



## Day by Day - Option 2

### Wednesday, Day 1.- QUITO

Meet at Airport and transfer to the city. Accommodation at Alameda Real Mercure Hotel.

### Thursday, Day 2.- QUITO (B, L)

Breakfast. Your tour starts early in the morning to visit Panecillo Hill where you will enjoy a panoramic view of the city and take great pictures. Continues to Quito's Old Town and the Basilica Church, where you will make a brief stop. You will then enjoy walking through the colonial streets and stop at the Independence Plaza admiring the Cathedral, the Government's Palace and Ronda Street. You will also visit La Compania Church, the Sagrario Church and the San Francisco Church, which was built during the 17th century. After lunch (*included*), you will head to the Middle of the World monument, where you can stand right in the middle of the equatorial line and straddle the two hemispheres. In addition, you will have a chance to participate in several experiments at the Intiñan Museum such as watching water go down a drain in a different direction (only inches away from either side of the equator), or balancing an egg on a nail, or using an ancient sun dial and much more. At this complex, you will also be able to visit a fascinating ethno-graphical museum which gives a great overview of the many distinct cultures of this small country. You will also enjoy the amazing landscape in Pululahua inhabited crater just 5 minutes from the Equatorial line, inside of the Pululahua Geobotanical Reserve.

### Friday, Day 3.- QUITO – GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)

Breakfast. Early in the morning, transfer from your hotel to the Airport to embark on flight (*air tickets included*) to the Enchanted Islands to Baltra, with AVIANCA Airlines, arriving at 09:20 a.m. approximately. A guide meets us and accompanies us as we ride the bus to the Itabaca Channel, we cross the channel by barge and then we continue to Puerto Ayora by bus. We board the Yacht and the crew greets us and offers us a light snack and we have our first orientation. In the afternoon, we land at the pier for a visit to the Charles Darwin Station and its Interpretive Center. Return to the Port for a walk through the little town to appreciate various handicrafts. We board and we have a welcome cocktail with the entire crew, and dinner.

### Saturday, Day 4.- GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we make an early dry landing on Punta Suarez to walk along lava beds where we will observe unique colonies of marine birds, including Albatross (May - December). Return to the Yacht for lunch. In the afternoon, we make a wet landing in Gardner Bay for a walk on the beach and observe a colony of sea lions, which inhabit the beach in great quantity during the breeding season; this is also an important nesting area for sea turtles. We then make a panga ride around the Osborn Islet and the islets of Gardner. **Optional:** time for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel. Return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

### Sunday, Day 5.- GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on Punta Pitt in San Cristobal Island; the trail includes an olivine beach approximately 90 meters and a trail that ascends to the top of a volcanic tuff hill passing through several natural viewpoints. Punta Pitt is composed of volcanic tuff substrate. High winds present there have led to natural erosion. This is the only site in the Galapagos Islands, where you can watch the three species of boobies and 2 species of frigates nesting in the same area. We come aboard for a delicious lunch. Later in the afternoon, our experienced Captain sails easily around Kicker Rock (Leon Dormido), a massive tuff-rock that juts abruptly almost 500 feet straight from the ocean. Kicker Rock serves as nesting place for many sea birds. **Optional:** time for those who would like to swim and/ or snorkel. Then we make a wet landing on Cerro Brujo to walk on a white sand beach and observe sea lions, brown pelicans, marine iguanas and blue-footed boobies. **Optional:** time for those who would like to swim, snorkel and/ or kayak. We return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation

### **Monday, Day 6.- GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we make an early wet landing on Mosquera Island, a reef of rocks and coral (the result of an uprising) and a great white sand beach and tide pools. We observe colonies of sea lions, brown pelicans, blue footed boobies and sally light-foot crabs, the contrast between these bright red crabs on top and blue on the bottom and the black lava is stunning. We come aboard for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, we make a panga ride on Black Turtle Cove, series of mangrove-surrounded coves and islets; here we can observe white-tipped sharks, marine turtles, spotted eagle rays, and yellow cow-nosed rays. We board the Yacht for dinner and the first of our nightly orientations.

### **Tuesday, Day 7.- GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on Chinese Hat (Sombrero Chino), a small island off the coast of Santiago Island, we can observe on the rocky shoreline: Galapagos penguins, eagle rays, sea lions and marine iguanas. This is an excellent snorkeling site. **Optional:** time for those who would like to swim, snorkel and/ or Kayak. Return to the Yacht for lunch. In the afternoon, we make a wet landing on Rabida, to walk and observe marine iguanas and sea lions, pelicans, blue-footed boobies, masked boobies and brown pelicans. We walk and we arrive at a small saltwater lagoon where we can see pink flamingos. **Optional:** time for those who would like to swim or snorkel. We return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

### **Wednesday, Day 8.- GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on Sullivan Bay, a perfect place to get a feel of the volcanic origin of the islands. **Optional:** time for those who would like to swim and/or snorkel. We return to the boat for a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, we make a dry landing on Bartolome Island, to hike to the summit; during the hike we observe colonies of marine iguanas and lava lizards. On the summit we have an impressive view of the surrounding islands, including the eroded tuff cone of Pinnacle Rock. We return to the yacht for a delicious dinner and our nightly orientation

### **Thursday, Day 9.- GALAPAGOS (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, we make a wet landing on Santa Fe Island to visit the cactus forest and a colony of land iguanas native from Santa Fe. **Optional:** time for those who would like to swim, snorkel and/or kayak. Return to the Yacht for lunch and sail to South Plaza, where we make a dry landing on the pier of the island, there we can enjoy the antics of the sea lions. A walk through a cactus forest allows us to observe land iguanas and many species of tropical birds. At the end of the afternoon, we return to the Yacht for dinner and our nightly orientation.

### **Friday, Day 10.- GALAPAGOS – AMAZONIA (B, D)**

After breakfast we make an early disembark on Las Bachas Beach, a place where we can appreciate a Flamingos lagoon. During all walks, your guide will be explaining details about the lives of the birds and animals. We return to the Yacht for disembarking on the pier at 09:00. Your guide accompanies you on the bus ride directly to the airport. Embark on flight (*air tickets included*) to Quito. Arrival at Airport and surface transfer for driving 228 kilometers (141 miles) to Yachana by a 99% asphalt road crossing by the Oriental Sierra and descending later to the amazing Amazonia. If time permits, you will see the spectacular Antisana Volcano 5,753 meters high. Will stop at Hollin Cascade. You will be received at Yachana with a warm welcome from our native staff that will serve you a refreshing beverage and snack while you are introduced to the facilities. After you've had a chance to rest in your room, your guide will take you on a short hike; this hike will take you into the jungle where you will see a giant and beautiful Kapok tree (Ceibo). Your guide will amaze you explaining a lot of things along the way. Dinner is served between 7:00 – 7:30 PM.

### **Saturday, Day 11.- AMAZONIA (B, L, D)**

You have the option to start your day early by participating in a bird watching excursion or sleep little longer before enjoying a splendid breakfast, the first of the day's Amazon culinary delights. After a traditional breakfast from the Amazon, you will board our ranchera (typical local bus) and accompany your native guide as he leads you on a journey into the rainforest stopping to observe birds, and possibly monkeys, along the way. During your rainforest trek your guide will explain the uses of various medicinal plants and amaze you with his knowledge of the several species of birds and animals that inhabit the rainforest, which he calls home. Return to the Yachana for lunch and an opportunity to rest before the next activity. In the afternoon the administrative will give an explanation about how the Yachana Training Center works and the strong support of the Yachana Foundation with his educational program. After this you will take our ranchera to Agua Santa community in order to board a raft downriver to observe a local family doing panning for gold. From there, using either inner-tubes, a small rubber raft or just life jackets, you can float/swim as you continue down river enjoy the spectacular scenery that surrounds you. At some point you will get on board of a motorize canoe to head back to Yachana. After dinner in the evening your guide will offer to take you on a night walk to discover a totally different side of the forest that only comes alive after dark. On this walk, you have the chance to see many small insects, amphibians, reptiles and other animals.

### **Sunday, Day 12.- AMAZONIA (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, you will onboard our ranchera go to a farm where you can see and harvest so many products you have probably never seen or prepared before. You will be part of a culinary activity fixing your own typical lunch from the amazon under the supervision of our chef. In the afternoon after lunch, you will travel by canoe to the home of shaman and his family to learn about local Kichwa culture and traditions, and to participate in a cleansing ceremony. Afterwards, try your skills on the art of hunting using a typical blowgun and spear. This is a wonderful cultural activity to know a local family and learn more about the kichwa tradition and way of living. Return to Yachana for dinner at 7:00 – 7:30 PM. Rest before dinner and enjoy the sunset from our dining hall. After dinner you will learn how to make chocolate using organic cacao harvested from the local families. Turn the cacao beans into delicious jungle chocolate, one of the main ingredients for several of the delectable deserts served at Yachana. This is one of our highlight as you prepare chocolate in a traditional way.

### **Monday, Day 13.- AMAZONIA – QUITO AIRPORT (B)**

After a hearty breakfast, travel by a private car from Yachana back to the city of Coca for your flight back to Quito (*Air tickets included*). END OF OUR SERVICES.