

INSPIRING
VACATIONS

10 Day Best Of Galapagos

Quito



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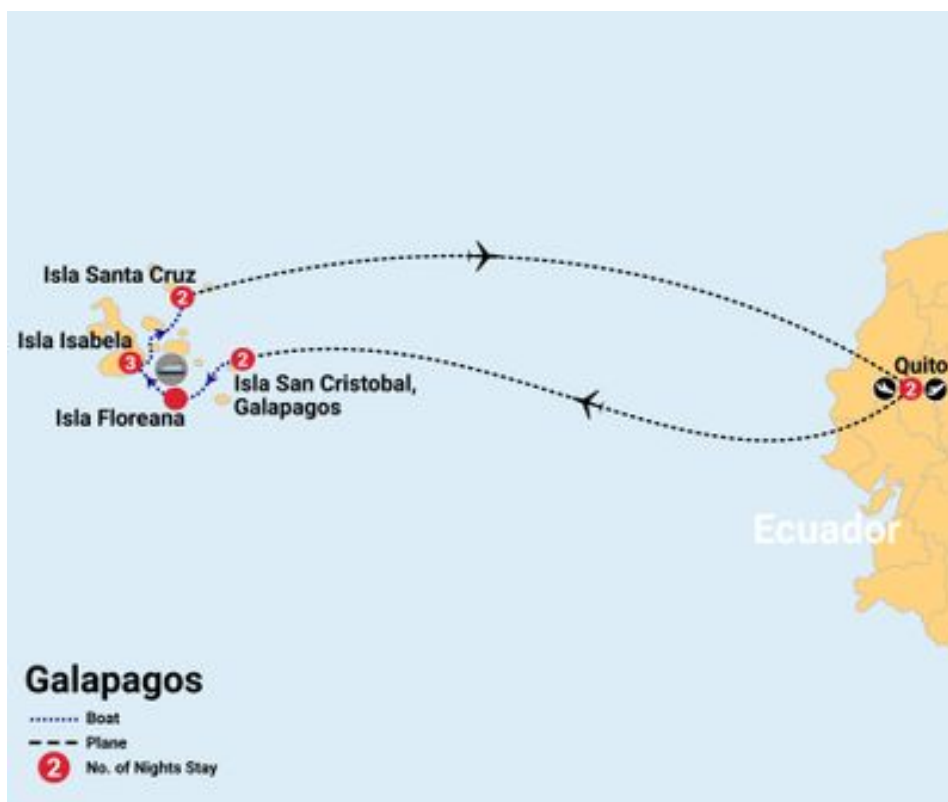
\$5,059^{NZD}

PER PERSON, TWIN SHARE

Amazing wildlife, both on land and underwater, is the drawcard of the remote Galapagos Islands. Tour the Galapagos' outstanding natural beauty and interesting history by foot and boat on this active adventure. Trace Darwin's theory of evolution, spot colourful, bizarre and beautiful creatures and have an experience that is completely out of this world as you discover the incredible Galap...

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TOUR ITINERARY



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TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1

Destination	Quito
Meals included	
Accommodation	N/A

¡Bienvenidos! Welcome to Quito, Ecuador. Your adventure begins with a welcome meeting at 2 pm. Please look for a note in the hotel lobby or ask reception where it will take place. If you can't arrange a flight that will arrive in time, you may wish to arrive a day early so you're able to attend. We'll be happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability). If you're going to be late, please inform the hotel reception. We'll be collecting your insurance details and next of kin information at this meeting, so please ensure you have all these details to provide to your leader. Quito is one of the most attractive cities in South America, sitting at an altitude of 2,850 metres with a view of Volcan Pichincha on the horizon. We'll be back in Quito at the end of the trip, giving you a chance to further experience the city.

Special Information: Due to the high altitude in Quito, the air is thinner and some people can suffer altitude sickness, regardless of age, gender or fitness. Please see the 'Medical and Health Information' section in the Essential Trip Information for more detail.

DAY 2

Destination	Quito ✈️ Isla San Cristobal, Galapagos
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Early this morning, catch a flight to Isla San Cristobal, your gateway to the galapagos Islands!

After joining up with your fellow travellers who are starting and ending their trip on the Islands, head to La Loberia where you'll put on snorkelling gear for the first time and go for a swim among sea lions, perhaps spotting sea turtles too. Return to town for a free evening. Perhaps head out with the group and enjoy some of the fresh seafood available.

DAY 3

Destination	Isla San Cristobal
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Today begins with a 45-minute boat ride to Leon Dormido (Kicker Rock). On the way we might be able to spot nesting frigates and blue-footed boobies. There is also potential to swim among playful young sea lions. At Leon Dormido you can snorkel and look for sea turtles, manta rays and maybe the odd harmless Galapagos shark. Currents can be quite

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strong so it's important you are a confident swimmer to participate in this activity. If you have any concerns, please ensure you speak with your leader. Eat lunch on the boat then head to the Interpretation Center. Learn about the history of the 'Enchanted Islands' and the conservation projects which seek to preserve them. Continue to Frigatebird Hill (Cerro Tijeretas), which is located two kilometres from the Interpretation Center. It's quite a climb to the top, but well worth the amazing views of the bay. Return to town in the late afternoon or early evening.

Special Information: If we are unable to visit Leon Dormido, alternative plans will be made to visit Isla Lobos, where sea lions, marine birds and marine iguanas are plentiful.

DAY 4

Destination	Isla San Cristobal 🚢 Isla Floreana 🚢 Isla Isabela
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Take an early morning boat ride towards Isla Floreana, which should take about 2.5 hours. Along the way keep your eyes peeled for wildlife such as dolphins and whales. On arrival to the island, snorkel in the clear blue waters and then break for lunch. Afterwards venture to a black-sand beach which belongs to the Witmers, decedents of some of the first settlers on the Galapagos. The town here, Puerto Velasco Ibarra, has about 150 residents and an intriguing history involving deaths, disappearances and murders. Later in the afternoon, wave goodbye to Floreana and continue to Isla Isabela (approximately 2 hours). From Isabela Port it's a short transfer to the hotel where we will spend the night (approximately 15 minutes).

Special Information: Please note when you arrive at Isla Isabela, you'll need to pay a port fee of USD 10.

DAY 5

Destination	Isla Isabela
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Start your second day on Isla Isabela with a short bus ride (approximately 15 minutes) to the Arnaldo Tupiza Tortoise Breeding Center where you'll observe giant tortoises in all stages of development. The centre has almost a thousand giant tortoises preparing for life on their own. Afterwards, head to a brackish lagoon to observe flamingos. In the afternoon, board a small Zodiac (panga) and cruise to Las Tintoreras (Shark Alley), looking out en roue for blue-footed boobies and the famous Galapagos penguin. On arrival, take a short walk on this isolated islet and popular iguana

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nesting site. Snorkel in a calm inlet with colourful fish and winding underground lava tubes. This area is frequented by green sea turtles that like to rest on the calm, sandy bottom. In the late afternoon return to town in search of your own sandy resting spot and enjoy your first Isabela sunset, arguably the most beautiful of all the islands.

DAY 6

Destination	Isla Isabela
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Start your last day on Isla Isabela by heading towards the Sierra Negra Volcano (approximately 45 minutes by bus), one of the most active volcanoes in the Galapagos and the second-largest crater in the world. Weather permitting, take a challenging hike of around 17 kilometres up the rocky mountain, which takes 5–6 hours. After the hike, make your way back to town for some free time to curl up with a book or venture down to the water for a relaxing swim before dinner.

Special Information: Unfortunately, recycling isn't available on Isabela, so please take your plastic rubbish with you. Please ensure you wear comfortable walking shoes that offer good support for the hike today. During the rainy season it can get quite muddy. There's an option to hire gumboots locally, should you wish to do so. During the hike it can get quite hot and there isn't much shade along the way so be sure to come prepared with your hat, sunscreen and plenty of water (we recommend 2 litres per person).

DAY 7

Destination	Isla Isabela 🚢 Isla Santa Cruz
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

Start the day with a kayak around Isabela before transferring by private speedboat to Isla Santa Cruz. Once you arrive on Santa Cruz head to a restaurant that offers a typical Ecuadorian lunch package, simply referred to as 'Menu'. This usually consists of a fresh juice, a basic entree (usually a soup) and a main meal. These lunch deals are very popular throughout Ecuador so it's a great way to eat like a local. In the afternoon enjoy free time to further explore the town or go on an optional excursion to the Charles Darwin Research Centre.

DAY 8

Destination	Isla Santa Cruz
Meals included	Breakfast, Lunch
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

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In the afternoon visit the highland of Isla Santa Cruz to observe the giant tortoise roaming the wild. Afterwards visit a locally owned sugar cane farm. Here the farmers will show us the ways sugar cane is processed and turned into alcohol. Along the way, keep an eye out for eagle rays, sea turtles and blue-footed boobies. Later, head back to Puerto Ayora.

DAY 9

Destination	Isla Santa Cruz ✈️ Guayaquil ✈️ Quito
Meals included	Breakfast
Hotel	Hotel, or similar

We say goodbye to the Galapagos today and take a flight back to Quito (Please note the flight will make a stop in Guayaquil).

You'll arrive back to Quito later afternoon. Perhaps head out for a final group dinner.

DAY 10

Destination	Quito
Meals included	Breakfast
Accommodation	N/A

This morning your adventure comes to an end in Quito. As there are no activities planned for the final day, you can depart the accommodation at any time. Because there is little time spent in Quito on this trip, we recommend staying a few extra days to see more of Ecuador. If you choose to stay on, we'd be happy to assist you with booking accommodation.

Ecuador has some of the most beautiful churches in the Americas, including the lavish La Compania de Jesus, which is decorated with seven tonnes of gold. Not far from the capital, there are volcanoes, hot springs and Incan ruins to explore. Consider doing one of our one-day sightseeing tours of Quito, which can include the Old Town, markets and the city's culinary delights (see urbanadventures.com).

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Inclusions

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 9 nights accommodation
- All Transportation
- Meals: 9 breakfasts, 4 lunches as per itinerary
- Group size: Maximum 16 people
- 1 English speaking tour leader – Will accompany the group throughout
- All accommodation as listed
- All entrance fees to the sites listed (except optionals)
- All activities listed in the itinerary unless a paid optional
- Comfortable, dedicated private transportation throughout
- 24/7 customer service and your own Dedicated Support Agent

SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS

- Get acquainted with the beautiful churches and graceful boulevards of Quito, Ecuador's capital
- The Galapagos Islands played a profound role in forming Charles Darwin's Theory of Natural Selection. Explore the islands on this in-depth adventure, coming face-to-face with some of the most extraordinary wildlife on earth
- Get your blood pumping as you scale a volcano on Isabela Island, get up close and personal with giant tortoises on Santa Cruz Island. These nearly extinct creatures are one of the greatest drawcards to the Galapagos
- This is a land based Galapagos trip, we use locally owned hotels on the islands. On this trip you will have more opportunities to interact with the locals as opposed to staying on a boat.

Fine Print

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OPTIONAL TOURS

To enhance your journey, we are offering guests a choice of the following optional activities:

- Quilotoa - Quilotoa Lagoon (Full day) - USD100
- Quito - Papallacta Hot Springs (Full day) - USD70
- Cotopaxi - National Park Hiking Tour - USD95
- Urban Adventures: Quito Market Discovery - USD98
- Urban Adventures: Quito Sweet & Culinary Experience - USD104
- Urban Adventures: Condors and Culture in Otavalo - USD756
- Urban Adventures: Quito Legends and Culture Tour - USD79 (Day 1)
- Wetsuit (shortsleeve) hire for 5 days - USD60 (Day 2)
- San Cristobal - Excursion to Leon Dormido or Lobos Islands
- Isla San Cristobal - Interpretation Center (45 minutes)
- Isla San Cristobal - Cerro Tijeretas View Point (1 Hour) (Day 3)
- Isla Santa Cruz - Charles Darwin Research Centre (45 Minutes) - Free (Day 7)

Costs are per person.

The optional tours and shore excursions can only be purchased on-tour with your guide or the ship staff, and are payable in local currency. Optional tours are subject to conditions such as traffic, weather and sightseeing schedules, as well as minimum numbers.

EXCLUSIONS

- Return International Airfares
- Transfers
- Visas (if applicable)
- Travel insurance (compulsory)
- Tipping
- Anything not mentioned in the itinerary
- Optional activities
- Personal expenses

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HOW TO BOOK & PAYMENTS

Deposit & Payments

- Book now and secure your package with only a \$440 deposit per person.
- Pay a 2nd instalment of \$1529 per person within 28 days.
- You will then be invoiced for final payment 90 days prior to departure.

Booking Process

- Select the purple 'Reserve Your Seat' tab to begin your booking (you must 'Sign Up' first by entering your email and creating a password)
- Then select the purple 'Book now' tab of the tour you have selected
- Select your Departure Date, Departure City, Number of Passengers, Room Configuration, any Upgrade Options, and enter any Special Requests
- Click the purple 'Proceed to Secure Checkout' tab
- Enter your credit card or PayPal details to secure your deposit/payment. You may also pay via BPAY (not available within 70 days of departure)
- Once your order is complete, you will be prompted to complete a Booking Form so that we can fulfil your booking
- Your booking is confirmed once your Booking Form is submitted and you can begin the countdown to your Inspiring Vacation!
- You will then be allocated and contacted by one of our Dedicated Support Agent's (within 48 hours) who will support you right up until you return from your journey

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Fitness Requirements

While the tour itinerary should give you some guidance and overview to the expected requirements, a basic level of fitness will be required. If you have any concerns please consult your healthcare provider prior to purchase/travel.

As a general rule, portorage is not included, therefore at all times you are expected to handle your own luggage where help may not be available.

Tipping

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. While tipping is not customary, it's of great significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels, inspires excellent service, and is an entrenched feature of the tourism industry across many destinations.

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You may also consider tipping your tour leader and driver for outstanding service throughout your trip. Remember, a tip is not compulsory and should only be given when you receive excellent service.

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences, however, any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement

A single supplement is available on this trip from an extra \$869.

Triple Share

Not available.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is required to protect yourself against the unexpected.

Visa & Passport information

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of your return.

Please note that these details are subject to change without notice. We recommend visiting <https://safetravel.govt.nz/> for up to date information in terms of entry requirements.

Tour Documentation

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

Group Size

Maximum 16 people.

Children

Children must be 15 years old or over and share a room with parents at all times. Children are charged the same price as adults.

Tour Length

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The total length of the tour in days includes time spent inflight and is subject to change, depending on the flight schedule. Please refer to the day-by-day itinerary for the time spent in your destination(s).

GALAPAGOS PARK, TRANSIT CARD & ISABELA PORT FEES:

A Galapagos Transit Card fee of US\$20 is payable on departure from Quito Airport (or whichever airport in Ecuador you are flying to the Galapagos from). The Galapagos park fee (US\$100) and Isabela Port fee (US\$10) are payable upon arrival to the islands (cash only). These amounts are in addition to your trip payment.

When booking, please ensure that your details are correct and they match your passport. Your passport must match the booking details provided to us; otherwise it could cause issues with your transit card and internal flights resulting in purchasing a new card and flights at your own expense.

GALAPAGOS PARK RULES:

Strict rules apply in the Galapagos Islands aimed at protecting and preserving its unique biodiversity. Intrepid strongly agrees and supports these rules which range from times of the day that a destination can be visited to the distance kept between people and wildlife and especially not removing anything from the environment (shells and corals for example) – all these rules will be explained in more detail by your Leader on the ground. Not adhering to these rules can lead to hefty fines for travellers and can result in Intrepid losing the license to operate in the Galapagos Islands – these rules must be adhered to by all, without exception. Failure to adhere to the rules can result in being removed from the trip without refund.

For more information, please follow this link: <http://www.galapagos.org/travel/travel/park-rules/>

INTERNET IN THE GALAPAGOS:

Some of the hotels in the Galapagos do have internet connections however it's often very slow and may not always be functional.

PASSPORT DETAILS REQUIRED

Full passport details are required at the time of booking in order to purchase Entrance fees to certain sites. Additionally on certain trips it's needed to book bus, train or flight tickets. Delays to provide this information may result in booking fees or changes to your itinerary.

HOT WATER FACILITIES:

Please note that in the Galapagos many of the hotels hot water services are limited and as such hot water may not always be available and cold showers may be the only option.

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STARTING IN THE GALAPAGOS

This trip has a shorter version GGTC which doesn't include flights to and from Quito and starts in the Galapagos.

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