



Birding in Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands

The evolutionary story of the Galápagos Islands has been told many times, but only through immersing yourself in their splendor can you truly appreciate the impressive forces that shape nature here and around the globe. Embark on the Samba to explore this tropical, volcanic archipelago plentiful in charismatic wildlife, unafraid of you or your camera. The captain and crew of the Samba are devoted to making your Galápagos boat journey a birding adventure of a lifetime.

Mainland Ecuador is an amazing biodiversity hotspot for birds. In Ecuador, we will bird throughout the Andean forests and slopes, from the high altitudes of the Andean páramo to the unique ecosystem of the cloud forest.

For more information and registration, visit us at

www.uaf.edu/summer/travel

or call (907)474-7021

Important notes:

Travel insurance is always recommended for any travel out of the United States. There are several ways to purchase coverage. Some credit card companies insure trips that are purchased with their card. Another option is to check with a local travel agency.

Note about Mobility: Our tours are designed for people who are able to walk comfortably for up to 3 miles per day, sometimes on uneven terrain, as well as handle stairs easily. If you have any concerns about this tour, please contact Summer Sessions.

Tour Dates:

**November 9 – 25,
2025**

Tour Cost:

\$11,900.00

***No Single Supplement
available due to limited
accommodations***

Inclusions

- 24/7 Tour Director/Guide
- Accommodations
- In country transportation
- Entry fees
- Educational programs
- Three meals per day
- Transfer to and from the airport
- Gratuities

Transportation costs to and from Ecuador are NOT included in this tour price. All travelers must arrange their own transportation to and from the starting and ending cities.

Day 1, Nov 9: Quito

- Arrival in Quito and transfer to the Relicario del Carmen in Quito's Old Town.
- Our hotel is centrally located in the heart of the Historic Center of Quito, a block away from the main square, Plaza de la Independencia, and the Government Palace, and very close to many churches, museums, and historic monuments. This truly historic house in Quito's Old Town, dating back to 1705, has been transformed into a hotel with 18 comfortable rooms. The hotel has been beautifully renovated with great emphasis on the original details and has all the comfort expected today.
- Meet your guide and enjoy the company of fellow travelers at the Welcome Dinner.



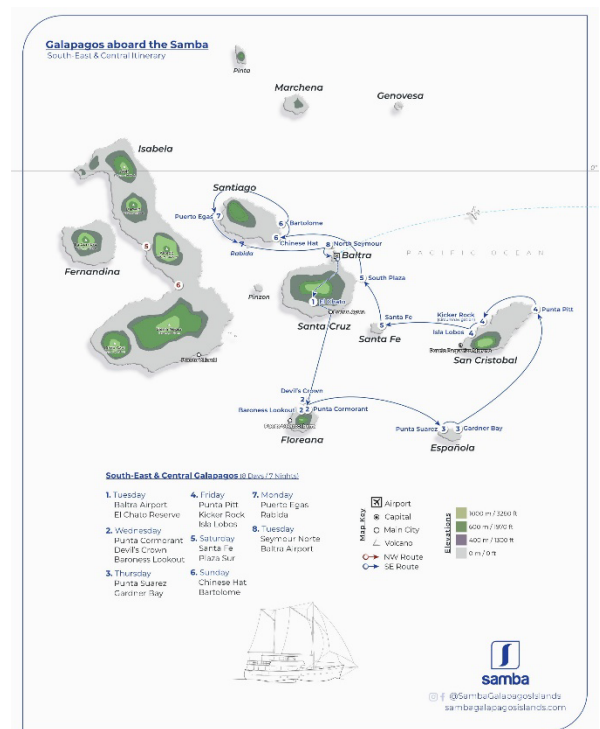
Day 2, Nov 10: Quito

- Quito, the capital of Ecuador, is divided into the old or colonial city and the modern city. Colonial Quito is still reminiscent of how it was 450 years ago, even though it is a small island surrounded by a fast-growing modern city. In colonial Quito narrow cobblestone streets are lined with whitewashed walls over which the steeples and cupolas of historic churches rise. The integrity of colonial Quito was assured in 1978 when UNESCO declared the city the first World Cultural Heritage Site.
- In the morning you will visit the colonial site of Quito where you will walk through the Main Plaza. Visit the Government Palace, the Cathedral, and some of the most important churches built around the XVI and XVII centuries.
- Overnight at Holiday Inn Quito Airport.



Days 3-9, Nov 11-17: Galápagos

- Fly to Galápagos and board the M/V Samba.
- The Samba is the perfect choice to experience the Galápagos Islands to their fullest. This sturdy, stately, and very comfortable motor yacht is a European Dutch classic and best in her class. A great ocean-going vessel with her specially designed high bow, she provides safe crossings and boasts a special stabilizing sail. The top-side settees and a flush and ample forward deck provide getaways or extra space for group activities such as stargazing, whale watching, or simply sunbathing. The experienced and friendly crew is committed to redefining your ideas of quality and excellence. The Samba is a graceful, top-quality craft, is locally owned and crew members are from the Galápagos or mainland Ecuador. The Samba accommodates 14 guests in six double cabins and one exterior double bed cabin, all with private bathrooms, hot water, and air-conditioning. Full-length wet suits and snorkeling gear are available free of charge. We have crafted an itinerary to see the most endemic birds of the Galápagos. A journey to explore finches, mockingbirds, boobies, albatross, penguin, flightless cormorants, and other endemics that only occur in the Enchanted Islands.





Day 10, Nov 18: Quito

- Fly from Baltra to Quito.
- Check into the Hacienda Jimenita, a hidden treasure that is located just 15 minutes away from the airport. Hacienda Jimenita Naturhotel & Wildlife Reserve is a unique place where you can find rest and discover the magic of nature at the same time. Our nature reserve provides shelter to several species of animals, trees, medicinal plants and more than 130 registered bird species.



Days 11-12, Nov 19-20: Antisana Ecological Reserve

- Travel to Antisana Ecological Reserve. It may surprise you to find glaciers at the Equator. Antisana is one of very few glaciated volcanoes in Ecuador reminding us that the ice age isn't over. In this ecological reserve we will admire birds of the Páramo, or high Andean altitudes, with very special ecological conditions. On several occasions we have been lucky enough to spot condors!
- Continue to Papallacta for a well-deserved rest at the hot springs and check into Guango Lodge, where we will stay for two nights and experience more excellent birding opportunities.

Days 13-15, Nov 21-23: Cloud Forest

- Travel to the cloud forest and check into the San Isidro Lodge on the eastern slopes of the Andes.
- The cloud forest is one of the most biodiverse places on earth. This natural sanctuary is one of the last remaining areas of cloud forest in the world and is home to a great diversity of flora and fauna, many of which are endemic to the region. San Isidro Lodge and its closer surroundings boast a bird list of about 330 species. A fun birding fact about San Isidro: both the Christmas Bird Count and the Big Day world records were broken with San Isidro as part of their routes. Birding before breakfast is unmatched! Wake up to the sounds and songs of the forest and discover hummingbirds, tanagers, toucans and more!



Day 16, Nov 24: Quito

- Return to Quito and check into the Holiday Inn Quito Airport.
- Reminisce with fellow travelers and compare bird lists at our Farewell Dinner.

Days 17, Nov 25: Quito

- Transfer to the airport to catch your flight home.



Our Tour Leader, Juan Salcedo

Juan Manuel Salcedo was born in the Galápagos Islands and grew up in Puerto Ayora, on Santa Cruz Island, living and learning in the outdoor evolutionary lab of the Galápagos. Outside of school, Juan spent time sailing on his father's boat where he developed his love and passion for observing and interpreting the wildlife of the archipelago. He spent a year in Los Angeles studying sailing and navigation to gain a skipper certificate. He finished his undergraduate studies at the University of San Francisco, Quito where he studied Applied Ecology with minor degrees in Biology and Geology. Juan has been involved in Environmental Education projects in the Galápagos Islands and on mainland Ecuador. Through all his experiences, he has maintained and nourished his love and passion for the world around him. Juan is pleased to be able to offer the most in-depth voyages possible in the Galápagos on board his own boat, the Samba.



The Samba

DECK PLAN

