



*Cultural Adventures: Tours for the
Young-at-Heart*

Explore Galapagos Escorted Trip October 10 - 21, 2018

Cultural Adventures tours offer you the opportunity to learn about a **fascinating culture** as part of a **small group**. You'll enjoy **select experiences** away from the usual tourist sights during a visit that combines **soft adventure with maximum comfort**. Not only will you experience **two diverse ecosystems of Ecuador**, you will meet local people and learn about the culture. When you take a *Cultural Adventures* trip you are supporting local people who provide information and services.

- *Tour colonial and modern Quito
- *Spend a day in the Andes
- *Stay at boutique hotels on three Galapagos Islands
- *Proximity to exotic wildlife--sea lions, iguanas, giant tortoises, boobies, and more
- *Travel with an escort who will provide valuable information and travel tips before the trip and see that your needs are met during the trip
- *Group size is limited to 10 or less travelers

Highlights:

- Visit the Middle of the Earth (equator) and the Crafts Market in Otavalo in the Andes
- Snorkel at Kicker Rock on San Cristobal Isle
- Walk among giant land tortoises on Santa Cruz Isle
- Enjoy the antics of the Galapagos penguins on Isla Isabela

Trip Fee: \$3595 per double occupancy; single supplement \$340.

Included: All hotels, local land & sea transportation including flight from mainland Ecuador to the Galapagos Islands, tours, snorkeling & kayaking equipment, airport transfers, escort, guides, and 27 meals.

Not Included: International flight to Ecuador and the \$125 Galapagos National Park fee & tax.

Itinerary:

Oct 10- Arrive in Quito - Arrive on your own in the capital city Quito, sometimes referred to as the cultural capital of the Americas. You will be met at the airport and driven to our hotel. Hotel Barnard or equivalent

Oct 11 - Quito City Tour - Today you'll have an introduction to Quito, a cosmopolitan and historic capital city, located in the majestic Andes Mountains. We'll start with a breath-taking view of Quito and then explore Quito's colonial quarter, the largest and best preserved in South America and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lunch will be in a charming restaurant in the historic area. (B, L)

Oct 12 - Otavalo - We'll take a private van and drive north through amazing Andean landscapes to Otavalo with its famous indigenous market featuring an amazing array of textiles and crafts. On the way we'll stop at the Mitad Del Mundo and stand on both sides of the equator. After lunch at a typical restaurant we'll visit the crafts market in Otavalo. (B, L)

Oct 13 - Loberia Beach, San Cristobal Island, Galapagos - After breakfast, we'll transfer to the airport for our flight to the Galapagos. Upon arrival at San Cristobal Island we'll take a seashore expedition to Loberia Beach to view the marine iguanas that blend so well with the black, pitted lava coast. You'll observe many sea birds, such as frigates and boobies, as they fight against the wind. And you'll have your first opportunity to snorkel with the sea lions and sea turtles! We'll end the day with dinner at the harbor as local musicians perform. (B, L, D)

Oct 14 - Kicker Rock, San Cristobal - All aboard as we cruise to Kicker Rock to enjoy the colonies of sea lions, floating sea turtles and sea birds. A highlight of the day will be an opportunity to snorkel through the channel at Kicker Rock and to view a variety of sea life. Next stop is Puerto Grande, the best beach of the Galapagos where you can swim, view the marine iguanas and seabirds, or just relax on the sand. (B, L)

Oct 15 - Frigate Hill, San Cristobal – We'll start the day with a walk up Frigate Hill to enjoy a magnificent harbor view. Next is a visit to the Interpretation Center to learn about the human history, biology, and geology of the islands. You can snorkel below Frigate Hill before lunch. This afternoon we'll take a glass bottom boat ride before having dinner together. (B, L, D)

Oct 16 - Darwin Center, Santa Cruz – We'll start the day by taking a morning motor launch to Santa Cruz. Once you've checked into your hotel, we'll travel to the highlands to enjoy a picnic lunch and to walk among giant tortoises. You'll also have a chance to explore the lava tunnels. Before dinner together at the harbor we'll visit the famous Charles Darwin Research Center. (B, L, D)

Oct 17 - Santa Cruz & Island tour - Today we'll have an exciting yacht tour to an uninhabited island with plenty of wildlife to observe. Depending on the itinerary determined by the National Park to avoid crowding, our day would be spent on So Plazas, Santa Fe or Seymour Island. You'll be able to snorkel before returning to port at around 5 PM. (B, L)

Oct 18 - Tortuga Bay, Santa Cruz Island – After breakfast we'll walk along a path through a cactus forest to Tortuga Bay and enjoy a beautiful, white sand beach with iguanas, pelicans, and flamingos. You can observe the animals and relax on the beach or snorkel. After lunch we'll take a boat and explore some of the small inlets to observe the birds and animals close up for a final time. Dinner will be at a popular restaurant on the harbor. (B, L, D)

Oct 19 - Tintoreras, Isla Isabela – A motor launch will take us to beautiful Isla Isabela. This afternoon we head to Tintoreras Inlet to see Galapagos penguins, the second smallest in the world, observe white tip sharks, marine iguanas, sea lions and nesting boobies. There will be time to take photos of the thousands of marine iguanas warming themselves in the sun. You'll also have an opportunity to snorkel. (B, L, D)

Oct 20- Sierra Negra Volcano, Isla Isabela – Today those who want a challenge can hike to Volcan Chico for a fantastic view of the huge caldera. This group will hike for about 6 miles (9 km) on a moderate-gradual uphill trail before enjoying lunch at the top. Those interested in a less strenuous morning will visit the Isabela Tortoise Rearing Center and then walk to the Wall of Tears. Everyone will have a final opportunity to swim or snorkel before dinner. (B, L, D)

Oct 21 - Flight to Mainland Ecuador - Today we return to the mainland of Ecuador. We'll take a motor launch from Isabela to Santa Cruz and catch the flight back to the mainland. The tour ends when we reach the Quito airport in the late afternoon. (B)

This is an active adventure. Participants must be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 2 - 4 consecutive hours of moderate physical activity everyday. Daily itinerary may be changed due to regulations of the Galapagos National Park.

Participant's Background Information:

- * US citizens do not need a visa to visit Ecuador.
- * The currency of Ecuador is the US dollar so there is no need to change money.
- * No immunizations are required for this trip.
- * Basic travel insurance with medical evacuation coverage is mandatory – insurance to cover trip cancellation is highly recommended.
- * Deposit of \$750 will reserve your spot. Payment of the balance is due by June 15, 2018.

If you are ready for a unique adventure, send in your deposit of \$750 now to reserve your place. Write deposit checks to Cultural Adventures and mail to: Cultural Adventures, 129 Cranberry Lane, Centerville, MA 02632.

For more information about all *Cultural Adventures* tours go to www.culturaladventures.info or call Connie Champlin at 317-908-1220 if you have questions