



2023 ECUADOR AND GALAPAGOS ISLAND EXPEDITION

with Carlos Fida

September 14-25, 2023

This program was designed to experience the highlights of Ecuador & Galapagos Islands. The program offers diversity; from colonial Quito, to the Otavalo Indian Market and the quaint village of Cotacachi. The navigation from island to island will introduce you the Galapagos islands, called, THE ENCANTADAS! the enchanted islands. Join our experienced Tour Host Carlos Fida. He is a native of Argentina, where he taught at the Military Academy and the University of Patagonia. He is an expert in Latin American history.

Date	Daily Schedule
09-14 - Thu	Home Cities - Quito, Ecuador
09-15 - Fri	Quito - Galapagos - Santa Cruz Island
09-16 - Sat	Seymour Island and Bachas Beach
09-17 - Sun	Santa Cruz to Floreana Island
09-18 - Mon	Floreana Island to Isabela Island
09-19 - Tue	Isabela Island
09-20 - Wed	Isabela Island to Santa Cruz Island
09-21 - Thu	Tortuga Bay and beaches
09-22 - Fri	Galapagos Island to Quito
09-23 - Sat	Quito to Otavalo Indian Market and the village of Cotacachi
09-24 - Sun	Quito to the U.S.A.
09-25 - Mon	Quito to U.S.A

Price from **\$4,461**
per person/double occupancy
12 Days/13 Nights)

TOUR INCLUDES:

- All transfers from airport to hotels for those arriving/departing on group flights
- Hotels, taxes and daily breakfast
- Colonial & Historical city tour in Quito – Middle of the World monument
- Otavalo Indian Market & Cotacachi village
- Private & Group transportation (Galapagos Islands)
- Bilingual guides
- Meals described in the itinerary
- Private yacht navigation from island to island
- 4-5 Star hotels
- Lodge in Floreana island (Basic cabins but spectacular view)
- Tips to guides and drivers and yacht personnel

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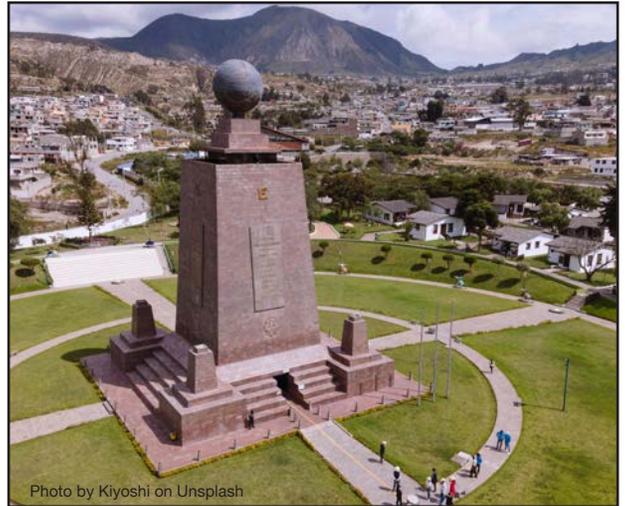
Scan the
QR code for a
full detailed
itinerary!



Day 1: Thursday, September 14, 2023

Home Cities - Quito, Ecuador

Departure from your home city to Quito, Ecuador. Once we arrive in the international airport of Quito, we will be greeted by our local English-speaking guide, who will transfer you to the First-Class Swiss Quito Hotel. The transfer drive will take approximately 1 hour and upon arrival at the hotel you will be welcomed by the attentive staff and give you the room keys. Then, our guide will give a short briefing about the next day's activities. **Meals: In-flight**



Day 2: Friday, September 15, 2023

Quito - Galapagos - Santa Cruz Island

After an early breakfast, transfer to the airport for a flight to the magical Galapagos Islands. Our flight will take approximately 2.5 hours. Upon arrival at the Baltra airport, our guide will take us to Santa Cruz Island. We will visit one of the private farms and tortoise reserves located in the hills, where giant tortoises wander around freely. You will learn about how these farms help protect the tortoises. In the mountains of Galapagos, it is also possible to admire different kinds of birds, such as tree and ground finches, vermillion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (usually on the shell of tortoises). Also, here we can find the endemic, mystic Scalesia tree. **Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**



Day 3: Saturday, September 16, 2023

Seymour Island and Bachas Beach

Morning pick up at the hotel, to visit North Seymour Island, where the turquoise waters contrast beautifully with the white sand and black lava of the shoreline. Beyond, a red carpet of scarlet sesuvium succulents, which serves as ground-cover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus. During the short hike you can spot yellow-grey land iguanas sitting beneath the cactus, waiting patiently for prickly-pears to fall on the ground. Along the coastline you can observe sea lion colonies, frigate birds, swallow-tailed gulls and shearwaters birds. Afternoon picnic lunch on Bachas beach.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 4: Sunday, September 17, 2023

Santa Cruz to Floreana Island

The Element Wind Catamaran will take us to Floreana Island, the smallest inhabited island in the archipelago; population a little bit over 100. The accommodation is on small cabins along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. During the evening hour, when the sun sets, the horizon is set afire with the most vivid yellows and red you may have ever seen. It is a true paradise. In 1932, a German family settled the islands, and their descendants still live

on the island. During a hike to the highlands of Floreana you will enter a circled space where tortoises live. We will visit an area called Asilo de la Paz, (peace asylum) where the Wittmer family settled in the early 1930's.

Upon arrival at the island, we will visit the school, where 28 to 35 kids attend. I suggest that you buy some school items, such as notebooks, pencils, pens, and of course candy and some toys, like matchbox cars for the kids. It is a moving experience to see how happy they are to receive these. We have done this in the past and everybody enjoys the contact with the school kids. **Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Day 5: Monday, September 18, 2023

Floreana Island to Isabela Island

After navigating for two and a half hours, we arrive at Isabela Island, the largest in the archipelago. On the way we may be able to see whales or dolphins, which can be seen from June through September. We will have a few hours at leisure to explore the small town and have a lunch at the Iguana Crossing, our hotel for the next two nights. Lobster is a staple dish in the island, the season starts September 1st and ends in December. The catch is highly regulated in the archipelago. During the afternoon hours we have scheduled a tour to see penguins, blue footed boobies, and marine iguanas. We will go snorkeling here and the clear waters will give us a chance to snorkel with rock sharks and manta rays. **Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

Day 6: Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Isabela Island

This morning our adventure will take us to see the second largest volcano crater in the world. The Sierra Negra volcano offers a spectacular view of the Isabela Island. The caldera is also the shallowest of all the volcanoes that form Isabela Island. All the islands are extinct volcanoes. Some of them have lush vegetation that serves as a protection for seals, iguanas and birds. You can stand one foot away from any of the birds or other animals, you will be able to tell that they do not fear the human presence. A visit to the "humedales," the wetlands, offers a super view of cacti forests and lagoons with flamingos and many other aquatic species. **Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

Day 7: Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Isabela Island to Santa Cruz Island

A three hour sailing on the Element Wind will take us to Santa Cruz Island and to the Ikala Hotel.

We will visit the Darwin Research Center where we can observe tiny tortoises and all the process until they become adults. After lunch at the hotel, we will have free time to enjoy the quaint port town of Puerto Ayora. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Day : Thursday, September 21, 2023

Tortuga Bay and beaches

Our Experience in the Galapagos will take us on along on walk to Tortuga Bay, where we can swim, snorkel or enjoy the beach. If you prefer you can stay in town. **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

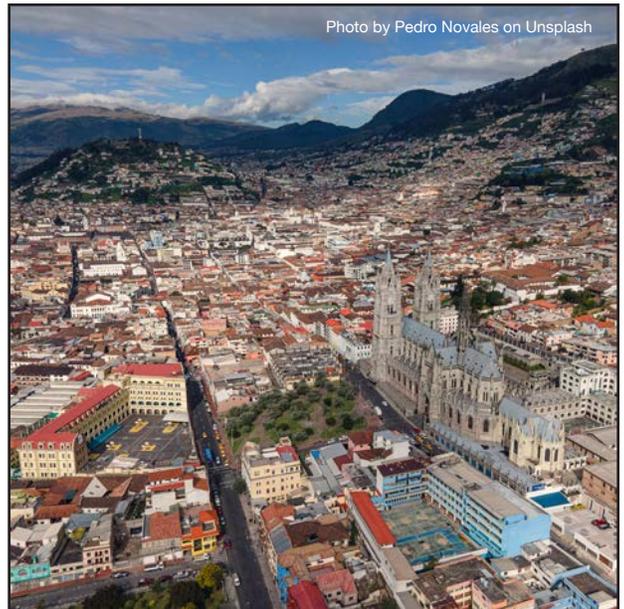


Day 9: Friday, September 22, 2023

Galapagos Island to Quito

Our transfer to the airport will make two stops, one, to visit a master carver, and the last one will be a workshop and a small coffee plantation. The workshop of the Master Carver will show us how he makes all sort of replicas of tortoises, blue footed boobies, iguanas and other endemic species of the Galapagos archipelago.

This is a perfect place to buy souvenirs and gifts for family and friends. It has been one of the most popular stops in the capital islands of the archipelago. Upon arrival in Quito we are escorted to the Swiss hotel. **Meals: Breakfast**



Day 10: Saturday, September 23, 2023

Quito to Otavalo Indian Market and the village of Cotacachi

We drive to Otavalo, through the Valley of Sunrise, passing by small villages lost in time where not much has changed from ancient times. Otavalo is one of the biggest and most colorful indigenous markets in all of Latin America. The market of Otavalo is famous around the world for its colorful tapestries, hand-knitted wool sweaters, native paintings, wood carvings, silver jewelry, and much more at bargain prices. The people of the area of Otavalo are known as skilled craftspeople and great musicians.

We continue our journey and visit the village of Cotacachi where you can purchase the best articles in leather and bargain price. This small village is a popular place where many Americans retire. The pristine beauty of the place, the clean air, the peaceful environment, and the location not far from Quito makes this a special place to live. We will then return to Quito. **Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

Day 11: Sunday, September 24, 2023

Quito to the U.S.A.

Before our departure to the airport, we will have some time to see the highlights this city perched on the Andes Mountains. Quito, the capital city of Ecuador, is one of most beautiful colonial cities in South America and was declared by UNESCO as part of the Cultural Heritage of mankind. We will explore the colonial area by walking along the cobblestone streets. Our tour starts in the heart of the city: Independence square, with the presidential palace, the city hall, and the Cathedral. We will walk and visit La Compañía church, dating back to 1605, with its breathtaking gilded altars it is one of the finest examples of baroque art in America. We continue to the San Francisco church built in 1535. Our visit includes the art & crafts gallery of Tianguéz. From this point we drive up to the Panecillo hill and enjoy an amazing view of Quito from above. Here we can admire the only winged-Virgin statue in South America. This is a great spot to take pictures above Quito. At the end of the tour we return to the Swiss hotel for a few hours of rest, before our departure home. **Meals: Breakfast**

Day 12: Monday, September 25, 2023

Quito to U.S.A

Return to your home city.

FULL Terms and Conditions are provided on all Bookings

COVID-19 WAIVER and TERMS: By signing up for any tour I am agreeing to abide by all COVID-19 protocols while on tour as defined by the host country or business, which may include being fully vaccinated with booster, wearing a mask and producing proof of vaccination or negative test for COVID-19 prior to arrival. I understand that if I and/or my party does not follow all set protocols, it is grounds for removal from tour or specific tour activities.

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Your Tour Host:

Carlos Fida is a native of Argentina where he held teaching positions at the University of Patagonia and at the Military Academy. Carlos has lectured for university groups on the rich history of pre-Columbian and modern Latin American history. After working for five years in the travel industry, Carlos earned his Certified Travel Agent degree in 1985. Since then, he has devoted 39 years of his life as a highly qualified specialist in Latin American travel. Carlos' travels have taken him to every corner of Central and South America and some exotic countries like Madagascar and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Included:

- All transfers from airport to hotels for those arriving/departing on group flights
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- Bilingual guides
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- 4-5 Star hotels
- Lodge in Floreana island (Basic cabins but spectacular view)
- Tips to guides and drivers and yacht personnel

Not included:

- International round trip flights to Quito
- Round-trip Air Ticket to Galapagos (\$600.00 pp)
- Galapagos Islands National Park Fee: \$ 100.00 pp
- Transit Card fee: \$ 20.00 pp
- Single Occupancy: \$5,581.00
- Meals not included on tour
- Additional nights or sightseeing tours not included
- Beverages on cruise
- Items of a personal nature (room service, phone calls, internet, etc.)
- Medical Coverage and Travel Insurance

Payment Terms:

- Deposit due at time of booking \$500.00 p/p
- Final payment due June 9, 2023

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