



Orchids of Ecuador, World Orchid Conference and Galapagos tour itinerary 2017

WOC17 ITIN-260916

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19 DAY ITINERARY

Commences Quito Thursday 26 October 2017

DAY 1: QUITO

Arrive at Quito airport and transfer to the hotel. Dinner available until 9pm.

DAY 2: QUITO to BAEZA

Breakfast. City Tour of the beautiful Heritage Site, Quito. We will visit the Middle of the World. Lunch. We will leave the Andes to go to the Amazon side. The highest point we will pass through will be 4000m above sea level. On the way we will find plants of *Oncidium* (*Odontoglossum* type), *Cyrtorchilum*, *Pleurothallis*, *Epidendrum*, *Chondrorhyncha*, *Cochlioda* and more. Dinner. We spend the night in Baeza.

DAY 3: BAEZA to ARCHIDONA

Breakfast. We will start descending to the Amazon base and we will pass by Sumaco Napo Galeras National Park, this park has an extension of 205,249 has. Here there are 21 orchid species and 8 types of bromeliads. On the way, we will find *Oncidium*, *Stanhopea*, *Maxillaria*, *Epidendrum*, *Oncidium*, *Myoxanthus*, and *Sobralia*. Lunch. We will walk until a waterfall to see more orchids and some wonderful landscapes. Dinner. We will spend the night in Archidona.

DAY 4: ARCHIDONA to PUYO

Breakfast. We will visit Misahuallí port to see some monkeys on their natural habitat, after we will take a boat for 20 minutes to visit a Shuar community and learn about their traditions and ancestral medicine. We will continue our way to Puyo and see orchids that grow around this area in the cloud forest like *Maxillaria*, *Pleurothallis*, *Oncidium*, *Prosthechea*, *Stelis*, *Rodriguezia*, *Phragmipedium* and more. Lunch. Dinner. We will spend the night in Puyo.

DAY 5: PUYO to SUCUA

Breakfast. We will visit CERFA reserve from a friend. On our way, we will see some traditional houses from Shuar culture. Also in Macas there is a viewer where we can see beautiful landscapes and Upano river. Some of the orchids that we will see are: *Epidendrum*, *Oncidium*, *Psychmorchis*, *Warrea*, *Maxillaria*, *Dryadella*, *Vanilla*, *Myoxanthus*, *Trisetella* and some other nice species. Lunch. Dinner. We will spend the night in Sucua.

DAY 6: SUCUA to GUALACEO

Breakfast. On the way there are located three main hydroelectric that provide energy to the country. We will see different species of *Phragmipedium* like *pearcei* and *reticulatum*, also some *Sobralia*, *Lycaste*, *Elleanthus*, *Pleurothallis*, and more. Lunch. There are some waterfalls that we will see on the way. Dinner. We will spend the night in Gualaceo.

DAY 7: GUALACEO

Breakfast. We will visit the Ecuagenera Nursery situated at over 2200m to learn about the conservation program they are carrying out. Lunch. We will visit the greenhouses to see intermediate-cold orchids, after that we are going to Chordeleg; the town of jewellers to learn more about filigrana technique. Dinner. We will spend the night in Gualaceo.

DAY 8: GUALACEO to EL PANGUI

Breakfast. We will go to the southeast Amazon side to see *Phragmipedium besseae*. Box Lunch. This area is very rich in orchids like *Telipogon*, *Epidendrum*, *Sobralia*, *Oncidium*, *Prostechea*, *Maxillaria*, *Stelis*, etc. Wonderful landscapes and great weather. Dinner. We will spend the night in El Pangui.

DAY 9: EL PANGUI

Breakfast. We will visit the Ecuagenera Nursery situated at 900m above sea level to see warm-intermediate orchids. Lunch. We will see some orchids growing around this area, in the Condor Binacional Reserve located between Ecuador and Peru, with an extension of 2440 has. This is the habitat of endemic species like *Scuticaria Salesiana*. Dinner. We will return to El Pangui.

DAY 10: EL PANGUI to LOJA

Breakfast. Visit to Podocarpus National park, Zamora Chinchipe side; with more than 560 birds species identified and 63 orchids species, also there is a big waterfall. On the way, we expect to see *Rodriguezia*, *Epidendrum*, *Masdevallia* and other interesting species. Lunch. On the way back to the Andes Mountain Range, we will find types of orchids like *Masdevallia*, *Sobralia*, *Eriopsis*, *Epidendrum*, *Maxillaria*, *Prostechea*, etc. Dinner. We will spend the night in Loja.

DAY 11: LOJA to GUALACEO

Breakfast. City tour in Loja city known as “The musical and cultural capital of Ecuador” Their gastronomy is recognized in the country for the variety and delicious traditional candies. We will take the road to see *Fernandezia*, *Telipogon*, *Cyrtochillum*, *Oncidium*, etc. Lunch. We will observe some orchids like *Maxillaria*, *Sudamerlycaste* (Ida), *Myoxanthus*, *Epidendrum*, *Trichoceros* and learn about the people of the Saraguros ethnic group. Dinner. We will spend the night in Gualaceo.

DAY 12: GUALACEO to GUAYAQUIL

Breakfast. We will visit Cuenca, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for a City Tour. We will visit the factory of the famous Panama Hats and some other nice craft markets. Lunch. On the way to Guayaquil, we will pass through the Cajas National Park, important for Cuenca city because it is the town’s largest source of water. The highest point there will be at 4000m. We will be looking for *Epidendrum*, *Odontoglossum* and *Masdevallia*. Transfer to the airport/hotel.

During the first 12 days of this tour you will have the chance to taste the typical seasonal fruits that grow in the areas we visit. Also, you will appreciate the way of living of the ethnic groups that inhabit in the region and their cuisine. We invite you to try our local gastronomy in different types of restaurants on our way. In remote areas we usually have a box lunch suited to you and the weather conditions. Depending on the number of people in the group, transportation could be by van or bus.

DAY 13: GUAYAQUIL

Our city tour includes the main streets and avenues of the city, visiting the Simon Bolívar Park, El Malecón 2000, piers and La Rotonda (with Bolívar and San Martin statues); the colonial district of Las Peñas, where you can admire the wooden architecture and where many of its houses are art galleries. From the Santa Ana fort, there is a panoramic view of Guayaquil and the Guayas River.

The Guayaquil Botanical Gardens tour features the over 700 species of plants in the garden and the cultivation of orchids and a varied avifauna. We have a half day tour accompanied by our English speaking guide.

There is also an optional city and historic park tour... Journey through the main streets and avenues of the city, and then visit the famous “Parque Histórico” (Historical Park), a themed attraction that recreates and revives the old Guayaquil, with its characters, traditions and architecture. Overnight Guayaquil.



World Orchid Conference option

DAYS 14 to 18: WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE

Hotel accommodation and local tours included. Conference registration and fees additional.

DAY 19: DEPART GUAYAQUIL

Optional Galapagos tour / additional accommodation Guayaquil or other arrangements in South America.

Galapagos cruise option

GSA17 ITIN 140814

THE ISLANDS VISITED, VESSEL, EXPERIENCES AND ITINERARY ARE SUBJECT TO VARIATION DUE TO AVAILABILITY AT TIME OF BOOKING, LOCAL CONDITIONS AND MATTERS OUTSIDE OF OUR DIRECT CONTROL.

Day 1 AM: Arrival Galapagos

Upon arrival at Baltra Airport, travelers pass through an airport inspection point to insure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands, as well as to pay the park entrance fee of \$100 (which we have prepaid for you). Our representative will meet you, help you collect your luggage, and escort you to our launch in Puerto Ayora.

PM: Charles Darwin Station, Santa Cruz Island

Although the great majority of Galapagos visitors come here to observe and appreciate natural wonders, it is also interesting to learn how the protection and conservation of the islands are carried out. The main attractions are the National Park information center, the Van Staelen Exhibition Hall, the Breeding and Rearing Center for young tortoises and adult Galapagos tortoises in captivity.

Day 2 AM: White Tipped Reef Shark Canal, Isabela Island

"Tintoreras" are small islands on the Puerto Villamil coast named after White-tipped reef sharks common in the archipelago. and found resting in the shallow waters. Watch out for Galapagos Penguin and sea lion by the shore.

PM: Sierra Negra Volcano, Isabela Island

Isabela Island is the largest and one of the youngest islands in the Galapagos archipelago. We land in Puerto Villamil and head up to the highlands to the volcano rim. Sierra Negra is the second widest crater in the world. From this viewpoint, you have fantastic sights to the 6 x 5 -mile-wide crater, the rest of the volcanoes, and Perry Isthmus, a 12 Km wide lava field.

Day 3 AM: Punta Moreno, Isabela Island

Punta Moreno is located on the north coast of Isabela Island between the volcano Sierra Negra and Cerro Azul volcano. The trail runs along a lava flow Pahohoe (solidified lava in the form of corrugated or an accordion) into a complex of coastal lagoons, its main attraction are several species of birds which can be found around this lakes and mangroves.

PM: Elizabeth Bay, Isabela Island

This is a marine visitor site. The excursion continues into a cove surrounded by red mangroves. It is here that you are able to observe sea turtles, flightless cormorants, spotted eagle rays, golden rays, brown pelicans and sea lions. Frequently visitors have been able to see Galapagos Hawks soaring overhead whilst schools of Pompano and Dorado fish swim below

DAY 4 AM: Punta Espinoza, Fernandina Island

Fernandina is the third largest island in the archipelago and has a single visitor site: Punta Espinoza located at the northeastern tip of the island. Just across Tagus Cove, is a visitor site where some of the unique species of the Galapagos can be seen. Marine iguanas large groups, bask on the rocks and sand and swimming near the shore. Among the unique species found here, is the Flightless

Cormorant. A bird that due to the lack of predators had to adjust their way of survival and improve their skills of finding food in the ocean. To see these birds, is to witness evolution happening right in front of you

PM: Tagus Cove, Isabela Island

Tagus Cove, a tour along the cliffs gives the visitors a good chance to see the Galapagos penguin, the flightless cormorant and other sea birds. From the landing dock it is about a 30 minute walk along the trail up to where you can view Darwin Lake - saltier than the sea. You can also see several volcanoes from this location. Look carefully at the graffiti on the surrounding cliffs of the cove, it has been written by pirates, whalers and buccaneers of past centuries.

DAY 5 AM: Espumilla Beach, Santiago Island

Espumilla beach is located in northern coast of Santiago Island in James Bay. The main attractions are the Palo Santo forest and the marvelous landscape. The beach is an important site for nesting marine turtles.

PM: Puerto Egas, Santiago Island

Its black beach is located at the west side of the island and is the main attraction of the island. Their volcanic tuff deposits have favored the formation of this special black sand beach.

This site is called Puerto Egas, because there was an attempt of company of Hector Egas, to start the exploitation of salt, which failed because the price of salt in the continent was very cheap, and did not justify its exploitation in Galapagos. The project was abandoned and they left their infrastructure.

DAY 6 AM: Isla Lobos, San Cristobal

This little island is reach at approx 1 hour by panga from Port Baquerizo Moreno, the capital of the Island. The trail will lead across a dry vegetation zone, volcanic landscapes and sandy areas. There is a small population of blue-footed boobies and frigate birds, which nest in this site. At the beach you will see a large colony of sea lions. It is common to see shorebirds.

After your visit to Isla Lobos, transfer to the airport in San Cristobal and Flight back to Quito or Guayaquil.

Meals include as per final itinerary: B = Continental breakfast, D= Dinner

We reserve the right to make changes to this itinerary without notice subject to availability at time of booking or should events make this necessary.

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