



## GALAPAGOS FAMILY EXPLORATION

**DAY 1**

**ARRIVAL QUITO**

**MONDAY**

Upon arrival in Quito you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Rich in history, Quito is the second highest capital city in the world, founded in 1534 by Spanish Conquistador Sebastian de Benalcazar. For nearly three centuries, the arts and intellectual societies flourished under Spanish colonial rule until 1809, when Quito established the first self-governing junta (assembly) in the colonies. Liberator Simon Bolivar led the country as part of the Republic of Greater Colombia until 1830, when the Republic of Ecuador announced its independence with the adoption of the Constitution signed in Riobamba. Due to the city's preservation of its past, **UNESCO declared Quito as the very first "Cultural World Heritage Site"** in 1978.

Accommodation is at the Swissotel, where you will stay at the FAMILY FRIENDLY KIDS ROOMS, specially decorated and set-up to make your children feel at home with special bed covers, teddy bears, sweets and chocolate-covered fruits, crayons, balloons, and more...

**SWISSOTEL - EXECUTIVE ROOM**

**NO MEALS**

**DAY 2**

**QUITO**

**TUESDAY**

After breakfast you will **enjoy a tour at the city's colonial downtown**. This sightseeing demonstrates some of the reasons why Ecuador's capital has earned its honour as a world cultural site. Marvel at the city's ornate churches such as the Cathedral or La Compañía de Jesus and San Francisco, before experiencing the long history of local culture in Quito's "Old Town".

During your city tour **Mr. Jorge Rivadeneira, a local celebrity, will meet you for a very special demonstration of his spectacular skills with his spinning tops**. Mr. Rivadeneira spent his childhood at his father's workshop. He learned to play with these toys at a very young age and has since then become an expert. He is now able to perform more than 100 tricks with tops of different sizes, which he still makes himself at his own workshop. **Children are very welcome to try spinning the tops too!**

Afternoon at leisure.

**SWISSOTEL - EXECUTIVE ROOM**

**B**

**DAY 3**

**QUITO / OTAVALO / QUITO**

**WEDNESDAY**

Today you will explore the **Otavallo area**. Drive along the Panamericana road for your first stop at the Quitsato Sundial, located 70 kilometres from Quito. This monument to the "middle of the world" is located right on the Equator. A short visit



will provide you with insight into the **magnificent astronomic knowledge** that was part of the pre-Hispanic population of the Andes.

Continue to the Otavalo area for your next stop at the Otavalo market. Besides the textile market, you can visit the produce market which is very colourful and will give you the opportunity to get to know many of the delicious and exotic fruits you will taste during your stay in Ecuador.



After lunch at a local hacienda, you will make a stop at the village of Peguche, where you will spend some time with a **local family, the Pichambas. They will share their age-old knowledge of the creation of pan flutes. You will actually have the option to participate and maybe even learn to play some notes on a traditional Andean "rondador".**

Return to Quito.

**Should you wish to enjoy a breathtaking view of the Northern Andes from above, please ask about a helicopter ride.**

SWISSOTEL – EXECUTIVE FLOOR ROOM

B, L

#### DAY 4

QUITO / COTOPAXI/ QUITO

#### **Thursday**

Ecuador's central highlands consist of a valley flanked by two parallel ranges of the Andes. Massive yet exquisite, the volcanoes provide brooding, snow-covered contrast to the green equatorial lushness. Here you can see eleven major peaks; many of these are still active volcanoes of which Cotopaxi is the most famous. At 19,700 feet is it considered one of the highest active volcanoes in the world and is part of the chain along the Pacific Ring of Fire.



Lunch will be at a cozy hacienda located next to the National Park. Delicious and homemade Ecuadorian cuisine awaits you.

In the afternoon, and before returning to Quito, your family may want to relax after a morning full of excitement. ***Apart from being the most important day-to-day event at the hacienda, cow milking is actually quite a relaxing activity! You can even help to milk the Normand cows or feed their young lively calves.***



***At the Cotopaxi National Park it is possible to take 2-3 hour horse riding tours or you may choose to descend the slopes by mountain bike. Both activities are very safe and lots of fun.***

Return to Quito in the afternoon.

**SWISSOTEL – EXECUTIVE FLOOR ROOM**

**B, L**



**DAY 5**  
**Friday**

**QUITO / MIDDLE OF THE WORLD**

Depart your hotel and drive north to the iconic "middle of the world" monument, where you will be able to straddle both hemispheres at once. Visit the Inti Ñan Museum to see *samples of how life was in pre-Hispanic times. Easy and educational fun experiments will show you how gravity works at the Equator.*

*Before returning to Quito, stop for a demonstration of the preparation of traditional and irresistible Ecuadorian ice cream.*



Afternoon at leisure.

**SWISSOTEL – EXECUTIVE FLOOR ROOM**

**B, L**

**DAY 6**  
**Saturday**

**QUITO / GALAPAGOS**

After breakfast an inspector from the Galapagos National Park will come to the hotel to check all luggage prior to the transfer to the airport. This is a normal procedure that all passengers need to comply with at the airport. However, we will do it exclusively at the hotel which allows us to offer a later transfer to the airport.

The flight from Quito (via Guayaquil) to the Galapagos Islands takes approximately 2.5 hours. Upon arrival at Baltra Airport, you will be met by your guide who will escort you on a short bus ride to the harbour. Motorised dinghies, known locally as "pangas", will transport you to the Eclipse, where the captain and crew will welcome you aboard. After departure there will be a briefing, lunch and a safety drill.





*Saturday Afternoon: Las Bachas Beach – Santa Cruz Island*

Las Bachas Beach is located in the north of Santa Cruz Island. Its soft, white sand is derived from decomposed coral, making it a favorite nesting site for sea turtles. Behind the beach there is a small brackish lagoon, where it is possible to observe flamingos and other coastal birds, such as black-necked stilts and whimbrels.

**M.V. Eclipse**

**B,L,D**

**DAY 7**

**GALAPAGOS**

**SUNDAY**

*Sunday Morning: Santiago Island*

Puerto Egas (James Bay) is located on the northwest side of Santiago Island. The landing is on a black beach with eroded rock formations in the background. The trail crosses the dry interior, where the remains of a salt mining enterprise can still be seen, and then continues along the coast. Tidal pools are home to a variety of invertebrate organisms, including sea urchins, octopus and starfish. The trail leads to the Fur Seals Grottos, one of the only places in the islands where they can be seen. After the walk, you will have time to swim or snorkel off the beach, where you will see sea lions, fish and maybe some turtles and reef sharks.



*Sunday Afternoon: Bartolome Island*



Bartolomé is a small island that has two visitor sites. At the first site, you can snorkel around Pinnacle Rock, where penguins are usually seen. Back on board for a quick change of clothes and then it is a short dinghy ride to a dry landing for a climb to the highest point on the island. On the way up, you will encounter different volcanic formations, including spatter and tuff cones, lava flow and lava tubes. From the summit you will have a wonderful view of Sullivan Bay.

**M.V. Eclipse**

**B,L,D**



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**DAY 8****GALAPAGOS****MONDAY***Monday Morning: Santa Cruz Island*

The name Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill) stems from the fact that it was one of the few sites on Santa Cruz Island where a healthy population of land iguanas were found in 1975. After landing at a pier, a hike takes you to a salt water lagoon behind the beach, frequented by common stilts, pintail ducks and occasionally flamingos. A short walk up the hill leads you to a land iguana nesting site, with breathtaking views of the bay. You will have the chance to go swimming after the walk.

*Monday Afternoon: Rabida Island*

Rabida is a small island with red volcanic rocks surrounding a beautiful red sand beach, where there is a colony of sea lions and a pelican nesting site. The trail leads to a salt water lagoon where shore birds can be seen. Rabida is considered to be one of the best snorkelling sites in the Galapagos Islands and you will also have the opportunity to go kayaking or on a panga ride.

**M.V. Eclipse****B,L,D**

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**DAY 9****GALAPAGOS****TUESDAY***Tuesday Morning: Isabela Island*

Tagus Cove was historically used as an anchoring place for pirates, buccaneers and whalers. Here you will see the names of hundreds of ships painted on the high ridges (a practice now forbidden). Depending on the season, you will go hiking, snorkeling or kayaking. On the hike, the trail goes through an area of vegetation and the volcanic landscape of Darwin Volcano. At the top of the trail, you will enjoy an incredible view of the whole cove and Darwin Lake.



The morning activity is followed by kayaking or a panga ride, where you will have the opportunity to see a large number of blue-footed boobies perched on the ledges of the cliffs, as well as marine iguanas, penguins, brown pelicans, brown noddly terns and swallow-tailed gulls. While exploring the channel between Fernandina and Isabela Islands, we sometimes encounter dolphins and whales.

*Tuesday Afternoon: Elizabeth Bay – Isabela Island*



Elizabeth Bay is one of the furthest points of the Galapagos that we will visit on our cruise. We will enter a sheltered cove – a wonderful mangrove ecosystem that is a refuge for sea turtles and rays.



**M.V. Eclipse**

**B,L,D**

**DAY 10**

**GALAPAGOS**

**WEDNESDAY**

*Wednesday Morning: Fernandina Island*

Fernandina last erupted in 2009. La Cumbre Volcano dominates the landscape, with lava fields stretching towards the ocean from its base. Punta Espinosa is a narrow piece of land where some of the most unique Galapagos species can be seen, including the flightless cormorant, Galapagos snakes, marine iguanas, penguins and the Galapagos hawk.



*Wednesday Afternoon: Punta Vicente Roca – Isabela Island*

Punta Vicente Roca is a wonderful deep-water snorkeling site, where you can usually see turtles as well as all kinds of fish. For those that don't snorkel, you can go on a panga ride, which will give you the opportunity to study some of the Galapagos' spectacular geological rock formations. Nazca boobies, pelicans, swallow-tailed gulls, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants and penguins are often seen in the area

**M.V. Eclipse**

**B,L,D**





**DAY 12**  
**THURSDAY**

**GALAPAGOS / GUAYAQUIL / RETURN HOME**

*Thursday Morning: Santa Cruz Island*



On your visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station you will gain insight into the huge efforts being made by scientists, guides, rangers and park managers to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will see the famous Galapagos tortoises that are the islands' namesake. After the visit you will have some free time to explore the town of Puerto Ayora. Then you will be transferred to Baltra airport to board your return flight to

Guayaquil, where you will be assisted by one of our guides to connect with your onward flight back home.

### 2011 RATES

#### PACKAGE RATES PER ADULT IN DOUBLE CABIN

CRUISE AND LAND SERVICE PACKAGE		Regular Season Rate p/p in US\$
<b>Deluxe Staterooms</b>	Boat Deck, Cabins 17-20 / Queens & Triples	7.655
<b>Superior Staterooms</b>	Boat Deck, Cabins 21-28 / Twins & Doubles	7.285
<b>Staterooms</b>	Main Deck, Cabins 3-15 / Twins & Doubles	6.805
<b>Single Staterooms</b>	Main Deck, Cabins 1-2	7.100

#### PACKAGE RATES PER CHILD UNDER 12 YEARS SHARING WITH ONE ADULT

CRUISE AND LAND SERVICE PACKAGE		Regular Season Rate p/p in US\$
<b>Deluxe Staterooms</b>	Boat Deck, Cabins 17-20 / Queens & Triples	5.730
<b>Superior Staterooms</b>	Boat Deck, Cabins 21-28 / Twins & Doubles	5.455
<b>Staterooms</b>	Main Deck, Cabins 3-15 / Twins & Doubles	5.095

Regular season rates apply for all departures from January 01 to August 27 and our December 17, 24 and 31 sailings.

#### PACKAGE RATES PER ADULT IN DOUBLE CABIN

CRUISE AND LAND SERVICE PACKAGE		Low Season Rate p/p in US\$
<b>Deluxe Staterooms</b>	Boat Deck, Cabins 17-20 / Queens & Triples	7.355
<b>Superior Staterooms</b>	Boat Deck, Cabins 21-28 / Twins & Doubles	7.005
<b>Staterooms</b>	Main Deck, Cabins 3-15 / Twins & Doubles	6.555
<b>Single Staterooms</b>	Main Deck, Cabins 1-2	6.845

#### PACKAGE RATES PER CHILD UNDER 12 YEARS SHARING WITH ONE ADULT

CRUISE AND LAND SERVICE PACKAGE		Low Season Rate p/p in US\$
<b>Deluxe Staterooms</b>	Boat Deck, Cabins 17-20 / Queens & Triples	5.510
<b>Superior Staterooms</b>	Boat Deck, Cabins 21-28 / Twins & Doubles	5.245
<b>Staterooms</b>	Main Deck, Cabins 3-15 / Twins & Doubles	4.910

Low season rates apply for all departures from October 01 to November 26 plus our December 03 and 10 sailings.



## **INCLUSIONS:**

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### **LAND PROGRAM:**

- Round-trip transfers from/to airports by private vehicle
- English speaking guides during the tours
- Accommodations based on double occupancy
- The portage and handling of two pieces of luggage per person
- Meal as indicated in the itinerary: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner
- Sightseeing and entrance fees
- Hotel taxes and service charges on quoted services

### **GALAPAGOS CRUISE:**

- All shore excursions with English speaking guide
- All meals while onboard
- All soft drinks and juices onboard
- VIP lounge at Baltra airport on outbound flight from Galapagos
- Complimentary use of snorkeling equipment
- Complimentary use of wet suits
- Complimentary one-time fully stocked minibar in Deluxe Staterooms
- Sharing transfers between the airport in Baltra and the deck

## **EXCLUSIONS:**

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### **LAND PROGRAM:**

- International flights
- Cost of obtaining a passport or visa
- International airport taxes
- VIP lounge at Quito Airport
- Communications costs, such as phone calls and faxes
- Drinks
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Any items of a personal nature including laundry services
- Any items not included in inclusions

### **GALAPAGOS CRUISE:**

- Air tickets Quito - Galapagos Islands - Guayaquil (starting from US\$350 per adult and US\$185 per child under 12 years old in low season)
- Galapagos National Park Entrance fee US\$100 per adult / US\$50 per child under 12 years
- Tourist transit card TCT at US\$10 per person for adults and children
- Guide and crew gratuities
- Shared transfer from Puerto Ayora to the airport in Baltra: 1 person US\$150, 2-3 persons, US\$75pp, 4-7 persons US\$45pp, 8-14 persons US\$28pp
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal expenses including laundry services



**ADDITIONAL NOTES:**

- Prices are in US Dollars, per person
- Cruise prices, air tickets, National Park entrance fee and TCT are subject to change without prior notice in the event of circumstances beyond our control
- *Our family program only applies for selected departures during main holiday periods – please ask for our Family cruise dates*

**CHILDREN DISCOUNTS:**

- *On Family cruises children are accepted from the age of 5 years old*
- *Only one discount applies in our Deluxe Triple cabins*

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS:**

- Single supplements are assessed as follows: 50% surcharge for Staterooms and 100% for Superior and Deluxe Staterooms

**TRIPLE OCCUPANCY:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> person in Deluxe Stateroom (adult) is assessed at the current twin Stateroom cabin rate
- 3<sup>rd</sup> person in Deluxe Stateroom (child) is assessed at the current twin Stateroom cabin rate less child discount of 25%