



FIXED DEPARTURE

ECUADOR MAINLAND

QUITO | OTAVALO | COTOPAXI

RIOBAMBA | CUENCA | GUAYAQUIL

Optional Extension → Galapagos Island Hopping / Jungle / Puerto Lopez

JANUARY – NOVEMBER 2023



ITINERARY

- Day 1:** **QUITO:** Arrival in Quito (Optional ECI)
Briefing with your guide
- Day 2:** **QUITO:** City tour and Middle of the World / **OTAVALO**
- Day 3:** **OTAVALO:** Artisanal local market and Cuicocha Lake
- Day 4:** **OTAVALO:** Cotopaxi National Park excursion
LASSO
- Day 5:** **LASSO:** Travel to **RIOBAMBA**
- Day 6:** **RIOBAMBA:** La Balbanera church– Ingapirca Ruins/ **CUENCA**
- Day 7:** **CUENCA:** Half-day city tour and afternoon at leisure
- Day 8:** **CUENCA:** El Cajas National Park visit / **GUAYAQUIL**
- Day 9:** **GUAYAQUIL:** Transfer out

PRE - EXTENSION GALAPAGOS

- Day 1:** **QUITO:** Arrival and transfer to hotel
- Day 2:** **QUITO (→) BALTRA - GALAPAGOS** -Highlands of Santa Cruz / **PUERTO AYORA**
- Day 3:** **PUERTO AYORA:** Full day navigation to one of: Bartolome, North Seymour, Santa Fe, South Plaza
- Day 4:** **PUERTO AYORA:** Speed boat to Isabela (shared boat) - Wetlands visit / **ISABELA**
- Day 5:** **ISABELA:** Half day tour to Tintorerías and Concha Perla snorkel
- Day 6:** **ISABELA:** Speed boat to Puerto Ayora (shared boat) - Charles Darwin Station visit / **PUERTO AYORA**
- Day 7:** **PUERTO AYORA:** Transfer to Baltra Airport - (→) **QUITO** Arrival and transfer to hotel for program start

PRE – EXTENSION JUNGLE

- Day 1:** **QUITO:** Arrival day and transfer to hotel
- Day 2:** **QUITO (→) LAGO AGRIO** -Arrival and transfer to the Lodge / **CUYABENO NATURAL RESERVE**
- Day 3:** **CUYABENO NATURAL RESERVE:** Jungle daily activities
- Day 4:** **CUYABENO NATURAL RESERVE:** Jungle daily activities
- Day 5:** **CUYABENO NATURAL RESERVE:** Transfer to Lago Agrio Airport - (→) **QUITO** Arrival and transfer to hotel for program start

POST– EXTENSION THE COAST OF PUERTO LOPEZ

- Day 1:** **GUAYAQUIL:** Transfer to Puerto Lopez
- Day 2:** **PUERTO LOPEZ:** Isla de la Plata excursion
- Day 3:** **PUERTO LOPEZ:** Day at leisure
- Day 4:** **PUERTO LOPEZ:** Free morning and afternoon transfer to Guayaquil

RATES

PRICES In US dollars **per person**

Valid until November 2023 (except holidays, festivals, end of the year and congresses. Contact us).

PROGRAM	PRICE PER PERSON
ECUADOR MAINLAND	US\$ 1250 /Pers.
SGL Supplement	US\$ 255 / Pers.
Half board Supplement	US\$ 125 / Pers.

PRE - EXTENSION	PRICE PER PERSON
Galapagos Island Hopping Pre-Extension	US\$ 1275 / Pers.
SGL Supplement	US\$ 280 / Pers.
Half board Supplement	US\$ 125 / Pers.

PRE - EXTENSION	PRICE PER PERSON
Jungle Pre-Extension (full board)	US\$ 1.050 / Pers.
SGL Supplement	US\$ 265 / Pers.

POST- EXTENSION	PRICE PER PERSON
The Coast of Puerto Lopez Post-Extension	US\$ 420 / Pers.
SGL Supplement	US\$ 50 / Pers.
Half board Supplement	US\$ 70 / Pers.

ACCOMODATION EXTENSIONS	PRICE (Double room)	PRICE (Single room)
Quito: Hotel Ibis (or similar) extra night	US\$ 85 / Pers.	US\$ 110 / Pers.
Guayaquil: Hotel Unipark (or similar) extra night	US\$ 100 / Pers.	US\$ 100 / Pers.

TRANSFER OPTIONS		Quito	Guayaquil
Private Transfer from airport to Hotel without guide	01 Pax	US\$ 65/ Pers.	US\$ 40/ Pers.
	02 Pax	US\$ 35/ Pers.	US\$ 25 / Pers.
	03 Pax	US\$ 30/ Pers.	US\$ 20 / Pers.
	04 Pax	US\$ 25/ Pers.	US\$ 20 / Pers.
Private Transfer from airport to Hotel with guide	01 Pax	US\$ 110/ Pers.	US\$ 75 / Pers.
	02 Pax	US\$ 60 / Pers.	US\$ 40 / Pers.
	03 Pax	US\$ 55/ Pers.	US\$ 30 / Pers.
	04 Pax	US\$ 35/ Pers.	US\$ 30 / Pers.

FLIGHTS

REFERENTIAL DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

Availability and schedule are subject to change on the part of the airline.

ROUTE	FLIGHT	IMPORTANT: The final schedule will be communicated to customers before each departure in accordance with the flight schedules confirmed by the airlines and the operation of the services. PASSENGERS CONFIRMATION DEADLINE: 30 days before the day of arrival
Quito/ Baltra	AV 1632 UIO 06:25 – GPS 09:08	
Baltra / Quito	AV 1689 GPS 11:19 – UIO 14:24	

21 STARTING DATES BETWEEN JANUARY & NOVEMBER 2023 – ECUADOR MAIN TRIP

2023 (IN on Friday)	JANUARY	05/01, 12/01	2023 (IN on Friday)	APRIL	20/04
	FEBRUARY	02/02, 23/02		MAY	04/05, 18/05
	MARCH	16/03		JUNE	15/06, 22/06
2023 (IN on Friday)	JULY	06/07	2023 (IN on Friday)	OCTOBER	05/10, 19/10, 26/10
	AUGUST	10/08, 17/08, 24/08		NOVEMBER	02/11, 09/11
	SEPTEMBER	14/09, 28/09			

HOTELS

The category of hotels is based on national standards, and the below are listed for reference purposes only. Availability will be confirmed at the time of booking, and in case of no availability, they will be replaced by hotels of equivalent standard.

Category 3* / 4* (Standard / Superior):

CITY	HOTEL	WEBSITE
Quito	Ibis 3* – Dbl Standard	https://all.accor.com/hotel
Otavaló	Indio Inn 3* - Dbl Standard	https://www.hotelesindioinn.com/
Lasso	Cuello de Luna 3* - Dbl Standard	https://www.cuellodeluna.com/
Riobamba	Casa Real 3* - Dbl Standard	https://hotelspacasareal.com/
Cuenca	Carvallo 3*PLUS - Dbl Standard	www.hotelcarvallo.com.ec
Guayaquil	Unipark 4* - Dbl Standard	www.uniparkhotel.com
Pre Extension Galapagos Islands		
Puerto Ayora	Déjà vu 3* - Dbl Standard	http://hoteldejavu.com-galapagos.com/es/

Isabela	Iguana 3* - Dbl Standard	
Pre Extension Jungle		
Cuaybeno	Jamu Lodge – Dbl Standard	https://jamulodge.com/
Post Extension The Coast of Puerto Lopez		
Puerto Lopez	Hotel Nantu	http://www.hosterianantu.com/

SERVICES

IN ECUADOR

INCLUDED:

- 08 hotel nights (breakfast included) in the aforementioned or equivalent establishments (double room basis)
- All ground transfers mentioned in first category tourist vehicles with driver (private services with guide - see details according to description)
- All visits mentioned with private service (see details according to program)
- All entrance fees to national parks, museums and tourist sites listed in the program above (optional activities are extra)
- Reconfirmation of domestic and international air tickets
- Ongoing assistance from our Gaston-Sacaze office in Quito

NOT INCLUDED:

- Food and drinks during the program
- Tips for guides, and porters at the airport, hotels, and restaurants
- Domestic and international airline tickets
- Personal expenses incurred by the passenger
- All elements that are not mentioned as included in the description

Pre-Extension GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

INCLUDED:

- 06 hotel nights (breakfast included) in the aforementioned or equivalent establishments (double room basis)
- All ground transfers mentioned in 1st category tourist vehicles with driver (private or regular services / with guide - see details according to description)
- All visits mentioned with regular or private service (see details according to program)
- Reconfirmation of domestic and international air tickets
- Ongoing assistance from our local suppliers and our Gaston-Sacaze Office in La Paz
- Snorkel equipment: mask, tube

- Food and drinks during the program.
- Tips for guides, and porters at the airport, hotels, and restaurants.
- Galapagos Entrance fee US\$ 100 per person.
- Galapagos Transit card US\$ 20 per person.
- Entrance fee to Isabela Islands: US\$ 10 per person
- Personal expenses incurred by the passenger.
- All elements that are not mentioned as included in the description.
- Domestic flights to Galapagos (round trip)

NOT INCLUDED:

Pre-Extension JUNGLE LODGE

INCLUDED:

- 04 hotel/lodge nights (breakfast included) in the aforementioned or equivalent establishments (double room basis).

- All ground transfers mentioned in 1st category tourist vehicles with driver (regular services / with guide - see details according to description).
- All visits mentioned with regular service (see details according to program).
- Reconfirmation of domestic and international air tickets.
- Ongoing assistance from our local suppliers and our Gaston-Sacaze Office in Quito.
- Domestic flights to Lago Agrio (round trip).
- Meals in the lodge: 1st day from lunch to breakfast the last day.
- Drinks during the program.
- Tips for guides, and porters at the airport, hotels, and restaurants.
- Local community entrance fee US\$ 10 per person.
- Personal expenses incurred by the passenger.
- All elements that are not mentioned as included in the description.

NOT INCLUDED:

Post-Extension THE COAST OF PUERTO LOPEZ

INCLUDED:

- 03 hotel nights (breakfast included) in the aforementioned or equivalent establishments (double room basis).
- All ground transfers mentioned in 1st category tourist vehicles with driver (private or regular services see details according to description).
- All the visits mentioned in regular (see details according to program).
- The reconfirmation of international air tickets.
- Permanent assistance from our local suppliers and our Gaston-Sacaze Office in Quito.
- Isla de la Plata excursión in regular services

NOT INCLUDED:

- Food and drinks during the program
- The tips of porters at the airport, hotels, restaurants and guides.
- Guide.

TOUR DESCRIPTION

Day 1: Quito: Arrival & Briefing with Your Guide

Land at Quito International Airport. Transfer to your hotel on your own (see "Transfer Options").
Afternoon at leisure. Briefing with your guide at the hotel.

Meals not included. Overnight at your hotel in **Quito**.

Day 2: QUITO: City Tour & Middle of the World / OTAVALO

Breakfast at the hotel. **City tour.**

Start at the historical center of the city and visit UNESCO World Heritage designated churches and monasteries. See Independence Square, the Presidential Palace, the Cathedral, the Archbishop's Palace and City Hall. Stroll past El Sagrario Church and marvel at the exquisite stone façades and interiors of La Compañía.

Visit Church of San Francisco and ride to the top of Panecillo Hill to see a breathtaking view over Quito.

Then journey towards the Equator Line, designated by a monument and an ethnographic museum 22 kms from Quito.

Transport to the North of Ecuador – Otavalo.

Meals not included. Overnight at your hotel in **Otavalo**.

Day 3: OTAVALO: Artisanal Local Market and Cuicocha Lake

Breakfast at the hotel.

Shop for goods at the colorful market of Otavalo, where you'll find woven rugs, alpaca sweaters, and even agricultural goods. Many of the native merchants still wear their traditional clothes.

Then head to the mysterious Cuicocha Lake, located in the heart of the caldera of an ancient volcano which collapsed over millions of years ago.

On the way back, stop at Cotacachi, a town dedicated to crafting fine leather products like belts, purses, and jackets.

Meals not included. Overnight at your hotel in **Otavalo**.

Day 4: OTAVALO: Cotopaxi National Park Excursion LASSO

Breakfast at the hotel.

At 5890 meters above sea level, this is the second highest active volcano in the world.

We'll reach a maximum altitude of 4600 meters, and you'll have the option to go on a short but intense walk up to the refuge at 4800 meters high.

*Walk around the magical Limpiopungo Lagoon. **Meals not included.** Overnight at your hotel in **Lasso**.*

Day 5: LASSO: Travel to RIOBAMBA

Breakfast at the hotel.

Journey along Volcanoes Avenue today.

Meals not included. Overnight at your hotel in **Riobamba**

Day 6: RIOBAMBA: Visit La Balbanera Church – Ingapirca Ruins/ CUENCA

Breakfast at the hotel.

In the morning, we left for the south of the country, to visit the Balbanera church, the oldest church in Ecuador,

*See the **Temple of the Sun** and admire its soaring stone walls. Though built late in the 15th century, it's difficult to tell what the purpose of the complex was to this day.*

Meals not included. Overnight at your hotel in **Cuenca**.

Day 7: CUENCA: Half-Day City Tour & Afternoon at leisure

Breakfast at the hotel. City tour.

See Barrio of San Sebastián, Calderón Park, the Flower Plaza, Sagrario Cathedral, and the Immaculate Conception Cathedral.

Then visit a famous Panama hat factory where you can see how they're made.

Finally, arrive at Turi Lookout, where you'll see a valley filled with red tiled roofs and blue domes, bordered by soaring mountains. Along the way, visit the Home-Ceramics Workshop of Eduardo Vega, a famous Cuenca ceramics maker.

Afternoon at leisure.

Meals not included. Overnight at your hotel in **Cuenca**.

Day 8: CUENCA: El Cajas National Park visit / GUAYAQUIL

Breakfast at the hotel.

Visit El Cajas National Park and La Toreadora Lake (4000 meters above sea level). Take a short hike to admire the beautiful landscapes.

Meals not included. Overnight at your hotel in **Guayaquil**.

Day 9: GUAYAQUIL: Morning at leisure (→) Flight home or continue to Peru

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to Guayaquil International Airport. Flight home or continue to Peru.

Meals not included.



END OF OUR SERVICES

PRE – EXTENSION Galapagos Island

Day 1: Quito: Arrival & Briefing with Your Guide

Land at Quito International Airport. Transfer to your hotel on your own (see "Transfer Options").
Afternoon at leisure. Briefing with your guide at the hotel.

Meals not included. Overnight at your hotel in **Quito**.

Day 2: QUITO (→) BALTRA –GALAPAGOS: Highlands of Santa Cruz / PUERTO AYORA

Breakfast at the hotel.

Arrive on the Galapagos by plane and transfer to the airport on Baltra Island. Cross the Itabaca Channel, and on the other side, a bus will take you to the highlands of Santa Cruz to visit the Giant Tortoises Reserve.

Transfer to Puerto Ayora and check in at the hotel. **Meals not included.** Overnight at your hotel in **Puerto Ayora**.

Day 3: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: Full Day Navigation to One of: Bartolome, North Seymour, South Plaza, Santa Fe

Breakfast at the hotel.

According to the boat's availability, we'll sail to one of these islands:

North Seymour was elevated from the seabed by volcanic activity, which gives it a flat and low profile. The elevations are a few meters above the coast, where the swallow-tailed gulls perch on the cliff. A small endemic Palo Santo forest rises near the landing site.

Bartolome Island is famous for Pinnacle Rock, a triangular rock that rises from the shores of the sea and is the best-known symbol of the islands. The Galapagos penguins walk on rocks and volcanic edges, and sea lions rest on rocky platforms ready to slide into the water to play with those who swim or practice surface diving.

South Plaza is a small island full of fascinating natural life at the edge of the sea and on the cliffs: sea lions, land iguanas, swallow-tailed gulls, and Opuntia cacti.

Santa Fe offers one of the most beautiful and protected bays of the islands. Like North Seymour, this island was elevated from the seabed by a seismic event and you can see the underwater lava formations.

Lunch or bag lunch included. Overnight at your hotel in **Puerto Ayora**.

Day 4: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: Speed Boat to ISABELA: Wetlands Excursion

Breakfast at the hotel.

Early morning departure to Isabela Island via public speedboat (approx. travel time 2 ½ to 3 hrs.)

A guide will greet you in Puerto Villamil and guide you to check in at the hotel.

After a brief rest, take a short walk to visit the Flamingo Lagoon, one of the natural breeding sites of the Galapagos flamingos. We'll also visit the Giant Tortoises Breeding Center.

Meals not included. Overnight at your hotel in **Isabela**.

Day 5: ISABELA ISLAND: Half-Day Tintoreras Tour & Afternoon Snorkel at Concha Perla

Breakfast at the hotel.

Las Tintoreras is an islet located south of Puerto Villamil, and you can spot sea lions, sea turtles, marine iguanas, and rays along its turquoise bay. When the tide is low, you can see reef sharks swim alongside other small fish and sea lions. Las Tintoreras is one of the few places where iguanas breed successfully because of the absence of non-native animals that could otherwise hurt them.

In the afternoon, visit Concha de Perla, a natural pool ideal for swimming and snorkeling in with sea lions, marine iguanas, and a wide range of fish. It's recommended to visit during low tide for better visibility, and is advisable to use fins when entering or exiting the water.

Meals not included. Overnight at your hotel in **Isabela**.

Day 6: ISABELA ISLAND: Speed Boat to SANTA CRUZ: Charles Darwin Station Visit

Breakfast at the hotel.

Early in the morning transfer by speed boat to Santa Cruz Island,
Arrive and check in at your selected hotel.

*In the afternoon, visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and learn about its research and conservation programs. Observe giant tortoises in captivity, as well as land and marine iguanas. **Meals not included.** Overnight at your hotel in **Puerto Ayora.***

Day 7: BALTRA -GALAPAGOS (→) QUITO Arrival in Quito & Transfer to Hotel

Breakfast at the hotel.

You'll be picked up from the hotel according to your flight schedule. You'll then embark on a ferry to cross the Itabaca Channel to Baltra Island, where a public bus will drop you off at the airport.

Arrive in Quito. Transfer to your hotel. **Meals not included.**

**Continue with your Ecuador mainland program.

PRE – EXTENSION Jungle lodge

Day 1: QUITO: Arrival & Briefing with Your Guide

Land at Quito International Airport. Transfer to your hotel on your own (see "Transfer Options").

Afternoon at leisure. Briefing with your guide at the hotel. **Meals not included.** Overnight at your hotel in **Quito.**

Day 2: QUITO (→) LAGO AGRIO: Arrival & Transfer to the Lodge CUYABENO NATURAL RESERVE

Breakfast at the hotel.

*Morning flight to Lago Agrio. By private bus, journey to the entrance of Cuyabeno River (2 hours) and enjoy a box lunch. Join our naturalist guide on a two-hour tour on the Cuyabeno River to reach Jamu Lodge. In the afternoon, go for a swim in the lagoon and watch a beautiful sunset in the middle of the Laguna Grande. Return to the lodge for dinner. Spend the night in bungalows with double beds and mosquito nets. **Dinner included.** Overnight at your lodge in the Cuyabeno area.*

Day 3: CUYABENO NATURAL RESERVE: Jungle Activities

Breakfast at the hotel.

*Join your guide for a 3-to-4-hour jungle trek and learn about the complex tropical ecosystem. Hear about medicinal plants and try to spot exotic birds and monkeys. Return to the lodge for lunch and a siesta. In the afternoon, go for a swim in the lagoon and watch sunset. With a little luck, you can see pink river dolphins or an anaconda sunbathing in a tree. Return to the lodge for dinner and take a nighttime canoe ride to look for caimans. **Meals included.** Overnight at your lodge in the Cuyabeno area.*

Day 4: CUYABENO NATURAL RESERVE: Jungle Activities

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart for the Siona Community of Puerto Bolivar, home to the largest ethnic group in the Reserve. On the way, spot birds, monkeys, snakes, pink dolphins, and tortoises. While touring the Siona Community, learn about their traditions and way of life, and take part in making casaba, a local dish of yucca. Then return to the lodge and go on a night hike in the forest in search of insects, geckos and scorpions while listening to the sounds of the jungle.

Meals included. Overnight at your lodge in the Cuyabeno area.

Day 5: CUYABENO NATURAL RESERVE: Transfer to Lago Agrio Airport - (→) QUITO. Arrival and transfer to hotel for program start

Early this morning before breakfast, join an optional bird-watching excursion. Enjoy breakfast at the lodge and journey back upstream on the Cuyabeno River. The bus will take you to Lago Agrio. Return to Quito.
Arrive in Quito. Transfer to your hotel. Overnight at you Hotel in **Quito.**

**Continue with your Ecuador mainland program.

POST – EXTENSION the Coast of Puerto Lopez

Day 1: GUAYAQUIL: Transfer to Puerto Lopez

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning pick-up from your hotel and depart towards Machalilla National Park (4h30 drive to Puerto Lopez).

Afternoon at leisure.

Meals not included. Overnight at your hotel in Puerto Lopez.

Day 2: PUERTO LOPEZ: Isla de la Plata Excursion

Breakfast at the hotel.

Isla de la Plata is famous for being home to the same vegetation as the Galapagos archipelago despite not being a volcanic island. Also notable here are several bird species: herons, pelicans, frigates, hawks, Nazca boobies, blue and red footed boobies, and albatrosses.

From mid-June to the end of September, it's possible to see humpback whales that migrate here for the mating season to give birth.

Box lunch included. Overnight at your hotel in Puerto Lopez.

Day 3: PUERTO LOPEZ: Day at Leisure

Breakfast at the hotel. Day at leisure to relax at the surrounding golden beaches. **Meals not included.** Overnight at your hotel in Puerto Lopez.

Day 4: PUERTO LOPEZ: Free Morning & Afternoon Transfer to Guayaquil

Breakfast at the hotel.

In the early afternoon, travel back to Guayaquil (approx. 4h30). Drop-off at Guayaquil Airport. **Meals not included.**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

<https://www.gaston-sacaze.com/terms-and-conditions-of-use/>

Done in Ecuador, in June 2022