

# Overseas Adventure Travel<sup>®</sup>

THE LEADER IN PERSONALIZED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES SINCE 1978

Your O.A.T. Adventure Travel Planning Guide<sup>®</sup>



Ultimate Galpagos Exploration &  
Ecuador's Amazon Wilds

2025

# Overseas Adventure Travel<sup>®</sup>

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with O.A.T. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

When you join us, you will slip seamlessly into local life as you explore off the beaten path in your small group. Like all our itineraries, this one is designed to give you an intimate understanding of your destination, not just a superficial view. You will get to know community leaders and try your hand at local trades during your *A Day in the Life* experience, share traditional fare and lively conversation during a Home-Hosted Visit, discuss the Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, and visit sites supported by Grand Circle Foundation. And if you choose to travel solo, you will enjoy all these cultural experiences at an unmatched value, with our FREE Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

To ensure you experience the true culture and feel supported every step of the way, we provide the services of a local Trip Experience Leader from the beginning of your adventure to the end. Along with introducing you to the history and culture of their homeland, these friendly experts will gladly help you out with any special requests to make your trip even more special. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the **87% of our travelers who personalize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-955-1925**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis

Chair

Overseas Adventure Travel

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Zodiac excursion, Galápagos islands

## Ultimate Galápagos Exploration & Ecuador's Amazon Wilds

### Small Group Adventure

**Ecuador:** Quito, Amazon Rain Forest, Coca, 7-night Galápagos Cruise

Small groups of no more than 16 travelers, guaranteed

**16 days starting from \$7,295**

including international airfare

Single Supplement: **FREE**

For departure dates & prices, visit [www.oattravel.com/awg2025pricing](http://www.oattravel.com/awg2025pricing)

Experience the full spectrum of Ecuador's diverse natural and cultural tapestry up close, beginning in colonial Quito. Then, leave the urban hustle behind when you spend three nights at a jungle lodge on the Amazon, witnessing the biological diversity of the tropical rain forest before cruising the Galápagos archipelago for 7 nights aboard a privately chartered **16-passenger small ship**, witnessing species found nowhere else on our planet.

### IT'S INCLUDED

- 15 nights accommodation, including 7 nights aboard a privately chartered, 16-passenger Galápagos small ship
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- All land transportation and 4 internal flights
- 39 meals: 15 breakfasts, 13 lunches, and 11 dinners (including 1 Home-Hosted Lunch)
- 12 guided tours and cultural experiences, plus Galápagos shore excursions
- Gratuities for local guides, drivers, ship crew, and luggage porters
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip

*Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.*

Ultimate Galápagos Exploration & Ecuador's Amazon Wilds



## WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderate

**Pacing:** 5 locations in 15 days, with 7 nights aboard a Galápagos small ship. Some international flights arrive or depart from Ecuador around midnight, and internal flights are scheduled very early

**Physical requirements:** You must be able to walk 3 miles unassisted in hot, humid weather and participate in 6-8 hours of physical activities each day. You will also be exploring at elevations above 9,000 feet for four days.

**Flight Time:** Travel time will be 5-11 hours and will most likely have two connections

View all physical requirements at [www.oattravel.com/awg](http://www.oattravel.com/awg)

## GALÁPAGOS & THE AMAZON: THE O.A.T. DIFFERENCE

**Unbeatable Value:** Travel at the lowest price and per diems in the industry.

**People-to-People Experiences:** Spend **A Day in the Life** of the indigenous Kichwa Amazon Basin community of Flor del Pantan. You'll visit a local school—supported in part by **Grand Circle Foundation**—and interact with the students, attend a cooking class, and tour a family farm to learn about the medicinal uses of their crops. This experience also includes a taste of Ecuador's indigenous culture and cuisine during a **Home-Hosted Lunch** with a local Kichwa family.

**O.A.T. Exclusives:** Our privately chartered 16-passenger Galápagos ship will anchor just off each island we visit and a Zodiac will bring you ashore, saving time otherwise spent sailing to and from the mainland.

## ITINERARY SUMMARY

| DAYS | DESTINATION                                       |
|------|---|
| 1    | Fly to Quito, Ecuador                             |
| 2-3  | Quito   |
| 4-6  | The Amazon  |
| 7-8  | Fly to Quito                                      |
| 9-15 | Fly to Galápagos • Embark ship • Cruise Galápagos |
| 16   | Disembark ship • Fly to Quito • Return to U.S.    |

## PERSONALIZE YOUR ADVENTURE

### OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Best of Peru: Lima, The Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu

PRE-TRIP: 6 nights from **\$2,095**

Riobamba & Cuenca: Cultural Treasures in the Ecuadorean Andes

POST-TRIP: 6 nights from **\$1,395**

### ARRIVE EARLY

We recommend that you relax after a long flight or explore more in depth before your trip. Prices shown include accommodations and private airport transfer.

- Arrive early in **Lima** before your Peru pre-trip extension from **\$150** per room, per night
- Arrive early in **Quito** before your main adventure from **\$150** per room, per night

# Ultimate Galápagos Exploration & Ecuador's Amazon Wilds

## YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

### BEGIN YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

#### 6 nights in *Best of Peru: Lima, The Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu*

**Day 1** Depart U.S. • Arrive Lima, Peru

**Day 2** Lima

**Day 3** Fly to Cuzco • Qoricancha •  
Sacred Valley

**Day 4** Sacred Valley • Explore  
Ollantaytambo

**Day 5** Cuzco • Transfer to Machu Picchu

**Day 6** Explore Machu Picchu •  
Return to Cuzco

**Day 7** Fly to Quito • Join main trip

#### **Day 1** Depart U.S. • Arrive Quito, Ecuador

- Destination: Quito
- Accommodations: Mercure Alameda Quito or similar

**Today's Activities:** You depart from the U.S. and fly to Quito, Ecuador's capital city, nestled at the foot of the Pichincha volcano. Upon arrival, your O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader or O.A.T. representative will meet your flight at the Quito airport and help you transfer to your hotel.

#### **Day 2** Visit Equator Museum • Agave Spirit museum

- Destination: Quito
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Mercure Alameda Quito or similar

**Activity Note:** Today's activities take place at elevations above 9,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated while at high altitude. You may rest at the hotel if necessary.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** We'll meet with our Trip Experience Leader for a Welcome Briefing in the hotel. As you learn more about the experiences ahead, you'll also meet travelers who took the pre-trip extension, *Best of Peru: Lima, The Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu*, as well as those who arrived early in Quito.



Then, we depart for the Inti Nan Museum, where we'll explore replicas of indigenous sun temples and other interesting artifacts. Inti Nan is the Quechua phrase for "Path of the Sun," and the sun quite literally charts a path through the museum—it sits directly on the equator.

From there, we'll make our way to Agave Spirit, a museum which aims to preserve the heritage of locally distilled liquors, such as tequila, mezcal, and miske, a uniquely Ecuadorian version of mezcal. Upon arrival, we'll hear a brief introduction about these cherished beverages and tour the museum, learning about the harvesting and distillation process.

**Lunch:** At Agave Spirit. We'll sample spirits such as miske and enjoy local dishes like lupin beans *ceviche* with quinoa tortillas and plantains.

**Afternoon:** Following lunch, we'll return to our hotel. Once there, you can pursue your own interests this afternoon. You might ride the cable car for views that, on a clear day, extend to Cotopaxi, one of the world's highest active volcanoes. Or take in the urban oasis of Parque Metropolitano. Your Trip Experience Leader will also have ideas for ways to make the most of your time in Quito.

**Dinner:** On your own—you might relax at the hotel restaurant.

**Evening:** Your evening is at leisure. Catch the nightlife outside your door, or relax in your comfortable room.

### **Day 3 Santa Clara Market • Explore Quito** **• Controversial Topic: Sex work in Quito's Old Town**

- Destination: Quito
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Mercure Alameda Quito or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Our day begins at Santa Clara Market, a colorful open market where you'll find stalls stacked with exotic fruits, vegetables, spices, medicinal ingredients, meats and fish. Upon arrival, we'll begin exploring the various sections of the market. Be sure to keep an eye out for tree tomatoes, giant *guanábana*, gooseberries, dragon fruit or *granadilla*.

Then, we'll continue on to the old town to begin exploring the city paths and historic sites of Quito on foot with our Trip Experience Leader. A charming colonial city that has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Quito is South America's oldest capital, founded by Sebastián de Benalcázar on December 6, 1534. Today we experience its delicate blend of Spanish and indigenous cultural influences. As we explore the city, we'll get an introduction to sites like La Basilica Church, Independence Plaza, and La Compañía de Jesus Church (if it's open to the public), an eye-popping, multi-domed Catholic complex whose gilded interior is nestled behind an equally impressive façade carved from volcanic stone. During our visit to this local landmark, we'll learn about its complicated construction, which began in 1605 and took a whopping 160 years to complete. We'll also have ample time to admire its dazzling gold-leaf motifs up close.

After our visit concludes, we'll make our way to San Francisco Plaza, one of the largest plazas in Quito. We'll have ample time to mingle among the locals who pass through the plaza

each day, from farmers and businesspeople, to sex workers awaiting clients—a **Controversial Topic** among Quito’s locals. Sex work is legal in Ecuador—in fact, in 2007 the Ministry of Health established a program to provide healthcare services for sex workers, including health screenings every 30 days. Almost half of the country’s sex workers live in Quito, where they have become increasingly visible in recent years after most of the city’s brothels were shut down, forcing the sex workers to take to the streets. Their neighborhood of choice is Quito’s Old Town, an historic neighborhood lined with colonial architecture that is popular with tourists. We’ll have the opportunity to meet one of these women for an illuminating conversation about what life is truly like for Quito’s sex workers, before making our way to lunch at a local restaurant, where we’ll hear another perspective on this controversial industry.

**Lunch:** We’ll toast the start of our adventure with a Welcome Lunch at a local restaurant, where you’ll savor an authentic taste of Ecuadorian fare.

**Afternoon:** We’ll return to our hotel after lunch, and the rest of the day is free. Perhaps you’ll take a stroll along Avenue Amazonas, or enjoy the amenities of your hotel.

**Dinner:** On your own. Your centrally located hotel is surrounded by options. Your Trip Experience Leader would be happy to recommend options within walking distance or accessible via taxi.

**Evening:** At leisure. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions, or simply relax at the hotel.

## **Day 4 Quito • Fly to Coca • Cruise to Amazon lodge**

- Destination: Amazon rain forest
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Yarina Lodge or similar

**Activity Note:** Today’s transfer involves a half-hour flight and one-hour motor canoe transfer. Agility and balance are required for embarking small motor canoes. Flight times are subject to change and may occur on day 3 instead; your Trip Experience Leader will update you about your departure time and date on site.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** We’ll get an early start this morning to catch a flight to Coca, a small town on the banks of the Napo River in the Amazon River watershed. Upon arrival, we will drive to a nearby dock, where we’ll board a motorized canoe that will take us to our lodge on the Napo River, a tributary of the Amazon. In the words of writer Joe Kane in *Running the Amazon*: “The Amazon cannot be understood just as a river. It is a whole wilderness, a great integrated system of rivers and jungles.”

For three days, we’ll have a rare opportunity to increase our understanding of the Amazon jungle—because it’ll be our home. Competition among the plants and trees for rain and sunlight is fierce here. Ultimately, only about ten percent of light from the sun penetrates the jungle canopy and reaches the forest floor.

Upon arrival at our lodge, we’ll have an orientation briefing about our accommodations—our base in the Amazon. The lodge has a simple design in keeping with its remote rain forest location, preserving the natural ambiance, but each cabin has electricity and a private bath offering warm-water showers.



**Lunch:** At the lodge.

**Afternoon:** Enjoy free time to explore trails that take you into the surrounding forest. Or, take a siesta in a hammock on your own private balcony. Prior to dinner, we'll set off on a walk to get familiar with our jungle surroundings.

**Dinner:** At the lodge.

**Evening:** Enjoy the facilities of the lodge until the time comes to let the sounds of the jungle lull you to sleep.

### **Day 5 Explore the rain forest • Sapococha Lagoon**

- Destination: Amazon rain forest
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Yarina Lodge or similar

**Activity Note:** Today's activities may vary, depending on the weather and the season. Agility and balance are required for embarking small motor canoes and walking in the Amazon rain forest. We recommend bringing a walking stick for hiking over surface roots and on muddy, steep terrain.

**Breakfast:** At the lodge.

**Morning:** Our day begins with a walk through the forest, where we'll keep our eyes peeled for a variety of wildlife. We return to the lodge in time to freshen up for lunch.

**Lunch:** At the lodge.

**Afternoon:** Following lunch, enjoy free time to prepare for our next experience: canoeing on Sapococha Lagoon, which is within walking distance of the lodge. As we canoe, we'll enjoy a concert of bird and monkey calls while we learn about different types of aquatic plants.

After returning to the lodge, the remainder of the afternoon is yours to do as you please. You might succumb to the lure of your private hammock, or go for a stroll on the grounds.

**Dinner:** At the lodge.

**Evening:** At leisure to enjoy the lodge's amenities.

### **Day 6 *A Day in the Life* of an indigenous Kichwa village • Grand Circle Foundation visit: Carlos Fernando Sanminguel School • Home-Hosted Lunch**

- Destination: Amazon rain forest
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Mercure Alameda Quito or similar

**Early Morning:** Early risers can choose to set off on a bird-watching excursion (weather permitting) for a glimpse of the colorful avian life that make their home in this lush Amazon setting.

**Breakfast:** At the lodge.

**Morning:** Following breakfast, we set out by canoe to experience *A Day in the Life* of Flor del Pantano, a village of about 40 families belonging to the Amazon's indigenous Kichwa people.

Our cultural experience begins when we walk to the Carlos Fernando Sanminguel School (when in session), a local primary school and **NEW Grand Circle Foundation** site.

### **Grand Circle Foundation**

**Carlos Fernando Sanminguel School**  
Partner since: **2021**

Carlos Fernando Sanminguel school serves Kichwa children between the ages of five and twelve. During our visit, we'll meet the teacher and students, and see firsthand what education is like in this indigenous community.

Our partnership with the school began in 2021, and during our visit, we'll witness the difference our travel dollars are making in the children's lives. With Grand Circle Foundation's support, the school is currently constructing a dining facility for the students, and is expanding the community's access to clean water for drinking and cleaning. As we tour the school and speak with the students who rely on its services, we'll observe how these initiatives are helping to improve the lives and future of Flor del Pantano's residents.

Then, our ***A Day in the Life*** experience continues as we walk to the home of a local family, where we'll get fully acquainted with the Kichwa people's culture, traditions, and daily lives during a tour of the family's home and garden.

Agriculture has always been a fundamental pillar of Kichwa society, and the garden (*chacra*) is one of the most important parts of any family's home. Our hosts will teach us about the various crops and herbs they cultivate in their garden, and we'll even have the opportunity to roll up our sleeves and help out with some hands-on activities.

We'll join in on the planting or harvest (depending on the season) of the cassava root, one of the most cherished crops that the Kichwa people grow in the rainforest. The humble root boasts a number of nutritional and medicinal properties, and takes center stage in many Kichwa ceremonies—our hosts will tell us about the role that the cassava root plays in the community, and demonstrate how its peel can be used as a moisturizer and exfoliator in skincare products. In addition to the cassava plant, we'll learn about the other crops that

Kichwa families grow—either for subsistence or sale in local markets—such as bananas, corn, palm hearts, cotton, coffee, and cocoa.

We'll also learn how Kichwa traditions are changing in the face of the encroaching modern world. As timber and oil companies have moved in and deforested the Amazon, the Kichwa people have turned to raising chickens and ecotourism to supplement their subsistence economy—as we'll learn later, after lunch, this growing interconnectedness with the global economy has been changing the fabric of Kichwa society in recent generations.

**Lunch:** We'll split into smaller groups to help our hosts prepare our **Home-Hosted Lunch**—a unique opportunity to learn about traditional Kichwa cuisine. The main dish will be *maito*—fresh-caught fish wrapped in the large green leaves of the *bijao* plant and cooked over an open flame. *Maito* is a special dish that is only served on celebratory occasions or to welcome honored guests—our opportunity to enjoy it with our hosts is a rare privilege that few Americans ever get to experience.

We'll also help prepare side dishes such as boiled green plantains and roasted white cocoa beans, and prepare a dessert made of seasonally-available fruit. Our hosts will also show us how to make *chicha*, a popular local fermented drink made from cassava root and sweet potato. After working together to help prepare the feast, we'll all sit down to enjoy a delectable meal and friendly conversation.

**Afternoon:** Following lunch, we'll try our hand at using traditional blowguns. From an early age, Kichwa youth are trained in the use of these handcrafted weapons loaded with poisoned darts (lethal only to small animals) to hunt food for their community. As we'll soon see for ourselves as we join them in a round of target practice, skillful use of these simple devices can be much harder than it looks.

We'll return to our lodge via canoe around mid-afternoon. You'll then have the rest of the day to relax or explore independently as you please. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide suggestions.

**Dinner:** At the lodge.

**Evening:** Afterward, you are at leisure to enjoy the lodge's amenities.

### **Day 7 Coca • Fly to Quito**

- Destination: Quito
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Mercure Alameda Quito or similar

**Activity Note:** Agility and balance are required for embarking small motor canoes in the Amazon rain forest. Also, we will spend the next two days at elevations above 9,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated while at high altitude. Flight times are subject to change and may occur on day 6 instead; your Trip Experience Leader will update you about your departure time and date on site.

**Breakfast:** At the lodge.

**Morning:** Following breakfast, we board a motorized canoe to return to Coca via the Río Napo. Upon arrival, we'll head to the airport for our flight to Quito.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant upon arrival in Quito.

**Afternoon:** After our lunch concludes, we'll make our way to our hotel.

The remainder of the afternoon is free for independent exploration of Quito. Your Trip Experience Leader will have suggestions, or you might visit the Artisan Market near Plaza Foch to browse for Ecuadorian handcrafts and artwork. Or, perhaps you'll relax in your room.

**Dinner:** On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader would be happy to offer restaurant recommendations.

**Evening:** Enjoy a relaxing evening at the hotel.

### **Day 8 Quito • Optional Papallacta Hot Springs tour**

- Destination: Quito
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Mercure Alameda Quito or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Enjoy free time in Quito. Your Trip Experience Leader would be happy to suggest ways to make the most of your day.

Or, join our full-day optional tour to the Andean village of Papallacta and the Termas de Papallacta to experience a relaxing day surrounded by the natural beauty of Ecuador's highlands.

**Lunch:** If you join us on the optional tour, lunch is included. Otherwise, you are sure to find many possibilities for lunch on your own during your independent explorations.

**Afternoon:** Continue your exploration of Quito. If you have taken our optional tour, you will return to the hotel late this afternoon.

**Dinner:** On your own. With so many choices available to you, you might want to ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

**Evening:** The evening is at leisure. You might seek out one of the many nearby establishments serving craft beer or a club featuring live music.

## Day 9 Fly to the Galápagos • Embark ship

- Destination: Galápagos islands
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Galápagos Small Ship

**Activity Note:** We'll rise very early this morning for our flight to the Galápagos.

The following description is meant only as a general guide to the cruise itinerary that you are likely to follow. The selection and order of islands visited cannot be guaranteed due to the Galápagos's frequently variable weather, marine and environmental conditions, and changes in airline schedules between the mainland and the Galápagos.

This is a carefully managed park with fragile ecosystems. To safeguard them (and to ensure your own comfort), boat and park authorities have the prerogative to revise our course at a moment's notice. You may rest on board instead of participating in any hikes if you prefer.

**Breakfast:** Arise very early and have a light breakfast at the hotel's coffee station.

**Morning:** We depart very early this morning for our flight to the Galápagos. Upon arrival, we'll drive to the dock, where we board our small ship. You can stow your gear in your cabin, orient yourself on deck, and enjoy the anticipation of the cruise ahead.

For seven nights, we explore the archipelago—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—by ship, enjoying comfortable cabins and the services of an expert crew. Our Trip Experience Leader will give us an orientation briefing, including conservation techniques suggested by the Galápagos National Park. He or she is a graduate of the elite certification program conducted at the Charles Darwin Research Station on Isla Santa Cruz by the Galápagos National Park Service.

We file our Galápagos cruising itinerary with the conservation authorities of the Galápagos National Park. Park biologists periodically review it, and they have the authority to make changes to our plan to minimize our impact on the ecosystems of the islands. Our Trip Experience Leader also provides the park with information on species behavior, and we are proud to work in cooperation with the park officials in preserving the priceless natural wonders of the Galápagos.

Each morning during our cruise, the sight of an island seemingly floating off the bow may send a shiver of anticipation through you. A small dinghy brings us close to the islands for wet or dry landings, which require wading through knee-deep clear water.

On shore, a gaudily colored Sally Lightfoot crab may scuttle by your foot as you watch iguanas sunning on the sands. It is an adventure of Darwinian proportions.

All meals are included during our cruise, and no matter which island you call on, each of the next days will follow a similar pattern.

**Lunch:** Onboard the ship.

**Afternoon:** Settle into your cabin and get acquainted with your floating home before we gather for a safety drill. Our ship will be sailing toward our next island stop, where we might hike across volcanic landscapes.

**Dinner:** Onboard the ship.

**Evening:** Retire to your cabin. As you sleep, you'll be cruising toward another adventure in the Galápagos.



## Day 10 Galápagos cruise

- Destination: Galápagos islands
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Galápagos Small Ship

**Activity Note:** We'll make numerous landings by small dinghies that involve stepping into knee-deep water to wade ashore. Balance and agility are required to participate, and please pack accordingly. You may rest on board instead if you prefer.

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Today's Activities:** For the next six days, we continue our Galápagos travel, and each day we have the opportunity to snorkel the surrounding waters. Although wildlife sightings are unpredictable, we may see blue-footed and Nazca boobies, frigatebirds, pelicans, Galápagos doves, swallowtail and lava gulls, Darwin finches, or herons. We'll also marvel at sea lions and iguanas throughout our travels.

During the summer and fall, the Humboldt Current moves through the Galápagos Islands, cooling sea and land temperatures, and creating a mist that covers the islands—locally known as *garua* (soft rain)—during the day. The Humboldt Current is strongest from July to October, delivering choppy water that surrounds the islands.

**Lunch:** Onboard the ship.

**Afternoon:** We continue our explorations of the Galápagos.

**Dinner:** Onboard the ship.

**Evening:** Perhaps you'll relax in the lounge, or gaze at an amazing panoply of stars from the sun deck.

## Day 11 Galápagos cruise

- Destination: Galápagos islands
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Galápagos Small Ship

**Activity Note:** We'll make numerous landings by small dinghies that involve stepping into knee-deep water to wade ashore. Balance and agility are required to participate, and please pack accordingly. You may rest on board instead if you prefer.

**Today's Activities:** We continue our Galápagos travel, with opportunities to snorkel. Here is a preview of the islands you may call on. Islands visited depend on the ship's itinerary.

**Santiago (James)**—Tidal pools reveal a profusion of octopi, starfishes, and other undersea life. Rare fur sea lions that were once on the verge of extinction cavort nearby, and we often spot oystercatchers, blue herons, and yellow-crowned night herons.

**Bartolome**—One of the youngest islands, Bartolome displays a fantastic landscape of lava formations—including the famous Pinnacle Rock. The mangroves often hide mating sea turtles.

**South Plaza**—Sea lions often greet us raucously as we step ashore. We also find land iguanas busy eating the opuntia cactus flowers and pads. There are colonies of swallow-tailed gulls, shearwaters, and red-billed tropicbirds.

**Rabida (Jervis)**—A reddish beach and steep volcanic slopes give this island its distinctive look.

**Leon Dormido (Kicker Rock)**—Cruise around this sheer 500-foot tuff cone formation, where blue-footed boobies and sea lions abound. Santa Cruz—At the Charles Darwin Research Station, learn about pioneering ecological studies and the giant Galápagos tortoise-breeding program.

**Floreana (Charles)**—Like the other islands, Floreana has its coterie of remarkable creatures. But it's the human stories that will engage you here as your guide tells of the first inhabitant, a shipwrecked Irishman, and the quirky "post office" in a barrel, where sailors have been leaving letters for delivery since 1793. This "post office" still operates today.

**Santa Fe (Barrington)**—Hike through a forest of opuntia cactus, where land iguanas doze, and then snorkel in clear water with coral reefs, manta rays, sea turtles, and colorful schools of fish. North Seymour—Here you'll find the largest colony of frigatebirds in the Galapagos and a major nesting site for the blue-footed booby. On the beach, sea lions ride the waves.

**San Cristobal (Chatham)**—The town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on this island is the sleepy capital of the Galapagos province. Ochoa Beach boasts pelicans and other sea birds, as well as a delightful swimming beach. Nearby is Lobos Island, where you'll see pelicans, frigatebirds, and a sea lion colony.

**Española (Hood Island)**—Sea lions, marine iguanas, and many kinds of birds are found here, including Darwin's finches, Hood mockingbirds, and blue-footed and masked boobies. Along the southern shore, spectacular cliffs rise up from the sea. From November to April, the remarkable waved albatross, which can spend years at sea without touching land, can be seen performing their unique, perfectly-choreographed mating ritual.

**Today's Meals:** All meals will be served onboard. Your crew and Trip Experience Leader will inform you of precise start times.

## Day 12 Galápagos cruise

- Destination: Galápagos islands
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Galápagos Small Ship

**Activity Note:** We'll make numerous landings by small dinghies that involve stepping into knee-deep water to wade ashore. Balance and agility are required to participate, and please pack accordingly. You may rest on board instead if you prefer.

**Today's Activities:** Today we continue our Galápagos travel, with opportunities to snorkel. An O.A.T. traveler commented that, "The Galápagos are sun, sea, and a workshop in evolutionary biology." Once on land, we'll walk with our naturalist Trip Experience Leader along trails that bring us close to the many indigenous species.

**Today's Meals:** Onboard the ship.

## Day 13 Galápagos cruise

- Destination: Galápagos islands
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Galápagos Small Ship

**Activity Note:** We'll make numerous landings by small dinghies that involve stepping into knee-deep water to wade ashore. Balance and agility are required to participate, and please pack accordingly. You may rest on board instead if you prefer.

**Today's Activities:** Today we continue our Galápagos travel. When we are not viewing wildlife on shore, we can swim, sunbathe, and perhaps go snorkeling among sea lions and vividly colored tropical fish. Throughout the trip, we'll see magnificent landscapes of white-sand beaches, sparkling clear aquamarine water, and black and red volcanic rock landscapes.

**Today's Meals:** Onboard the ship.

## Day 14 Galápagos cruise

- Destination: Galápagos islands
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Galápagos Small Ship

**Activity Note:** We'll make numerous landings by small dinghies that involve stepping into knee-deep water to wade ashore. Balance and agility are required to participate, and please pack accordingly. You may rest on board instead if you prefer.

**Today's Activities:** Today we continue our exploration of the Galápagos, with opportunities to snorkel. As we take in their striking seascapes, we can consider how they have impressed great American writers in two different centuries. Herman Melville blended knowledge of the islands, gained from his days as a sailor, with fiction in his 1854 novella *The Encantadas* or *Enchanted Isles*. More than 100 years later, Kurt Vonnegut's 1985 novel *Galápagos* drew inspiration from the author's own visit to the archipelago. Unique and remote, the Galápagos Islands will no doubt continue to influence creative artists for centuries to come.

**Today's Meals:** Onboard the ship.

## Day 15 Galápagos cruise • Farewell Dinner

- Destination: Galápagos islands
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Galápagos Small Ship

**Activity Note:** We'll make numerous landings by small dinghies that involve stepping into knee-deep water to wade ashore. Balance and agility are required to participate, and please pack accordingly. You may rest on board instead if you prefer.

**Today's Activities:** This is the last day we spend in the Galápagos, and we'll continue to enjoy snorkeling, exploring, observing wildlife, and hiking around the islands.

**Today's Meals:** Onboard the ship.

## Day 16 Disembark ship • Fly to Quito • Return to U.S. or begin your post-trip extension

- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

**Activity Note:** Today, we will fly to Quito from the Galápagos. Depending on your ship and flight itinerary, you'll depart from either Baltra Island or San Cristobal Island. We do not recommend that travelers departing from San Cristobal make their own flight arrangements before 10pm, as flights from San Cristobal Island arrive in Quito around 6pm.

**Breakfast:** Onboard the ship.

**Morning:** We bid farewell to our captain and crew and disembark our Galápagos vessel. We then make our way to the airport for our return flight to Quito.

**Lunch:** On your own—perhaps you'll pick up a snack at the airport.

**Afternoon:** Upon arrival in Quito, we'll make our way to a hotel near the airport, where you'll have a day room in which to relax before your flight later this evening.

**Dinner:** At the hotel.

**Evening:** Make your way to the airport late this evening for your flight home. Travelers taking the post-trip extension to *Riobamba & Cuenca: Cultural Treasures in the Ecuadorean Andes* will stay overnight in Quito.

## END YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

### **6 nights in *Riobamba & Cuenca: Cultural Treasures in the Ecuadorean Andes***

**Day 1** Quito

**Day 2** Overland to Riobamba • Local interaction • Rose farm visit

**Day 3** Balbanera Church • Visit Andean village of Pistishi Tolte • Cuenca

**Day 4** Explore Cuenca

**Day 5** Visit Cajas National Park

**Day 6** Visit “Panama” hat factory • Fly to Quito • Return to U.S.



## OPTIONAL TOURS

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During your trip you will be able to book optional tours directly with your Trip Experience Leader. He or she will ask you to confirm the payment for these tours by filling out a payment form. Optional tours can only be purchased with a credit or debit card. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover credit cards. We also accept Visa and MasterCard debit cards, but it must be a debit card that allows you to sign for purchases.

In order to correctly process these charges, there can be a delay of 2–3 months from the date of your return for the charges to be posted to your account. Therefore we ask that you use a card that will not expire in the 2–3 months following your return.

**Please note:** *Optional tour prices are listed in U.S. dollar estimates determined at the time of publication and are subject to change. Optional tours may vary.*

### Papallacta Hot Springs

(Day 8 \$110 per person)

Join this full-day tour to experience the pristine natural beauty and wildlife of the Andean highlands. We'll depart Quito early in the morning for our first exploration of Ecuador's flora and fauna. Then we'll proceed to the Termas de Papallacta, a thermal hot spring and spa set high in the Andes. Enjoy a day of relaxation surrounded by verdant mountains. After lunch at the Termas, we'll make our way back to Quito.

**Please note:** *In order for this optional tour to operate, a minimum number of participants is required.*

## PRE-TRIP

### Best of Peru: Lima, The Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu

#### INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

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- » Roundtrip air transportation from Lima to Cuzco; and from Cuzco to Quito
- » 6 nights accommodation
- » 13 meals: 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 2 dinners
- » 7 guided tours and cultural experiences
- » Services of our local Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- » All transfers

#### PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

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*Discover Cuzco's Inca and Spanish colonial legacies ... experience the rich history of the Sacred Valley ... explore the ruins of Ollantaytambo ... and catch a train to Machu Picchu, where an overnight stay makes it possible to visit the site at its quietest times.*

##### **Day 1 Depart U.S. • Arrive Lima, Peru**

- Accommodations: José Antonio Deluxe or similar

**Today's Activities:** Depart from the U.S. and fly to Lima, Peru's capital city. An O.A.T. representative will meet you at the airport and help you transfer to your hotel.

##### **Day 2 Lima**

- Destination: Lima
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: José Antonio Deluxe or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Begin the day with a panoramic sightseeing tour of the city, led by a local guide. Founded by the conquistadors in 1535, Lima became Spain's largest and wealthiest city in the New World. The city has a proud history,

including the founding of one of the first universities in South America, the Universidad de San Marcos, in the middle of the 16th century. Today, Lima's historic city center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Later this morning, we'll set off on a walk around the fashionable Miraflores neighborhood of Lima.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** The remainder of the day is free for your own discoveries.

**Dinner:** On your own.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

### **Day 3 Fly to Cuzco • Qoricancha • Sacred Valley**

- Destination: Sacred Valley
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Villa Urubamba or similar

**Activity Note:** Please be advised that we'll spend the next six days at elevations above 9,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated and eating light while at high altitude.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Drive to the airport for your flight to Cuzco, Peru, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located at an altitude of 10,909 feet. Upon arrival, visit the Qoricancha Sun Temple, the city's most important ceremonial structure during the Incan era. Historical records of the time note that its walls were once covered with sheets of gold studded with emeralds and turquoise; when the sunlight streamed through the windows, the reflection off the precious metals was blinding.

After our visit, we'll drive toward the Sacred Valley.

**Lunch:** Enjoy a boxed lunch during our journey.

**Afternoon:** Arrive in the Sacred Valley, once the hub of the Incan Empire. Attracted to its warmer temperatures and lower altitude, the Incans are thought to have taken control of this land between 1000 and 1400 AD. The region is known for its sprawling landscapes, stately mountain peak views, and quaint villages.

Later in the afternoon, embark on an orientation walk around the community where we'll be staying, then check into our hotel. For the rest of the afternoon, you'll be free to make your own discoveries.

**Dinner:** At your hotel.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

### **Day 4 Sacred Valley • Explore Ollantaytambo**

- Destination: Sacred Valley
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Villa Urubamba or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Head to the northern end of the Sacred Valley to explore the Ollantaytambo ruins, the former bureaucratic center of the Incan Empire. When Peru was invaded by Spain in the 1500s, it served as the last line of defense for the leader of the Incan resistance, Manco Yupanqui. Today, you'll behold the remnants of the approximately 500-year-old fortress atop Temple Hill.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** After lunch, you're free to explore independently. If you wish, you may attend a pottery workshop later this afternoon. Here, you'll learn about the ceramics techniques and styles used by the ancient Incans to create the artifacts we cherish today.

**Dinner:** At a local restaurant.

**Evening:** Free to explore. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide suggestions.

## Day 5 Cuzco • Transfer to Machu Picchu

- Destination: Machu Picchu
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Casa Andina Standard Machu Picchu or similar

**Activity Note:** Today's discoveries involve extensive walking on steep and uneven planes at an altitude of more than 8,000 feet. We recommend you stay hydrated and rest if necessary.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Drive to the Ollantaytambo Train Station, where we'll board the train for Machu Picchu.

**Lunch:** We'll have a boxed lunch while we're riding the train.

**Afternoon:** Upon arrival at the station in Aguas Calientes, we'll drive to the renowned ruins of Machu Picchu. Most travelers visit Machu Picchu on a day trip, which makes for a hectic pace at this unique, archaeological wonder. We have the opportunity to take a closer look during our overnight visit.

Our Trip Experience Leader will give us a complete and compelling look at the fabled "Lost City of the Incas," which was discovered in 1911 by Yale archaeologist (and later, U.S. Senator) Hiram Bingham. Subsequent discoveries (such as Bingham's later unearthing of the Inca Trail and the 1941 discovery of nearby Huayna Picchu) suggest that Machu Picchu was not simply a "lost city" but part of a whole lost region. More than 172 tombs have been excavated, and in 2002, Peruvian archaeologists uncovered the first complete burial site, unearthing a woman's skeleton, bronze pins, and a clay pot. Here we can explore sites like the Ritual Baths, the Palace of the

Princess, the Main Fountain, and the Temple of the Sun as we contemplate the achievements of a most fascinating and mysterious civilization.

Later, return to Aguas Calientes, where we'll check in to our hotel.

**Dinner:** On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for local restaurant recommendations.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

## Day 6 Explore Machu Picchu • Return to Cuzco

- Destination: Cuzco
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: José Antonio Cuzco Hotel or similar

**Activity Note:** Today's discoveries involve extensive walking on steep and uneven planes at an altitude of more than 8,000 feet. We recommend you stay hydrated and rest if necessary.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** We'll drive back to Machu Picchu. You can remain at the hotel if you wish, but most travelers appreciate this chance to see the ruins in a different light.

You can wander the sprawling ruins with your Trip Experience Leader. Later, join your local guide or Trip Experience Leader for some final discoveries among the ruins.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant in town.

**Afternoon:** Depart by train for Ollantaytambo, taking us through the spectacular Urubamba Gorge. Upon arrival, we'll then drive to Cuzco,



making stops at points of interest along the way. After checking in to our hotel, the balance of the day is free for your own discoveries.

**Dinner:** On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for local restaurant recommendations.

**Evening:** Free to rest or explore independently—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

### **Day 7 Fly to Quito • Join main trip**

- Included Meals: Breakfast

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning/Afternoon:** Drive to the airport for our flight to Lima. From Lima, we'll board our final plane to Quito, Ecuador, where we begin our *Ultimate Galápagos Exploration & Ecuador's Amazon Wilds* adventure.

## POST-TRIP

### Riobamba & Cuenca: Cultural Treasures in the Ecuadorean Andes

#### INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

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- » Air transportation from Cuenca to Quito
- » 6 nights accommodation
- » 15 meals: 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- » 7 guided tours and cultural experiences
- » Services of our local Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides, drivers, and luggage porters
- » All transfers

#### POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

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*Experience the Andean side of Ecuador, a region of snowcapped volcanoes and indigenous cultures. From traditional countryside markets to Spanish colonial Cuenca, uncover a wealth of cultural and natural diversity.*

##### Day 1 Quito

- Destination: Quito
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: Wyndham Hotel Quito or similar

**Morning/Afternoon:** Bid your fellow travelers from your *Ultimate Galápagos Exploration & Ecuador's Amazon Wilds* adventure farewell as they depart for the airport.

**Dinner:** At the hotel.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide suggestions.

##### Day 2 Overland to Riobamba • Local interaction • Rose farm visit

- Destination: Riobamba
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hacienda Abraspungo or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Journey to Riobamba, traveling on the Pan-American Highway along the Avenue of the Volcanoes. This part of Ecuador is home to more people of Incan and pre-Incan descent than any other part of the country. We'll arrive at the home of a local Tigua painter. Tigua is a collection of small communities southwest of Quito. Residents farm the mountain slopes and valleys, grow their own crops, and herd sheep and llamas. These locals are deeply bound to their land, and Tigua artists celebrate this rural life in the Andes through their vibrant paintings. This folk art tradition is traditionally

painted on sheep hide and commemorates the legends and traditions of mountain life dating back centuries.

After the artist welcomes us into his home, he'll delve into the history and traditions of his people and explain how these themes are reflected in his artwork. You will even be able to try your own hand at this time-honored craft. Following our artistic pursuits, the artist will give us a tour of his fruit garden.

Next, we'll depart for a local rose farm, where you'll learn more about Ecuadorian roses and how they are sustainably produced.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** Following lunch, we'll head toward the foothills of Chimborazo mountain to meet with some family members of a resident who was known locally as "the last ice man." He earned this nickname by following the family tradition of collecting ice from Chimborazo glacier and then selling it at the local market. The family will talk about the origins of ice picking and why this tradition has waned in recent years.

Later, we'll drive to our hotel and check in. The remainder of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

**Dinner:** At the hotel.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide recommendations.

### **Day 3 Balbanera Church • Visit Andean village of Pistishi Tolte • Cuenca**

- Destination: Cuenca
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Santa Lucia Hotel or similar

**Activity Note:** Today's drive from Riobamba to Cuenca takes approximately 8 hours. We'll make several stops along the way to break up this lengthy journey.

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Drive to Cuenca, with several stops along the way. Our first stop is the small town of Colta, where we'll visit Ecuador's first Catholic church. Balbanera Church—*Iglesia de Balbanera*—was built by Spanish conquistadors in 1534 and represents one of the earliest examples of colonial architecture in South America. Constructed out of stone and adobe, and set against the backdrop of Chimborazo volcano and the placid waters of Colta Lagoon, the church has managed to survive centuries of earthquakes and is still in use today.

Continue our overland journey, and make another stop at a local shop, where we'll sample homemade bread unique to the Ecuadorian highlands while enjoying sweeping views. Then, we'll continue on to Pistishi Tolte, a remote agricultural village nestled in the Andes. A little more than a decade ago, Pistishi Tolte was considered one of the poorest communities in Ecuador, with villagers working the fields day and night and barely able to make ends meet. We'll learn about the steps they've taken in recent years to lift themselves out of poverty and become a thriving, self-sustaining community while still managing to preserve their local traditions and culture.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** We'll take to the road again shortly after lunch. After a quick photo stop at one of the scenic overlooks along the route of the Devil's Nose Train, we'll finish our final stretch to Cuenca. Upon arrival, we'll check in to our hotel. Enjoy some leisure time to relax and refresh after our day's journey.

**Dinner:** At the hotel.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

#### Day 4 Explore Cuenca

- Destination: Cuenca
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Santa Lucia Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Explore Cuenca, a city located 8,200 feet above sea level. Cuenca has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site because of its well-preserved Spanish Colonial architecture. The skyline is dotted with church domes, and four rivers wind through the charming cityscape of gardens, cobblestone streets, and ironwork balconies. Throughout our explorations, we'll discover the Abdón Calderón Park, a local flower market, the New Cathedral (founded in 1885), the historic street of Calle Larga, and San Francisco Plaza.

Next, we'll stroll the El Barranco, a picturesque promenade nestled along the banks of the Tamebamba River, and make our way to the Broken Bridge.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** After lunch, attend a pottery workshop, where we'll get a hands-on demonstration of traditional pottery making in Cuenca.

**Dinner:** On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for local restaurant recommendations.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

#### Day 5 Visit Cajas National Park

- Destination: Cajas National Park
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: Santa Lucia Hotel or similar

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Discover Cajas National Park (Parque Nacional Cajas). Here, we'll experience the Andean *páramo*—a high-altitude environment of low-growing plants, the South American version of alpine tundra. Elevations in the park range from 10,170 feet to its high point, the top of the mountain named Cerro Arquitectos, at 14,600 feet. The park offers vistas of pristine mountain scenery, including 270 glacially formed lakes and lagoons.

Later this morning, we'll drive to the highest point of the Biosphere Reserve at Cajas National Park. Protected by UNESCO, the park is home to vast stretches of evergreen cloud forests and hundreds of lakes, which sustain innumerable species.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** The rest of the afternoon is free for your own discoveries. Check with your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

**Dinner:** At a local restaurant.

**Evening:** You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

**Day 6 Visit “Panama” hat factory • Fly to Quito • Return to U.S.**

- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Breakfast:** At the hotel.

**Morning:** Visit a factory where “Panama” hats are crafted by hand. Worn all over Latin America, these hats are a traditional product of Ecuador.

**Lunch:** At a local restaurant.

**Afternoon:** Drive to the Cuenca airport. Then, fly to Quito, and transfer to our hotel, where we’ll have access to a day room. Enjoy free time to relax in your room or enjoy the hotel’s amenities.

**Dinner:** At the hotel.

**Evening:** Transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to the U.S.



## YOUR GALÁPAGOS SMALL SHIP

### Explore aboard a privately chartered, 16-passenger small ship

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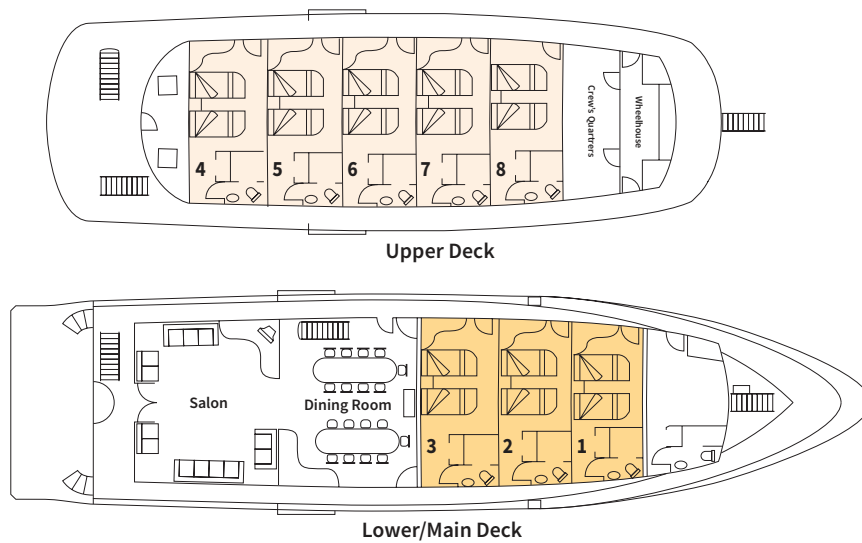
Cruise the Galápagos Islands aboard a 16-passenger small ship that can easily maneuver around the islands. From your spot on the Sun Deck or balcony, look out for the same wildlife that Charles Darwin studied. Enjoy up-close experiences with wildlife like ancient giant tortoises and blue-footed boobies during our daily Zodiac excursions or while using the available snorkeling equipment. And get to know your group of 8-16 (average of 13) fellow travelers while savoring a meal in the dining area or relaxing in the lounge areas.





### SHIPBOARD FEATURES

- **Dining room:** Enjoy international cuisine on board, with beer and wine included during meals.
- **Indoor common areas:** Spend time getting to know your fellow travelers in the small lounge or dining area.
- **Outdoor common areas:** Take in the scenery and wildlife on the shore from the upper Sun Deck.
- **Zodiac crafts:** We will embark on Zodiacs from the ship for daily exploration of the islands.

## GALÁPAGOS SMALL SHIP



### Cabin Categories

-  **A Upper:** cabins on the highest passenger deck
-  **B Lower/Main:** cabins on the middle or bottom passenger deck

**Registry:** Guayaquil, Ecuador

**Length:** 100 ft.

**Beam:** 26 ft.

**Draft:** 7 ft.

**Cabin size:** 170 sq. ft.

**Number of Cabins:** 8

**Passenger Capacity:** 16

**Entered Service:** 2002

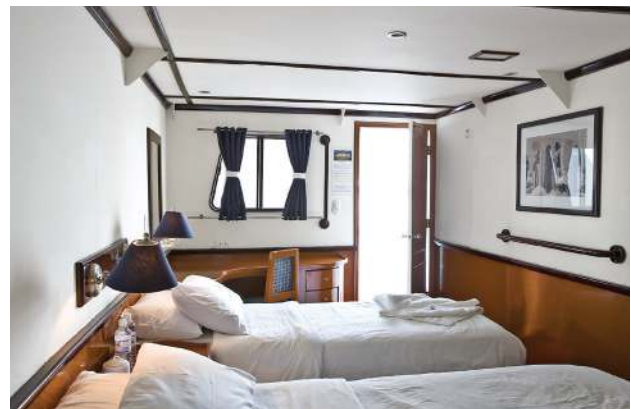
**Ecuadorian crew:** 10

**Group Size:** 16 travelers  
maximum, with 1 Trip  
Experience Leader

*O.A.T. may use a different ship depending on the trip departure date. This deck plan is typical but ships may vary slightly in size and facilities.*

## CABIN FEATURES

- Average cabin size is 170 sq. ft.
- All cabins are outside-facing with windows
- In-cabin amenities: Two twin beds, small desk
- In-bathroom amenities: Private bath with freshwater shower



*Cabin with two twin beds*

# TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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## Your Passport

- Must be in good condition
- Must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S.
- Must have the required number of blank pages (details below)
- The blank pages must be labeled “Visas” at the top. Pages labeled “Amendments and Endorsements” are not acceptable

## Need to Renew Your Passport?

Contact the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) at **1-877-487-2778**, or visit the U.S. Department of State’s official website at **www.travel.state.gov** for information on obtaining a new passport or renewing your existing passport. The U.S. Department of State allows for passport renewal by mail or, for applicable citizens, renewal online. We advise you review the process and requirements for online passport renewal on the official website.

You may also contact our recommended visa service company, PVS International, at **1-800-556-9990** for help with your passport.

## Recommended Blank Pages

Please confirm that your passport has enough blank pages for this vacation.

- **Main trip only:** If you are taking only the main trip, you will need 2 blank passport pages.
- **Pre-trip extension to Machu Picchu:** You will need an additional page, for a total of 3.
- **Post-trip extension in Ecuador:** No additional pages are needed for this extension.
- **Both a pre- and a post-trip extension:** You will need 3 pages total.
- **Stopover in Bogota, La Paz, Lima, or Quito:** You will need to add an additional page to the applicable total listed above.

## No Visas Required

Travelers with a U.S. passport do not need any visas for this adventure, including the optional trip extensions.

## Traveling Without a U.S. Passport?

If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if your passport is from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to check with your local consulate, embassy, or a visa services company about visa requirements. We recommend the services of PVS International, a national visa service located in Washington D.C.; they can be reached at **1-800-556-9990** or **www.pvsinternational.org**.

## Traveling With a Minor?

Some governments may require certain documentation for minors to enter and depart the country or to obtain a visa (if applicable). For further detail on the required documentation, please contact your local embassy or consulate.

## Travel Protection Required:

For new bookings starting 1/1/25, Overseas Adventure Travel requires all travelers purchase travel protection with Medical Evacuation coverage of at least \$200,000 and Medical Expense coverage of at least \$50,000, due to the remote nature of your adventure.

## O.A.T. Travel Protection:

If you **purchase your Travel Protection Plan** through O.A.T., no further action will be needed, as the Medical Evacuation coverage and Medical Expense coverage meets these requirements.

## Your Own Travel Protection:

If you purchase your own travel protection, we recommend you review the plan to ensure Medical Evacuation coverage of at least \$200,000 and Medical Expense coverage of at least \$50,000 is included. Once you confirm your plan meets the requirements, you will need to email the following information to **TravelCoverage@oattravel.com**:

- Traveler Name(s)
- Reservation Number
- Trip Protection Provider
- Policy Number
- Date of Purchase

You can also contact our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814** to review this policy. You will be required to provide proof of coverage by 60 days prior to departure at the latest.

## Emergency Photocopies of Key Documents

We recommend you carry color photocopies of key documents including the photo page of your passport plus any applicable visas, air itinerary, credit cards (front and back), and an alternative form of ID. Add emergency phone numbers like your credit card company and the number for your travel protection plan. Store copies separate from the originals.

If you plan to email this information to yourself, please keep in mind that email is not always secure; consider using password protection or encryption. Also email is not always available worldwide. As an alternative, you could load these documents onto a flash drive instead, which can do double-duty as a place to backup photos during your trip.

## **Overseas Taxes & Fees**

This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and can be paid in cash (either U.S. or local currency). If applicable, you will receive a list of these fees with your Final Documents.



## RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

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### Is This Adventure Right for You?

**Please review the information below prior to departing on this adventure.** We reserve the right for our Trip Experience Leaders to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their condition would adversely affect the health, safety, or enjoyment of themselves or of other travelers.

#### GROUP SIZE

- This adventure has a maximum group size of 16 travelers with two local Trip Experience Leaders exclusive to O.A.T.

#### PACING

- 5 locations in 16 days, with 7 nights aboard a Galápagos small ship.
- Some international flights arrive or depart from Ecuador around midnight, and internal flights are scheduled very early

#### PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Not appropriate for travelers using wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility aids
- You must be able to walk 3 miles unassisted in hot, humid weather and participate in 6–8 hours of physical activities each day
- We reserve the right for Trip Experience Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

#### ALTITUDE

- 4 full days at altitudes of 9,000–10,000 feet

#### CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 60–90°F
- The Amazon Basin has an extreme tropical climate with humidity in the 90% range and frequent rain year-round
- Quito has a mountain climate with a large drop in day to night temperature

## **TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION**

- Hike on uneven, rocky trails that can be slippery; make wet landings; go on several snorkeling excursions; and you may encounter rough seas while cruising (especially July–October)
- Agility and balance are required for embarking small motor dinghies and walking in the Amazon rain forest
- We recommend bringing a walking stick for hiking over surface roots and on muddy, steep terrain
- Travel by 20–passenger minibus, canoe, 16–passenger small ship, and motorized dinghies
- Drives lasting 4–6 hours and 4 internal flights of 1–4 hours each on the main trip

## **FLIGHT INFORMATION**

- Travel time will be 4–11 hours and will most likely have two connections

## **ACCOMMODATIONS & FACILITIES**

- Hotel rooms are smaller than in the U.S. and offer simple amenities
- Small ship cabins are comfortable but small compared to large cruise ships
- All accommodations feature private baths
- Lodges in the Amazon do not have air conditioning, only fans

## **Steps to Take Before Your Trip**

Before you leave on this adventure, we recommend the following:

- Check with the CDC for their recommendations for the countries you'll be visiting. You can contact them online at **[www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)** or by phone at **1-800-232-4636**.
- Have a medical checkup with your doctor at least 6 weeks before your trip.
- Pick up any necessary medications, both prescription and over-the-counter.
- Have a dental and/or eye checkup. (Recommended, but less urgent)

## **No Vaccines Required**

### **Yellow Fever Vaccination – Recommended**

While the CDC offers a wide range of vaccination and medication suggestions, there is one in particular that we'd like to draw your attention to—the yellow fever vaccine.

The CDC recommends the yellow fever vaccination for travelers to the Ecuadorian Amazon. Because this recommendation is applicable to an area visited on the main trip—the Amazon—the CDC suggests that you receive a yellow fever vaccination for this adventure, if your health allows. This is not a legal *requirement*, but a health *recommendation*.

You should discuss the vaccine with your doctor to see if he or she recommends it and if your health allows for it. (He or she can offer a suggestion tailored to your personal medical history.) We recommend that you research costs before making a decision as the yellow fever vaccination can be expensive and is not covered by most insurance plans. If you and your doctor decide the vaccination is right for you, then he or she will issue you a Yellow Fever Card (officially called an International Certificate of Vaccination).

**TIP:** *We recommend that if you have received the vaccination, you have your Yellow Fever Card with you when traveling. If you cannot receive the vaccination for medical reasons, we suggest you bring with you a letter from your medical provider stating so. If any of the countries on this itinerary makes a last-minute change to its entry policy before you leave, having one of these documents with you could make all the difference.*

**NOTE:** *The CDC website implies that if you travel to Peru first and then Ecuador you will need proof of yellow fever vaccination for Ecuador. But according to the Ecuadorian embassy, Peru is not considered a high-risk country, so it is not required. **If your itinerary differs from ours, then you may be required to show proof of the yellow fever vaccination.** (For example, if you will be traveling independently in South America before/after your trip with us. Or if you will be arriving from a country other than the U.S. or Canada.) In this case, check with the CDC because you may need a yellow fever vaccination.*

**NOTE:** *If taking the optional stopover in Bolivia, proof of yellow fever vaccination is required.*

## Medication Suggestions

- An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness
- Prescription pain medication in the unlikely event of an injury in a remote location
- Altitude sickness medication: Quito is roughly 9,000 feet above sea level, Cuzco (on the pre-trip extension) is at approximately 11,000 feet, and Cuenca (on the Ecuador post-trip extension) is at approximately 8,000 feet. At these altitudes, almost everyone feels some of the symptoms of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), including headache, nausea, loss of appetite, trouble sleeping, and lack of energy.
- Anti-malaria medication is recommended for the Amazon, but you should check with the CDC and your doctor first because these medications can have strong side effects.
- Motion sickness medication: Waters in the Galapagos tend to be choppy so if you are prone to seasickness, you may want to pack a motion sickness medication.

## Traveling with Medications

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.

- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.
- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **travel.state.gov** (Go to “Find International Travel Information”, select “Country Information”, then enter the country into the search bar; if you don’t see any medications specifically mentioned under the “Health” section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

***TIP:** At time of writing, the State Department did not have any special warnings about American over-the-counter medications for altitude sickness, but did warn that although coca-leaf tea is a popular beverage and folk remedy for altitude sickness in the Andes Mountains, possession of these tea bags is illegal in the United States.*

***IMPORTANT TIP:** At time of writing, the State Department did not have any special warnings about American over-the-counter medications for Peru, but did have the following warning about bringing medicines back to the U.S.: “Travelers should be aware that some drugs and other products readily available over the counter or by prescription in Peru are illegal in the United States. The prescription sedative flunitrazepam (Rohypnol) is one such drug; others may come on the market at any time. Although coca-leaf tea is a popular beverage and folk remedy for altitude sickness in Peru, possession of these tea bags, which are sold in most Peruvian supermarkets, is illegal in the United States.”*

## Staying Healthy on Your Trip

### Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.
- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.
- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don’t push yourself to see a lot on your first day.
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

### Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

## Water

- Tap water is not safe to drink.
- Bottled water or treated drinking water is readily available. Inspect each bottle before you buy it to make sure the cap is sealed properly. Carry a bottle in your daypack at all times.
- Bottled drinks and juices, and hot drinks that have been boiled, are safe to drink.
- Avoid drinks with ice in them.
- Carry a handkerchief to dry the tops of bottled drinks before and after opening.

## Food

- We've carefully chosen the restaurants for your group meals.
- Be very careful with food sold from vendors on the street, and with uncooked fruit and other foods. Fruit that you peel yourself is usually safe—avoid lettuce and other unpeeled produce.

## Altitude Illness

Quito is at an altitude of over 9,000 feet, Cuzco (on the pre-trip extension) at roughly 11,000 feet, and Cuenca (on the Ecuador post-trip extension) is just over 8,000 feet. You will probably feel some effects of altitude when you first arrive. Even if you've been to high elevations previously, you could have a different reaction this time. For most people, the symptoms are mild and will pass in a day or so.

The most common symptoms of altitude sickness are lightheadedness, shortness of breath, headache, nausea, sleeplessness, and loss of appetite. You should take it easy, avoid smoking and alcohol, and drink plenty of fluids. Some people take an altitude medication, starting when they arrive or one day before. Don't take sleeping medications, as they suppress respiration. Even though you may experience a decreased appetite, force yourself to eat soups and some foods.

If these normal altitude symptoms become unmanageable, it is critical that you inform your Trip Experience Leader. Please let the leader know if you experience any of the following: serious difficulty breathing, mental confusion, a severe and unremitting headache, continued difficulty breathing after a period of rest, or poor physical coordination (ataxia).

## Water Conditions in the Galápagos

Two different ocean currents impact the waters off the coast of the Galápagos—the Humboldt Current and the Panama Current. Generally speaking, when the colder Humboldt Current is dominant (July to November) the water is cooler and choppier; when the Panama Current is



dominant (December to June) the water is warmer and calmer. The roughest seas usually occur from July through October, but choppy conditions can happen at any time of year. We recommend packing an anti-seasickness medicine whether or not you are prone to seasickness.

# MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

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## Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments**, such as cash, an ATM card, and a credit card
- **Traveler's checks are not recommended** as they can be difficult to exchange and are rarely accepted in shops and restaurants.
- **U.S. dollars are accepted in Ecuador and many places in Peru**; bring a variety of denominations in good condition.

## Local Currency

For current exchange rates, please refer to an online converter tool like [www.xe.com/currencyconverter](http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter), your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

**Ecuador:** U.S. Dollar (\$)

**Peru:** Peruvian Sol (S/)

U.S. dollars are commonly accepted in Peru, especially for large transactions or at businesses that cater to visitors. However, not every business will want U.S. dollars, and the ones that do accept them will want crisp bills in very good condition—bills that are worn, torn, or even folded might be rejected. Large U.S. bills (such as \$50 or \$100) command a better exchange rate, but small bills are more readily accepted for payment. For this reason, we recommend that you bring a mix of denominations in U.S. dollars. Previous travelers have recommended bringing a lot of \$1 bills for tipping (but not for exchanging). When paying in sols, know that it can be difficult for a shop to make change for a 100-sol bill on small purchases.

## How to Exchange Money

In Peru, you'll sometimes pay in dollars and sometimes in local currency. Large U.S. bills (such as \$50 or \$100) command a better exchange rate, but small bills are more readily accepted for payment. Therefore we recommend that you bring a mix of denominations in U.S. dollars for this adventure—small bills for paying, plus a few large bills for exchanging. There is no need to obtain local currency before your trip. In fact, your U.S. bank may not carry it. You can change money when you arrive at the airport, or at banks, most hotels, and money exchange offices. Torn, dirty, or taped U.S. bills may not be accepted for exchange or payment.

The official currency of Ecuador is the U.S. dollar, so there is no need to exchange money.

## ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card.

Many banks charge a fee of \$1–\$10 each time you use a foreign ATM. Others may charge you a percentage of the amount you withdraw. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart.

Lastly, don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads at foreign ATMs do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

In most countries, ATMs are widely available in major cities. If you are in a rural location, it will likely be harder to find an ATM.

**Ecuador:** ATMs are available in larger cities, such as Quito, but become harder to find in remote locations. We recommend that you bring enough cash to cover your expenses for your travel in more remote areas.

**Peru:** ATMs are available in large cities and towns like Lima and Cuzco but are less likely to be found in more rural locations. For example, in the Amazon you may only see an ATM at the regional airport. We suggest that you bring cash for expected expenses while traveling in the rural areas.

## Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. Even if you don't plan on using a credit card during your trip, we still suggest that you bring one or two as a backup, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, because not every shop will take every card. For example, although Discover and American Express cards are accepted in some countries outside the U.S., they are not widely adopted, so other brands will work at a much larger range of stores, restaurants, etc.

If you are visiting a country that does not commonly accept credit cards, they will be listed below.

**Ecuador:** Credit and debit cards are more likely to be accepted in cities like Quito. But even inside a large city like Quito, cards of any kind are more commonly accepted in the modern shops of the New Town district than in the “hole in the wall” places in the Old Town.

**Peru:** Credit cards are more likely to be accepted large cities like Lima than in the countryside. Stores in Peru may charge you up to 8% for the use of a credit card.

## Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.

You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don't assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don't work outside of the U.S.!

## Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines:

- **O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your Trip Experience Leader at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$10–\$14 USD (or equivalent in local currency) per person for each day their Trip Experience Leader is with them. *Please note that these tips can only be in cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Trip Experience Leader during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*
- **Hotel housekeepers:** \$1–\$2 per room, per day.
- **Waiters:** Your Trip Experience Leader will tip hotel porters and waiters for included meals. If you are dining on your own, it is customary to leave a tip as you would in the U.S.
- **Taxi drivers:** If you take a taxi on your own, it is not customary to give a tip, but if you wish to give something, rounding the bill up should suffice. (For example, if the fare was \$4.30, you could give \$5).

*Please Note:* Your tour price includes gratuities on the main trip and optional extensions for local guides, drivers, ship crew, and luggage porters that may assist you during the scheduled activities on your adventure. All tips are quoted in U.S. dollars; tips can be converted and paid in local currency or in U.S. dollars. Please do not use personal or traveler’s checks for tips.

## AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

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### Land Only Travelers & Personalized Air

#### Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Arrive Early or Stopover (select adventures only):** If you chose one of these Personalization options and purchased air through O.A.T, accommodations and airport transfers are included. However, if you chose one of our Personalization options, but did not purchase air through O.A.T., accommodations are included, but airport transfers are not. If you chose one of our Personalization options, and purchase air through O.A.T. but not the accommodations, the airport transfers are not included. We have included transfer options below.
- **Personalization on Your Own:** If you have not purchased air through O.A.T. and decided to arrive early, stay longer, or stop in a connecting city on your own, you are responsible for airport transfers and accommodations. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at [www.oattravel.com/myplanner](http://www.oattravel.com/myplanner) under "My Reservations" to help you with selecting a hotel for your additional time.

### Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased international air with us, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **U.S. Departure:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who depart the U.S. from your international gateway city, it is our goal to have an O.A.T. Representative assist you at the U.S. airport with the check-in of your flight. Unless there are extenuating circumstances beyond our control, the Representative will be at the check-in counter three hours before your departure time. If you are flying domestically before your international flight, the representative will be stationed at the check-in counter for your departing international flight, not at the domestic arrival gate.
- **U.S. Return:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who return to the same U.S. gateway city, an O.A.T. Representative will meet you as you exit Customs and help you find taxis, buses, hotel accommodations, or connecting flights. Again, it is our goal to have our Representative waiting to assist your group. In rare instances, unforeseen circumstances may prevent this service.



- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.
- **Selecting Your Seats:** If your airline allows pre-assigned seats, you will be able to select and view them directly from the airline's website after booking. Some airlines will not allow seat confirmation until your reservation is ticketed 45–30 days prior to departure, and/or they may charge a nominal fee. You may locate your itinerary on an airline's website utilizing the Record Locator Number found on the Air Itinerary in your My Planner.

When booking your own international flights, please also note that the tour will end on Day 16 of the main trip (or last day of the post trip) for your overnight flight back to the United States. Most airlines will depart from Quito very late in the evening (near midnight) and arrive in the U.S. early the following morning.

## Hotels & Land Only Travelers

If you have made your own international air arrangements, please note that on this adventure the first included hotel is on the night of Day 1 of your main trip (or Day 1 of your pre-trip extension, if you are taking one). Check in times will vary, but tend to be after 2pm.

## Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as O.A.T. travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.
- If you are arriving early, you must have arranged the hotels through our Arrive Early personalization option

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: [www.rome2rio.com](http://www.rome2rio.com)

## Optional Tours

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your adventure by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

## What You Need to Know

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.
- Optional tours that are reserved with your Trip Experience Leader can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)
- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as "OPT Boston".
- Your Trip Experience Leader will give you details on the optional tours while you're on the trip. But if you'd like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at [www.oattravel.com/myplanner](http://www.oattravel.com/myplanner)).

## Communicating with Home from Abroad

### Cell Phones

If you want to use your cell phone on the trip, check with your phone provider to see if your phone and service will work outside of the U.S. It may turn out to be cheaper to rent an international phone or buy a SIM card onsite. If you want to use a local SIM, just make certain your phone can accept one.

### Calling Apps

We recommend you use WhatsApp while abroad to communicate home and with your Trip Experience Leader while onsite. You will need a Wi-Fi connection if you do not have international coverage. Other calling options include smartphone apps such as Skype or FaceTime. You will need a Wi-Fi connection for these apps and the calls may count towards your phone plan's data allowance. Many smartphones—and some tablets or laptops—come with one of these apps pre-installed or you can download them for free from the appropriate apps store.

### Calling Cards and 1-800 Numbers

When calling the U.S. from a foreign country, a prepaid calling card can be useful because it circumvents unexpected charges from the hotel. Calling cards purchased locally are typically the best (less expensive, more likely to work with the local phones, etc.). Our Trip Experience Leaders advise that for Ecuador an even less expensive and easier-to-use optional is available. Instead of using a calling card, they suggest using the international phone service at a type of business known as a "Café Net or Internet"; these businesses can be found in cities all over Ecuador.

One reminder: Do not call U.S. 1-800 numbers outside the continental United States. This can result in costly long distance fees, since 1-800 numbers do not work outside the country.

## Internet

Internet access on this adventure will be mostly limited to computers in the hotel lobby or business center; most hotels in Ecuador and Peru do not offer WiFi in the rooms, and the ones that do charge for the service. It is unlikely that you will have internet access during the Galapagos cruise portion of your tour. Internet access is not available on board the small ship during the Galapagos cruise.

## How to Call Overseas

When calling overseas from the U.S., dial 011 for international exchange, then the country code (indicated by a plus sign: +), and then the number. Note that foreign phone numbers may not have the same number of digits as U.S. numbers; even within a country the number of digits can vary depending on the city and if the phone is a land line or cell phone.

**Ecuador:** +593

**Peru:** +51

## PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

### Luggage Limits

| MAIN TRIP LIMITS   |   |
|--|---|
| Pieces per person  | One checked bag and one carry-on per person.  |
| Weight restrictions  | Up to <b>50 lbs for checked luggage</b> and <b>15 lbs for carry-ons</b> .   |
| Size Restrictions  | Standard airline size: Checked luggage should not exceed 62 linear inches (length+width+depth) and carry-on should not exceed 45 linear inches. |
| Luggage Type   |   |
| TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS   |   |
| Same as main trip.   |   |
| REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS  |   |
| <p><b>Luggage rules:</b> Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question.</p> <p><b>Reminder to bring a small additional bag:</b> This small bag is a necessity for certain portions of your adventure. Some previous travelers have suggested re-purposing your carry-on for this use; others have packed an empty bag into their suitcase. For more details, see the “Your Luggage” section.</p> |   |

#### Don't Forget:

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.
- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the FAQ section.
- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.

- The luggage limits above are based on your regional flights, which may be less than your international flights. Even if your international airline offers a larger weight limit, you will need to pack according to the lower restrictions.

## Your Luggage

- **Checked luggage:** One duffel bag or suitcase.
- *TIP: When traveling with a companion we recommend “cross-packing,” i.e., pack 2 outfits of your clothing in your companion’s luggage and vice-versa, in case one bag is delayed.*
- **Carry-on bag:** You are allowed one carry-on bag per person. We suggest a tote or small backpack that can be used as both a carry-on bag for your flight and to carry your daily necessities—water bottle, camera, etc—during driving excursions and walking trips. Consider a backpack or waistpack that keeps both hands free and distributes the pack’s weight onto your back or hips.
- **A small additional bag:** This small bag is a necessity for certain portions of your adventure.
- **On the main trip,** you will want the additional small bag for our three nights at the Amazon lodge because there is limited space for your suitcase on the motorized canoe. (You will have the opportunity to leave suitcases or duffel bags in Quito, while you travel to Galapagos.)
- **On the Machu Picchu extension,** you will need the small bag for the train trip to and from Machu Picchu because there is no space for your suitcase on the train.
- *TIP: Some previous travelers have suggested re-purposing your carry-on for this use; others have packed an empty bag into their suitcase.*
- **Locks:** For flights that originate in the U.S., you can either use a TSA-approved lock or leave your luggage unlocked. Outside of the U.S. we strongly recommend locking your luggage as a theft-prevention measure.

## Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

As you will experience a wide range of temperatures and weather conditions, we suggest several layers of clothing. If you like to hand-wash your clothes, look for fabrics that will dry out overnight. You can buy clothing designed especially for travel, with features like wrinkle-resistant fabric or built-in sun protection.

- **Rain gear:** You’ll want fairly good-quality rain jacket for your jungle visit and for Quito.
- **Neutral or earth-toned colors:** We recommend bringing earth-colored clothing (shades of greens, browns, and grays) for the Galapagos and the Amazon. These colors will camouflage your presence in the jungle. Bright colors may alert wildlife or attract insects, so wearing a neutral or earth-colored palette is strongly recommended for this part of your adventure. We also suggest that you choose a neutral color if you bring an umbrella.



- **Footwear:** You'll be on your feet a lot during the trip, and walking over some rough and slippery surfaces. The soles of your shoes should offer good traction. For the wet landings during your Galapagos cruise, a pair of water shoes or sandals may be useful to give you good footing. In the Galapagos, the shoes you wear for the wet landings or to walk on the paths will be rinsed by crew members before boarding the ship to avoid cross-contamination of the islands' ecosystems. We recommend bringing sandals or flip flops to use on board (or go barefoot). In the Amazon, our jungle lodge will provide you with rubber boots (available up to standard U.S. size 14). If you have difficulty finding shoes that fit well, please consider bringing your own. Consider bringing a few extra pairs of long socks for the Amazon to wear with the rubber boots, and socks that you're comfortable getting wet for the Galapagos.
- **Snorkel gear:** Should you buy snorkel gear for this adventure? Probably not. The Galapagos ship has basic gear like masks and fins for rent. In addition you may be able to rent a wet suit onboard, depending on availability. If you are an enthusiast who already owns your own gear, we suggest you save space in your luggage. Of course, if you already own gear and really prefer it, you are welcome to bring it. For example, if you already own a wet suit jacket or swim vest, that might be useful for lengthy swims or for the months of July–November, when the water off the coast of the Galapagos is cooler.
- **Walking sticks:** Many past travelers have recommended bringing a folding walking stick or folding ski pole. (Our Amazon lodge supplies wooden walking sticks for guests to use in the rainforest. However, walking sticks are not provided when exploring other sites, such as the Galapagos.) This is very useful when exploring trails that don't have handrails. For the Galapagos, you are not allowed to bring your walking stick in your carry-on bag, so make sure to leave room for it in your checked luggage. During the extensions, a walking stick may also be useful. In Machu Picchu, walking sticks are technically not permitted. However, our Trip Experience Leaders are often able to negotiate with park employees to allow walking sticks with rubber tips (as they cause less damage to the ground of the ancient sites). Therefore, we suggest you bring this type of walking stick. If you do not bring a walking stick, you may be able to purchase one onsite.
- **One-time laundry service:** About halfway through the trip, you will have the option to have laundry done by a next-day service for a fee. (Your Trip Experience Leader will arrange this. Or if you prefer to use a local laundromat, your Trip Experience Leader can advise you of the closest one.)

## Style Hints

Dress on our trip is functional and casual. Women might want to bring one casual dress and a pair of dressier sandals.

## Suggested Packing Lists

We have included suggestions from Trip Experience Leaders and former travelers to help you pack. These packing lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. We recommend using [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com) and consulting the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

**And don’t forget a reusable water bottle**—you’ll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

## Recommended Clothing Checklist

- ☐ Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts in a breathable fabric (consider that in the Amazon Rainforest, clothing may not dry as quickly as we expect.)
- ☐ Trousers and/or jeans: Comfortable and loose fitting with breathable fabric is best.
- ☐ Walking shorts
- ☐ Shoes and socks: Trekking shoes are recommended for the Galapagos (These should offer better support and traction than sneakers, but sneakers are also an option.) A pair of sport sandals with secure ankle strap is also recommended. Our jungle lodge will provide you with rubber boots for the Amazon. However, they have standard sizes only (up to U.S. size 14)—if you find that you have a difficult shoe size to fit, please consider bringing your own. For socks, consider bringing a few extra long pairs and dark colors for the Amazon, a couple heavy pairs for hiking in general, and a couple pairs that can get wet for the Galapagos.
- ☐ Light wool or fleece sweater, or jacket
- ☐ Light rain jacket/windbreaker with hood
- ☐ Wide-brim sun hat or visor for sun protection
- ☐ Underwear and sleepwear
- ☐ Swimsuit for activities and snorkeling in the Galapagos (our regional office recommends bringing two suits so that you have one to wear while the first is drying)
- ☐ Optional: Dress-casual outfit for dinning out in larger cities
- ☐ Optional: Rubber-soled sandals or flip-flops for use in the shower

## Essential Items

- ☐ Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, etc. Our hotels/ship will provide the basics like soap and shampoo, but most do not provide a washcloth so you may wish to pack one.
- ☐ Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses; sunglasses, 100% UV block
- ☐ Sunscreen: SPF 15 or stronger
- ☐ Insect repellent with DEET (in spray bottles only, not aerosol cans)
- ☐ Light folding umbrella
- ☐ Water bottle or canteen (particularly in the Galapagos due to environmental policies)
- ☐ Moisturizer and sun-blocking lip balm
- ☐ Pocket-size tissues
- ☐ Moist towelettes and/or anti-bacterial hand cleanser
- ☐ Flashlight or headlamp, extra batteries/bulb
- ☐ Electrical converter & plug adapters
- ☐ Camera gear with extra batteries or battery charger
- ☐ Ziploc bags to protect camera from humidity
- ☐ Lightweight binoculars (recommended if birding)
- ☐ Folding walking stick (recommended)

## Medicines & First Aid Gear

- ☐ Your own prescription medicines
- ☐ Travel first aid kit: Band-Aids, headache and pain relief, laxatives and anti-diarrhea tablets, something for upset stomach. Maybe a cold remedy, moleskin foot pads, antibiotic cream, or allergy medication.
- ☐ Talcum powder to fight the humidity in the jungle. Also useful when wearing rubber boots.

- ☐ Motion sickness medication. The conditions in the Galapagos can be choppy and hard to predict. Therefore our regional office recommends that travelers bring some sort of motion sickness medication as a precaution—even travelers who do not normally get motion sickness.
- ☐ An antibiotic medication for gastrointestinal illness
- ☐ Optional: A strong prescription pain medication for rare emergency purposes
- ☐ Optional: Altitude sickness medication. Useful for the main trip, and particularly recommended for the optional extension to Machu Picchu.
- ☐ Optional: Anti-malarial medication—discuss with your doctor first

## Home-Hosted Visits

Many of our adventures feature a visit with a local family, often as part of the *A Day in the Life* experience. It is customary, though not necessary, to return your hosts' generosity with a small gift. If you do bring a gift, we recommend that you bring something the whole family can enjoy, or something that represents your region, state, or hometown. Get creative and keep it small—peach jelly from Georgia, maple sugar candy from New England, orange blossom soap from California; something that can be used or used up is best. When choosing a gift, be certain to consider the local culture as well. For example, we do not recommend alcohol in Muslim countries because it is forbidden in Islam, and your hosts may be religious. Not all O.A.T. adventures include a Home-Hosted Visit; please check your final itinerary before you depart.

## Electricity Abroad

When traveling overseas, the voltage is usually different and the plugs might not be the same shape.

### Voltage

Electricity in Peru is 220 volts. In Ecuador, it is 110 volts (same as the U.S.). Most of the things a traveler will want to plug in—battery chargers, smartphones, tablets or computers—can run off both 110 and 220. But you should check the item or the owner's guide first to confirm this before you plug it in. If you have something that needs 110 volts—like a shaver or a hairdryer—you can bring a transformer to change the current. (But transformers tend to burn out, so it might be better to leave whatever it is at home.) Aboard the Galapagos ship, you'll find the electric supply to be the same as in the U.S., so you will not need an electric-current converter for the ship.

### Plugs

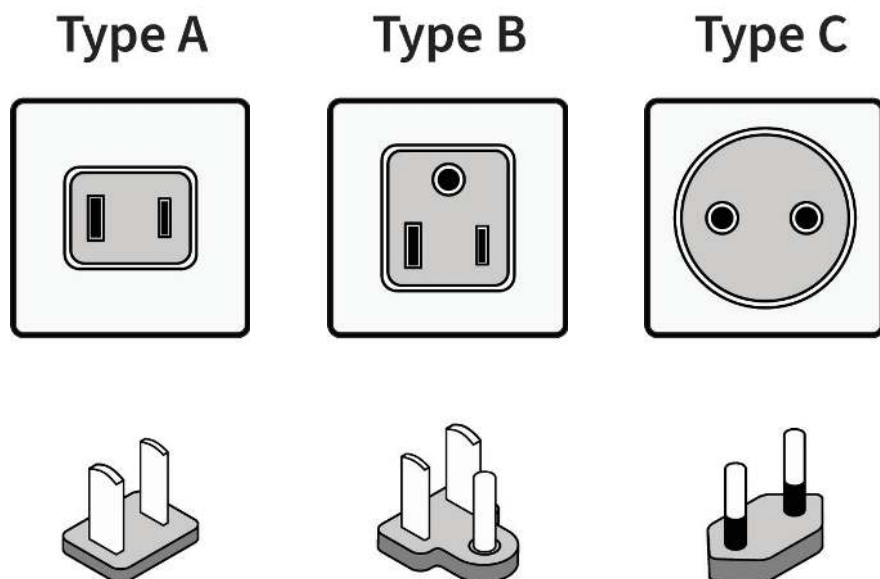
The shape of plugs will vary from country to country, and sometimes even within a country depending on when that building was built. To plug something from the U.S. into a local socket you'll need an adapter that fits between the plug and the socket. It may be easier to purchase an all-in-one, universal adapter/converter combo. Versatile and lightweight, these can usually be

found at your local electronics goods or hardware stores. Sometimes you can buy them at large retailers too, like Target or Walmart. If you forget to bring an adapter, you might also find them for sale at the airport when you arrive at your destination.

Different plug shapes are named by letters of the alphabet. Standard U.S. plugs are Type A and Type B. Here is the list of plugs for the countries on this trip:

**Ecuador:** A and B

**Peru:** A, B, or C



### Availability

**A constant electricity supply cannot be guaranteed during overnight stays in the jungle.**

Lighting may not be as bright as you are used to. Travelers dependent on electricity supply (as in the case of those with sleep apnea) should ensure their apparatus has back-up battery power.

## CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

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**Quito and the Highlands, Ecuador:** Quito, located in the Ecuadorian Andes, has a climate that is often described as one of “perpetual spring,” with warm days and chilly nights and little variation of temperature around the year. Much of the rainfall in this mountainous region comes in the afternoon and evening as clouds build up over the mountains and thunderstorms develop.

**The Galapagos, Ecuador:** In the Galapagos Islands, temperatures are comfortably mild throughout the year. From December through June, high temperatures are in the mid-to-upper 80s. This is considered the rainy season, even though there are more hours of sunshine than rain during these months. (In the desert climate of the Galapagos the amount of rainfall is miniscule compared to the Amazon rainforest.) From July through November, high temperatures are in the upper 70s to low 80s. This cool dry season along the equator has its positive side. The temperature during the day is usually in the 70s with low humidity and quite comfortable, making the nature hikes you take even more pleasant.

**Water conditions in the Galapagos:** Two different ocean currents impact the waters off the coast of the Galapagos—the Humboldt Current and the Panama Current. Generally speaking, when the colder Humboldt Current is dominant (July to November) the water is cooler and choppier; when the Panama Current is dominant (December to June) the water is warmer and calmer. The roughest seas are usually from July through October, but choppy conditions can occur at any time of year. If you are prone to seasickness, you may want to pack an anti-seasickness medicine.

*TIP: For those travelers who are looking forward to swimming or snorkeling in the Galapagos, please be prepared for water temperatures in the high 60s/low 70s and choppy conditions. For details on the availability of snorkel gear, please see “Functional Tips” under “Clothing Suggestions”, or review the packing checklists.*

**Lima, Peru:** Lima is situated in one of the world’s great deserts, and has a dry desert climate. The city has virtually no rainy days, with the very small annual precipitation coming in the form of the sea mist and occasional drizzle of the winter season, June to September. Only during the summer months of January through March is it warm and humid on the coast, with temperatures the rest of the year falling in the 60s and 70s.

**Cuzco, Peru:** Cuzco’s high altitude, approximately 10,909 feet above sea level, results in a somewhat large range of daily temperatures. Considered a moderate climate, it is typically sunny and pleasant during the day but with evening temperatures that can be refreshingly chilly. During the winter months of June through August, nights can even bring frost at these heights. Interestingly, average daytime temperatures do not fluctuate greatly over the entire year, with the high thermometer readings staying in the 60s throughout all seasons. The summer months of December through March bring most of the rains, while May through September offer usually sunny, comfortably cool days with only occasional sudden showers.



**NOTE:** If you are taking one of our optional stopovers before or after your OAT adventure, please be aware the climate and temperatures might be different from what you experienced during your tour. To prepare for weather differences and pack appropriate clothing, we recommend the following world weather sites:

- [www.intellicast.com](http://www.intellicast.com)
- [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)
- [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)

## Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use **www.weather.com** for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

## Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

| MONTH      | QUITO, ECUADOR |                             |                           | THE GALAPAGOS, ECUADOR |                           |                           |
|------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|            | Temp. High-Low | % Relative Humidity (am-pm) | Monthly Rainfall (inches) | Temp                   | % Relative Humidity (avg) | Monthly Rainfall (inches) |
| <b>JAN</b> | 66 to 50       | 88 to 59                    | 4.5                       | 87 to 70               | 71                        | 3.2                       |
| <b>FEB</b> | 66 to 50       | 87 to 61                    | 5.1                       | 87 to 71               | 76                        | 4.1                       |
| <b>MAR</b> | 66 to 50       | 88 to 63                    | 6.0                       | 87 to 70               | 84                        | 3.9                       |
| <b>APR</b> | 66 to 51       | 89 to 67                    | 6.9                       | 87 to 70               | 77                        | 2.4                       |
| <b>MAY</b> | 66 to 51       | 88 to 64                    | 4.9                       | 87 to 69               | 66                        | 4.7                       |
| <b>JUN</b> | 67 to 49       | 80 to 55                    | 1.9                       | 85 to 67               | 60                        | 2.1                       |
| <b>JUL</b> | 67 to 49       | 75 to 50                    | 0.8                       | 80 to 66               | 42                        | 0.8                       |
| <b>AUG</b> | 67 to 49       | 73 to 49                    | 1.0                       | 84 to 65               | 38                        | 0.5                       |
| <b>SEP</b> | 68 to 49       | 79 to 56                    | 3.1                       | 81 to 66               | 44                        | 0.8                       |
| <b>OCT</b> | 67 to 49       | 85 to 64                    | 5.0                       | 84 to 66               | 57                        | 1.1                       |
| <b>NOV</b> | 67 to 49       | 86 to 63                    | 4.3                       | 85 to 67               | 61                        | 1.4                       |
| <b>DEC</b> | 66 to 50       | 87 to 62                    | 4.1                       | 86 to 69               | 65                        | 0.9                       |

| MONTH | LIMA, PERU     |                             |                           | CUZCO, PERU    |                             |                           |
|-------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
|       | Temp. High-Low | % Relative Humidity (am-pm) | Monthly Rainfall (inches) | Temp. High-Low | % Relative Humidity (am-pm) | Monthly Rainfall (inches) |
| JAN   | 79 to 68       | 89 to 70                    | --                        | 64 to 45       | 79 to 53                    | 5.9                       |
| FEB   | 80 to 69       | 91 to 69                    | --                        | 64 to 46       | 80 to 53                    | 5.9                       |
| MAR   | 80 to 69       | 91 to 70                    | --                        | 64 to 46       | 80 to 51                    | 3.8                       |
| APR   | 76 to 66       | 92 to 72                    | --                        | 66 to 43       | 80 to 48                    | 1.5                       |
| MAY   | 72 to 63       | 92 to 75                    | --                        | 67 to 39       | 81 to 42                    | 0.3                       |
| JUN   | 69 to 61       | 89 to 76                    | 0.1                       | 66 to 35       | 82 to 40                    | 0.1                       |
| JUL   | 67 to 60       | 89 to 76                    | 0.2                       | 66 to 34       | 81 to 38                    | 0.1                       |
| AUG   | 66 to 60       | 90 to 77                    | 0.1                       | 66 to 37       | 79 to 39                    | 0.3                       |
| SEP   | 67 to 59       | 90 to 76                    | 0.1                       | 67 to 41       | 77 to 43                    | 0.9                       |
| OCT   | 69 to 61       | 89 to 74                    | 0.1                       | 68 to 44       | 74 to 44                    | 1.9                       |
| NOV   | 72 to 63       | 87 to 72                    | --                        | 67 to 45       | 74 to 47                    | 2.7                       |
| DEC   | 76 to 66       | 88 to 70                    | --                        | 66 to 45       | 76 to 49                    | 4.3                       |

| MONTH | CUENCA, ECUADOR |                           |                           |
|-------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
|       | Temp. High-Low  | % Relative Humidity (avg) | Monthly Rainfall (inches) |
| JAN   | 69 to 50        | 75                        | 2.0                       |
| FEB   | 70 to 51        | 76                        | 1.8                       |
| MAR   | 69 to 51        | 76                        | 3.2                       |
| APR   | 69 to 50        | 77                        | 4.3                       |
| MAY   | 67 to 49        | 77                        | 4.3                       |
| JUN   | 66 to 47        | 75                        | 1.7                       |
| JUL   | 65 to 47        | 73                        | 0.9                       |
| AUG   | 66 to 46        | 75                        | 1.1                       |
| SEP   | 69 to 48        | 74                        | 1.6                       |
| OCT   | 70 to 49        | 76                        | 3.1                       |
| NOV   | 71 to 46        | 74                        | 1.8                       |
| DEC   | 71 to 49        | 74                        | 2.5                       |



## ABOARD YOUR SHIP: CABIN FEATURES, DINING & SERVICES ON BOARD

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### Galápagos small ship

Our 16-passenger Galápagos small ship is chartered exclusively for our O.A.T. group. The 100-foot-long ship can maneuver easily among the islands, allowing for excellent views of the island shores. It features lounge areas, bars, a sun deck, and a dining room serving local and international cuisine. The simply appointed cabins have twin beds, small desk, and a private bath with shower.

- Average cabin size is 170 sq. ft.
- All cabins are outside-facing
- In-cabin furnishings: Two twin beds, small desk, and a private bath with shower

*O.A.T. uses different ships depending on the trip departure date. The information in this chapter is typical but ships may vary slightly in size and facilities.*

### Cabin Amenities

Small ship cabins are basic and comfortable but small compared to large cruise ships. Your cabin amenities include private bathroom with shower and in room air-conditioning.

### Cabin Assignments

You will receive confirmation of your deck and/or cabin category upfront in writing; it will be on your invoice and online in My Planner at [www.oattravel.com/myplanner](http://www.oattravel.com/myplanner). However, your cabin number may not be assigned until you arrive onboard the ship. (This is normal procedure for many small ships.) If there's no cabin number on your invoice or online, you can presume it will be assigned later and communicated to you when you board.

### Dining

All meals are taken in a spacious window-lined dining room. The food onboard includes international food and typical local dishes. If you require a special diet please request this in advance by contacting one of our Travel Counselors. There is no room service on board. Dining times will vary according to the scheduled daily activities.

A selection of wine, beer, and other beverages will be available for purchase onboard your small ship. Because the Galápagos Islands are part of a national park with a very fragile ecosystem, alcohol is not produced locally and must be imported. This means that you will likely experience significantly higher prices than what you would typically find at home (ex. a \$10-15 bottle of wine in the U.S. may cost \$35-50 in the Galápagos). Some Galápagos ships may allow travelers to bring

a bottle of their own favorite wine or alcohol to enjoy at their table (please check with your Trip Experience Leader for your specific ship). Should you care to avail yourself of this service, there will be a corkage fee of approximately \$10–20 per bottle.

Many crew members do not speak English, so be ready to practice a few words in Spanish at dinner (with the help of your Trip Experience Leader).

## Electricity

You'll find the electric supply onboard to be the same as in the U.S., so you will not need an electric-current converter for the ship. (But you may need one for hotels; see the section on electricity in the chapter on packing.)

## Internet

Internet access is not available on the ship.

## Laundry Services

There is no laundry service available on board.

## Public Spaces

- **Dining room:** Enjoy international cuisine on board in a window-lined dining room.
- **Indoor common areas:** Spend time getting to know your fellow travelers in the small lounge or dining area.
- **Outdoor common areas:** Take in the scenery and wildlife on the shore from the upper sun deck.
- **Zodiac crafts:** We will embark on Zodiacs from the ship for daily exploration of the islands.

## Shipboard Payments

Cash, in the form of U.S. dollars, is accepted for purchases made on board. Credit cards and personal checks are not accepted.

## Smoking Policy

Smoking is prohibited on board, with the exception of one outdoor deck area reserved for smokers.

## Wheelchairs

The ship is not built to accommodate wheelchairs.

## Dress Code

There are no formal dinners on board; casual dress is encouraged.

## ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

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### O.A.T. Trip Experience Leaders: A World of Difference

During your adventure, you'll be accompanied by one of our local, Trip Experience Leaders. All are fluent in English and possess the skills, certification, and experience necessary to ensure an enriching adventure. As locals of the regions you'll explore with them, our Trip Experience Leaders provide the kind of firsthand knowledge and insight that make local history, culture, and wildlife come alive. Coupled with their unbridled enthusiasm, caring personalities, and ability to bring diverse groups of travelers together, our Trip Experience Leaders ensure that your experience with O.A.T. is one you'll remember for a lifetime.

### Culture & Points to Know

#### Ecuadorian Culture

From the legacy of the Inca Empire to Spanish colonialism, Ecuador offers an astonishingly diverse blend of cultures, weaving together indigenous traditions with those of the Spanish and Afro-Ecuadorian people.

One of many traditions that the Quechua people have kept alive throughout Spanish rule is immediately apparent—each village has specific style of clothing that is unique to their community. In the Andean mountains, these indigenous women are often seen sporting a kaleidoscope of colors on their skirts and capes, usually topped with a vibrant hat ornamented with beads. These hats can even be used to designate social status in the village based on the number of beads adorning the woman's hat. But these colorful outfits are as practical as they are beautiful; not only does the clothing keep them warm in the chilly mountain air, but the Quechua have designed their apparel to aid them with their work, such as fastening a *chumpi* (belt) to their skirt, which supports their lower back to carry heavy loads, or to secure a swaddled infant to their back.

Since the arrival of the conquistadors in 1531, Spanish influence has made a permanent mark on Ecuadorian culture. With their arrival also came the spread of Roman Catholicism, which began to transform the religious landscape until it was eventually declared the official religion of Ecuador in 1869. Roman Catholicism continues to permeate modern-day culture, particularly in rural communities where we see this reflected by a deeply patriarchal society with traditional values, such as a strong sense of duty to one's family and neighbors.

During this period of colonialism, the Spanish also engaged in the African slave trade, with the first enslaved African people arriving to Ecuador in the mid-16th century. The African people and their descendants, many of whom settled along Ecuador's coast, have contributed to the unique cultural tapestry of modern Ecuador, particularly their musical influence. Afro-Ecuadorians are famous for their marimba music and traditional chants, a form of artistic expression used to share stories and poems, worship, honor the deceased, or celebrate life. This percussion-style of music is integral to passing along legends and cultural through oral traditions.



## Language

While Spanish is the official language of Ecuador—a legacy of the conquistadors that conquered the Incan Empire, it is not the primary language for many of the nation's indigenous peoples. Throughout the highlands and rural areas, many people still speak Quechua, a language passed down from the Incas.

English is increasingly spoken here, especially among people who work in the tourism industry. But you can also converse with gestures and body language. To break the ice, bring along some family photographs, or a few postcards of your hometown. But please do learn a few phrases in the local language. Your efforts will be greatly appreciated, even if your pronunciation is off.

Your attire is a key part of your non-verbal presentation. Your clothing should show a respect for local tradition. In South America, this means you should dress in a relatively modest style.

## Accommodations

Our hotels are comfortable, but not luxurious. At our rainforest lodge, creature comforts are basic. (Remember to bring a flashlight.) The boats we charter in the Galapagos also provide basic accommodations. Cabins are small and bathrooms can be cramped. During your trip, there can be occasional problems with electricity, hot water, and air conditioning in any of our accommodations.

## Taking Photographs

The etiquette of photographing people in most countries is about the same as it would be on the streets of your hometown. You need permission to take a close-up, but not for a crowd scene. Be especially polite if you want to photograph children or older women. If you want to shoot a great portrait, show interest in your subject and try to have a bit of social interaction first. Then use sign language to inquire if a picture is OK.

Please do not take photographs of military personnel, military compounds, or other official institutions/personnel (such as police). This may result in the confiscation of your camera.

In museums or at archaeological sites, there may be restrictions on using your flash. Please obey any signs or directions by staff; the no-flash rule protects the fragile artifacts and artwork from damage by repeated exposure to light. Occasionally, there may also be a small fee levied by the museum or site for the privilege of taking photos.

## Safety & Security

As you travel, exercise the same caution and awareness that you would in a large American city. Don't be overly nervous or suspicious, but keep your eyes open. If you are venturing out after dark, go with one or two other people.

Carry a one-day supply of cash, and your passport, in a travel pouch. Don't leave valuables unattended in your hotel room. Most hotels will offer use of a hotel safe at the front desk or an electronic in-room safe (for which you can set your own personal number). Please utilize this.

Pickpockets may create a sudden distraction. In any sort of puzzling street situation, try to keep one hand on your wallet or money belt. If an encounter with a local turns out to be long and complicated and involves money or your valuables, be very careful.

## Ecuadorian Cuisine

Here, you can find a wide variety of fruit due to Ecuador's diverse climate and fertile soil. This fruit includes several types of bananas, passionfruit, and tree tomatoes. You will also find plenty of seafood options. Some dishes to look for are:

- **Mani:** A sauce based on peanuts and often served with fried seafood.
- **Hornado:** Ecuador's national dish. A whole, spit-roasted pig, usually served with salad, fried plantain or cheesy fried potato pancakes called *llapingachos*.
- **Cuy:** Or guinea pig. This dish can be found in the highlands of Ecuador (and Peru). It is a staple source of protein. Many families raise them (not as pets, but for food) and then grill or roast them with herbs till the skin is crispy. Many have compared the taste to that of suckling pig.
- **Fritada de chancho:** A piece of pork shoulder that's been boiled and then fried and served with a spicy red sauce. It is accompanied by *llapingachos* (potato pancakes), corn, and fava beans.
- **Ceviche:** Here, the seafood of choice is shrimp. It is usually served in its marinade, which includes tomato, and with a corn-nut *toastado* for crunch. If you are a vegetarian, try the veggie-based *ceviche* called *cevichocho* that is made with lupini beans. You can also find mango *ceviche*, mushroom *ceviche*, heart of palm *ceviche* and many others.
- **Humitas:** A great dish if you are looking for something on the go from a pushcart vendor. These are like *tamales*—steamed *masa* (corn meal) and corn kernels in a banana leaf. They are either salty or sweet and can also contain onions, cheese, or eggs. When you crave something crunchy, grab a bag of
- **Habitas:** If you are craving something crispy, *habitas* are it. They are crispy fried and salted fava beans
- **Dulce de leche:** A dessert that is a caramelized dairy confection.
- **Alfajores:** Flaky layers of dough filled with sweet cheese or gooey caramel or molasses.

## Peruvian Cuisine

There is no question about Peru's status as the culinary jewel of South America. Along with offering authentic indigenous dishes that have been in existence for close to 70 centuries, Peruvian cuisine has embraced culinary techniques and flavors from Europe, Africa, and Asia to create dishes and flavors you won't experience anywhere else—as well as several world renowned restaurants and chefs in Lima.

One reason that Peru has grown into a culinary superpower is that few places on earth offer such a variety of indigenous ingredients. The extreme elevations and range of climate zones has enabled Peru to draw from a staggering variety of ingredients—including close to 4,000 varieties of **potatoes**, 650 varieties of **native fruit**, 2,000 species of **fish**, and more than 300 varieties of **chilies**, an essential ingredient in Peruvian cuisine. Chilies like the native **aji**, which is often puréed into sauces, have been cultivated in Peru for some 7,000 years. Popular dishes include:

- **Ceviche:** Raw fish and shellfish that is marinated in citrus juices, and flavored with cilantro, onions, salt, and peppers. The acid in the citrus “cooks” the fish a bit. Peru’s Japanese community add their own twist called **tiradito**, in which the fish is sliced sushi-style, and marinated in soy, mirin, and puréed aji.
- **Lomo Saltado:** A fusion of Chinese techniques and Peruvian ingredients. Strips of beef are marinated in soy and other spices, then stir fried with aji, onions, and tomatoes. It’s served with rice and french fries.
- **Pachamanca:** A Peruvian specialty based on meats like lamb, beef, pork and guinea pig which are seasoned with sprigs of rosemary and wrapped in banana leaves. The packets are cooked over hot stones and smothered with grass and earth for a smoky finish. Various vegetables also get tossed on the fire.
- **Tacu Tacu:** A tasty Peruvian comfort food made of seasoned rice and beans shaped into a loaf. It can be fried or baked till a crispy crust is formed; then simmered in a tomato and pepper sauce.
- **Pisco Sour:** The national cocktail made with a grape brandy called pisco, lime juice, bitters, and a froth of egg whites.
- **Chicha Morada:** A non-alcoholic based on purple corn kernels that are boiled with pineapple, quince, cinnamon, sugar and cloves. The mix is strained, chilled, and served with lemon or chopped fruit.
- **Mate de coca:** Traditional coca tea commonly used to treat altitude sickness.

## Travel in South America

Part of the adventure of this trip is the possibility that things may change. Local influences may make it impossible for us to follow the planned itinerary exactly and the sequence of sites visited may change. Rest assured that we have considerable experience at responding to changing circumstances on the spot. Our goal is always to offer you the best travel experience and the most memorable explorations of this intriguing land.

Complex, multi-layered cultural traditions and stunning natural geography make South America a fascinating destination. To get the most enjoyment out of your trip, remember that many South American countries are still considered developing nations, and be aware that you may be approached to buy crafts or solicited by children to take photographs.

In restaurants, hotels, and at cultural sites, everything works according to a slower sense of time than what you are used to. It's best to wind down and adjust to the local pace and philosophy.

### **Regional Flights in South America**

In South America, it is simply a fact of life that schedules for internal flights often change on short notice. When this happens, our air travel experts strive to get you on new flights as close to the original schedule as possible, but limited availability of seats may require us to use early-morning flights or change the day of the flight. If schedule changes make it necessary, we may have to rise before dawn on some days where early-morning wake-ups are not mentioned in your printed itinerary.

### **Photography in Machu Picchu**

The use of professional cameras in Machu Picchu requires special permission by Peru's Ministry of Culture, so you will not be able to use a professional-grade camera or camcorder during our visit there. Your average camera - point-and-shoot or DSLR - is not considered professional-grade. However, lenses over 200 mm, tripods, and monopods are not allowed in Machu Picchu.

## **Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More**

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your adventure. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor's terms of purchase. O.A.T. is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

### **Returns**

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly and expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop's contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from U.S. standards, so don't assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

### **Crafts & Souvenirs**

#### **Ecuador**

Traditional souvenirs include jewelry and sculptures created from Tagua vegetable ivory (using the nut of the Tagua palm tree), ceramics, Tigua paintings, Panama hats, and items with images of Galapagos animals.

#### **Peru**

Traditional souvenirs available in Lima and Cuzco include gold and silver jewelry, old and new weavings, ceramics, woolen clothing, hand-knitted alpaca sweaters, woven ponchos, rugs, coats, and blankets.

## U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, **[www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)** has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.
- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

## DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

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### Ecuador

#### Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 109,484 square miles
- **Capital:** Quito
- **Languages:** Spanish is the official language; Quechua is also spoken.
- **Location:** Ecuador is bordered by Colombia and Peru.
- **Geography:** Ecuador is roughly the size of the state of Washington and straddles the equatorial line. Because of this geographical feature and combined with its different altitudes, Ecuador has a striking diversity of landscapes for a country of its size. Tropical rainforests in the Amazon Basin dominate its eastern section, the Oriente. The Eastern and Western Cordilleras of the Andes make up the Sierra region that bisects the country, topped by the towering peaks of Cotopaxi (19,347 feet) and Chimborazo (20,702 feet). The costa is the Pacific tropical coastal plain, which constitutes about one-quarter of the country. Ecuador and the Galapagos are known as the country of four worlds due to its diversity.
- **Population:** 17,684,536 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic (95%), Other (5%)
- **Time zone:** Ecuador is on Ecuador Time, which is the same time as U.S. EST. When it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 6am in Quito. The Galapagos is 1 hour behind continental time (Ecuador time).



## National Holidays: Ecuador

In addition to the holidays listed below, Ecuador celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Carnival and Easter. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit [www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays).

01/01 New Year's Day

05/01 Labor Day/May Day

05/24 The Battle of Pichincha

08/10 Independence Day

10/09 Independence of Guayaquil

11/02 All Soul's Day

11/03 Independence of Cuenca

12/6 Foundation of Quito

12/25 Christmas Day

## Ecuador: A Brief History

There is archaeological evidence of settlements established by hunter-gatherer groups as early as 10,000 BCE along Ecuador's southern coast and in the central highlands. Agricultural societies that followed produced the famous Valdivia ceramics, the oldest pottery in the Western Hemisphere. These ancient peoples traded with others in Peru, Brazil, and the Amazon Basin, building a civilization sophisticated enough to construct large coastal cities by 500 BCE. These city dwellers worked metal and had navigational skills sufficient for them to trade with cultures as far away as the Maya in ancient Mexico.

The Inca ruler Tupac-Yupanqui invaded from the south in 1460 CE, but could not conquer the territories of three strong groups in Ecuador—the Canari, Caras, and Quitu. It fell to his son Huayna Capac to accomplish this in the next generation. The Incas brought their language, Quechua, to Ecuador, where it is still widely spoken. Huayna Capac celebrated by building the monumental city of Tomebamba, whose ruins near Cuenca remain impressive. This city in Ecuador became as important as Cuzco in Peru.

On his deathbed in 1526, Huayna Capac split the empire between his sons Atahualpa and Huascar. Atahualpa defeated Huascar in a civil war that weakened the empire just before the Spanish arrived—and just enough for them to overtake it. Francisco Pizarro conquered the Incas in 1532, and made his brother Gonzalo governor of Quito, Ecuador. A few years later, Francisco Pizarro was killed in a dispute with his former comrades. Gonzalo rebelled against Spain, but was left to rule Ecuador until Spanish forces finally showed up seven years later and killed him.

Spanish governors ruled Ecuador from Lima, Peru; and then from Bogotá in New Granada (now Colombia). Life for the colonists was prosperous, but for the indigenous and *mestizo* population, it was miserable. Impressed into servitude, they staged several failed rebellions. By the early 18th century, the Spanish were importing enslaved Africans from the Caribbean to work their sugar and cocoa plantations. In 1822, Simon Bolivar's chief lieutenant, Antonio Jose de Sucre, brought an end to Spanish rule in the area, though it was not until 1830 that Ecuador gained autonomy. Following independence, civil war broke out between the conservatives of Quito and more liberal elements in Guayaquil, initiating a pattern of conflict that persists today.

Ecuador's 20th-century history has been a series of democratic and military regimes. Between 1930 and 1940, there were 17 duly elected presidents, but not one completed his term due to military coups. President José María Velasco Ibarra was elected five times between 1934 and 1972, and was ousted by the military before he could complete any of his terms. Throughout the 20th century, bananas were the country's most important export—until oil was discovered in 1967. This boosted the economy, but the wealth remained in the hands of a privileged few.

After years of staggering inflation, in 2000 then-president Mahaud dumped the national currency (the sucre) in favor of the US dollar. Dollarization did not hurt the wealthy, as they'd already invested in US dollars. But ordinary people struggled to convert their near-worthless sucres to dollars, amidst rigid austerity measures. In 2006, the social democrat economist Rafael Correa was elected president; he was re-elected twice, and had some success in delivering on his promises to reduce poverty, increase the GDP, and develop social programs. Accused of overreaching power, Correa chose not to seek a fourth term when the economy declined in 2015. He was succeeded in 2017 by his former vice president, Lenín Moreno. Moreno was expected to continue Correa's "21st century socialism," but has since moved more to the center.

## Peru

### Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 496,225 square miles
- **Capital:** Lima
- **Languages:** Spanish and Quechua are the official languages; Aymara, and a large number of minor Amazonian languages are also spoken.
- **Location:** Peru is bordered by Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Ecuador.
- **Geography:** Peru is the third-largest country in South America. Topped by towering Andean peaks, its landscape also includes a portion of the Amazon River Basin and an extension of Chile's Atacama Desert along the coast. Three of Peru's largest cities—Lima, Trujillo, and Chiclayo—are in the coastal desert region. The city of Iquitos (population 400,000) is the capital of Peru's Amazon region on the eastern slope of the Andes. It is accessible only by airplane and Amazon riverboat.
- **Population:** 34,662,929 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 81.3%, Evangelical 12.5%, other 3.3%, unspecified or none 2.9%
- **Time zone:** Peru is on Peru Time, which is the same time zone as U.S. EST. When it is 6am in Washington D.C., it is 6am in Lima. Peru does not observe Daylight Savings, so during Daylight Savings, Peru Time is 1 hour behind EST.

## National Holidays: Peru

In addition to the holidays listed below, Peru celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter . To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit [www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays).

01/01 New Year's Day

05/01 Labor Day / May Day

06/29 St. Peter & St. Paul

07/28 Independence Day

07/29 Independence Day (Day 2)

08/30 Santa Rosa De Lima

10/08 Battle of Angamos

11/01 All Saints Day

12/08 Feast of the Immaculate Conception

12/25 Christmas Day

## Peru: A Brief History

Although Peru is well known as the land of the Incas, its rich ancient history pre-dates the Inca Empire by thousands of years, with the earliest evidence of indigenous societies going back to the eighth millennium BC.

By 1200 BC, several groups had begun moving from the north into what is now Peru, including the Chavín, Chimú, Sechín, Nazca, and Tiahuanaco. The ruins of the Chimú city of Chanchan, built around 1000 AD, still exist today. Another legacy of these early peoples is the striking religious iconography of the Chavín, who portrayed animals, particularly the jaguar, in a distinctive and impressive style.

Around the 5th century BC, the Saliner and the Paracas came into the picture and made many artistic and technological advances, including kiln-fired ceramics and sophisticated weaving techniques. The Nazca, creators of the huge, cryptic Nazca Lines, were successors to the Paracas culture.

The Inca Empire had a surprisingly brief reign at the end of this long pre-colonial history. From the early 1400s until 1532, the Incas expanded their domain from the river valley around Cuzco to the whole region from northern Argentina to southern Colombia, including much of present-day Peru and Ecuador.

In its prime, the Incan capital at Cuzco was the richest city in all of the Americas, dominated by gold-plated temples. Though only fragments of Cuzco's Incan architecture remain, the ruins of an Incan ceremonial center at Machu Picchu have survived to astonish the world.

When Francisco Pizarro landed with his band of Spanish conquistadors in 1532, the Inca Empire was weakened by a dispute over succession to the throne. Pizzaro arranged a private meeting with the Inca ruler, Atahualpa, and assassinated him while the conquistadors sacked the city of Cuzco and took control, thus ending the Inca Empire. In 1535, Pizarro established a new capital city at Ciudad de los Reyes, now Lima, but was killed six years later by a rival conquistador.

For 200 years, Spanish officials ruled Peru using native intermediaries as go-betweens to deal with the indigenous population. In 1780, some 60,000 indigenous Peruvians rose up in revolt against Spanish rule. It was unsuccessful, as was another revolt in 1814. But in 1821, with the help of Jose de San Martin of Argentina and Simon Bolivar of Venezuela, Peru finally drove the Spanish military out and declared independence.

A series of Bolivar's lieutenants—known as the “marshals of Ayacucho”—governed Peru in the following decades, including Ramon Castilla, who presided over the adoption of a liberal constitution in 1860.

Since then, Peru's history has been a dramatic alternation between democratic and dictatorial governments, each of which has faced pressing social and economic issues. Opposition to dictatorship has played a prominent role in Peruvian politics since the 1920s, when Víctor Raúl Haya de la Torre founded the American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA).

Peruvian democratic reformers have long advocated guaranteed civil liberties and improved living conditions for the nation's Native Americans. There have also been radical and violent opposition movements, including the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), whose leaders were captured in 1992.

Peru's next four heads of state were democratically elected presidents: Fernando Belaúnde Terry in 1980, Alan García Pérez in 1985, Alberto Fujimori in 1990, and Alejandro Toledo in 2001. In 2006, Alan Garcia Perez was elected for a second term and presided over a period of economic growth until 2011 when Ollanta Humala was elected. In December 2022, Dina Boluarte became the first female president in Peru's history.

## RESOURCES

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### Suggested Reading

#### Ecuador

***Voyage of the Beagle*** by Charles Darwin (1839, Natural History/Exploration). The adventurous account of a young scientist on a five-year sea voyage that changed his life—and our understanding of life on earth. First published in 1839, this book is still essential reading.

***The Beak of the Finch: A Story of Evolution in Our Time*** by Jonathan Weiner (1994, Natural History). An accessible take on the ongoing debate over evolution that garnered the 1995 Pulitzer Prize.

***Satan Came to Eden: A Survivor's Account of "The Galapagos Affair"*** by Dore Strauch (1936, Memoir). Perhaps Satan did not come to the Galapagos, but in 1929 the eccentric German doctor Frederick Ritter did, along with his mistress, the author. These naturists were soon joined by other, more prudish settlers who disapproved of their peculiar ways—and a mysterious, whip-wielding baroness and her two lovers. It was a bad mix, and the ensuing scandals and murder caused an international sensation in 1934. The mystery still reverberates today.

***Traveller's Wildlife Guide: Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands*** by David L. Pearson and Les Beletsky (1987, Field Guide). A comprehensive, all-purpose field guide for your Galapagos cruise.

***The Boy on the Back of the Turtle*** by Paul Quarrington (1997, Travel Narrative). Humorist, novelist, and family man on a quest, Quarrington offers an entertaining account of a Galapagos voyage in the company of his seven-year-old daughter and seventy-year-old father.

***The Panama Hat Trail*** by Tom Miller (1986, Travel Narrative/History). Miller's entertaining and insightful social history of Ecuador revolves around its iconic hat and the story of its creation. It's a classic example of travel writing, and one of the best things written on Ecuador.

#### Peru

***Making Machu Picchu: The Politics of Tourism in Twentieth-Century Peru*** by Mark Rice (2018, Nonfiction). This historical inquiry explores the development of Machu Picchu into a national symbol (and major tourist attraction) from its "discovery" by Hiram Bingham in 1911 to the present. A thoughtful look at nationalism, the indigenous experience, globalism, and the impact of tourism (pros and cons) on national identity.

***Turn Right at Machu Picchu*** by Mark Adams (2012, History/Travel Narrative). The humorous and engaging tale of what happens when a modern-day adventurer tries to follow the steps of Hiram Bingham by re-creating the expedition that discovered Machu Picchu.

***The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsessions in the Amazon*** by David Grann (2009, Biography/Memoir). This riveting, real-life adventure tale bounces between a biography of Colonel Percy Harrison Fawcett and the author's own quest to find out what happened to the great explorer, who disappeared in the Brazilian Amazon in 1925. (Although set in the Brazilian Amazon, we've included this book because it gives a good sense of exploration in the mysterious Amazon forest).

***Little Tiny Teeth*** by Aaron J. Elkins (2007, Mystery). When a forensics professor joins an Amazon riverboat expedition, he expects a vacation. But in a jungle full of predators, he realizes the humans may be the deadliest of all. (We promise, this won't happen to you—well, it *probably* won't ...)

***Lima: A Cultural History*** by James Higgins (2005, History). An erudite guide to the cultural gems and literary history of Peru's capital city. James Higgins, who specializes in Peruvian literature, covers the scope of the city's history from its pre-Columbian museums, to its conquistador heritage, to its dynamic present.

## Suggested Films & Videos

### Ecuador

***Charles Darwin and the Tree of Life*** (2009, Documentary) This one-hour film explains Darwin's theory of evolution with panache. An extension of the "BBC Earth" series narrated by David Attenborough.

***Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World*** (2003, Adventure). A seafaring adventure starring Russell Crowe. It's set during the Napoleonic Wars, when maritime battles determined the balance of power between England and France—even if those battles were off the coast of South America (as depicted in this movie). A few key scenes are set in the Galapagos.

***Galapagos: The Islands that Changed the World*** (2007, TV Documentary). A beautifully shot documentary about the diversity of life in the islands, narrated by actress Tilda Swinton.

### Peru

***Asu Mare*** (2013, Comedy/Biopic) The story of the rise to fame of stand-up comedian Carlos Alcántara, who grew up fatherless and in a poor community in Lima and was a member of the popular Peruvian sitcom *Pataclaun*. Wildly successful, *Asu Mare* became the second biggest box office hit in Peru. Spanish with English subtitles.

***Contracorriente*** (Undertow) (2009, Drama) A Peruvian fisherman loves his pregnant wife, but is haunted by the ghost of his drowned male lover. Winner of the 2010 World Cinema Audience Award at Sundance. (In Spanish with English subtitles, available on various streaming services.)



***Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Adventures: Return to the Amazon*** produced by PBS (2008, Documentary) In the 1980s, Jean-Michel accompanied his famous underwater filmmaker father, Jacques Cousteau, on an expedition down the Amazon River. Twenty-five years later, he returns with his children.

***In Search of History: Lost City of the Incas*** produced by the History Channel (2005, Documentary) An informative overview of fabled Machu Picchu, including the story of its rediscovery in 1911.

***The Ghosts of Machu Picchu*** (2005, Documentary) This PBS-production goes deep into the history of this legendary site, questioning why it was ever built and why it was abandoned.

## Useful Websites

### Overseas Adventure Travel

[www.oattravel.com](http://www.oattravel.com)

### Overseas Adventure Travel Frequently Asked Questions

[www.oattravel.com/faq](http://www.oattravel.com/faq)

### International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

[www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel)

### Electricity & Plugs

[www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets](http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets)

### Foreign Exchange Rates

[www.xe.com/currencyconverter](http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter)  
[www.oanda.com/converter/classic](http://www.oanda.com/converter/classic)

### ATM Locators

[www.mastercard.com/atm](http://www.mastercard.com/atm)  
[www.visa.com/atmlocator](http://www.visa.com/atmlocator)

### World Weather

[www.intellicast.com](http://www.intellicast.com)  
[www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)  
[www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)

### Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)

[www.travlang.com/languages](http://www.travlang.com/languages)

### Packing Tips

[www.travelite.org](http://www.travelite.org)

### U.S. Customs & Border Protection

[www.cbp.gov/travel](http://www.cbp.gov/travel)

### Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

[www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov)

### National Passport Information Center

[www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

### Holidays Worldwide

[www.timeanddate.com/holidays](http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays)

### History & Culture

[en.wikipedia.org](http://en.wikipedia.org)

## Useful Apps

### **Flight Stats**

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

### **LoungeBuddy**

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

### **Timeshifter**

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

### **GoogleMaps**

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

### **Triposo**

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

### **Rome2rio**

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

### **Flush or Sit or Squat**

Find a clean toilet anywhere

### **Uber**

Ride sharing around the world

### **Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus**

#### **ATM locations**

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

### **TunnelBear**

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

### **What's App, Skype, or Signal**

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

### **Duolingo, FLuentU, or Babbel**

Learn dozens of foreign languages

### **Google Translate**

Fast and simple translations

### **XE**

Currency conversions

### **SizeGuide**

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

### **Best Units Converter**

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

### **Tourlina**

For women only, it connects you with other female travelers

### **Happy Cow**

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

### **Eatwith**

Dine with locals all over the world

### **Meetup**

Connects you with locals who share your interests

### **Skyview**

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

### **Travello**

Find travel friends on the road

### **ALIX for One**

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

### **TripWhistle**

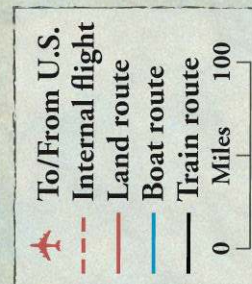
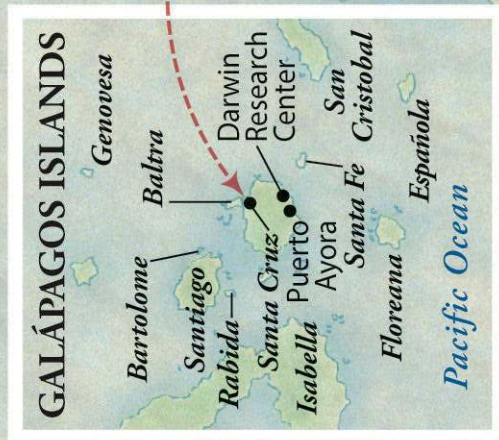
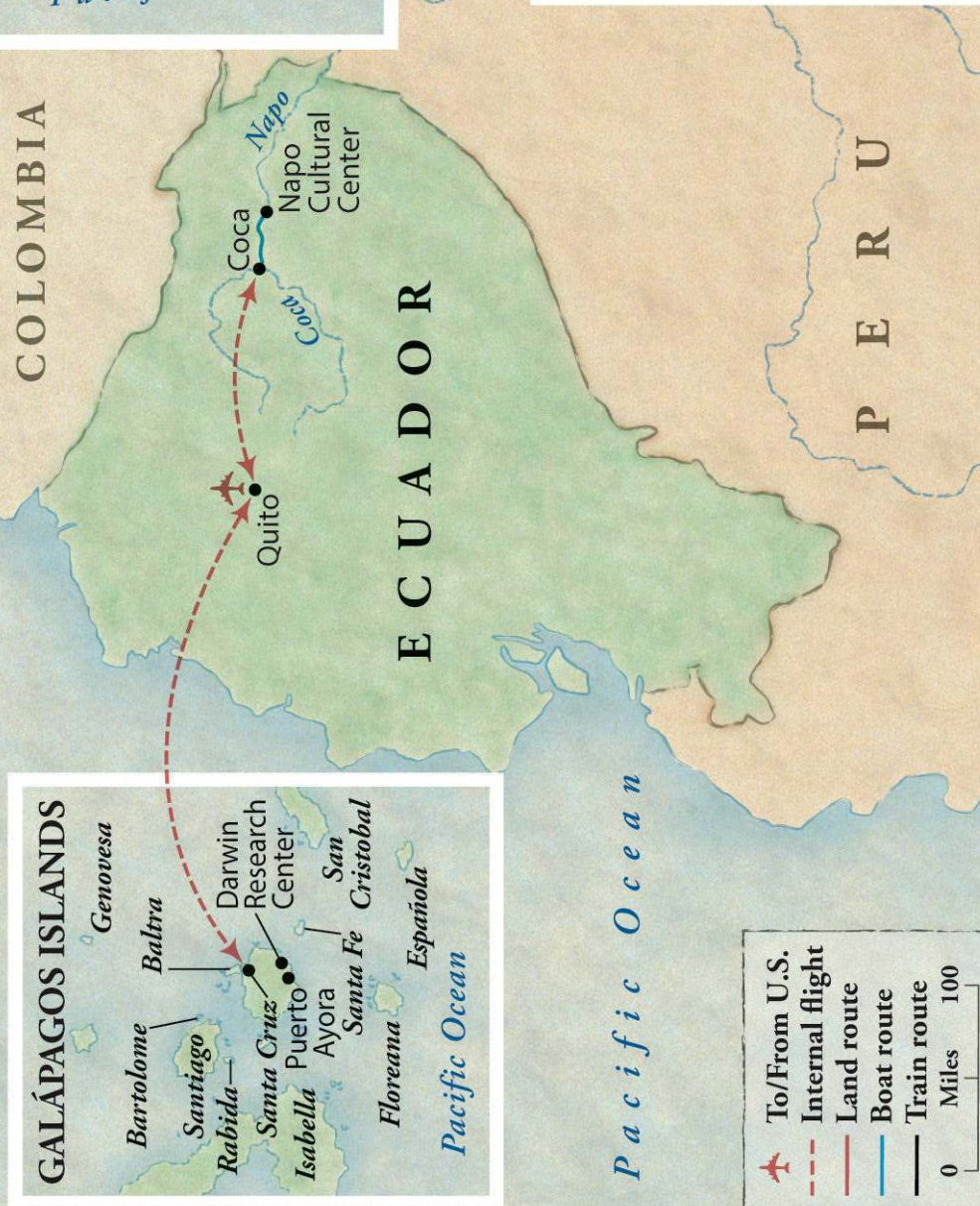
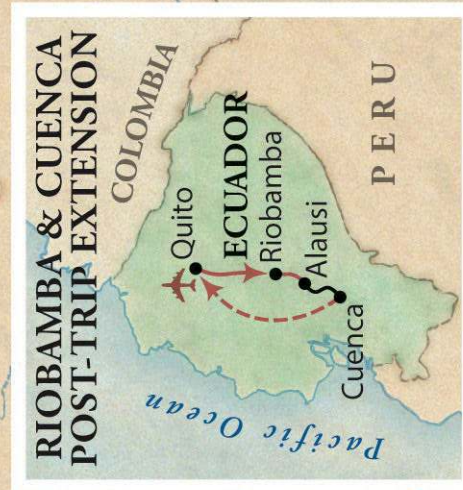
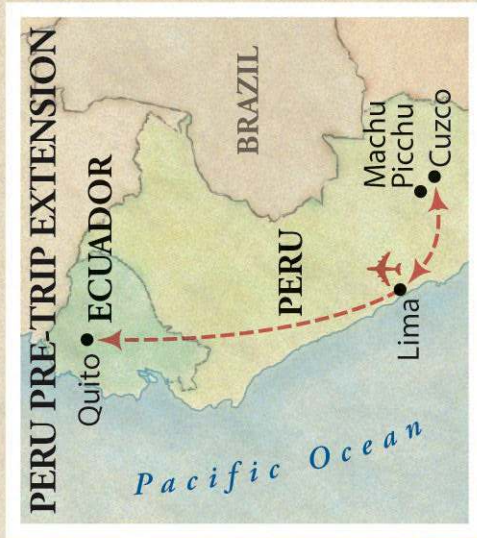
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Submitted by Julia Schneider,  
5-time traveler from Pinellas Park, FL



Submitted by Martin Schwartzman,  
30-time traveler from Woodbury, NY



Submitted by Paul Stark, 17-time traveler  
from Edina, MN



Submitted by David Fong, 16-time traveler  
from Foster City, CA



Submitted by Steven dos Remedios,  
23-time traveler from Oakland, CA



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