


ECUADOR - EXPERIENCE ECUADOR & GALAPAGOS



TRIP CODE
LATSEEG
DURATION
11 Days
LOCATIONS
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands


INTRODUCTION

Discover the vibrant cities of Guayaquil and Quito, explore the Galapagos Islands whilst staying at the luxurious Galapagos Safari Camp, embrace the Andean way of life and stay at one of the oldest haciendas in Ecuador. On the return journey home stopover in Santiago, and sample the wines of the Casa Blanca Valley and explore the UNESCO World Heritage of Valparaiso.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Guayaquil

On arrival in Guayaquil, you will be met by a representative of Chimu Adventures and transferred to your hotel. Guayaquil is Ecuador’s largest city and main port. Resettled in 1547 as a commercial ship yard and port to the service of the Spanish Crown, it has served as the main point of Ecuador’s economy. It has been the location of great revolutions and insurgencies through its history, being recognized as the first Ecuadorian city that become definitely independent from Spain in 1820.



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DAY 2: Exploring Guayaquil

Morning tour of the city. Guayaquil, the capital of the Guayas province, is the largest and most populous city in Ecuador. Located in the Pacific coast, it has a tropical climate, and is known as the “Pacific Pearl”. It is the main port of Ecuador, thus, it is of great economic importance to the country. Visit the most important places in the city - Bolivar or Seminario Park, Old south market, Administration square, panoramic waterfront view of Malecon 2000 (the boardwalk overlooking the Guayas River), Barrio de las Peñas and the General Cemetery.



DAY 3: Depart for Galapagos Islands


You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the airport for your flight to the Galapagos Islands. On arrival at Baltra Airport, Galapagos Islands, you will be met in the VIP lounge by a representative of Galapagos Safari Camp and transferred to your luxury camp. Enroute enjoy an excursion of the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. Enjoy a delicious, locally-sourced lunch at a farm in the western hills. Take in the area’s natural beauty, pit craters, lava tunnels, and learn more about the Scalesia and Guayabillo forests. At the Tortoise Reserve, share some time in the giant tortoises’ natural habitat, surrounded by the abundant bird life of the area. End this day at Galapagos Safari Camp with a sunset cocktail followed by dinner.



DAY 4: Experience the east of the island

A morning drive takes you to the eastern part of the island. At 490m above sea level, Cerro Mesa Reserve offers spectacular views of the largest crater on Santa Cruz Island, exotic plants, and seven unique subspecies of finch and the elusive vermilion flycatcher. After lunch explore Garrapatero Beach, with stunning contrasts of mangroves, black lava, white sand, and turquoise water — including a flamingo lagoon. Kayaking and mountain biking are optional.



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DAY 5: Exploring the islands - Day 5 & 6

Early morning finds you on a motor vessel to one of the neighbouring islands: North Seymour, Bartolomé, Plazas, Santa Fé, Floreana or Isabela. Each island is an endemic treasure to explore and enjoy. The Galapagos Marine Reserve is the second largest marine reserve in the world, and snorkelling off the boat is highly recommended. Destinations will be confirmed on arrival.



DAY 7: Depart for Quito and the Highlands of Ecuador

Enjoy the serenity that Galapagos Safari Camp has to offer. Relax, walk, or enjoy the sunrise from the observatory before departing for Baltra Airport for return flight to Ecuador’s mainland. On arrival at Quito Airport, you will be met by a representative of Chimu Adventures and transferred to your hotel located in the highlands of Ecuador.



DAY 8: Highlands of Ecuador

Hacienda Zuleta offers a great variety of activities and places to visit. With horseback riding in Ecuador being a speciality, they also offer mountain bikes and a horse drawn carriage for trips on hacienda grounds to observe the milking, the agriculture, mountain views and the tranquil life of the community. Also visit the Condor Andes rehabilitation program “Condor Huasi Project” that works for the rehabilitation of the majestic Andean Condor.




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DAY 9: Depart for Quito

This morning return to Quito. Enroute visit the famous Otavalo Market. The indigenous people set up a market in which a bartering manner of shopping is taken. This is one of South America's most famous Indian markets. It offers an excellent selection of woven tapestries, blankets, hand-knit sweaters, pottery and more. It's a paradise for souvenirs. Sitting at 2,850 metres above sea level high in the Andean foothills lies Quito, the capital of Ecuador. The city, a short distance from the Equator and with an amazing backdrop of snow-capped mountains, is known for its stunning colonial architecture and art-work. Founded in the 16th century on the ruins of an Inca city, Quito has one of the largest, least-altered and best-preserved historic centres in the Americas. It was declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1978.



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DAY 10: Explore Quito

Commence a colonial city tour of Quito exploring the bustling streets and squares of the largest historical old town in the Americas. Visit some of its most important churches such as the majestic La Compañía and iconic San Francisco which have stunning multi-ethnic designs and cultural heritage. We then take you to the Ethnographic Museum, which shows the great diversity of Ecuador's native groups. Here you will see The Equatorial Monument which marks the exact middle of the World, Latitude 0°. You can stand with a foot on each hemisphere. A certificate for having crossed the Equator is issued to each guest! The surrounding, volcanic scenery is stunning. Beside the monument is a Colonial-style town, complete with main square, church, post office, bullring, cafeterias, restaurants and gift shops.



DAY 11: Depart Quito

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Deluxe
Inclusions	Private airport transfers Accommodation with breakfast daily Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide as detailed in itinerary Other meals where stated Flights Guayaquil - Galapagos - Quito Exclusions International flights Visa & reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Beverages Personal expenses Gratuities for tour guides/drivers Galapagos transit control card (USD\$20 per person subject to change) Galapagos Park Entrance Fee (USD\$100 per person subject to change)
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
Notes	Please note park entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly

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qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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