

ECUADOR 2016

Origins: Galapagos, Quito, and the Cloud Forest

July 20-July 31, 2016

Join us for a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit exotic Ecuador! Our 12 day excursion includes five days in the Quito and the Andean Highlands and six days in the Galapagos Islands. Price includes domestic air travel from Quito to the Galapagos, three star (or better) hotels, all tours, tips and taxes. Continental breakfast and lunch daily included.

Quito, Cotopaxi and Otavalo: Quito, the city of eternal spring is the capital of Ecuador. It is nestled at about 12,000 feet above sea level in the Andes Mountains. The equator passes through the city. Here we will visit the colonial center of the city, the monument to the equator and other sites of interest.

Cotopaxi is one of the world's tallest active volcanoes and is located in a 125 square mile national park. Here we will see a wide variety of micro-climates as we slowly move higher and higher up the side of the volcano. The car stops at 15,000 feet and the more adventuresome can hike up an additional thousand feet or more to the base of a glacier.

The Otavalo region is the handicraft capital of Ecuador. We start the day at the Otavalo market where hundreds of vendors sell a vast variety of weavings, carvings and other handicrafts. We also visit musical instrument workshops and weaving centers in the village of Peguche; Cotacachi--a leather manufacturing city, San Antonio de Ibarra--a wood carving town and

Calderon, a suburb of Quito where "bread babies" (cornmeal and glue figurines) are made.

The Cloud Forest: We will also explore the Ecuadorian Cloud Forest. Similar to the Amazon but at a higher elevation, this lush, verdant countryside is home to a dazzling array of flora and fauna. Here we have planned excursions to an orchid reserve, a butterfly farm, a cable car trip over a large canyon and bird watching. Dozens of species of hummingbirds live in the cloud forest as do blue morpho butterflies, and colorful birds such as the quetzal, toucans and the cock of the rock.

The Galapagos Islands: Walk in the footsteps of Charles Darwin. His visit to the Galapagos solidified his thinking about the theory of evolution. It is only a 90 minute flight from Quito, but a world apart from the rest of Ecuador. Our visit to the islands includes stops on Seymour, Santa Cruz, and Isabela. Here you will come face to face with giant tortoises, land iguanas, Galapagos Penguins, blue boobies and many other exotic creatures found nowhere else on earth. You get the best of both worlds on our Galapagos tour. Our excursions are day tours on boats, followed by comfortable accommodations in modern hotels by night, so no rocking of the boat or cramped rooms.



Ecuador's time is the same as Houston in the summer.



Wednesday, July 20, 2016—Depart Houston Intercontinental, arrive Mariscal Sucre International Airport, Quito

Thursday, July 21— Am visit to the best of colonial Quito, then lunch at the brim of a volcanic crater an afternoon stop at the Equator museum and on to the region of Mindo with stops along the way

Friday, July 22—Orchid reserve visit, butterfly farm, zipline or cable car in the morning in Mindo region, afternoon visit to equator museum.

Saturday, July 23—Our Handicrafts and Artisans Day. The tour starts at the Otavalo market, continues to musical instrument and weaving centers, and then on to towns specializing in leather working, wood carving and “bread babies” (cornmeal and glue figurines).

Sunday, July 24—Visit Cotopaxi National Park including an optional climb partially up the volcano and pm journey to Otavalo region with visits along the way, including some indigenous homes.

Monday, July 25—An early morning flight to the Galapagos Island takes us to Baltra for an afternoon tour of Tortuga Bay.

Tuesday, July 26—Choice of a visit to 3 Islands including Seymour Island, a large, flat and arid

island in the middle of the Galapagos. Highlights include the Galapagos Iguana.

Wednesday, July 27—Today’s boat tour takes us to Garrapatero, home to flamingos, herons, stilts and other shore birds. The beautiful turquoise waters provide a good opportunity for swimming and snorkeling. A PM tour of the Highlands of Santa Cruz offer exuberant flora and are famous for lava tunnels. Large tortoise populations are found here.

Thursday, July 28— Isabella Island, the largest in the Galapagos. Here we visit the Wall of Tears (a former penal colony) Afternoon visit to Tintorerias Islet where there are colonies of marine iguanas, sea lions and penguins, and possibly the white-tipped shark

Friday, July 29— Today we visit Sierra Negra Volcano to see the geological features that make the Galapagos unique. The afternoon is spent at Concha Perla, a bay where you can relax by snorkeling, swimming or just having some down time/.

Saturday, July 30— Los Gemelos sinkholes are located in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island, created when the volcanic roof of empty magma chambers collapsed from tectonic shifts and erosion over time.

Sunday, July 31—Return to Houston at 5:30 am.

To view a PDF picture show of the tour, in full color with many more details and illustrations, please visit:

http://www.kennieser.com/Ecuador_2016.pdf

REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) as on passport, passport # (Attach a copy of the picture page of your passport)

Address

Telephone: (most accessible)

Alternative phone

E-mail

Sharing Room With: _____

In case of emergency, please notify

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

Program Cost:

Domestic airfare, hotels, tours, transportation, two meals daily: \$3699/per person double occupancy; \$625 addition single supplement. International airfare Houston to Quito is extra and will be billed at cost at the time of purchase. If you have United miles, you can use them to purchase your tickets. Please advise Don and Ken via email to get correct flight information. Space is limited to 20 participants.

\$300 deposit per person required for reservation.

Payment Schedule: \$1000 due by January 31, 2016.

\$1000 due by March 31, 2016.

Balance Due by April 30, 2016

Do you have a promo code?
Enter it below

Full refund available until February 28, 2016. After February 28, full refund minus deposit. **No refunds after April 20, 2016.**

Depending upon local celebrations and developments, the above schedule may be modified.

Make Checks Payable to:

Andean Endeavors

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