



Presents

The Galapagos Islands & Ecuador

Journey to Galapagos Islands, Guayaquil, Quito & Otavalo

January 13-25, 2019

\$6,499 per person from Peoria

For reservations call Chet Tomczyk (309) 657-3227

You don't want to miss this trip of a lifetime!



EXCLUSIVE TOUR FEATURES

- Round trip motor coach transportation from Peoria to O'Hare Airport
- Round trip air transportation from Chicago to Guayaquil and return from Quito, Ecuador via American Airlines regularly scheduled flights
- Round trip domestic flights to Galapagos Islands
- 12 nights of First Class hotel accommodations as per the itinerary
- Full breakfast daily
- Seven included lunches & one box lunch
- Visit Cotopaxi National Park
- Portage of one suitcase per person at all hotels
- Five included dinners.
- Visit Charles Darwin Research Station
- Witness nature's beauty and wonder on several of the Galapagos Islands including Baltra, Santa Cruz, Isabela, and more
- Quito City Tour
- Tour Otavalo famous market
- Visit Laguna Cuicocha
- All airline taxes and current fuel surcharges

Not included: gratuity to guide and driver, beverages with included lunches or dinners

Ecuador - geographically Ecuador is a small country yet is uniquely endowed with a dramatic topography and a variety of climatic zones, vegetation, birds and wildlife. Without ever leaving the country, the traveler can move in a matter of hours from jungle-rainforest to the high slopes of the Andes, and then down to the Pacific coast, while observing a breathtaking panorama of scenery and nature. On route you will be able to follow the courses of rivers broad and narrow; rest along the shores of pristine lakes; explore mysterious caves and marvel at unique plant and animal species that have evolved undisturbed on isolated islands in the Pacific - the Galapagos Islands. From the highlands to sea level, Ecuador's fascinating diversity is echoed by its people whose cultural origins and traditions continue to be formed by their immediate geographical environment.

Day 1 – January 13

Departure from Chicago, arrival in Guayaquil

Depart Chicago on American Airlines to Miami where you connect to Guayaquil, Ecuador. Upon arrival you'll be transferred to your hotel.

Day 2 – January 14

Guayaquil – Galapagos Island

Following transfer from the hotel to the airport, you will fly to Baltra Island. From the airport you take a bus to the Itabaca Canal where you head by ferry for the other side of Santa Cruz Island.

Santa Cruz is the second largest island of the Archipelago. Colonized since the 1920's, Puerto Ayora, the populated part of the island, is the most important harbour of the Archipelago. With altitudes reaching 2835 ft this island comprises all plant zones, ranging from coast to pampas. The headquarters of the Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Station are located in Santa Cruz.

During the transfer right through the highlands of Santa Cruz you can observe the enormous change of vegetation that ranges from dry areas full of cacti to rainforest and fern zones. The green landscape of this area is a welcome contrast to the more arid scenery of the smaller, lower islands. In the afternoon you'll visit the Charles Darwin Research Station where you will see how the conservation of the islands is conducted, and understand the huge efforts that scientists, park rangers and park managers have to make to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site. **(B)**

Day 3 – January 15

Seymour North or South Plazas or Bartholomew Island or Santa Fe Island or Dragon Hill

During a full day boat excursion you'll visit one of the islands: Seymour North, South Plazas, Bartholomew, Santa Fe or the Dragon Hill. Each of the islands has its own significant beauties to offer and regardless which you'll visit, you'll definitely enjoy your stay.

North Seymour is a flat island that was uplifted from the sea by underground seismic activity. It is one of the best places to see Blue Footed Boobies and Magnificent Frigate birds.

OR: South Plazas Island, where a large colony of sea lions lounges daily in the equatorial sun.

OR: Bartholomew, a tiny island of just ¼ of a mile, offers the visitor one of the most spectacular views of the Archipelago. It is famous for its Pinnacle Rock, which is the representative characteristic of Bartholomew.

OR: This island of Santa Fe is one of the oldest islands of the archipelago. On the northern coast, you will visit Bahía Barrington, a small tranquil bay, where you can observe green sea turtles and spotted eagle rays cruise over the sandy

bottom, brown pelicans and blue-footed boobies rest on the rocks. Also, you can see Nazca boobies and magnificent frigate birds. Sea lions are the most obvious sight on Santa Fe Island.

OR: Explore the newer visitor's site on Santa Cruz Island, Dragon Hill (Cerro Dragon). It is located on the north-western side of Santa Cruz Island and got its name through the various colonies of land iguanas which inhabit the island. There is a short walk to the hill, where you are rewarded with a great view of the bay with Rabida Island in the west and Santa Cruz Island in the east. Many of the Iguanas that nest here have been repatriated by the Charles Darwin Research Station. **(B,L)**

Day 4 – January 16

Santa Cruz Island

Today you will visit the highlands of Santa Cruz. During a short stop you have the opportunity to take pictures of the Twin Craters. Located one in front of the other on both sides of the road connecting Puerto Ayora to Baltra, the Twin Craters are a magnificent site. They were formed as a result of the collapse of the crust into the crater. There are many craters of this type in this area, which signals the possibility that these craters are all elements of the same fissure. The vegetation of this area is dominated by Scalesia Trees, which make the site a beautiful green landscape. You will visit a lava tunnel, a fun and geologically informative visit. Taking a short walk you can also observe the famous giant tortoise in its natural environment. The next stop is the Cerro Mesa viewpoint. With a good visibility you have a magnificent view over Santa Cruz and other islands around. Near the viewpoint a short way brings you to an impressive collapsed crater. Then you will go to the beautiful El Garrapatero beach. Here you can enjoy the wonderful landscape. Afterwards return to Puerto Ayora by bus. **(B&L)**

Day 5 – January 17

Santa Cruz Island – Isabela Island

In the morning you will be transferred on a speed boat to Isabela Island (approx. 2 hours).

Isabela is the biggest island of the archipelago and occupies about 60% of all the land area of Galapagos. It was formed by the volcanoes Cerro Azul, Sierra Negra (Santa Tomás), Alcedo, Ecuador, Darwin and Wolf. Sierra Negra volcano last erupted in October 2005 and with about 6 miles in diameter it is the world's second largest volcanic crater. All five volcanoes are still active today. The highest one is the volcano Wolf, which is 5,577 ft. high. The equatorial line runs straight through its massive crater.

In the afternoon you will visit the Humedales, a complex with various trails where you can find the four species of mangroves existing in Galapagos. This area is characterized by solitary beaches, lava tunnels, natural pools and estuaries where you can see flamingos and other birds. You will also visit the Turtle breeding center where the National park is breeding turtles in danger of extinction. Some of these giant turtles have been released by the park and can be found on the trails. **(B, L, D)**

Day 6 – January 18

Isabela Island

A 30 to 40 minute ride on a small fast boat will take you to a unique place where lava flow has been impacted for many years by the oceans waves. This has formed the unique tubes and bridges of Los Tuneles. This visiting site is a marine paradise for white tipped reef sharks, Galápagos green sea turtle, the Galápagos sea lions, manta rays, parrot fish, yellowtail surgeon fish among many others. Definitely one of the best places to snorkel in Isabela and the Galapagos, the water is very calm, clear and shallow. Besides being a marine sanctuary it is characterized by its unique geologic formations, a series of lava flows have produced many 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. Many birds, such as boobies can also be found.

In the afternoon you have free time to enjoy the magical beach of Puerto Villamil or enjoy one of the following activities for extra cost: biking, surfing or kayaking. **(B,L,D)**

Day 7 – January 19

Isabela Island

Today you will visit some of Isabela's best attractions, the Sierra Negra and Chico Volcano.

Volcano Chico is an active volcano; sulfur vents can be seen in this area. This is an approximately 6 hour's walk tour to appreciate all the splendor of the volcanoes. In the afternoon you will visit Sucre's Cave, located 9 miles from Villamil Port, placed in the agricultural area of the island. Enjoy a short walk to appreciate the typical vegetation. Continue to Mango Gazebo from where you have panoramic views of southern Isabela & the agricultural areas. This is also a place for finch birds' observation. **(B,L,D)**

Day 8 – January 20**Isabela Island - Quito**

In the morning, you take the speedboat to Santa Cruz Island, where you will be transferred to the airport of Baltra and catch your flight to Quito. Upon arrival, you'll be welcomed at the airport and taken to your hotel. Dinner is included.

Quito is set in a hollow at the foot of the Pichincha volcano surrounded by hills and several snow-capped mountains. It is known for its Colonial churches, monasteries, paintings, sculptures and carvings and the magnificent blend of Spanish, Flemish and Moorish architecture. In 1978, it was declared "Patrimony of Mankind" by UNESCO. Altogether the city has 86 16th and 17th century churches and monasteries. Quito is located only 13.7 mi away from the "Middle of the World", the Equatorial Line. (B&D)

Day 9 – January 21**Quito**

Enjoy a 3h 30min sightseeing tour of the city of Quito (9,350 ft altitude) to give you a first impression of the variety there is regarding religious and cultural sites. During your visit of the old part of the city, you can still breathe in the colonial history of Ecuador. Your guide will walk you through the culturally diverse history of Quito. Have a closer look at the heart of the city of Quito: the Independence Square with the Government and the Bishops Palace, as well as the Cathedral. On the way to San Francisco Square, you will visit the church of La Compañía, which has the city's most ornate and richly sculptured façade and interior.

The tour goes on to the Equatorial Line Monument called "Middle of the World". Here you get a truly special experience to stand in both, the Northern and Southern Hemispheres simultaneously. The Equatorial Monument marks the spot where an 18th century French scientific expedition led by Charles Marie de la Condamine established the exact position of the Equator. (B&L)

Day 10 – January 22**Quito - Otavalo**

Today you will go on an approximately 2 hour bus ride to Otavalo, The road descends into the spectacular at the same-time arid and fertile Guayllabamba gorge and village. With a bit of luck, you can enjoy the opportunity to see the snow capped Cayambe. The Equator Line goes directly through the glacier of this immense volcano, which is the highest point on the Equator worldwide. On the way through this wonderful landscape you can see the Lago San Pablo with its great background – the rock massive Taita Imbabura – a great photo op.

Then you will arrive at Otavalo, the world renowned Indian handicrafts market. The indigenous residents of the area have achieved economic prosperity as a result of their skills in weaving a tremendous variety of designs in belts, tapestries, ponchos and other clothing items. Enriched by souvenirs, you will continue on to Peguche where you can observe weavers at work. (B&D)

Day 11 – January 23**Otavalo - Quito**

Today you will visit Laguna Cuicocha, which is a crater lake at an altitude of 10,000 ft above sea-level and with a diameter of about 2 miles. Two islands emerge from the center, both of volcanic origin, covered with vegetation and rimmed with totora, a type of reed. The small town Cotacachi is Ecuador's center of leatherworks. Here you can stroll along the small streets choosing one of the various shops as your favorite. Afterwards enjoy lunch at a traditional hacienda. (B,L)

Day 12 – January 24**Quito**

You will visit the National Park Cotopaxi. The highland zone protected since 1975, with its 80 acres is one of the most attractive ecological reserves of the country. On a walk near the shallow lake "Laguna de Limpiopungo" on an altitude of almost 13,123 ft., you will have the chance to learn about the typical vegetation of the so-called "Páramo" and will gaze in wonder at the beautiful view of Cotopaxi (19,347 ft) in the background. (B&L)

Day 13 – January 25**Quito – Miami - Chicago**

Transfer to the airport to catch your flight home. Motor coach return to Peoria. Enjoy brilliant memories of your magical adventures in the Galapagos and Ecuador.

TOUR CONDITIONS

TOUR DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT: Deposits are accepted by checks only.

ARRANGEMENTS: The tour price is based on the current rate of exchange, tariff rates and air fares in effect 5/1/2018. In the event of a marked increase in foreign currency in air tariff, in hotel, or transportation rates, notification will be mailed to tour members in writing with their final invoices.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: You have the opportunity to purchase an insurance policy to cover you, should you have to cancel for a medical reason. In the event you elect not to purchase the trip cancellation insurance, penalties will be implemented according to the terms below. The insurance information will be mailed to you with your final invoice.

CANCELLATION: \$100.00 per person penalty if written notification is received 120 days or more prior to departure. Final payment will be due 120 days before departure. If cancellation is received 119 days or less prior to departure 100% penalty will apply.

INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE TRAVEL: One piece of checked luggage is allowed on the tour. Its combined total measurement (length+width+height) cannot exceed 62 inches and 50 lbs. You are also allowed one carry-on per person which must be able to fit under the seat in front of you with a measurement of 45 inches. This tour is based on specially negotiated airfare and may not qualify for frequent flyer miles.

RESPONSIBILITY: Eskin Tours of 425 Huehl Rd., #16A, Northbrook, IL 60062, WTVP, and or any travel agency and/or suppliers of services pursuant to or in connection with this itinerary shall not be responsible or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation; nor for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond the control of any agency or supplier, or occurring without the fault or negligence of such agency or supplier. The right is reserved to substitute the airline; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the land or air portion of this itinerary. The right is also reserved to substitute hotels for other hotels in similar category. Further, the right is reserved to decline, to accept, or to retain, at any time, any person as a participant on any tour. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from a portion of the tour, unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance. The passage contract in use by a carrier concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of this tour. By utilizing the travel services of the suppliers, you agree that neither Eskin Tours nor any representative of Eskin Tours shall be liable, or that you will look to such suppliers, for any accident, injury, property damage, or personal loss to you or to those traveling with you in connection with any accommodations, transportation, or other travel services, or resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrences or conditions beyond Eskin Tours control, including, but not limited to, acts of terrorism, political unrest, war, defects in vehicles, breakdown of equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation of or changes in itineraries or schedules, or a disease outbreak.

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RESERVATION FORM

Enclosed is \$600.00 deposit per person for _____ persons.

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

As it appears on your passport

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

Address: _____ City _____ State & Zip _____

Home Tel: _____ Cell Tel: _____ email: _____

I will share a room with _____

Make checks payable to: **WTVP**

Mail to: **WTVP 47, 101 STATE ST., PEORIA, IL 61654-1347**

Signature and acceptance of the tour conditions

Date _____