



GALAPAGOS AND AMAZON QUEST & YASUNI EXPLORER

13 DAYS

OVERVIEW

Experience the best combination adventure in Ecuador by exploring The Galapagos and Amazon, kayaking, snorkeling & trekking all in one trip! Travel to Galapagos to witness wildlife closer than anywhere else on the planet. Swim with sea lions, sea turtles, penguins, sharks, and the only marine iguana in the world. Hike the top of active volcanoes in Isabela Island and search for the famous giant tortoises. Discover the high biological diversity of the pristine Amazon rain forest and share time with the local Kichwa community and learn about their ancestral customs, while enjoying your stay at the Amazon-Lodge.

With the Amazon camping expedition, you will have the Amazon Basin at your fingertips. It is the perfect adventure for nature lovers, jungle explorers and wildlife watchers who would like to experience the untouched Amazon. You will discover Ecuador's Amazon in the Yasuni National Park, world famous for its tremendous biodiversity and its authentic indigenous cultures which are still very much alive. On this trip, while kayaking down rivers and lagoons, you will feel as if the animals are following you. You will see displays of parrots, toucans, macaws, king fishers, herons flying across the river, as well as curious giant otters who will approach the canoe to have a look.

HIGHLIGHTS

- > Hiking to the Sierra Negra volcano
- > Snorkeling with sea turtles, rays, penguins and sea lions
- > Lava tunnels
- > Kayaking in Tintoreras to view wildlife
- > Charles Darwin Research Station
- > Encounter with wild giant tortoises
- > Encounter with Amazon Tribes
- > Night hike in the Amazon
- > Volcanic hot springs
- > Look for monkeys in the amazon
- > Deep amazon exploration
- > Wildlife at your finger tips
- > Kayaking rivers and lagoons in Yasuni national park
- > Enjoy kayaking with giant otters and pink dolphins
- > Parrots clay lick
- > Encounter with local Shamans
- > Amazon local living

INCLUDED

Transportation: Airport transfers (national flights), sea transportation Santa Cruz - Isabela islands round trip, comfortable land and sea transportation, canoe in the Amazon, dugout canoe.

Accommodations based in double occupancy: Luxury Hotel in Quito, 4-star hotels in Galapagos, Amazon Lodge, 3 nights in Amazon Explorer Campsite - comfortable safari stile tent camping inside of Yasuni National Park.

Meals Included: 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 6 dinner

Trip Leader: Certified AJ expert English-speaking naturalist trip leader and local guides.

NOT INCLUDED

- > International flights
- > Flight to/from Galapagos: USD \$ 520.
- > Galapagos Ingala Card: USD\$ 20
- > Galapagos National Park Fee: USD \$ 100
- > Isabela Pier Fee: USD \$ 10
- > Airfare Quito-Coca round trip (optional travel by bus)
- > My Own Room & Tent supplement USD \$835
- > Airport transfers (international flights)
- > Travel insurance (mandatory)
- > Required immunizations (mandatory) (yellow fever vaccination)
- > Meals not described in the itinerary
- > Tips for guides, drivers and hotels. - estimated budget USD \$ 160.
- > Donations to the community – Contact our info@adventurejourneys.com for guide lines

FULL ITINERARY

DAY 1

QUITO ARRIVAL DAY

Meet your AJ trip leader and group at 18:00pm.

Welcome to Quito! The largest, best-preserved colonial city of America - declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978. The city is considered the Cultural Capital of South America and is located on the equator in a valley at the foothills of the Pichincha volcano. Depending on arrival time, you can spend your day exploring the old town of Quito and the surrounding area.

ADVENTURE JOURNEYS can help you to organize a day trip (please request in advance). In the evening, one of our trip leaders will meet you at the hotel's lobby for a welcome briefing at 18:00 hours. At this time, we will discuss the details and questions you may have regarding the adventure.

Accommodation: Swissôtel Quito.

Meals: In flight



DAY 2

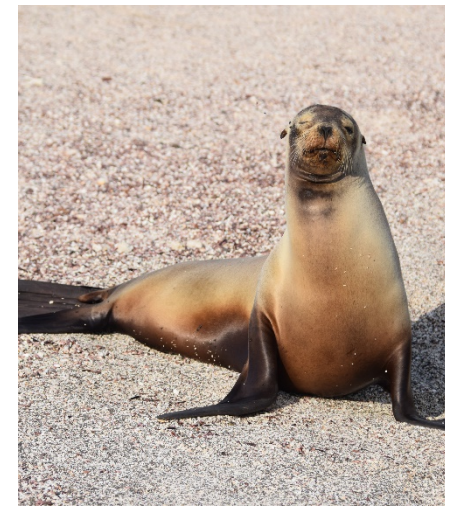
ISABELA ISLAND - GALÁPAGOS

Today we get ready to explore the most amazing archipelago in the Pacific coast and the place where Charles Darwin based his theory on the evolution of species. We will board a morning flight from Quito to the island of Baltra. Once we arrive, we head to the town of Puerto Ayora, the largest town in the Galapagos. From here we will take a quick boat to the largest island in the archipelago and where the most of the volcanic activity in the Galapagos is reported. The island was formed by six shield volcanoes, Alcedo, Cerra Azul, Darwin, Ecuador, Sierra Negra and Wolf; five of them are still active which makes the island one of the most volcanically active places on earth. During our island crossing, be on the lookout for dolphins and whales (July to October).

The Galapagos Islands is located 600 miles (965.6 km) from the coast of Ecuador, it is really important to understand that you will have to take air, road and sea transportation to get there.

Accommodation: Cormorant Beach House or similar.

Meals: Breakfast.



DAY 3

SNORKEL AT LAVA TUNNELS

Explore the amazing formations of lava created by the last eruptions of the volcanic island along the seashore. This magical place has historically been filmed by BBC and National Geographic for their documentaries. It is a labyrinth of lava arches comprised of crystal-clear water full of sea turtles, eagle rays, sea lions, sharks and more. The turtles navigate their own highway from the mangroves to the open sea through "Los Tuneles". Here, we will have the best snorkeling opportunity with all these beautiful animals, including the curious Galapagos penguins playing around.

Before or after the trip, you can enjoy some optional activities such as snorkeling at "Concha de Perla", taking surfing lessons, biking or just relax on the exotic white-sand beaches of Isabela Island. We recommend you to take some time to visit the giant tortoise breeding center located walking distance from the hotel.

Accommodation: Cormorant Beach House or similar.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch.



DAY 4

HIKE AND KAYAK

After driving up from Puerto Villamil to the trail head, we will prepare our backpacks for the hike into a young forest ecosystem, a world of recent geological history. Our destination is the rim of Sierra Negra Crater, an active volcano which last erupted in June 2018.

Upon arrival, we take in breathtaking views and explore the circumference of the massive, lava-filled crater, a caldera that is over six miles across at its widest point. If we feel energetic enough, we can continue our hike to Volcan Chico, a secondary crater that has a wild landscape of puffing fumaroles and colorful lava formations; great examples of the dramatic geological events that have formed the Galapagos Islands over millennia.

In the afternoon we will visit Tintoreras Islet, located at a short distance from Puerto Villamil and home to a great variety of wildlife. Its turquoise, crystalline waters are inhabited by white-tipped reef sharks, Galapagos Penguins, marine turtles and sea lions. One of its beaches, surrounded by mangroves, is one of the few sites where marine iguanas can reproduce successfully.

Accommodation: Cormorant Beach House or similar.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch.

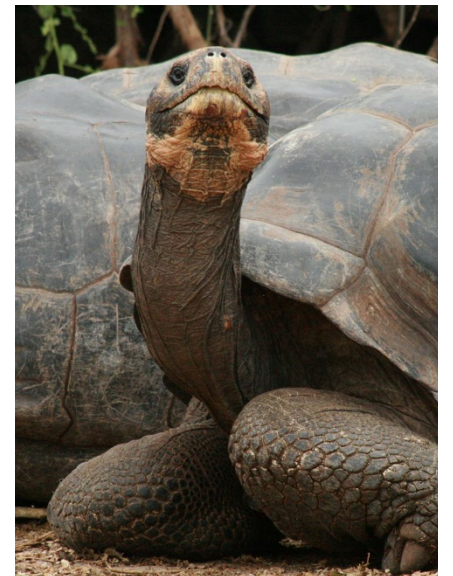


CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION

In the morning, traverse from Isabela to Santa Cruz Island to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. During our island crossing, we will be on the lookout for dolphins and whales (July to October). Once we arrive, we will check in at the hotel. We will then visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to Learn more about many of the endemic species seen in the wild, as well as the ongoing conservation and management efforts on the Galapagos Islands. In the afternoon, we will head to the 'El Chato' reserve in the highlands of Santa Cruz, home to the famous Galapagos tortoises. Hiking through El Chato's beautiful landscape with these lumbering giants is an unforgettable experience! We will also see other highland wildlife such as pintail ducks, egrets, flycatchers, finches and frigatebirds, which gather to wash the salt off their feathers at a fresh water lake. Afterwards, return to Puerto Ayora to spend the evening in Galapagos' most populous town.

Accommodation: Silberstein or similar.

Meals: Breakfast.



DAY 5

FLIGHT BACK TO QUITO

After our final breakfast on the Galapagos Island and the last photos taken of sea lions, we have a transfer to Baltra's airport in time to catch the flight back to the mainland.

Accommodation: Swissôtel Quito.

Meals: Breakfast.



DAY 6

DAY 7

FIRST AMAZON EXPLORATION

Today after breakfast we will take a scenery drive across the eastern range of the Ecuadorian Andes, our first stop will be at Guango, this is a Hummingbirds Reserve located at the Cloud Forest, here we will go hiking for 2 hours searching for this beautiful colorful birds and to learn about the magnificent flora that we can find in this ecosystem. Later we continue down the road and have a great experience while having a traditional lunch. In the late afternoon we will arrive at the Amazon Lodge and have a break, before dinner there is an optional nocturnal hike to view insects.

Accommodation: Amazon Lodge.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.



DAY 8

AMAZON HIKE AND KICHWA PEOPLE

Early in the morning with the sunrise we take a canoe up the Arajuno river to go visit the Saladero, this is how the locals call a Parrot's clay lick, here we will have a very close wildlife encounter, as this birds come almost every morning, they like licking this clay as it is full of minerals they need to be able to digest, this is because their main diet are nuts. After breakfast we will go for a hike in the Amazon pristine forest to learn more about the flora, fauna and the techniques of survival that people need when living here.

In the Afternoon we will visit the nearby Kichwa community, they will share their traditions and stories with us

Accommodation: Amazon Lodge.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.



DAY 9

PAPALLACTA HOT SPRINGS - EL COCA

Today we head back to the Andes Mountains and before going to the airport to take the Coca flight, we will stop at Papallacta hot springs to soak in the volcanic pools, it is optional to take any spa treatment.

Accommodation: Mandari Panga.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.



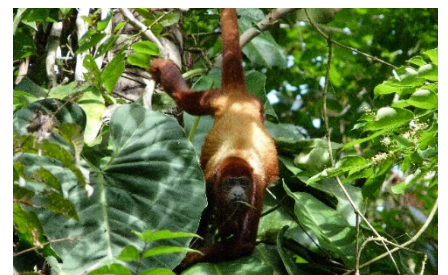
DAY 10

MANDARI PANGA

Upon arrival in the city of Coca, you will be picked up by the staff of Mandari Panga to begin your tour. They will have the option to have breakfast before starting the journey to the camp, which is located within the Yasuni National Park, immersed in the enormous biodiversity of the area that is considered worldwide as one of the largest in the world. The trip will take 2 hours in land transport, an hour and a half in motorized canoe traveling along the Tiputini River with the whole extension of the park adorning the landscape. They will arrive to Mandari Panga where they can be accommodated in the first-class camping tents (located in typical constructions of high platforms with roof safe of mosquitoes), they will enjoy a delicious lunch; They will have a traditional welcome drink along with a small introductory talk by a guide. In the afternoon you will make a walk in the jungle with a duration of one hour and a half or two hours where you will observe some species of animals that live in the area, and then enjoy a delicious dinner served in the common dining room, where you can also share a pleasant moment with the rest of the passengers and staff of Mandari Panga.

Accommodation: Mandari Panga.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.



DAY 11

HUANGANA TRAIL WALK - VISIT GRAN MOTHER NATIVE HOUSE

After a delicious breakfast in the morning, you will cross the Tiputini river by canoe to the other shore to begin your hike in Huangana Trail that crosses the virgin forest where you will be partakers of the wild life in its maximum splendor, surrounded by the surrounding sounds of the nature and the screams of howler monkeys. The duration of the walk in a circle, is approximately 5 to 6 hours and at the end will be the canoe to go back to the camp; lunch delicious local cuisine in a place full of history and tradition, an old family home, which was rebuilt and now is the dining room of visitors, then you can rest to continue with the next walk in the Lamedero Sahino (wild pig clay lick), named for the species of mountain pig which is called pecari existing in the area with an approximate duration of one hour. In the afternoon, they will take a short canoe ride that will take them to visit the Abuela House (grandmother house), a traditional native construction of the Amazon allowing them to share a valuable time with members of the community, on this site they will participate in the elaboration of artisan chocolate traditional drink Chicha of yuca and many other amazon on skills. They will return to the camp and enjoy a delicious dinner, and then go on a night walk of about 1 hour where they can see all kinds of amphibians, fireflies, insects and arachnids.

Accommodation: Mandari Panga.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.



DAY 12

VISIT TO PARROTS CLAY LICK - LOMA TUCÁN BIRDS WATCHING - TUCAN TRAIL

After breakfast, you will take a canoe trip of approximately 40 minutes again the current of Tiputini River, in this way you will be able to observe some species of animals, until you reach a small branch of a stream called Rumiyacu (stone river) that will guide you to the Parrot Lick: the place most representative of animal life and especially in variety of birds among them are: toucans, parrots, macaws, pigeons and other species of animals such as small tamarin monkeys, pigmy marmoset monkeys, in addition the place has sometimes predators such as: snakes, boas and raptors. At noon, they will return to the camp where lunch will be served to rest a little later. At around 3:30 p.m., the trek will begin along a new trail near the camp known as the Tucan Trail, which lasts approximately one hour; Back in the camp, you will go fishing for piranhas and other fish along the Tiputini River that can be served at the dinner that will be prepared upon arrival at the camp.

Accommodation: Mandari Panga.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.



DAY 13

RETURN TO QUITO - DEPARTURE & END OF SERVICES.

Breakfast will be served early in the morning depending on the time your transport returns to Quito. They will leave the camp in a motorized canoe for an hour and a half and then take a 2 hours land transport to the city of Coca, then continue with their return trip. If the group has a flight in the afternoon or departure from the group by land, you could have an activity in the morning, an early lunch from Mandari Panga

Meals: Breakfast.



LODGING IN THIS TRIP

LOCATION	ACCOMMODATION (BASED IN DOUBLE OCCUPANCY)
QUITO	Swissôtel Quito
ISABELA ISLAND	Cormorant Beach House
SANTA CRUZ ISLAND	Hotel Silberstein