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**Study Abroad: Environmental Studies and Stewardship in the Galapagos Archipelago and Ecuadorian Cloud Forest**

**Tour Package through Educational Travel Adventures (ETA) Includes:**

* All airfare (USA to Ecuador roundtrip and Ecuador to Galapagos round trip)
* All meals in country (daily breakfasts, lunches, and dinners)
* All accommodations and transportation required (hotels, homestays; buses, boats, taxis)
* All entrance fees for parks and other attractions
* Program leader/guide and all gratuities for boat captains, bus drivers, and crews
* Trip delay and medical insurance coverage up to $50,000 per person (includes medical evacuation and repatriation)

**Tour Package DOES NOT Include:**

* Cost of obtaining a passport
* Vaccinations and/or malaria pills as recommended by your doctor
* Personal spending money
* Trip cancellation insurance (which is highly recommended).

***Sample Itinerary:*** *(subject to change in the order of activities based on National Park regulations in the Galapagos Archipelago)*

**Day 1 – International Flight to Quito**

You will be greeted by your Program Leader and proceed to the Historical Center of

Quito and the hotel. If time permits, you will visit either Panecillo Hill for a 3600 view of

the city or walk through various plazas and streets surrounding the hotel followed by a

traditional Ecuadorian meal.

**Day 2 – Quito to Nanegalito Cloud Forest**

After breakfast at the hotel, you will leave for a combination tour at Tucanopy in the

Nanegalito Cloud Forest area. You will arrive mid-morning and have a university

program tour which begins with an introductory talk followed by a guided tour of a

number of different ecosystems and learn about sustainable farming practices.

After lunch, you will take a walk through the forest canopy walk with a guide who will describe the forest flora. Later in the afternoon you will depart for the Maquipucuna Ecological Reserve where you will spend the night at the eco-lodge. You will take a short walk to the local waterfall, an easy walk that leads to a beautiful and refreshing falls. Bring your swimsuit; though the water is not deep enough for a swim, you can enjoy a cooling natural shower under the waterfall.

**Day 3 - Cloud Forest and return to Quito**

You will rise before dawn and meet your birding guide for a bird watching tour.

Maquipucuna is truly a birdwatcher’s paradise and the early morning is the best time of

day to spot many of the 375 identified species of the reserve. You may see at-risk

species such as the Toucan Barbet and the Wattled Guan, or other important birds

such as the Bay Wren, the scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant, and the Slate-throated

Whitestart. You will return to the lodge for breakfast after the tour.

After breakfast you will hike the Bespectacled Bear Trail (3-4 hour duration, partial trek)

through the secondary forest into the primary forest looking at forest succession.

(Alternate hike: Humedal loop trail.) After lunch you will take an orchid tour and visit the

orchid propagation lab followed by a return to Quito for the dinner and rest time.

**Day 4 – Quito to the Galapagos**

In the morning, you will have a boxed breakfast to take on the bus to the airport as your

journey to the Galápagos Islands begins. You will have a morning flight to Puerto

Baquerizo Moreno on the island of San Cristobal, one of the oldest of the Galapagos

Islands. You will check into your lodging and drop off your baggage before eating

lunch. After lunch you will be able to drop off laundry which will be washed, dried and

ready for pick up next day.

In the afternoon you will visit the San Cristobal Interpretation Center which provides an

overview of the island’s history, development and environmental problems. This will be

followed by a hike up to Las Tijeretas for scenic views and visiting a nesting place

frequented by both the Magnificent and Great species of Frigate birds (if they are in

residence). In the late afternoon you will head out to La Loberia where you can visit a

sea lion colony, snorkel, and get your first view of marine iguanas. (If the tide is low you

may get to see young sea lions learning to swim in tide pools here.)

**Day 5 -San Cristobal**

After breakfast at your lodging you will take a boat trip to Isla Lobos, Kicker Rock, Playa

Manglesito, and Playa Grande for a day of snorkeling with sea lions, sharks, sea turtles

and rays. You will have lunch during the tour and dinner at your lodging.

**Day 6 – San Cristobal to Santa Cruz Island**

You will get up early to take the 2.5 hour ferry trip to Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island

with a boxed breakfast to eat on the way. Upon arrival you will visit the Charles Darwin

Center. Around midday you will check into your room at the family owned lodging where

you will have a traditional lunch. In the afternoon you will hike to the white sand

beaches of Tortuga Bay. This evening you will relax and have dinner.

**Days 7 – Service Project**

Today you will work on a much-needed service project on the island of Santa Cruz.

Possible service projects may include a focus on organic agriculture, reforestation with

endemic species, the removal of invasive species, and more. All projects directly

benefit the local community and are accompanied by comprehensive discussions about

the importance and impact of your work, the local reality in Galápagos and the daily

issues that threaten the animals and their fragile environment.

You will work between four and six hours. In the late afternoon/evening, you will

then join local community and family activities. Some of the activities may include

sports such as soccer or basketball, cooking lessons, salsa dance lessons or simply

walking around downtown Puerto Ayora.

**Day 8 –North Seymour Island**

You will take a boat trip to North Seymour where you will hike across the island and

visit Magnificent Frigate Bird and Blue-Footed Boobies nests. At this time of year it is

possible that you might get lucky and see the elaborate mating rituals of these birds.

On this hike you will see finches and pelicans as well as colonies of iguanas and sea

lions. After eating a boxed lunch, you will head to Bachas Beach for snorkeling where

you may be able to see tropical fish, corals and sea turtles, among other animals. In the late afternoon you will return to Santa Cruz for dinner and pack overnight bags for a trip

to Isabela Island.

\*\*An alternate tour for this day could be a boat tour to Bahia Ballena with a hike to

Dragon Hill on Santa Cruz Island.

**Day 9 – Isabela Island Snorkeling and Island History**

Early in the morning you will take a 2 hour boat ride to Isabela Island. Upon arrival you

will bicycle up the coast to the historical Wall of Tears. Here you will learn a bit of the

island’s history as a penal colony and explore the site where prisoners were forced to

build a wall of lava rocks. You will also visit a flamingo lagoon and the local giant

tortoise breeding center. After lunch at a local restaurant in the village, you will take

smaller boats to explore a set of islets called Las Tintoreras. If you are lucky you will

see Galapagos penguins on this trip. After a short trail walk, you will spend some time

snorkeling in the area. Here you may see sea turtles, sting rays, sea lions and of course

many kinds of fish.

Finally, you will travel by bus to the highlands of the island where you will visit a private

reserve. Here you will also have delicious dinner and a comfortable camping

experience in nature.

**Day 10 – Isabela Island – Trip to Sierra Negra Volcano**

After breakfast, you will take your bus to the trailhead of the Sierra Negra

Volcano. From here you will start your full day excursion along the amazing volcanic

landscapes. You will horseback ride for approximately five to six hours (with breaks for

water and a box lunch) until you reach the Chico Volcano where you will view fumaroles

and other signs of volcanic activity.

At stops along the way you will learn about the history and geology of this and other islands. You will visit old lava flows and enjoy some of the most amazing and unique landscapes in the world. You will see how several craters have been formed and if time allows you will visit a sulfur mine. The Sierra Negra’s crater is considered to be the second largest in the world. The beauty of this site is also combined with great bird watching in the surrounding area. The land birds that are seen most frequently in the area are finches, Galápagos mockingbirds, owls and stunning red and black vermilion flycatchers. The red and black vermilion flycatcher is known locally as pájaro brujo (Warlock Bird). You will return to the private reserve in the highlands to freshen up and have the option of visiting the beach in the late afternoon before dinner and overnight camping in the highlands.

\*\*Optional extra day on Isabela could be added to include a visit Los Tuneles followed

by a wetlands walk.

**Day 11 – Santa Cruz Island**

You will take an early ferry back to Puerto Ayora. After arriving you will have breakfast

and walk to the quiet lagoon of Las Ninfas followed by free time to hang out or shop for

souvenirs in Puerto Ayora.

After lunch you will tour Academy Bay by kayak followed by a hike to Las Grietas, a

network of flooded volcanic cracks where you can swim and relax. The kayaking

departure will be dependent on the tides.

\*\*Kayaking can be switched for the Bahia tour by boat if the group does not want to

attempt the kayaks.

**Day 12 – Galapagos Islands to Quito**

Today you depart from the Galápagos Islands and return to Quito. You will enjoy a

hearty box lunch before boarding your plane.

Upon arrival, you will visit the old town, also known as Quito Colonial and then have

dinner at a local restaurant.

**Day 13 – Equator and Otavalo Market**

On the way to Otavalo, you will stop for a visit at the equator! Here's your chance to

stand in two hemispheres at the same time! You'll also explore the Quitsato scientific

project located on the equatorial line where you will learn about how early indigenous

communities took advantage of astronomy to organize their culture.

Upon arrival to Otavalo, you will stop at a viewpoint to admire some of the surrounding

lakes. You will then visit the famous indigenous market known to be largest in South

America. Here you will find typical handicrafts such as hammocks, bags, ponchos and

necklaces amongst other more modern souvenirs such as t-shirts and paintings.

You will spend the whole morning in the market and then you will head in direction to a

local community that will be waiting for you with a traditional lunch. If time allows, you

will visit the beautiful Cuicocha Lake and a leather market to do some more shopping

before traveling back to Quito.

In Quito you will attend your final dinner celebration on a hill overlooking the city of

Quito. During dinner you will reminisce about the time you shared together in Ecuador.

After dinner you will return to your hotel to rest before your international flight home.

**Day 14 – International Departure**

You will have an early flight out to return home.

