

Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands

Jun 14 - Jun 22, 2021

Group Leader:

Jamie Ford

Group ID:

260733

Depart From:

Houston



what's included



Round-Trip Flights



3- or 4-Star Hotels

- ✓ 24-Hour Tour Manager
- ✓ Centrally Located Hotels
- ✓ Start Exploring
- ✓ Global Network
- ✓ Quito Tour with Guide
- ✓ Santo Domingo Convent
- ✓ Mitad del Mundo
- ✓ Intiñan Museum



**Daily Breakfast and Dinner
(unless otherwise noted)**



Double Occupancy

- ✓ Otavalo Crafts Market
- ✓ Quito-Baltra Flight
- ✓ Reforestation or Turtle Monitoring Service Project
- ✓ Charles Darwin Research Station
- ✓ Sierra Negra Volcano
- ✓ Volcan Chico
- ✓ Giant Tortoise Breeding Center of Isabela
- ✓ Snorkeling at Las Tintoreras

OUR promise

In educational travel, every moment matters. Pushing the experience from “good enough” to exceptional is what we do every day. Our mission is to empower educators to introduce their students to the world beyond the classroom and inspire the next generation of global citizens. *Travel changes lives.*

cultural connections



HIGHLIGHTS waiting to happen

Reforestation or Turtle Monitoring Service Project

Otavalo Crafts Market Visit

“Our tour guide was phenomenal; he went above and beyond my expectations. His knowledge of the area and the history behind it was most impressive.”

Matthew L. Participant



trip itinerary - 9 days

Jun 14, 2021: Quito

Depart from the USA. Arrive in Quito, Ecuador's capital city located 9,350 feet above sea level, and meet your ACIS Tour Manager. Transfer to your hotel for an arrival briefing. (D)

Jun 15, 2021: Quito

Begin your day with a guided sightseeing tour of Quito viewing Independence Square with its monument to the independence heroes of August 20, 1809, and the Church and Convent of Santo Domingo, with its impressive exhibition of architectural and religious art. Travel to the Mitad del Mundo, just north of Quito, to view the world from the equator and stand with a foot in both hemispheres. Stop by the nearby Intiñan Museum to learn about their claims to be at the "real" equator (as determined by GPS) before returning to Quito. (B,D)

Jun 16, 2021: Quito

Today, a scenic drive north takes us to the province of Imbabura, a magically beautiful land of lakes and mountains. Our journey includes a stop in the town of Otavalo, world-renown for its colorful market featuring authentic handicrafts, weavings, textiles, jewelry and fruits, vegetables and meats destined for locals' dinner tables. Practice your bargaining skills and perhaps take home a souvenir. Lunch today is at a hosteria, or local country inn. Return to Quito in the evening. (B,D)

Jun 17, 2021: Galapagos

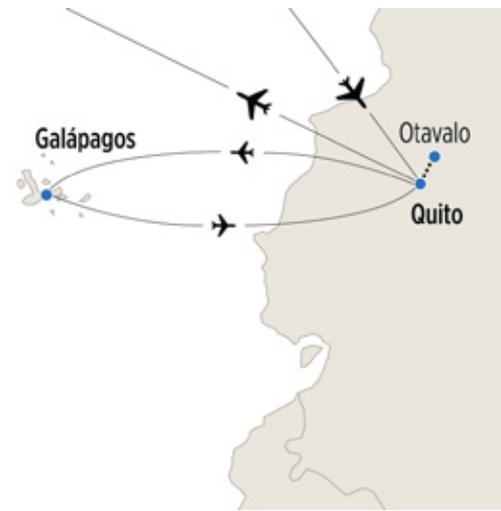
This morning fly to Baltra, an island within the Galápagos, then continue on by bus and by barge to the north side of Santa Cruz Island. Visit the Cerro Mesa Ecological Reserve to learn about regional conservation and contribute to its mission by participating in a service project. Your service project could involve reforestation or turtle monitoring efforts, depending on the needs of the Reserve. Continue on to Puerto Ayora for the night. (B,L,D)

Jun 18, 2021: Galapagos

Today's we'll visit Charles Darwin Research Station. The Darwin Station is a center for research and environmental education where you will learn about issues concerning the islands and have the opportunity to see giant Galápagos tortoises and their smaller offspring as part of the Station's breeding program. In the afternoon we visit Isabela Island and Flamingo Lagoon to learn more about the impact of human tourists on the islands, and what we can do to protect the natural resources. (B,L,D)

Jun 19, 2021: Galapagos

This morning visit the Sierra Negra Volcano, one of the most active volcanoes in the Galápagos with the second largest volcanic crater in the world, measuring 6 miles in diameter and 300 feet deep. Then continue on to nearby Volcan Chico where you can feel the warmth of the ground as proof of the volcano's activity. Return to Puerto Villamil to visit a giant tortoise breeding center and learn about the over 300 tortoises that live here. In the afternoon we'll go underwater to see the other half of what makes the Galápagos



so special on our snorkeling tour at Las Tintoreras. Just beneath the surface is a whole other world filled with tropical fish, sea lions, and sea turtles. It also happens to be the only place in the northern hemisphere that you can see penguins in the wild. (B,L,D)

Jun 20, 2021: Galapagos

This morning we'll travel to Puerto Ayora, the largest town in both population and size within the Galápagos. There will be time to explore the village and relax by the waterfront. After lunch we'll continue to Tortuga Bay, for an afternoon of swimming and relaxing on one of the Galápagos' most beautiful beaches. And don't be surprised to see sea turtles, sea lions and flamingos enjoying the sun with you! (B,L,D)

Jun 21, 2021: Quito

It's time to say goodbye to the Galápagos and fly back to Quito. The rest of the day is yours to soak in your last bit of Ecuadorian culture. (B,D)

Jun 22, 2021: Departure

Depart for the USA. (B)

This is a preliminary itinerary for your group.





what you'll learn

1. Independence: Take charge of yourself and your schedule as you gain the courage to navigate new destinations, test your language skills in real-world situations, and manage your time and money.
2. Flexibility: Develop skills to adapt and acclimate as you step outside your comfort zone, experiencing the cultural adjustments that come with new places, new foods, dynamic schedules and the wonderful idiosyncrasies of travel.
3. Teamwork: Learn respect, communication and collaboration—new settings and shared activities allow you to gain confidence at working together with both familiar faces and new acquaintances.

tour cost

Participant Fees

Program Fee	\$4418
Early Registration Discount	\$-100

Total Participant Fees² \$4318

² Valid through 11/01/20, with initial deposit of \$200.

Additional Fees (as applicable)

Adult Surcharge	\$100
Single Room Supplement	\$760
Ultimate Protection Plan	\$270
Comprehensive Protection Plan	\$225

notes from acis

- Save \$50 off your Total Participant Fees if you pay for your trip by E-Check or through our Automatic Payments Plan.
- All registered participants can enjoy the convenience, security and savings of having payments automatically withdrawn from a checking account by enrolling in an Automatic Payments plan. To learn more, visit www.acis.com/autopay
- Adult travelers age 21 and older should add in the Adult Surcharge and Double or Single Room Supplement to calculate their Total Participant Fees.
- This educational travel program is not school or district sponsored unless expressly stated by the Group Leader.

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Travel Changes Lives

To learn more, we invite you to read our free ebook, "The Making of a Five-Star Future."
<http://pages.acis.com/ebook>



Can travel make a difference in students' futures? It certainly can and does every single day. In fact, we surveyed 930 former ACIS travelers to see how their tours abroad as young adults influenced their choices in education and paved a way for future careers. Many of them credit travel as a defining moment in their adolescence, and below is a recap of our findings.

education



81%

of those that traveled in middle school or high school continued their studies at the college level compared to the national average of 68%



of travelers who went on to college said their travel experience influenced their field of study.



57%

of respondents were motivated to study abroad during college.

language skills



67%

of students continued to study foreign language in college.



of ACIS travelers say they speak one foreign language fairly well compared with 18% of the American population.



personal development



94% felt more independent after their trip.

78% saw an increase in their problem solving skills.

92% noted improvement in their interpersonal skills.



65%

have traveled overseas again since their ACIS trip.

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Enter your Group Leader's ID & Last Name (on page 1). Click Register Now on your Trip Site when you're ready to sign up.

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