

**OPTIONAL ECUADOR & THE GALAPAGOS PRE TOUR AND YOU JOIN THE
MAIN TOUR GROUP IN LIMA ON THE 21 SEPTEMBER.**

FRI 15 SEP 2017 ARRIVE QUITO

Arrive Quito Airport; our English speaking local guide will meet and transfer you downtown to your hotel. ***Patio Andaluz: 2 nights standard room with breakfast***

SAT 16 SEP 2017 QUITO (B)

Depart on a guided tour of the colonial centre of UNESCO Heritage Listed Quito, one of the America's best preserved historic cities. During the tour you'll visit the large green spaces of El Ejido and Alameda Parks, the monument of Simon Bolivar, the impressive Gothic Basilica of the Heart of Jesus and the huge Plaza de la Independencia. The plaza is flanked by some of the city's most imposing buildings including the Presidential and Archbishop's Palace and the Cathedral. We'll stroll out of the plaza along the Street of Seven Crosses to arrive at the Jesuit Temple, La Compañía de Jesús, perhaps the most important example of baroque architecture in Ecuador. From here we continue to the Plaza San Francisco; the temple and convent of the Franciscans here was once the largest of the Spanish colonies.

We will then depart Quito, traveling north out of the city to the Mitad del Mundo (Middle of the World) complex and monument marking 0°0'0" latitude. You'll visit the site and have a chance to take photos with one foot in each hemisphere. Afterwards we continue to the fun Intiñan Solar Museum, where you'll be shown a range of hands-on experiments that demonstrate the effect of gravity at the equator. Your guide will show you how a raw egg can be balanced on the end of a nail with relative ease here- if you can manage the trick you'll receive an 'egg master certificate'. At the end of the tour you'll return to your hotel.



SUN 17 SEP 2017 QUITO/ GALAPAGOS ISLANDS (B/L/D)

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the Galapagos Islands. On arrival you will be met your naturalist guides and transferred 10 minutes by bus to the port where you will board the M/Y Corals.

M/Y Corals I and II offer passengers a comfortable and intimate base from which to explore the magnificent Galapagos Islands. Coral I accommodates 36 passengers and Coral II accommodates 20 passengers; all cabins have air conditioning and private facilities. Both vessels have ample sun decks, social areas, Jacuzzi and library for guest enjoyment.



Please remember that the exact route and programme may vary according to weather and ocean conditions and the wildlife we encounter.

There are two types of landings throughout your Galapagos tour:

Dry landing: guests step from the dinghy onto rocks or a dock.

Wet landing: as the dinghy edges onto a sandy beach, guests step into knee-deep water and wade ashore.

PM – Fausto Llerena Breeding Center - Charles Darwin Station (Santa Cruz)

Dry landing. We visit the Station where the Galapagos giant tortoise breeding program takes place as part of our efforts to preserve the fragile Galapagos environment. Admire a prickly-pear cactus forest and variety Darwin's finches and other land birds. The Darwin Station also works providing environmental education to communities and schools within the islands, and to tourists visiting the Galapagos Islands. You will also have some free time to visit the town and shop for souvenirs.





MON 18 SEP 2017 GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Cormorant Point / Devil's Crown / Champion (Floreana)

Wet landing on an olivine green sand beach. We hike from the black mangrove beds to a brackish lagoon, which usually holds one of the largest flamingo populations in the Galapagos. This island features some endemic plants such as *Scalesia villosa*, white and black mangrove, and holy stick. The trail continues to a beautiful white-sand beach, one of the most important nesting sites of Green Pacific Sea Turtles. It is important to avoid walking in the water due to the Sting Rays that may be hiding in the sand, which can be dangerous if accidentally stepped on. From the beach one can spot sea turtles, Blue-footed Boobies plunging into the water, and small reef sharks floating along the shoreline in search of food. This coral-sand beach marks the end of our trail, and we head back to the olivine beach we landed on to swim or snorkel amongst sea turtles, reef fish, sea lions and, on a good day, white-tipped reef sharks. A small colony of penguins resides on Floreana and can sometimes be observed as well.

PM – Post Office (Floreana)

Wet landing. Located on the north side of Floreana, the bay is so-named because in 1793 Captain James Colnett installed a wooden barrel which served as an informal post office for sailors passing through, who would take letters with them to their destinations. Today, our visitors continue the tradition by placing unstamped postcards inside the barrel that should reach their destinations for free. We may also encounter Darwin's finches, Yellow Warbler and lava lizards. Great snorkelling opportunities with Green Pacific Sea Turtles.



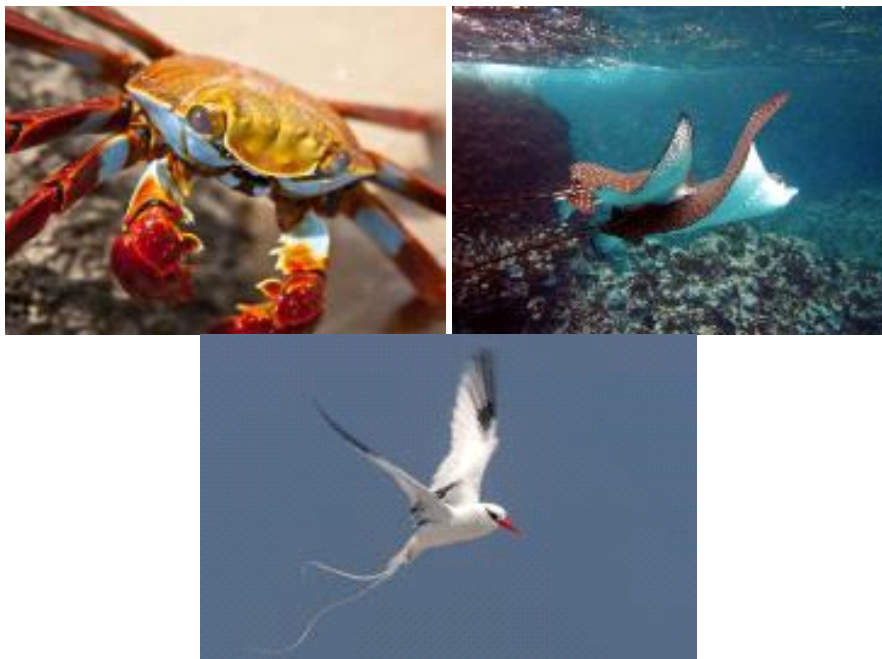
TUE 19 SEP 2017 GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Gardner Bay / Gardner & Osborn Islets (Española)

Wet landing on a beautiful white coral sand beach guarded by a colony of sea lions. There are no trails, so we stay along the shore where we can spot Galapagos Hawk, American Oystercatcher, Galapagos Dove, Hood Mockingbird, Yellow Warbler, lava lizards, marine iguanas, and three species of Darwin's finches: a subspecies (*Geospiza fuliginosa*) of the Large Cactus Finch, which is similar to the large ground finch, the Small Ground Finch (*Geospiza fuliginosa*) and the Warbler Finch (*Certhidea Olivacea*) which is another endemic subspecies. Swimming and snorkelling offers a great variety of Galapagos marine animals: King Angelfish, Creole Fish, Damsel Fish, parrot fish, manta rays, and White-tipped Reef Sharks.

PM - Suárez Point (Española)

Dry landing. An island of geological interest, we explore volcanic formations and riveting wildlife: large sea lion colonies and seabirds including Española mockingbird, Nazca boobies and the spectacular Red-billed Tropicbird. You will also encounter marine iguanas, lava lizards, and the colourful Sally Lightfoot Crabs. A somewhat lengthy hike will bring you among Nazca and Blue-footed Boobies, right up to nesting grounds that sometimes overlap the trail. Other birding favourites include Galapagos Dove, Galapagos Hawk, Swallow-tailed Gulls and the world's largest colony of Waved Albatross, an unequivocal highlight during mating season (May-December). Admire the island's dramatic backdrop, featuring the famous Soplador, a seaward blowhole that shoots water at some 23m in the air.



WED 20 SEP 2017 GALAPAGOS ISLANDS/ GUAYAQUIL (B)

AM: Daphne

We circumnavigate the islet of Daphne, an eroded tuff cone formation that was created by successive volcanic activity, for an opportunity to see Darwin's finches, Blue-footed Boobies, Nazca Boobies, Red-billed Tropicbirds, Swallow-tailed Gulls and Brown Noddies.

Afterwards you will be transferred directly to the airport to catch your flight back to the mainland.

On arrival in Guayaquil you will be met and transferred to your hotel. **Oro Verde: 1 night standard rooms with buffet breakfast**

***Please note that depending on onwards flight schedules to Lima it may be better to return to Quito**

THU 21 SEP GUAYAQUIL/ LIMA (B)

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Lima. On arrival transfer to your hotel & meet the main group.

GALAPAGOS EXTENSION- Based on 2 passengers travelling together.

AUD\$4700.00 per person twin share

AUD\$1730.00 single supplement

Price includes:

3 nights in First Class Hotels, with breakfast and taxes included
3 nights on board the M/Y Corals, Standard Plus Cabins, all meals & guided excursions
Economy Class airfares Quito/ Galapagos/ Guayaquil
Galapagos National Park fee and Ingala Tourist Control Card
Private half day city tour Quito & Middle of the World Monument
Roundtrip transfers to/ from hotels with English speaking guide

Deposit required to confirm the Galapagos Extension: AUD\$1000 per person

Suggested Gratuities per person per day US25-35 per person as recommend by the cruise company.