

# **Ecuador & the Galápagos August 2012**



### 01 Aug

### Quito

Depart Manchester on a flight via Amsterdam with KLM in economy class to Quito.

*Depart Manchester 06:00  
Depart Amsterdam 10:15*

*Arrive Amsterdam 08:25  
Arrive Quito 14:55*



On arrival, private transfer to the Dann Carlton Hotel for 3 nights. Located in the centre of the business, shopping and banking area of the city, the Dann Carlton is decorated in a traditional style and offers 212 comfortable rooms. The Park 20 restaurant serves both international and Creole dishes.

*Dann Carlton Hotel / 1 x Standard Room / Breakfast*

### 02 Aug

### Quito

*Shared tour of Quito including a visit to the 'Middle of the World' monument.*

A UNESCO World Heritage site, Quito, the capital of Ecuador has retained much of its colonial past. Steep cobbled stone streets, ornate churches and fine plazas are all to be found in the old district of town. The modern new town is the business district and this is where you will find the best shopping and restaurants. The city was founded in 1534 and has a wonderful setting at the base of the Pichincha Volcano. In the distance the snow capped peak of Cotopaxi and its surrounding national park dominates the horizon. The Equatorial Monument 25 km North of Quito, marks the exact Middle of the World, latitude 0°, where you can stand with a foot on each hemisphere. Visit the Ethnographic Museum inside the monument, which shows the great diversity of Ecuador's native groups. Beside the monument there is a colonial-style town, complete with main square, church, post office, bullring, cafeterias, restaurants and many gift shops that sell postcards and souvenirs.



*Dann Carlton Hotel / 1 x Standard Room / Breakfast*

### 03 Aug

### Quito



*Full day private excursion to Cotopaxi National Park.*

Cotopaxi National Park is an ecological sanctuary of 36,000 hectares (88,920 acres) surrounding Cotopaxi, the highest active volcano in the world, especially attractive for nature lovers, with the treeless vegetation of the Andean moorlands or páramo. Bird life includes the Andean gull, ducks, several species of hummingbirds and with some luck, the condor. Look directly up the magnificent Cotopaxi Volcano, rising 6,005 metres (19,700 feet).

*Dann Carlton Hotel / 1 x Standard Room / Breakfast*

**04 Aug**

**Amazon**



Private transfer from your hotel to Quito Airport for internal flight to Coca (30 mins). As you fly east from Quito the mountain ranges give way to lowland primary rainforest. Viewed from the air, the landscape is a carpet of green with the occasional blue ribbon of water flowing through it. Covering much of Ecuador's eastern territory, the Amazon Rainforest is the world's most impressive jungle system.

On arrival in Coca, you will be transferred to the motorised canoe for your transfer to Sacha Lodge for 3-nights accommodation. Sacha Lodge is set amongst a 5000 acre private reserve, deep in the Ecuadorian Amazon Rainforest. All of the lodge's 26 cabins have been constructed using traditional materials. The recently opened 940 foot long canopy walkway takes you right up close to, otherwise hard to spot, bird and animal life. Afternoon introductory rainforest tour.

*Sacha Lodge / 1 x Standard Cabin / Full Board & Shared Activities*



**05 Aug – 06 Aug**

**Amazon**



Guided activities from Sacha Lodge. A typical day at Sacha begins at sunrise or earlier, in order to take advantage of the cool morning hours when the rainforest's animals are most active. Each group may decide on its own wake-up and breakfast time, as well as the difficulty and duration of their morning outings. In the afternoon, visits begin at around 3:00 and often continue into the evening, when the nocturnal insect and frog chorus begins. Activities are spread out over a wide area and allow visitors to explore several distinct but equally fascinating habitats. Trails lead through pristine forest, where 150 foot kapok trees tower above and roots form huge buttresses to give trees support. Others follow strategically raised boardwalks in seasonally flooded forests, where walking on the ground would be nearly impossible during most of the year due to groundwater.

A favourite activity is to paddle dugout canoes along tannin-rich black-water creeks and lakes, where luxuriant lianas, orchids, bromeliads and palm trees thrive. And wherever an outing may lead the possibilities of spotting animals, from the tiny pygmy marmoset to the feared ocelot or puma are endless. During free time at the lodge, swimming and piranha fishing are also activities not to be missed. In the evening night walks and canoe trips are on offer with the aid of flashlights, which often reveal creatures seldom seen during daylight, such as Caimans (of the alligator family) and giant insects.

*Sacha Lodge / 1 x Standard Cabin / Full Board & Shared Activities*



**07 Aug**

**Quito**

Depart Sacha early in the morning by motorised canoe and road to Coca Airport to meet your internal flight to Quito. On arrival, private transfer to the Dann Carlton for an overnight stay.

*Dann Carlton Hotel / 1 x Standard Room / Breakfast*

**08 Aug**



**Galapagos Islands**  
Private transfer to the airport to meet a flight to the Galapagos Islands. On arrival, shared transfer to Baltra Harbour to board your Galapagos vessel the MY Coral I or II. The Coral I and II have 12 and 18 spacious cabins respectively decorated with plenty of room for storage. Beds are all on ground level and can be arranged as singles, twins or doubles. All cabins are en-suite with hot shower and the cabins are provided with smoke detectors and sprinkler system. The Coral provides a carefully planned itinerary which includes all the Galápagos' main highlights plus a

flexible program which allows guests to enjoy several alternatives to their daily activities.

*MY Coral I or II / 1 x Moon Cabin / Full Board & Shared Guided Activities*

**09 Aug – 11 Aug**

The MY Coral I & II offer fascinating 5 day itineraries that visit selected sites which are approved by the National Park; each of these is unique, rich and varied and offers the opportunity to experience the Galapagos up close and personal with a small group led by a highly experienced naturalist guide. On a typical day there will be a morning and afternoon excursion and throughout the week there will be opportunities to snorkel and discover the rich marine life of these islands. Wildlife highlights may include land iguanas, marine iguanas, fur seals, lava lizard, Galapagos snake, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, short-eared owls, lava herons, cactus finch, sea lions, giant tortoise, Nasca boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, sea lions, Galapagos hawk, Hood mockingbirds, flamingos, penguins and the flightless cormorant.

**Galapagos Islands**



**12 Aug**

**Depart**

Optional morning excursion. Afterwards, disembark and take a shared transfer to Baltra Airport for your onward flight to Guayaquil. On arrival meet your overnight international flight with KLM in economy class.

*Depart Guayaquil 18:35  
Depart Amsterdam 14:45*

*Arrive Amsterdam 13:05 (on the 13<sup>th</sup>)  
Arrive Manchester 15:05*

**13 Aug**

Arrive back into Manchester via Amsterdam.

## Cost

The per person cost for the above itinerary in a double room would be: **£3975.00**

## Includes

- International flights with KLM in economy class.
- Internal flights as listed in economy class.
- All pre-payable airport departure taxes.
- Transfers as listed (on a shared basis unless specified as private).
- Hotel and vessel accommodation as listed.
- Meals as listed.
- Excursions as listed (on a shared basis unless specified as private).
- \$10 Galapagos Transit Control Card fee.

## Excludes

- Local departure taxes
- Tips and gratuities.
- \$100 USD Galapagos National Park entrance fee.
- Hire of Snorkelling equipment and/or wetsuits.
- Any future currency surcharges.
- Any future airline fare, tax or fuel surcharges.\*  
*\*In the event of airfare /tax increases you will have the option to pay for your airfare in advance to avoid these increases.*

## Please note

- This is a quotation valid for 7 days only from 04 August 2011.
- All flights, accommodation and services are subject to availability at the time of booking.

## Booking Conditions

- 25% deposit is required to secure this booking. This will ensure that we can issue your internal flights immediately to secure the best flight times and prices for you.
- The final balance would be due 10 weeks prior to departure.

### Contact Details:

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