



QUITO/ GALAPAGOS/ CUSCO / MACHU PICCHU



14DAYS / 15 NIGHTS

Day 1.

Assistance at the airport, transfer to hotel.

Day 2.- COLONIAL AND MODERN CITY TOUR

Declared a “World Heritage Site” by UNESCO in 1978, Quito is considered one of the most beautiful cities in the Americas. We will visit both the new, modern city and the old historic city characterized by the number of churches and squares. Included in the visit are the Cathedral, The Archbishop’s Palace, the Government Palace or Carondelet located in the main square, the “La Compañía” of Jesus, a church whose interior is plated in gold, and the square and church of San Francisco. Later, the tourist centre of the Middle of the World where the northern and southern hemispheres meet. In addition, we will visit the museum “Intiñan” which is well known for its experiments and the experience of being in 2 hemispheres at one time.

DAY 3: QUITO, BALTRA / SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Transfer Quito hotel to Mariscal sucre airport flight to Galapagos island. Upon arrival to Baltra Island your naturalist guide will wait for you in the arrivals hall and take you to your first visit on Santa Cruz Island. You will be transferred from Seymour airport by an airport bus (10 min ride) and a ferry ride (5min) to the northside of Santa Cruz where we will take our transportation to LOS GEMELOS: two pit-craters located on each side of the road over 30 meter deep which were formed by the collapse of the roof of some magma chamber.

A few trails wander around the craters, many land birds seen such as; the vermilion flycatcher, the short eared owl, the Galapagos dove, and a great number of Darwin’s finches, including the carpenter finch, which uses a stick as a tool to help extract larvae from old stumps.



Day 4 and 5 SANTA CRUZ ISLAND (B, L)

On day 2 and 3 you will visit any two islands of the below list (one island per day). Depending on your departure and availability the visits of the islands will vary. Each island is unique in itself and has different highlights to offer. This is an amazing chance to reach out to inhabited islands in the archipelago. Each day tour will include lunch onboard, a walking and a snorkeling activity to maximize your experience.

NORTH SEYMOUR

AM: North Seymour is a small flat island, with a trail about two kilometers long. Palo santos trees are endemic to the island and stand just above the landing site usually without leaves waiting for the rain to bring them into bloom. Opuntia, the local prickly pear cactus, is the food for the land iguanas.

Swallow-tailed gulls sit perched in ledges of the cliffs only a few meters high from the shoreline. Amongst the emblematic fauna of the island you will be able to see sea lions basking on the lava rock, during the walk you can find land iguanas and colonies of blue-footed boobies and magnificent frigates.

PM: Las Bachas, a beautiful coralline beach located on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, is the perfect place for practicing snorkeling, swimming or to simply enjoy the white soft sand. Several brackish lagoons only a few steps away from the sea are the feeding grounds of various wading birds, from stilts to flamingos. - Wet Landing

SOUTH PLAZAS

AM: The Plazas Islands (North and South), Only South Plaza is open to visitors. Here the vegetation and is represented by annual plants such as sesuvium, and by opuntia cacti. The sesuvium, serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus. Yellow-Brown land iguanas sit beneath waiting patiently for pears to drop.

Depending on the dry or the wet season the island wears a red carpet during the months of May to December.

You will disembark on South Plazas where you will be greeted by a colony of sea lions inhabits the island, The trail takes you gradually towards the southern cliff of the island where you will be able to observe nesting swallow-tailed gulls and several sea birds such as tropicbirds, frigates, Nazca and blue-footed boobies, Audubon shearwaters, pelicans gliding the sky.

PM: You will have the possibility of snorkeling in the calm waters of Punta Carrión where you will be able to observe a variety of tropical fish, sea turtles, rays, yellowtail mullets and white tip reef sharks that peacefully rest on the sandy bottom.



SANTA FE

AM: Santa Fé offers a beautiful bay, In the middle of a sunny day the lagoon turns into an eye-catching turquoise blue. The white Sandy bottom is only a few meters below the Surface.

You will disembark on a small sandy beach where you will be able to see a colony of sea lions basking lazily in the sun. A trail leads inland to the top of a Cliff, from where the view is breathtaking. Two species of land iguanas inhabit the archipelago, but one of these, the endemic dwells only in Santa Fe; it is bigger, with a whitish color, sometimes chocolate Brown when moulting. The Galapagos hawk often overlooks the beach.

Assistance to the the airport, transfer from hotel flight from cusco to Lima and of the services This island is also characteristic by its forest of the giant prickly pear cactus, or RaDayte headed scalesia, is an attractive Bush with white flowers and exquisite fragrance.

PM: After the visit on land you will be taken to enjoy snorkeling in the clear waters of the anchoring site of Santa Fé. You will be able to see a variety of tropical fish and a possibility of swimming with sea lions, sea turtles, small white-tip sharks, spotted Eagle rays and round stingrays are common to the small bay.

BARTOLOME / SULLIVAN BAY

AM: A very impressive Little island in front of Sullivan Bay, with a landscape of real volcanic desolation: tuff cones, spatter cones, scoria formations and black volcanic sand.

A trail of 600-meters with stairs leads to the Summit of the central of the volcano. From the top of the volcano, the view is extraordinary and offers one of the most emblematic sceneries of the Galapagos Islands,. Towards the east, a field of spatter cones punctuates the island. Towards the west, one is amazed by the isthmus of Bartolome, cover by mangroves and bordered by two small coves of Golden sand in teh shape of half moons. On the north beach, the Pinnacle Rock stands like a finger pointed to the sky.

PM: Depending on the permission of the boat this day you have also the opportunity to do snorkeling in one of both places; on the north cove, under Pinnacle Rock or in Sullivan Bay, this last one is a clear evidence of the volcanic past of the islands. Both places give a unique experience.

DAY 6. SANTA CRUZ ISLAND (B)

Enjoy a full free day with different options to explore such as:

- o Charles Darwin Station
- o Tortuga Bay beach
- o Playa de los Alemanes
- o Las Grietas
- o Diving
- o Biking
- o Kayaking
- o Las Grietas
- o Shopping

* If you have any last minute tour requests, we can help you organize activities during your free time. Just let us know when youre here!

DAY 7.

Tranfer to Baltra flight to Quito.



DAY 8. VTRANSFER QUITO AIRPORT FLIGHT LIMA AND CUSCO

Arrive in Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire. Meet your tour guide at the airport and transfer to your hotel near the city's main square. In the early afternoon, meet your Adventure Guide for a walking tour that introduces you to the history of the Inca civilization and its former capital with its ornate cathedrals, adobe walls, carved balconies, hidden courtyards, and cobblestone streets. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at a local fine-dining restaurant located near the Cusco Main Square and featuring contemporary Peruvian cuisine.

Accommodation: hotel in Cusco

Activity: 3-hour walking tour of Cusco

Transportation: 30-minute airport transfer

Meals: Dinner



DAY 9. CHINCHERO AND HIKE AT MORAY & MARAS

Depart Cusco this morning and head to the Urubamba Valley, known as the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Stop in route for the ultimate foodie experience! Located in Chinchero, half way between Cusco and the Sacred Valley, and in the process produces a rich variety of colors, flavors and textures that are grabbing the attention of the culinary world. He welcomes you privately for a fascinating presentation about his work, as well as a chance to taste traditional uchucuta sauce, made out of Peruvian hot peppers, and his surprisingly delicious Andean tuber and potato wines. Also learn how traditional Andean textiles are made during a private demonstration, and stroll through Chinchero's lively weekly market. Continue to the ancient site of Moray to see its impressive circular terraces that were used by the Incas as a botanical laboratory. Stop for lunch prepared by top chefs near to Maras, surrounded by a lovely landscape of high mountains and green fields. Visit the salt pans of Maras, where one of the finest salts in the world is extracted. The patchwork effect of hundreds of salt pans in varying shades of white, pink and beige is wonderfully photogenic. Hike from Maras down to the town of Pichingoto, at the bottom of the Sacred Valley, then drive the short distance to the hotel to check in. Dinner this evening is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Urubamba-Sacred Valley, Peru

Activity: 2 hours / 3.4 miles hiking with 86' elevation gain & 500' elevation loss

Transportation: 3-hour private bus transfer

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 10. HIKE FROM PISAC RUINS

Explore the ancient ruins of Pisac, perched on a hill high above the valley, and featuring some of the finest Inca stonework in existence as well as beautiful, sweeping terraces that perfectly highlight the contours of the mountain terrain. Hike down through the ruins and then along a network of stairs, tunnels and walkways down to the town of Pisac. Enjoy lunch, a gorgeous gem hidden in the lush fields of the Sacred Valley. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon and enjoy the grounds of this contemporary hacienda-style property surrounded by flowers, mountains and trees.

Accommodation: Urubamba-Sacred Valley, Peru

Activity: 3-4 hours/6.3 miles hiking with 939' elevation gain & 1,510' elevation loss

Transportation: 1.5-hour private bus transfer

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



DAY 11. EXPERIENCIE THE LEGENDARY INCA TRAIL TO MACHU PICCHU

Ride a classic Vistadome train up the narrowing gorge of the Urubamba River, disembarking at kilometer 104. Then, begin your half-day hike along the Inca Trail to the lost citadel of Machu Picchu. Stop first to visit the small Incan site of Chachabamba, then begin to climb upwards, emerging into a lovely cloud forest, and past a waterfall to the ruins of Wiñay Wayna. Continue ascending ancient stone steps and the narrow trail up to Intipunku, the original entrance to Machu Picchu. Pause to absorb the awesome view, then follow the trail down to Machu Picchu itself, arriving mid-afternoon. Continue by shuttle bus to Aguas Calientes and relax at the hotel for the rest of your day. (Optionally, skip the hike, continue by train, and explore Aguas Calientes on your own in the afternoon.)

Accommodation: Hotel-Aguas Calientes

Activity: 6 hours/7 miles hiking with 1,640' elevation gain

Transportation: 1.5-hour train ride

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 12. EXPLORE MACHU PICCHU

Enter the awe-inspiring ruins of Machu Picchu by morning light. Take a highly informative tour of the site's main structures and learn about their importance in the lives of the Incas. Take a challenging climb up either Machu Picchu Mountain or Huayna Picchu Mountain (optional and based on availability for the date) and be rewarded by breathtaking views of the citadel and the surrounding mountains. Enjoy lunch, then return to the hotel to relax.

Accommodation: Aguas Calientes

Activity: 3 hours guided walking tour of Machu Picchu, plus 2-3 hours/2 miles optional mountain hikes

Transportation: 30-minute public bus

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13. JOURNEY BACK TO CUSCO

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, with time for a short local hike or relaxing at the hotel. Mid-morning, catch the Vistadome train back to Ollantaytambo, arriving around noon. Enjoy a traditional Pachamanca lunch of poultry, potatoes, and vegetables, cooked underground with hot stones according to a technique that has lived on since the Incan Empire. You are in for a unique experience! After lunch, continue back to Cusco and check in to the hotel. In the evening, explore Cusco before a festive farewell dinner at one of the city's best restaurants.

Accommodation: hotel in Cusco.

Transportation: 1.5-hour train ride, 1.5 hour private van transfer

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14. CUSCO & FLY HOME

After breakfast at the hotel and a leisurely morning, depart on homeward-bound flights.

Meals: Breakfast.

