

# Quito & Galapagos

7 Days / 6 Nights



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## Day 1: Quito

Quito Transfer in/out - airport/hotel (private)

At the airport you will be greeted by a member of our organization, we will escort you all the way to your hotel, giving you a short briefing about Quito and the country in general with valuable information you need to know.

Overnight at Dann Carlton Quito.

## Day 2: Quito

(B/-/-)

Quito and the Center of the World monument (shared)

We will visit downtown Quito to relish in this urban jewel and its treasures of art and architecture. Quito's colonial quarter, the largest and best preserved of South America, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will stroll at the Independence Plaza, flanked by the Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, the Municipal Building and the Archbishop's Palace. We will visit also the temple of \*La Compañía de Jesús and its awesome gilded interior. We continue on to the Monastery of San Francisco, one of the great religious buildings of the New World; its impressive façade and atrium that lead to its Baroque interior influenced by Moorish style, with the winged Virgin of Quito at its main altar. Then we will continue to the Equatorial Monument, 25 Kms. (16 miles) North of Quito, which marks the exact Middle of the World, latitude 0°, where we can stand with a foot on each hemisphere. We will visit the Ethnographic Museum inside the monument, which shows the different Native American groups living in Ecuador. Beside the monument there is a colonial-style town, complete with main square, church, post office, bullring, cafeterias, restaurants and many gift shops with postcards and souvenirs. A certificate for having crossed the Equator will be given at the end of our tour. **(This tour includes walking at an altitude of 2800 meters (9200 feet) and climbing stairs).**

Overnight at Dann Carlton Quito.



## Day 3: Quito / Galapagos

(B/L/D)

Transfer Hotel – Airport (private)  
Flight to Galapagos

The Galapagos Islands rank among the world's most extraordinary wildlife destinations. Although every inch of our world has something that makes it 'unique,' the islands are that much more *sui generis* than other places due to the archipelago's isolation over millennia, which have allowed species to evolve amid the stark volcanic landscapes into new and apparently strange life forms that exist nowhere else on the planet. And on top of that, the creatures one encounters are virtually fearless of humans. It's a truly magical place.

The award-winning Finch Bay Eco Hotel lies just steps from the beach in a **secluded location**, across the bay from Puerto Ayora on the island of Santa Cruz. Guests cherish the hotel's privacy, natural surroundings, swimming pool, fine dining and superb service.



Upon arrival at the airport on Baltra Island, we travel across the Itabaca Channel to Santa Cruz Island where a bus takes us to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. Here we visit the Giant Tortoises Reserve in their natural habitat, a once in a lifetime experience! Make sure you wear outdoors clothing and sturdy footwear this day.

Manzanillo is on the natural path tortoises take every year as they either migrate to higher moist locations during the *garúa* season (June-September), or when they descend to the warmer lowlands during the wet season. Year round, tortoises can be seen grazing on the surrounding vegetation, or wallowing in muddy banks or in a small red-coloured pond (impressively colored by surface red pond-weeds). The area is teeming with life: chirping vegetarian-, small-tree, large-tree and woodpecker finches, mockingbirds and flycatchers, as well as ducks, herons and gallinules make this an exciting morning visit.



After lunch and exploring the tortoise reserve, we continue our road south bound across Santa Cruz Island to Puerto Ayora, the Galápagos' most populous town, where we board the hotel's fiber glass boat (called a "panga") for the short hop across to the "German Neighborhood". This part of Puerto Ayora can only be reached by boat and there are no cars. A short walk along a path takes us to the hotel. Welcome to the Finch Bay Eco Hotel!

After checking in, guests are free to enjoy the hotel's attractions: the pool and bar area, the white coral beach in front of the hotel, or swing in their hammock. In the evening, dinner includes the delicacies of local and international gastronomy, one of the main reasons people choose the Finch Bay Hotel.

Overnight at Finch Bay Hotel.



## Day 4: Quito / Galapagos

(B/L/D)

### Tortuga Bay and Charles Darwin Research Station with lunch (guided)

**Tortuga Bay** is located to the southwest of Puerto Ayora, on Santa Cruz Island. Its name means "turtle", and the island received this moniker because it is sea turtles favourite place to lay their eggs. The stunning white sand beach is considered by many the most beautiful in the Galapagos archipelago. The beach is reached via a marked and cobbled two kilometre path that starts at the west end of Charles Binford Street; guests must sign in and out at the National Park control point at the beginning of the path- it is open from 6:00 AM to 6:30 PM daily. There is excellent bird-watching along the path, with plenty of Darwin's finches and other sea birds. And for active visitors, it is a great place to kayak, snorkel and surf!

The headquarters of the Galapagos National Park Service and The **Charles Darwin Research Station** are located side by side on the outskirts of Puerto Ayora. There is an interpretation centre open to the public and also one may view the tortoise rearing program. Those guests who do not have the opportunity to explore the highlands of Santa Cruz and see tortoises in their natural habitat will have the chance to see tortoises here. And for those who have already seen them in the wild, a visit to the Centre will expand their knowledge of this unique, iconic Galapagos animal.

Overnight at Finch Bay Hotel

## Day 5: Galapagos

(B/L/D)

### Island yacht exploration options (guided): North Seymour Island

North Seymour was lifted from the ocean floor by a seismic event, and its origins as a seabed give the island its low, flat profile. Cliffs only a few meters high form the shoreline, where swallow-tailed gulls sit among the ledges and rocks. A tiny forest of silver-grey Palo Santo trees stands just above the landing, usually without leaves, waiting for the rains to burst into bloom. This island is teeming with life!



### Bartolome Island

Bartolome is famous for Pinnacle Rock, a towering spearheaded obelisk that rises from the ocean's edge and is the best-known landmark in the islands. Galapagos penguins—the only species of penguin found north of the equator—walk precariously along narrow volcanic ledges at its base. Sea lions snooze on rocky platforms, ready to slide into the water to play with passing snorkelers.



### South Plaza Island

South Plaza is a small island full of fascinating wildlife, both along its shore and along its dramatic, wind-swept cliffs: sea lions, land iguanas, swallow-tailed gulls, Opuntia cacti and vegetation that changes colours according to the season. South Plaza is one of Galapagos' most impressive visiting sites.

## Santa Fe Island

Santa Fe offers one of the more beautiful and sheltered coves in the islands. Its turquoise lagoon is protected by a peninsula of tiny islets forming an ideal anchorage. The island lies to the southeast of Santa Cruz within sight of Puerto Ayora. Like North Seymour, Santa Fe has been uplifted seismically, and you can see underwater lava formations. Overnight at Finch Bay Hotel.

## Day 6: Galapagos

(B/-/-)

Transfer from Finch Bay Hotel to airport. At the Quito airport you will be greeted by a member of our organization, we will escort you all the way to your hotel.



## Day 7: Quito

Transfer from Hotel to airport.

\*\*\*End of services\*\*\*

## Rates per person:

<b>FARE PER PERSON IN DOUBLE ROOM STARTING FROM:</b>	<b>ANG 6575.00</b>
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**This tour can start on any date of 2017 except holidays and congresses and booked for 2 passengers or more.**

## PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Airfare on Avianca, Curacao – Quito – Galapagos – Quito – Curacao (via Bogota)
- Quito Transfers in/out \_ airport/hotel
- Accommodations as mentioned in itinerary, in Quito including breakfast, in Galapagos breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Transit Control Card US\$ 20 per person (subject to change without previous notice)\*
- Galápagos National Park entrance fee US\$ 100 per person (subject to change without previous notice).

