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Complete Ecuador

Quito, the Andes, the Amazon, Cuenca and the Galápagos

TAILOR-MADE JOURNEYS

LENGTH	CITIES	WHEN	PER PERSON
18 days, 17 nights	10 cities	Daily departures from Nov 29 to Dec 31, 2026	R$ 36,165

Departures from November to December 2026

About the trip

18-day itinerary through Ecuador, from the Andes and the Amazon to Cuenca and the Galápagos Islands. It includes Quito's historic center, Cotopaxi National Park, the Baños waterfall route and speedboat tours of Isabela and Santa Cruz.

What you will experience

- Otavalo indigenous market and a walk along Lake Cuicocha, in a volcanic crater
- Quito cable car and historic center, with La Compañía Church and the Panecillo
- Cotopaxi National Park, with a walk around Lake Limpiopungo
- The Amazon in Tena, with a canoe ride on the Napo River and lunch in a Kichwa community
- Baños waterfall route, with the Pailón del Diablo, and the Ingapirca ruins on the way to Cuenca
- Galápagos with Las Grietas, Tortuga Bay, Las Tintoreras on Isabela and a yacht trip to two islands

Day by day

1

DAY 1

QUITO

Arrival at Mariscal Sucre Airport, in Quito. Private transfer to the hotel, in a central area with easy access to restaurants, bars, craft shops and parks. Free time to start exploring the city on your own. Quito sits at 2,800 m of altitude, so we recommend resting and acclimatizing before starting the adventure. Overnight.

2

DAY 2

QUITO-OTAVALO

Breakfast. Departure for the north of the country, in Imbabura province, declared a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2019 for its geological, natural and cultural heritage. During the day, we visit several communities and meet their artisans and one of their natural attractions. Visit to the Otavalo indigenous market, considered the largest in Latin America, famous for its ponchos and colorful crafts. Continue to Cotacachi, named Magical Town of Ecuador in 2020 and known for making fine leather goods. Very close by is Cuicocha lagoon, inside a volcanic crater, at the foot of the Cotacachi volcano, where you can walk part of the trail around the lagoon and admire the natural surroundings and its two small islands. Lunch. Overnight.

3

DAY 3

OTAVALO-COTACACHI-QUITO

Breakfast. Visit to a community workshop that exhibits and produces handwoven textiles. Continue to the town of Cotacachi, known for its fine leather goods. Return to Quito, stopping on the way at Mitad del Mundo, where the Equator line lies, whose location was determined in the 18th century by the French Geodesic Mission, together with Spanish and Ecuadorian geographers. You can stand in both hemispheres and visit the Intiñán museum to carry out several experiments that confirm the location of the Equator line. Lunch. Return to the hotel in Quito in the late afternoon. Overnight.

4

DAY 4

QUITO. Cable car - Quito City Tour

Breakfast. Departure for the Quito Cable Car, one of the city's main tourist icons and one of the highest cable cars in South America, which climbs from 3,117 to 3,947 m of altitude on a ride of about 18 minutes, with panoramic views of the city, volcanoes, mountains and large buildings and, on clear days, of several Andean volcanoes. Continue to Quito's historic center, the largest and best preserved in Latin America. Visit to the Basilica of the National Vow, famous for its neo-Gothic style and its gargoyles of Ecuadorian fauna; Independence Square, surrounded by the Presidential Palace, the Archbishop's Palace, the municipal building and the Metropolitan Cathedral; the Church of the Society of Jesus, whose interior is covered in gold leaf; and San Francisco Square, with its monumental church and convent, known as the Escorial of the Andes, built in the 16th century by the indigenous people of the San Andrés School. Continue to El Panecillo, a hill crowned by the winged Virgin of Quito, with a beautiful view of the city and the Andean landscape. Lunch. Return to the hotel. Overnight.

5

DAY 5

QUITO. Cotopaxi National Park + Rose Plantation

Breakfast. Departure along the Pan-American Highway, heading south, to Cotopaxi National Park, home to Cotopaxi, the second highest peak in Ecuador at 5,897 m of altitude, an active, cone-shaped, snow-capped volcano surrounded by Andean páramo vegetation. The visit begins with the check-in of travelers at the park's south control post and continues at the interpretation center, where you learn about the fauna, the flora and general information on the volcano and the Andes range. Then a walk of about one hour around Limpiopungo lagoon, an ideal spot to admire the volcano and take photos. As an option, you can drive up to the parking area of the José Rivas mountain refuge, at 4,600 m of altitude, and walk 200 meters from there to the refuge. Time for lunch. Continue to a rose plantation, where you learn about the harvest and post-harvest process of roses and Andean flowers. These farms, in Cotopaxi province, are among the best places in the world for growing export roses and are surrounded by landscapes from which, on clear days, you can see the Cotopaxi volcano and the Ilinizas. At the end of the day, we head to the hotel in Quito. Overnight.

6

DAY 6

QUITO-TENA

Breakfast. Departure for Napo province, heading to Suchipakari Lodge, in Tena. Arrival and welcome lunch. Time to rest and enjoy the surroundings. After dinner, a night walk through the jungle. On this excursion, a flashlight and a camera are essential to record the sounds and, with luck, to see night monkeys, bats, owls, insects, tarantulas, a great variety of amphibians, snakes and caimans in the swamp near the lagoon. Overnight.

7

DAY 7

TENA. Amazoonico + Kichwa Community

Breakfast. The adventure begins at the Pusuno river port, with a canoe ride on the Napo River. The first stop is the Amazon Animal Rescue Center, home to ocelots, tapirs, parrots and toucans. Continue to Anaconda Island and Caimán lagoon, where prehistoric birds and monkeys live. Lunch in a Kichwa community, where you learn about life in the Amazon and its traditional rituals, see how cassava chicha is made, and take part in the Cerbatana Challenger. To finish, a visit to the Ahuano community, where you learn about the artisanal pottery process and the ancient technique of panning for gold in the rivers. Dinner and overnight.

8

DAY 8

TENA-BAÑOS. Chocolate making

Breakfast. You learn about the artisanal process of Amazon cacao and taste chocolate with local fruits. After a rest, check-out and farewell to the lodge. Transfer to the city of Baños. Dinner. Overnight.

9

DAY 9

BAÑOS-RIOBAMBA

Breakfast. Departure to explore Baños, a special place full of biodiversity and outdoor activities. Tour of the waterfall route. After about 20 minutes, we reach Agoyán, the first waterfall, where we stop to rest and take photos. Continue to Manto de la Novia, where we cross the Pastaza River by cable car to enjoy a magnificent view of the waterfall. After 17 km, we reach the village of Río Verde to visit the Pailón del Diablo, reached by a walk of about half an hour through the cloud forest. Next, we visit the Manos de Dios, a lookout bridge held up by two hand-shaped structures, overlooking the city and the Tungurahua volcano, in the Illuchi Alto area, on the way to Las Antenas. The site also has a lit swing, a gnome house, giant wings, a wishing well, a love swing, a giant mushroom and a children's play area. Continue to Riobamba. Overnight.

10

DAY 10

RIOBAMBA-PISTISHI-INGAPIRCA-CUENCA

Breakfast. Continue the journey along the Inter-Andean corridor. The first stop is the Pistishi lookout, to see the Nariz del Diablo, a feat of engineering from the last century. On the zigzag where the train climbed about 200 meters in just 3 kilometers, you can see why the Ecuadorian railway was considered one of the hardest in the world. Continue to the Ingapirca archaeological complex, built in pre-Columbian times and considered the largest and best preserved in Ecuador. On the way, you see Andean landscapes and the colorful dress of the local people. Ingapirca lets you learn about the Inca culture, its building techniques and the worldview of the Cañari culture, native to these territories and later conquered by the Inca Empire. You visit the remains of temples and learn about the solar calculation system and the traditions of these pre-Columbian cultures. Along the way, we also make short stops at the Balbanera church, the first Catholic church built in the country, in 1534, and in the Palmira desert, a unique place at more than 3,000 m of altitude. Lunch. Arrival in Cuenca. Overnight.

11

DAY 11

CUENCA

Breakfast. A day to get to know the beautiful city of Cuenca, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999. Walk through the most emblematic places, such as the picturesque San Sebastián neighborhood, the Museum of Modern Art, Calderón park, Flower Square, the Sagrario Cathedral or Old Cathedral, and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception or New Cathedral, considered the largest in Latin America. The visit ends at a toquilla straw hat factory, where you see how the finest hats are made. Continue to the artisan villages of Gualaceo, known for its textiles, and Chordeleg, famous for its gold and silver jewelry. Return to the hotel. Overnight.

12

DAY 12

CUENCA. Cajas National Park

Breakfast. Departure for El Cajas National Park, where we walk through a beautiful lake complex of about 240 lagoons. It is a natural area with Andean páramo vegetation, grasslands, polylepis forests, rocks, streams and lagoons. Lunch. Return to the city of Cuenca. Overnight and rest before the trip to Galápagos.

13

DAY 13

CUENCA-PUERTO AYORA (flight)

Breakfast. Departure for the airport. Flight to Baltra. Our bilingual naturalist guide will be waiting to accompany you on the transfer to Puerto Ayora. On the stretch between the airport and the Itabaca Channel, USD 5 per person must be paid directly. On the way, a stop to visit the highlands of the island, known for impressive lava tunnels, where you also enjoy the company of giant tortoises in a semi-natural state. Lunch. Overnight.

14

DAY 14

PUERTO AYORA. Bay Tour + Grietas + Visit to Tortuga Bay Beach

Breakfast. The day starts with a tour of the bay. We visit La Lobería island, named for its large sea lion colony, where you can snorkel and see a great variety of colorful fish and seabed species. Continue to Punta Estrada, where you can see gulls, boobies, frigatebirds and sea lions. Visit to the Sharks Channel, where you can see sharks and whose lookout overlooks the port and the mountains of the island's highlands. We continue to Dogs Beach, to see the colony of marine iguanas and enjoy panoramic views. The last visit is Las Grietas, where the landscape is shaped by lava formations that create two gigantic walls, crossed by an arm of brackish water mixed with seawater, a magnificent place to swim and snorkel thanks to the clarity of its water. Lunch. Visit to Tortuga Bay beach, one of the longest white-sand beaches and a nesting site of the black turtle. In this setting, you can see marine iguanas, sharks and sea turtles. Return to the hotel. Overnight.

15

DAY 15

PUERTO AYORA-ISABELA ISLAND

Breakfast. Transfer, around 07:00, from the hotel to the pier to board the speedboat to Isabela Island. The crossing takes about 2 hours and 30 minutes and, on arrival, by municipal rule, the pier usage fee must be paid in cash. Visit to Las Tintoreras, a small islet in front of the village where, because of volcanic activity, crevices formed in which whitetip reef sharks rest, easy to see from a short distance. During the tour, you also see different types of lava, marine iguanas, birds such as the blue-footed booby, sea lions, sea turtles, varieties of fish and, at times, rays and giant mantas. Continue to the Arnaldo Tupiza breeding center, where we see two of the five subspecies of giant tortoises cared for by the park rangers. The center was created to protect these animals during their first years of life, since in their natural environment introduced animals such as pigs and donkeys are a danger. The park rangers collect the eggs and incubate them at the breeding center and, after five years, when the animals reach a suitable size, they are returned to their natural habitat. Before finishing, a visit to the Flamingo lagoon. Lunch. Overnight.

16

DAY 16

ISABELA ISLAND-PUERTO AYORA

Breakfast. The tour starts around 08:00, with a transfer to the pier and a crossing to the first stop, Roca Unión, a small islet in open sea where you can see pelicans, Nazca boobies, blue-footed boobies and sea lions on the rocks. After this short stop, we sail about 45 minutes to the Cabo Rosa tunnels, considered one of the most beautiful lava formation landscapes in the Galápagos Islands. They are called tunnels because, in past eruptions, lava flowed under the ground, forming tunnels that later collapsed and created these arches over the water, where you clearly see the vegetation growing from the rocks, the crystal-clear water and the sea lions moving between the arches. Lunch at a local restaurant. Speedboat transfer to Santa Cruz Island. The crossing takes about 2 hours and 30 minutes. Transfer to the hotel and time to relax. Overnight.

17

DAY 17

PUERTO AYORA. Luxury Yacht Tour

Breakfast. Transfer to the Itabaca Channel to board a luxury yacht, the only one that visits two islands in the same day. The route varies by operating day: Monday and Friday, Seymour and Bachas; Tuesday, Bartolomé and Sombrero Chino; Wednesday, Plaza Sur and Santa Fe; Thursday, Santa Fe and Plaza Sur; Saturday, Bartolomé and Sullivan Bay; and Sunday, Sombrero Chino and Dragon Hill. This excursion lets you enjoy a special day in the Galápagos Islands. Lunch. Return to Puerto Ayora at the end of the day, to enjoy the last day on the islands. Overnight.

18

DAY 18

PUERTO AYORA

Breakfast. At the agreed time, pickup at the hotel and transfer to Baltra airport to board the return flight to the mainland, Quito or Guayaquil. End of services.

Prices

PER PERSON

R$ 36,165

US$ 6,140 · market reference

per person, sharing a double room

Single room

	IN REAIS	REFERENCE
Single room	R$ 9,748	US$ 1,655

Payment options

Paid in full by Pix or bank transfer: R$ 34,356 (5% off the trip price)

Down payment of 30% R$ 10,849

9 interest-free installments of R$ 2,813

Prices in reais at today's exchange rate, travel exchange rate based on the Travelex average for October 2026 (Central Bank of Brazil), over the PTAX selling rate of 11/27/2026.

You pay TWTS in Brazilian reais, by Pix, bank transfer or credit card. The price in foreign currency is the market reference, converted at the exchange rate on the day you pay.

- *** MINIMUM OF 2 PEOPLE: FOR A SINGLE PASSENGER, PLEASE ENQUIRE ***
- Prices not valid on holidays: January 1 / February 16 and 17 / April 3 / May 1 and 24 / August 10 / October 9 / November 2 and 3 / December 25. Ask about supplements. Ask for the price for a solo traveler.

The program includes

- ✓ Accommodation and daily breakfast.
- ✓ 12 lunches and 3 dinners.
- ✓ Entrance fees and visits listed in the itinerary.
- ✓ Speedboats for the crossings (shared service).
- ✓ Basic snorkeling gear (mask and snorkel).
- ✓ Hotel taxes.
- ✓ On the mainland:
- ✓ Private transport for transfers and excursions. Tours with 1 to 3 passengers are run with a driver-guide.
- ✓ Bilingual guide (Spanish and English) for transfers and excursions. Tours with 1 to 3 passengers are run with a driver-guide.
- ✓ In Galápagos:
- ✓ Shared transport for transfers and excursions:
- ✓ Ferry across the Itabaca Channel.
- ✓ Transport for land excursions.
- ✓ Bilingual naturalist guide during the excursions.

Not included

- – Domestic or international airfare.
- – Round-trip airfare to and from Galápagos.
- – Galápagos National Park entrance fee.
- – CAN/MERCOSUR: USD 50.
- – Transit Control Card: USD 20.
- – Isabela Entrance Tax: USD 10.
- – Water taxis for boarding and disembarking the boats.
- – Lobitos bus / public transport airport - Itabaca Channel / direct payment of USD 5 per person, each way.
- – Tips and additional expenses.

Planned hotels

CITY	HOTEL
Quito	Dann Carlton Quito Av. República de El Salvador 34-377
San Pablo del Lago	Cusín Calle Chiriboga s/n,
Puerto Misahuallí	Suchipakari 25 minutos de, Suchipakari Lodge
Baños de Agua Santa	Luna Volcán Vía a Runtún Km 6
Riobamba	Abraspungo Km 3½, Vía Riobamba Guano, 060150
Cuenca	Hotel Victoria Calle Larga y Presidente Borrero
Puerto Ayora	Ikala Tomás De Berlanga y Moisés Brito 110
Puerto Villamil	Casita de la Playa Malecon

Planned hotels or similar, in the same category.

Documents and notes

Travel documents required:

Please confirm the visa and vaccination requirements with your TWTS consultant at the time of booking.

Passengers of other nationalities must check with the destination's consulate.

Talk to TWTS

To book or ask a question, talk to your travel agent or contact TWTS directly.

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