



**Galapagos Islands & Ecuadorian rainforest
7 night Galapagos cruise + 4 nights Quito + 4 nights Jungle Lodge**

- Friday: Fly to Quito, transfer in upon arrival
Overnight Hotel Le Parc
- Saturday: Tour to Otavalo market inc Lunch, overnight Le Parc
- Sunday: Quito to Pto Baq. Moreno, San Cristobal Aerogal 36 9:15AM
Playa Ochoa (SN, KY)/ Leon Dormido (PR)
- Monday: Prince Philip's Steps (KY) TOWER
Darwin Bay (SN), TOWER
- Tuesday: Punta Espinoza, FERNANDINA
Tagus Cove (SN, PR, KY), ISABELA
- Wednesday: Puerto Egas (SN, KY), SANTIAGO, Sombrero Chino
- Thursday: Bartolome (SN, PR), North Seymour (SN)
- Friday Highlands, SANTA CRUZ , Darwin Station, SANTA CRUZ
- Saturday: Punta Suarez, Espanola (HOOD)
Gardner Bay (SN, PR, KY) Espanola (HOOD)
- Sunday: San Cristobal to Quito on Aerogal 2k 37 12:00 – 4:30PM
Overnight Hotel Le Parc
- Monday Quito to Coca on Icaro Flight TBA
Transfer to La Selva Lodge
- Tuesday: Tours at Jungle lodge, Overnight La Selva Lodge
- Thursday: Tours at Jungle lodge, Overnight La Selva Lodge
- Friday Tours at Jungle Lodge, Overnight La Selva Lodge
- Saturday: Coca – Quito, transfer in upon arrival, tour of Quito
Overnight Hotel Le Parc
- Sunday: Quito – USA



Galapagos Islands & Ecuadorian rainforest Day-by-day detailed itinerary (14 nights)

FRIDAY: WELCOME TO QUITO, colonial Capitol set in the Middle of the World and a UNESCO Cultural Patrimony of Mankind and World Heritage Site. Surrounded by snowcapped volcanoes, yet only 14 miles from the Equator line, the quaint capital of Ecuador boasts a spring-like climate all year round. Located in a huge valley in the Andes Mountains at an altitude of 9,455 feet, visitors can feel the crisp air while enjoying the city's rich colonial architecture, churches, monasteries and museums. Upon arrival, you are met at the airport for transport to Hotel Le Parc.

Hotel Le Parc *****

A new concept in hotels for Quito, the hip, upscale Le Parc opened in 2007 and is a symphony to cool, contemporary chic from its ground floor lobby bar and restaurant Blu with water moat and 5-foot horizontal gas fireplace – to the tip of its stunning rooftop terrace bar. Truly exclusive with 30 unique suites with king size beds (there is even a pillow menu), spacious bathroom with stand alone tub, L'Occitane amenities, Plasma TV, and Concierge services. The hotel has a compact gym, sauna and L'Occitane Spa with treatments and products. The hotel is within walking distance to the Parque Carolina with jogging trails and Botanical Gardens. Complimentary wireless internet, airport shuttle service is provided by SUV

SATURDAY: This morning, we depart Quito early to the Otavalo market, the finest and most well known fair in South America. For centuries, regional markets have played an important role in Indian life, providing regular gathering places for trade and socializing. In contrast to other markets, the Otavaleños barter in silence. They wear blue ponchos, white pants and have long braided hair. The colorful local markets are famous for their fine handicrafts. At the central plaza and along side streets, you will find weavings, sweaters, belts, blankets and rugs. Lunch is provided at a lovely hacienda with a folkloric performance. Also stop at the small towns of Calderon (bread dough figures), Cotacachi (leather goods), and San Antonio de Ibarra (wood carvings). We return to Quito late in the afternoon for check in at Hotel Le Parc.

SUNDAY: Buffet breakfast at Hotel Le Parc, Transfer to the Mariscal Sucre airport for your flight to Galapagos on Aerogal 36 departing QUITO at 9:15am and arriving to San Cristobal at 11:00am. Upon arrival to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **SAN CRISTOBAL** Island, our crew is waiting at the airport to escort you to your anchored yacht. After the welcome briefing, buffet lunch and safety drill, we set sail for **Playa Ochoa** where we have a wet landing. Here, we can test our snorkeling equipment and at the same time swim with a small colony of sea lions. Behind the beach, there is a tidal lagoon where birds can be spotted including the rare Chatham mockingbird. At sunset, we cruise around **Kicker Rock (Leon Dormido)**, a vertical tuff cone formation that abruptly juts up almost 500 feet out of the ocean. On the cliffs, we spot blue-footed boobies, masked boobies and magnificent frigate birds. This evening, the guides hold a briefing followed by the Captain's welcome party.

MONDAY: We spend the entire day on **TOWER** (Genovesa), considered to be one of the most spectacular Islands in Galapagos for bird species. This morning, we have a dry landing at **Prince Philip's Steps**. Red-footed boobies nest here in Palo Santo trees and Nazca (formerly masked) boobies nest near the trail. In an open lava field, we find storm petrels in large numbers. If you are lucky, we will see the elusive short-eared owl. After the walk, our kayaks are available to paddle along the shoreline. Look for the beautiful red-billed tropic bird usually found in the crevices. After lunch, take a *siesta* or borrow a book from our library and lounge on deck.

This afternoon, we have a wet-landing on **Darwin Bay**, a coral sand beach where swallow-tailed and lava gulls gather near the tide pools. Enter a forest of *Optuntia* cactus and mangroves where colonies of great frigate birds nest. The males inflate their red-throated pouches to attract females as they fly overhead. The trail leads through a rich inter tidal zone where we find a wide diversity of wildlife. After the walk, we can swim and snorkel from the beach with sea lions in these northern warmer waters. We set sail early to motor to the western Islands during the briefing followed by dinner.

TUESDAY: This morning, we have a semi-wet landing at **Punta Espinoza, FERNANDINA**, the youngest and most pristine Island in Galapagos. Recent lava flows formed by an active volcano stretch their way around the coast. Hundreds of marine iguanas, the largest colony in Galapagos, bask in the sun along the rugged shoreline. Observe sea lion harems with resident bulls carefully guarding their territory. Flightless Cormorants build their nest on the point and Galapagos Hawks fly overhead. After lunch, we cross the Bolivar Chanel where we often spot whales and dolphins riding the bow wave.

This afternoon, we have a dry landing at **Tagus Cove**, located on the western Island of **ISABELA**. Six volcanoes flowed together and formed the largest Island in Galapagos. During the walk, we discover a salt-water lagoon, a scenic overlook with a spectacular view of the ocean, lava fields and volcanic formations. Graffiti dating back to the 1800's is written on the rocky cliffs. Explore the Coves by Zodiac or in one of our clear-bottom sea kayaks to find Galapagos penguins, boobies, pelicans and other seabirds. An excellent snorkeling opportunity is offered here after the walk. After the briefing and dinner, a sky full of stars beckons to go out on deck and observe the galaxy.

WEDNESDAY: This morning, we have a wet landing at **Puerto Egas, SANTIAGO** (James). Stroll along the shoreline looking for octopus, starfish and other sea life caught in the tide pools. At low tide, catch a glimpse of marine iguanas as they feed on exposed green algae. Watch for great blue herons, lava herons, American oystercatchers and yellow-crowned night herons. Our walk ends at the grottos, deep pools of clear water where we encounter fur sea lions once on the verge of extinction. Before returning to the yacht, there is a snorkeling opportunity with loads of tropical fish. As an alternative, you may use the kayaks to explore the marine life without getting wet. During lunch, the yacht motors to the other side of the Island which provides for scenic landscapes.

Located off the Southern tip of Santiago, **SOMBRERO CHINO** or Chinese Hat owes its name to its shape. After a wet beach landing with sea lion colonies, the trail gives way to a primeval landscape of volcanic rubble including cracked lava formations and lava tubes. The lava tubes are fragile and one must be careful to stay on the trail. We find marine iguanas and pairs of oystercatchers. There are good photographic opportunities here as this site conveys a strong feeling that you've come to a very special place in the world. There is a briefing followed by dinner as we anchor in a calm protected area.

THURSDAY: On **Bartolome**, it seems like we are walking on the moon. This young Island is inhospitable to most plants and animals. After a dry landing, climb 30 minutes up stairs leading to the summit of a once active volcano. Along the way, we pause to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones and cinder cones. From the top of the wooden stairs, we can gaze out across the island for a panoramic view of the island and "Pinnacle Rock", an eroded tuff cone. Down below, crystal clear water is an invitation to snorkel from the beach or Zodiac with schools of tropical fish and Galapagos Penguins. On the other side of the Island, encounter sea turtles and white-tipped sharks.

This afternoon, we have a dry landing at **North Seymour**, a small geological uplift. We follow a trail that leads us to swallow-tailed gulls, blue-footed boobies and the endemic land iguanas. Visit the largest colony of magnificent frigate birds found in Galapagos. As we stroll along the beach, we find marine iguanas and sea lions body surf the northern swells. After the walk there is a snorkeling opportunity offered in deep water.

FRIDAY: This morning we travel by bus to the **highlands** of **SANTA CRUZ** Island. The scenery gradually changes as we wind our way through all seven vegetation zones found in Galapagos. Here, we visit the tortoise reserve at one of the private farms in the highlands where we encounter giant tortoises in their natural habitat. We visit *Los Gemelos*, Spanish for "The Twins", a pair of large pit craters where we find the bright red male vermilion flycatcher. We stop at "the tunnels", the largest lava tubes found in Galapagos.

After lunch on board, we visit the **Charles Darwin Research Station**. We visit all three tortoise corals and the breeding center with new hatchlings and miniature tortoises not yet ready to be repatriated. Scientists from all over the globe work at the station and conduct biological research from anatomy to zoology. We also visit the Van Straelen Hall where there are exhibits and a short video presentation. Visitors can see the pen of Lonesome George, the last surviving member of the Pinta Island subspecies. Stroll through the town of **Puerto Ayora** (population: 20,000) and the largest town in the Galapagos. Buy souvenirs, mail postcards or kick back at an internet cafe in the social heart of the Islands.

SATURDAY: This morning we have a dry landing at **Punta Suarez, ESPANOLA**, where we witness the highest rate of endemic species in Galapagos. Sea lions noisily greet us as we land on their beach. Curious Hood mockingbirds peck at our shoelaces. From April to November, the waved albatross, found only on Espanola, perform their wild mating ritual. Colonies of blue-footed boobies engage in "sky-pointing" to show off for potential mates. Nazca (formerly masked) boobies busily care for their young. Stunning swallow-tailed gulls are the only nocturnal gulls in the world. Red-billed tropicbirds take shelter under the cliffs. We also find Darwin's Finches, Galapagos Doves and Galapagos Hawks. Observe a unique species of marine iguana identified with traces of red and green colorings. Colorful sally light-foot crabs crawl along the shoreline near to the famous "blow hole". This is the scene most people envision when they decide to visit Galapagos. During lunch, we motor to the other side of the Island.

On our last afternoon in Galapagos, we have a wet landing on **Gardner Bay, ESPANOLA (HOOD)**. Walk along seemingly endless stretches of this white sandy beach where you'll find large colonies of sea lions. There is no trail to follow so this is a chance to explore and you may find a Galapagos Hawk, Darwin's Finches or Hood Mockingbird. Swim with sea lions from the beach or just relax on your last glorious day in Galapagos. There's an excellent snorkeling site off Gardner Islet with a colorful diversity of sea life near Tortuga Rock in caves covered with invertebrates. Passengers are also permitted to use the

kayaks at this particular site. Back on board, enjoy the Captain's Farewell cocktail followed by dinner and a briefing.

SUNDAY: This morning, we drop anchor in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, **SAN CRISTOBAL**. We visit the Interpretation Center opened in 1999. Here we gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the Islands. Afterwards, we head straight to the airport for our flight back to the mainland departing San Cristobal at 12:30PM on Aerogal37 and arriving to Quito at 4:30PM. A snack is served on the flight. Upon arrival, transfer to Hotel Le Parc for overnight.

MONDAY: QUITO TO LA SELVA

After a 30 minute flight from Quito to Coca, you will be met at the airport by La Selva staff to whisk you away by bus to the departure point, then travel two and a half hours by motorized canoe 60 miles down the Napo River. At the dock, you are met by more staff to transport your luggage while you stroll on the boardwalk ½ mile through vast palm forest making your way to lake. The boardwalk ends at a lazy stream where paddle canoes await you for your voyage across the lake to the lodge. After a brief orientation, we choose our rubber boots and are shown our assigned cabin. This afternoon, we can visit the butterfly farm where La Selva has been breeding them for export for more than 15 years. The farm was designed to present an ecologically sound, sustainable, alternative use to the wholesale destruction of the rainforest. Take a hike on Mandicocha trail, an easy walk, close to the lodge, which is usually filled with wildlife, no matter what hour of the day.

LA SELVA LODGE

La Selva is the perfect place to experience the Ecuadorean rainforest and Amazon jungle. Located on two and a half acres, deep in a virgin forest lies La Selva Lodge where one may encounter 750 species of trees, 125 species of mammals, 400 species of birds, 100 reptiles, 150 species of butterflies, 1500 species of flowering plants and 42,000 species of insects.

There are 17 thatched private bungalows, of varying sleeping configurations, made from native design: rustic, authentic, but comfortable with unexpected amenities; private bathroom, hot water shower, electricity and fan, hammock, mosquito netting. Everything has been built in the traditional style of the region, and made entirely of second growth materials, including the public gathering spots, which include the spacious dining room, open-air bar and lounge with a wrap around view, perched on a hill overlooking Garzacocha Lake.

The cuisine blends the finest ingredients Ecuador has to offer with French, North American and Ecuadorian flavors. Try Amazon pizza, veal milanese a la Amazon and local fish when available. Sample local tropical fruit juices you never knew existed; uvillas, guayabas, guanabas, narangillas, moretes, taxo and tomate de arbol.

TUESDAY: LA SELVA LODGE

Walk along numerous foot trails through primary forest or board a paddle canoe down streams. One easily sees the myriad of wildlife that presents itself here. Visit El Salado, a two hour excursion often combined with a picnic lunch where parrots and macaws can be seen by the thousands. We can also arrive for a visit to a native's hour to see how the Kichwa Indians live.

WEDNESDAY: LA SELVA LODGE

Fish for piranhas or take a swim in our lake. Well-trained naturalists and local guides are on staff for jungle exploration. Spend hours viewing and photographing the wildlife at close range from an 135-foot observation tower where you get a unique perspective of the jungle from up above. This evening, we can take a night excursion by foot or canoe after dark to view nocturnal animals such as caiman, monkeys, insects and owls. .

THURSDAY: LA SELVA LODGE

Today we can chose to follow various trails: high forest trail , a longer hike of 3-5 hours, cross the river and arrive at challenging mountainous trails to another ecosystem, new birds and wildlife including lemon ants. Pedro's trail, walk through virgin forest and arrive at the tower (4 hours). Spend hours viewing and photographing the wildlife at close range from an 110-foot observation tower where you get a unique perspective of the jungle from up above. On the Piche trail, we can see an enormous colony of leafcutter ants or Chawamango's trail (3 hours) or Little Chawamango.

FRIDAY: LA SELVA TO QUITO

We depart the lodge very early for our ride up river back to the town of Coca to connect with our ICARO flight back to Quito. Upon arrival, transfer to Hotel Le Parc.

This afternoon there is a choice of three activities:

1-City tour of Quito - discover the city of Quito on a three hour guided tour of Quito. Stroll down cobble stone streets and through flowering plazas while admiring the old colonial architecture of Independence square, including the House of Congress, the Presidential Palace and the Metropolitan Cathedral. Visit the church of La Compania, built in 1605, or the elegant cathedrals of San Francisco or San Augustin, Quito's oldest monastery.

2 -Mitad del Mundo (Equatorial monument) Placed precisely at latitude -0° , the monument known as Mitad del Mundo marks the spot where an 18th century French and Spanish geographic expedition located the position of the Equator. Proximity to this geographic feature gave Ecuador its name. Straddling the line puts one in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres at the same time. Visit the Monument and Ethnographic Museum.

3- Teleferico – cable car ride to the top of the mountain from where you get beautiful views of the entire city of Quito

SATURDAY: QUITO - USA

After breakfast at the hotel, our guide will meet you at your hotel to transfer you to the Masical Sucre Airport in Quito for your return flight home.

**2010 rates: Galapagos Islands & Ecuadorian Rainforest
7 night Galapagos cruise + 4 nights Quito + 4 nights Jungle Lodge**

- \$ 3225.00 Iguana deck cabin 7 night Galapagos cruise
(upgrade to Booby \$3575 or Dolphin deck \$3925 available)
- \$ 422.00 airfare Quito-Galapagos-Quito (\$367 in low season)
- \$ 110.00 Galapagos park tax + transit card fee
- \$ 125.00 airfare Quito – Coca – Quito
- \$ 852.00 Sacha Lodge 4 nights jungle lodge
- \$ 660.00 Quito extension 4 nights

Total = \$ 5394.00 per person based on 2 guests in a double room

Rate includes:

Cabin accommodation with private bath on the first class 20-passenger M/Y ERIC, FLAMINGO or LETTY for 7 nights including all meals and snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, purified water, guided shore excursions, Captain's welcome and farewell parties, use of snorkeling equipment, wet suits and sea kayaks and transfers in the Islands between the airport to dock.

Roundtrip airfare on AEROGAL Airlines from Quito to Galapagos
Galapagos National Park entrance fee \$100 and transit card fee \$10

Hotel accommodations for four nights at Hotel Le Parc Quito including taxes, buffet breakfast and welcome beverage and airport transfers provided by the hotel's private SUV including baggage handling.

Full day tour to Otavalo market including lunch at Le Mirage and Half day city tour of Quito or Mitad del Mundo or teleferico with English speaking guide and private vehicle and driver.

4 nights accommodation at LA SELVA in a private bungalow with private bath, all meals, bilingual jungle guide, native guide, jungle tours, transfers, taxes, rubber boots.

Rates do not include:

International airfare from your hometown to Ecuador
Gratuities for guides and crew \$175 suggested per person
Option scuba diving add-on in Galapagos
Quito Ecuador departure tax \$42.75
Dinners in Quito and lunch unless noted