

# VIP EXPERIENCES IN ECUADOR – RELAIS & CHATEAUX – 2023

## SPEND TWO NIGHTS IN GUAYAQUIL OR QUITO BEFORE THE ECOVENTURA CRUISE

When visiting the Galapagos Islands, you have the choice of flying into Quito or Guayaquil. There are several airlines with international routes into both cities. While it is possible to arrive one night prior to the cruise, we recommend guests consider spending two nights prior and explore the area.

Guayaquil is considered the gateway to Galapagos and the closest point from the mainland on a 90- minute non-stop flight to the islands. The airport is a 15-minute

drive into downtown or to Samborondon, an upscale suburb. At sea level, you will avoid the higher altitude of Quito.

Quito is situated in an Andean valley at 9186 feet above sea level, making it the 2nd highest capital city in the world. The airport is a 50-minute drive into downtown Quito where most hotels are located. The flight from Quito makes a stop in Guayaquil.



### GUAYAQUIL

#### Hotel del Parque & Hacienda La Danesa

Ecuador's largest city and seaport has been revitalized and its crown jewel is the Malecon 2000, a two-mile pedestrian walkway along the Guayas River, Las Penas and Santa Ana Hill, the centuries old neighborhood where restored homes line narrow streets, and Parque Historico, recreating Guayaquil's past through its history and culture.



### HOTEL DEL PARQUE \*\*\*\*\*

The luxury boutique hotel features 44 elegant guestrooms and suites, with cozy beds, sitting areas, beautifully appointed marble bathrooms and sweeping windows with a view of the garden or historic building. It is the only hotel located in the upscale neighborhood of Samborondon and is a member of the Relais & Chateaux collection of fine hotels and restaurants.

Just steps from the hotel, you can visit Parque Historico (Historical Park). See the flora and fauna that once populated the area. A historic zone recreates architecture and traditions from the early 1900s celebrating indigenous cultures.

#### FRIDAY: ARRIVAL TO GUAYAQUIL - ECUADOR

Upon arrival at Jose Joaquin de Olmedo Airport in Guayaquil, you will be met at the airport by an English-speaking guide holding a sign board with your name on it. Look for him/her as you exit the customs area. Your guide will escort you to a private vehicle waiting to transfer you to Hotel del Parque, a Relais & Chateaux property, located just 20-minute drive from the airport.

#### SATURDAY: GUAYAQUIL & HACIENDA LA DANESA

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast provided by Hotel del Parque in their lovely courtyard. Meet your guide in the lobby and depart to spend the day at "Hacienda La Danesa." Founded in 1870, La Danesa is located near an old railway station in the Montubia coastal region. The hacienda and working dairy and cacao farm is owned and managed by the third generation Olsen family, who will introduce you to the hacienda's history. There is a unique selection of activities for guests to enjoy including trails for horsebackriding or bicycling, cow milking, and artisan chocolate making. After a 3-course lunch, there is time to relax or discover the lush property; Teca tree, organic garden, farm animals and cacao plantation. Return to Guayaquil late afternoon. Travel time is 1 hour and 20 minutes each way.

**Optional (not included):** A fine dining experience awaits at Casa Julian, just steps from the hotel, featuring delightful original creations using locally sourced ingredients.

#### SUNDAY: GUAYAQUIL – GALAPAGOS

Enjoy breakfast provided by the hotel in their lovely courtyard. Your guide will meet you in the lobby and transfer you by private vehicle to the airport. After a personalized check-in for Avianca Flight 1630 departing Sunday morning. Arrive to Galapagos before noon-time (flight times are subject to change).

#### 2023 RATES (per person double occupancy based on 2 guests)

\$720.00 Deluxe Double | \$760.00 Signature Room | \$890.00 Junior Suite

Deluxe rooms (398-484 square feet) with two Full size beds or King size bed, some with connecting doors. Signature rooms (549-645 square feet) including a second panoramic window. The Jr. Suite has 1227 square feet of living space and can be connected to a signature room.

#### Rates Include:

Hotel accommodation tax and service fees for two nights, free wireless internet, breakfast at the hotel, welcome complimentary afternoon tea. Private transfers to and from the airport upon arrival and departure. Fully guided tour to Hacienda la Danesa with private transportation from Guayaquil with lunch included.

#### Not included:

Dinner at Casa Julian in Guayaquil. Gratuities to porters, drivers and host.

Additional night in Guayaquil after the cruise - we recommend the Oro Verde Hotel. Add \$240 for a Leading Suite or \$150 Deluxe double including taxes, breakfast, and shuttle transfer.



## QUITO

### Casa Gangotena & Colonial Quito

Nestled at the foot of a 15,696-foot Pichincha Volcano is the Colonial Capitol set in the Middle of the World known for its eternally spring-like climate and beauty of its well-preserved colonial center. UNESCO declared Quito the first of its World Heritage sites in 1978 and is a Cultural Patrimony of Mankind. Surrounded by snowcapped volcanoes, yet only 14 miles from the Equator line, visitors can explore the historical center with ornate churches, artistic treasures and walk along narrow cobbled stone streets.



### CASA GANTOTENA \*\*\*\*\*

A truly iconic hotel in Quito, this beautifully restored mansion sings with the history of the city. Situated in the heart of old town overlooking Plaza San Francisco, Casa Gangotena is a showcase of eye-catching eclectic style. This three-story luxury boutique hotel is a member of the Relais & Chateaux collection with a stunning view of Panecillo Hill. Explore or relax in the garden redolent with perfume of native flowers, the wood-paneled library or atop the panoramic third-floor rooftop terrace.

#### FRIDAY: ARRIVAL TO QUITO - ECUADOR

Upon arrival at Mariscal Sucre Airport in Quito, you will be met at the airport by an English-speaking guide holding a sign board with your name on it. Look for him/her as you exit the customs area. Your guide will escort you to a private vehicle waiting to transfer you to Casa Gangotena, a Relais & Chateaux property, located 50 minutes from the airport.

#### SATURDAY: QUITO

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast provided by the hotel in their lovely café and courtyard. This morning your guide will meet you at your hotel for a private guided walking tour of the historical center of Quito, starting with a visit to El Panecillo, the landmark hill rising at the southern edge of the historic center. Quito's Winged Virgin statue is visible from almost anywhere in the city. Explore Colonial Quito on foot; San Francisco church and museum of religious art, La Compañia Cathedral and seven tons of gold gilding, bustling Independence Plaza, flanked by the Presidential Palace and the Cathedral of Quito.

Lunch is at La Gloria restaurant in Ecuador and offers a unique gastronomic experience. After lunch, you can choose from three activities:

In the afternoon, choose from one of the three unique experiences:

1. A visit to Capilla del Hombre (Chapel of Man), the former home and intimate chambers of the famous painter Oswaldo Guayasamin, guided by an art specialist from the museum.
2. Drive north to Mitad del Mundo (Middle of the World) to straddle both hemispheres at the same time. Latitude zero marks the spot where a geographic expedition located the exact position of the equator. Visit the Equatorial monument and Inti Nan Museum, which displays examples of pre-Columbian life in Ecuador and has demonstrations on the unique geography, astrology, and natural sciences.
3. Ride the Teleférico (cable car) offering spectacular view of the city. Soar up to the slopes of Pichincha Volcano in a gondola on a ten-minute ride to an altitude of 4050 meters. The look out point offers views of surrounding valleys and snow-covered volcanoes.

**Optional (not included):** A fine dining experience awaits you at The Restaurant located in the hotel, featuring delightful original creations using locally sourced ingredients (not included).

#### SUNDAY: QUITO - GALAPAGOS

Enjoy breakfast provided by the hotel in their lovely courtyard. Your guide will meet you in the hotel lobby and transfer you by private vehicle to the airport. After a personalized check-in for Avianca flight 1636, you will depart Quito early Sunday morning. There is a 30-minute stop in Guayaquil and you remain seated before flying to the Galapagos on a one hour and 30-minute flight. Arrive to the Galapagos before noontime (flight times are subject to change).

#### 2023 RATES (per person double occupancy based on 2 guests):

There are 31 comfortable rooms; 12 luxury rooms, 8 plaza view rooms, 1 Jr Suite and 1 Balcony Jr Suite, with both double and King size beds offering elegant yet contemporary design, adorned with fine antiques and quintessential comfort.

- \$1100.00 Luxury Room
- \$1200.00 Luxury Plus Room
- \$1250.00 Plaza View or Junior Suite

If Casa Gangotena is not available, we will substitute with the Illa Experience Hotel.

#### Rate includes:

Hotel accommodations for two nights at Casa Gangotena including taxes, breakfast and welcome beverage, free wireless internet. Private transfers from the airport to the hotel and vice versa including baggage handling. Fully guided tour in Quito with private transportation and lunch included.

#### Not included:

Lunch and Dinner in Quito on Saturday. Gratuities to porters, drivers and guides.

Additional night in Quito after the cruise - we recommend the Wyndham Gran Condor located at the airport, add \$160 Club Level or \$135 Deluxe double including taxes, breakfast, and shuttle transfer.