



## Ecuador & Galápagos Islands Cruise

10 days | 16 days with Peru extension

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
- 5 lunches
- 5 dinners
- 10 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 on-tour flights

### Included highlights

- Cerro Panecillo
- 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.

### Group size

15–35

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## Quito → 3 nights

### 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, welcome lunch*

Today, embark on a guided sightseeing tour of Quito.

- Drive up Cerro Panecillo hill for views of the city and surrounding volcanoes
- Sit down to enjoy an included welcome lunch
- Marvel at the neo-Gothic Basilica of the National Vow
- Enjoy a walking tour of the 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

### Day 3: Free day in Quito

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Quito or add an excursion.

+ Antisana Ecological Reserve & Hacienda Lunch

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## Galápagos Islands → 4 nights

### Day 4: Galápagos Cruise

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

This morning, fly to the small island of Baltra to board your cruise.

- Enjoy an included lunch aboard the ship
  - 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
- Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 5: Santiago Island & Rabida Island

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

After a wet landing, you'll enjoy the western 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
- Enjoy an included lunch aboard the ship
- 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

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### 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
- Enjoy an included lunch aboard the ship
- 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

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### 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
- Enjoy an included lunch aboard the ship
- 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*)

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

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## Otavaló → 1 night

### Day 8: Transfer to Otavaló via Quito

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Disembark the ship to further explore Santa Cruz Island in the Galápagos.

- 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

Make your way to Otavaló, a market town in the Andes Mountains, and celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner this evening.

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 9: Otavaló market visit & departure

*Included meals: breakfast*

Visit the Otavaló market to browse the stalls, shop for indigenous crafts, and attend a local weaving demonstration. Then, stop to view the Quitsato 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 will overnight in Quito.*

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## Arrive Home

### Day 10: Arrival home

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

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## + Peru extension

Fly to Lima to experience the best Peru has to offer—and, yep, that includes Machu Picchu. Continue your trip to see the legacy of the conquistadors and uncover the Lost City of the Inca, all with your expert Tour Director at your side.

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## Quito → 1 night

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**Day 9: Otavalo market visit**

*Included meals: breakfast*

After your visit to Otavalo market, enjoy a free afternoon in Quito.

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**Lima → 1 night****Day 10: Flight to Lima**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Fly to Lima, Peru this morning and get settled in to your hotel.

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**Cuzco → 2 nights****Day 11: Flight to Cuzco & folklore show**

*Included meals: breakfast*

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

Tonight, get a taste of Peruvian cuisine during an included dinner as you watch a traditional folklore show featuring indigenous dances from around the country.

**Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Cuzco**

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Set out on a sightseeing tour of Cuzco, the UNESCO-recognized ancient capital of the Inca Empire.

- Stroll through ruins at Kenko, the “red fortress” of Puca Pucara and Sacsayhuaman, which was once completely covered in gold
- View the towering Cristo Blanco statue, a thank-you gift from the Palestinian refugees who took shelter in the city during World War II
- Stop at the colonial-era Plaza de Armas to enter Cuzco Cathedral
- Walk through the city center and step inside the Convent of Santo Domingo, built by the Spaniards where the Inca temple of Koricancha stood

Spend a free evening in Cuzco or add an excursion.

+ Peruvian Cooking Demonstration & Dinner

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**Machu Picchu → 1 night****Day 13: Aguas Calientes via the Sacred Valley**

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

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
- Enjoy an included lunch in Urubamba
- Continue to the ancient Ollantaytambo ruins to explore still-standing Incan homes
- Board a train to Aguas Calientes

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

*Please note: Travelers must submit full passport details by Tour Finalization Date or risk being denied entry to Machu Picchu due to scarcity of tickets and daily entrance restrictions.*

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**Cuzco → 1 night****Day 14: Sightseeing tour of Machu Picchu & train to Cuzco**

*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 stone, the Temple of the Sun, the Rock Quarry, the Ritual Fountains and the Condor Temple
- Enjoy an included lunch before taking a scenic train ride back to Cuzco for the night

*Please note: There are several circuits through Machu Picchu. The one your group will take is subject to availability.*

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**Overnight Flight → 1 night****Day 15: Flight to Lima, sightseeing tour & departure**

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell lunch*

Fly to Lima this morning. Then, enjoy a farewell lunch before setting out on a guided tour, which highlights Lima's modern and colonial quarters.

- Visit the Miraflores district and Parque del Amor
- View Plaza Mayor and the Municipal Palace in Lima's historic center
- Enter the Cathedral of Lima and descend into the catacombs below the Church of San Francisco

Later, relax in a dayroom before boarding your overnight flight home.

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**Arrive Home****Day 16: Arrival in the U.S.**

Arrive home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.com/ECU](https://goaheadtours.com/ECU) | 1-800-597-0350

## **Day 3: Antisana Ecological Reserve & Hacienda**

### **Lunch**

\$109/\$119\* (9 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Journey through the valleys of the Andes Mountain range to visit the Antisana Ecological Reserve. This reserve was created in 1993 to protect Ecuadorian wildlife and ecosystems and is home to Antisana volcano, the country's fourth-largest. Join your Tour Director on a walk to see a recent lava flow, snowcapped mountains, and the picturesque views surrounding Lake Mica. Of course, it wouldn't be a nature walk without seeing some of the local flora and fauna. Take part in some bird-watching to try and spot the silvery grebe, black-faced ibis, and elusive Andean condor. Then, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant located on a hacienda, or traditional ranch, before traveling back to Quito.

## **Extension excursion options**

### **Day 12: Peruvian Cooking Demonstration & Dinner**

\$125/\$135\* (3 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Watch as an expert chef prepares a traditional Peruvian meal during a cooking demonstration at one of Cuzco's top restaurants on this culinary excursion. With the beautiful Andes Mountains as your backdrop, you'll discover how Peruvians use locally sourced ingredients to create authentic dishes. You'll also learn how to make causa de pollo, a dish made of chicken and potatoes, and tiradito de trucha, a popular seafood-based meal. Afterwards, enjoy a delicious three-course dinner crafted by the expert chef in the restaurant.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.com/terms](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)