

GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

Arrive: 0800 Thursday December 1
Onboard: 1800 Sunday December 4



Brief Overview: As one of the most **biologically diverse** countries in the world, Ecuador boasts a number of truly unique species (Galapagos tortoises!) and is the first country to assert the rights of nature and the environment in its constitution. The nation features a number of climates, due to both its elevation and location at the equator, which contribute to its strong agricultural industry; among Ecuador's major exports are bananas, flower (roses!) and cocoa.

Nearby: Explore the colorful city of **Guayaquil** with its markets, picturesque neighborhoods (such as Las Peñas) displaying colonial architecture, the Rio Guayas **riverfront promenade** teeming with shops, or pay a visit to the iguanas in **Parque Seminario**. The colonial charm of coastal Cuenca is only about an hour and a half up the coast.

Worth the travel: Guayaquil is the gateway city to the **Galapagos Archipelago**. This collection of islands is renowned for its abundance of wildlife species that can be found nowhere else in the world! Experience the **endemic flora and fauna** that inspired Charles Darwin's theories on evolution as well as the interesting **geological phenomena** throughout this volcanic chain of islands.

An hour's flight in the opposite direction is Ecuador's Capital, the city of **Quito**. As the highest (official) capital in the world and a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, this vibrant and bustling metropolis combines the beauty of the Andes with the blending of rich indigenous and colonial histories. Admire its many cathedrals, museums, and colonial architecture of the old town by foot, or take a cable car, **Teleférico**, ride to the top of the nearest volcanic peak, **Pichincha**, for spectacular views of the city at large. You can even jump over to **Ciudad Mitad del Mundo** and straddle the **equator!**

Traveling inland to the **Andes Mountain Range**, there are a number of incredible natural wonders to behold. Complete a challenging hike to the green waters of the **Quilotoa Crater Lake**, raft along the **Pastaza River**, or explore the **waterfalls** near the town of Baños and **Llanganates National Park**. The small villages throughout this region have preserved a number of **ancestral traditions**, including local weaving techniques and creating dyes from area plants.

Highlights

History & Culture:

Day 1: ECU 116-101 Guayaquil City Orientation & Markets
Day 1: ECU 118-103 Guayaquil by Night
Day 3: ECU 200-301 Colonial Cuenca
Day 4: ECU 124-402 Parque Historico
Day 4: ECU 123-401 Salinas Beach

IMPACT:

Day 1: ECU 404-101 Homestay & Quito

Livelihoods:

Day 1: ECU 117-101 Cocoa Plantation
Day 2: ECU 121-201 Country Life – Buffalo & Bananas
Day 3: ECU 122-301 Crab Collecting

Active Outdoors:

Day 1: ECU 403-101 Adventure in the Andes
Day 1: ECU 402-101 Galapagos Island Hopping
Day 2: ECU 301-201 Galapagos Express

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: In selling tickets or making arrangements for field programs (including transportation, shore-side accommodations and meals), the Institute acts only as an agent for other entities who provide such services as independent contractors. Food and beverages provided to the Passenger by service providers and/or independent contractors, as well as any other food or beverage consumed on shore excursions, are not the responsibility of the Institute. It is the responsibility of the passenger to ensure personal compliance with their own specific dietary restrictions. All Participants accepting or using tickets or other arrangements for such services shall be deemed to agree and consent that the Institute shall not be liable or responsible in any way for any loss, death, injury or illness to person or loss, theft or damage to personal property arising from or in connection with such services. The Institute shall not be responsible for cancellation of programs for reasons beyond its control and in such event, at its option, may refund the purchase price.

GALAPAGOS



A visit to the Galapagos Islands is an awe-inspiring experience that awakens the sense of wonder and mystery about this world, its geography and the unbelievable variety in plant and animal life that inhabit some of the seemingly uninhabitable terrain found here. Straddling the equator, each of the 20 islands contains its own microclimate and some sub-species, like the blue-footed boobie and the giant tortoise, are endemic to only one or very few islands. Among the most prolific animals are the Galápagos penguins, flightless cormorants, marine iguanas, pelicans and Sally Lightfoot crabs. Humans can only be found on 5 islands! The el Nino phenomenon is particularly significant here

where the currents of the north and south Pacific ocean meet. Most voyagers will be familiar with the Galapagos as the “birthplace” of Charles Darwin’s theories on evolution, although he spent only 5 weeks there himself. Because of this notoriety, high numbers of visitors to the area have forced the government to impose a \$120 tax on every visitor as well as very steep fees on airlines leading to high ticket prices. Additionally, the government strictly controls the number of visitors to each island by limiting the number of boats and placing strict requirements on the amount of time that visitors can spend at a particular beach or snorkeling location. All of these controls are in place to sustain the ecosystem and the environment. If a visit to these islands is on your bucket list for this voyage, there are several options at varying price points to make it accessible to as many voyagers that want to go.

Option 1 – Private Yacht – You still have to fly to the archipelago, but once there, you will board a private yacht (14-16 total passengers) and spend 4 days cruising and anchoring off the different islands. There are 2 vessels available with different itineraries. **\$\$\$\$**

Option 2 – Galapagos Island Hopping – Spend 4 days in the Islands with your home base in the cute town of Puerto Ayora. There will be ample time to explore, kayak, relax on the beach, visit the Darwin center and take a full-day boat and snorkeling trip to Bartolome island (pictured above). **\$\$\$**

Option 3 – Galapagos Express – For those with a mandatory Field Class or on a tighter budget, this option also uses Puerto Ayora as home base. Most of the same activities will be enjoyed, just on a tighter timetable. Instead of visiting Bartolome, participants will visit the island of Floreana by speedboat. **\$\$\$**

Day 1: Thursday, December 1

IMPORTANT: If you registered in one of the following courses, you have a Field Class on this day. Do not make any other travel plans as this is a designated class day in port for your course:

COURSE #	FACULTY	DAY 1 – Thursday 1, December
LSPA 106	Professor Sophie Esch	First Year Spanish Review
NRRT 270	Professor Eduard Huijbens	Principles of Natural Resource Tourism
ANTH 329	Professor Alexander Martin	Cultural Change
JCT 335	Professor Faye Serio	Digital Photography (Section 2)
IE 471	Professor Luis Diego Vega	Children and Youth in Global Context

ECU 403-101

ADVENTURE IN THE ANDES (BANOS & QUITO)

4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS



Day 1: Depart for a 1 hour drive to the Airport of Guayaquil where we will board a short flight to Quito. We will head into the city, and start with a quick lunch at the iconic **‘Teatro Sucre’**. Afterwards, we will explore the historical center, declared one of the world’s first UNESCO heritage sites

in 1976. Among the sites we will see are the **Plaza San Francisco market** and **La Ronda street**. Afterwards we go to the slopes of Pichincha volcano, where we will enjoy a **ride by Cable car**, or ‘Teleferico’, to an altitude of 4100m/13500ft where we can view the stretched city of Quito and surrounding volcanoes. We will then transfer to the hotel where you can enjoy a free evening (dinner on your own).

Day 2: We leave the city behind as we travel south, first stopping at the town of **Pujili** where we visit a typical **Ecuadorian market**. After Pujili we continue to the town of **Tigua**. This particular area has extraordinary features such as: Desert paramo’s, bizarre mountain shapes, and desolate but colorful villages that have preserved ancestral traditions.

Hidden among the mountain peaks, lies one of the most beautiful natural monuments of Ecuador: the **lagoon of Quilotoa**. Quilotoa is a volcanic crater with a diameter of 3 kilometers. Its greens waters and sheer walls remind us that we are actually inside the crater of an active volcano. In the late afternoon we continue southwards to **Baños**, a natural paradise with exuberant tropical vegetation due to its proximity to the Amazon and the Equator.

Day 3: In the morning we will head into the surroundings of the town of Baños where there are several excellent rivers for **rafting**. On the **Pastaza River** you will experience a number of exhilarating **class III rapids**. After receiving basic instructions from our expert rafting guide, we’ll have a thorough practice session before we board our rafts and into the rapids of the Pastaza River.



In the afternoon we will practice **“canyoning”** - going down five waterfalls located within a beautiful lush canyon bordering **Llanganates National Park**. Late in the afternoon we return to the hotel in Baños.

Day 4: This morning we will have an early departure, heading back north towards Quito. Our first stop will be at a

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$917	\$879
Child	\$459	\$440
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 1	0730
Return	December 4	2030*
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the historical center of Quito. • Hike to the impressive Quilotoa Crater Lake. • Explore the town of Baños at the base of the Tungurahua Volcano • Adventurous activities on the rivers and waterfalls around the Baños region 		
REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 22		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION: 10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 30		

village called **Salasaca**. Here we will visit the home of a **local weaving artisan** to observe his “back-strap-loom weaving”, visit a sacred mountain, and learn about indigenous Salasaca culture. Our next stop will be the town of **Machachi**. On a clear day you will have great views of these (snow covered) peaks. After a swift lunch, we will travel to Quito Airport and board a flight back to Guayaquil.

***NOTE: This Field Program is approved to return AFTER on-ship time. This has been approved by ISE program Administration.**

Day 1: (L)

- Flight to Quito
- Lunch at the Iconic Teatro Sucre in Quito
- Plaza Grande, La Compañia Church & Plaza San Francisco
- Two workshops in the traditional ‘La Ronda’ street
- Transfer to TeleferiQo
- Excursion to viewpoint by Cable car ‘TeleferiQo’
- Arrival at the hotel and free night for dinner

Day 2: (B,L,D)

- Travel southwards on the Pan-American Highway
- Visit the Typical Market at Pujili
- Visit the town of Tigua
- Strenuous hike at the Quilotoa Crater Lake
- Travel to the town of Baños
- Dinner at a local restaurant

Day 3: (B,L,D)

- Rafting on Class III Pastaza River
- Boxed Lunch
- Canyoning 5 waterfalls in the Baños surroundings
- Dinner at a local restaurant

Day 4: (B, L)

- Visit the indigenous Salasaca community
- Simple lunch served at Machachi
- Flight to Guayaquil
- 19:30-20:30 Transfer to the ship



Day 1: Depart for a 1 hour drive to the Airport of Guayaquil where we will board a short flight to Quito. From here we will head north towards the Cotacachi region where we will make a stopover at ‘**Molino San Juan**’, a patrimonial house in the midst of several flower

plantations. A quick lunch will be served followed by a visit to a **rose farm** to see the inner workings of one of Ecuador’s primary export industries. Afterwards, we will visit some communities and get a glimpse of rural Ecuadorian life and meet the families living here. In the evening, enjoy dinner and overnight with a local family.

Day 2: This morning we will visit some of the communities of the Otavalo area. Indigenous villages here traditionally specialize in agriculture, weaving, embroidery, and crafts. The village of **San Rafael** is set on the banks of the idyllic San Pablo Lake. Here we will see how its **tatora reeds** are used to make mats, which are still widely used in indigenous houses. In **Peguche** village, we will meet a local weaver and learn about the ancient weaving tradition. Nearby we will visit a traditional family of musicians that demonstrate how **Andean panpipes** are produced. We will also take a quick stroll over the **Otavalo market**, renowned as the largest artisan market in South America, where you will have some free time to have lunch at our own on your own.

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$808	\$769
Child	\$404	\$384
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 1	0730
Return	December 4	2030
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homestay in rural Cotacachi • Get an insider perspective of Rose production • Visit local artisan workshops • The Equator Line • Explore Quito • Travel by cable car to enjoy views of the Andes 		
REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 22		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION: 10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 30		



After lunch we will continue to our host families in the local community. We will spend the afternoon with the family, learning about their lifestyle and joining them in daily activities. At night we will have a **dinner all together in the community**, joined by local musicians who will be playing the Andean folklore.

Day 3: This morning we drive to the picturesque **crater lake of Cuicocha** in the Cotacachi-Cayapas. We will **hike** partly around the crater to several vantage points offering the best views over this natural highlight of the region.



After a box lunch, we will make our way towards Quito. enroute we will visit the **Equator Line**. Ciudad Mitad del Mundo, or City in the Middle of the World, is located just 25km/16mi north of Quito's center. Next door is the private Inti Ñan Solar, or **Path of the Sun museum**. It is dedicated to the ancestral worldview of various ethnic groups. Physics experiments explain gravitational effects on the equator. Try yourself balancing an egg on the head of a nail or miraculously lose your strength on the magnetic line! Afterwards we continue to Quito, where you will have free time for dinner on your own.

Day 4: Today we explore the capital city of Quito, beginning with the traditional **bakery & pastry shop** of San Juan. You can learn more about the baking of local delicacies such as quesadillas (sweet cheese pastries), chimborazos, suspiros (meringues) and others! We will then see **Plaza San Francisco** - a regional market since pre-Columbian times, **La Ronda** - perhaps the most representative street of the historical center, and the **Plaza del Teatro** where we will enjoy lunch next to the Sucre Theatre. After lunch we're off to the slopes of the **Pichincha volcano**, where we will enjoy the ride by **Cable car**, or 'Teleferico', to an altitude of 4100m/13500 ft. where we will admire the expansive city of Quito, as and surrounding volcanoes. Afterwards we will transfer to the airport for our flight back to Guayaquil.

***NOTE: This Field Program is approved to return AFTER on-ship time. This has been approved by ISE program Administration.**

Day 1: (L,D)

- Flight to Quito
- Lunch served at Molino San Juan
- Visit Rose Farm (Art Roses)
- Transportation to Cotacachi Communities (Runa Tupari)
- Dinner with your host family
- Return to communities for home stay
- Overnight in community

Day 2: (B,D)

- Visit the San Rafael totora weavers
- Visit a local weaver and Andean instruments in Peguche
- Visit Otavalo Market
- Free time for lunch
- Return to host family
- Dinner served at local community with traditional music
- Overnight in community

Day 3: (B,L)

- Hike and visit Cuicocha crater lake (box lunch provided)
- Transportation to Equator Monument, just north of Quito
- Visit Inti-Nan solar museum and 'Mitad del Mundo' compound
- Free evening for dinner in Quito
- Overnight in hotel in Quito

Day 4: (B,L)

- Visit the traditional Panaderia San Juan
- Plaza Grande y La Compañia Church & Plaza San Fransisco
- Two workshops in the traditional 'La Ronda' street
- Lunch at the iconic Theatre 'Plaza Sucre'
- Excursion to viewpoint by cable car TeleferiQo
- Flight to Guayaquil
- 19:30-20:30 Transfer back to port



ECU 400-101**GALAPAGOS CRUISE – NEMO 1 YACHT****4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS**

- Afternoon visit to Charles Darwin Research Station (Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz)
- Dinner served aboard the yacht
- Overnight aboard the Nemo I

- Lunch served aboard the yacht
- Afternoon visit to Elizabeth Bay (Isabela)
- Dinner served aboard the yacht
- Overnight aboard the Nemo I

- Lunch served aboard the yacht
- Afternoon visit to Urbina Bay (Isabela)
- Dinner served aboard the yacht
- Overnight aboard the Nemo I

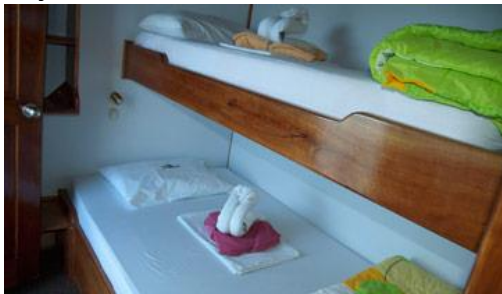
Day 4: (B)

- Morning visit to Daphne
- Flight to Guayaquil
- 17:30-18:00 Return to ship

ECU 401-101**GALAPAGOS CRUISE – DARWIN YACHT****4 DAYS / 3 NIGHTS**Day 1: Mosquera

Depart in the morning for a short flight to the Galapagos Archipelago. Upon arrival, you will take a short bus ride to the anchorage of Baltra where you will reach the yacht by Zodiac. In the afternoon, we visit Mosquera Islet, located between Baltra and North

Seymour. Here you can observe a population of sea lions, several species of shorebirds, and red lava crabs or sally light-foot crabs.

Day 2: South Plaza Island - Isla Santa Fe

Welcome to South Plaza, located east of Santa Cruz Island. It forms part of two islands known as Islas Plaza and despite its small size, some of the most interesting and outstanding species of the Galapagos are found here. Throughout the island

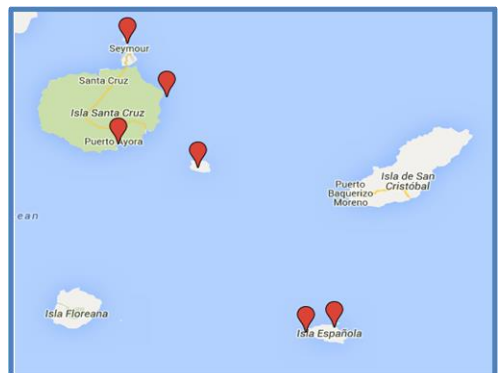
there are several hybrid iguanas, a result of crossing a male marine iguana and a female land iguana, Swallow Tailed Gulls and other sea birds such as Audubon shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, frigate birds and brown pelicans.

After lunch, we will visit Santa Fé – thought to be the oldest island in the Archipelago. Santa Fé is the home of a number of endemic species like the Galapagos Hawk, Galapagos snake, Galapagos mockingbird, rice rats and one of the two species of lands Iguanas of the islands. Along the trail many saltbushes can be seen as well as giant prickly pear cactus. There are great possibilities of snorkelling with playful sea lions and tropical fishes.

Day 3: Española (Gardner Bay, Suarez Point)

In the morning, we'll visit Gardner Bay located on the northeast coast of Hood (Española). This location provides an

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$3041	\$2838
Child	\$1746	\$1645
TIME		
Depart	September 1	0800
Return	December 1	1800
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying on a yacht • Snorkeling and wildlife experiences • Visits to the following islands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mosquera ○ South Plaza ○ Santa Fé ○ Española ○ Santa Cruz 		
REGISTRATION DEADLINE AUGUST 24		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION: 14		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 16		



excellent beach for relaxing, swimming and snorkelling, and the opportunity to observe sea lions and sharks.

After lunch we land at Suarez Point (Española), a rocky land spot that sustains one of the most impressive and varied colonies of sea birds in Galapagos. Along its southern shore, high cliffs afford spectacular views of the blow whole where water spouts up to 50-75 feet into the air.

Day 4: Santa Cruz (Charles Darwin Research Station)

We'll finish our adventure at the Charles Darwin Research Station (Santa Cruz). Many Galapagos visitors come here to observe, appreciate natural wonders, and learn about conservation on the islands. The breeding and rearing area of the scientific centre are definitely a worthwhile visit. Transfer to Baltra Airport for the flight back to Guayaquil.

Packing list: walking/hiking shoes, tevas/aqua socks, comfortable clothes (cotton), light windbreaker, bathing suit, sunscreen, cash for souvenirs and drinks aboard

Day 1: (L,D)

- Flight to Galapagos
- Zodiac ride to yacht
- Lunch served aboard the yacht
- Visit Mosquera & snorkelling
- Dinner served aboard the yacht
- Overnight aboard the Darwin

Day 2: (B,L,D)

- Breakfast served aboard yacht
- Morning visit to South Plaza
- Lunch served aboard the yacht
- Afternoon visit to Santa Fé (incl. snorkelling activity/dinghy ride)
- Dinner served aboard the yacht
- Overnight aboard the Darwin

Day 3: (B,L,D)

- Breakfast served aboard yacht
- Morning visit to Gardner Bay (Española)
- Snorkelling activity/dinghy ride (Gardener or Osborn islet)
- Lunch served aboard the yacht
- Afternoon visit to Suarez Point (Española)
- Dinner served aboard the yacht
- Overnight aboard the Darwin

Day 4: (B)

- Morning visit to Charles Darwin Research Station (Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz)
- Flight to Guayaquil
- 17:30-18:00 Return to ship



Get an immersive and encompassing introduction to Guayaquil on this full-day tour through the city!

We'll begin with a visit to the local **fish market** "El Caraguay," where you'll see a huge variety of fish and seafood. We continue to a local **flower market**, a colorful haven in the middle of this

bustling city, where visitors to the nearby cemetery (where above-ground tombs are stacked one on top of the other) purchase their unique and beautiful bouquets. A visit to a local **artisan market** will also follow one of our stops later in the day.

We'll head to the modern main avenue of Guayaquil and the Malecón Del Estero Salado, which overlooks a salty estuary surrounded by mangrove trees. From here we get a bit closer to nature at **Parque Seminario**, where you'll find iguanas everywhere!

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$81	\$77
Child	\$40	\$39
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 1	0800
Return	December 1	1700
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore Guayaquil's highlights • Experience traditional markets • Climb the colorful Santa Ana Hill • Get a glimpse of the region's culture • See several environmental ecosystems and the wildlife that calls them home 		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION:10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 42		



We continue on to the **Malecón 2000**, a vibrant riverfront promenade along the Rio Guayas. At the base of **Santa Ana Hill** and the Las Peñas neighborhood, we'll climb the 444 steps to the lighthouse on top, winding our way through the streets of colorful houses, locally-owned shops, and restaurants for a beautiful view of the city. After a delicious lunch, we'll end our day at the **Parque Historico**, where you'll get explore the urban, rural, and cultural past of Guayaquil and the unique ecosystems of the region. We'll return to the ship in the early evening.



Today you will head to the peninsula of Santa Helena and to the peaceful estate of **Hacienda El Castillo**, located in the Cerecita Valley. Upon arrival, you will be treated to a typical **welcome drink and snack** (cocoa pulp juice blended with ice, accompanied by fried

plantains with homemade fresh cheese) as you listen to an introduction of Ecuador's prominent cocoa history.

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$99	\$92
Child	\$50	\$46
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 1	0800
Return	December 1	1300
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about the production of Ecuadorian-quality cocoa 		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION:10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 42		

Chocolate-making begins in the greenhouse and the cocoa plantation. While walking through the grounds, you will learn more about irrigation, sowing, planting and grafting techniques. Taste the difference between world-class Arriba Ecuador beans and the plague-resistant derived clones. Your guide will also demonstrate harvesting the pods, breaking them open with a machete, and fermenting and sun drying the beans.

Finally you will end up in the small **chocolate factory** to learn about the art of chocolate-making. The beans are toasted, crushed, sifted, and grinded, and cocoa liquor is filtered. Passion is an essential ingredient, as well as algarrobina syrup (extracted from pods of the native carob tree) to give it a honey-like touch.

Please note: wear light clothes and bring insect repellent



Day 1: After a short flight to the Galapagos Archipelago, we will board small ferries to the town of Puerto Ayora. We will make our way through the beautiful Santa Cruz highlands.. After a quick lunch at Rancho El Manzanillo, we will explore the grounds in search for **giant tortoises**. We continue to nearby **lava tunnels** which offer another geological point of interest. From there, we continue towards Puerto Ayora. After stopping at a fish market to learn about the native fish species sold by fishermen, we will whet your appetite with a **ceviche preparation demonstration**, and then enjoy a **delicious BBQ**. Overnight at hotels in

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$1806	\$1716
Child	\$1128	\$1083
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 1	0830
Return	December 4	1800
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bartolome Island via "speedboat" • Charles Darwin Center • Spot the famous Galapagos tortoises in their natural habitat • Close encounters with unique wildlife • Great outdoor activities: snorkeling, hiking, kayaking and swimming. 		
REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPT 22		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION: 10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 80		



Puerto Ayora.



Day 2: After an early breakfast we head north to **Isla Bartolome**. This is a volcanic islet just off the east coast of Isla Santiago and it is one of the younger islands in the Galapagos. From where we can observe one of the most beautiful and **iconic sceneries** of the Galapagos Islands such as: volcanic cones, lunar-like craters, lava fields, and the famous Toba formed pinnacle. After the **hike on Bartolome**, we go back aboard the yacht to get ready for great **swimming and snorkelling with the Galapagos penguins** on the golden beach, in front of the Pinnacle Rock. In the afternoon we sail back to Itabaca Canal for a **free evening** to enjoy dinner. The water is so BLUE—the photos cannot do it justice.

Day 3: After breakfast we will take one of the water taxi's to 'German Beach' to start our tandem **kayak trip**. We will kayak along the calm shore currents, mangroves, and a small islet, towards a cliff known as 'Punta Estrada' where we will observe many marine iguanas, as well as different bird species. After the kayak trip there will be time to snorkel or refresh yourself in the pleasant ocean water, with opportunities to see colorful fish, rays, sea turtles and maybe a sea lion. Afterward, We will hike along an easy trail to get to '**Las Grietas**'. Relax in the water and jump off the surrounding cliffs, before returning to Puerto Ayora for lunch (not included).



In the afternoon we will hike through a **great cactus forest** to get to one of the most beautiful beaches of Galapagos, **Tortuga Bay**. We will encounter marine iguanas, crabs, pelicans and some shore birds. At the far end of

the beach we get to the bay side with tranquil water, which is great for swimming. Afterwards return to the hotel and enjoy an **evening at leisure**.

Day 4: After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight back to Guayaquil.

Please note: The day tours on day 2 and 3 could change in order, all passengers will be rotated.

Packing list: comfortable clothes (cotton) and shoes, bathing suit, and sunscreen

Day 1: (L,D)

- Flight to Galapagos
- Transportation to Santa Cruz highlands
- Lunch at Rancho El Manzanillo
- Interpretive visit of Santa Cruz Highlands
- Fish market visit, ceviche demonstration, BBQ
- Overnight at hotel in Santa Cruz

Day 2: (B,L)

- Transfer to Itabaca Canal
- Navigation to Bartolome
- First Island Visit
- Lunch
- Snorkelling activity and time at the beach
- Return to Itabaca Canal & Transportation to Puerto Ayora
- Free evening for dinner
- Overnight at hotel in Santa Cruz

Day 3: (B)

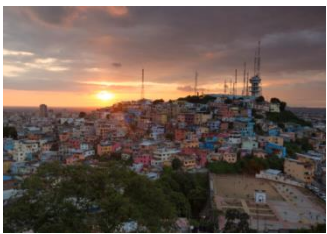
- Kayak and Las Grietas excursion
- Free time for lunch on your own
- Tortuga Bay excursion
- Free evening for dinner
- Overnight at hotel in Santa Cruz

Day 4: (B)

- Flight to Guayaquil
- 17:30-18:00 Return to ship



Under the comfort of cooler evening temperatures, we'll explore Guayaquil with its vivid street life, and rich personality – past, present, and future. Your local 'Guayaquileño' guide will share all about the city known as the 'Pearl of the Pacific' and how it has developed into the most populous metropolis of Ecuador.



First, we say hello to the city's resident Iguanas in **Parque Seminario**. In this bizarre downtown Jurassic Park, they crawl everywhere! Though reminiscent of those in the Galapagos, these meter-long green iguanas are of a common continental species. A statue of liberator Simon Bolivar dominates the park, pointing at the Municipal Cathedral.

We continue on foot to the vibrant riverfront promenade known as **Malecón 2000**, which stretches along Rio Guayas. This pedestrian zone contains viewpoints, monuments, gardens, recreational areas, bars, restaurants and exhibitions. It leads to the base of **Santa Ana Hill** and the picturesque neighborhood of **Las Peñas**. Some of its colorful wooden houses are well over a century old and have been spared from city fires that destroyed large areas of Guayaquil.



From here we travel to the **Malecón Del Estero Salado** to enjoy a local beverage while we watch a spectacular water fountain show embellished with light effects and laser imaging. A perfect way to relax and reflect on the experiences of the day.

Please note: wear light clothes and bring insect repellent

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$59	\$55
Child	\$30	\$28
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 1	1700
Return	December 1	2100
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An insider's perspective of the vibrant Guayaquil • Iguanas at the Parque Seminario and the colorful Santa Ana Hill • Water fountain show and a local beverage 		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION:10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 42		



Day 2: Friday, December 2

ECU 301-201

GALAPAGOS EXPRESS

3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS



STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$1525	\$1463
Child	\$985	\$954
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 2	0530
Return	December 4	1530
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witness events that led Charles Darwin to form his theory of natural selection. • Spot the famous Galapagos tortoises in their natural habitat • Kayak and snorkel and get close to nature & wildlife 		
REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPT 22		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION: 10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 150		

Day 1: After our short flight to the Galapagos Archipelago, we will board busses to small ferries that cross the Itabaca Canal that separates Isla Baltra and Isla Santa Cruz. Travelling south towards **Puerto Ayora**, we will make our way through the beautiful **Santa Cruz highlands**, spotting giants tortoises along the way. We'll stop for a swift lunch at **Rancho El Manzanillo**, and explore the grounds in search of **giant tortoises**. Once in Puerto Ayora, we'll get our swimming gear ready for the afternoon kayak adventure!



'German Beach' is the starting point for our **kayak trip**. After a short briefing, we will float through the calm currents of the surrounding bay, along mangroves and a small islet, towards a cliff known as 'Punta Estrada'. Here we may observe marine iguanas and a variety of bird species. There will also be some time to **snorkel or swim** in the ocean. After a quick stop at the hotel to freshen up, half of the group will go to the **fish market** to learn about the native fish species sold by the local fisherman and buy a few to take with us for a **ceviche preparing demonstration**, followed by a **delicious barbeque!** The other half of the group will enjoy a **free evening for dinner on their own**. (Groups will swap for dinner on Day 3).

Day 2: Today you will visit the **island of Floreana** by speedboat (2 hours). Upon arrival at the small port of Puerto Velasco Ibarra, **hike to "La Loberia"** and to spot some Galapagos sea lions and marine iguanas. Afterwards there will be time to snorkel and see the colourful fish, rays and sea turtles. After lunch you will have the choice to remain on the beach, or go by local **chiva (open bus)** to the highlands of Floreana. In the **Scalesia forest** you will learn about endemic plant species, visit the Giant Tortoise sub species, and visit the pirate cave. Upon return to Puerto Ayora, dinner will either be enjoyed on your own, or will consist of the ceviche demonstration/BBQ.



Day 3: This morning we will visit the well known **Charles Darwin Research Station**. Some of the main attractions are the National Park information center, the Van Straelen Exhibition Hall, the Breeding and Rearing Center for young tortoises, and adult Galapagos tortoises in captivity. Transfer to Baltra Airport for the flight back to Guayaquil.

Day 1: (L,D-group 1)

- Flight to Galapagos
- Transport to Santa Cruz highlands
- Lunch at Rancho El Manzanillo
- Visit Santa Cruz Highlands
- Travel to Puerto Ayora
- Kayak excursion
- Dinner Group 1: Fish market visit, ceviche demonstration, BBQ
- Dinner Group 2: Dinner on own in Puerto Ayora
- Overnight at hotel in Santa Cruz

Day 2: (B,L,D-group 2)

- Navigation to Floreana island
- Morning Visit & snorkeling
- Lunch
- Optional Highlands of Floreana visit, or additional beach time
- Return to Puerto Ayora
- Dinner Group 2: Visit fish market, ceviche demonstration, BBQ
- Dinner Group 1: Dinner on own in Puerto Ayora
- Overnight at hotel in Santa Cruz

Day 3: (B)

- Visit Charles Darwin Research Station
- Flight to Guayaquil
- 15:00-15:30 Return to ship



If you prefer to escape the hectic pace of the bustling metropolis of Guayaquil, consider a visit to its surprisingly green surroundings. En route you will make a stop in the unique **mangrove forests**, which shelter great biodiversity and play important ecological roles. Unfortunately, these ecosystems have suffered serious habitat changes and are critically

endangered.



From the picturesque **fishermen town of Puerto del Morro**, you can explore bird's island: '**Isla de los Pájaros**'. Its evergreen mangrove forests resist salt water and hide wading birds such as ibis, egrets, heron and an even bigger population of frigate birds than in the Galapagos. You may also have a good chance to **encounter dolphins!** You will continue to the beach town Playas to enjoy **lunch**. Afterwards, enjoy the **wide beach of Playas** and the calm ocean waters. Don't forget your bathing suit! Late afternoon you will return to Guayaquil.

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$119	\$114
Child	\$59	\$57
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 2	0700
Return	December 2	1800
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the biodiversity of the mangroves of coastal Ecuador • See the largest population of magnificent frigate birds • Spot dolphins • Relax at the beautiful beach of Playas 		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION:10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 42		



Today your local 'Guayaquileño' guide will provide unique perspectives and an in-depth understanding of Guayaquil's past, present, and future as you tour some of the highlights of this vibrant port city!

Starting off at the main avenue of Guayaquil, you'll head toward the **Malecón Del Estero Salado** where you can take in the bustle of folks going about their daily life, set against the backdrop of a salty, mangrove-studded estuary. Our next stop is **Parque Seminario**, where you'll find iguanas everywhere!



We'll continue to the vibrant riverfront promenade, **Malecón 2000**, with its wide boardwalk stretching out along the Rio Guayas. Encompassing recreational areas, it also includes a historic section with some of the most noteworthy monuments of town. This runs to the base of the picturesque neighborhood of **Las Peñas** and **Santa Ana Hill**. It's lighthouse, perched 444 steps from the base of the hill, will provide you with excellent views of the city. We'll make one final stop at a local **artisan's market** before returning to the ship.

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$65	\$62
Child	\$32	\$31
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 2	0800
Return	December 2	1200
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get an insider's perspective of the vibrant city of Guayaquil • Climb the 444 steps of the colorful Santa Ana Hill • Look out for numerous iguanas at the Parque Seminario 		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION:15		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 42		



This day tour will offer you a close look at the natural scenery of the coastal lowlands of Ecuador and the wide variety of tropical agricultural found here. Leaving Guayaquil behind, you will drive along rice paddies, banana and sugar cane plantations, and the natural vegetation of the equatorial tropics. **Hacienda Rodeo Grande** is located 90kms north of Guayaquil, in Los Ríos province. Here you will have the opportunity to learn the way of life and traditions of the **Montubio Culture** of Ecuador's coastal region.

At the hacienda you can enjoy **horseback riding, walking, and nature observation**. The farm has a large herd of cattle, kept both for meat and milk, as well as over 100 buffalos. Additionally, there is a flock of ostriches and a garden where you can find peacocks, guinea fowl, and deer. Horse riding is a great way to see the entire farm and witness how **cattle and buffalo** are managed in the traditional way by real local cowboys. **Lunch** is served at the lovely farmhouse.

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$117	\$113
Child	\$59	\$56
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 2	0800
Return	December 2	1730
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the workings of a traditional Ecuadorian working 'hacienda' • Optional horseback riding • Get an insider perspective of one of Ecuador's main export industries: Bananas! 		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION:10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 42		



You will also learn about the history of **cocoa farming** and the modern processes used to make the best chocolate

(Ecuador is recognized as being one of the main producers of high quality cocoa in the world). See first-hand why Ecuador is the main exporter of bananas in the world; and taste fresh and delicious tropical fruits. The local people at the hacienda will show you **how bananas are grown**, harvested and packed for export. In the afternoon you will return to Guayaquil.



Day 1: We will start the day by exploring the lively main avenue of Guayaquil, 'Calle Nueve de Octubre'. We will visit the French-style **Parque Seminario**, which is commonly

known as Iguana Park. From here we proceed to the vibrant riverfront promenade named **Malecón 2000**, which stretches out along the Rio Guayas. This modern boulevard includes a historic section with some noteworthy monuments: the Moorish clock tower (1842) and the Rotonda memorial.

The picturesque neighborhood of **Las Peñas** breathes a cozy atmosphere thanks to many ateliers, lively bars, and restaurants. Some of its colorful wooden houses are well over a century old and have been spared from city fires that destroyed large areas of Guayaquil. This cultural heritage area is located on the steep slopes of **Santa Ana Hill** (at the northern end of the Malecón 2000). When feeling fit enough, you can climb all 444 steps to the top of Santa Ana hill. From the old lighthouse you will be rewarded with a wide view towards the modern town center. After lunch we will start our journey to **Puerto Lopez**. The journey will take approximately 4 hours and we will make short stops at towns called '**Dos Mangas**' and '**Barcelona**'.

Day 2: Today we will visit the '**Isla de la Plata**', approximately 27 kilometers off the coast at Puerto Lopez. This island is commonly known as "The Small Galapagos". It shares many species with the Galapagos and is the only place in the world, besides the Galapagos, where Waved Albatrosses nest. The waters around the Isla de la Plata are a playground for more than eleven different species of marine mammals, including a small colony of sea lions. The coral reef around the Isla de la Plata is the only **coral reef** off mainland Ecuador, which you will have the chance to explore while snorkeling. A spectacular biodiversity of underwater marine life exists here.

Day 3: Enjoy morning at the beach before we return to Guayaquil via an alternative route that takes us to the city of **Salinas**. Here we will visit a site called '**La Chocolatera**', the most western point of Ecuador in the Pacific Ocean. The currents bash the rocks with forces not seen anywhere else in Ecuador, stirring up the sandy bottom and giving the sea a chocolaty brown color. Following the trails, you are likely to see a flock of blue-footed boobies, as well as a group of sea lions. Late in the afternoon we return to the Port of Guayaquil.

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$589	\$565
Child	\$295	\$282
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 2	1000
Return	December 4	1730
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy the beach at the fishing village 'Puerto Lopez' • Visit the 'Isla de la Plata' (the small Galapagos) 		
REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 22		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION: 10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 30		



Day 1: (L,D)

- Visit Plaza Seminario, Malecon, Santa Ana Hill (incl. lunch)
- Transportation to Puerto Lopez
- Dinner served at hotel or local restaurant in Puerto Lopez

Day 2: (B,L,D)

- Navigation from Puerto Lopez to Isla de la Plata
- Guided hike with naturalist guide over Isla de la Plata
- Snorkeling at Punta Palo Santo
- Return to Puerto Lopez
- Dinner served at hotel or local restaurant in Puerto Lopez

Day 3: (B,L)

- Departure from Puerto Lopez to Salinas
- Visit 'La Chocolatera' at Salinas
- Lunch
- Return to Ship



Day 3: Saturday, December 3

ECU 200-301

COLONIAL CUENCA

2 DAYS / 1 NIGHT



of Sigsig, the toquilla straw is harvested and prepared to weave into the famous Panama hats. Late afternoon return to Cuenca with a **free evening for dinner.**

Day 1: Today we'll travel over the Andean mountain range and into the valley of Cuenca to the area of **Gualaceo**, a traditional valley where indigenous people where the straw panama hats and the women have hair braids. After lunch, we visit the town of **San Bartolo**, where guitars are handmade and finished. We will also be able to see the beautiful ikat patterned textiles at the village of **Bulcay**. In the town

Day 2: In the morning we'll start our **city tour** through Colonial Cuenca, with its cobble stoned streets, colorful squares, local markets, and beautiful architecture.

Cuenca was declared a Cultural Heritage Site by the UNESCO in 1999. We'll visit the impressive New Cathedral on the central square, a local museum, the Tomebamba riverbank, and one of Cuenca's Panama hat fabrics.

We then leave Cuenca for the **national park 'El Cajas'**. Soon we'll notice the change of vegetation, leaving the valley of Cuenca and crossing Andean cloud forests which lead us to the high and protected paramo with many grass, crystalline streams and rocky peaks. Before entering the national park we have **lunch at a local restaurant**. Try the local specialty trout, very delicious! In the park we start **hiking** on one of the highest points, above 4000 m., from where we'll descend through the diverse vegetation with many colorful flowers and a small Polylepis forest extension. We return to the port of Guayaquil late in the afternoon.



STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$399	\$383
Child	\$200	\$192
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 3	0800
Return	December 4	1830
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the artisan villages in the Gualaceo valley, an indigenous and traditional area of Cuenca • Explore the moorlands and lake district of Ecuador: National Park 'El Cajas' • Explore the cobblestone streets of Cuenca, a UNESCO world heritage site 		
REGISTRATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 22		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION: 10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 30		

Day 1: (L)

- Depart to the Gualaceo Valley
- Lunch
- Visit surrounding villages & workshops
- Continue to the Colonial city Cuenca
- Free evening for Dinner

Day 2: (B,L)

- Walking city tour and visit to Panama hat factory
- Travel to National Park 'El Cajas'
- Lunch at a typical restaurant
- Hike at National Park 'El Cajas'
- Return by bus to Guayaquil
- 18:00-18:30 Arrival at Guayaquil Port



Puná Island is a beautiful, colorful island where you can experience the diverse ecosystem and enjoy various riverside points that are a part of the Gulf of Guayaquil. While traversing the island, we will enjoy the picturesque and **unique flora and fauna** (maybe even spotting some dolphins who frequent the Guayas River waters), as well as learn about the cultural legends of

the rural parish of Guayaquil, located in the outlet of the Guayas River and its tributaries. The rich biodiversity of the Gulf islands and canals are an important resource for the people who live here, and we'll lend a hand **collecting all kind of shellfish and crabs** before returning to Guayaquil.

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$149	\$143
Child	\$74	\$71
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 3	0730
Return	December 3	1700
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lend a hand to the locals collecting crabs and other shellfish • See the beauty surrounding Puna Island 		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION:15		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 40		

Please note: This is a messy excursion involving digging in mud; bring old clothing that can get ruined and insect repellent

Day 4: Sunday, December 4

This day tour is the ideal combination between culture, nature and relaxation. You will visit the peninsula of Santa Elena, west of Guayaquil, with its well-known **beach town - Salinas**. The nearly two hour drive to Salinas will traverse the green surroundings of western Guayaquil which will suddenly change into dry forests marked by the famous 'Kapok' tree, a Ceiba species, and even into a semi-arid area.

Once you get to Salinas, the first visit will be to a **local fish market**. Afterwards you will continue to the far west end of the peninsula of Santa Elena, known as '**La Chocolatera**'. This site represents the westernmost location of South America. Here you will go for a **hike**, where you can observe the impressive waves of two currents that join at this point. You will also be able to spot sea lions on the rocks.

Afterwards you will enjoy a typical **lunch** with some fresh fish, of course! There will be time to relax and **enjoy the beach**.

On the way back to Guayaquil you will visit the **museum 'Amantes de Sumpa'** near Santa Elena town. Here you will encounter a few skeletons, as well as different pieces of shells and metal of the '**Las Vegas**' culture, which is estimated to be one of the oldest cultures of the South American continent.

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$93	\$89
Child	\$46	\$45
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 4	0800
Return	December 4	1800
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit a local fish market • Walk at the westernmost point of South America • Observe sea lions • Relax at Salinas beach • Learn about the 'Las Vegas' culture 		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION:10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 42		



The locals will tell you that **Parque Historico** is well-worth a trip for any visitor to Guayaquil. Situated on the banks of the Rio Daule, the park incorporates many different perspectives of the city and Ecuador overall. With buildings preserved from early 20th century Guayaquil, you will

step back in time when the harbor city flourished thanks to the cacao boom. You'll see a slice of life on the plantations that made this economic prosperity possible – peering into the lifestyle, customs, and traditions of those who owned and worked the land. Later, walk the pathways through four typical, but threatened, ecosystems to learn about the region's flora and fauna (including parrots, sloths, and coatis). This is an elegant, fun, and informative mix of open-air museum, historical reenactment, cultural exposition, and environmental education, sure to broaden your understanding and appreciation for this corner of the world.

STANDARD PRICE		Early Booking
Adult	\$77	\$74
Child	\$38	\$37
TIME		
	Date	Time
Depart	December 4	1300
Return	December 4	1700
HIGHLIGHTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy traditional urban architecture • Get of glimpse of the culture and traditions of the Guayaquil region • See several environmental ecosystems as well as the wildlife that calls them home 		
MINIMUM REGISTRATION:10		
MAXIMUM CAPACITY: 42		

