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Natural Ecuador and Galápagos

Quito, the Andes, Cuenca and 4 days in the Galápagos Islands

TAILOR-MADE JOURNEYS

LENGTH	CITIES	WHEN	PER PERSON
13 days, 12 nights	6 cities	Daily departures from Nov 29 to Dec 31, 2026	R$ 17,906

Departures from November to December 2026

About the trip

Thirteen days in Ecuador, from Quito to the Andes and Cuenca, with 4 days in the Galápagos Islands, on Santa Cruz and Isabela. The itinerary includes 8 lunches, 1 dinner, bilingual guides and speedboats for the crossings.

What you will experience

- Historic center of Quito, with La Compañía church and the Panecillo, and the Equator line at Mitad del Mundo
- Cotopaxi National Park, with a walk by Lake Limpiopungo and lunch with a view of the volcano
- Quilotoa Lake, in a volcanic crater, and the Andean villages of Pujilí, Zumbahua and Tigua
- Ingapirca ruins and the historic center of Cuenca, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Walk among the lakes of El Cajas National Park
- Galápagos with Las Grietas, Tortuga Bay and Las Tintoreras, on Isabela Island

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 above sea level, so we recommend resting and acclimatizing. Overnight.

2

DAY 2

QUITO. CITY TOUR

Breakfast. Departure for Quito's historic center, the largest and best preserved in Latin America. Visit to the Basilica of the National Vow, Independence Square, surrounded by the Presidential Palace, the Archbishop's Palace, the municipal building and the Metropolitan Cathedral, and the Church of the Society of Jesus, with an interior decorated in gold leaf. Continue to San Francisco Square and its monumental church and convent, known as the Escorial of the Andes. Lunch at a fine-dining restaurant in the historic center. Then El Panecillo, a hill crowned by the winged Virgin of Quito, with a beautiful view of the city and the Andean landscape. In the afternoon, departure for Mitad del Mundo, 22 km north of Quito, where the Equator line lies, determined in the 18th century by the French Geodesic Mission together with Spanish and Ecuadorian geographers. Visit to the Intiñán museum and experiments that confirm the location of the Equator line. Return to the hotel. Overnight.

3

DAY 3

QUITO-COTOPAXI

Breakfast. Departure along the Pan-American Highway, heading south, to a rose plantation, where you learn about the cultivation and export process. Continue to Cotopaxi National Park, home to the Cotopaxi volcano, the second highest peak in Ecuador at 5,897 m above sea level, active, cone-shaped and surrounded by Andean páramo vegetation. Check-in at the south control post and visit to the interpretation center to learn about the volcano's fauna, flora and features. Then a walk of about one hour around Limpiopungo lagoon, ideal for enjoying the scenery and taking photos. As an option, you can drive to the parking area of the José Rivas refuge, at 4,600 m above sea level, and walk 200 meters to the refuge. Lunch with a view of the Cotopaxi volcano at the only hotel inside the national park. Transfer to the hotel. Overnight.

4

DAY 4

COTOPAXI-QUILOTOA LAGOON-RIOBAMBA

Breakfast. Departure for Quilotoa lagoon, in the western range of the Andes, at 3,900 m above sea level, one of the most spectacular landscapes in Ecuador, with green and turquoise waters inside an extinct volcanic crater. You can walk down to the shore to see the lagoon up close. The climb back is demanding, but the local community offers a mule service for those who need help. Lunch at the selected restaurant. During the scenic drive, you can see traditional Andean villages such as Pujilí, Zumbahua and Tigua, which preserve their customs and culture. On Saturdays the colorful Zumbahua indigenous market takes place, and Tigua is known for its artists and their paintings of indigenous life and Andean landscapes. Continue to Riobamba. Overnight.

5

DAY 5

RIOBAMBA-INGAPIRCA

Breakfast. Continue the journey along the Inter-Andean corridor, for about three hours, to the Ingapirca archaeological complex, the largest and best preserved in Ecuador. On the way, Andean landscapes and the colorful traditional dress of the local people. The visit introduces the Inca culture, its building techniques and the worldview of the Cañari culture, native to these lands. Visit to the remains of temples and to the solar calculation system, with the traditions of these cultures. There are also short stops at the La 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 above sea level. Transfer to the hotel near the archaeological complex. Traditional dinner, prepared with typical products of the Ecuadorian highlands. Overnight.

6

DAY 6

INGAPIRCA-CUENCA

Breakfast. A day to get to know Cuenca, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999. Walk through the 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. Visit to a toquilla straw hat factory to see how the hats are made. Lunch. Continue to the artisan villages of Gualaceo, known for its textiles, and Chordeleg, famous for its gold and silver jewelry. The hotel is in the city center, near the central park and the El Barranco district, with a wide variety of bars and restaurants. Overnight.

7

DAY 7

CUENCA. El Cajas National Park

Breakfast. Departure for El Cajas National Park, with a walk through a lake complex of about 240 lagoons. The area stands out for its Andean páramo vegetation, high grasslands, polylepis forests, rocks, streams and lagoons. The 200 km route is along a scenic road. Stop for lunch. In the afternoon, return to Cuenca. Free time for shopping or rest. Overnight.

8

DAY 8

CUENCA-PUERTO AYORA (FLIGHT)

Breakfast. Private transfer to the airport for the flight to Baltra (airfare not included). Arrival and meeting with the bilingual naturalist guide, who accompanies the shared transfer to Puerto Ayora. On the stretch between the airport and the Itabaca Channel, a fee of USD 5 per person must be paid directly. Lunch. In the afternoon, visit to the highlands of the island, with lava tunnels and giant tortoises in a semi-natural state. Overnight.

9

DAY 9

PUERTO AYORA

Breakfast. The day starts with a tour of the bay, combining short walks, observation of endemic birds and marine species such as turtles, tropical fish, marine iguanas and sharks, depending on luck. Visit to Punta Estrada, Franklin Bay, Channel of Love, Sharks Channel, Dogs Beach and Las Grietas, where you can snorkel. Lunch. Then a visit to Tortuga Bay beach, one of the longest white-sand beaches in the region and a nesting site of the black turtle, where you can see marine iguanas, sharks and sea turtles. Return to the hotel. Overnight.

10

DAY 10

PUERTO AYORA-ISABELA ISLAND-PUERTO AYORA

Breakfast. Shared transfer to the pier to board the speedboat to Isabela Island, lasting about 2 hours and 30 minutes. On arrival, the pier usage fee must be paid in cash. Visit to Las Tintoreras, a small islet where whitetip reef sharks rest in crevices formed by volcanic activity. During the tour, you can also see different types of lava, marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, sea lions, sea turtles, various fish species and, occasionally, rays and giant mantas. Lunch. Continue to the Arnaldo Tupiza breeding center, where you can see two of the five subspecies of giant tortoises protected by the park rangers. Before returning, visit to the Flamingo lagoon. Return to Santa Cruz Island in the late afternoon. Overnight.

11

DAY 11

PUERTO AYORA-QUITO (FLIGHT)

Breakfast. At the scheduled time, shared transfer to the airport for the return flight to Quito (airfare not included). Arrival and private transfer to the hotel. Overnight.

12

DAY 12

QUITO

Breakfast. Free day to explore the city on your own, rest or shop. Overnight.

13

DAY 13

QUITO

Breakfast. Transfer from the hotel to the airport for the international return flight. End of services.

Prices

PER PERSON

R$ 17,906

US$ 3,040 · market reference

per person, sharing a double room

Single room

	IN REAIS	REFERENCE
Single room	R$ 2,562	US$ 435

For your information

	IN REAIS	REFERENCE
Tourist category hotels	R$ 17,906	US$ 3,040
Superior Tourist category hotels	R$ 19,673	US$ 3,340
First category hotels	R$ 23,560	US$ 4,000

Payment options

Paid in full by Pix or bank transfer: R$ 17,010 (5% off the trip price)

Down payment of 30% R$ 5,372

9 interest-free installments of R$ 1,393

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 these 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 with daily breakfast
- ✓ 8 lunches and 1 dinner
- ✓ 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:

Not included

- – Domestic or international airfare
- – Round-trip airfare to 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

- ✓ 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

- – 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	Zen Hotel Quito Av. 6 de Diciembre y San Ignacio N26-112
Cotopaxi	San Agustin
Riobamba	Hotel Bambú Ecuador, 060150
Ingapirca	Posada Ingapirca CAÑAR
Cuenca	Hotel Santa Monica Mariscal Sucre y Presidente Borrero 6-80
Puerto Ayora	La Casa de Judy Fragata,

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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