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**GIRL
TRAVEL
TOURS**



Ecuador: Galápagos Islands Cruise & The Amazon Rainforest

11 days — January 22 - February 1, 2024

INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

- 1-day tour of Ecuador's capital city, Quito
- 5-day Galapagos cruise on yacht with Naturalist guide
- 3-night Amazon Exploration

Group Size:
Limited to 16 cabins



Travel to Ecuador on an unforgettable journey from the tropical Amazon rainforest to the wildlife-rich Galapagos Islands. Arrive in Quito, the historic Andean capital, before exploring the amazing Amazon in Tena in this three-day adventure, exploring the rivers and rainforests of the Napo River and the wildlife they harbor. Then on to a five-day cruise of the Galapagos Islands as we search for blue-footed boobies and sea turtles.

AT-A-GLANCE

- Day 1 - Fly to Quito
- Day 2 - Guided Tour of Quito
- Day 3 - Quito to San Cristobal Galapagos
- Day 4 - San Cristobal Galapagos
- Day 5 - Espanola Island
- Day 6 - Floreana Island
- Day 7 - Santa Cruz Island, Baltra Airport
- Day 8 - Quito to Amazon
- Day 9 - Amazon
- Day 10 - Amazon to Quito
- Day 11 - Fly home

January 22, 2024

Fly to Quito - Late night arrival

Welcome to Ecuador!

Accommodation at Dann Carlton Hotel.

January 23, 2024

GUIDED TOUR OF QUITO

Quito was the first UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage site declared in 1978. It displays the largest colonial town of the Americas with an eclectic architecture ranging from the modern quarters to varied colonial facades on churches and private residences decorated and balconies built along the last five centuries. See the gothic Basilica del Voto Nacional and the Independence Square flanked by the Presidential and the Archbishop's palaces dated back to XVII and XIX centuries. Share the spirit of Quito by walking to the Metropolitan Cathedral with excellent samples of the Spanish Renaissance. Visit the so-called street of the Seven Crosses and pass by the Jesuit convent, El Sagrario church with a unique orthodox cross lay outdated back to the seventeenth century and the jewel of the crown. Visit the Jesuit temple of the baroque art in the Americas La Compañía de Jesús, and the jewel of the crown of the colonial architecture in Quito, continue to the Plaza de San Francisco which is a temple and convent, displaying a rich sample of artistic and cultural heritage.

Then, we head approximately 11 miles (18 Km.) north of the city to arrive at the Middle of the World Complex which holds the Equator Monument situated at 0°0'0" latitude and in it, a Museum of Ethnicity of the peoples in Ecuador. In the eighteenth century, the French Geodesic Expedition erected one of three pyramids, as landmarks, to commemorate their calculation of the middle of the Earth. The complex replicates the Spanish colonial architecture with a typical central plaza, a church, and bull-fighting ring.

Accommodation at Dann Carlton Hotel.

(B)

January 24, 2024

QUITO - GALAPAGOS

From the hotel we will shuttle to the airport where we will fly to San Cristobel Galapagos

Embarkation

AM: Passengers are picked up at the airport by our naturalist guides and taken to the pier to board the Coral I or Coral II Galapagos cruise.

PM: Dry landing in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the capital of the Galapagos Islands. Passengers visit the Interpretation Center, an excellent place to learn about the islands' history. The Museum of Natural History displays information about the volcanic origins of the islands, their remoteness from the continent, ocean currents, climate, and the arrival of the different species. Human history is also showcased, narrating the most significant events related to the

discovery and the island's colonization.

Accommodation at Coral Yachts.

(B,L,D)

January 25, 2024

GALAPAGOS - CERRO BRUJO & PITT POINT

AM: Cerro Brujo is an eroding tuff cone that is composed of lava formations. It is close to a beautiful white sand beach which is great for snorkeling and sunbathing. Nearby a lagoon ideal for migratory bird species can be seen, including black-necked stilts, ruddy turnstones, whimbrels, sandpiper, and white-cheeked Pintails. Cerro Brujo offers beautiful views of Kicker Rock, an islet in the adjacent southern coast of San Cristobal Island.

PM: The trail goes through several magnificent viewpoints, including an olivine beach and a path climbing to the top of volcanic tuff. This is the only site where the three booby species of the Galapagos can be seen together: Nazca, blue-footed, and red-footed. This is an excellent place for dinghy rides and snorkeling, where a good range of sea birds can be observed.

Accommodation at Coral Yachts.

(B,L,D)

January 26, 2024

GALAPAGOS - SUAREZ POINT, GARDNER BAY & OSBORNE/ GARDNER ISLETS

AM: An island of geological interest, being one of the oldest in the Galapagos, it has a high percentage of endemism due to its isolation from the rest of the islands. Due to the great variety of wildlife, this is one of the most attractive spots in the Galapagos. Here is possible to explore volcanic formations and see large colonies of sea lion and seabirds including the Española mockingbird, Nazca boobies, and the spectacular red-billed tropicbirds. Here the singular marine iguanas have a turquoise color with reddish parts during the breeding season, lava lizards, and the colorful Sally Lightfoot crabs. A somewhat lengthy hike brings visitors to nesting grounds that sometimes overlap the trail. Other birdwatchers favorites include Galapagos dove, Galapagos hawk, swallow-tailed gulls, and the world's largest colony of waved albatross, an unequivocal highlight during mating season (April-December). Admire the island's dramatic backdrop, featuring the famous "Soplador", a seaward blowhole that shoots water up to 23 m. into the air.

PM: Gardner Bay is a beautiful white coral sand beach guarded by a colony of sea Lions. Here there are no trails, so visitors stay along the shore, spotting Galapagos hawks, American oystercatchers, Galapagos doves, hood mockingbirds, yellow warblers, lava lizards, marine iguanas, and finches. Swimming and snorkeling offer a great variety of Galapagos marine wildlife: king angelfish, creole fish, damselfish, and parrotfish.

Accommodation at Coral Yachts.

(B,L,D)



January 27, 2024

GALAPAGOS - CHAMPION/CORMORANT POINT & POST OFFICE BAY

AM: Champion is a small islet located just offshore Floreana Island, dinghy rides and snorkeling here is done along a nice marine wall, filled with a variety of wildlife, like schools the blue Lobster, long nose hawkfish, sea horses, coral hawkfish, sea lions, and the famous red-lipped batfish. Cormorant Point's first impression is of an olivine green sand beach. From here, a hike next to black mangroves takes to a brackish lagoon, which usually holds one of the largest flamingo populations in the Galapagos. This island features some endemic plants such as the Scalesiavillosa, white mangrove, and palo santo trees. The trail continues to a beautiful white-sand beach, one of the most important nesting sites of green Pacific sea turtles. It is important to avoid walking in the water due to the stingrays that may be hiding in the sand. From the beach is easy to spot sea turtles, blue-footed boobies plunging into the water, and small reef sharks searching for food along the shoreline. A small colony of Galapagos penguins resides on Floreana and can sometimes be spotted as well.

PM: On the north side of Floreana, locates Post Office Bay, named like this because, in 1793, Captain James Colnett installed a wooden barrel, which served as an informal post office for sailors passing through, who would take the letters with them to their destinations. Nowadays, our visitors continue this tradition by placing unstamped postcards inside the barrel, on the promise that other tourists will take that mail and send it for free. It can take weeks, months, or even years to arrive!. Here is possible to see Darwin finches, yellow warbler, and lava lizards. Great snorkeling opportunities with Green Pacific sea turtles and on the main beach be around playful sea lions. Moreover, this island is best known for its endemic vegetation: Scalesiavillosa, Lecocarpuspinnatifidus, and Galapagos milkwort.

Accommodation at Coral Yachts.
(B,L,D)

January 28, 2024

GALAPAGOS - DISEMBARKATION

AM: Dry landing. In the mountains of Galapagos is possible to admire different kinds of birds, such as tree and ground finches, vermilion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (usually standing on the tortoises' shell). The journey to the reserve offers great opportunities to see the contrasts that the island offers in reference to the variety of ecosystems. The road goes from the coast through the agricultural zone and straight up to the dense humid forests. Often, Galapagos Giant Tortoises are also seen on the way, wandering through pastures in the paddocks. This spot is a birdwatchers' haven since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here.

After the morning excursion, you will be assisted to Baltra airport for your flight to the mainland.

Shuttle to the hotel in Quito where we will have free time and dinner is on our own.

Accommodation at Dann Carlton Hotel.

(B)

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*All Amazon trips are subject to weather conditions

January 29, 2024

QUITO - AMAZON

Depart from Quito to the east for a five-hour drive climbing the Andes at around four thousand meters to descend into the Amazon basin crossing extended valleys and lush green forests to arrive at the lodge in the afternoon.

Lunch. Upon arrival, take some time to relax, breathe the jungle breeze and explore the quarters.

The dinner will be served by candlelight, followed by a welcome drink. Feel comfortable in a quiet and lovely atmosphere filled with the nocturnal sounds of the Amazon rainforest. Take an optional night hike to explore the depths of nature. Dinner & accommodation

Accommodation at La Casa del Suizo.

(B,L,D)

January 30, 2024

AMAZON - MISAHUALLÍ

Breakfast. The day starts with a canoe ride inside the Amazonian rainforest, along the Napo River. Arrive in Misahualli. Follow this with a second canoe ride on the Arajuno. Visit "AmaZoonico", an animal rescue center in which numerous species are tended to, including toucans, a variety of colorful parrots, monkeys, jaguars, capybaras and much more. Enjoy a picnic on the riverbank and visit a Kichwa family to learn their ancient customs. Dinner and lodging.

Accommodation at La Casa del Suizo.

(B,L,D)

January 31, 2024

AMAZON - QUITO

After breakfast we depart for the trip up the mountains and back to the city. About halfway there, the bus stops at a lookout to stretch our legs and enjoy a lunch box before continuing on to Quito.

Arrival in Quito at hotel.

Accommodation at Dann Carlton Hotel.

(B)

February 1, 2024

QUITO - HOME

Transfer to the airport to board your international flight.

(B)





Cool, elegant and classic! **The Dann Carlton Hotel** is located in the heart of the financial and business center of Quito. It is close to the main shopping centers such as Quicentro, United Nations Avenue, Atahualpa Olympic Stadium and just two blocks from La Carolina's Park. Quito is the capital of Ecuador and has the largest and best-preserved historic center in Latin America; it's the second highest capital in the world with an elevation of 2,850m above sea level.



Carol Yacht - With a capacity for 36 guests, the vessel offers open deck areas with a Jacuzzi to make the best of your relaxing time while cruising the islands. The interiors are thoughtfully designed to resemble a private yacht experience in a cozy ambiance. The restaurant serves delicious Ecuadorian and international cuisine even extending to a BBQ dinner on the open-air Moon Deck. They are the perfect cruise vessels where the thrill and comfort are guaranteed.



La Casa del Suizo - It's easy to forget how close you are to civilisation when surrounded by the perfect wilderness of the Napo River, the Amazon's largest and most powerful tributary, and its lush, tropical forests. But La Casa del Suizo is accessible by car or bus around three and a half hours from Quito, followed by an easy 20-minute ride on motorized canoe. As the sun sets over La Casa del Suizo head to the swimming pool to gaze at the stunning jungle view, relaxing into the night.

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Cabin Type	Cost
Cost per person in DOUBLE accommodation in Standard Plus Cabin :	\$5,300.00
Cost per person in DOUBLE accommodation in Junior Cabin :	\$5,700.00
Cost per person in SINGLE accommodation in Standard Plus Cabin :	\$7,200.00
Cost per person in SINGLE accommodation in Junior Cabin :	\$7,800.00

**Does not include flights or travel protection insurance.*

TERMS:

Deposits and Payments:

- To confirm a booking, a deposit of USD \$500 net per person is required.
- You may also choose to add Travel Protection Insurance at the time of booking to cover pre-existing conditions, otherwise, it can be purchased at a later date.
- Total balance must be fully paid up to 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations and penalties:

- 121 days prior to departure, spaces can be released with loss of deposit and insurance.
- 120 - 61 days prior to departure, USD \$1,500 per person shall be charged for any space released.
- 60 days prior to departure, reservations shall automatically be considered as firm; therefore, 100% of the total rate of the cruise will be charged and withheld if the booking is cancelled.
- Flight Cancellations are subject to the airline penalties.
- Name Changes: Up to 120 days prior to departure, a USD \$150 penalty per person shall be charged for a name change on a reservation.

