

# 5 Days Quito & Galapagos

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## Day 1: QUITO

Arrival at Mariscal Sucre International Airport.

Your driver will take you from the airport to the hotel, allowing you to get a first impression of this bustling capital tucked between the Andes mountains and radiating Inca history (1 hour).

## Day 2: City Tour - "MITAD DEL MUNDO" (Equator Line)

Have breakfast at your hotel before setting out on a panoramic city tour of Quito. The capital of Ecuador has many hidden depths and a wealth of colonial and pre-Columbian architecture to be explored. Beautiful vistas, colonial churches with ornate roofs are all in plentiful supply as you make your way through this mountaineous metropolis. The city was founded in the 16th Century on the ruins of an Inca city 9,350ft above sea level, making it the second highest capital city in the world. It also has one of the best-preserved historic centers in the world, and walking among the colonial architecture gives you the feeling that you have entered a moment frozen in time and transports you back to the time of the Spanish invasion when the first European settlers set foot on the land. It is no wonder that Quito was the first city to be named as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After the city tour (4 hours) you will visit the Ciudad Mitad del Mundo (The City of the Equator) and the Intiñan Museum

### "Ciudad Mitad del Mundo"

The Ciudad Mitad del Mundo is a park that contains the historic monument marking the line of the Equator. It is impossible not to feel the energy of the Earth humming deep below the ground in this special place, surrounded by dramatic vistas on all sides. This truly is ground zero – 0 degrees latitude, 0 minutes, 0 seconds.

### Intiñan Museum

Inaugurated in 1960, the Intiñan Museum offers a fascinating insight into the lives of the ancient indigenous tribes that previously inhabited Ecuador, such as the Shuar and the Woranis. It also explains in incredible detail the intricate methods used by the Incas to determine the center of the earth, and includes an installation detailing the death ceremonies carried out by different tribes.

At the end of the day, return to the hotel.

## Day 3: QUITO – GALAPAGOS

After breakfast at your hotel, you will be driven to the airport to catch a flight to the Galapagos Islands. This incredibly fertile land is home to thousands of different species including many that are indigenous to the islands, not to mention some of the most dramatic and jaw-droppingly spectacular landscape on the planet. Once landed in Baltra, a guide will take you to Santa Cruz Island. Once there, you will see the world-famous giant tortoises in their natural habitat, the incredible Galapagos. Many other species such as finches, bird wizards and vegetation such as the esclacias forests and matazamos can also be seen. Later on, you will have time to explore Puerto Ayora, which contains several interesting shops.

#### **Day 4: GALAPAGOS**

Visits to the islands are confirmed one week before arrival. Visits could be to the following islands (one island per day):

##### **North Seymour Island**

North Seymour Island is a small island near to Baltra Island. It was cast from the molten fires of an underwater lava formation, and is covered with vegetation. It is home to the striking blue-footed boobies, as well as the spectacular magnificent frigate birds, with their crimson chests setting them apart from the surrounding wildlife. Many species of birds flourish here thanks to favourable conditions, and one must keep a keen eye out for the diverse and numerous mating rituals that take place as birds offer gifts, dance, sing and perform all manner of acts to win the affections of their other half. The sheer volume of life on display is astonishing and seems like worlds away from the busy streets of Quito.

##### **Plazas Island**

South Plaza is a small island off the east coast of Santa Cruz in the Galapagos. It is characterized by the colourful Sesuvium vegetation, which transforms from an emerald green colour in the rainy months to a bright orange and purple during the dry season. The island is bursting with life on all sides, with a particular highlight being the playful sealion colonies who gather on the shore and hunt for their supper. The abundance of Cactus Opuntia is home to a large land iguana population. The rocky terrain gives one the sensation of being far away from home on some enchanting and mysterious planet.

#### **Day 5: GALAPAGOS OUT**

Breakfast: at the hotel.

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito or Guayaquil

**The price of the program for 1 pax:**

	SGL*	DBL	TPL
Mainland Ecuador and Galapagos Services	\$2640	\$1657	\$1485

**\*SGL price – for solo traveler**

**Single supplement from 2 passengers: USD 350**

**The price of the program includes:**

- Private transportation and tour with English speaking guide orin Mainland Ecuador as described on the itinerary;
- Shared transportation and tours with English speaking guide at the Galapagos Islands as described on the itinerary;
- Accommodation as listed on the itinerary;
- Meals as listed on the itinerary;
- Entrance fees as listed on the itinerary.

**The price of the program does not include:**

- Flight to/from Galapagos Islands, USD 550 per person.
- Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee / USD 100 pp (subject to change);
- Ingala Transit Control Card / USD 20 pp (subject to change);
- International flights;
- Travel and health insurance;
- Tips;
- Personal expenses;
- Items not specified.

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(ADA-25/07/2019)