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TOURS

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This is also your tour number

# JOURNEY THROUGH THE GALÁPAGOS

11 days | Quito | San Cristóbal Island | Santa Cruz Island | Isabela Island

On mainland Ecuador, experience the local culture in Quito. Independence Plaza and the Intiñan Museum provide social context to the biological wonders of this fascinating country. Offshore, the Galápagos are home to an assortment of marine species—making it the perfect destination for viewing wildlife before you experience Mindo Cloud Forest's otherworldly climate.

## YOUR EXPERIENCE INCLUDES

-  **Full-time Tour Director**
-  **Sightseeing:** Comprehensive sightseeing of natural attractions
-  **Entrances:** Compañía de Jesús church; Intiñan Museum; Charles Darwin Research Station; Mindo Cloud Forest hike; butterfly garden; artisan's workshop
-  **Personalized learning guide:** Our personalized learning experience engages students before, during, and after tour, with the option to create a final, reflective project for academic credit.
-   **All of the details are covered:** Round-trip flights on major carriers; comfortable motorcoach; internal flights; boat; 9 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily; lunch on days 3-7
-  



Sea lion





Anyone can see the world.

# YOU'RE GOING TO EXPERIENCE IT.

As you can see, your EF tour includes visits to the places you've learned about in school. That's a given. But it's so much more than that. Immersing yourself in new cultures—surrounded by the people, the language, the food, the way of life—creates inspirational moments that can't be listed in an itinerary. They can only be experienced.

And the experience begins long before you get your passport stamped and meet your Tour Director in your arrival city. It begins the moment you decide to go. Whether it's connecting with other travelers on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, or delving deeper into your destinations with our personalized learning experience, the excitement will hit you long before you pack your suitcase.

When your group arrives abroad, everything is taken care of so you can relax and enjoy the experience. Your full-time Tour Director is with your group around the clock, handling local transportation, hotels, and meals while also providing their own insight into the local history and culture. Expert local guides will lead your group on sightseeing tours, providing detailed views on history, art, architecture, or anything you may have a question about.

When your journey is over and you're unpacking your suitcase at home, you'll realize the benefits of your life-changing experience do not end. They have just begun.

*@EFtours I attribute my college semester abroad to the love for travel I discovered on an EF Tour in high school #traveltuesday*

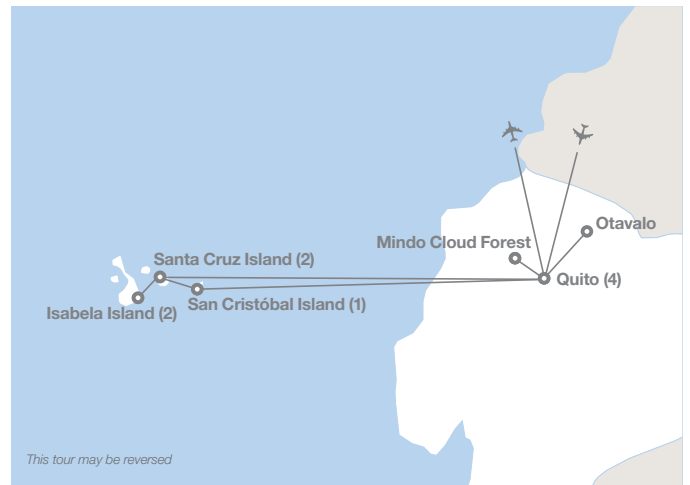
– MELISSA, TRAVELER



## CHECK OUT WHAT A TOUR IS ALL ABOUT

Watch the videos at [eftours.com/](https://www.ef-tours.com/)

Your teacher's Tour Website



## What you'll experience on your tour

### Day 1: Fly to Ecuador

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Quito, the Ecuadorian capital carved into a narrow plateau high above the Andean valleys, beneath the peaks of the Pichincha Volcano.

### Day 2: Quito

- Explore the colonial quarter on an expert-led tour. See wrought-iron balconies and majestic stone pillars gracing 300-year-old plazas, churches, and palaces. The area was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978.
- Visit the Compañía de Jesús church.
- Visit the Intiñan Museum to discover how the Incas determined the middle of the Earth.
- Pose for a photo on the equator, the namesake of Ecuador. If you've ever wanted to stand in both hemispheres at the same time, this is your chance.

### Day 3: Quito | San Cristóbal Island

- Fly to San Cristóbal Island.
- Enjoy a snorkeling activity and take a coastal walk on La Loberia beach.

### Day 4: San Cristóbal Island | Santa Cruz Island

- Visit the San Cristóbal Interpretation Center.
- Hike Tijeretas Hill.
- Travel by boat to Santa Cruz Island.

### Day 5: Santa Cruz Island | Isabela Island

- At the Charles Darwin Research Station, see the breeding center for the giant tortoises from which the islands took their name. Discover the unique wildlife of neighboring islands on boat excursions. Photo opportunities will be endless, but please remember that the islands' ecosystems are fragile. Park regulations are designed to protect the area for future generations.
- Visit the Twin Craters and the lava tunnels.
- Visit a tortoise ranch in the Santa Cruz Highlands to see wild tortoises.
- Travel by boat to Isabela Island.

### Day 6: Isabela Island

- Experience Isabela Island, the largest of the Galápagos Islands. In 1959, the archipelago was declared a national park in order to protect the flora and fauna that Charles Darwin observed while formulating his theory of evolution. Critical to his studies were the islands' iguanas, penguins, flightless cormorants, and 13 species of finches, whose beak sizes and shapes provided invaluable insights into the process he called natural selection.
- Visit Los Humedales, a wildlife reserve that formerly housed a prison colony.

- Take an excursion to a pink flamingo habitat.
- Visit a tortoise breeding center.
- Enjoy a snorkeling activity where you'll see animals like sea turtles, sea lions, and exotic fish. You'll also participate in a boat excursion that brings you to the Tintorerías Islet, made entirely out of lava. While exploring Tintorerías you'll view the large colonies of black marine iguanas.

### Day 7: Isabela Island | Santa Cruz Island

- Travel by boat to Santa Cruz Island.
- Enjoy a hike in Tortuga Bay.
- Go swimming in the water-filled canyon of Las Grietas.
- Visit the Playa de los Alemanes.

### Day 8: Santa Cruz Island | Baltra Island | Quito

- Enjoy free time on Santa Cruz Island.
- Travel to Baltra Island.
- Board your flight to Quito.

### Day 9: Quito | Mindo Cloud Forest

- Continue on for a hike in the Mindo Cloud Forest, a diverse natural landscape nestled on the slopes of the Pichincha Volcano on the southern edge of the Choco-Andean Corridor. Mindo is home to over 300 different species of tropical birds and nearly 400 types of orchids.
- Visit a butterfly garden.

### Day 10: Otavalo

- Visit the market town of Otavalo. Surrounded by the Imbabura, Cotacachi, and Mojanda volcanoes, Otavalo is a small farming town known for its textiles. Otavaleña women traditionally wear lace blouses with dark skirts and a colored band around their waists. You'll have the opportunity to shop for handmade goods and other souvenirs crafted by the area's local residents at one of the largest craft markets in the country. And don't think that handicrafts are the only thing you will find here—you can purchase anything from musical instruments to a meal. Plus, the market offers a unique glimpse into traditional Andean culture, as locals have frequented the markets for hundreds of years. Later, you'll visit a local community.
- Learn how local families create ponchos during a demonstration of the craft.
- Travel to the airport in Quito to board your flight home.

### Day 11: Arrive home



*This trip made me infinitely more confident about my Spanish speaking and listening capabilities. Seeing Ecuador and the Galapagos like this is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity.*

– CAMERON, TRAVELER



Tour review

*This trip to Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands was unexpectedly amazing. Our Tour Director was excellent and handled all aspects of our trip with grace and expertise. I loved trying new foods thanks to our tour guides who helped us select new fruits and other items.*

– KRISTEN, TRAVELER



Tour review

## TOP THREE THINGS I WILL SEE, DO, TRY, OR EXPLORE

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

— The easiest ways to —

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*My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.*

—CHARLOTTE, PARENT OF TRAVELER

“ Tour review

## THE WORLD LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

For over 55 years, EF has been working toward one global mission: *Opening the World Through Education*. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and global competence. What's more:

- **We always offer the lowest prices** so more students can travel.
- **We're fully accredited, just like your school**, so you can earn credit while on tour.
- **All of our educational tours feature experiential learning activities** and visits to the best sites.
- **We're completely committed to your safety.** We have more than 600 schools and offices in over 50 countries around the world, so local EF staff members can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.
- **Your full-time Tour Director is with your group** every step of the way on tour, providing insight about your destinations as well as great local tips.



Education First