



EXOTIC PLANTS  
AND ANIMALS -  
ON LAND AND SEA!

# *Galapagos Islands & Amazon Rainforest Wildlife Adventure*

FEBRUARY 10-22, 2024

We are excited to announce our tour to Ecuador to visit the incredible Galápagos Islands along with the Amazon Rainforest and the UNESCO World Heritage City of Quito! Leave winter behind and come into the light of this tropical wonderland to see and experience an unequaled diversity of wildlife—both plant and animal.

**Cost:** \$7450.00 per person, double occupancy—*airfare included* from Washington, DC, to Ecuador and return.

**Dates:** February 10 – 22, 2024

**Deadline to Register:** November 6, 2023

**Register early as seats are limited!**

*Come along with us on this spectacular adventure!*



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FEBRUARY 10 - 22, 2024

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Five days exploring the incredible Galápagos Islands

The Charles Darwin Research Station

The UNESCO historic colonial city of Quito

Snorkeling and swimming in beautiful tropical waters

The exotic Quito Botanical Gardens

Three days in an Amazon Rainforest Resort Lodge on the Napo River

### TOUR AT A GLANCE

3 Nights in Quito, Ecuador

3 Nights in Casa del Suizo Amazon Rain Forest Lodge

5 Nights on the Galápagos Islands at the Hotel Ikala in Puerto Ayora

1 Night in Quito before our return flight home

### WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Flight from Dulles International Airport to Quito and return
- Domestic flights to and from the Galápagos Islands
- Full-time bilingual tour director and naturalist guides
- Airport and hotel transfers in Ecuador with assistance of professional guides and drivers
- Five days of island hopping and exploration in the Galápagos Islands
- Accommodations in charming, centrally-located 4-star hotels and lodges
- All breakfasts, eight lunches and seven dinners
- Three days in the Amazon Rain Forest
- Galápagos National Park Maps
- Small boat excursions to nearby islands

### NOT INCLUDED

- Travel Insurance
- Tips to drivers, guides, and hotel staff
- Meals not listed in itinerary
- Anything not listed on the itinerary







Quito, a UNESCO World City and capital of Ecuador

## ITINERARY

This itinerary is subject to change.  
Included meals: (B) Breakfast, (L) Lunch, (D) Dinner

### Day One - Saturday, February 10, 2024

Today we take a morning flight from Washington Dulles Airport to Quito, Ecuador. We arrive late in the evening and make our way to our hotel in Quito. [Lodging: Quito Swissotel](#)



Quito Old Town

### Day Two - Sunday, Feb 11

We begin our Ecuadorian adventure in the capital city of **Quito** where we learn about its history and culture. Situated in an Andean valley at 9,350 feet above sea level at the foot of Volcano Pichincha, Quito is a modern city with a living history and one of Latin America's most historically important cities. Quito was the first city in the world to be declared a **Cultural Heritage of Humanity site by UNESCO** in 1978. Noteworthy for its architectural beauty, Quito is home to numerous churches and convents built in the colonial period. We visit the old town and see the **Church of San Francisco**, the first religious building constructed in South America by the Spaniards. Later we see the

facade of **La Compania**, the city's most ornate church and admire the spectacular views of the **Valley of Tumbaco**. On a clear day, you can see the impressive volcanoes surrounding the city.



In Quito's historical center, with its steep, narrow, cobblestone streets, the artistic and architectural influence of Spain can be seen in the general architectural style of the brightly painted homes, balconies, tiled roofs, and interior patios. We have lunch at a local restaurant and afterwards visit the **Quito Botanical Gardens** with its diversity of plants from different altitudes and ecosystems. It is said to have the largest collection of orchids in the world.

Lodging: [Quito Swissotel \(B, L\)](#)



Quito Botanical Gardens

### Day Three - Monday, Feb 12

After breakfast, we drive to La Punta Ahuano on the Napo River to board a canoe that takes us to our Amazon lodge, La Casa del Suizo. You barely have to leave the lodge to enjoy the incredible biodiversity of the River Napo and the natural world of the Amazon. Today we discover the local way of life and enjoy activities such as kayaking and bird watching. We learn about the local community's cooking, hunting techniques, and the Quechua language, as well as how they make ceramics from natural materials. In the evening, dinner is served in the lodge. For the next three nights we stay in the Amazon Rain Forest! Lodging: [Casa del Suizo \(B, L, D\)](#)

### Day Four and Five - Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb 13-14

This morning, we take a short hike in the **Misicocha Private Nature Reserve** to view the beautiful flora and fauna. The **Amazon Rain Forest** is the world's largest ecosystem, boasting innumerable species of tropical plants and insects. We cross suspended bridges and if you like, *fly through the rain forest on a short zip line*. At the end of the hike, we take a rafting trip in a traditional balsa log raft. The rest of the day is free, so you may choose one of the optional tours, like the Rescue Center Tour or Canopy Adventure Park. Tonight, we dine together at the lodge. Lodging: [Casa del Suizo \(B, L, D\)](#)



Casa del Suizo in the Amazon Rain Forest



### Day Six - Thursday, Feb 15

This morning, we again board a canoe for the return trip to La Punta Ahuano and enjoy a scenic drive through small towns and villages, stopping for lunch in Baeza. Afterward, we visit **Guango Lodge** for a **cloud forest experience** to enjoy the hummingbirds. After our visit, we continue on to our hotel, the Airport Wyndham, for dinner together. [Lodging: Wyndham Hotel at Quito Airport \(B, L, D\)](#)



Male frigatebird with red gular pouch

### Day Seven - Friday, Feb 16

After an early breakfast, we board our flight to the **Galápagos Islands** for five days of paradise. The Galápagos Islands are an archipelago of volcanic islands bisected by the equator in the Pacific Ocean in the exact center of the Western Hemisphere. Located 563 miles west of continental Ecuador, the islands are known for their vast number of endemic species studied by Charles Darwin during the second voyage of HMS Beagle. Arriving in **Baltra**, we board a ferry for a short cruise to **Santa Cruz Island** and then continue by bus to **Puerto Ayora**. Passing through the highlands of Santa Cruz, the vegetation dramatically changes from dry areas full of cacti to rainforest and fern zones. This afternoon we visit the **Charles Darwin Research Station** to learn about island conservation and efforts to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dinner is at a local restaurant. [Lodging: Hotel Ikala in Puerto Ayora \(B, D\)](#)

### Days Eight to Ten - Saturday to Monday, Feb 17 to 19

Over the next four days we enjoy full-day boat excursions to several of the nearby islands. The exact number of islands we visit will depend on weather conditions and National Park permits. Each has its own unique beauty to offer: **North Seymour** is a flat island and home to magnificent



Galápagos Marine Iguana

frigate birds like the **Blue Footed Boobies**. **South Plaza Island** is home to a large colony of sea lions and offers excellent examples of the typical flora like towering cacti “trees” which form the principal diet for land iguanas and cactus finch. **Bartholomew Island** is a tiny island which boasts one of the most spectacular views of the archipelago from **Pinnacle Rock** where we climb to the 375-foot peak to enjoy this stunning view. **Santa Fe** is one of the oldest islands of the Galápagos and in its tranquil bay, one can find green sea turtles and spotted eagle rays while sea lions bask in the sun on the beach. **Lodging:** [Hotel Ikala in Puerto Ayora \(B, L\)](#)



Sally Lightfoot Crab



Blue-Footed-Boobie

### Day Eleven - Tuesday, Feb 20

Today we are beachcombing on **Tortuga Bay** near the town of **Santa Cruz** where we can simply relax on the beach or rent a kayak. Later in the morning, we take a cruise on a local boat to the pier where a bus awaits to take us to the highlands of the Santa Cruz. Along the way we have lunch at a local ranch, visit a **lava tunnel**, and see **giant tortoises** in their natural habitat. We return to the hotel in time for dinner. **Lodging:** [Hotel Ikala in Puerto Ayora \(B, L, D\)](#)

### Day Twelve – Wed, Feb 21

This morning we head to the airport for our return flight to Quito. When we land in Quito, we are taken to the Wyndham Hotel, where we can use a room to change and get ready for our farewell dinner. Late this evening, we depart for Quito Airport to prepare for our early morning flight home. (B, D)

### Day Twelve – Thursday, Feb 22

We depart Quito just before midnight and arrive back at Dulles around noon the next day.



Pinnacle Rock on Bartolomé Island



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## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### Deposit and Final Payment information:

\$7450.00 Total cost per person (double/twin occupancy, airfare included)

\$900.00 Single room supplemental fee

While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, if a roommate is not available, the participant is subject to pay the single supplement fee. The maximum number of participants is 30.

### Payment deadlines:

\$1000.00 November 6, 2023 Deposit due

\$6450.00 December 29, 2023 Final payment due

\$900.00 December 29, 2023 Single supplemental fee due

**Method of Payment: by check only, payable to: MCDUFFTOURS LLC**

### TOUR CONDITIONS:

MCDUFFTOURS LLC acts only as agents for the passengers with respect to transportation, hotels and restaurants, and exercise every care possible. MCDUFFTOURS LLC assumes no responsibility to any person or entity for liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, breakdown, disruption of advertised schedules, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any ship, ferry, airplane, train, automobile, motorcoach, carriage, or any other conveyance used in carrying out these tours, or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept responsibility for losses or additional expense due to delay, refusal of visa, or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, violent acts, quarantine, acts of God, or any other causes beyond our control. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger, as our tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to the itinerary or accommodations as may be deemed necessary for carrying out the tour. The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. The price of the program is based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect on July 24, 2023, and is subject to adjustment in the event of change in tariffs, taxes or exchange rates. Baggage is at the owner's risk entirely. The acceptance of any service provided as part of tour or any ticket or voucher shall be deemed to be acceptance of, and consent by the tour member to these conditions. Services are subject to the laws of the country where services are provided. For a more detailed Term and Conditions statement from MCDUFFTOURS, please click here: <https://new.mcdufftours.com/T&C.pdf>

*Please note that this tour requires a considerable amount of walking and since most of the sites we visit are not wheelchair accessible, participants must be able to walk on paths with steps. Participants must also be able to manage their own luggage.*

### Included in the Cost

The cost of this tour includes lodging, entrance fees, guides, ground transportation, all breakfasts, bottled water, and several dinners, lunches, and teas outlined in the Itinerary. Also included is the cost of airfare from Washington Dulles Airport to Quito Airport. It also includes the cost of flights to and from the Galapagos Islands. While we attempt to find roommates for single participants, if a roommate is not available, the participant is subject to pay the single supplement fee.

### Not included in the Cost

Costs of obtaining passports, visas, excess/overweight baggage charges, items of a purely personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone and optional tours are not included. All meals except those included in the tour are not included. Trip insurance is not included as well as tips to driver/guides and any foreign departure taxes. Transportation from your home to Washington Dulles International Airport is not included.

**I understand and accept these terms and conditions.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

It is strongly recommended that you purchase Travel Insurance to protect your tour investment against covered unforeseeable circumstances.

**Cancellation and Refund Policy:** The total deposit is refundable until November 6, 2023. If you must cancel between November 6, 2023 and December 29, 2023, \$100 of the \$1000 deposit will be retained. After December 29, the \$1000 deposit plus actual expenses incurred in airline and hotel arrangements will be retained and the remainder will be refunded.

MCDUFFTOURS LLC is a travel company founded by Nancy and Robert McDuffie, both former professors at Virginia Tech. Nancy is a soprano and was on faculty in the Department of Music, while Robert is a Landscape Architect and was Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture as well as Director of the Hahn Horticulture Garden. After establishing the first group Horticulture Study Abroad program 25 years ago, they now take garden lovers of all ages around the world. Over 1500 people have traveled with them to visit gardens in 27 countries on five continents.



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## REGISTRATION FORM

*Please print* – each participant must complete this form

Full Legal Name (as on passport) \_\_\_\_\_

First name for NAME TAG \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of issue \_\_\_\_\_ Date of expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Special food requirements or allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Name of preferred roommate \_\_\_\_\_

Reservation information: Robert McDuffie - 540 818 0154 - [mcdufftours@yahoo.com](mailto:mcdufftours@yahoo.com)

**Please mail your completed reservation form, a signed copy of the Terms and Conditions form, and a deposit check by November 6, 2023 to:**

MCDUFFTOURS LLC  
4810 Susannah Drive  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Office Use	Received	
	AMT:	_____
	CHK#:	_____
	DATE:	_____