

# ENCHANTING ECUADOR

*Start in historic Quito and the vibrant markets of Otavalo, the volcanoes of Cotopaxi National Park and the stunning waterfalls of Banos. Continue through the colonial charm of Cuenca and coastal Guayaquil. End with a stunning 5-day Galapagos Islands cruise.*

## **TAILOR-MADE ITINERARY**

### **16 DAYS/15 NIGHTS**

#### ***Day 1: Quito***

On arrival transfer to your hotel.

#### ***Day 2: Quito***

Embark on a captivating journey through the heart of Quito, Ecuador's cultural capital, on a guided city tour exploring its historic landmarks and Baroque architecture.

#### ***Day 3: Quito > Otavalo***

Otavalo, in the Andean highlands, is steeped in centuries of culture and history. Dive into Ecuador's largest market, witness traditional weaving, and visit the indigenous community of Peguche.

#### ***Day 4: Otavalo > Quito***

Today, you will be met and transferred back to Quito where you will enjoy the afternoon at your leisure.



#### ***Day 5: Quito > Cotopaxi National Park***

Travel along the Avenue of Volcanoes to the majestic Cotopaxi volcano. Then explore a vibrant market, teeming with produce harvested from the surrounding fertile valleys.

#### ***Day 6: Cotopaxi > Banos > Riobamba***

Visit the lush riverside town of Banos with its famed Basilica, then travel along the beautiful Route of the Waterfalls to Puyo, delving into the heart of the Ecuadorian Amazon.

#### ***Day 7: Riobamba > Cuenca***

Just outside of Riobamba is the Palacio Real Community, offering the chance to witness Andean culture, agriculture, handicrafts and in particular, the significance of the llama to the local people. En route to Cuenca visit the mesmerizing Ingapirca Ruins, a testament to Ecuador's Canari and Inca heritage.



### Day 8: Cuenca

Discover Cuenca's historic centre, where iconic landmarks narrate the city's vivid heritage. Explore the past at the Pumapungo Central Bank Museum and the present at the Museum of Modern Arts. Wander the vibrant Plaza Mayor and discover the Ecuadorian roots of the Panama Hat.

### Day 9: Cuenca > Gualaceo & Chordeleg > Cuenca

Depart on a captivating expedition to the picturesque small towns of Gualaceo, Chordeleg and San Bartolome. Encounter well-preserved heritage houses, skilled silversmiths, goldsmiths, artists and weavers in this idyllic rural setting.

### Day 10: Cuenca > Guayaquil

Today visit the stunning El Cajas National Park, home to over 40 mammal species and 150 bird species, including the Andean toucan, often found in the Llaviuco Lagoon. Andean scenery transforms into lush tropical greenery as you descend towards the coast.

### Day 11: Guayaquil

Spend a full day exploring Guayaquil's vibrant coastal allure on this cultural tour, tracing the lively banks of the Guayas River. Visit important monuments and heritage sites and learn more about the complex history of this region.

### Days 12 – 16: Guayaquil > Galapagos Islands > Guayaquil

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the Galapagos Islands. Upon arrival, visit the giant tortoises of the Charles Darwin Research Station before boarding your Galapagos cruise. The following days are spent exploring the prolific wildlife and diverse islands on thrilling excursions guided by expert naturalists. The rich biodiversity of this pristine environment is astounding. At the end of your cruise, return to Guayaquil where arrangements conclude.



#### 2025 price per person

#### Twin per person from

#### Single per person from

1 Jan to 31 Dec

\$19,085

\$29,380

**DEPARTS:** Thursdays and Sundays, year-round.

**INCLUDES:** 11 nights accommodation; most meals; 4 nights' onboard M/Y Isabella II in the Galapagos Islands; Meet & Greet in Quito and the Galapagos Islands; transfers as per itinerary; English-speaking local guides; sightseeing as per itinerary; flights Guayaquil > Galapagos Islands > Guayaquil.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Gratuities; fuel surcharge; Galapagos National Park Fee.



**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL PROFESSIONAL**