

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Ecuador & Galapagos Islands Cruise

10 DAYS: Monday, November 12-Wednesday, November 21, 2018

Machu Picchu Extension Available

\$4,809 per person double occupancy; \$6,109 for single reservations

Venture into the heart of Ecuador's societal and natural heritage. Ecuador puts new meaning behind the saying, "good things come in small packages." In terms of flora, fauna, and opportunities for viewing unique local wildlife, this South American country runs the gamut. Journey to Quito for a taste of Ecuadorean culture and Spanish colonial history. Then, island hop through the Galápagos, where you'll move from mangrove swamps to lava flows to sunny shorelines, encountering scores of exotic creatures along the way. End in the indigenous city of Otavalo, famous for its colorful market.

Your tour package includes

- 4 nights in handpicked hotels, 4 nights aboard the M/V Galápagos Legend cruise ship
- 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 6 dinners with beer or wine, 10 guided sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides, Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- Old Quarter Quito, La Compañía, Rábida Island, snorkeling with sea turtles, Tagus Cove,
- giant tortoise nature reserve, Otavalo market,

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 2 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets, unpaved trails, and sandy paths, with some hills.



Quito

Day 1: Flight & late-night arrival in Quito

After your flight, arrive late this evening in Quito and settle into your hotel.

Day 2: Sightseeing tour of Quito

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Today, embark on a guided sightseeing tour of Quito before meeting your fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner. • Enjoy a walking tour of Old Town, passing by the Legislative Palace, Independence Square, and the Metropolitan Cathedral of Quito • Enter La Compañía, the city's Baroque church, to view its gold leaf interior • Step inside the 16th-century Monastery of San Francisco • Drive up Cerro Panecillo hill for views of the city and surrounding volcanoes

Day 3: Free day in Quito

Included meals: Breakfast

Enjoy a full free day in Quito or add an excursion.

Optional Excursion

Mindo Cloud Forest \$119/pp

Travel to the heart of the Ecuadorian cloud forest in Quito, a unique and serene natural setting. Look out for exotic wildlife and flowers as you uncover the biodiversity of the region on a series of moderately paced guided hikes. There are hundreds of bird species in the Mindo Cloud Forest—keep an eye out for hummingbirds on feeders as well as colorful butterflies. You'll also visit the El Pahuma Orchid Reserve to see gardens full of a wide variety of unique orchids, ferns, and other plants. Then, enjoy authentic Ecuadorian specialties during a three-course lunch. At the end of your meal, you'll have time to explore the property's organic gardens. Please note: Travelers should be prepared to walk on uneven terrain with slippery rocks and no handrails. Save \$10 when you book this excursion up to 3 days before your tour departs (On-tour price: \$129)

Galapagos Islands

Day 4: Galápagos Cruise

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning, fly to the small island of Baltra to board your cruise. • Make a wet landing on Mosquera Islet, which is located between North Seymour and Baltra Island and is one of the smallest islands in the Galápagos • Walk along the island's sandy, barren lava rock covered terrain • Relax on the beach or snorkel in the water

Day 5: Santiago Island & Rabida Island

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After a wet landing, you'll enjoy the southeastern portion of Santiago Island before continuing to Rabida Island. • Spend the morning exploring the extensive lava flows and swimming or snorkeling in volcanic rock pools • Look for yellow-crowned night herons, starfish, marine iguanas, and fur seals • Transfer to Rabida Island, where the volcanic geology creates red sand beaches • Take a dinghy ride along the cliffs to snorkel and observe nesting seabirds

Day 6: Isabela Island

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After a wet landing, begin your exploration of Isabela Island, the largest in the Galápagos archipelago. • Snorkel with the sea turtles that swim just off the shore of Urbina Bay • See the giant tortoises that live on the slopes of the nearby Alcedo Volcano • Tour Tagus Cove and see the blue-footed boobies that nest there • Go on a dinghy ride and enjoy the option of deep sea snorkeling

Day 7: Espinosa Point & Vicente Roca Point

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today's dry landing is at Espinosa Point, formed by lava flows over thousands of years. • View the area's marine iguanas, Sally Lightfoot crabs, and the fearless Galápagos hawk • Take a dinghy ride to Vicente Roca Point and the Bolivar Channel, where you can snorkel with sea lions, sea turtles, and penguins • View dolphins and whales that are attracted to the Bolivar Channel by the cold waters of the Cromwell Current (seasonal, June to September)

Otavalo

Day 8: Transfer to Otavalo via Quito

Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Disembark the ship to further explore Santa Cruz Island in the Galápagos before making your way to Otavalo, a market town in the Andes Mountains. • Journey to the Santa Cruz highlands, northwest of Puerto Ayora, to visit a giant tortoise nature reserve • Walk through the humid forest landscape to see these slow-moving reptiles in action • Return to Baltra and board your flight back to Quito on the mainland

Day 9: Otavalo market visit & departure

Included meals: Breakfast

Visit the Otavalo market to browse the stalls, shop for indigenous crafts, and attend a local weaving demonstration. Then, stop to view the Quisito Sundial, a monument located on the equator, where you'll view a demonstration of equatorial effects. Afterward, relax in a dayroom before boarding your flight home late tonight or early tomorrow morning. *Please note: If you're traveling on the tour extension to Peru, you'll fly to Lima this evening and spend the night there.*

Overnight Flight

Day 10: Arrival in the U.S.

Arrive home. *Please note: Due to varying flight schedules, some travelers may depart on the morning of day 10, arriving home later that evening.*

Add an extension to Peru *from* \$1899



Lima

Day 9: Otavalo market visit & flight to Lima **Included meals: Breakfast**

After your visit to Otavalo market, enjoy free time to relax before you fly to Lima this evening.

Cuzco

Day 10: Fly from Lima to Cuzco **Included meals: Breakfast**

Fly from Lima to Cuzco and spend free time getting acclimatized to the city's high elevation.

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Cuzco **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Join a local guide on today's tour of Cuzco, the ancient Incan capital. • Admire the old Spanish cathedral, La Merced Church, Plaza de Armas and Convent of Santo Domingo • Travel to three Incan archaeological sites near Cuzco, including Sacsayhuaman, Cuzco's most impressive Incan ruins

Machu Picchu

Day 12: Aguas Calientes via the Sacred Valley **Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

Today, you'll transfer to Aguas Calientes, the gateway to Machu Picchu. First, make a stop in the Sacred Valley to see the sights. • Peruse the colorful stalls of the wide-open Pisac Market, where you'll find local fare and traditional crafts on display • Continue to the ancient Ollantaytambo ruins to explore still-standing Incan homes • Board a train to Aguas Calientes

Cuzco

Day 13: Return to Cuzco for a sightseeing tour of Machu Picchu **Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

On today's guided tour, you'll uncover the lost city of Machu Picchu, one of the most spectacular archaeological sites on the entire South American continent. • Tour the ruins of the ceremonial center, cultivation terraces and guard house • Visit Funeral Rock, the Main Temple, Temple of the Three Windows, Chamber of Ornaments, the Sacred Plaza, the Intihuatana (Intiwatana) Stone, the Temple of the

Sun, the Rock Quarry, the Ritual Fountains and the Condor Temple • Enjoy a scenic train ride back to Cuzco for the night

Lima

Day 14: Sightseeing tour of Lima **Included meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Fly back to Lima, where you'll set out on a guided tour highlighting the capital city's modern and colonial quarters. • Visit Miraflores and the Parque del Amor • Stop in the San Isidro District to visit Huaca Huallamarca temple and its museum • View Plaza Mayor and the Municipal Palace in Lima's historic center • Enter the Cathedral of Lima and the Monastery of San Francisco, where you can descend to the catacombs

Day 15: Departure **Included meals: Breakfast**

Enjoy a free morning in Lima, then relax in a dayroom before boarding your overnight flight home.

Overnight Flight

Day 16: Arrival in the U.S.

Arrive home.