



QUITO AND FIVE DAY GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CRUISE ABOARD THE CORAL I AND II
8 Days/7 Nights from \$2,289



This tour combines colonial Quito with a five day Galapagos Islands cruise on the Coral I and II. The Coral I and II are mid-sized yachts, perfect for an intimate experience while cruising the islands. They can accommodate 36 and 20 passengers in spacious outside cabins with a/c, lower beds, private bathrooms, and safes. Some of the cabins interconnect, which is ideal for families. Social areas include a Jacuzzi, lounge, restaurant, bar, boutique, library, moon deck reading area, and expansive observation decks with sun/shade areas. Snorkeling equipment (\$20) and wet suits (\$25) can be rented on board. (Note that these ships are sold together, and passengers will be assigned to one of the ships at the sole discretion of the operator of the ship.)

ACTIVITIES: Sightseeing, wildlife viewing, hiking, and snorkeling.



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.

DAY 2 (Tue): City Tour of Quito.

In the morning, you will have a 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 the morning at the Panecillo hillside, with its breathtaking views of the old and modern parts of the city. (B)

DAY 3 (Wed): Quito/Baltra Airport/Dragon Hill/Venice (Santa Cruz).

Passengers will be picked up by our guides at the airport and taken to the ship.

Dragon Hill (wet landing). Visitors walk to a saltwater lagoon which is occasionally visited by pink flamingos. Then you'll hike up to Dragon Hill, which offers a beautiful view of the bay. This area is a nesting site for numerous reintroduced land iguanas. There is also a peculiar scalesia tree forest. Dinghy ride around the islet along the coast of Santa Cruz. The land iguanas that live in Venice were protected from the wild dogs that live on the island of Santa Cruz. In Santa Cruz it is possible to observe the vegetation and marine animals like: spotted eagle rays and golden rays, mullets, white tipped reef sharks, and pacific green sea turtles which rest in the calm waters of the coves and channels. (B,L,D)

DAY 4 (Thu): Rabida/Egas Port (Santiago).

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.

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 on algae beds alongside red sally light-foot crabs. There is a colony of fur-seals swimming in deep cool-water pools. Here you can swim and snorkel and find octopuses, sea horses, and star fish. (B,L,D)

DAY 5 (Fri): Espinosa Point (Fernandina)/Tagus Cove (Isabela).

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.

Tagus Cove (dry landing). Visitors will learn about the eruption of five volcanoes that formed this island, the largest in Galapagos. The trail leads to Darwin’s salt water lagoon and an excellent view of the lava fields and volcanic formations. You’ll take a dinghy to observe marine life. Frequently, Galapagos penguins can be seen here. Opportunity for snorkeling. Graffiti believed to have been made by 19th century pirates helps passengers better appreciate the relationship between the islands and tourism today. (B,L,D)

DAY 6 (Sat): Bartolome/Black Turtle Cove (Santa Cruz).

Bartolome (dry landing). Passengers will see volcanic formations such as lava bombs, spatter, and cinder cones. After hiking to the summit you can enjoy a great view of the surrounding islands, including Pinnacle Rock’s eroded tuff cone. On the way to the summit, you’ll often see colonies of marine iguanas, lava lizards, tiquilla, and various cacti. You’ll be able to snorkel and see the Galapagos penguin, sea turtles, and white tipped sharks from a safe distance.

Black Turtle Cove is located near Las Bachas beach on the north side of Santa Cruz. Passengers will take a dinghy through the mangrove. The motor is turned off to allow close observation of marine turtles and white tipped reef sharks. (B,L,D)

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

Charles Darwin Research Station. Travellers will visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, staffed with international scientists conducting biological research and conservation projects. Here you’ll be able to admire the giant tortoises involved in 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.

Disembark at Baltra. Passengers will take a bus to the airport for the flight back to the mainland via Guayaquil to Quito. (B).

DAY 8 (Mon): 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
Standard Cabin	\$3,789	\$2,289	n/a
Moon Cabin	\$3,789	\$2,289	n/a
Junior Cabin	\$4,089	\$2,579	n/a

NOTES:

1. The above prices are valid until December 10, 2010.
2. Singles willing to share a cabin during the cruise can pay the double price plus a single supplement of \$450 for the land portion in Quito (subject to availability).

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.
- Three nights accommodations at the Hotel Quito (or similar) including service fees and taxes.
- City tour of Quito.
- Accommodations on board the M/Y Coral I or II.
- All meals scheduled on board and others as indicated on the itinerary.
- 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 \$44.30).
- 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. 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 \$900 per person plus the cost of the international airfare (if we arrange it for you).

Quito and Five Day Galapagos Islands Cruise Aboard the Coral I and II

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