



DARWIN'S GALAPAGOS

Day 1: Welcome to Quito

Arrive in Quito, Ecuador's charming capital nestled high in the Andes. After your flight, settle into your hotel and take the evening to rest – tomorrow, the adventure begins.

Day 2: Discover the Soul of Quito

Wake up to the magic of Quito, a city where modern life and colonial history live side by side. Wander through lively neighborhoods and tree-lined avenues before stepping back in time in the beautifully preserved historic center. From the iconic El Panecillo hill to the cobblestone streets of La Ronda and the grand Plaza de la Independencia, every corner tells a story. Churches adorned in gold leaf, bustling markets, and the rhythm of local life create a rich cultural tapestry that sets the tone for your journey.

Day 3: Fly to the Galápagos – A Living Laboratory of Evolution

This morning, board your flight to the legendary Galápagos Islands. On arrival, step aboard your expedition vessel – your floating home for the days ahead. Your first stop is the Charles Darwin Research Station, where vital conservation work ensures the protection of these fragile islands. Meet the giant tortoises, symbols of the archipelago, and learn how dedicated efforts have brought them back from the brink of extinction.

Day 4: Volcanic Wonders and Wildlife Encounters

Begin the day at the White Tipped Reef Shark Canal, a hidden lava channel where sharks and other marine life gather with the tide. Later, hike through cloud forests up to the rim of Sierra Negra, the largest volcanic caldera in the islands, where sweeping views open before you. In the afternoon, explore Puerto Villamil, a place where marine iguanas bask on the rocks, crabs scuttle across the sand, and lagoons attract flamingos and migratory birds from as far as the Arctic.

Day 5: Flamingos, Penguins, and Sea Turtles

This morning, discover Moreno Point, where emerald lagoons and bright flamingos contrast against stark black lava. The drama of the landscape feels otherworldly. In the afternoon, journey into Elizabeth Bay, gliding past mangroves and rocky islets where Galápagos penguins gather and Pacific green turtles swim gracefully beside your boat.

Day 6: Fernandina – Nature Untouched

Step ashore on Fernandina Island, one of the most pristine ecosystems on Earth. At Espinoza Point, encounter flightless cormorants, marine iguanas, and the imposing cone of La Cumbre volcano looming overhead. In the afternoon, sail into Tagus Cove, a dramatic bay once visited by pirates and whalers. Today, it's alive with seabirds, blue-footed boobies, pelicans, and penguins diving from the cliffs into the waters below.

Day 7: Sea Turtles and Fur Seals

At Espumilla Beach, walk along golden sands where sea turtles return year after year to lay their eggs. Just beyond, hidden lagoons reveal more birdlife and lush mangroves. In the afternoon, explore Puerto Egas, where lava formations create grottoes that shelter one of the rarest species in the Galápagos – the endemic fur seal. Unlike sea lions, they prefer the cool shade of the rocks, making this a truly special sighting.

Day 8: Farewell to the Islands

Your final morning brings a visit to Isla Lobos, a small island alive with sea lions, marine birds, and a final taste of the Galápagos' untamed beauty. From here, transfer to the airport at San Cristóbal for your flight back to the mainland, carrying memories of a journey through one of the most extraordinary natural sanctuaries on Earth.