

AXEL TOURS SAC

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Ecuador & Galapagos Island 11 Days - 10 Nights Quito - Galápagos Island

Day 01: Quito

Assistance on your arrival in Quito and transfer to your selected hotel. Free time to rest and prepare for starting your trip around this unusual city and magical country.

Meals Included: None



Day 02: Quito City Tours

This day we will know the city of Quito & Middle of The World. Visit the Equator of the world in the middle of the world city, go back in time by walking through the cobbled streets in the historical center of Quito and be amazed by The Panoramic view while cruising through the sky in Telefériqo Cruz Loma.

Meals Included: Breakfast



Day 03: Otavalo

The Otavalo cultural tour is a wonderful way to discover and combine the famous artesian indigenous market in Ecuador and some of the amazing views outside Otavalo. This tour begins with a scenic drive north of Quito through the Sierra highlands. Our first stop will be at Mitad del Mundo, and then we'll continue to Cayambe where we can taste and learn about the town's famous bizcochos (**local biscuits**). From that point we'll continue to the famous market of Otavalo where you'll have the option to purchase local handicrafts. The main market day in Otavalo is **Saturday**; however, this tour can be operated throughout the week (**Tuesdays**). Our professional guide will provide you an explanation on the indigenous people of this area, such as the Quitu, Cara and other pre-Inca groups, and some information on the city. Afterwards, we'll go to the beautiful Laguna Cuicocha, which is located in a volcano crater and contains 2 green islands. Our last stop will be Cotacachi, a town famous for its leather garments. Before strolling through this town we receive lunch in a local restaurant. Afterwards, we return to Quito.

Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch



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Day 04: Quito - Cotopaxi - Quito

We left Quito at 07:30 by the way " **American South** " admiring the beautiful Andean landscapes, after an hour and a half of travel come to the province of Cotopaxi where the National Park of the same name with its majestic Cotopaxi volcano, one of the highest active in the world with 5897 meters above sea level, also considered an ecological sanctuary. We will make our first stop in the Natural Museum of Cotopaxi, displaying specimens of the flora and fauna of the region, as well as the history of past volcanic eruptions of the volcano Cotopaxi. Then we head to the lagoon Limpiopungo, which is formed as a result of the continued melting of Cotopaxi volcano. Around the lake you can see the wolf moor, Andean gulls flying, slow play and sleep swim Andean ducks and coots. We continue by vehicle to 4500 m.s.n.m. where the parking lot after a rise of about 45 minutes down the path of gravel and snow in some cases reach the Jose Rivas Refuge at 4800m above sea level, from here we can rest and watch the majesty of the volcano, shelter has three dozen bunk beds, running water, a kitchen, fireplace and storage facilities for equipment and other supplies. After ascend to 5000 meters, to the perpetual snows of Cotopaxi Volcano, a site from which we will have a spectacular view of the mountains. P.m. back to our hotel

Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch



Day 05: Quito - Baltra Rancho Primicias & Twin Craters

Early morning transfer to Quito Airport for our fly to Galapagos, Upon arrival in Baltra Airport transfer to Santa Cruz, a guide will be waiting for You to take to the hotel, where You can leave your luggage. We will seize the morning to visit the Rancho Primicias in the island's highlands where we will be able to see Giant Turtles in their habitat



Then we go on to Lava Tunnels " **There are eight lava tubes on Isla Santa Cruz** " The largest lava tubes in the Galapagos are on Santa Cruz Island, it's estimated that the last eruptions occurred around a million and a half years ago. There is a gigantic lava tunnel that is over 2000 meters long on the Island that many tourist visit and walk through



Los Gemelos (**Twin Craters**) are located in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. They are not actual craters caused by impact, but are sink holes that were created when the volcanic roof of empty magma chambers collapsed from tectonic shifts and erosion over time. This area has very different climate from other parts of the island and are surrounded by scalesia (**scalesia pedunculata**) forests, which our tour guide kept calling "broccoli trees." It is the habitat for bromeliads, orchids, mosses, lichens and many birds. Here, you are able to find the famous vermilion flycatcher, 8 species of Charles Darwin finches, and every so often short - eared owls.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

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Day 06: Grietas & Tortuga Bay

After breakfast we will Hike through a forest of enormous cacti and over rugged lava rock formations to one of the most unique swimming holes in the Galapagos Islands. Las Grietas, which translates literally to mean " **The Cracks**," is a series of volcanic crevices that were formed during the cooling of molten lava. The porous lava stone of the island allows water to filter down from the highlands into Las Grietas where it mixes with sea water filtering in from the ocean. The resulting azure waters are crystalline and refreshing Las Grietas is a popular swimming destination for locals and visitors alike. Float blissfully in the cool water -- or get your adrenaline pumping by jumping from the new wooden platform. A Naturalist Guide is not required to visit as the trail has been improved, but it is not recommended to travel alone as the jagged lava rocks en route can be tricky.



After Lunch we will walk to Tortuga Bay It's located on the Santa Cruz Island, about a 20 minutes' walk from the main water taxi dock in Puerto Ayora, The walking path is 1.55 miles (**2,490 m**) and is open from 06.00 to 18.00 p.m evening, we must sign in and out at the start of the path with The Galapagos Park Service Office, Tortuga Bay has a gigantic, perfectly preserved beach, that is forbidden to swimmers and is preserved for the wildlife where many Marine Iguanas, Galapagos Crabs and Birds are seen dotted along the Volcanic Rocks. There is a separate cove where You can swim and where it's common to view White Tip Reef Sharks swimming in groups & on occasion Tiger Shark The Genus, Galeocerdo, is divided from the Greek galeos, which mean Shark and The Latin Cerdus, The Word for the hard hairs of Pigs. It is often colloquially called the Man – Eater Shark. The Galapagos Shark a top other species of Shark that are found in The Galapagos Islands, There are always a large variety of small fish and Birds

Meals: Breakfast



Day 07: Santa Cruz Island to Isabela Island (Wall of The Tears & Sea Kayaking with Pinguins)

a.m. Transfer to The Pier to catch the speed Boat to Isabela Island, It's the largest Island of The Galapagos with an area of 4,640 square kilometers (**1,790 sq mi**), and length of 100 kilometers (**62 mi**) almost four times larger than Santa Cruz, the second largest of the archipelago. It was named after Queen Isabela of Spain. It was originally named *Albemarle* after the Duke of Albemarle. The island strides the Equator. Isabela is also interesting for its flora and fauna. The young island does not follow the vegetation zones of the other islands. The relatively new lava fields and surrounding soils have not developed the sufficient nutrients required to support the varied life zones found on other islands. Another

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obvious difference occurs on Volcano Wolf and Cerro Azul; these volcanoes loft above the cloud cover and are arid on top. Isabela's rich animal, Bird and Marine life is beyond compare. Isabela is home to more wild Tortoise than all the other islands. Isabela's large size and notable topography created barriers for the slow - moving tortoises; apparently the creatures were unable to cross lava flows and other obstacles, causing several different sub - species of Tortoise to develop. Today, Tortoises roam free in the calderas of Alcedo, Wolf, Cerro Azul, Darwin and Sierra Negra



Arrive in Isabela transfer to the selected hostel or hotel after checking we will walk around to Flamingos Lagoon an expansive coastal lagoon that serves as one of the primary breeding grounds for Flamingos



In the afternoon we take our ocean kayaks and paddle out to the pier of Isabela, a set of small islets within Isabela Bay. The islets are filled with wildlife and are home to the Galapagos penguin, the only penguin that lives in equatorial region. We will also see sharks, marine turtles, sea lions, Blue Footed Bobbies and much more wildlife as we explore its many small coves and beaches.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner



Day 08: Tunnels & Flamingos Lagoon

After breakfast we will go to the pier for a 45 minute tour boat ride to a place where Lava flow impacted with the oceans waves to form the stunning tubes and bridges of Los Tunnels. Los Tunnels is a marine paradise for the White tipped Reef Shark, Manta Rays, Parrot Fish, Yellowtail Surgeon Fish, Galápagos Green Sea Turtle and the Galápagos Sea Lion. This site is one of the most is one of the most spectacular places for snorkeling in Isabela as the water is shallow, clear and calm. This marine sanctuary is characterized by its unique geologic formations. A series of lava flows have produced a number of arches and tunnels both under and above water, where you find a number of animal species that have taken up residence in these magnificent formations. As soon as you get to the intertidal starting point you will be released to snorkel through astoundingly beautiful site.



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Afternoon we will visit by bike **The Wall of Tears** (Spanish: **El Muro de las Lágrimas**) is a historical site 5 km west of Puerto Villamil on Isabela Island in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. It was constructed between the years of 1945 and 1959 by prisoners in the Penal Colony on the island, which had been established by President Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra in 1944, using infrastructure left by the US military after World War II. The wall is about 25 m (**65 ft**) tall and is said to have been the cause of thousands of deaths during its construction. Locals call it the wall of tears because it is said to emanate eerie cries and have a heavy energy surrounding it.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner



Day 09: Sierra Negra Volcano

Early morning around 07.00 a.m. we will have a tours to Sierra Negra Volcano it's one of the five volcanoes on the island of Isabela, and boasts the second largest volcanic caldera in the world (**Yellowstone National Park in the United States is the largest in case You were wondering**). On the sierra Negra Volcano You hike to the rim of the six miles wide crater and then trek across an alien landscape of lava fields and fumaroles. The Sierra Negra is one of the most active volcanoes in the Galapagos, with the last eruption in 2005 Though You probably won't see any lava flowing, You will have the opportunity to explore thermal vents and other fascinating geologic features before stopping for a snack near volcano Chico. The vistas from this spot are among the most breathtaking in Isabela and on clear afternoons afford views of the northern volcanoes on Isabela and Fernandina. A savory hot lunch at Campo Duro rounds out this challenging but rewarding day

Meals: Breakfast, Snack



Day 10: Free day or Fishing tour optional

Isabela Island free day or Fishing tour optional approximately 6:00 am You will be on your way to the eastern side of the Galapagos which is known as one of the best fishing areas in the archipelago, you can expect to catch Striped, Blue, and Black marlin, depending on the season, however since the water temperature in the Galapagos is pretty much constant all year around you can find bill - fish pretty much every month of the year. You will spend the night in one of the nicest hotels in town.

Meals: Breakfast



Day 11: Isabela Island - Baltra Airport - Quito - Home

a.m. After Breakfast transfer to Isabela Airport for your fly to Baltra and go on to Guayaquil - Home, we recommend You seat next to The Pilot for nice pictures on air

Meals: Breakfast

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Tours Include:

- All land transfer
- 10 nights hostel or hotel accommodation
- Daily Breakfast
- Daily private tours per itinerary
- English guide spoken
- Lunch & Dinner mentioned in local restaurant
- Airfare Quito - Galápagos - Quito
- Speed Local Boat (**Inter Yacht**) Santa Cruz to Isabela Island
- Airplane Isabela Island to Baltra Airport
- Kayaking Equipment
- Snorkel Gear
- Mask & Fins
- Personal assistance
- Axel Tippe Tour leader

Tours no Include:

- Galapagos entrance **100\$USA**
- Transit Card **20\$USA**
- Isabela Entrance **10\$USA**
- Beverage
- Phone calls
- Tips
- International Airfare

Price per person in Hostel 3*: (Backpacker Class)

Double:2470\$USA

Triple:2310\$USA

04 - 06 Persons:2110\$USA

08 - 12 Persons:2060\$USA

+15 Persons:2050\$USA

Hostal	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Blue House	Quito	2023	2023	04
Darwin	Santa Cruz Island	2023	2023	02
Cerro Azul	Isabela Island	2023	2023	04

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Price per person in Hostel 3* : (Tourist Class)

Double:2790\$USA

Triple:2630\$USA

04 - 06 Persons:2450\$USA

08 - 12 Persons:2390\$USA

+15 Persons:2375USA

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Joaquin House	Quito	2023	2023	04
Lobo de Mar	Santa Cruz Island	2023	2023	02
San Vicente	Isabela Island	2023	2023	04

Price per person in Hotel 4* : (First Class)

Double:3390\$USA

Triple:3250\$USA

04 - 06 Persons:3050\$USA

08 - 12 Persons:2990\$USA

+15 Persons:2975\$USA

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
City Art Silberstein	Quito	2023	2023	04
Sol y Mar	Santa Cruz Island	2023	2023	02
Casa de Marita	Isabela Island	2023	2023	04

Price per person in Hostel 5* : (Luxury Class)

Double:4400\$USA

Triple:4250\$USA

04 - 06 Persons:4050\$USA

08 - 12 Persons:4000\$USA

+15 Persons:3990\$USA

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Swiss Hotel	Quito	2023	2023	04
Finch Bay	Santa Cruz Island	2023	2023	02
Iguana Crossing	Isabela Island	2023	2023	04

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