

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

& AMAZON RAIN FOREST



WITH MICHIGAN PUBLIC

January 17 - 27, 2027

You're invited! Join friends of Michigan Public on an unforgettable journey to the Amazon Rainforest and the legendary Galápagos Islands. In the Amazon, venture deep into one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on Earth, where dense emerald canopies shelter vibrant birdlife, playful monkeys, and elusive wildlife. Glide along winding riverways and experience the sights and sounds of the jungle, from dawn choruses to the symphony of nocturnal life.

While based on the island of Santa Cruz, we'll spend our days exploring nearby islands such as North Seymour, Santa Fe, and the Plaza Islands. Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and encounter remarkable species found nowhere else on Earth. Certified naturalists will deepen your understanding of the region's extraordinary wildlife and fragile ecosystems.

Join friends and fellow public radio enthusiasts to commune with iguanas and snorkel with sea lions on this extraordinary adventure with Michigan Public!

TRIP AT A GLANCE

3 Nights Quito

4 Nights Galápagos Islands

2 Nights Casa del Suizo - Amazon Rainforest



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA

Tel: 206.842.9775

www.EarthboundExpeditions.com



Discover Quito's historic center

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Amazon rainforest ♦ Explore the Galápagos Islands with expert naturalists ♦ Charles Darwin Research Station ♦ Unequaled diversity of wildlife ♦ Snorkeling with marine life ♦ Opportunities for hikes and nature walks ♦ Historic walking tour of the old colonial town of Quito, a World Heritage Site ♦ Colorful markets ♦ Knowledgeable, experienced local guides ♦ Intimate dining experiences ♦ Soak in hot springs ♦ Travel with like-minded public radio listeners

IT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ Travel with **Michigan Public**
- ✓ Full-time bilingual tour guide and naturalist
- ✓ Airport & hotel transfers in Ecuador for all guests arriving the day the tour begins
- ✓ Five days of island hopping and exploration in the Galápagos Islands
- ✓ Three days in the Amazon Rainforest
- ✓ Domestic flights to/from the Galápagos Islands
- ✓ Accommodation in charming superior 4-star hotels and lodges
- ✓ All breakfasts plus 17 additional multi-course meals
- ✓ Galápagos National Park Maps
- ✓ Gratuities for your tour guide and drivers
- ✓ Pre-tour suggested reading list
- ✓ Alumni appreciation discounts applied toward future expeditions
- ✓ A small, fun group of soon-to-be public radio friends!

NOT INCLUDED

- ✓ Round-trip air from the USA to Ecuador (*optional group air available*)
- ✓ Travel Insurance
- ✓ Anything not listed on the itinerary
- ✓ \$200 Galápagos Islands National Park entrance fee



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TRIP FACTS AND PRICING



11 Days/ 10 Nights (*not including air package below*)

\$6,995 per person double occupancy

\$2,595 single supplement

Trip begins: Quito on January 17, 2027 in the evening

Trip ends: Quito airport on January 27

*Note: Flights on Delta depart at approx. 1:00am for Atlanta

\$1,195 Optional Group Air on Delta (via Atlanta)

A group air option is available for your convenience, offering a streamlined booking process; however, many travelers find there are advantages to booking independently on the same flight, including greater flexibility and control over their reservations such as preferred seating, upgrades, etc. Airport transfers on arrival day are included for all travelers, *regardless of whether you join the group flight or make your own arrangements*. Fuel surcharges may be added by Delta at a later date.

**A minimum number of travelers is required to fulfill the group air option. If this minimum is not met, travelers will need to make independent flight reservations.

SAVE UP TO \$200!

- ✓ Pay your final balance by check and save \$100
- ✓ Michigan Public and Earthbound travel alumni save \$100



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Explore the Galapagos Islands

YOUR ADVENTURE BEGINS ...

Meal Key: B = Breakfast / L = Lunch / D = Dinner

DAY 1: Sunday, January 17 – Depart/ Arrive in Quito, Ecuador

Your exciting expedition to Ecuador begins today as you board your flight. After a late evening arrival in Quito, meet your local tour director at the airport and transfer to your deluxe hotel in central Quito. *Overnight in Quito*

DAY 2: Monday, January 18 – Highlights of Historic Quito: A World Heritage Site

On a guided mid-morning tour of Quito, you'll learn about its colonial past, history and culture. Visit the Old Town and see the Church of San Francisco, one of the first religious buildings constructed in South America by the Spanish. See the facade of La Compania, the city's most ornate church. Admire the spectacular views of the Valley of Tumbaco. And on a clear day, you can see the impressive volcanoes surrounding the city. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. *Overnight in Quito (B, L)*

DAY 3: Tuesday, January 19 - East to the Amazon Jungle

After breakfast, transfer by bus to La Punta Ahuano on the Napo River where you will board a canoe that will take you to your Amazon lodge. Enjoy the tranquility of the lodge and prepare to be amazed by both the wildlife and the Amazon culture. In the afternoon, visit Ahuano village for the opportunity to meet a local Quechua family and learn about their way of life before returning to the hotel. In the evening, dine together at the lodge. *Overnight in the Amazon Rainforest at Casa del Suizo (B, L, D)*



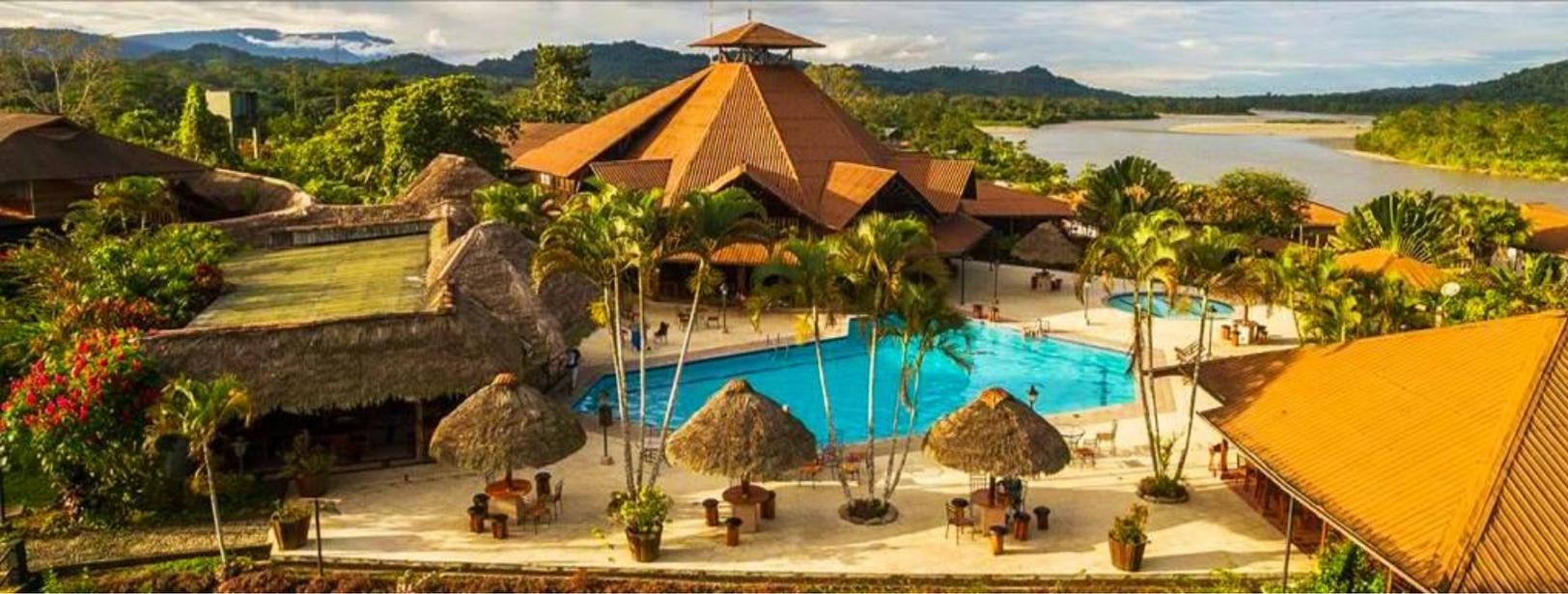
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La Casa del Suizo Lodge, Amazon Rainforest

DAY 4: Wednesday, January 20- A Full Day in a Private Nature Reserve

This morning, after a canoe ride you can hike in the Misicocha Private Nature Reserve for approximately two hours while viewing the beautiful flora and fauna up-close. The Amazon Rainforest is the world's largest ecosystem, so be sure to keep an eye out for the innumerable species of tropical plants and insects. Enjoy the views as you cross suspended bridges and fly through the rain forest on a short zip line basket ride. At the end of the hike, take a rafting trip on a traditional balsa log raft. The balance of the day is at leisure. You may choose one of the optional tours, such as the Rescue Center or the Canopy Adventure Park. Tonight, savor dinner with the group at the lodge. *Overnight in the Amazon Rainforest at Casa del Suizo (B, L, D)*

DAY 5: Thursday, January 21 - The Andes Cloud Forest via Natural Hot Springs

This morning, board a canoe for the return trip to La Punta Ahuano and enjoy a scenic drive through small villages, stopping for lunch in Tena. After lunch, continue to the hot springs at Papallacta, tucked away in the Andes Mountains. After relaxing at Papallacta hot springs, we continue on to the Wyndham Quito airport hotel for an overnight and dinner. *Overnight near Quito airport (B, L, D)*

DAY 6: Friday, January 22 – Off to the Galapagos Islands

After an early breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight to the Galápagos Islands where you will spend the next five days island hopping with your naturalist. Upon arrival in Baltra you'll board the ferry for a short transfer to Santa Cruz Island and then continue by motor coach to Puerto Ayora. Passing through the highlands of Santa Cruz, you'll see the enormous change in vegetation from dry areas full of cacti to rainforest and fern zones. This afternoon, visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn about island conservation and the huge efforts to preserve this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy an independent lunch at a local restaurant. This evening we'll have a "welcome to the islands" dinner at a local restaurant. *Overnight in Puerto Ayora (B, D)*



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Snorkel, swim & Experience the best of the Galapagos

“The love for all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man.”

– Charles Darwin



DAYS 7, 8 & 9: January 23, 24, & 25 - Explore the Galapagos Islands

Over the course of the next three days you'll enjoy private full-day yacht excursions to nearby islands. Each of these islands has its own unique beauty to offer. North Seymour is a flat island and home to magnificent frigatebirds and blue-footed boobies. South Plaza Island is home to a large colony of sea lions and offers excellent examples of the typical flora like towering cacti “trees” which form the principal diet for land iguanas and cactus finch. Bartholomew Island is a tiny island which boasts one of the most spectacular views of the archipelago from Pinnacle Rock. Climb to the 375-foot peak to enjoy this stunning view. Santa Fe is one of the oldest islands in the Galápagos, and in its tranquil bay, you may find green sea turtles and spotted eagle rays while sea lions bask in the sun on the beach. *Overnight in Puerto Ayora (B, L, D)*



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See the renowned giant tortoises of the Galapagos

DAY 10: Tuesday, January 26 - Fly from the Galapagos to Quito

This morning is at your leisure. Later, transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito.

Upon arrival in Quito (4:30pm-5:30pm), you'll be met and transferred to a nearby 4-star hotel. Relax in a private hotel room and enjoy dinner at the hotel before returning to the airport for your international flight home. Most flights to the US depart very late in the evening or in the wee hours of the early morning. (B, D)

***Note:** If you book independently, please book your return flight for the evening of January 26 (11pm or later). If you are unable to find a suitable flight that night or in the early hours of January 27 your complimentary hotel room will remain available until 1:00pm on January 27 for your convenience.

DAY 12: Wednesday, January 27 - Group flight returns to the USA

- Itinerary Subject to Change -



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DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE ISLAND HOPPING

This list is intended as a sampling of the islands that may be visited while in the Galapagos archipelago. The exact itinerary will depend on weather conditions and National Park permit.



BARTOLOMÉ ISLAND

Bartolomé is one of the "younger" islands in the Galápagos archipelago. This island, and Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island, are named after naturalist and lifelong friend of Charles Darwin, Sir Bartolome James Sullivan, who was a lieutenant aboard HMS Beagle. With a total land area of just .5 square miles, this island offers some of the most beautiful landscapes in the archipelago. The island consists of an extinct

volcano and a variety of red, orange, green, and glistening black volcanic formations. Bartolomé has a volcanic cone that is easy to climb and provides great views of the other islands. Bartolomé is famous for its Pinnacle Rock, which is the distinctive characteristic of this island, and the most representative landmark of the Galápagos.

It has two visitor sites. At the first one, one may swim and snorkel around Pinnacle Rock; the underwater world there is impressive. Snorkelers are in the water with penguins, marine turtles, white-tipped reef sharks, and other tropical fish. The bay is also an excellent place to go swimming. The twin bays are separated by a narrow isthmus. Galápagos penguins are frequently seen and a small cave behind Pinnacle Rock houses a breeding colony. Seasonally, Bartolomé is the mating and nesting site for green turtles. The herons use the gentler beaches.

NORTH SEYMOUR

The endemic plant of this island is the lignum vitae tree, an icon of the site. In the summertime they look like dead trees, but after the winter rains, they become green overnight giving the island a very special appearance. Other plant species abundant in the area are the Opuntia cactus, Croton, Castile and Sesuvium. Sometimes you can watch green iguanas taking shade under bushes. These animals were introduced in Seymour to test whether they can survive another landscape as they are found usually in Baltra. Frigates can be observed along the walking trail along with other species such as lava gulls, sea lions, brown terns, pelicans, and tropical birds.



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ISLA SANTA FE

Santa Fe Island, also called Barrington Island after Admiral Samuel Barrington, is a small island of 9 mi² which lies in the center of the Galápagos archipelago. Geologically it is one of the oldest, since volcanic rocks of about 4 million years old have been found here. The vegetation of the island is characterized by brush, palo santo trees and stands of a large variety of the prickly pear cactus *opuntia echios*.

The visitor sites are Barrington Bay on the northeastern side. There is great snorkeling with white tip sharks, sea turtles, rays, and colorful fish. Large numbers of sea lions are found in the bay.

PLAZA ISLANDS

Just east of Santa Cruz Island, the Plaza Islands are distinct for their native populations of flora and fauna, but only South Plaza Island has a landing site. As you cross the jet-black lava rock, you will see one of the largest populations of land iguanas in the Galápagos Islands and one of the most unique. It's here where male marine iguanas have bred with female land iguanas to create the only hybrid land/marine iguanas in the archipelago. The remaining land iguanas, though smaller in size than other island populations, feature vibrant yellows and reds and enjoy the local delicacies of *Opuntia* cacti and the indigenous *Sesuvium*. Visitors will also see several big groups of sea lions, including one significant bachelor colony.



QUESTIONS & RESERVATIONS

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Know Before You Go!

Reservations and Deposits: A \$1,000 per person deposit is needed to confirm your space on this journey. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee, for 60 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made 90 days prior to a trip departing are not refundable. Final payment is also non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

Not Included: International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for hotel staff, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

Physical Requirements: It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. [Click here](#) to read “Is an Earthbound trip right for you?” or call the Earthbound office for more details.

Active Days on Shore and at Sea:

This journey includes transportation by boat (in the islands) and motorized canoe (in the Amazon). Walking tours/hikes may last 2-3 hours and could include gentle walks of up to two miles, often on uneven or cobblestone surfaces. Now is the time to prepare by ensuring you're comfortable being on your feet for extended periods. You're always welcome to relax at a café or opt out of any activity. Additionally, there may be times when you need to handle your own luggage so pack light and make sure your bags are easy to carry. A little preparation will go a long way in making your Ecuador adventure comfortable and enjoyable!

Travel Insurance: Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

Events and Hosted Journeys: If a planned event is cancelled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents, and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

Terms & Conditions: [Click here](#) to read the full terms and conditions.



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