

# AXEL TOURS SAC

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## Ecuador

### 14 Days - 13 Nights

Quito - Baños - Riobamba - Guayaquil - Galápagos Island

#### Day 01: Quito

Assistance on your arrival in Quito and transfer to your selected hotel. Free time to rest and prepare for starting your trip around this unusual city and magical country.

**Meals Included: None**



#### Day 02: Quito Day Leisure

This day can know by your own the city of Quito & Middle of The World. Visit the Equator of the world in the middle of the world city, go back in time by walking through the cobbled streets in the historical center of Quito and be amazed by The Panoramic view while cruising through the sky in Teleférico Cruz Loma.

**Meals Included: Breakfast**



#### Day 03: Otavalo

The Otavalo cultural tour is a wonderful way to discover and combine the famous artisan indigenous market in Ecuador and some of the amazing views outside Otavalo. This tour begins with a scenic drive north of Quito through the Sierra highlands. Our first stop will be at Mitad del Mundo, and then we'll continue to Cayambe where we can taste and learn about the town's famous bizcochos ( **local biscuits** ). From that point we'll continue to the famous market of Otavalo where you'll have the option to purchase local handicrafts. The main market day in Otavalo is **Saturday**; however, this tour can be operated throughout the week ( **Tuesdays** ). Our professional guide will provide you an explanation on the indigenous people of this area, such as the Quitu, Cara and other pre-Inca groups, and some information on the city. Afterwards, we'll go to the beautiful Laguna Cuicocha, which is located in a volcano crater and contains 2 green islands. Our last stop will be Cotacachi, a town famous for its leather garments. Before strolling through this town we receive lunch in a local restaurant. Afterwards, we return to Quito.

**Meals Included: Breakfast & Lunch**



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## Day 04: Quito - Cotopaxi - Baños

We left Quito at 07:30 by the way " **American South** " admiring the beautiful Andean landscapes, after an hour and a half of travel come to the province of Cotopaxi where the National Park of the same name with its majestic Cotopaxi volcano, one of the highest active in the world with 5897 meters above sea level, also considered an ecological sanctuary. We will make our first stop in the Natural Museum of Cotopaxi, displaying specimens of the flora and fauna of the region, as well as the history of past volcanic eruptions of the volcano Cotopaxi. Then we head to the lagoon Limpiopungo, which is formed as a result of the continued melting of Cotopaxi volcano. Around the lake you can see the wolf moor, Andean gulls flying, slow play and sleep swim Andean ducks and coots. We continue by vehicle to 4500 m.s.l. where the parking lot after a rise of about 45 minutes down the path of gravel and snow in some cases reach the Jose Rivas Refuge at 4800m above sea level, from here we can rest and watch the majesty of the volcano, shelter has three dozen bunk beds, running water, a kitchen, fireplace and storage facilities for equipment and other supplies. Subsequently ascend to 5000 meters, to the perpetual snows of Cotopaxi Volcano, a site from which we will have a spectacular view of the mountains. Then we will go on by bus to Baños arrive transfer to the selected hostel or hotel

**Meals Included: Breakfast**



## Day 05: Baños - Riobamba

On time required we go on to Riobamba Chimborazo was once considered the highest peak in the world, and it is, if measured from the center of the Earth, due to the Equatorial bulge. Due to the centripetal force caused by the spinning of the planet, Earth is a slightly flattened sphere. Still, Everest is considered the highest mountain, since height is generally measured from sea level. By either measure, Chimborazo is Ecuador's highest mountain, and is an excellent challenge, taking a few hours longer to summit than the more frequently climbed Cotopaxi.

**Meals Included: Breakfast**



## Day 06: Riobamba - Alausi - Guayaquil ( Departure Tuesday to Sunday incl Holidays )

Breakfast, departure to the railway station in Alausi and boarding train. During the journey you will have the opportunity to observe an impressive landscape between the mountains and of course the most difficult engineering work to be built at that time and called " **The Devil's Nose** ". Arrival to Sibambe Station, refreshment, visit to the Center of Interpretation and dance typical of the area. Return to Alausi Station to take our transport, on the way back We will make a small stop to photograph Colta Lagoon and another stop to visit the Church of Balbanera ( **The First Church built by the Spanish in Ecuador in 1534** ). Lunch and go on by private car to Guayaquil

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## Day 07: Guayaquil

This day will be free to rest and walk on your own around the city visit the Historical Park starting in the wilderness area whose path allows us real contact with several species of birds, mammals, fish and other animals endemic to our region, continuing the journey in architectural urban area where we will discover the old Guayaquil, the house of Julián coronel, the territorial bank, green house and other traditional places full of history of the city; at the end of the park is the area where traditions stand the ranch house and peasant house as well as several own crops in the region such as bananas, coffee, cocoa, and rice;

**Meals Included: Breakfast**



## Day 08: Guayaquil - Baltra Rancho Primicias & Twin Craters

Upon arrival in Baltra Airport transfer to Santa Cruz, a guide will be waiting for You to take to the hotel, where You can leave your luggage. We will seize the morning to visit the Rancho Primicias in the island's highlands where we will be able to see Giant Turtles in their habitat



Then we go on to Lava Tunnels “ **There are eight lava tubes on Isla Santa Cruz** “ The largest lava tubes in the Galapagos are on Santa Cruz Island, it's estimated that the last eruptions occurred around a million and a half years ago. There is a gigantic lava tunnel that is over 2000 meters long on the Island that many tourist visit and walk through



Los Gemelos ( **Twin Craters** ) are located in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. They are not actual craters caused by impact, but are sink holes that were created when the volcanic roof of empty magma chambers collapsed from tectonic shifts and erosion over time. This area has very different climate from other parts of the island and are surrounded by scalesia ( **scalesia pedunculata** ) forests, which our tour guide kept calling “broccoli trees.” It is the habitat for bromeliads, orchids, mosses, lichens and many birds. Here, you are able to find the famous vermilion flycatcher, 8 species of Charles Darwin finches, and every so often short - eared owls.

**Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner**

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## Day 09: Grietas & Tortuga Bay

After breakfast we will Hike through a forest of enormous cacti and over rugged lava rock formations to one of the most unique swimming holes in the Galapagos Islands. Las Grietas, which translates literally to mean " **The Cracks**," is a series of volcanic crevices that were formed during the cooling of molten lava. The porous lava stone of the island allows water to filter down from the highlands into Las Grietas where it mixes with sea water filtering in from the ocean. The resulting azure waters are crystalline and refreshing Las Grietas is a popular swimming destination for locals and visitors alike. Float blissfully in the cool water -- or get your adrenaline pumping by jumping from the new wooden platform. A Naturalist Guide is not required to visit as the trail has been improved, but it is not recommended to travel alone as the jagged lava rocks en route can be tricky.



After Lunch we will walk to Tortuga Bay It's located on the Santa Cruz Island, about a 20 minutes' Walk from the main water taxi dock in Puerto Ayora, The walking path is 1.55 miles ( **2,490 m** ) and is open from 06.00 to 18.00 p.m evening, we must sign in and out at the start of the path with The Galapagos Park Service Office, Tortuga Bay has a gigantic, perfectly preserved beach, that is forbidden to swimmers and is preserved for the wildlife where many Marine Iguanas, Galapagos Crabs and Birds are seen dotted along the Volcanic Rocks. There is a separate cove where You can swim and where it's common to view White Tip Reef Sharks swimming in groups & on occasion Tiger Shark The Genus, Galeocerdo, is divided from the Greek galeos, which mean Shark and The Latin Cerdus, The Word for the hard hairs of Pigs. It is often colloquially called the Man – Eater Shark. The Galapagos Shark a top other species of Shark that are found in The Galapagos Islands, There are always a large variety of small fish and Birds

## Meals Included: Breakfast



## Day 10: Santa Cruz Island to Isabela Island ( Wall of The Tears & Sea Kayaking with Pinguins )

a.m. Transfer to The Pier to catch the speed Boat to Isabela Island, It's the largest Island of The Galapagos with an area of 4,640 square kilometers ( **1,790 sq mi** ), and length of 100 kilometers ( **62 mi** ) almost four times larger than Santa Cruz, the second largest of the archipelago. It was named after Queen Isabela of Spain. It was originally named *Albemarle* after the Duke of Albemarle. The island strides the Equator. Isabela is also interesting for its flora and fauna. The young island does not follow the vegetation zones of the other islands. The relatively new lava fields and surrounding soils have not developed the

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sufficient nutrients required to support the varied life zones found on other islands. Another obvious difference occurs on Volcan Wolf and Cerro Azul; these volcanoes loft above the cloud cover and are arid on top. Isabela's rich animal, Bird and Marine life is beyond compare. Isabela is home to more wild Tortoise than all the other islands. Isabela's large size and notable topography created barriers for the slow - moving tortoises; apparently the creatures were unable to cross lava flows and other obstacles, causing several different sub - species of Tortoise to develop. Today, Tortoises roam free in the calderas of Alcedo, Wolf, Cerro Azul, Darwin and Sierra Negra



Arrive in Isabela transfer to the selected hostel or hotel after checking we will visit by bike **The Wall of Tears** ( Spanish: **El Muro de las Lágrimas** ) is a historical site 5 km west of Puerto Villamil on Isabela Island in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. It was constructed between the years of 1945 and 1959 by prisoners in the Penal Colony on the island, which had been established by President Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra in 1944, using infrastructure left by the US military after World War II. The wall is about 25 m ( **65 ft** ) tall and is said to have been the cause of thousands of deaths during its construction. Locals call it the wall of tears because it is said to emanate eerie cries and have a heavy energy surrounding it.



In the afternoon we take our ocean kayaks and paddle out to the pier of Isabela, a set of small islets within Isabela Bay. The islets are filled with wildlife and are home to the Galapagos penguin, the only penguin that lives in equatorial region. We will also see sharks, marine turtles, sea lions, Blue Footed Boobies and much more wildlife as we explore its many small coves and beaches.

**Meals Included: Breakfast & Dinner**



**Day 11: Tunnels & Flamingos Lagoon**

After breakfast we will go to the pier for a 45 minute fiberglass ( **a small boat** ) ride to a place where Lava flow impacted with the oceans waves to form the stunning tubes and bridges of Los Tunnels. Los Tunnels is a marine paradise for the White tipped Reef Shark, Manta Rays, Parrot Fish, Yellowtail Surgeon Fish, Galápagos Green Sea Turtle and the Galápagos Sea Lion. This site is one of the most is one of the most spectacular places for snorkeling in Isabela as the water is shallow, clear and calm. This marine sanctuary is characterized by its unique geologic formations. A series of lava flows have produced a number of arches and tunnels both under and above water, where you find a number of animal species that have taken up residence in these magnificent formations. As soon as you get to the intertidal starting point you will be released to snorkel through astoundingly beautiful site.

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Then we will walk around to Flamingos Lagoon an expansive coastal lagoon that serves as one of the primary breeding grounds for Flamingos

**Meals Included: Breakfast & Snack**



## Day 12: Sierra Negra Volcano - Free day

Early morning around 07.00 a.m. we will have a tours to Sierra Negra Volcano it's one of the five volcanoes on the island of Isabela, and boasts the second largest volcanic caldera in the world ( **Yellowstone National Park in the United States is the largest in case You were wondering** ). On the sierra Negra Volcano You hike to the rim of the six miles wide crater and then trek across an alien landscape of lava fields and fumaroles. The Sierra Negra is one of the most active volcanoes in the Galapagos, with the last eruption in 2005 Though You probably won't see any lava flowing, You will have the opportunity to explore thermal vents and other fascinating geologic features before stopping for a snack near volcán Chico. The vistas from this spot are among the most breathtaking in Isabela and on clear afternoons afford views of the northern volcanoes on Isabela and Fernandina. A savory hot lunch at Campo Duro rounds out this challenging but rewarding day

**Meals Included: Breakfast & Snack**



## Day 13: Free day or Fishing tour optional

Isabela Island free day or Fishing tour optional approximately 6:00 am You will be on your way to the eastern side of the Galapagos which is known as one of the best fishing areas in the archipelago, you can expect to catch Striped, Blue, and Black marlin, depending on the season, however since the water temperature in the Galapagos is pretty much constant all year around you can find bill - fish pretty much every month of the year. You will spend the night in one of the nicest hotels in town.

**Meals Included: Breakfast**



## Day 14: Isabela Island - Baltra Airport - Guayaquil - Home

a.m. After Breakfast transfer to Isabela Airport for your fly to Baltra and go on to Guayaquil –

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Price per person in Hostel 3\*: ( Backpacker )

Double Occupancy:2510\$USA

Triple Room:2350\$USA

04 - 08 Paxs:2270\$USA

09 - 14 Pax:2135\$USA

+ 15 paxs:2095\$USA

Hostal	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Blue House	Quito	2022	2022	03
Colonial	Baños	2022	2022	01
Oasis	Riobamba	2022	2022	01
Hanucpacha	Guayquil	2022	2022	02
Darwin	Santa Cruz	2022	2022	02
Gladis Mar	Isabela	2022	2022	04

Price per person in Hotel 3\*: ( Tourist Class )

Double Occupancy:2870\$USA

Triple Room:2710\$USA

04 - 08 Paxs:2630\$USA

09 - 14 Pax:2495\$USA

+ 15 paxs:2455\$USA

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Joaquin House	Quito	2022	2022	03
Casa Giralda	Baños	2022	2022	01
Bambu	Riobamba	2022	2022	01
Continental	Guayquil	2022	2022	02
Lobo de Mar	Santa Cruz	2022	2022	02
San Vicente	Isabela	2022	2022	04

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Price per person in Hotel 4\* : ( First Class )

Double Occupancy:3490\$USA

Triple Room:3330\$USA

04 - 08 Paxs:2250\$USA

09 - 14 Pax:3115\$USA

+ 15 paxs:3070\$USA

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
City Silberstein	Quito	2022	2022	03
Destiny	Baños	2022	2022	01
Casa Real	Riobamba	2022	2022	01
Palace	Guayaquil	2022	2022	02
Sol y Mar	Santa Cruz	2022	2022	02
Casa de Marita	Isabela	2022	2022	04

Price per person in Hotel 5\* : ( Luxury Class )

Double Occupancy:4790\$USA

Triple Room:4630\$USA

04 - 08 Paxs:4550\$USA

09 - 14 Pax:4415\$USA

+ 15 paxs:4375\$USA

Hotel	City	Arrive	Departure	Nights
Swiss Hotel	Quito	2022	2022	03
Monte Selva	Baños	2022	2022	01
Abraspungo	Riobamba	2022	2022	01
Marriott	Guayaquil	2022	2022	02
Finch Bay	Santa Cruz	2022	2022	02
Iguana Crossing	Isabela	2022	2022	04

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