



**OTAVALO, CHASKI ANTAWA TRAIN, AND FIVE DAY GALAPAGOS LEGEND
CRUISE
9 Days/8 Nights from \$2,639**



This popular tour begins in Quito, the first city to be included on UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage list due to its art and architecture. It includes an excursion to Otavalo, South America's largest and most famous indigenous market, a ride on the Chaski Antawa train from Ibarra to Salinas, and a five day Galapagos Islands cruise aboard the Galapagos Legend.

The **Galapagos Legend** is a 100 passenger deluxe expedition ship that offers the comforts and amenities of a larger cruise liner. It is air conditioned throughout, and features 57 cabins with lower beds, private bathroom, safe, and mini bar. The ship's spacious social areas include a pool, Jacuzzi, Fisherman's Bar, observation decks, al fresco dining areas, a spacious passenger lounge, dining room, boutique, library, and conference room. Snorkeling equipment (\$20) and wetsuits (\$25) can be rented on board.

ACTIVITIES: Cultural/historical sightseeing, mountain train riding, wildlife viewing, hiking, snorkeling, and glass bottom boating.

ELEVATIONS: Quito is 9,350 feet above sea level, Otavalo is 8,399 ft., Ibarra is 7,231 ft., and Salinas is 5,282 ft.



DEPARTURE DATES: Monday departures throughout the year.

GROUP/PRIVATE: All services included in this tour are operated on a group basis.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Note: The route and program may vary according to National Park policies and regulations, weather conditions, seasonal changes, safety reasons and wildlife encounters.

Dry Landing: Guests step from the dinghy directly onto rocks or a dock.

Wet Landing: As the dinghy edges onto a sandy beach, guests step into knee-deep water and wade ashore.

DAY 1 (Mon): Quito.

Depart to Quito. After passing through immigration and customs, proceed to the reception area, where our representative will be holding a sign with your name on it. You will be greeted and then transferred to your hotel. Overnight in Quito.

DAY 2 (Tue): City Tour of Quito.

On your city tour of Quito, you will explore the bustling streets and squares of the largest historical centre in the Americas, and visit some of its most important churches such as the majestic La Compania and iconic San Francisco, guardians of a stunning multi-ethnic artistic and cultural heritage. You will drive through the traditional neighborhood of San Juan and finish at the Panecillo hillside, with its breathtaking views of the old and modern parts of the city. Overnight in Quito. (B)

DAY 3 (Wed): Quito/Otavalo Market/Chaski Antawa Train from Ibarra to Salinas/Quito.

Departing from Quito to the North, you will drive across the colorful valleys of Guayllabamba and Cayambe. Guayllabamba is rich in fertile soil and through effective irrigation systems, has become an important producer of avocado and the local cherimoya fruit. Cayambe, traditionally dedicated to dairy cattle and manufacturing of dairy products, has recently enjoyed an important boom in rose farming. The breathtaking setting offers great photo opportunities and after two hours of traveling through the riveting Andean countryside, you will arrive at the province of Imbabura, known as the Ecuadorian Land of Lakes. The Otavalo Market is the most famous and picturesque in South America. Markets are meeting places for shopping, bargaining and chatter, while people of the region exchange local produce, animals, utensils, pots and pans or textiles. For visitors, the markets offer the possibility of approaching Ecuadorians at a more intimate level as you negotiate prices of a variety of woven goods, bags, hats, flutes or simply appreciate the skillful and generous people responsible for the elegance and beauty of the clothing and handicrafts; then drive further north to the city of Ibarra and catch the Chaski Antawa train. The Chaski Antawa (or messenger train) travels on an early 20th-century railroad system built to connect the northern Ecuadorian Andes and the Pacific Coast. Departing from Ibarra, a two-hour ride descends into the warm, dry valley of Salinas, across sugar cane plantations, magical landscapes, through tunnels and over bridges that span steep canyons, ridges and patchwork fields. Enjoy a unique lunch at the Salinas Afro-Ecuadorian community restaurant. Overnight in Quito. (B,L)

DAY 4 (Thu): Quito/Baltra Airport/Bartolome.

Early morning transfer to the airport for the flight to Galapagos. Passengers are picked up at the airport by our guides and taken to the pier to board the M/V Galapagos Legend.

Bartolome (dry landing). Passengers will see volcanic formations like lava bombs, spatter, and cinder cones. After a hike to the summit you'll be impressed by the view of the surrounding islands, including the eroded tuff cone of Pinnacle Rock. During the hike to the summit, travelers will often see colonies of marine iguanas, lava lizards, tiquilla, and various cacti. Visitors will be able to snorkel and see the Galapagos penguin, sea turtles, and white tipped sharks from a safe distance. Overnight aboard the Galapagos Legend. (B,L,D)

DAY 5 (Fri): Urbina Bay (Isabela)/Espinosa Point (Fernandina).

Urbina Bay (wet landing). Passengers will visit the fossil beach and coral area. Depending on the season you may be able to observe giant tortoises, land iguanas and flightless cormorants. After the walk we will have time for snorkeling.

Espinosa Point (dry landing). Visitors will see the biggest marine iguanas mingling with sally-light foot crabs, as well as flightless cormorants nesting sites, Galapagos penguins, Galapagos hawks, and sea lions. Among the flora and volcanic formations observers will spot brachycereus cactus, and "pa-hoe-hoe" lava and "AA" lava formations. Numerous mangrove beds extend into the sea. Overnight aboard the Galapagos Legend. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 (Sat): Egas Port (Santiago)/Rabida.

Egas Port (wet landing). Most of the landscape is tuff-stone layers and lava flows. You can observe hunting herons, great blue herons, lava herons, yellow crowned night herons and oyster catchers. Passengers will see marine iguanas grazing upon algae beds alongside red sally light-foot crabs. There is a colony of fur-seals swimming in deep pools of cool water. Here you can swim and snorkel and find octopuses, sea horses, star fish.

Rabida (wet landing). The volcano-formed beach is dark red and frequented by sea lions. It's considered the geographic center of Galapagos because it has the most diverse volcanic rocks on the Islands. You'll hike to a salt water lagoon, where flamingos can sometimes be found. July through September is a good time to observe brown pelicans nesting in the salty bushes. Boobies and 9 species of Darwin's finches can also be observed. You can take a dinghy ride by the reefs, as well as snorkel. Overnight aboard the Galapagos Legend. (B,L,D)

DAY 7 (Sun): Charles Darwin Research Station/Highlands (Santa Cruz).

Charles Darwin Research Station. Travelers will visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, staffed with international scientists conducting biological research and conservation projects. Here you can admire the giant tortoises that are part of the breeding program. Visitors can also admire the prickly-pear cactus forest and many land birds. Later on, you'll have some free time to walk around town and shop for souvenirs.

Highlands of Santa Cruz. You can visit Cerro Chato, where you'll be able to observe the famous giant tortoises. Additionally, you can walk inside the dormant lava tubes. Overnight aboard the Galapagos Legend. (B,L,D)

DAY 8 (Mon): Bachas Beach (Santa Cruz)/Baltra Airport/Quito.

Bachas Beach (wet landing). This beach is located on the north side of Santa Cruz Island. Here you will encounter many sea birds, marine iguanas, sea turtles, and have the opportunity to swim on the white sand beach.

Return to the Galapagos Legend, check out, and transfer to Baltra Airport for your return flight to Quito. Overnight in Quito. (B)

DAY 9 (Tue): Quito.

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to your final destination. (B)

B = Breakfast, **L** = Lunch, **D** = Dinner

PRICE PER PERSON (in U.S. Dollars)

	Single	Double	Triple
Moon Cabin	\$3,849	\$2,639	n/a
Junior Suite	\$4,489	\$3,019	\$2,889
Legend Suite	\$4,999	\$3,369	\$3,229
Balcony Suite	\$5,489	\$3,699	\$3,569

Notes:

1. The above prices are valid until December 10, 2011.
2. Singles willing to share a cabin during the cruise may be able to save substantially by joining an existing group for the land portion in Quito and the Highlands (subject to availability).
3. Hotel upgrades available upon request.

PRICE INCLUDES:

- South American Vacations' expert pre-departure planning services and documentation.
- Round-trip airfare from Quito to Galapagos in economy class.
- Airport/hotel transfers including baggage handling.
- Four nights accommodations at Hotel Quito (or similar) including service fees and taxes.
- Accommodations on board the M/V Galapagos Legend.
- All meals scheduled on board and others as indicated on the itinerary.
- Excursions as indicated on the itinerary including all applicable entrance fees.
- Two daily excursions to the islands conducted by bi-lingual naturalist guides.
- Evening briefings and lectures.

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- International airfare.
- Ecuadorian departure tax (Quito \$40.80).

- Galapagos National Park entrance fee (\$100).
- Transit control card (\$10).
- Meals not indicated on the itinerary.
- Gratuities to ship crew and guides.
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.
- Gifts and personal items.
- Travel insurance.

We will be happy to quote the cost of international airfare and travel insurance, and to make these arrangements for you.

IGTOA'S TRAVELER FUNDING PROGRAM

South American Vacations is an active member of IGTOA (International Galapagos Tour Operators Association). In support of IGTOA's Traveler Funding Program, we contribute \$50 for each passenger that we send to the Galapagos Islands. You'll travel knowing that you support the lasting protection of Galapagos Islands.

Sixty percent of the funding of this program goes directly to the Charles Darwin Foundation for science, conservation, and education. Their work, carried out through the Charles Darwin Research Station and Galapagos National Park, is vital to the preservation of the islands. You can visit their web site to learn more www.darwinfoundation.org. The remainder goes toward IGTOA's mission of creating a model of responsible and sustainable tourism.

PASSPORT/VISA: U.S., Australian, Canadian, and EU citizens only require a passport valid for at least six months from date of entry and return ticket for stays of up to 90 days. Citizens of other countries are advised to contact the Ecuadorian embassy in their country before traveling.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: In order to protect your travel investment from unforeseen circumstances that may arise before or during your trip, we strongly recommend that you purchase travel insurance. We offer **Access America's Classic Comprehensive** and other plans. The Benefits, Coverage Limits, and rates are summarized on our website at www.savacations.com/insurance.asp. Call your travel counselor if you have any questions or to purchase a plan.

TO BOOK THIS TRIP: Call or email us to confirm the availability of this ship and the domestic airfare for your desired dates of travel. Once we have confirmed availability, you will need to pay a non-refundable deposit of \$800 per person, plus the cost of the international airfare (if we arrange it for you).

Otavalo, Chaski Antawa Train, and Five Day Galapagos Legend Cruise

3715 Piccadilly Street, Hollywood, FL 33021

Phone: 954-966-2374 • Fax: 954-966-2560 • Toll Free: 888-268-9753

Email: info@savacations.com • www.savacations.com