



# Ecuador: The Amazon Rainforest & Galápagos Islands Cruise

12 days | 18 days with Peru extension

From the Andes highlands of Quito to the lush forests of the Amazon basin, you'll experience it all. Venture into the heart of Ecuador to encounter colorful birds, exotic animals, and learn about indigenous Quichua culture firsthand. Then, snorkel with sea lions, spot blue-footed boobies, and make your way past mangrove swamps, lava flows, and sunny shores on a cruise through the Galápagos Islands.



## Your tour package includes

- 7 nights in handpicked hotels
- 3 nights aboard the M/V Galápagos
- Legend cruise ship
- 10 breakfasts
- 7 lunches
- 7 dinners
- Guided sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 on-tour flights

## Included highlights

- Old Quarter Quito
- boating on the Amazon
- Ahuano village visit
- wildlife on Santa Cruz Island
- snorkeling with sea lions
- giant tortoise nature reserve

## Tour pace

You will walk for about 3 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets, unpaved trails, and sandy paths, with some hills at high altitudes.

## Group size

15-30

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## Quito → 3 nights

### Day 1: Flight & late-night arrival in Quito

Welcome to Ecuador! Arrive in Quito late this evening and transfer to your hotel.

### Day 2: Sightseeing tour of Quito

*Included meals: breakfast, welcome lunch*

Today, embark on a guided sightseeing tour of Quito, the Ecuadorian capital.

- Marvel at the neo-Gothic Basilica of the National Vow
- Enjoy a walking tour of Old Town, passing by the Legislative Palace, Independence Square, and the Metropolitan Cathedral
- Enter the Baroque Church of the Society of Jesus to view its famed gold-leaf interior
- Step inside the 16th-century Monastery of San Francisco

Gather with your fellow travelers for a welcome lunch.

Later, make your way outside of the city for a visit to the Equatorial Monument. Stand with one foot on either side of the equator before exploring the museum and surrounding colonial town.

### Day 3: Free day in Quito

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Quito or add an excursion.  
+ Otavalo & Hacienda

## Amazon Region → 2 nights

### Day 4: Transfer to the Amazon Region

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Pass through the Andes Mountains on your way to Punta Ahuano, located in the Amazon rainforest.

- View spectacular scenery, including volcanoes and cloud forests
- Enjoy an included lunch at a local lodge
- At Punta Ahuano, board a canoe for a short ride down the Napo River

Later, journey on foot to the indigenous village of Ahuano to learn about the traditional culture of the Quichua, the Quechuas of Ecuador.

- Enjoy a tasting of *chicha*, a traditional corn beverage, and see how it's made
- Witness ancient spiritual cleansing rituals still commonly practiced today

- Take part in a blowgun target-shooting contest

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 5: Cosano, amaZOOnico & butterfly house

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

This morning, board an authentic dugout canoe and set out to explore the surrounding rainforest with a local guide.

- On a nature walk, keep an eye out for monkeys and the hundreds of tropical bird species that call the area home
- See hunting traps traditionally used by local tribes and learn about how they work

Enjoy an included lunch at a local lodge before exploring more of the Amazon region this afternoon.

- Pay a visit to the amaZOOnico Animal Rescue Center, an institution for wounded and displaced tropical rainforest animals
- Stop at a nearby butterfly house to learn about the life cycle of this beautiful insect

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

## Papallacta → 1 night

### Day 6: Transfer to Papallacta

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

After a short canoe ride back to Punta Ahuano, take a scenic drive through the Andes highlands. Stop in the small riverside town of Baeza for photos and lunch, then make your way to the village of Papallacta for a relaxing soak in its thermal pools. This evening, sit down for an included dinner.

## Overnight Cruise → 3 nights

### Day 7: Flight to the Galápagos & embarkation

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Depart from your hotel early this morning to fly from Quito to the island of Baltra in the Galápagos.

- Head to Santa Cruz island to enjoy an included lunch
- Visit the giant tortoise breeding center at the Charles Darwin Research Station

- Travel to Puerto Ayora, where you'll embark on your cruise

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

### Day 8: Genovesa Island & Darwin Bay

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Join your local guide as you get to know all sides of Genovesa Island.

- Stroll through Palo Santo forest and the rocky lava plain, viewing birds and other wildlife as you go
- Enjoy an included lunch aboard the ship
- Walk along a tidal lagoon as you make your way up a rocky hill to a viewpoint overlooking Darwin Bay

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

### Day 9: Santa Cruz and Santa Fe Islands

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

After a dry landing, spend the morning exploring Santa Cruz Island.

- Pass a brackish lagoon with your guide and keep your eyes peeled for shore birds and flamingos
- Walk through dry zone vegetation before reaching Dragon Hill, where you'll enjoy panoramic views of the neighboring islands

Enjoy an included lunch aboard the ship before making a wet landing to visit Santa Fe Island, known for its large population of sea lions.

- Follow your guide on a walk, passing the cactus forest as you go
  - Stay on the lookout for the endemic land iguana
  - Take to the water for a snorkeling adventure
- Sit down for an included dinner aboard the ship this evening.

## Guayaquil → 1 night

### Day 10: Bachas Beach & flight to Guayaquil

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

This morning, take a dinghy ride to Bachas Beach on Santa Cruz Island.

- Walk along the beach to see sea turtle nesting sites and the remains of World War era barges

- Spend time snorkeling in the water off the island's shore

Disembark from your cruise on Baltra Island this afternoon. Then, board your flight to Guayaquil. Later tonight, gather with your group for a farewell dinner.

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Guayaquil & departure

*Included meals: breakfast*

With your Tour Director as your guide, set out on a walking tour of Guayaquil, the largest and most populous city in Ecuador.

- Starting in Centennial Plaza, drive along 9th of October Boulevard to the Plaza of the Administration, home to the city's government and municipal buildings
- Pass by the Moorish Clock Tower and enter Bolívar Park to view the famed statue of Simón Bolívar and the neo-Gothic Metropolitan Cathedral
- Drive to the Malecon 2000 to see the Crystal Palace, Integration Square, Plaza of the Flags, and Plaza Olmedo before walking to La Rotonda
- Make your way through Barrio Las Peñas, one of the city's oldest neighborhoods

Later, transfer to the airport for your overnight flight home or connecting flight to Lima if you're extending your stay to explore Peru.

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## Arrive Home

### Day 12: Arrival in the U.S.

Arrive home.

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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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## Lima → 2 nights

### Day 11: Flight to Lima

*Included meals: breakfast*

After a day of sightseeing in Guayaquil, board your flight to Lima this evening.

### Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Lima

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

This morning, set out on a guided tour highlighting the capital city's modern and colonial quarters.

- Visit the Miraflores district and 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 descend into the catacombs below the Church of San Francisco
- Step inside the Larco Museum and take time to view the pre-Columbian art

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

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## Cuzco → 2 nights

### Day 13: Flight to Cuzco

*Included meals: breakfast*

Board your flight to Cuzco this morning, then enjoy a free afternoon to explore the city on your own.

### Day 14: 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

This evening, sit down for a dinner featuring local Peruvian cuisine as you watch a traditional folklore show.

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## Machu Picchu Region → 1 night

### Day 15: Aguas Calientes via the Sacred Valley

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Stop in the Sacred Valley to see the sights en route to Aguas Calientes, the gateway to Machu Picchu.

- 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 Pisac
  - Continue to the Ollantaytambo ruins to explore still-standing Inca homes
- Sit down for an included dinner this evening.
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## Cuzco → 1 night

### Day 16: 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 stone, the Temple of the Sun, the Rock Quarry, the Ritual Fountains, and the Condor Temple
  - Sit down for an included lunch
  - Enjoy a scenic train ride through the Sacred Valley on your way back to Cuzco
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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 17: Flight to Lima & departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Board your flight to Lima this morning, then relax in a dayroom before your overnight flight home.

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## Arrive Home

### Day 18: Arrival at home

Arrive home today.

## 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.ca/EAG](https://goaheadtours.ca/EAG) | 1-800-754-5066**

### Day 3: Otavalo & Hacienda

\$129CAD/\$139CAD\* (8 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

Travel through the colorful Guayllabamba and Cayambe valleys, stopping along the way to sample some of the region's celebrated fruit and to enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding volcanoes and San Pablo Lake. Then, make your way through the Andes to Otavalo, a traditional market town known for its knitted and leather goods. After perusing the vibrant market and visiting a local musical instrument factory, settle in for a lunch at a historic colonial-era hacienda. Incredible views of lush gardens, winding trails and the property's roaming llamas make an idyllic backdrop for your meal.

\*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.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)