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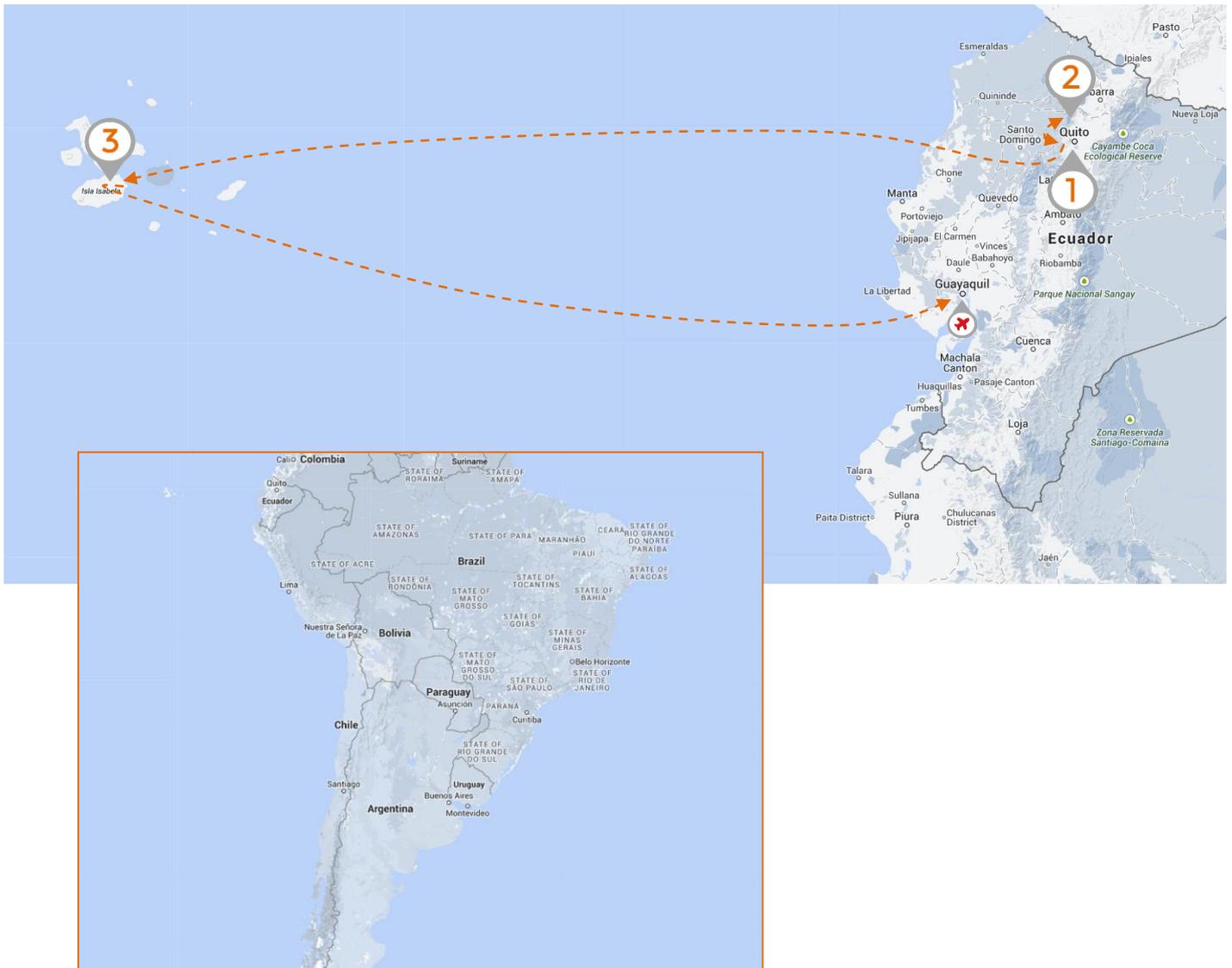


*Luxury Ecuador & the Galápagos*

*14-days / 13-nights*

## Itinerary Summary

No.	Date	Location	Details	Meals	Hotel	Nts	
<b>1</b>	Day 01	QUITO	Arrive in Quito	-	Casa Gangotena	2	
	Day 02		Half day city tour including the Equatorial Monument	B			
<b>2</b>	Day 03	MASHPI	Transfer to Mashpi Rainforest Biodiversity Reserve	BLD	Mashpi Lodge	2	
	Day 04		Guided activities from Mashpi Lodge	BLD			
<b>1</b>	Day 05	QUITO	Transfer to Quito	B	Casa Gangotena	1	
<b>3</b>	Day 06	GALÁPAGOS	Air transfer to your cruise vessel, afternoon excursion	B	M/V La Pinta	7	
	Day 07		Excursions to Isabela & Fernandina	B			
	Day 08		Excursions to Isabela	B			
	Day 09		Excursions to Rábida & Santa Cruz	B			
	Day 10		Excursions to Santa Cruz	B			
	Day 11		Excursions to Florena	B			
	Day 12		Excursions to Santa Fe & South Plaza	B			
	Day 13	DEPART		Meet the return flights to the UK	B	-	
	Day 14	HEATHROW		Arrive back in the UK	-	-	





**Day 01 DEPART - QUITO**

Depart Heathrow for Quito via Madrid flying with Iberia.



IB7443 Economy Dep: Heathrow T5 07:30  
IB6453 Economy Dep: Madrid T4S 10:50

Arr: Madrid T4S 10:50  
Arr: Quito 16:45

Shared transfer on arrival to your hotel.

**Casa Gangotena**



**1 x Plaza View Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis for 2-nights**

A recently-restored historic mansion converted into a hotel, Casa Gangotena has an excellent location overlooking Plaza San Francisco. This three-story luxury property has 31 rooms combining classic design and antique furnishings with modern technology and comforts. Due to its historic character, rooms vary in size, but all are very comfortable and benefit from the mansion's tall elegant ceilings. Facilities for guests include a restaurant, lovely gardens and a terrace with panoramic views. Guests can enjoy afternoon tea either on the covered patio or the restaurant, sampling the high quality Ecuadorian coffee or one of the many types of tea produced using herbs in the hotel garden. Appetizers such as scones, mini-sandwiches and empanadas are also provided.



**Day 02 QUITO**



**Private half day city tour including the Equatorial 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.



**Day 03 QUITO - MASHPI**

You will be collected from your hotel at 7:30 for a 2.5hr drive northwest of Quito to the Mashpi Rainforest Biodiversity Reserve (3212 acres), which is a haven for wildlife and biodiversity. You will stop at the Hummingbird Viewpoint to learn more about these wonderful birds and enjoy a drink. You will then wind your way for another 4 miles aboard electric buggies until you reach the lodge itself, at approximately 12:00, where you will be welcomed with a refreshing drink and checked in. Lunch is served soon after, followed by a short time to relax.

**Mashpi Lodge**



**1 x Wayra Room with Full Board & Shared Activities for 2-nights**

Mashpi Lodge is perched at 900m on a plateau surrounded by lower montane rainforest & cloudforest, in a private reserve in the famous Mindo biodiversity region. The reserve is home to a profusion of plant species, from ferns and bromeliads to hundreds of orchid species, many newly-discovered. A staggering 500 species of birds – including 36 endemic species - are estimated to inhabit the forest, fluttering through the canopy. Monkeys, peccaries and even puma make their homes inside the Reserve, which is crisscrossed with waterfalls between dramatic, verdant hills.

Designed as a 'cocoon in the clouds' Mashpi has been built with the latest techniques in sustainable building and blends beautifully with its surroundings. The lodge can accommodate a maximum of 44 guests, in 22 understated yet luxurious rooms. The 19 Wayru rooms are a generous 34m<sup>2</sup> with either 1 or 2 full size beds, whilst the 3 Yaku Suites are 37m<sup>2</sup> and have king size beds, easy chair, coffee table and desk. The interior design is contemporary with minimalist decor, bright colours, clean lines and the floor-to-ceiling windows give striking and unexpected vistas.



After lunch, the afternoon's activities begin. The choice of activities will depend on group's size, abilities and weather conditions, from a choice including; Canopy Gondola, Nature Trails, Night Walks, Observation Tower, Aerial Bicycle, Waterfalls and Bird Leks.

The highlight of a trip to Mashpi is the 'canopy gondola', an aerial tram which glides guests through & above the forest canopy for over 2km on an exciting exploration of the Reserve's ecosystem. Along the nature trails you will learn about myriad plants, insects and animals that inhabit the reserve. Your guides will enthusiastically share their knowledge of their characteristics, behaviour and uses.



**Day 03 QUITO – MASHPI ...**



The forest is transformed at night, with far more activity than during the day. Optional night walks head out from the hotel after dinner to discover its nocturnal creatures, ranging from moths as big as your hand, to miniature glass and tree frogs, croaking toads, birds, owls, rodents and mammals.

There are few easier or better ways to appreciate the beauty of the Reserve than climbing the 26m Observation Tower, where you can enjoy an exciting bird's-eye view and the dramatic panoramas that surround the lodge. The aerial bicycle makes for an original and exciting way to explore the forest canopy up close. Designed for two passengers, one person pedals the bike along a cable stretched between two points in the forest, around 200m apart, crossing a gorge above a river flowing between rocks and trees below. There's nothing like a refreshing dip at the end of a walk. Several rivers cross the Mashpi Reserve close to the hotel, many forming beautiful small waterfalls, cascades and pools. Leks are places where certain bird species (including Andean Cock-of-the-Rock) gather to take part in fascinating and often elaborate displays to attract females.

Before dinner, you will meet your Naturalist Guides for a short briefing about tomorrow's activities. Optional night walks head out from the hotel after dinner.



**Day 04 MASHPI**



**Shared guided activities from Mashpi Lodge**

For those who want to enjoy the beauty and magic of dawn in the forest – which is when most birds are active and calling, as well as when views are often most spectacular – early morning activities are organised before breakfast. Following breakfast, you will head out from the lodge to explore, returning for lunch and a rest, before enjoying an afternoon amid Nature, then dinner, night walks and sleep.



**Day 05 MASHPI - QUITO**



On the last day, there's an early breakfast, followed by a shorter morning activity and check out. There's then time to relax at the Lodge and birdwatch from the terraces. A snack is served at 10.30 and then you will leave the hotel at 11:00. About an hour away, you will visit the intriguing archaeological site of Tulipe. You will then drive back eastwards, winding your way up the Andes towards Quito, arriving at your hotel between 15:00-16:00 depending on traffic. Overnight accommodation at Casa Gangotena.



**Casa Gangotena**

1 x Plaza View Room on a Bed & Breakfast basis for 1-night



**Day 06 QUITO - GALÁPAGOS**

Private transfer to the airport for your onward flight to Quito for your onward flight to the Galápagos, flying with TAME.



EQ193 Economy Dep: Quito 09:30

Arr: Baltra 12:00 (local time)

Shared transfer on arrival to your cruise vessel and the start of your 8-day / 7-night cruise of Galápagos. Once on board there will be an introductory briefing and lunch.

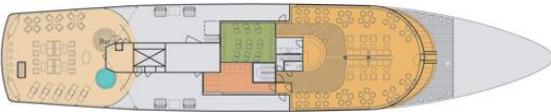
**La Pinta**



**1 x Double Cabin with Full Board & Shared Activities for 7-nights**

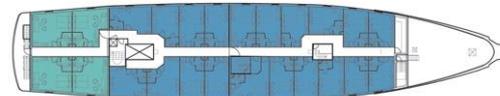
La Pinta accommodates 48 passengers in a relaxed yet luxurious expedition atmosphere. The vessel has outside cabins and offers guests the highest standards of service, cuisine and all the amenities that make the Galápagos a trip of a lifetime.

**Boat Deck**



- Outside Sky Bar
- Natural History Library Conference room
- Observation Lounge & Bar
- Jacuzzi
- Exercise Room

**Cabin Deck**



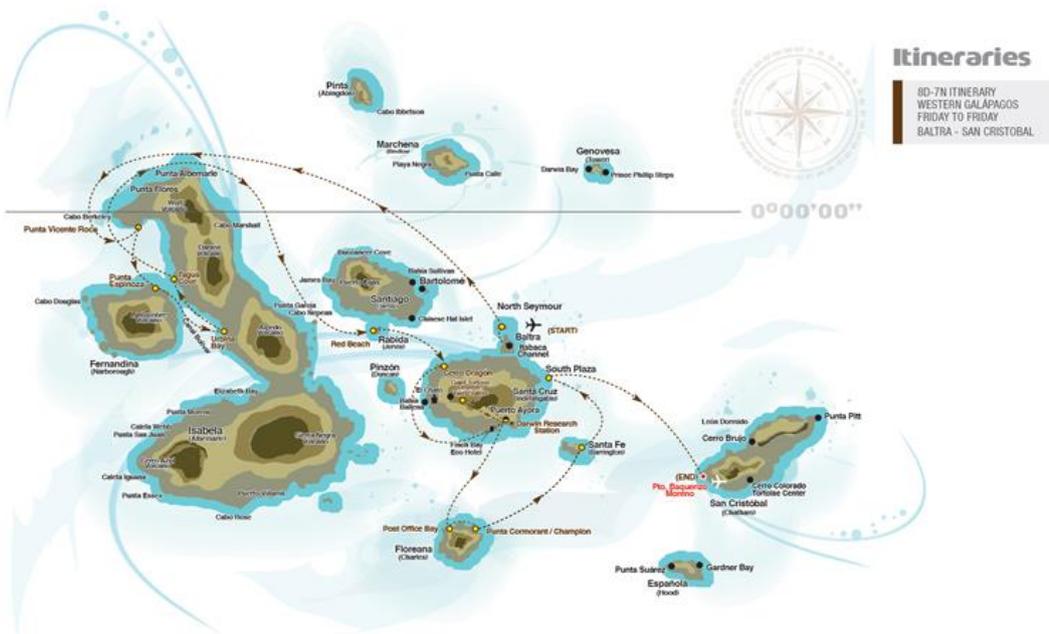
- Double Cabins
- Triple Cabins

**Main Deck**



- Dining Room
- Reception Area
- Boutique
- Doctor's Office

**Itinerary Map**



**Summary Itinerary**

- Day 1:** Baltra & North Seymour
- Day 2:** Isabela & Fernandina
- Day 3:** Isabela
- Day 4:** Rábida & Santa Cruz
- Day 5:** Santa Cruz
- Day 6:** Florena
- Day 7:** Santa Fe & South Plaza
- Day 8:** San Cristóbal



**Day 06** QUITO - GALÁPAGOS ...



**Afternoon excursion to North Seymour Island**

Following an afternoon disembarkation, enjoy a walk along the coast and the interior of the beautiful flat island, observing numerous bird colonies as well as sea lions and land iguanas. There are opportunities for coastal exploration by dinghy. Evening briefing, welcome cocktail and dinner.



**Day 07** ISABELA - FERNANDINA



**Morning excursion to Punta Vicente Roca (Isabela Island) & Punta Espinoza (Fernandina Island)**

Since there is no landing site at this location, the coastal exploration is by dinghy, while the naturalist guide explains the dramatic geology of the area, with remains of lava flows and tuff stone layers. There is abundant wildlife and, depending on the conditions of the ocean, you'll be able to snorkel along the cliffs, hopefully in the company of green sea turtles.

**Afternoon excursion to Punta Espinoza (Fernandina Island)**

In the afternoon visit the youngest and most pristine island of the archipelago, Fernandina, one of many people's all-time favourites. Punta Espinoza has an amazing combination of barrenness and abundant wildlife. Highlights include hawks, penguins, the flightless cormorant and astounding views of the surrounding volcanic landscapes.



**Day 08 ISABELA**



**Morning excursion to Urbina Bay/Tagus Cove (Isabela Island)**

After breakfast disembark at Urbina Bay, on the western side of Isabela Island, the result of an uplifting of the ocean floor. Here you can find corals, shells, and large and very colourful Galápagos land iguanas, giant tortoises (occasionally). Navigating the Bolívar Channel, there are good chances of spotting species of whales.

**Afternoon excursion to Tagus Cove (Isabela Island)**

On the northwest of Isabela, secluded Tagus Cove provided a favourite anchorage for pirates and whalers over the centuries, and today makes a great visitor site. An uphill hike takes you to the back of Darwin Crater, filled with salt water. You can snorkel or ride kayaks amid the dramatic landscape before our hike.



**Day 09 RÁBIDA - SANTA CRUZ**



**Morning excursion to Rábida Island /Cerro Dragón-Dragon Hill (Santa Cruz Island)**

In the morning disembark at Rábida Island's red-coloured beach. A stroll along the beach allows us to observe marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finches. This is a great place to snorkel from the beach. For those non-snorkelers, we can ride our glass-bottom boat for a submarine exploration.

**Afternoon excursion to Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill) (Santa Cruz Island)**

The north shore of Santa Cruz hosts the fascinating landscapes of Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill). The walk includes circling a brackish water lagoon frequented by lagoon birds, while further inland, the trail offers a beautiful view of the bay and the western islands of the archipelago, as well as the chance of observing land iguanas.



**Day 10 SANTA CRUZ**



**Morning excursions to Puerto Ayora & Charles Darwin Research Station ( Santa Cruz Island)**

The morning visit heads to the Charles Darwin Research Station and the giant tortoise pens within an impressive giant prickly-pear cactus forest. These are the headquarters of scientific investigation, conservation and the National Park administration. A delicious lunch is served at the poolside of the Finch Bay Eco Hotel.

**Afternoon excursion to the Highlands of Santa Cruz Island**

After lunch, we wind up to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island by vehicle. This is a great place to look for the brilliant Vermilion Flycatcher and the endemic Scalesia trees. From December to mid-April and July to December a visit to observe giant tortoises in the wild may be included, if weather conditions are good.



**Day 11 FLOREANA**



**Post Office Bay/Punta Cormorant (Floreana Island)**

After breakfast land at Post Office Bay to visit the historic barrel that has served as a post office in the archipelago for over two centuries. Panga rides along the maze of channels on Floreana's north shore can also be enjoyed. There's great snorkelling from the beach as well.

**Champion Islet & Punta Cormorant (Floreana Island)**

Before disembarking at Punta Cormorant you can snorkel or ride the glass-bottom boat along the coast of an extinct cone called "Champion Islet". The visit to Punta Cormorant takes in an olivine-crystal beach for an easy walk by a brackish water lagoon where bird species like greater flamingos may be observed. On the other side of the island, we come to a white-sand beach where sea turtles come out at night to nest.



**Day 12 SANTA FE - SOUTH PLAZA**



**Morning excursion to Santa Fe Island & South Plaza Island**

Take the dinghy over to the idyllic sandy-white beach populated by colonies of sea lions. Galápagos hawks are often easily observed, perched atop salt bushes. The endemic land iguana, unique to this island, may be spotted during the walk. Following the walk you can snorkel and swim along a natural wave barrier.

**Afternoon excursion to South Plaza Island**

The turquoise waters of the channel here contrast brilliantly with the white sand and black lava of the shoreline, while a carpet of scarlet sesuvium succulents serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly-pear cactus beyond, populated by yellow-gray land iguanas. Along the coastline one finds sea lion colonies, while sea birds play with the thermals that form along the cliffs of this small but amazing island.



**Day 13 SAN CRISTÓBAL - GUAYAQUIL - MADRID**

**Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristóbal Island)**

After breakfast, depart for the port and to the airport for your flight back to the mainland.



EQ194 Economy Dep: San Cristóbal 12:45 (local time) Arr: Guayaquil: 15:20

Meet onward international flights to UK, flying with Iberia Airlines.



IB6464 Economy Dep: Guayaquil 20:05 Arr: Madrid 13:55 (Day 14)



**Day 14 MADRID - UK**

Change plane.



IB3164 Economy Dep: Madrid T4s 16:25 Arr: Heathrow 17:50

Arrive back in the UK.



# Holiday Cost

**from £6,895.00 per person**

20% deposit is required to secure this booking

## **Suggested Itinerary**

- This is just a suggested itinerary which we can amend to fit your exact requirements.

## **Includes**

- International flights as listed.
- All pre-payable airport departure taxes.
- Hotel & vessel accommodation as listed.
- Transfers as listed (on a shared basis unless specified as private).
- Meals as listed.
- Excursions as listed (on a shared basis unless specified as private).
- \$20.00pp Galapagos Transit Control Card fee.

## **Excludes**

- Local departure taxes where applicable.
- \$100.00pp USD Galapagos National Park entrance fee.
- Hire of snorkelling equipment and/or wetsuits.
- Tips and gratuities.
- 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**

- The cost of this itinerary is based on 2 passengers sharing one room.
- All flights, accommodation and services are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Air fares, taxes, schedules and routings are subject to change until ticket issue.

## **Booking Conditions**

- Usually a deposit of 25% is required to secure a booking.
- The final balance would be due 10 weeks prior to departure.
- You can review our full booking conditions at: [www.distinctiveamericas.com](http://www.distinctiveamericas.com)

## **Financial & Consumer Protection**

- When you book with Distinctive World Travel you are safe in the knowledge that we are fully bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority and hold an Air Tour Operators Licence (ATOL 9027).

[www.caa.co.uk/ATOL9027](http://www.caa.co.uk/ATOL9027)

- We are a member of AITO (Association of Independent Tour Operators) which represents the UK's 140 top specialist tour operators and prides itself on providing the highest level of customer satisfaction by concentrating on: Choice, Quality and Service.

[www.aito.co.uk](http://www.aito.co.uk)

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