



**SCIENCE TRAVEL  
ADVENTURES**



## **ECUADOR HIGHLANDS AND GALAPAGOS ADVENTURE**

### **Day 1:**

Flight to Quito and meet guide and driver at airport. Transfer to hotel for the evening.

### **Day 2:**

Early morning drive to Papallacta for a hike to a lagoon and lunch and afternoon swim in hot springs and cold-water pools. Transfer to Otavalo and check into hotel..

### **Day 3:**

Morning hike to Peguche waterfall before heading to the Otavalo market that's full of local artisan goods. After lunch visit with indigenous musicians and make your own instrument. Visit a bird rescue center to see giant condors and other birds.

### **Day 4:**

Learn how various fabrics and textiles are made at a family-run textile store. Take a hike and boat ride on a crater lake at the edge of a volcano. Stop in an artisan town that is famous for its leather goods. Transfer to a hotel near the airport.

### **Day 5:**

Early morning flight to Santa Cruz Island in the Galapagos. Visits to Twin Craters, lava tunnels and giant tortoise reserve. In the afternoon, head to the beach for some swimming and snorkeling practice.

### **Day 6:**

Today is a half-day snorkel excursion. Swim with turtles and lots of fish. Maybe catch a glimpse of a marine iguana. In the afternoon visit the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Fausto Llerena Breeding center to learn about giant tortoise conservation efforts. Dinner is on your own this day.

### **Day 7:**

Full day boat excursion to Daphne Island. This is a volcanic crater formation without trees. We'll visit a few different places with outstanding snorkeling and beach swimming. We should see some spectacular marine wildlife on today's adventure. Dinner is on your own this day.

### **Day 8:**

Boat transfer to San Cristobal Island. Hike a volcanic formation and visit a crater lagoon. Visit another giant tortoise reserve and see the difference between tortoise species on different islands. In the afternoon, spend some relaxing time at Puerto Chino beach.

### **Day 9:**

Today we will be swimming and snorkeling at La Loberia. This beach is known for its sea lions. Swim and snorkel alongside the playful sea lions. We'll take a small hike to Tijeretas Mirador Trail and Cove. There will be a chance for more snorkeling and some free time at a calm beach. Dinner is on your own this day.

### **Day 10:**

Day boat trip to Kicker Rock (León Dormido) for snorkeling and exploring. Another chance to see some amazing wildlife. Kicker Rock is a spectacular formation and a great final snorkel adventure.

### **Day 11:**

Fly back to Quito for an overnight near the airport. Lunch is on your own this day.

### **Day 12:**

Early flight back home. Meals are on your own this day.