

8 Days Ecuador and Galapagos

QUITO- PAPALLACTA – TENA- COTOCOCHA – QUITO- QUILOTOA-GALAPAGOS

Valid Till : Dec 2019

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).

Accommodation: Rio Amazonas Hotel 3+*

www.hotelrioamazonas.com

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

1. "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.

2. 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.

Accommodation: **Rio Amazonas Hotel 3+***

www.hotelrioamazonas.com

Meal: Breakfast

Day 3: QUITO – PAPALLACTA – TENA

After a delicious breakfast at your hotel, you will have on a tour of the area surrounding Quito. First stop is Papallacta, a beautiful and quaint village nestled between the Andes. Further up the road is the wilderness of the Ecuadorian Amazon. All around, at 3,300m altitude, is the grandeur and might of the Andes Mountains. Papallacta sits on the border of these two terrains, serving as an enchanting link between mountain and rainforest. The village is known for its world-renowned thermal springs, which offer the perfect opportunity to relax and recharge your batteries. Located on the banks of the Papallacta River, there are nine thermal pools and three cold water pools containing a number of minerals where the magical water of the Andes will cleanse your spirit and heal your body.

After experiencing the power of the thermal baths, you will continue on to Tena and to the Cotacocha Lodge, where you can relax in the beautiful verdant surroundings and take a dip in the pool to the sounds of birdsong and monkey calls. The beautiful jungle lodge blends into the tropical environment and gives you a truly unique opportunity to live side by side with a plethora of exotic wildlife. A sumptuous candlelit dinner is served in the picturesque restaurant. By night, sit by the majestic fireplace, surrounded by the pitch black of the Amazon after dark, as your guides explain the next day's activities.

Accommodation: **Cotacocha Lodge 4***

www.cotacocha.com



