

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

& AMAZON RAIN FOREST



With Garden Host, Joe Lamp'l

January 9 - 19, 2026



You're invited! Please join me, Joe Lamp'l - on an unforgettable journey to the legendary Galápagos Islands and Amazon Rainforest of Ecuador. While based on the island of Santa Cruz we'll spend our days exploring the many nearby islands of North Seymour, Santa Fe and Plaza Islands. Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and encounter remarkable species unknown anywhere else on earth. Certified naturalists will enlighten and expand your understanding of the amazing creatures and unparalleled diversity of the Amazon Rainforest. Come commune with the iguanas and snorkel with sea lions on this amazing adventure with like-minded friends who share your passion for learning.

TRIP AT A GLANCE

3 Nights Quito

2 Nights Casa del Suizo - Amazon Rainforest

5 Nights Galápagos Islands



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.

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

Tel: 206.842.9775

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Discover Quito's historic center

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Explore the Galápagos Islands with naturalists ♦ Charles Darwin Research Station ♦ Unequalled diversity of wildlife ♦ Snorkeling with marine life ♦ Opportunities for short hikes on the Galápagos Islands ♦ Historic walking tour of the old colonial town of Quito, a World Heritage Site ♦ Knowledgeable, experienced local guides ♦ Intimate dining experiences ♦ A full day excursion to local markets and hot springs ♦ Travel with like-minded listeners

IT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ With garden expert, Joe Lamp'l
- ✓ Full-time bilingual tour guide and naturalist
- ✓ Airport and hotel transfers in Ecuador with professional guides and drivers
- ✓ Six days of island hopping and exploration in the Galápagos Islands
- ✓ Three days in the Amazon Rainforest
- ✓ Domestic flights to/from the Galápagos Islands
- ✓ Accommodations in charming superior 3 and 4-star hotels and lodges
- ✓ All breakfasts plus 18 additional multi-course meals
- ✓ Galápagos National Park Maps
- ✓ Gratuities for your tour guide and drivers are included. Additional tips for hotel staff, naturalists, and local drivers are always appreciated and may be given at your discretion.
- ✓ Pre-tour suggested reading list
- ✓ Alumni appreciation discounts applied toward future expeditions
- ✓ A small, fun group of soon-to-be friends!

NOT INCLUDED

- ✓ Round-trip air from the USA to Ecuador
- ✓ 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 travel)

\$7,750 per person double occupancy

\$1,950 single supplement

Trip begins in Quito on January 9, 2026

Trip ends in Quito on January 19

SAVE UP TO \$300!

- ✓ Reserve by September 1, 2025 and save \$100
- ✓ Pay your final balance by check and save \$100
- ✓ Earthbound travel alumni save \$100



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YOUR ADVENTURE BEGINS ...

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

DAY 1: January 9 - Depart for 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: January 10 - Discover Quito and the Botanic Gardens

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, the first religious building constructed in South America by the Spaniards. 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. Afterwards continue your visit to the local botanical gardens to observe a diversity of plants from different altitudes and ecosystems. *Overnight in Quito (B, L)*

DAY 3: January 11 - East to the Amazon

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: January 12 - 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, including such as the Rescue Center or 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: January 13 - The Andes Cloud Forest and 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: January 14 - Fly West 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



DAYS 7, 8 & 9: January 15, 16, & 17 - Explore the Galapagos Islands

Over the course of the next four days you'll enjoy full-day boat excursions to many of the nearby islands. Each of these islands has its own unique beauty to offer. North Seymour is a flat island and home to magnificent frigate birds like the 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 of the Galápagos and in its tranquil bay, one can find green sea turtles and spotted eagle rays while sea lions bask in sun on the beach. *Overnight in Puerto Ayora (B, L, D)*

DAY 10: January 18 - Relax on Santa Cruz Island

Today explore Tortuga Bay and a local beach near the town of Santa Cruz. Here you can just enjoy the beach and have a relaxing time. There is also the option to rent a kayak here. Later this morning, transfer by a local boat to the pier where a bus will be waiting to take us to the highlands of Santa Cruz. Along the way there is lunch at a local ranch, a visit to a lava tunnel, and visit to see the famous giant tortoises in their natural environment. Return to the hotel in time for a farewell dinner. *Overnight in Puerto Ayora (B, L, D)*



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DAY 11: January 19 - 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, rest, and enjoy dinner at the hotel before returning to the airport for your international flight home. Note: Most flights to the US, depart very late in the evening. (B, D)

***Note:** Please book your return flight for the evening of January 19 (11:00 PM or later). If you are unable to find a suitable flight that night or in the early hours of January 20, your hotel room will remain available until 1:00 PM on January 20 for your convenience.

- Itinerary Subject to Change -



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DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE ISLAND HOPPING

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



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 really impressive. Snorkelers are in the water with the 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 the 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*, *Castille* 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, 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 AND 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 in 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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Meet Your Host!



Joe Lamp'ol is the host and executive producer of the Emmy Award-winning national series *Growing a Greener World* on PBS, currently airing in 96% of the US and in 38 countries. He has been featured on NBC's *Today Show*, ABC's *Good Morning America*, The Weather Channel, and the DIY Network.

Joe has been the recipient of The American Horticultural Society's B.Y. Morrison Communication Award, which recognizes effective and inspirational communication, as well as the Garden Writers Association Gold Award for Best On-Air Talent, and more.

Joe has traveled the US and beyond showing people beautiful gardens and, more importantly, telling the stories of the people behind those gardens. Joe aims to highlight the heroes doing great things for the planet through organic gardening, green living, small farming, and simple yet significant ways to lighten their footprint on this planet.

Joe lives with his family on their north Atlanta, Georgia farm.



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