

*Your philosophy is ours, let the Journey begin.*

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## *Ecuador, The Complete Journey*

*With little more than 256 thousand square kilometers, this year round destination is warm even in its coldest areas. It holds its 13 million inhabitants in 4 worlds: the Amazon, the Highlands, the Coastline and the unique Galapagos Islands, each one with palpable differences. This South American little country is specially a marvel for adventures immersed in nature.*

*The **Complete Journey** is designed to give a sensation of having seeing it and done it all. With 3 weeks of activities ranging from trekking to diving -with different levels of difficulty-, Ecuador will become a great challenge, achieved.*

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*Vegetarian Travel by*  
**Ceres Journey**

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Page 1 of 12

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## Chapter I

### -----The Capital, Volcanoes and The Amazon-----

#### 1.1

*After a long trip, your flight will arrive at night to the Capital city of Quito. A **Ceres Journey** representative will meet you at the airport and drive you to your hotel located in the old city center. Free time to rest.*

#### 1.2

*After breakfast and dressed to cope with a city located 2850 meters above sea level, we will start our tour in the Historical Center, where, among other things, we will see the Presidential Palace and the Compañía church, a building from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. After lunch we will go just outside the city to visit the Línea Ecuatorial museum of the, the middle of the world.  
Back to the hotel for dinner.*



### 1.3

*Following breakfast and already used to the height, we will drive to the Rumiñahui volcano with the purpose of climbing it. Our starting point will be Hacienda El Porvenir (3600 meters - 11,808 feet). The trail up takes about 4 hours to the top. A box-lunch awaits us and we will get ready to return to the Hacienda to be picked up and taken back to Quito.*

### 1.4

*North of Quito, we will find the Imbabura province, special for its lakes and plantations. In one day, this Journey will show us the ancient cultures of the region, its arts and simple lifestyle. A stop in the Otavalo market is a great point for purchasing handicrafts. Back to Quito at night.*

### 1.5

*With our bags packed, we leave the hotel behind early in the morning to travel by car for 4 hours to the Napo province, where we will find our lodge in the Amazon jungle.*

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*After the long drive we will have time to relax en the cabins, dinner and a meeting around the fire to discuss the activities for the next days.*

## **1.6**

*Today, we will discover the medicinal and cultural use of several plants as we listen to the sounds of various animals. A visit to a butterfly farm and a traditional ceremony performed by a local shaman will be the activities of the day. At night we will embark on a walk searching for night activity. Early in the morning and after breakfast we will get our boots and raincoats ready to take a canoe trip through the Napo river. Arriving to the Arajuno river we will get off our transportation and visit the Animals Rescue Center called AMAZONICO, specialized in rescuing wild animals for their conservation and reinsertion to their natural habitat. We will be able to see jaguars, monkeys and more.*

*Lunch will be on the river bank, picnic style. You will have the opportunity to swim or just enjoy the view.*

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*On the way back we will make a stop in one of the indigenous communities of the Napo river and visit a Quichua family, who will show us their ancient traditions. Dinner and time around the fire.*

### **1.7**

*Today we will enjoy the ALTO NAPO river, locally known as Jatunyacu river, which means Big Water in Quichua language. It will be a great trip for experts as well as for beginners; it has a perfect combination of rapids and calmed natural pools to be enjoyed by anyone.*

*In teh afternoon we will walk along a primary forest oberving plants and insects of all kinds; with some luck, we will observe a great amount of birds and different monkey species. Back to the lodge late in the afternoon.*

### **1.8**

*Depart to the Quito airport to fly to Guayaquil, port of the country.*



## Chapter 2

### -----Port City, Montubios and Waterfalls-----

#### 2.1

*Arrival to Guayaquil in the afternoon, with a humid and hot weather. After checking in, we will go out for dinner and later to a view point to realize just how big the city is.*

#### 2.2

*After breakfast we will do a city tour, visiting the Administration Square, monuments and the Iguanas Park. Afterwards we will go through the Malec3n Simon Bolivar, admiring the Torre Morisca and Hemiciclo de La Rotonda where we can find the statues of Sim3n Bol3var y San Mart3n. We will finish at the Las Pe3as neighborhood, the oldest area of the city, where we will climb up the stairs of the Santa Ana Hill for a great view.*

*The we will procede to the Parque Hist3rico de Guayaquil, park with a surface of 8 hectares and made aout of 3 areas showing: flora and fauna of the local*



*ecosystem and certain fauna species that already banished from the earth, rural and traditional Montubio architecture, clothing, daily life objects and architecture elements from Guayaquil in the 1900s.*

### **2.3**

*After breakfast, we will drive to Bucay, community 2 hours from the city, where several waterfalls have been created through time due to the Andes movements. Our adventure today will be canyoning –or waterfall descent-. This activity requires concentration but not previous experience. We will have lunch picnic style.*

### **2.4**

*We will leave the hotel early in the morning with our luggage to take a flight of 2 hours to the wonderful Galapagos Islands.*



## Chapter 3

### ----- Galapagos -----

#### 3.1

The following itinerary might change depending of the day of the week we start our cruise.

*A morning flight takes you to beautiful Baltra Island, the gateway to the Galápagos. Enjoy lunch aboard our cruise. This afternoon, disembark at Bartholome Island, known for its spectacular volcanic formations. At the summit of the island, enjoy a panoramic view of the surrounding islands and the famous eroded tuff cone of Pinnacle Rock. Hike to the summit and view lava lizards, tequila, and various cacti enroute. You will also have the opportunity to snorkel to see Galápagos penguins, sea turtles, and white tipped sharks from a safe distance!.*



### **3.2**

*Isabela Island (Urbina Bay) and Fernandina Island (Espinosa Point)*

*Explore Isabela Island where you will visit the incredible fossil beach and coral area. Depending on the season, you may be able to observe giant tortoises, land iguanas, and flightless cormorants along the beach. After the nature walk, snorkel in the warm waters of Urbina Bay. Sail on to wondrous Fernandina Island, where you will see oversized marine iguanas mingling with Sally Lightfoot crabs and sea lions sharing the beach with Galápagos penguins. In addition to the diverse wildlife, look for brachycereus cacti, dramatic lava formations, and vast mangrove beds that extend into the sea.*

### **3.3**

*Santiago (Egas Port) and Rabida (Jervis)*

*Today you will explore Santiago, whose landscape is characterized by tuff-stone layers and lava flows. Birdwatchers will want to look out for hunting herons, great blue herons, lava herons, yellow crowned night herons, and oyster catchers. You may also see marine iguanas grazing on algae beds, fur seals frolicking in deep pools of cool water, and coral-colored crabs teetering along the rocky*



*shore. Your next stop is the island of Rabida, the geographic center of Galápagos, with the most diverse volcanic rocks on the islands. The island's volcanic beach is covered in dark red sand and sea lions. During your exploration you will hike to the scenic salt water lagoon, frequented by graceful flamingos. If you are visiting between July and September, you are likely to see brown pelicans nesting in the salty bushes. The eccentric boobies and nine species of Darwin's finches can also be observed here. Cap off your day of sightseeing stargazing from the deck—with no lights around to spoil their splendor, the night sky is especially vivid.*

### **3.4**

#### *Santa Cruz and Charles Darwin Research Station*

*Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, a world-class facility where international scientists conduct biological research and conservation projects. See the famous giant tortoises that are part of the station's breeding program. Later, trek through the highlands of Santa Cruz to visit breathtaking Cerro Chato, where you'll find more of the giant tortoises that gave the islands their name. These gentle giants are sure to impress you with their size and humble beauty. Finally, you may choose to walk inside the dormant lava tubes for an incredible glimpse into the turbulent formation of these islands.*

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### **3.5**

*Santa Cruz, Baltra Island.*

*Today you will experience Bachas Beach, a stunning white sand beach located on the north side of Santa Cruz Island. Among the sand and surf, you're bound to find many of the sea birds, marine iguanas, and sea turtles that make their home at Bachas Beach. You'll also have the opportunity to take a dip in the clear turquoise waters. Later, return to the cruise to check out and transfer back to Baltra's airport to fly back to Guayaquil or Quito.*

### **3.6**

*Check out early from the airport to take the flight back home.*



## *The Complete Journey Characteristics*

*Each chapter of this Journey can be combined and taken independently from each other.*

*All meals (3 per day) are included and composed by vegetarian menus.*

*Extensions to other destinations are available upon request.*

*Vegan meals are available only in Guayaquil.*

*Always kids & family friendly.*

*Accommodation is available in 4 & 5 stars options.*

*Guidance can be provided in French, English & Spanish.*

*In Galapagos you can choose between hotel based tours and cruise based tours.*

*Transportation between Chapters is arranged according to budget (train & plane).*

*Journeys are unavailable on certain seasons; please inquire about our annual calendar.*