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TRIP DETAILS
16 days / 15 nts - Ecuador

Departures Daily
Trip Ref 2395

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

PRICES FROM $5,071

Iguanas and Incas

This trip includes 7 nights cruising around the Galapagos islands on board the M/S Cachalote, a 16 passenger first class sailing yacht. 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 Quito
Upon arrival in Quito transfer from the airport to the hotel. Overnight in Quito

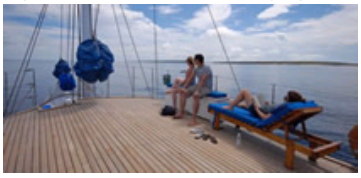
Day 2: Quito (city tour)
Colonial city tour (Private transportation, bilingual guide, entrance to La Compañía Church, San Francisco Museum, snack, hat factory): due to the beauty and history of colonial Quito, the main emphasis of this tour is given to the old city. Return to the hotel. Overnight in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

(Included meals: breakfast)

Day 3: Quito (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 4: Quito - Galapagos (Santa Cruz Island)
Departure from Quito via Guayaquil. Arrival at Baltra airport and transfer by our guide to the yacht M/S Cachalote. Charles Darwin Research Station, observe the giant tortoises that are part of the reproduction program and the world's most famous tortoise, Lonesome George, the last surviving specimen of his species.



Highlands: After touring the Station, journey into the highlands. A point of interest is the famed lava tunnels, a fun and geologically informative visit.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 5: Galapagos (South Plaza - Santa Fe)
South Plaza: Observe land and marine iguanas, sea lions, blue-footed boobies and many other sea birds. Due to their proximity with marine iguanas, this is the only place on Earth where we will find the Galapagos hybrid iguana.

Santa Fe: Home to a number of endemic species including Galapagos Hawk, Galapagos Snake, rice rats, a variety of finches and one of the four species of Galapagos mockingbirds. Deep-water snorkeling.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 6: Galapagos (San Cristobal)
Cerro Brujo, Eroding tuff cone which forms cliffs where seabirds are often seen nesting. It looks over a beautiful white sand beach where you can spot sea lions, pelicans, blue-footed boobies, marine iguanas.

El Junco is located in the highlands of the island at an altitude of 700m. This lagoon is the only freshwater lake in the Galapagos. The lake

and its surrounding comprise a beautiful landscape, typical of the humid zone of this island. El Junco is almost round in shape and 6m deep. You can observe white-cheeked pintail ducks and common gallinules. Vegetation includes miconia bushes and endemic tree ferns

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 7: Galapagos (Española)
Gardner Bay, spot Galapagos hawks, American oyster catchers, Galapagos doves, hood mockingbirds, 3 species of Darwin finches, yellow Warblers, lava lizards, and marine iguanas.

Suarez Point, explore volcanic formations and a riveting wildlife. Besides the sea lion colonies, this is a very important site for bird watching.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 8: Galapagos (Floreana)
Cormorant Point, This island features endemic plants such as Scalesia villosa, Galapagos daisies, white sand black mangrove, and holy stick. Spot sea turtles, Blue-footed Boobies plunging into the water, and small reef sharks floating along the shoreline in search of food.

Post Office, Continue the tradition by placing unstamped postcards inside the barrel which reach their destinations for free. Observe the mocking bird of Galapagos, some species of Darwins finches, yellow Warblers, and lava lizards.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 9: Galapagos (Santa Cruz - Santiago)
Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill) a trail takes you through Palo Santo forests, a brackish salt-water lagoon and Opuntia cacti woodland, where we will be hoping to spot land iguanas and feeding flamingos.

Sullivan Bay, on the eastern coast of James Island is Sullivan Bay. There you can admire a large area of fresh pahoehoe (ropey) lava flows dating from an eruption in 1897. A walk over this glazed black rock gives the impression of the still-molten lava, as every ripple, swirl, and bubble in its surface has been preserved. Tiny fragile Mollugi plants can be spotted growing out of fissures as they begin to colonize the arid terrain.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 10: Galapagos (Genovesa)
We spend the entire day on Tower (Genovesa), considered to be one of the most spectacular Islands in Galapagos for bird species. Genovesa has 2 principal tourist places: Prince Philips Steps and Darwin Bay, this is one of the most famous places to watch animals like: fragate birds, mask boobies, red footed boobies, sea lions and seals. When you practice snorkelling and diving the sea lions and hammerhead sharks will swim beside you. The Prince Philips Steps is an rock with the shape of steps, this place was called of this way because the prince Phillips visited the island genovesa in the 60´s.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 11: Galapagos - Guayaquil - Lima
Black Turtle Cove, we will take you into a tidal lagoon to see three kinds of mangrove plants, red, white and black. White-tipped sharks, spotted rays, mustard rays and Pacific marine turtles frequent the waters here. Return to Baltra in time for flight to mainland Ecuador. Arrival in Guayaquil and board the flight to Lima where there will be a transfer from the Lima airport to the hotel. Overnight in Lima

(Included meals: breakfast)

Day 12: Lima - Cusco
Transfer to the airport for the flight to Cusco. Upon arrival in Cusco transfer to the hotel. Explore the most magical city, capital of the Inca empire (15th century) on a tour including Plaza Regocijo, Plaza de Armas, the Cathedral, Santo Domingo Monastery - the legendary Korikancha Temple - and the old town with its very narrow streets. Drive out of the city to visit the archaeological Inca remains of Tambomachay, Kenko, Puca Pucara and the impressive fortress of Sacsayhuaman, overlooking Cusco. Overnight in Cuzco.

(Included meals: breakfast)

Day 13: Cuzco -Sacred Valley of the Incas
Drive to the "Sacred Valley of the Incas", a succession of picturesque towns, agricultural terraces, and many archaeological sites, as well as the world´s most famous corn, combine with an exceptional climate to visit Ollantaytambo, the Inca fortress, which guarded the entry of this part of the valley and protected it from possible invasion from the lower jungles. The fortress consists of a series of superimposed terraces of carved stones accessed by long staircases. An opportunity to walk through the quaint streets of the nearby town, the design and foundations of the majority of its buildings date from the Inca era, when it was a strategic military, religious, and agricultural center. Lunch at a nearby inn. Visit Pisac, a lively and colorful Indian market where locals sell or exchange their products, as the ancestors did hundreds years ago. Overnight in Urubamba.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch)

Day 14: Sacred Valley - Machu Picchu

Transfer to Ollanta´s train station to board the Expedition rail coach for a three hours train ride to Machu Picchu, discovered in 1911 by the American explorer Hiram Bingham. Then make the 25-minute motor coach ascent to "The Lost City of the Incas." This citadel is considered one of the most extraordinary examples of landscape architecture in the world. It straddles a mountain ridge surrounded by lush tropical forest. The guided tour of this fascinating place is an awe-inspiring experience. Visit the Main Square, the Royal Quarters, the Temple of the Three Windows, the Circular Towers, the Sacred Sun Dial and Burial Grounds. Overnight near Machu Picchu.

(Included meals: breakfast, lunch)

Day 15: Machu Picchu - Cuzco

Morning at leisure (no guide included this day). Early rise is recommended to admire Machu Picchu at sunrise, a truly mystical experience. For hiking enthusiasts, going up the Huayna Picchu peak overlooking the site is suggested (optional). Afternoon rail coach transportation to Cusco. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Cuzco.

(Included meals: breakfast)

Day 16: Cusco - Fly out from Lima

Transfer to Cusco airport, assistance on departure flight.

(Included meals: breakfast)

2010 Price per person

Category	Hotels / Cruise	Price
SUPERIOR	Hotel Mercure (Quito) Sagitta (Galapagos cruise) Jose Antonio (Lima) Picoaga (Cusco) Sol y Luna (Urubamba) Sumaq (AguasCalientes)	$5,683
DELUXE	Swissotel (Quito) Sagitta (Galapagos cruise) Swissotel (Lima) Libertador (Cusco) Sol y Luna (Urubamba) Machu Picchu Pueblo (Machu Picchu)	$6,165

Prices valid until December 15 2010
(Prices can change without notice)

English / Spanish

Price includes:

Accommodation in double cabins with air conditioning and private bathroom, All meals on board, 2 daily visits to the islands conducted by bilingual naturalist guides, sightseeing, snorkelling opportunities and transfers in the islands. Evening lecture by guides regarding next days visits. Transfers in/out airports, piers, train or bus stations and hotels. Porterage at airport, pier, station and hotel on transfers. Entrance fees on sightseeing tours, Cusco Tourist Tax. Shared Services with Spanish/ English speaking guide on all tours (except when mentioned). 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, 2nd entrance to Machu Picchu & R.T Expedition train.

Price does not include:

International air fare for Guayaquil-Lima. Domestic air fares for Quito-Galapagos, Galapagos-Guayaquil, Lima - Cuzco return. International and domestic airport departure taxes. Galapagos cruise: MigrationCard/Ingala tax ($10pp), Galapagos entrance fee ($100pp), snorkeling equipment/wetsuit, 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:

- A supplement may apply for solo travellers
- This program is quoted with Cachalote Tower Itinerary.
- 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.
- Those guests wanting to hike Huyna Picchu located inside the Machu Picchu site, it is important that you advise us so we can purchase the entrance prior to your hike. The cost of the entrance is $15pp approx. This is Day 15 of this itinerary. In addition, there are two groups of 200 people each and the schedules are as follows: 1st group: 7 am / 8 am, 2nd group: 10 am / 11 am. Punctuality is important as you may loose your tickets

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