

2025 SEASON

ECUADOR & ITS GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

8 Day Cruise Quito to Quito

CRUISE: WBG



This exciting cruise vacation lets you sample the natural wonders of Ecuador and its Galápagos Islands. Enjoy guided sightseeing in Quito and have your photo taken at the “Center of the World.” You’ll also explore one of the oldest streets in Quito to visit with local artists, taste some Ecuadorian chocolate at a chocolate factory, and visit a nature reserve. Before taking to the sea, a highlight of your trip will be a visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about conservation efforts for the giant tortoises. Then, embark on an exciting 4-night cruise among various Galápagos Islands on the recently refurbished Treasure of Galápagos. Have your camera ready as your Naturalist points out colonies of sea lions, pelicans, albatross, several species of Darwin’s finches, marine iguanas, flamingos, masked boobies, blue-footed boobies, frigatebirds, storm petrels, short-eared owls, and other birds. Each day venture to a new island which is home to species found nowhere else in the world! During your cruise, you’ll also have a chance to snorkel in the tropical waters and perhaps get a look at sea turtles, sharks, and rays. A remarkable cruise adventure!

8

DAYS

1

COUNTRY

DAY-BY-DAY

ITINERARY

1 ARRIVE IN QUITO, ECUADOR

Bienvenido a Ecuador! South America's Most Biodiverse Country

Take free time today to relax and prepare for your upcoming Galápagos adventure or walk through the historic city to sample ceviche or helado (Latin-American ice cream). Dine out tonight or ask about the best clubs for music and dancing.

2 QUITO

A Gold Altar, Artistic Avenues, and Two Hemispheres in One Day

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION**

Travel through the Tandayapa Valley to the Andean Chocó cloud forest and nature reserve. The Alambi Reserve, renowned for bird watching, is home to more than 250 species of birds, including 30 different hummingbirds. While here, visit the hummingbird garden to observe these characteristic birds in their natural habitat.

**CLASSIC EXCURSION**

Take a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Quito that showcases the colonial city's historic sites, including the impressive Legislative Palace with its enormous, sculpted mural of Ecuadorean history. You'll also see Independence Plaza and visit the 16th-century San Francisco Monastery, and La Compañía Church—the exquisite Jesuit cathedral with its spectacular Spanish baroque architecture—more than 160 years in the making.

**DISCOVERY EXCURSION**

Take a Guided Walk down Calle La Ronda—one of Quito's oldest streets—with a wealth of artist's workshops and galleries where you'll meet local artists and learn about their original works. Later, visit a local chocolate factory for a tour and a tasting to discover why Ecuador is one of the world's finest chocolate producers.

**CLASSIC EXCURSION**

Your day in Quito ends with a Guided Excursion to the Ciudad Mitad del Mundo—a monument to the Equator—the “middle of the world”. Stand in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres at the same time at the exact location of the Earth's Equator. Observe the equatorial effects of the dual-spiraling directions of water and balancing eggs on end.

This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at a famed local restaurant with delicious regional cuisine.

 Breakfast  Dinner

3 BALTRA-GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS (EMBARKATION)-SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

The Theory of Evolution—and Giant Babies

This morning, take a flight to the Galápagos Island of Baltra where you'll embark on your five-day cruise aboard the Treasure of Galápagos.



DISCOVERY EXCURSION

Join your naturalist on a Guided Excursion to Santa Cruz Island to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station—established to help conserve the Galápagos' natural habitat and protect the famous giant tortoises. While here, learn about the tortoise-rearing program and see many of the various islands' tortoises.

Later on board your ship, join in a briefing of the next day's adventures, and enjoy a Captain's welcome with cocktails and dinner.

NOTE:

The ship's itinerary may vary according to Galápagos National Park policies and regulations, weather conditions, and seasonal changes to create the perfect cross-section of sites visited.

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

4 SANTIAGO ISLAND - BARTOLOMÉ ISLAND

Volcanoes, Marine Life, and Lunar Landscapes



DISCOVERY EXCURSION

This morning, you will find yourself anchored in the western-central part of the archipelago where volcanoes are still active, attributing to the dramatic scenery. Take a Naturalist Led Excursion of Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island where you will walk on newly formed (less than 100 years ago) lava flows reminiscent of the lunar landscape. You can catch sight of lava lizards, marine iguanas, Sally Lightfoot crabs, and even the Galápagos penguin.

This afternoon, cruise to Bartolomé Island.

BARTOLOMÉ ISLAND

Hike the Summit, Snorkel, and Swim



ACTIVE EXCURSION

Take a Guided Hike to Bartolomé's 114-meter summit for spectacular panoramic views of the region with two beautiful bays and fascinating formations of lava flows and spatter cones, including the iconic Pinnacle Rock. Later, take a snorkel and swim off the beach here—home to playful sea lions, Pacific green turtles, white tip reef sharks, and Galápagos penguins.

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

5 NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND - MOSQUERA ISLET

Masterful Marine Iguanas and Birds of a Different Color



CLASSIC EXCURSION

Take a Naturalist-Led Excursion to see colonies of remarkable bird species, including blue-footed boobies, great frigate birds, and magnificent frigate birds—with its inflated red chest and nearly 7-foot wingspread. Watch for gulls and herons of all assortments.



ACTIVE EXCURSION

Take a Guided Snorkeling Excursion in the aqua blue waters just off North Seymour Island's shore—teeming with sea lions and amphibious marine iguanas—found only in the Galápagos.

This afternoon, cruise for the sandy island of Mosquera Islet.

MOSQUERA ISLET

A Sea Lion Haven of White Coral Sand



DISCOVERY EXCURSION

Take a Guided Walk on the white coral beaches to the islands' largest congregation of Galápagos sea lions. You'll see a wide variety of shore birds reflecting the island's amazing biodiversity—from the deep-gray lava gull to the yellow-crowned night heron.

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

6 SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND - SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

Tracing Darwin's Footsteps and Audubon's Muses



DISCOVERY EXCURSION

This morning, take a Naturalist-Led Excursion to South Plaza Island to observe wildlife, including sea lions, land iguanas, marine iguanas, and hybrid iguanas (only found on this island and a result of a cross between land and marine iguanas). You will see blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, frigate birds, swallow-tailed gulls, Audubon's shearwaters, and many other species.

This afternoon, cruise to Cerro Brujo on San Cristobal Island.

SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

Blue Herons, Blue Lagoons, and a Sleeping Lion



ACTIVE EXCURSION

Take a Guided Walk at the site where Charles Darwin first visited the Galápagos. See the volcanic remains of magnificent Kicker Rock—also called León Dormido (Sleeping Lion). Walk beside one of the island's blue lagoons to see a number of migratory birds, including pelicans and great blue herons.

 Breakfast  Lunch  Dinner

7 GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS (DISEMBARKATION)-SAN CRISTOBAL-QUITO

The Geological Genesis of a Magical Archipelago



DISCOVERY EXCURSION

This morning, cruise to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno for a Naturalist Guided Tour of the San Cristobal Interpretation Center. You'll learn about the Galápagos' fascinating volcanic origins, remote location, climate, and the arrival of diverse species that inspire both imagination and science.

This afternoon, you'll say farewell to the magical islands of Galápagos and fly to Quito. This evening, spend free time relaxing or enjoy one of Quito's many fine restaurants.

 Breakfast

8 QUITO

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

 Breakfast

NOTES

Maximum elevation on this tour is 9,200 ft. In the Galápagos, there will be "wet landings" meaning guests will need to be able to jump in the water, out of the boats/zodiacs and walk a couple of meters to the beaches. Terrain is rocky and uneven. Itinerary in the Galápagos are subject to change.

HAND-PICKED

HOTELS

We've vetted and hand-selected the best hotels around the world with location, comfort, and style in mind. Enjoy first-class hotels in each destination, and check in with the confidence that we've already checked everything out for your comfort and convenience.

Quito

1

Swissotel

12 de Octubre 1820 y Luis Cordero

 WiFi

 ModerateDeluxe

This contemporary hotel is located in the commercial district of Quito, minutes away from historical Old Town. The hotel offers a wide variety of dining with six restaurants and two bars. Other features include a luxury spa, indoor and outdoor pools, fitness center, tennis and racquetball courts, beauty salon, gift shop, and business center.