



Galapagos Islands & Quito Ecuador
7 night Galapagos cruise & 6 nights Quito, Otavalo, Cotopaxi

- Tuesday: Fly to Quito Ecuador, transfer in upon arrival
Overnight Hotel Le Parc
- Wednesday: Tour the Historical city of Quito
Mitad del Mundo or El Teleferico, overnight Hotel Le Parc
- Thursday Cotopaxi National park including lunch, return to Quito
Hotel Le Parc
- Friday Quito to Otavalo (all meals),
Overnight La Mirage
- Saturday: Otavalo market, visit to towns, return to Quito
Overnight Hotel 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 - DIVING WITH SCUBA IGUANA
Darwin Station, SANTA CRUZ
- Saturday: Punta Suarez, Espanola (HOOD)
Gardner Bay (SN, PR, KY) Espanola – DIVING WITH WRECK BAY
- Sunday: San Cristobal to Quito on Aerogal 2k 37 12:00 – 4:30PM
Overnight Hotel Le Parc
- Monday: Quito – Home



galapagosnetwork

7 nights Galapagos Islands & 6 nights Quito, Otavalo, Cotopaxi Day-by-day detailed itinerary (13 nights)

TUESDAY: 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 for overnight.

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

WEDNESDAY: After buffet breakfast at Hotel Le Parc, our English speaking local guide meets you at the hotel for a tour of Quito. Discover the historical part of the city – 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. We stop for lunch at a local restaurant to experience Ecuadorian cuisine. In the afternoon chose between visiting the equatorial monument known as Mitad del Mundo or taking a ride on a cable car or Teleferico to the top of the mountain from where you get a beautiful view of the entire city of Quito. 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.

THURSDAY: Drive through the scenic Andean countryside to reach the foot of Cotopaxi Volcano named for the 19,700-foot peak that dominates the area. The National Park is an ecological sanctuary of 36,000 hectares surrounding the highest active volcano in the world. You'll have time to explore the National Park, home to high altitude birds such as the Puna Hawk, Carunculated Caracara and with some luck, the Andean Condor. Lunch is at Hosteria LA CIENEGA, built in the 1600's. La Cienega is located in the valley at the foot of the volcano and belongs to the descendants of its original owner, the Marquis of Maenza, dating back to the 17th century. The Manor House was built in 1838 and is accessed via an avenue flanked by fragrant eucalyptus trees. It's mighty stone walls have witnessed important events in Ecuador's history. Return to Quito, Overnight Hotel Le Parc.

FRIDAY: This morning, we depart Quito for a two night drive north along the Panamerican Highway through mountain scenery. We stop en route at the small town of Calderon, famous for their bread-dough figures and ornaments. Lunch upon arrival at Hacienda Cusin and time to explore the hacienda, town and activities. Dinner and overnight at the Hacienda Cusin.

HACIENDA CUSIN, a luxury country inn located in Imbabura near San Pablo del Lago. All 25 rooms in the seven guesthouses have private bath and garden views, some with bathtubs and most with fireplaces. In the central house, there is a large salon furnished in colonial antiques, a cozy bar and a sun-filled dining room with seating for 35. Includes all meals (delicious and home-cooked) and amenities which include horses, mountain bikes, squash and volley ball courts, a game room (billiards, ping pong and darts) TV for videos, library with a fireplace. There are trails to walk and mountains to climb.

SATURDAY: We arrive 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. 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 bird 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 *Optunia* 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 - HOME

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

2010 rates: 7 nights Galapagos Islands & 6 nights Quito, Otavalo, Cotopaxi

\$ 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
\$ 1400.00 Quito extension 6 nights

Total = \$ 5157.00 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 five nights at Hotel Le Parc in Quito including taxes, buffet breakfast and welcome beverage and airport transfers provided by the hotel's shuttle private SUV including baggage handling.

Overnight tour to Otavalo market including all meals and accommodation at Hacienda Cusin, guided visits and tours with English speaking guide, private car and driver.

City tour of Quito combined with Mitad del Mundo or teleferico with English speaking guide and private vehicle and driver, with lunch included.

Full day tour to Cotopaxi national park including lunch with an English speaking guide, private vehicle and driver.

Rates do not include:

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