

Ecuador and Galapagos Islands

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26 October – 10 November 2019



This two-week long learning journey takes in the fabled Galapagos Islands and mainland Ecuador with Metropolitan Touring from 26 October to 10 November. Starting in Quito Old Town with restored mansion house hotel, Casa Gangotena, as your base located, you'll then embark on a five-day Galapagos expedition onboard the Santa Cruz II, followed by a rejuvenating stay at Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel. The journey ends at the striking eco-sanctuary of Mashpi Lodge located in the depths of the Choco-Andean cloud forest, where a diverse range of flora and fauna thrive.

26th October: Depart UK

27th– 28th October:

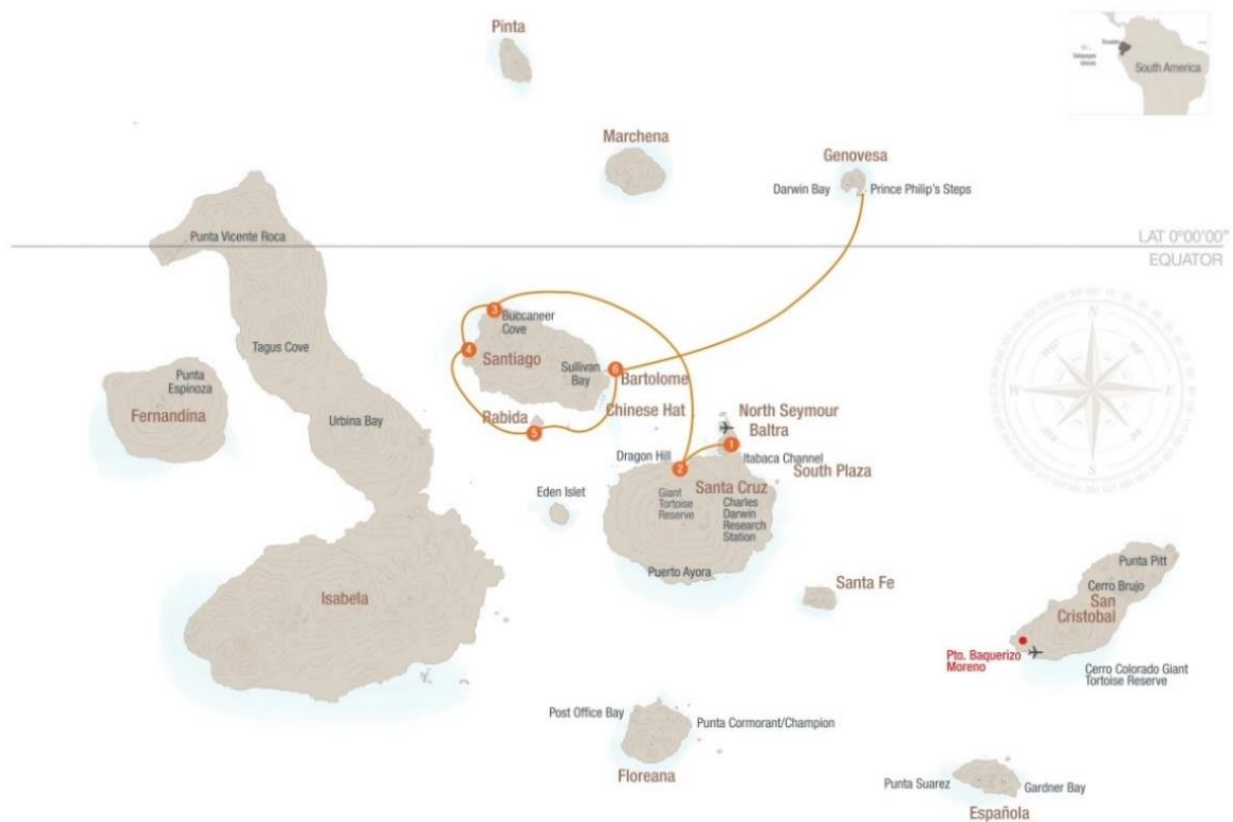


Arrival into Quito airport, and transfer to [Casa Gangotena](#), a 31-room restored historic mansion overlooking Plaza San Francisco in the heart of Quito's Old Town, the perfect base from which to explore this bustling Latin American capital. The hotel's recently opened roof terrace offers panoramic views over the cityscape and the gastronomic offering *Cocina Mestiza* celebrates both coastal and rural cuisine of Ecuador.



A large blue and white ferry ship is shown sailing on the ocean. The ship has multiple decks with many windows and is moving towards the right side of the frame. The sky is blue with some clouds, and the water is a deep blue with small waves.

This block contains three vertical panels. The left panel shows a sunset over the ocean with a bright sun low on the horizon and a reflection in the water. The middle panel shows a pink flamingo standing in shallow water, drinking from a dark, rocky bank. The right panel shows a dark, scaly iguana resting on a dark, rocky surface.



1st – 2nd November:



Overnight stay at [Finch Bay Galapagos Hotel](#), a 27-room eco hotel in Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island in the Galápagos Islands which has been named a National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World. Guests can embark on daily explorations of the archipelago on board the hotel's own yacht, Sea Lion, as well as relax by the recently refurbished pool and bar and indulge in the brand-new spa, complete with a gym, treatment room and a yoga room with balcony views out to the ocean.



2nd – 3rd November: Internal flight from Baltra airport to Guayaquil and connecting flight to Quito. Transfer to Casa Gangotena to enjoy an evening out in Quito old town.

3rd–8th November:



Transfer from Quito to [Mashpi Lodge](#), a 24-room glass-fronted eco lodge in the heart of the Cloud Forest, three hours' drive west of Quito. A National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World, Mashpi Lodge was built using the latest techniques in sustainable building. Activities include rides at canopy level on the Dragonfly gondola, panoramic views from the Observation Tower, and learning about the unique flora and fauna at the Life Centre.



8th – 9th November: Morning transfer back to Quito and overnight at Casa Gangotena.

10th November: Flight back to the UK