



Itinerary

Galápagos Islands ~ Iconic Wildlife & Sublime Scenery

IMPORTANT NOTE: This is the default version of the tour itinerary. Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this version. If you have booked extras, Please contact info@myholiday2.com.au for a personalised version of your itinerary

DAY 1: Arrive Quito, Ecuador

Begin your adventure in the vibrant city of Quito. Your journey begins on the Equator in the lush Andean foothills. At 9,350 feet, Quito is the second-highest capital city in the world, and its main draw is the exquisite Old Town which was founded on an ancient Inca settlement. A UNESCO World Heritage site, it's packed with well-preserved colonial architecture as evidenced in colourful plazas, magnificent churches and handsome monuments. Settle into your hotel, then head out to explore. If you have time, why not come a few days earlier and join one of our optional Pre-Programmes.

MEALS: In-Flight

OVERNIGHT: 4 Star Hotel, Quito

DAY 2: Explore Historic Quito

Straddle the Equator at the Middle of the World City! Today you'll enjoy a guided tour of Quito's remarkable Old Town – one of the largest and best-preserved colonial-era quarters in South America. Wander through cobblestone streets as you admire the architecture – and sample some delicious chocolate made from finest Ecuadorian cacao along the way. Next, you'll head to the iconic 'Middle of the World City', located around 16 miles north of Quito. After lunch, you'll visit the famous monument that delineates the imaginary line of the Equator. Have your camera ready to capture the moment you stand with one foot in each hemisphere.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: 4 Star Hotel, Quito

DAY 3: Quito ~ Baltra: Your Cruise Begins

As your South America land adventure draws to a close, it's time to embark on the next stage of your journey. After breakfast, a short flight will take you to Baltra Island in the spectacular Galápagos archipelago. A transfer brings you straight to the port where your comfortable expedition ship MS Santa Cruz II awaits. In the afternoon we'll begin our exploration of the Galápagos Islands following the north shore of Santa Cruz towards the fascinating landscapes of Cerro Dragón – Dragon Hill – where we'll land. The first part of the walk here passes by a brackish lagoon that's frequented by shorebirds and American Flamingos. Further inland, the trail offers a beautiful view of the bay and the western islands of the archipelago, as well as a chance to get a first look at some land iguanas.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Santa Cruz II

DAY 4: Isabela & Fernandina Islands: Explore The Island of the Marine Iguanas

Wildlife-rich Isabela and Fernandina Islands - Scan the coastline and seas for iconic species. You'll start your day at Punta Vicente Roca, on the north-western tip of Isabela Island. After breakfast, we'll explore the coast by panga boat, learning about the dramatic geology of the area from your naturalist guides. This site is a nesting place for several bird species, so look out for Flightless Cormorants, Galapagos Penguins, and boobies. Weather permitting, you'll get to snorkel alongside the cliffs, where you might find green sea turtles, oceanic sun fish, and fur seals. In the afternoon, we'll explore Fernandina, an island with a unique ecology and a big population of marine iguanas. Scan the coast for sea lions, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hawks and penguins.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Santa Cruz II

DAY 5: Santa Cruz Island: Meet The Giant Tortoises

Darwin's Santa Cruz - Meet the famous giant tortoises of Galápagos. Today, you'll explore Santa Cruz Island. In the morning, we'll disembark at Puerto Ayora to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. A giant tortoise breeding centre, here you can see recently hatched tortoises and Darwin's famous finches – the birds he used as a basis for his theory of evolution by natural selection. There's also an impressive forest of prickly pear cacti that's home to many land birds. Enjoy a cooler climate over lunch in the lush highlands, where giant tortoises shuffle about munching on grass and wallowing in pools. You'll have time for another activity, including mountain biking or visiting a sugar plantation.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Santa Cruz II

DAY 6: Floreana Island: Discover Underwater Wildlife

Picturesque Floreana - Discover Galápagos history and underwater wildlife. After breakfast, you'll enjoy a panga boat ride among the channels on Floreana's north shore, before taking in the incredible views of the island from Baroness Cove. Later on, we'll land at Post Office Bay to visit the historic barrel that has served as a post office in the archipelago for over two centuries. After lunch, you'll explore the wonders around Champion Islet in a panga boat or aboard our glass-bottom boat. Here, you can snorkel in one of the best spots in the archipelago. From there, it's onwards to Cormorant Point, where we'll take a walk from an olivine-crystal beach to a brackish lagoon, where you can commonly see American Flamingos, Pintail Ducks and more.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

OVERNIGHT: MS Santa Cruz II

DAY 7: Back to Ecuador

Back to Baltra - Your adventure comes to an end As your expedition cruise comes to a close, it's time to bid farewell to the wildlife and scenery of one of the world's most incredible nature destinations. We'll also

say farewell to our wonderful crew and naturalist guides as we disembark at Baltra Island. A transfer will take you to the airport in Baltra for your flight to Quito to connect to your international flight, or if you prefer, continue to Guayaquil for another adventure. To explore more of Ecuador, why not extend your stay and join one of our optional Post-Programmes.

Post-Programmes: Explore more of Ecuador with one of our optional Post-Programmes. Join us as we travel to Napo River, in the heart of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Fly to Coca and spend three nights in a lodge surrounded by the beautiful rainforest, and observe and learn about the flora and fauna on selected activities. Or travel from Quito to the Mashpi Reserve, a unique habitat and ecosystem. Enjoy a 3-night stay in luxurious Cloudforest Lodge and discover this breathtaking area (also available as a Pre-Programme). Both Post-Programmes include two nights in Quito. Contact MyHoliday2 for pricing.

MEALS: Breakfast