LatinDiscover.com
rediscovering the New World

T: 305-720-2539
F: 305-716-9216
info@latindiscover.com

TRIP DETAILS
14 days / 13 nts - Ecuador

Departures Daily
Trip Ref 2393

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

PRICES FROM $3,685

Galapagos and Amazon

This trip includes 4 nights cruising around the Galapagos islands on board the Legend, a 100 passenger luxury small cruise ship. You can of course select any other yacht and even cruise length, and we will send you the revised itinerary and prices by email.

Day 1: Arrive in Quito
Upon arrival in Quito transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Quito.

Day 2: Quito (city tour)
Colonial city tour (Private transportation, bilingual guide, entrance to La Compañía Church, San Francisco Museum, snack, hat factory): due to the beauty and history of colonial Quito, the main emphasis of this tour is given to the old city. Return to the hotel. Overnight in Quito.

(Included meals: breakfast)

Day 3: Quito - Amazon
Transfer fron the hotel to the Quito airport. At the Quito Airport you will be met by La Selva representative in the National departure area in order to assist you with the check in process and give you a short briefing about the journey. After a 30 minute commercial flight to Puerto Francisco de Orellana “El Coca”, our representative will transfer you by private transportation to the city is main dock. An amazing fluvial journey of approximately two and a half hours in a motorized canoe will be the beginning of a great experience. At the end of the motorized canoe ride, you will be dropped off at La Selva is main dock.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 4: Amazon
There are many activities available at the lodge included in your program (Matapalo/ Chaguanamgo/ Charapa Trails, night canoe, Parrot Clay lick, Butterfly farm). The guests are generally divided into small groups according to interest and taking into account family groups.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 5: Amazon
Enjoy the activities available at the lodge.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 6: Amazon - Quito
You will have an early wake up call, breakfast and departure from the lodge. The lodge staff will assist you with your checked luggage. Motorized canoe ride upstream to go back to Coca, where our representative will take you to the airport to help you with your checked luggage and boarding passes.

Upon arrival in Quito transfer from airport to hotel. Overnight in Quito.

(Included meals: breakfast)

Day 7: Quito (Otavalo)
Full day private tour to Otavalo Market, drive 2 hours from Quito through attractive scenery to the biggest and most varied of all the Indian markets in the Ecuadorian Andes, followed by lunch at a hacienda. Overnight in Quito.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch)

Day 8: Quito - Galapagos

Transfer from the hotel to the airport to board the flight to Galapagos. The flight from Quito (via Guayaquil) to the Galapagos is approximately 2 ½ hours. Arrival in Galapagos, your guide will meet you and drive you from the airport to the pier and a zodiac ride, you'll board the ship Legend and settle into your cabin.

Black Turtle Cove

On the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, accessible only by sea where four species of mangrove crowd from the shore out into the lagoon, turtle enjoy swimming in the calm waters, peaking their heads above the surface while fish, rays and small sharks circle below. White-tipped reef sharks can be seen beneath the boat, sea birds, including pelicans, herons and egrets, all feed in the cove. This cove has been declared as a Turtle Sanctuary

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 9: Galapagos (Santiago - Rabida)

Sullivan Bay (Santiago)

Wet landing. This visitor site located at the southeastern portion of Santiago Island, and of important geologic interest, features extensive lava flows believed to have been formed during the last quarter of the 19th century.

Rabida

Wet landing. Dark-red sand covers these unique beaches with incredible landscape; Rabida is considered the epicenter of the Galapagos Islands due to the diversity of its volcanic geology. Nesting Brown Pelicans are found from July through September and nine species of the famous Darwin is finches can be seen. We will also take a dinghy ride along cliffs to observe nesting seabirds, and snorkel off the coast, where marine life is particularly active.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 10: Galapagos (Isabela)

Urbina Bay

Wet landing on a volcanic "black" beach. Depending on the season, we may find giant tortoises*, land iguanas* and the unusual Flightless Cormorant. After a short walk inland, snorkeling time is allotted, giving you yet another chance to swim with sea turtles, sea lions and countless tropical fish. Urbina Bay features a wide variety of plant life that changes depending on the season. We can observe the beautiful colors of plants that attract different insects, birds and reptiles. We will explore the uplifted coral reef that resulted from 1954 volcanic activity, with a spectacular view of Alcedo Volcano.

Tagus Cove

Dry landing on Galapagos' largest island where we will learn about the eruption of the five volcanoes that form it. The trail leads to Darwin is salt-water crater Lake and excellent views of lava fields and volcanic formations. We will return by the same path for a dinghy ride along a shoreline full of marine wildlife, where we will admire a variety of seabirds*, such as Blue-footed Booby, Brown Noddy, terns, Flightless Cormorant and depending on the season, a large number of Galapagos Penguins* which are only 35 cm. tall; the only penguin species in the world to extend its range into the northern hemisphere along the equator. They are monogamous and lay their eggs in small cracks of lava, on the lower parts of the island near the shoreline not reached by the ocean waves. The population of penguins on the islands is about 2,000 individuals, most of which live on this western portion of Isabela; others are scattered further south on the island. We will have an opportunity to snorkel in deep water. Graffiti believed to have been left by19th-century pirates is a curious reminder of an intriguing past.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 11: Galapagos (Fernandina - Isabela)

Espinosa Point (Fernandina)

Dry landing. Espinosa Point is the only spot that we visit on Fernandina, and from it we can see the island of Isabela across the Bolívar Channel, an area that boasts some of the highest diversity of endemic sea fauna in the Galapagos. The largest, most primitive-looking race of marine iguanas* are found mingling with sea lions and Sally Lightfoot Crabs; a wonderful opportunity to encounter Flightless Cormorants at their nesting sites, Galapagos Penguins and the "King" of predators on the Islands, the Galapagos Hawk. "Pa-hoe-hoe" and "AA" lava formations* cover the majority of the terrain. Vegetation is thus scarce inland, but we encounter Brachycereus cacti and extensive mangrove beds lining the shores.

Vicente Roca Point (Isabela)

Great deep-water* snorkeling at one of the richest marine havens on Earth (Bolívar Channel). We take a dinghy ride along the coast to observe a great diversity of sea and coastal birds*; Nazca and blue-footed boobies, noddies, brown pelicans, penguins, flightless cormorants. The upwelling of coldwater currents in this part of the Galapagos gives rise to an abundance of marine life.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 12: Galapagos - Quito

Highlands (Santa Cruz)

Dry landing. A 45-minute bus ride will take us to the Santa Cruz highlands, located to the northwest of Puerto Ayora, where we will find a

natural reserve with giant tortoises. These enormous and slow-moving reptiles are responsible for the island is name and therefore approaching them in their humid and forested abode is always an inspiring adventure. They can weigh between 250 and 300 kg and can live up to 150-200 years.

After the visit passengers will be transferred to Baltra airport for return flight to Quito. Upon arrival in Quito. Transfer from the airport to hotel. Overnight in Quito.

(Included meals: breakfast)

Day 13: Fly out from Quito
Transfer from your hotel to the airport for your international flight.

(Included meals: breakfast)

Price per person

PRICE	SUPERIOR	DELUXE
High Season:	$5,825	$7,115
Low Season:	$5,595	$6,825
Hotel/cruise:-	Hotel Mercure (Quito) Kapawi Lodge (Amazon) Explorer II (Galapagos-Classic Cabin)	Swissotel (Quito) Kapawi Lodge (Amazon) Explorer II (Galapagos-Deluxe Cabin)

**Low season: Jan 8-14, May 1- Jun 15, Nov 24 - Dec 15
Prices valid until December 2010

Prices can change without notice
English / Spanish

Cruise Low season: Jan 5- Mar 28; May 15- Jun 20; Sep 1- 30; Nov 25- Dec 15

Price includes:
Galapagos cruise includes: Cruise fuel surcharge. Accommodation in double cabins with air conditioning and private bathroom, All meals on board, 2 daily visits to the islands conducted by multilingual naturalist guides, sightseeing, snorkelling opportunities and transfers in the islands. Evening lecture by guides regarding next days visits. Transfers in/out airports, piers, and hotels. Porterage at airport, pier, and hotel on transfers. Official Spanish/ English speaking guide on all tours. Twin or double room in the hotel (assumes 2 pax) although if unavailable specific properties may be replaced by others of same quality. Meals as per itinerary. Hotel taxes

La Selva Lodge includes: 4-days program, Assistance at the airport: Quito and Coca, Transfers and transportation in the Amazon, Accommodation (traditional hut) + All meals, Guided excursions, Bilingual naturalist guide + Native assistant.

Price does not include:
International airfare, domestic round trip flight to Galapagos ($568 pp), Domestic airfare Quito-Amazon-Quito ($159pp)departure taxes. Galapagos entrance fee ($100 pp), TCT/Ingala tax ($10 pp), Yasuni National Park entrance fee, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, gratuities to cruise guides and crew, bar, gifts, travel insurance. Meals not mentioned in the itinerary. Personal expenses (laundry, beverages, communications, etc).

Note:
- This program is quoted with M/VLegend : Itinerary B.
-Yellow fever vaccination require to visit Amazon area. It is generally easiest to get a yellow fever vaccination in your home country before you leave on your trip. You will need to especially request a yellow fever vaccination from a designated yellow fever vaccination center. Immunity is considered to start 10 days from the time of the vaccination, so be sure to get vaccinated 10 days before you enter an infected country.
- Galapagos Cruise itineraries are subject to change by the authorities of the Galapagos National Park or acts of providence. Recent changes to Galapagos National Park guidelines mean that cruise itineraries now vary greatly from departure to departure. The islands visited on each holiday will be determined by your departure date and the length of the cruise

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Ways to contact us

email: **info@latindiscover.com** or **Skype:** latindiscover
Tollfree: 1-866-369-8046 USA
Tel: 305 720 2539 USA, (506) 2290 4017 Costa Rica