

Singles Travel Company

Vacations for Singles of All Ages

Singles Trip Galapagos Islands Cruise & Quito, Ecuador Adventure



Galapagos Islands & Quito, Ecuador

Land & Cruise Adventure

September 4-12, 2010 (Labor Day Week)

This trip offers you a chance to see the Galapagos Islands with our singles group for an adventure of a lifetime!

We'll be exploring the islands in style with our stay on the intimate 90-passenger ship *M/V Santa Cruz*, just small enough to be able to interact with and meet your fellow travelers. All meals, lectures, shore excursions and cultural programs led by naturalist guides are included! The ships' naturalist guides will assist us in exploring, learning, snorkeling, and enjoying our wonderful vacation in this island paradise; it's one of the most unique areas in the world!

However, it doesn't end there- we'll also spend time in Quito, which is a wonderful mix of the old and new world -- walk the narrow cobblestone streets of colonial Quito on our city tour; free time to explore even more of what Quito offers and visit the surrounding countryside which includes a trip to the Equator! Also, included is a full day to the world famous Otavalo Indian Market, where we'll have time to wander through this sprawling, colorful marketplace-the largest in South America!

Price Includes All of the Following.....

- Departure transfer in Quito to airport-see restrictions below
- Roundtrip transfers to/from airport for flight to the islands and ship
- Roundtrip flights (2) from Quito to Galapagos & fuel surcharge
- Local English Speaking Tour Guides on tours
- Land Tour-4 Nights total accommodation nights at the Vieja Cuba hotel in Quito
 - (2 nights prior to cruise and 2 after cruise)
- Cruise Tour-4 Nights on board the *M/V Santa Cruz*- First Class Ship
 - Main deck-outside cabins
- All hotel taxes, service charges, gratuities at hotel and for meals, and porters
- We have included the **Galapagos Park fees** and Visa tax!!
- 17 Total Meals (7 Breakfasts (B), 5 lunches (L), 5 dinners (D)) including
 - lunch on excursion to Otavalo Market
 - farewell dinner in Quito
 - all meals while on board the ship
- Professional Naturalist Guide on board our ship
- ALL MEALS INCLUDED on board our ship
- ALL LECTURES INCLUDED on board our ship
- ALL SHORE EXCURSIONS INCLUDED on board our ship
- Experienced Singles Travel Company Representative (restrictions apply)
- Free roommate matching to save on single room accommodations



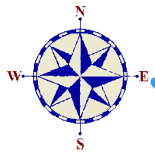
Sightseeing and excursions as follows...

- Quito city tour with local guide: cross the Equator-step from one hemisphere to the other: see highlights of colonial Quito; Panecillo Hill for a panoramic view of the city and surrounding snow-covered volcanic peaks
- Full day Otavalo Market tour with a professional, local guide: see the Guayllabamba Gorge and the fertile Guayllabamba Valley enroute.
- Visit Charles Darwin Research Station in the islands
- **Visit these Galapagos Islands and sights**
 - Baltra
 - Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill) (Santa Cruz Island)
 - Bartolomé Island
 - Puerto Egas (Santiago (James) Island)
 - Rabida Island (Jervis)
 - North Seymour Island
 - Highlands of Santa Cruz Island
 - Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristóbal (Chatham) Island)

Singles Travel Company ♦ CST# 1002864-10

56 North Santa Cruz Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95030 ♦ (408) 354-6531 ♦ 1 (888) 286-8687 ♦ Fax (408) 354-3871

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Our Ship *M/V Santa Cruz*

Bar – Lounge – Boutique - Gift Shop - Email – Radio – Telephone - PA system - Snorkeling equipment- Air conditioned – Naturalists guides- Multimedia natural history lectures -

Stargazing Program -Glass bottom boat for underwater observation – Jacuzzi – Reading Room and Natural History Library

- Category: Luxury Cruise Ship
- All cabins- private bathrooms, air-conditioned
- Decks- 3: Boat Deck, Main Deck, Upper Deck
- Length 237 ft., Beam 39 ft., Draft 13 ft.
- Passengers- 90; Crew: 52 with Medical Officer
- Speed: 13 Knots Cruising, Gross Tonnage: 1675
- Built in: Built in Bilbao, Spain in 1979 and reconstructed in Talcahuano, Chile in 1998
- Electric Power: 110 Volts in the cabins with 220 Volt sockets available in Reception & Dining area
- Guides: Multilingual naturalists
- Owned/operated by ETICA/Metropolitan Touring
- Safety: ABS classification: +A1E + AMS #7907 853
SOLAS (safety of life at sea)
ISM certificate Complying with the IMO resolution A.788(19)
Automatic fire controls
Life Jackets: In each cabin
Lifeboats: Two 66-man, two 25-man
Life Rafts: Two 16-man, two 10-man
Zodiacs: 5 for ship to shore transportation



Galapagos Facts-

The *Galapagos Islands*, made up of 13 large islands, six smaller islands, and over 40 islets, are located in the Pacific Ocean 600 miles west of the Ecuadorian mainland. Its wonders span from the most varied geological formations of lava flows, blowholes, spatter cones and lava tunnels to beaches of olive, white, or black sand, and the most diverse landscapes and species of animal and plant life.

On some islands you will find red mangroves, scalesia trees and acacias, and/or cactus, micronias and Palo Santo trees. The most surprising sights are the animals, which Charles Darwin saw on his visit in 1835 and he used what he saw to construct his theory of evolution. Some of these animals cannot be found anywhere else on earth! The giant land turtles gave the archipelago its name and other species unique to the islands are the Darwin finch, hawk and marine iguana. Also see Blue-footed Boobies, Swallow-tailed Gulls, bright Yellow Warblers, fur seals, sea lions, frigate birds and free-roaming albatross.



Blessed by their isolation from the mainland and their equatorial location, the Galapagos Islands are beautiful all year through, making it so there is no single time of year that is better than another for visiting. Cruises operate on a year round basis. Temps average 70 degrees in September with little rainfall. Most birds nest year round, so you can see courtship, mating, chicks hatching and rearing almost any time of the year.

When you visit the Galapagos National Park, stick to the following park rules to help preserve the unique flora and fauna on the Islands:

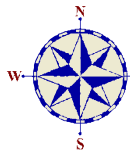
- Do not remove any plant, animal, or remains of such (i.e. shells, bones, & pieces of wood), or other natural objects.
- Be careful not to bring any live material or food to the Islands, or from one island to another.
- Make sure you do not touch, handle, feed, or chase the animals.
- Stay within the permitted areas and only visit the Islands together with a licensed National Park Guide.
- Do not leave any garbage or litter on the Islands, or throw any off your boat.
- Do not deface the rocks.
- Make sure you do not buy souvenirs or objects made of plants or animals from the Islands.

Over 1,900 species of plants and animals in the Galapagos (Darwin's "Enchanted Islands") cannot be found anywhere else on earth!

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Galapagos Islands Cruise & Quito, Ecuador Adventure Land and Cruise Itinerary

Day 1 Sat. Sept. 4 Depart your hometown to Quito, Ecuador

Fly in to Quito, Ecuador from your home city to start your adventure! Transfer to our hotel where we'll be staying for the next 2 nights- the Vieja Cuba Hotel. Depending on your arrival time you can start exploring. This evening there will be a casual welcome get together to meet your fellow travelers and dinner will be at leisure with others from the group.



Our Vieja Cuba Hotel –Quito, Ecuador- 4 Nights



This lovely old colonial house has been renovated with style and flair. The owner, a Cuban immigrant, has spared no expense in the redesign: A soothing fountain in the courtyard and gleaming hardwood floors lead to cozy rooms with exposed brick and modern wood beds. The rooms are simple but rustic and comfortable. Bathrooms have nice mosaic tiles and showers. Everything is very clean and very new. The attractive restaurant downstairs offers homemade dishes and great mojitos. Facilities: Restaurant,



bar, room service 7am-10pm, laundry service. Standard rooms feature private bathrooms and either two twin beds or one double bed.

Day 2 Sun. Sept. 5 Touring Quito and the “Middle of the World”

After breakfast, we take a short drive outside of Quito with our guide to the “Middle of the World” monument and visitor complex, where you'll have fun taking pictures as you cross from one hemisphere to another at the equator- you can step between the world's hemispheres in the blink of an eye.

We return to Quito for a tour of the city. Drive through the residential area and the House of Culture, the University, the Legislative Palace, and Alameda Park. See the highlights of charming colonial Quito, including Independence Square, La Ronda, and La Compania. See cobble-stoned streets, busy plazas, and elegant cathedrals. Then we drive up Panecillo Hill for a panoramic view of the city and surrounding snow-covered volcanic peaks (weather permitting).

Return to your hotel in the afternoon. The rest of the day we can continue exploring this wonderful city and then the evening is at leisure to enjoy the local night scene with new friends from the group-maybe a group dinner to toast our trip. **(B)**

Quito, the capital of Ecuador, is one of the most beautiful cities in South America. Located 9350 ft above sea level and just 14miles south of the Equator, it has a wonderful spring-like climate in a spectacular setting. Vistas in Quito are dominated by mountains and snowcapped volcanoes standing sentinel in the distance; the city itself sits at the foot of 15,400 ft. Pinchincha. Architecturally Quito has plenty of colonial treasures and modern buildings have been strictly controlled in the old town since 1978, when it was declared a World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO. The old center is full of whitewashed houses, red tiled roofs and colonial churches, with no bright neon to disrupt the ambience of the past. The northern part of the city is the new town, containing modern offices, embassies, shopping centers and airline offices.



Day 3 Mon. Sept. 6 Quito to Baltra, Galapagos Islands & Transfer to M/V Santa Cruz

Early this morning we transfer to the airport for our flight to Baltra and the Galapagos Islands and then make our way to the dock to board the M/V SANTA CRUZ to begin our cruise through Darwin's “Enchanted Islands”. Time to explore the ship and we'll have an introductory welcome talk as well as lunch and ship's boat drill.

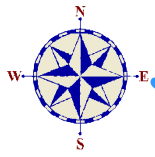
Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill) (Santa Cruz Island)

This afternoon we head to the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, that hosts Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill). Dry landing and a walk that includes a brackish water lagoon frequented by lagoon birds, including stilts, pintail ducks, sandpipers, sanderlings, and more. Further inland offers a beautiful view of the bay and the western area of the archipelago; this area is a natural nesting site for land iguanas and is constantly monitored and assisted by the Charles Darwin Research Station. Great for bird watching for Darwin's finches, Galápagos mockingbirds, the endemic Galápagos flycatcher, and yellow warblers.

Tonight our expedition plan will reveal the interesting sites of the day ahead. **(B,L,D)**

Day 4 Tue. Sept 7 Bartolomé Island & Puerto Egas (Santiago (James) Island)

We disembark at Bartolomé Island (dry landing) for a hike to the summit. This is a steep climb aided by a wooden staircase; the view from the top is worth the effort. Then a dinghy ride around colossal Pinnacle Rock; time to enjoy the beach (wet landing) and snorkeling and with a chance to snorkel next to Galápagos Penguins. There is also the possibility to ride on the glass bottom boat for great views of the underwater world. Lunch on board.



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Our afternoon outing is at Puerto Egas (wet landing). The pitch-black shores are great places for watching sea birds and their foraging duties. The trail brings us to a colony of the endemic Galápagos fur seals. At low tide marine iguanas graze upon emerald green algae beds. Maybe time for snorkeling and swimming from the beach before the walk. Briefing this evening and, if weather is permitting, stargazing on deck. **(B,L,D)**

Day 5 Wed. Sept 8 Rabida Island (Jervis) & North Seymour Island

We disembark at Rabida Island (wet landing) on a red-colored beach which is due to the unusually high content of iron in the volcanic material. A stroll along the beach of this small island (1.9 sq. mi.) allows the observation of a large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's Finches. Hidden behind a strip of green saltbush is a salt pond where at times Greater Flamingos can be found. Also, keep your eyes open for dolphins.

This afternoon see a view of the coast and the interior of North Seymour Island, one of the few uplifted islands in Galápagos Archipelago. Then explore colonies of blue-footed boobies, magnificent frigate birds, and swallow-tail gulls and see Galápagos sea lions and marine iguanas. Vegetation is made up of cacti, Palo Santo trees and Salt Bushes.

Tonight, go over the expedition plan for tomorrow's outings. **(B,L,D)**

Day 6 Thur. Sept 9 Highlands of Santa Cruz Island & Charles Darwin Research Station

A morning bus ride will take us to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island for a special opportunity to view the islands' most famous reptile: the giant tortoises in their wild habitat. The vegetation of the area includes the Scalesia Forest (an endemic giant daisy tree) and the birds are a treat, such as the vermilion flycatcher with its scarlet feathers against an emerald green forest. Look for Darwin's finches, particularly the famous Woodpecker Finch.

At the Charles Darwin Research Station learn about the rearing in captivity program for the giant tortoises and about the efforts and results of all the field work done in the name of science. Giant prickly-pear cactus forest and many land birds can be also seen. Then stroll along the main street of Puerto Ayora to see how Galapagueños live in this magical paradise and browse in the handcraft shops. Then return to our ship for our last evening on board, relax after dinner on the deck, enjoy the stars, and trade stories with your fellow passengers. **(B,L,D)**

Day 7 Fri. Sept 10 Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (San Cristóbal (Chatham) Island) & Fly Baltra to Quito

We disembark at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, a small attractive port that is the provincial capital of the Galápagos Islands (population 4,000), along a crescent-shaped bay. It was this very same island that Charles Darwin first visited, back in September 1835. Visit the San Cristóbal Interpretation Center, where you can obtain information that will help you understand the natural history of the Galápagos, with a great emphasis on human history and conservation. Then stroll through Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, visit souvenir shops before transferring to the airport to take our flight back to the continent.

We return to our hotel, Vieja Cuba Hotel, in the late afternoon for two more nights together in Quito. **(B)**

Day 8 Sat. Sept. 11 Quito-Otavalo Market Excursion



Our highlight today is an excursion to the Otavalo Indian Market, one of the most famous and colorful in all of South America. The Indian fairs and markets of Ecuador are a great look at this small Andean country's vast cultural wealth and its colorful people. Markets are traditional places for people to come and meet, shop, haggle and gossip, while local native tribes trade foodstuffs, animals, utensils, pans, textiles and all kinds of other items. These Indigenous markets provide a great way to get closer to the Ecuadorians; you can bargain over their wares and enjoy the fruit of their industrious hands in their many and varied handicrafts.

Our guide will meet us for a morning departure towards the scenic roads northeast of Quito. First, we descend into the spectacular Guayllabamba Gorge and then climb out into the fertile Guayllabamba Valley. The drive takes under two hours and passes by the dramatic Avenue of the Volcanoes.

As we arrive in Otavalo, often called the Persia of South America, we'll find the market bustling. Otavalenos sell their goods throughout Ecuador, but you will find the best selection and prices here. Otavalo Indians are an aristocratic society and highly skilled weavers. The market stalls sell every kind of craft, from wood carvings and naif paintings to Panama hats and jewelry, to woolen rugs, wall hangings, and knit and embroidered clothing, to name but a few items.

Lunch is included at a charming hacienda. In the afternoon, we head back to Quito, and tonight we bid farewell to this wonderful country, a great vacation and, of course, our fantastic travel companions at our farewell dinner! **(B,L,D)**

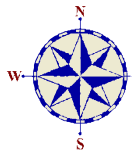
Day 9 Sun. Sept. 12 Quito/ US return

This morning we transfer early to the airport for our flight home! The end of a wonderful adventure and new friends to share the memories with after the trip!

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Price

WE HAVE INCLUDED in the price:

- THE COSTLY (2) AIR FLIGHTS TO/FROM THE ISLANDS (approx \$400)
- THE AIR FUEL SURCHARGE
- THE GALAPAGOS PARK FEE (approx \$110) AND VISA TAX

Prices are based on per person, land & cruise accommodations, meals and activities as listed under 'Price includes all of the following' section in the complete itinerary information above. All cabins are outside on the main deck, with 2 twin beds.

\$2899.00 per person, based on 2 to a cabin/hotel room. Don't forget we can match you with a roommate.

-----Add \$1199.00 to above rate for a ship cabin/hotel room to yourself—very limited availability

Pre and Post Nights –Hotel: \$55 per person in double occupancy; \$110 single occupancy (Price includes breakfast & taxes).

Airfare: International airfare is additional into and out of Quito (UIO), Ecuador. We can check air prices for you or you may purchase your own. We will try and coordinate flights for the group also.

Transfers: \$35- arrival transfer. Departure transfer on day of tour is included as long as you are leaving in the early a.m.

Travel Insurance is highly recommended for many reasons and especially because this is an adventure trip, so please consider the purchase of it carefully. Information will be made available to you upon request and with your deposit. Please inquire.

Price does not include: Items of a personal nature, tips to drivers, guides, shipboard personnel, naturalist (all approximately \$85 for ship personnel); bottled beverages with included meals; wet suit, and Ecuador airport departure tax-approx \$45 per person-paid in country.

Vaccinations/Immunizations: We are traveling to Quito, Ecuador, and the Galapagos Islands. No shots are required for travel, however, you should consult with your health care provider before traveling to make sure that your vaccinations are up-to-date and/or to see if your medical provider recommends other medication/immunizations for travel. You may also want to consult the Center for Disease Control's website, www.cdc.gov/travel. A list of travel clinics is also provided by the International Society of Travel Medicine at their website: www.istm.org.

Passport: For U.S. citizens a current passport is required and still valid for up to 6 months after the trip date; no visas are required though. **PLEASE MAKE SURE** your passport name matches exactly with the name you give us including your middle name if it's included on your passport. Non U.S. Citizens must check with their consulate for required documents to enter Ecuador. It is completely the travelers' responsibility to make sure they have the correct documentation to enter Ecuador.

Activity level: this trip is active with lots of walking/hiking on rough terrain and you must be able to get into and out of dinghy's or tenders for the wet and dry landings from the ship.

More Information will be coming regarding packing and things to take, etc. with final documents. There is a weight restriction of 1 suitcase, 44 lbs., plus a carry-on for flights to the Galapagos, bring only what you need to the Islands.

Fine Print – Galapagos Islands Cruise & Quito, Ecuador Adventure Sept. 4-12, 2010

Your payment of the required deposit or full payment for a reservation on this trip constitutes consent and acknowledgement of all the provisions in this Fine Print listed below and in the Singles Travel Company General Terms and Conditions. Please make sure you read both of these important pieces of information and call us with any questions.

Important Message from our tour operator: The Galapagos cruise itinerary and the touring arrangements herein are subject to change without notice and can be operated in a different sequence, depending on operational considerations. All Galapagos itineraries are under the control and direction of the Ecuadorian National Parks Administration. All hotels are subject to change and can be substituted for similar hotels/ lodges.

Initial deposit is \$350- preferred by check (payable to Travel Advisors of Los Gatos) or credit card is accepted, and is due with your reservation. We need your reservation form also with all your passport info for the tour operator. Early sign-up is a must!

Final payments are due 70 days prior to departure date, checks preferred or credit cards accepted.

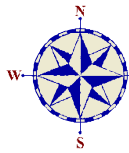
Cancellation Fees and Refunds: All cancellations must be in writing. The deposit is refundable up to 91 days prior to the trip minus a \$50 processing fee. Cancellations 90 days or less prior to the trip departure date - no refund of monies paid will be provided. No show, no refund. No refunds on unused portions of the tour package. Airline tickets cancellation policies are per the airlines and are usually non-refundable and changeable with a fee.

Travel/Trip cancellation insurance is highly recommended; please consider the purchase of it very carefully for this adventure trip.

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Reservation Form

Please return this completed form with your deposit and print clearly and legibly all information requested.

Trip: _____ Trip Date: _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____ M ___ F ___
(Exact Passport name if international trip)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (day) _____ E-mail _____
Phone (eve) _____ Fax _____

YES ___/ NO ___ --OKAY TO GIVE MY FELLOW TRAVELERS MY EMAIL PRIOR/AFTER MY TRIP?

Passport Number _____ Date of expiration _____ U.S Citizen? Y or N—Other _____

Non-U.S citizens must check with their consulate regarding passport/visa requirements.

Emergency Contact (name/address/phone): _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Air/Land (Cruise) Package--- Airline Seating (request only, no guarantee) Aisle Window No Preference
I need reservations from _____ airport.
- Land (Cruise) Only Package (airport transfers usually not included)
- Single occupancy
- Double occupancy (please assign a roommate for me)
Smoker? Yes No (No smoking in rooms if sharing.)
- Double occupancy. Please assign me with _____

Referred by a person or organization? Please name: _____

discovered on our web site

Please Read the Following Information Carefully:

To ensure an enjoyable and safe trip please read the following and sign. By signing below you agree to the following important considerations for travel on all Singles Travel Company trips:

- 1) I am aware that cancellation penalties apply on all trips and besides the tour operator/cruise line penalty- Singles Travel Company will charge my credit card for \$50 as a cancellation service charge.
- 2) I am aware that my reservation is subject to cancellation if deposits and/or final payments are not in our office by due dates.
- 3) I have been offered Travel Protection/Trip Cancellation Insurance.
- 4) I have read the Terms and Conditions and each trips Fine Print.
- 5) I am aware that there are no refunds of any unused portions of a tour.
- 6) Any changes in the tour itinerary that incur additional charges will be the sole responsibility of the passenger.
- 7) **Non-U.S citizens must check with their consulate regarding passport/visa requirements.**

-----I am also aware that on the trips Singles Travel Company organizes that the company:

- 1) cannot guarantee how many singles will travel on any particular trip.
- 2) has no control over the ratio of men to women on their trips.
- 3) A very few trips are incorporated with other larger group tours, which may or may not consist of single travelers, which guarantees departures.

I am aware that there are inherent risks whenever traveling, whether domestically or internationally, especially to third world countries. By signing I assume these risks. I am aware that I am responsible for giving the trip reservationist my correct passport name; and that I am responsible for having a current passport if needed; getting any needed visas and immunizations necessary for travel and that I have considered the purchase of travel insurance coverage in case I have to cancel my trip and/or have any medical emergencies while traveling. I agree to and have no questions concerning the above considerations for travel.

Your signature _____ Date _____