colorful human history filled with stories of pirates, whalers, convicts, and colonists. We anchor off Punta Cormorant and arrive ashore on a sandy beach with many greenish grains of olivine crystals. A short walk takes us through rare scalesia bushes to the lagoon. Rosy American flamingoes live here, in addition to migrant shorebirds, long-legged, black-necked stilts and the only resident Galapagos duck—the white-cheeked pintail. The lagoon is situated between two tuff cones that give the area a special feel. The Sally Lightfoot Crab is prevalent on the beaches and their speed is amazing as they dart from rock to rock.

This afternoon it's off to Post Office Bay. Historically, this site was the location of a wooden barrel placed here in the 18th century by the crew of a whaling ship. It has been used ever since by mariners (and now tourists) as a post office. The idea is to find a letter in the barrel addressed to someone in your home area and to deliver it by hand or to leave one for the next tourist to do the same. This site was also the landing area for some of the first colonists to the islands.

Day 6, Tuesday. Santa Cruz and Flight to Quito, Patio Andaluz

Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, founded more than twenty years ago to assist the National Park in its efforts to conserve, save and rehabilitate endangered Galapagos wildlife. A few buildings house a modest scientific laboratory, a library and homes for the scientists and tortoise keepers. The museum at the station has a facility for rearing tortoises in order to restore the depleted population. This is our best opportunity to see the famed giant tortoise, the shell of which is the archipelago's namesake.

We say goodbye to the Galapagos today with a transfer back to Baltra Airport for our return flight to Quito. We have some time to relax at the hotel before a "city by night" tour of colonial Quito, a World Cultural Heritage Site and considered one of the most beautiful and best preserved colonial centers in South America. We visit its famous illuminated churches and the top of *Panecillo* with its spectacular city views before having dinner at an excellent local restaurant.

Day 7, Wednesday. Pichincha Volcano and Quito, Patio Andaluz

In the morning we ride the world's highest tram, the Teleférico, located on the eastern side of Pichincha Volcano. The cable car whisks us from an altitude of 2,950 meters (9,676 feet) to a lookout at over 4,000 meters (over 13,000 feet) above sea level in just ten minutes.

The Teleférico complex has restaurants, stores, and even amusement park rides. Spectacular views of Quito and the distant snow-clad peak of Cotopaxi Volcano more than make up for the commercial atmosphere, however. The lookout at the top is an excellent place to get oriented before beginning our exploration of the city. We have time here for a short hike through the stark Andean landscape of Pichincha.

We descend back down the mountain to continue the tour of Ecuador's historic capital that we began last night. Quito boasts of many colonial churches with a variety of architectural styles (Baroque, Spanish, Flemish, Moorish, and pre-Columbian), numerous plazas and several government buildings of historical significance. The remainder of the day is spent savoring the local flavor of this UNESCO world heritage site—delighting in native delicacies for lunch, exploring the colorful culture and visiting various places of historical interest. Serving the traditional flavors of Ecuador, Café Plaza Grande Restaurant is tonight's dinner spot.

Day 8, Thursday. Cotopaxi, Hosteria Abraspungo (011-347-293-0959 / 593-3-294-0820 / private bath) www.abraspungo.com.ec

We transfer south this morning through the Avenue of the Volcanoes en route to Cotopaxi National Park, distinctly characterized by its crowned jewel—a beautifully cone-shaped, glacier-capped and symmetrical volcano. At 5,897 meters (19,348 feet) Cotopaxi is one of the two highest active volcanoes in the world and sacred to the indigenous people of Ecuador. Records of its activity date back to 1534, when the Conquerors came to what is now known as Ecuador.

Cotopaxi is home to a variety of animals, including Andean wolves, pumas, deer, wild horses, marsupial mice, and the most common, rabbits.

We drive much of the way up the mountain and then start our hike at about 15,000 feet. We ascend through the thin air to the refugio where we enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or coffee. Keep your eyes peeled for the sight of the exotic Andean condor that you've dreamed of seeing some day. We even have the opportunity to touch a glacier at 16,000 feet above sea level.

Back down the mountain in the Limpiopungo area are many birds, especially the galleteras, ducks, Andean gulls and sparrow hawks.

We end the day with the remainder of our shuttle to the city of Riobamba near the Chimborazo Volcano.

Day 9, Friday. Devil's Nose Train, Patio Andaluz

This morning we drive to the town of Alausi for the unforgettable Devil's Nose train ride. The spectacular route zig-zags past Quechua villages and along spectacular mountain side cliffs before returning to Alausi. Afterwards we have lunch and then drive back to Quito. Time permitting, we stop at a historic hacienda for a coffee break. Here we may have the option for a 1-hour

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horseback ride (additional cost \$12-15 per person). Dinner tonight is at Octava di Corpus Restaurant in the old town.

Day 10, Saturday. Otavalo, Patio Andaluz

We drive north from Quito along the Panamerican Highway. We stop briefly in Calderon, a town where the famous masapan dolls are made, and then pass through Guayllabamba, where we can sample the cherimoyer fruit. There are opportunities to stop along the drive to photograph the snow-capped volcanoes of the area and beautiful Lago San Pablo.

Our destination is Otavalo, where 4000-year old traditions meet modern life. The renowned Otavalo

market is our playground as we explore the streets. Spend today feasting on all the sights and sounds. It will take all of your will power not to purchase anything from South America's most spectacular selection of indigenous handicrafts—hats, leather goods, sweaters, etc. If you are inclined to do so, you may want to bring some extra cash for today!

We transfer back to Quito late this afternoon for our farewell dinner at our hotel Patio Andaluz.

Day 11, Sunday. Departure from Quito

Transfers are available at whatever time is needed to catch flights home.

Tour Details

Trip Type: Inn and Catamaran

Trip Length: 11 days/10 nights

2012 Dates: May 10-20, August 2-12, December 20-30; custom dates also available

Price: \$4198 per person (double occupancy)

Single Supplement: \$2400 (hotels and catamaran); \$550 (hotels only); \$1850 (catamaran only)

Trip Minimum/Maximum: 2/12

Trip Rating: Moderately Easy with a short but challenging (high altitude) hike on Day 8

Activities: Hike, swim, snorkel, wildlife viewing, colonial city tour, horseback ride (optional)

Gateway City: Quito, Ecuador

Gateway City Transfer: If you arrive in Quito on Day 1, a representative will transfer you from the Quito Airport to our hotel. If arriving before Day 1, take a taxi from the airport to the hotel (cost not included in the trip price).

Meeting Time & Place: At the Quito International Airport Day 1

Trip Conclusion: At Quito International Airport in time for flights home Day 11

Trip Fees Include: All land and water transportation, hotel and catamaran accommodations throughout the trip, all meals from breakfast on Day 2 through breakfast on Day 11 (lunch will be served on the airplane on Days 2 and 6), mainland park entrance fees, all taxes and tips on meals and lodging, and the services of a bilingual guide and catamaran crew

Trip Fees Exclude: International airfare to and from Ecuador, roundtrip airfare from Quito to the Galapagos (\$422, subject to change), Galapagos park entrance fee of \$100 (cash only), wetsuit rental (\$25.00), airport departure tax (\$41, subject to change), guide/driver/cruise staff gratuities as deemed appropriate, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages throughout the trip, extras in hotels and strictly personal items.

The Next Step...

References Don't take our word for it that The World Outdoors trips are the finest in the adventure travel industry. Ask our past guests. *Call about any of our trips and we'll be happy to refer you to someone who's been there with us.*

The Best Value in Active Travel Guarantee: *We commit to you that all of our trips are of the highest quality at the best value.* If you find a trip of equal quality that matches our itinerary and inclusions at a lower fare within 30 days of booking your trip with us, we will gladly refund the difference. A simple guarantee that assures you of the best trip at the best fare!

How do I join this trip? Call The World Outdoors at (800) 488-8483 and a Trip Consultant will reserve your space(s) or register online at www.TheWorldOutdoors.com. Your travel agent can also book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

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Special Requests: If you have any special dietary needs or any special request that will make your trip more enjoyable, please be sure to notify your Trip Consultant or travel agent upon booking.

Then Leave the Rest to Us... Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including your reservation payment receipt and confirmation, travel insurance application, suggestions for preparing for your trip, a packing list, information on pre- and post-trip arrangements, a guest questionnaire and a liability release agreement.

Travel Protection: To make your trip with The World Outdoors even more carefree, we strongly recommend the purchase of our travel insurance plan. Offering comprehensive coverage and peace of mind, our travel insurance plan is designed to protect you in case of lost or damaged luggage, a sudden illness or death in the family, emergency medical expenses and transportation costs, and flight delays. We'd be happy to arrange travel insurance coverage for you, so contact us at (800) 488-8483 with any questions.

How do I book airfare for this trip? Call our in-house travel agent, Sherry Malanify, at 800-488-8483 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time Monday through Friday or you can email her at sherrym@theworldoutdoors.com. Sherry is also available to assist you with pre- and post-lodging needs. If Sherry is unavailable and your needs are urgent, please call James TravelPoints, a local travel agency, at 800-538-7461 and ask for Georgia (ext 251) or email her at GeorgiaT@travelpoints.com. Be sure to tell her you are traveling with The World Outdoors. Alternatively, you are welcome to book your airfare online, directly with the airline or through your personal travel agent.

General Information, Questions & Answers

What type of weather should I expect? Ecuador has four distinct geographical regions, each with a unique climate and environment. However, it is generally cooler than most people would expect at the equator due to cold sea currents and the altitude in the highlands. The low temperature in the highlands is around 55° F and the high temperature in the coastal, Amazon and Galapagos regions is around 85° F and is much more humid than the highlands.

How will the altitude affect me? This is a difficult question to answer as altitude physiologically affects different people in different ways. The Ecuadorian Andes Mountains range from 9,000' to over 20,000' elevation. Thus, to prevent altitude sickness we recommend that you always remain well-hydrated, gradually expose yourself to higher elevations, exercise moderately until altitude acclimatized, eat a diet consisting of at least 70% carbohydrates beginning 1 to 2 days prior to ascent, and get plenty of rest.

Tour Operator: The World Outdoors operates this adventure through an Ecuadorian tour operator based in Quito. All tours will include a driver (if 3 or more guests) and a bilingual guide specializing in regional biology, history and geology. A tour representative will be your escort both to and from the airport on the first and last day of the tour. Each guide is trained in at least basic first aid. In the Galapagos Islands, a different naturalist guide will lead the activities. Galapagos guides are licensed by the Ecuadorian Government and also approved by the Charles Darwin Research Station and Galapagos National Park Service.

Emergency Contact Information: Our office in Boulder, Colorado is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time 1-800-488-8483. For emergencies outside of our normal business hours call Bill Marriner at 720-289-0460, Sherry Malanify at 303-915-9660, Darcie Carr at 303-595-8561 or Eric Wagner at 303-324-7795.

Latin Trails is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. They can be reached from the U.S. at 011-593-2286-7832, from outside Ecuador +593-2286-7832 or within Ecuador 2286-7832. After hours, call from the U.S. 011-593-9524-1939, from outside Ecuador +593-9524-1939 or within Ecuador 09524-1939. + means you need to dial the appropriate international calling code for the country you are calling from before the rest of the number. Ask local information for the correct code.

** If your flight is delayed or changed, or you have problems being met at the airport, contact our local tour operator directly. They are in the best position to give you immediate assistance.*

Hotel Information:

- **Patio Andaluz in Quito** www.hotelpatioandaluz.com (011(593-2)2280830). Located in the heart of historic "Quito Antiguo" and surrounded by churches, museums and national monuments, the hotel was declared a Cultural Patrimony of Humanity site by UNESCO in 1978. Patio Andaluz is an official National Treasure and holds centuries of history within its walls. It was part of the original *Solaris* (original building sites) that constituted the City of San Francisco of Quito at the time of its foundation.
- **Hosteria Abraspungo in Riobamba** www.abraspungo.com.ec/ (011-347-293-0959 / 011-593-3-294-0820). Abraspungo provides comfortable in peaceful countryside surroundings. It is a first class facility with only 26 rooms and a lovely walled courtyard. It's architectural style is "mestizo", typical of the Ecuadorian countryside.

Cruise Information:

Our catamaran *Journey I* <http://www.galapagosjourneycruises.com/> was built in 2006 to the highest standards of luxury and comfort. It measures 90 feet in length and is 36 feet wide and has a crew of 9 plus a naturalist guide and a tour host. Accommodations consist of 2 cabins with double beds, 4 cabins with twin beds (151 square feet) located on the main deck and 2 suite cabins (193 square feet) located on the upper deck. All 8 cabins have air conditioning, private bathrooms with full shower, hot water and ocean view picture windows. All rooms are above the water level meaning you can open the windows and enjoy fresh sea breeze. Some beds are convertible from two twins to one double. Features include ample resting areas, sundeck, library, TV-DVD

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room, comfortable dining room, bar and lounge and Jacuzzi. We sleep on board while we sail between the islands at night and walk, snorkel and boat on and between the islands during the day. This way we see much more and are able to travel further afield. There may be some engine noise at night, so if you are a light sleeper, earplugs are recommended. If you experience motion sickness, discuss preventative medication with your doctor.

We're Always Improving! While the information presented here details this trip's planned activities, routes, accommodations, departure and conclusion times, we are consistently seeking new opportunities to enhance this itinerary and your experience. Our actual activities and sites may vary due to season, special events, or weather. As a result, we reserve the right to alter the itinerary since unforeseen circumstances that mandate change may arise. Naturally, we will keep you up-to-date on any changes that may affect your arrival or departure times.

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