

## Ecuador & Galapagos

### Private Galapagos Marvels by Land and Mashpi's Cloud Forest

Quito - San Cristobal Island - Isabela Island - Santa Cruz Island - Mashpi Reserve

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#### BEST SEASON

All year round

#### PRICE

From US \$7,775 pp excluding  
local flights

#### How LONG

10 Days/9 Nights



#### ITINERARY OVERVIEW

This expertly crafted itinerary seamlessly combines the Galapagos Islands' wonders with the Mashpi Reserve's tranquility, creating an adventure for nature enthusiasts. Traversing three islands in only five days, this tour offers a top Galapagos land-based experience highlighting the best of San Cristobal, Isabela, and Santa Cruz Islands, each with its distinct personality and wildlife. Experience the unique evolutionary paths of endemic species as you move between islands comfortably. Hike through gorgeous environments, swim and relax on pristine tropical beaches, and snorkel with incredible sea life in turquoise waters. After your exhilarating exploration of the Galapagos Islands, unwind and reconnect with nature at the Mashpi Reserve. Nestled in the heart of the Ecuadorian cloud forest, this private ecological reserve boasts a breathtaking tapestry of life. Immerse yourself in the emerald canopy offering unparalleled panoramic views. Explore hidden trails teeming with vibrant birdlife and embark on waterfall hikes suitable for various fitness levels. From island wonders to cloud forest serenity, explore the magic of Ecuador in this fast-paced, action-packed adventure.

## Quick Summary

B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner OV: Overnight

Day & Location	Transportation, Highlights and Accommodations	Meals
Day 1 <b>Arrival in Quito</b>	Arrival Transfer <b>OV: Mamá Cuchara by Art Hotels</b>	D
Day 2 <b>San Cristobal</b>	Transfer to airport, flight to San Cristobal (not included), Interpretation Center, hiking, wildlife viewing and snorkeling at Carola Beach <b>OV: Golden Bay Hotel</b>	BLD
Day 3 <b>San Cristobal</b>	Kicker Rock, Punta Pitt or Cerro Brujo. Snorkeling and wildlife viewing <b>OV: Golden Bay Hotel</b>	BLD
Day 4 <b>Isabela Island</b>	Short flight to Isabela Island (including) Hiking, wildlife viewing, snorkeling at Tintoreras <b>OV: Iguana Crossing Hotel</b>	BLD
Day 5 <b>Santa Cruz Island</b>	Speed boat or internal flight to Santa Cruz (included), El Chato Nature Reserve, Wildlife viewing, Los Gemelos, Charles Darwin Research station (time allowing) <b>OV: Angermeyer Hotel</b>	BLD
Day 6 <b>Galapagos – Mashpi Cloud Forest</b>	Flight back to Quito, 4-hour land transfer to Mashpi Lodge <b>OV: Mashpi Lodge &amp; Private Reserve</b>	BD
Day 7 <b>Mashpi Cloud Forest</b>	Dragon Fly Canopy Adventure <b>OV: Mashpi Lodge &amp; Private Reserve</b>	BLD
Day 8 <b>Mashpi Cloud Forest</b>	Enrich Your Stay with Optional Activities <b>OV: Mashpi Lodge &amp; Private Reserve</b>	BLD
Day 9 <b>Quito</b>	4-hour land transfer back to Quito <b>OV: Mamá Cuchara Hotel</b>	B/Box Lunch
Day 10 <b>Departure</b>	Transfer to the International Airport for departure	B

## ITINERARY IN DETAIL



### Day 1 | Welcome to Ecuador!

Arrive in Quito and transfer to your charming boutique-style hotel conveniently located in the Historic Center neighborhood. Overnight at Mamá Cuchara.



### Day 2 | Interpretation Center, Hike and Snorkel Tijeretas

After a morning flight from the mainland to San Cristobal Island, we continue to our hotel for an energizing lunch, introductions, and a short overview of our trip. Our Galapagos adventure starts with a visit to the local Interpretation Center where we learn about the Galapagos' unique wildlife, geology, natural history, and social dynamics. Now that we know a little more about the islands we make our way to our first stop, Frigate Hill, where we might spot many of the unique avian species of the Galapagos. As we hike over natural lava rock trails our guides tell us all about the Galapagos cotton, palo santo, acacia, and cacti surrounding us, as well as blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, pelicans, herons, gulls, warblers, mockingbirds and finches that we spot in the vegetation and sea cliffs. In addition to the diverse wildlife, this walking tour provides marvelous views of the rugged coastline and the town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno below us. During the return trip, we will stop at beautiful Carola Beach for a dip, where we will snorkel and swim with sea turtles and sea lions while enjoying a lovely sunset on the beach. We return to the hotel for a gourmet seafood dinner after which you can set out to explore the friendly, laid-back town and visit the colony of endemic Galapagos sea lions next door. Overnight at Golden Bay Hotel.



### Day 3 | Snorkel the Northern Coast of San Cristobal

Today we will explore the northern coast. We either visit Leon Dormido (Kicker Rock), Punta Pitt or Cerro Brujo. The visiting site depends on the weekday and the Galapagos National Park regulations. On our exploration trip, we make sure to search the nearby coves and cliffs for sea turtles, sea lions, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, and Nazca boobies. Here we have the chance to get up close and personal with sea lions in their favorite playground. As we snorkel, we might see eagle rays, golden rays, Galapagos sharks, starfish, clams, and thousands of tropical fish. If we're lucky, we may even come across hammerhead sharks. As the sun sets on our day under the waves, we return to the hotel for a relaxed evening. Overnight at the Golden Bay Hotel.



#### **Day 4 | Discover Isabela's Beaches, Lagoons, and Snorkel Tintoreras**

In the morning, we take a short inter-island flight to Isabela Island, the largest island in the Galapagos. It's constantly changing and evolving due to the six shield volcanoes, rendering it one of the most volcanically active spots on the planet. After a short small aircraft flight, we settle into our hotel. We then set out on a one-of-a-kind hike that will take us through an incredible variety of coastal ecosystems, along the way we spot giant tortoises, flamingos, and other wildlife as we pass through white sand beaches, the alluring poison apple forest, a gaping lava tube, dark mangroves and brackish lagoons. After a nourishing lunch, we explored Tintoreras, a group of small islets filled with hidden coves and isolated beaches. Here we find the endemic Galapagos penguins, as well as reef sharks, sea turtles and sea lions. At the end of the day, we retire to our hotel. We finish the evening with a delicious dinner and an optional stroll down the expansive beach and the sandy streets of idyllic Puerto Villamil. Overnight at Iguana Crossing Hotel.



#### **Day 5 | Explore Santa Cruz Island**

We board a speed boat or internal flight to Santa Cruz Island early in the morning. Along the way, we keep an eye out for whales and dolphins in the ocean around us. After checking in we head to El Chato nature reserve in the Santa Cruz highlands, home to the Galapagos giant tortoise. It is an honor to hike among these fascinating, gentle giants, who on average live to be over 175 years old. El Chato is also home to many pintail ducks, finches, frigate birds, egrets, and the beautiful vermilion flycatchers. Our hike continues through some incredible lava tunnels created by flowing magma. Legend has it that the buccaneers who once frequented the Galapagos used these deep caves to hide Inca gold plundered from Spanish ships! After some pirate stories from our guides, we head up to Los Gemelos, a pair of deep volcanic sinkholes at the high point of Santa Cruz. The path takes us through a forest of endemic Scalesia trees covered in ferns and epiphytes where we'll keep a lookout for the resident short-eared owl. If there is enough time, we may visit the Charles Darwin Research Station where local scientists rear endemic plants and animals for educational, scientific, and conservation purposes. We'll learn about the ongoing conservation efforts to protect the future of the Galapagos. In the late afternoon, we get ready to celebrate our once-in-a-lifetime trip with a delicious farewell dinner. We soak up the ambiance of our last night in the Galapagos with magnificent views of the brightly lit ships in the bay and the town beyond. Overnight at Angermeyer Hotel.



#### **Day 6 | From the Galapagos Islands to the Highlands of Mashpi Reserve**

Finally, it's time to bid a fond farewell to the magic island as we transfer to Baltra Island for our return flight to the mainland (not included). Note: To optimize travel time to Mashpi, it's recommended to prioritize booking the earliest flight arriving in Quito before 2:00 pm. Upon arrival, a land transfer takes you on a 4-hour drive to Mashpi Lodge and Reserve.

Nestled amidst the lush greenery of the Ecuadorian Chocó rainforest, your next two days will be spent immersed in the wonders of Mashpi Lodge. This luxurious eco-resort offers a unique blend of comfort and adventure, allowing you to fully experience the magic of the cloud forest. Upon arrival at the Lodge, you are warmly greeted in a dedicated expedition room. Here, friendly staff will handle your check-in, provide your room keys, and offer comprehensive orientation to everything Mashpi has to offer. This informative session ensures you have a clear understanding of the lodge's operations and get you excited to explore the wonders of the surrounding rainforest. Overnight at Mashpi Lodge.



### **Day 7 and 8 | At Mashpi Cloud Forest Reserve**

Included in your stay is the Dragonfly Cable Car System. Inspired by the remarkable dragonfly, known for its exceptional vision, our Dragonfly Cable Car System offers a breathtaking perspective of the rainforest canopy. Glide through the treetops in one of our four gondolas, aptly named "dragonflies," along a 2.5-mile (4-kilometer) circuit.

The 15-minute walk (1444 feet/440 meters) from the lodge to the departure station is a pleasant prelude to your aerial adventure. The cable car system itself features two main stations and six support towers. For added convenience, gondola boarding and disembarking is available at Tower 4. Each gondola comfortably accommodates four explorers and a guide. Spaced approximately 1640 feet (500 meters) apart, they travel nearly 1.3 miles (2 kilometers) in each direction at a leisurely pace of less than 2 miles per hour (3 kilometers per hour). The entire round-trip journey takes approximately 2 hours. Unfold the wonders of the rainforest ecosystem as you soar above the tree line. Panoramic vistas unveil the rich tapestry of the reserve's flora and fauna, with its vibrant colors, captivating scents, and the constant movement of life. This unforgettable experience can be seamlessly combined with other hiking trails detailed within this guide. After your exhilarating Dragonfly Cable Car adventure, the rest of your stay remains open for you to design your perfect rainforest exploration. Mashpi Reserve boasts a diverse selection of guided tours, each offering unique opportunities to delve deeper into the wonders of this remarkable ecosystem. Whether your interests lie in birdwatching, exploring hidden trails, or encountering nocturnal creatures, knowledgeable guides are always available to lead the way. Overnight at Mashpi Lodge.



### **Day 9 | Transfer back to Quito**

After your immersive experience at Mashpi Lodge, unwinding amidst the breathtaking cloud forest, it's time for your comfortable 4-hour drive back to Quito. Overnight at Mamá Cuchara.



### Day 10 | Departure Transfer

Transfer to the airport for your return flight home or extend your trip to visit more of Ecuador's natural wonders.

- This itinerary is subject to change without notice due to seasonal changes, inclement weather conditions, and adjustments of the Galapagos National Park policy.
- The weight restriction per person for the Inner Island flight from San Cristobal to Isabela is 25 pounds in one piece of luggage. The maximum allowed weight for baggage is 25 lbs. If space is available in the hold and the airline permits it (though this is not guaranteed), excess baggage can be accommodated at an additional cost of \$2 per lb. Alternatively, guests can leave their excess luggage at Hotel Mama Cuchara and retrieve it before their trip to Mashpi Lodge.
- Boat travel time: Two hours
- Small aircraft flight time: 40 minutes
- Activity Duration (Paddle, hike, bike, snorkel): Two to four hours per activity
- Altitude – 3,688 feet (1,124 meters) above sea level in Galapagos, 9,350 feet (2,850 meters) above sea level in Quito
- Weather: During the warm season from January to May, the air temperature is around 77 to 83 F (25 to 28 C) at sea level. During the cool season from June to December, the air temperature is around 70 to 75 F (21 to 24 C) at sea level. The temperature decreases with altitude.
- Water Temperature: During the warm season from January to May, the water temperature hovers around 77 F (25 C). During the cool season from June to December, the average water temperature is about 72 F (22 C). The water temperature also varies significantly by location.

### Pricing

2025	Per Adult Sharing double occupancy	Per Child (11 and under) sharing with parents
2 Adults Traveling together	\$8,395	\$4,380
4 Adults Traveling together	\$7,775	\$4,035

Child price applies when traveling with 2 paying adults. This is a preliminary costing; hotels may vary according to availability at time of booking. Doesn't include internal flights, approx. cost \$350 per person

Rates apply for 2025 except for the following dates: Dec 25 to Jan 01st, July 28th to 29th, June 20th to 25th, and other events that might be confirmed.

This trip departs on any date with a minimum of 2 adults.

## Included

- All guided tours and excursions as specified.
- All sea, land, and inter-island air transportation when applies.
- Land transfer on private basis
- Bilingual Galapagos Naturalist Guide
- Junior Expeditioner Kit for children 5 to 11
- All entrance fees to the sites mentioned in the above itinerary
- Meals as indicated [B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner]
- Hotel accommodation as mentioned in the itinerary
- Permanent assistance during the trip
- Green Planet Expeditions travel consultation and pre-departure services

## Not included

- All guided tours and excursions as specified.
- All sea, land, and inter-island air transportation when applies.
- Land transfer on private basis
- Bilingual Galapagos Naturalist Guide
- Junior Expeditioner Kit for children 5 to 11
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## ACCOMMODATIONS



### **Mamá Cuchara by Art Hotels, Quito**

Mamá Cuchara is a boutique hotel located in the historic center of Quito. It offers a variety of private rooms, each with its own unique character and decor. The hotel's restaurant serves traditional Ecuadorian cuisine, as well as international dishes. Amenities include Wi-Fi, a rooftop terrace with city views, a restaurant, a bar, 24-hour front desk, concierge services, airport transfers, room service, daily housekeeping, laundry service,

luggage storage and daily breakfast



### **Golden Bay Hotel, San Cristobal Island**

The Golden Bay is a hotel located on the island of San Cristobal in the Galapagos archipelago. It offers 21 guest rooms, situated near the airport. The hotel is located on Playa de Oro (Golden Beach), a beach known for its beautiful views and wildlife sightings, such as sea lions and blue-footed boobies. The Golden Bay is one of the few five-star hotels in the Galapagos Islands, offering luxurious accommodation and high-quality amenities.

including Wi-Fi, air conditioning, TV, swimming pool, restaurant, beachfront location, spa, hot tub, airport shuttle, laundry service, safe deposit boxes, daily breakfast.



### **Iguana Crossing Hotel, Isabela Island**

Iguana Crossing is a hotel located on Isabela Island in the Galapagos archipelago. It offers 12 guest rooms, a restaurant, an oceanfront swimming pool, and a Jacuzzi. The hotel is situated near a wildlife-filled lagoon and a pristine beach. It is known for its minimalist design and superior service, as well as its eco-friendly practices. Amenities include Wi-Fi, air conditioning, TV, swimming pool, Jacuzzi, restaurant, beachfront location, laundry

service, safe deposit boxes, hair dryer (on request), alarm clock-radio and daily breakfast.



### **Angermeyer Hotel, Santa Cruz Island**

Angermeyer Hotel is a luxurious boutique hotel located on Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos archipelago. It offers a secluded and peaceful setting surrounded by lush tropical gardens and offers stunning views of the ocean. The hotel features 12 spacious and elegantly designed rooms, each with its own private terrace or balcony. The hotel offers a variety of amenities, including Wi-Fi, air conditioning, TV, a swimming pool,

a Jacuzzi, a restaurant, a bar, a spa, a fitness center, a library, a gift shop, laundry service, safe deposit boxes, an airport shuttle, daily housekeeping, concierge services, tours/excursions and a daily breakfast.





### **Mashpi Lodge, Mashpi Ecological Reserve**

Mashpi Lodge is a luxury eco-lodge located in the Mashpi Ecological Reserve. The lodge is nestled amidst towering trees and lush vegetation, offering stunning views of the surrounding rainforest. The lodge features comfortable and eco-friendly accommodations, designed to blend seamlessly with the natural environment. The lodge offers a variety of amenities, including private rooms and suites with en-suite bathrooms and private balconies, a restaurant serving international and local cuisine, guided nature walks, birdwatching, canopy zip-lining, night hikes, visits to the hummingbird observatory, spa, Wi-Fi, swimming pool, library, gift shop, 24-hour front desk and daily breakfast.

## **Booking your Green Planet Expedition**

### **How to reserve a trip**

To secure your spot on a trip, you can conveniently book online using our ["Reserve a Trip"](#) form or by calling 1-800-430-9498. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of the reservation form and the initial 50% trip deposit.

Please note that we are unable to hold space until the deposit is received. If the requested space is unavailable, we will promptly provide alternative options for your consideration (if an upgrade is necessary, higher rates may apply).

### **Pre departure service**

Upon receipt of your deposit and completed reservation form, we will email you a comprehensive Predeparture Dossier. This contains important information to help you prepare including immunizations, visas, trip insurance, packing checklist, reading list, maps, cross-cultural information, optional trip extensions, and more. You will receive a final trip email including Final Reminders and local contact information in your destination 2-3 weeks before departure.

### **Terms and Conditions**

Green Planet Expeditions has arranged your trip utilizing the travel services of local in-country ground operators who are independent contractors. These local outfitters, lodges, hotels, and other suppliers of your travel services will make every effort to conduct this trip as described in the itinerary; however, it is possible that due to transportation schedule changes, weather, delays, and unforeseeable acts of God, humans or nature, this itinerary may vary from what is described. Participants must assume all risks whether identified in advance or unforeseen. All optional activities are at your own risk. Extra costs due to unexpected changes in your itinerary for reasons beyond our control are not included.

Caring for our planet is integral to our ethos. In alignment with our commitment to sustainability, a carbon emissions mitigation fee is incorporated into all our trips. This fee contributes to environmental initiatives that offset the carbon footprint associated with our

journeys, ensuring a positive impact on the destinations we explore. Your safety and peace of mind during the journey is our top priorities. **The purchase of traveler's insurance is mandatory for all participants, and it must cover trip delays, trip cancellations, baggage, accident, or sickness. In some specific cases like Antarctica, it must cover evacuation.**

All information and services provided are subject to our [Terms and Conditions](#).

At Green Planet Expeditions, we craft strategically curated journeys that immerse travelers in the finest of nature, culture, and local traditions, always seeking out opportunities for exceptional dining experiences. Our expertise lies in tailor-made trips to destinations where we maintain close relationships with local partners, ensuring flawless execution with the assistance of passionate guides deeply connected to their heritage and committed to its preservation.

We believe that tourism, when harnessed thoughtfully, becomes a powerful catalyst for conservation and community upliftment in the destinations we visit.

### **As with any good recipe, our trips are infused with the following flavors:**

- Positive impact on the areas you choose to visit, directly or indirectly.
- Amazing private local guides.
- Lovely small boutique hotels according to your budget.
- Good food, no matter how remote the destination is, we strive to offer good cuisine.
- Our trips frequently include surprises, which often turn out to be the highlight of the journey.
- When open to it, visits to less-known destinations, reserved for the daring few, and engages in intimate and meaningful encounters with locals—a cherished treasure highly valued by discerning travelers, as we have discovered through our years of experience in the industry.

### **Still haven't found what you're looking for?**

We offer a wide range of amazing trips that may not all be listed on our website. Plus, we can custom-build pretty much whatever your heart desires, so let us know what we can do for you. If you have any questions about our expedition cruises, private trips, or just want to talk travel, give us a call at + 1 800- 430 9498 or contact us via email at [travel@greenplanetexpeditions.com](mailto:travel@greenplanetexpeditions.com)