SOUTH AMERICA - SIGNATURE GALAPAGOS EXPRESS



TRIP CODE

ECSJGALB

DEPARTURE

Selected Fridays

DURATION

9 Days

LOCATIONS

Quito, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands

INTRODUCTION

Join this 9 day, superior experience of Quito and the Galapagos Islands. The cruise offers all the creature comforts of superior accommodation onboard the MC Seaman Journey, a luxurious sixteen passenger catamaran, and three nights accommodation in Quito at the boutique five star Illa Experience hotel.

You will enjoy a few days sightseeing Quito from the hotel, which is centrally located in the city's old town, before boarding your cruise and experiencing the spectacular scenery, natural wonders and incredible flora and fauna of the Galapagos Islands. There, you will observe Galapagos tortoises in their habitat, snorkel the white coral beach of Cerro Brulo, observe sea lions and sharks at Espanola Island and spot blue-footed boobies and albatrosses at Suarez Point.

Every day of this express South American tour is an adventure as you encounter the fascinating and colourful creatures who call these islands their home.

This superior itinerary includes accommodation onboard the Seaman Journey - a luxurious 16 passenger catamaran and three nights in Quito staying the Illa Experience hotel, a boutique 5 star hotel located in the city's old town, this hotel is the perfect base to explore the best sights and attractions the city has to offer.

PLEASE NOTE: The Galapagos itinerary included in our Signature Package is valid for 2025 departure dates only. In 2024 Seaman Journey have changed the routing and duration of their cruises. Please contact us for more information and for pricing/availability.

* Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations.

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PLEASE NOTE: Pricing is subject to change and availability at the time of booking. Contact us for more information.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive in Quito



Welcome to Quito, Ecuador, a City declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1978. You will be transferred from the airport to your hotel which sits nestled in the Andean foothills, 2,850 metres above sea level. The city is known for its stunning colonial architecture, artwork and amazing snow-capped mountain backdrop.

DAY 2: Quito Six Senses City Tour



Today you will enjoy a tour of the charming city of Quito. The tour will tick off all of the main sites, including Independence Square, the Government Palace, the busy street of La Ronda and some of the beautiful baroque churches that the city is famous for. You will also enjoy a range of experiences. These will vary depending on the day and the time of year, but can include things like market visits, empanada or ice cream making (and tasting), working with an artisan to make your own Panama hat or even helping to restore colonial art! Your tour will end with a cocktail at a rooftop bar where you will have the perfect view over the old town and Panecillo hill. (B)

DAY 3: Cotopaxi National Park Excursion



Today you will head south from Quito to visit Cotopaxi National Park. Cotopaxi is the highest active volcano in the world. Despite the altitude, the park is home to numerous birds and varied plant life. Weather permitting, there are spectacular views from the north face of the mountain. The surrounding scenery includes volcanoes like Pasochoa, Ruminahui and Sincholagua. You will also have the opportunity to visit a local indigenous market. (B, L)

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DAY 4: Fly to Galapagos Islands



Fly from Quito to the Galapagos. On arrival you will meet your naturalist guides who will collect your luggage and escort you by bus to the harbour to board the MC Galapagos Seaman Journey. In the afternoon you will visit the San Cristobal Interpretation Centre to learn about the history of the islands, local conservation efforts and the natural history. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: San Cristobal



This morning, visit Punta Pitt, located at the eastern tip of San Cristobal Island. The site features a beautiful beach and natural viewpoints overlooking an eroded volcanic hill. Sea lions sunbathe here, while frigate birds, pelicans, and seagulls soar overhead. Punta Pitt is one of the few places where all three species of boobies (blue-footed, red-footed, and masked) and both species of frigate birds can be seen together. In the afternoon, head to Isla Lobos, named for the sea lions that frolic on its white-sand beaches. Isla Lobos is a popular diving and snorkeling spot, offering clear waters and a scenic trail. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: Espanola Island



This morning we head to the isolated southern island of Espanola. Brimming with native species like the Espanola mockingbird, lava lizard and waved albatross. Gardner Bay is a prime location for swimming, snorkelling and relaxing. You may also see sea lions, sharks and sea turtles in the clear waters. This afternoon’s excursion takes you to Suarez Point. Watch the blue-footed and Nazca boobies dance and the large albatrosses launch off the cliff. There’s a blowhole which can create spurts of 30-50 metre high. (B,L,D)

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DAY 7: Floreana Island

One of the most impressive flamingo lagoons is located at Cormorant Point on Floreana Island. There you will see flamingos and various other shorebird species and there are two beaches to visit, Green Beach and Flour Sand Beach. Here green sea turtles come to nest and you can also see rays in the water. You will have the chance to take a walk and go snorkelling. Spend the afternoon relaxing at Post Office Bay, which is a post office like no other. Today tourists leave letters and post cards here and you can sift through them to find any that might be close to your home. The idea is to take one and deliver them by hand. (B,L,D)



DAY 8: Turtles Trail and Fly to Quito

Spend your final morning learning about the protection and conservation efforts of the islands at Fausto Llerena Breeding Centre. After, you will head to Baltra Airport to fly back to Quito (or Guayaquil). You will overnight at a hotel near the airport. (B)



DAY 9: Depart Quito

Please make your way back to Quito airport today by airport shuttle in time for your onward departure flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotel & Cabin On Board A Catamaran Yacht

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Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** 3 nights in Quito / Illa Experience hotel Luxury room Round trip flight to/from Galapagos Galapagos National Park Entrance fee (US$200 per person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change) Galápagos Ingala card USD 20,00 p/p Transfers in Galapagos Accommodation on board in double cabin All meals during the cruise Naturalist Bilingual Guide level III All visits and excursions according to the itinerary Snorkel Gear (mask, tube and fins) Kayaks Unlimited purified water, coffee and tea **Mainland services** English speaking guide + private transportation Tours and airport transfers as listed on the program Hotel accommodations as listed on the program subject to availability Meals as listed B: breakfast. L: lunch and D: dinner. **EXCLUSIONS** Local Taxes Travel Insurance Personal expenses and tips Alcoholic drinks Items not specified Additional visits Additional meals
Difficulty Rating	2 (Light Adventure - Average Fitness Required)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, twin share. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. **PLEASE NOTE: The Galapagos itinerary included in our Signature Package is valid for 2025 departure dates only. In 2024 Seaman Journey have changed the routing and duration of their cruises. Please contact us for more information and for pricing/availability.** * Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations.
Price Dependent upon	Seasonality, fuel surcharges, currency fluctuations and availability at time of booking.

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SUSTAINABILITY

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