



SPIRIT OF ECUADOR

GUAYAQUIL | CUENCA | INGAPIRCA | ALAUSÍ | BAÑOS | COTOPAXI | GALAPAGOS | QUITO

11 DAYS
from
\$8,799

CAD\$, PP, DBL, OCC.

TOUR OVERVIEW

- ▶ Roundtrip international and domestic airfare from Toronto*
- ▶ Welcome assistance upon arrival and departure at all airports
- ▶ Transfers and portage between airport and hotel as noted
- ▶ 10 nights accommodation
 - 1 night each in Guayaquil, Cuenca, Alausí & Baños
 - 3 nights in Quito
 - 3 nights aboard M/V Galapagos Legend
- ▶ Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee
- ▶ Breakfast daily and other meals as indicated
- ▶ Hotel taxes and service charges
- ▶ Airport and departure taxes**

Highlights

- Private tours of Quito, Cotopaxi and Cuenca areas
- Spectacular Devil's Nose train ride
- Rose plantation visit
- Cruise the Galapagos Islands aboard the M/V Galapagos Legend

*Add-ons from other cities available upon request.

Pricing as indicated valid November 5, 2019, subject to availability at time of booking. Alternative dates available upon request. All itineraries are fully customizable.

TOUR CODE: LA2820

The country of Ecuador is bisected by the equator, sitting within both the Southern and Northern hemispheres. During this 11-day itinerary, witness a landscape dominated by volcanoes, thermal baths, Inca ruins and fascinating biodiversity in the Galapagos Islands to the West. See the beautiful colonial architecture of Quito and Cuenca and the variety of Ecuadorian handicrafts made by artisans and craftsmen that aptly embody their rich traditions and culture.

Day 1

TORONTO – GUAYAQUIL Depart from Toronto to Guayaquil via Panama. Upon arrival, welcome and private transfer to your hotel. *Wyndham Guayaquil, Deluxe* ★★★★★

Day 2

GUAYAQUIL – EL CAJAS NATIONAL PARK – CUENCA After breakfast, depart from Guayaquil for a dramatic ride, travelling from sea level up to 4,000m. Observe tropical plantations such as coffee, bananas and cacao before reaching the cloud forest and **El Cajas National Park**. In the afternoon, arrive in **Cuenca**, a quaint colonial city known for its handicrafts, pottery and the world-famous Panama Hat. Visit the Main Square, new Cathedral and the flower market. Visit either the Central Bank Museum or the Conceptas Religious Museum. *Hotel Boutique Carvallo or similar*

Day 3

CUENCA – INGAPIRCA – ALAUSÍ Breakfast. Pass through the southern highlands to arrive at **Ingapirca Inca-Cañari**, the most important Incan relic in Ecuador. This citadel was built in the 15th-century along an ancient route that connected Quito to Cuzco, Peru. Visit the archaeological site, then continue to **Alausí**, known for its unique railway engineering and spectacular scenery. *Hostería la Quinta or similar*

Day 4

ALAUSÍ – DEVIL'S NOSE – BAÑOS Breakfast. In Alausí, take the spectacular bus and train ride through the **Devil's Nose**, a true feat in railway engineering of the early 20th-century. Continue north to **Riobamba** for a panoramic tour of the city's plazas and churches. Weather permitting, you may be able to see **Chimborazo**, the highest mountain in Ecuador. Enjoy a box lunch along the way. Continue to **Baños**, known for its hot springs and waterfalls and considered to be a gateway to the Amazon. *La Floresta Hotel or similar*

Day 5

BAÑOS – ROSE PLANTATION – COTOPAXI – QUITO Breakfast. Head down into the Pastaza River canyon to the **Avenue of Waterfalls** surrounded by green, lush vegetation. Travel north to **Cotopaxi National Park** to admire the highest active snow capped volcano in the world; learn about the natural history of

the area at the interpretation center. Visit **Limpio Pungo Lagoon** to witness its tundra-like vegetation. Stop at a rose plantation to learn the steps of production. Continue to your hotel in Quito. *Hotel Dann Carlton Quito, Standard* ★★★★★

Day 6

QUITO After breakfast, begin your private tour of **Quito**, including Independence Plaza, seeing important sites such as the Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, the Municipal Building and the Archbishop's Palace. Visit the temple of La Compañía de Jesús, then continue on to the Monastery of San Francisco. Drive 15 minutes north of the city to the **Equatorial Monument and Ethnographic Museum** which features exhibits showing the different Native American groups living in Ecuador. Get your certificate for having crossed the Equator. *Hotel Dann Carlton Quito*

Day 7

QUITO – GALAPAGOS (CRUISE) After breakfast, take your shared transfer to the airport to board your flight to the Galapagos Islands. Upon arrival, a naturalist guide will transfer you to the pier to board the **M/V Galapagos Legend**, a boutique expedition ship. Depending on seasonality and weather conditions, itineraries and wildlife will vary. Many visitors spot red and blue-footed boobies, penguins, sea lions, giant tortoises and other fascinating wildlife. *M/V Galapagos Legend, Junior Suite* ★★★★★

Day 8 & 9

Continue your astonishing journey in the Galapagos with daily lectures, excursions, activities and relaxation aboard your vessel. *M/V Galapagos Legend*

Day 10

GALAPAGOS – QUITO On your last day aboard the ship, visit the north side of Santa Cruz and Bachas Beach. After your visit, disembark and transfer to the airport to board your flight to Quito. Upon arrival, check-in at the airport hotel. *Wyndham Quito Airport, Deluxe* ★★★★★

Day 11

QUITO – EL SALVADOR – TORONTO Board your very early homebound flight via El Salvador.

Yellow Fever vaccination recommended if visiting certain areas of Ecuador and may be mandatory to enter certain countries.

**Airport and departure taxes are included where applicable, subject to change at any time. Pricing based on two passengers travelling together. Optional tours and activities not included. Blackout periods apply. Itineraries are subject to change without notice due to weather conditions and time of year. For terms and conditions, refer to page 43. Visit travel.gc.ca for important information about your destination(s).

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