

Ecuador and the Galápagos

Exploring Cultures - Islands - Wildlife

July 7 – 14, 2009

The Galápagos Islands – consisting of thirteen major islands, six minor ones, and scores of islets – lie about 600 miles off Ecuador's Pacific coast. The islands remain suspended in time with giant tortoises, colorful iguanas, and beautiful lavascapes that feature flora and fauna found nowhere else on earth. Sea lions frolic unconcerned by human presence. There are frigatebirds, flightless cormorants, waved albatross, the endearing blue-footed boobies, and much more.

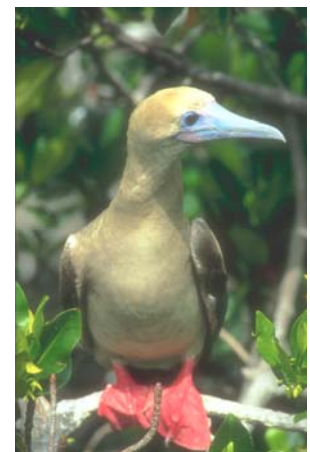


The Galápagos Islands are fascinating, not only for their great variety of unusual plants and animals but also for their historical importance as the original site of Charles Darwin's observations on speciation. Today they represent a unique and critical ecosystem that is changing under the influence of humans.

You will also spend four nights on the mainland as you discover Quito, the capital city, Otavalo and surrounding areas. Most of Ecuador was part of the Incan Empire until falling to Spanish conquistadors in 1532. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Quito became famous as an art center. There are no finer examples of colonial period architecture, sculpture and painting than that produced in Ecuador during that time. Because of its historical significance, Quito is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Package Inclusions:

- Roundtrip air from Chicago to Quito, Ecuador, via American Airlines
- 3 nights in Quito at the 4-star Swissotel
- 1 night in Otavalo at the Hacienda Pinsaqui
- Breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 5 dinners
- Quito City Tour and Otavalo Market visit
- Roundtrip air from Quito to the Galápagos
- 4 day/3 night Cruise on the M/V Santa Cruz, a ninety passenger ship custom-designed exclusively for Galápagos excursions
- Full shore excursion program to the islands: San Cristobal, Cerro Brujo, Punto Suarez, Gardner Bay, Urbina Bay, Punto Espinoaz, Santa Cruz and Baltra Island
- Naturalist guides aboard ship for lectures and excursions to the islands for up-close and personal viewing of the animals, birds, and plants.
- Galapagos Park Entrance Fee



Please note: Your package does not include gratuities for drivers and guides on the land tours or naturalist guides on the yacht, personal expenses, alcoholic beverages, Ecuador departure tax, optional Trip Cancellation/Health Insurance (details sent upon deposit).

Package Price: per person with air out of Chicago

\$4,250 Air and Ground Package, per person based on double occupancy
 \$3,650 Ground Package Only (no international air), per person

Deposit NOW to guarantee your space! \$1,000 per person deposit due by December 19, 2008
 Final payment due by April 28, 2009

Cancellation Policy: There is a penalty of \$100 if cancelled before March 2, 2009. There is a penalty of \$350 if canceled between March 2 and April 28, 2009. There are no refunds after April 28, 2009. Trip Cancellation/Health Insurance is available and recommended. Information will be sent upon deposit.



Earl Notestine has traveled extensively and has served as group leaders for many trips. Earl, Purdue professor emeritus, is a former associate dean of the School of Liberal Arts and has taught in the School of Education. He would be pleased to have you join them for this truly wonderful Ecuador and Galápagos Islands adventure.

For more information and/or a detailed itinerary:
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