



FAM to

EQUADOR



A seven night discovery tour of Ecuador with a four night extension to the Galapagos or to an Amazon Eco Lodge

Nowhere else on earth will you find so much natural diversity – and all the fun that accompanies it – in so tiny a place. Ecuador is the second-smallest country in South America, but its range of offerings is no less than astounding. In one day's drive you can journey from the Amazon Basin across glaciated Andean volcanoes, down through tropical cloud forest and into the sunset for a dinner of ceviche on the balmy Pacific coast. One day you'll pick through hand-woven wool sweaters at a chilly indigenous market in Otavallo; the next day you'll sweat all over your binoculars while spying on howler monkeys in the Amazon jungles of the Oriente. For nature lovers Ecuador is a dream, with exotic orchids and birds, bizarre jungle plants, strange insects, windswept páramo (Andean grasslands), dripping tropical forests and the fearless animals that hop, wobble and swim around the unique, unforgettable Galápagos Islands.

Day 1 Quito Arrival in Quito where we will be met and transferred to the Dan Carlton Quito Hotel, 3 nights with breakfast. Welcome Dinner D

Dann Carlton Quito Hotel is located in the center of the business, shopping and banking area of the city, just 15 minutes away from the Mariscal Sucre international airport. Decorated in a classy English style, it offers 212 comfortable rooms, fully equipped with everything you need for a pleasant stay. Enjoy a wide variety of Creole and international dishes at Park 20 Restaurant.

Day 2 Quito (OtavalloMarket) Departure from Quito through The Panamericana North Highway

Brief stop at Calderon, a town where the famous "masapan" dolls are made, we will continue passing through Guayllabamba town with its typical fruit cherimoyer, we will stop at the highway that conduces to Cayambe to admire and take pictures of the beautiful landscape and snow capped mountains of the zone, crossing the equatorial line at Cayambe we will pass by Gua-chala (used to be the middle of the world monument), before we head up to Otavallo we will make a stop at Mira Lago to take pictures of the beautiful San Pablo Lake. The tour then continues to Otavallo here the Otavaleños (natives) set up a market in which a bartering manner of shopping is taken. The market hosts a variety of different handcrafted items. Continuing the trip, we will go to the town of Peguche and visit a typical house of this zone. Finally, a visit to the leather shopping stores at Cotacachi is planned before returning to Quito through the Cajas-Tabacundo road. B/L

Day 3 Quito Today a city tour of Quito including the Equatorial Monument and Teleferiqo

A comprehensive city tour includes visits to residential neighbourhoods at the northern end of the city, visiting the "Guapulo Mirador", passing through the 12 of October Avenue up to the Culture House and the Legislative Palace (Congress) where the rock murals that are related to the history of Ecuador can be appreciated. The tour will then continue through the Gran Colombia Avenue up to the Basilica Church, we will make a brief stop and next the "San Juan Mirador" will be waiting with a beautiful sight of Colonial Quito. Walking through the colonial streets we will then stop at the Independence Plaza admiring the Cathedral, the Government's Palace, and the Archiepiscopal palace. Furthermore, we will visit La Compañía Church where adornments and gold altars can be appreciated, a visit to the Sagrario Church and San Francisco which was built in the XVII century will be also done. We will continue to the northern part of the city heading up to the "Middle of the World City" where the monument that divides the Northern Hemisphere from the Southern Hemisphere will be visited. It was built during the XVII century when a French Expedition defined the precise location of the equatorial line. The Ethnographic Museum or the Scientific Museum Intiñan can be also visited (Ticket not included). Later on the visit to the sky lift complex. B/L

Day 4 Quito–Riobamba We will depart Quito enjoying the beautiful landscapes of the Ecuadorian highlands through the famous “Volcano Avenue”. Ideal for photos! Visit to the Cotopaxi National Park. Lunch included and departure to the city of Riobamba to spend the night in a typical hacienda of the region. One night B/L/D

Day 5 Riobamba-Cuenca After breakfast departure by train from Riobamba train station to Devil Nose (app 7 hrs) A unique piece of engineering in the middle of the Andes. We will continue by land to Ingapirca Inca Ruins, the biggest Inca archaeological complex in Ecuador from the XV and XVI centuries. All along we will see the “Panama Huts” artisans, typical of this area. Arrival in Cuenca, Hotel Boutique Santa Lucia, 2 nights B/BL/D
Santa Lucia hotel is one of Cuenca’s most historic antique buildings. It is located in the Old Town district of Cuenca which is a living museum itself. Newly renovated with all modern conveniences, the Santa Lucia hotel is a gem in Cuenca’s antique building collection where you can enjoy the elegant atmosphere of yesteryear.

Day 6 Cuenca City tour of Cuenca
Considered to be the most attractive of Ecuador’s cities, Cuenca is the third largest city in the country, but retains the feel and relaxed pace of a smaller town. Founded in 1557, partly on an existing Inca settlement, Cuenca maintains its historical colonial buildings and architecture, with very fine churches and cathedrals. It is on UNESCO’s list of World Heritage sites and considered the cultural capital of Ecuador. There are a number of Spanish language schools in the area that attract an international student body. B/D

Day 7 Cuenca–Quito Morning free to enjoy this lovely city and its many museums. Afternoon flight to Quito. Hotel Dann Carlton, one night. B/D

Day 8 Quito–Galapagos/AmazonpackageorHome Those taking one of our extensions will be transferred to the airport for their flight to Galapagos or the Amazon. Others will be transferred for their flight home. B

Cost pp in double SFTP member with IATA card, approx. \$1,000 Non-members add approx. \$200, and Companions \$300.00

Galapagos Explorer Cruise 4-nights Extension

Day 8 Quito–Baltra In the morning we will be transferred to the airport for our flight to Baltra and embarkation on our 5-day cruise of the Galapagos Islands.

Galapagos Explorer is designed to provide comfort and scientific information to 100 passengers visiting the Galapagos National Park. All our spacious suites offer outside views, are fully air conditioned, equipped with marble bathrooms, TV, mini-bar and satellite communication. The itinerary is planned in such a way that it allows the passengers to perceive Galapagos through different perspectives: from underwater experiences, Bird watching activities and guided walks, to wildlife observation and sunbathing on multi colour beaches. The outside and inside areas of the vessel offer a variety of rest, leisure or interpretation options, while you comfortably enjoy the cruise. More information about the vessel can be found at our website: www.galapagosexplorer.com

Day 12 Galapagos–Quito Return flight to Quito arriving at 4:00 pm
Please book your outward flights accordingly or we can add one night in Quito.

Cost pp in double SFTP member with IATA card, Premium Suite approx. \$1,750.00 a 50% discount! Non-members add approx. \$250.00, and Companions \$350.00 • All meals and excursions included

GALÁPAGOSCRUISESPROGRAMSDONOTINCLUDE:

- Airline ticket from Quito to Galapagos, UIO/GPS/UIO approx. \$450 USD NET PER PAX
- Galapagos National Park fee US\$100 net per pax
- TCT Card US\$10 net per pax
- Fuel Surcharge approx. US\$30 net per person per night
- Drinks & beverages on board

La Selva Lodge Eco Tour Extension • 4-nights

Day 8 Quito–CocaAirport–SelvaLodge
Transfer from your hotel in Quito to the airport and departure to Coca Airport, and transfer to La Selva Lodge. During the four days and depending on the weather conditions, we will take different trips to indigenous communities, walks through the virgin forests, canoe trips with specialized guides. We can admire the diversity of the many species of animals and plants in the jungle. Cost pp double IATA holders, all meals and excursions included approx. \$1400.00

For more information please call Rea at (415) 924-4627 / info@cosmopolitanadventuretours.com