



Ecuador with the Galapagos Islands – January 20, 2024

19 day tour



All of the highlights, culture, access, and I-can't-believe-we-did-that moments, all at a great price.

Travel Style: Classic

Day 1 Quito

Arrive at any time. Arrival transfer is included.

Day 2 Quito/Otavalo

Drive into the mountainous Andean highlands, stopping for lunch in the village of Peguche. Meet some of the local residents, and learn about the community's weaving traditions. Continue to Otavalo, surrounded by misty volcanoes, and visit the town's famous handicraft market—one of the largest outdoor markets in South America. Browse stalls selling colourful local art, textiles, and souvenirs, and try your hand at haggling. Later, settle into your room at a historic hacienda, where we'll spend the night.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 3 Otavalo/Papallacta

Make your way to the village of Papallacta, known for its abundant natural hot springs. En route, visit the home and studio of a renowned traditional weaver, who is working to preserve the indigenous weaving techniques of the Otavalo region. Get a glimpse of the family's daily life, and observe them at work on the back strap loom, which has been used in these parts for centuries. Continue to the Papallacta Hot Springs Resort for an afternoon of relaxation. Soak in the mineral-rich waters of the thermal pools, enjoying stunning mountain views, and indulge in a variety of optional spa treatments.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 4 Papallacta/Tena

Head towards Tena, often called Ecuador's gateway to the Amazon. On the way, we'll stop at Guango Lodge to explore the property's cloud forest reserve—home to a plethora of avian species, including more than 10 varieties of hummingbirds. Enjoy lunch in the lodge's orchid garden, then continue to Misahualli. This charming town is one of the oldest ports in the Ecuadorian Amazon, and harbours a thriving population of capuchin monkeys. Arrive in Tena and board a motorized canoe to our jungle lodge, perched along the banks of the Arajuno River. This evening, embark on a walk into the forest with a naturalist guide, looking out for the Amazon's nocturnal creatures.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Tena

Depart early by canoe to visit a saladero, or a parrot clay lick. Alongside our naturalist guide, observe brightly coloured parrots and parakeets gather here to snack on the mineral-rich clay, which studies suggest aids in digestion and provides an important nutrient supplement. Return to the lodge for breakfast, then take a tour of AmaZOOnico, an animal rescue centre that rehabilitates wild creatures that have been victims of illegal trafficking. Later, we'll visit the home of a local Amazonian family for a unique cultural experience. Chat with your hosts about their traditions and beliefs and learn about everyday life in the jungle; then sit down to a delicious homemade lunch.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 Tena/Baños

Leave the Amazon behind and travel to Baños. This popular resort town is packed with gorgeous landscapes, thrilling outdoor activities, and—as the name indicates—thermal springs originating from the base of the Tungurahua Volcano. Along the way, stop at Omaere Ethnobotanical Park for a walk with an expert guide, discovering the diverse flora of the region and learning about the indigenous uses of the various plants found there. After arriving in Baños, enjoy free time to stroll through the town; or opt to go horseback riding through the picturesque countryside.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 7 Baños

The day is yours to explore Baños and the surrounding area. Choose to head to the mountains for an invigorating hike, and later soak your tired muscles in one of the town's thermal springs. Set off on a mountain biking adventure, pedaling past rivers, waterfalls, and delightfully green landscapes; opt to hit the rapids on a white-water rafting excursion; and much more.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8 Baños/Quito

Drive back to Quito, Ecuador's capital, along the spectacular Avenue of Volcanoes. En route, we'll venture through Cotopaxi National Park—home to the snowcapped Cotopaxi Volcano, the second highest peak in the country. As you explore this magnificent park, keep an eye out for the resident wildlife, which ranges from condors, foxes, and deer to the vicuna and the endangered Andean puma.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 9 and 10 Quito

Free days before we start our Galapagos portion of the tour (this may change)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 11 Quito/San Cristóbal Island

Fly to the Galápagos Islands. Visit the Interpretation Centre in the afternoon to learn about the natural history of the area. Explore the trails around the centre and opt to snorkel at nearby Las Tijeretas.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 12 San Cristóbal Island

Snorkel at Kicker Rock, an impressive volcanic rock formation, rich in wildlife diversity both under the surface and above.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 13 San Cristóbal Island/Floreana Island

Travel by speedboat to Floreana Island. Walk along the black-sand beach until Loberia, opt to go snorkeling or swimming. Enjoy meals at the G Adventures-supported community restaurants and help to support community tourism on the island.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 Floreana Island

Head up to the seldom-visited highlands of Floreana. Enjoy guided walks to observe birds and other wildlife and learn about the area's natural history. Later, opt to go snorkeling or relax on the white-sand beach.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 15 Floreana Island/Isabela Island

Transfer by speedboat to Isabela Island. In the afternoon, take a wildlife boat excursion to 'Islote Tintoreras' to view breeding white-tip reef sharks, marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, rays, and penguins. Later, visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding Centre.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 16 Isabela Island/Santa Cruz Island

Enjoy free time to explore Isabela Island. Opt to hike Sierra Negra, go snorkeling at Los Tuneles, or take it easy. In the afternoon, transfer by speedboat to Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island. Enjoy an evening out in Puerto Ayora.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 17 Santa Cruz Island/Papallacta

Say goodbye to the Islands and take a flight back to the mainland. Upon arrival, transfer to Papallacta.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 18 Papallacta

Relax in the hot springs of Papallacta while taking in the volcanic views. Opt to go for a hike nearby for prime bird watching.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 19 Papallacta

Depart back to Quito for either flight home or stay in area for Ecuador's Carnival. (Carnival not included but will help with setting up accommodations)

Meals included: Breakfast

Service Level: Upgraded - Quality accommodations, meals, private transport, and activities.

Physical Grading: 3 - Average

Starting at \$7058 CAD per person (Based on Double occupancy)

Does **Not** include international flights

Based on a minimum of 12 to a maximum of 16 passengers

My Own Room (single supplement) add \$1,209.00 per person

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops. Only 2 "MOR" allowed

Deposit Due: March 31, 2023

Deposit Amount: \$850 per person

Final Payment Due: Oct 22, 2023

Meals:

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your leader will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip.

Transport:

Private speedboat, private vehicle, plane included in price

About our Transportation:

Please note that private speedboats are used to transfer between islands. This is a great way to see wildlife en route to other islands, keep your eyes peeled for pods of dolphins or whales depending on the season. If you are prone to motion sickness please ensure to bring motion sickness medication as a preventative measure.

Local Flights:

All local flights are included in the cost of your tour unless otherwise noted. It is important that we have your passport information at the time of booking in order to process these tickets. Internal flight tickets are issued locally and will be given to you prior to the flight departure.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE FOR DOMESTIC FLIGHTS TO/FROM THE GALAPAGOS:

Maximum one piece of luggage per person weighing a maximum of 23 kilograms (50 pounds), plus one carry-on piece weighing a maximum of 10 kilograms (22 pounds).

About Accommodation:

Please note that hot water shortages and power outages can be fairly common in Galapagos. We appreciate your patience and understanding that these occurrences are outside of our control.

Examples of Optional activities:

Quito

- Teleférico (8USD per person)
- Quito City Tour and Equator (50-60USD per person)

Cotopaxi

- Cotopaxi Volcano - Full Day Trip (70-100USD per person)

San Cristóbal Island

- Las Tijeretas Walk

Floreana Island

- Loberia Snorkelling Excursion

Isabela Island

- Los Tuneles Snorkelling (140-150USD per person)

Isabela Island

- Sierra Negra Volcano Excursion

Cancellation Policy

- Cancellation 60 days or more prior to departure = \$350 Deposit paid will become a Lifetime Deposit (LTD) and stay on file in your name to use on a G Adventures trip in the future. (\$500 is Non-Refundable to Vulcan Vacation)
- Cancellation between 30 and 59 days prior to departure = LTD + 50% loss of final payment
- Cancellation within 30 days of departure = LTD + 100% loss of final payment

Fully Vaccinated Tours:

To help protect our travelers and the places we visit, all our tours now adhere to our Travel with Confidence policy, which includes new vaccination requirements. All Private Groups now run as Fully Vaccinated Tours. All travelers must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with one of the following vaccines: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Janssen/Johnson and Johnson, or Astra Zeneca/COVIDShield prior to the first day of the tour. All travelers who are fully vaccinated with Novavax, Sinopharm BBIBP-CorV (VeroCell), Sinovac-CoronaVac, and Covavaxin (Bharat Biotech) must also provide negative results from a COVID-19 PCR test taken within 3 days of the first day of the tour. *Please note all National Geographic Journey Itineraries must be fully vaccinated.*

It is mandatory for all of our travelers to have Emergency Medical insurance that covers both emergency evacuation and repatriation to the sum of \$200,000 USD we also strongly recommend purchasing an all-inclusive plan that covers cancellation/interruption insurance as well.