



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 journey the trip of a lifetime. Enjoy the biodiversity of the “Enchanted Islands” and the richness of Ecuador’s culture, cuisine, and folklore.

Travel from mangroves in the basin of the Guayas River to the páramo of Cajas above 10,000 feet! Experience the colonial city of Cuenca, the markets and hot springs of the Andes, and the heart of the Amazon Basin. The Amazon Rainforest is home to about 2.5 million insect species, tens of thousands of plants, and some 2,000 birds and mammals. Explore the most diverse jungle in the world, home of the Achuar people, who maintain a remarkable and intimate relationship with nature and its processes.

For more information and registration, visit us at
www.uaf.edu/summer/travel
or call (907)474-7021

Important notes:

Travelers will be required to have their COVID-19 vaccinations.

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:

**Dec 22, 2024 –
Jan 8, 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, Dec 22: Guayaquil

- Arrival in Guayaquil and accommodation at the Wyndham Guayaquil. Our hotel is located next to the majestic River Guayas at Puerto Santa Ana, and a few minutes' walk from Barrio Las Peñas, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Guayaquil, with a famous fort that once defended the city from the pirate and buccaneer attacks.
- Welcome dinner

Day 2, Dec 23: Guayaquil

- Visit to Reserve Ecologica Manglares Churute, located only 50 kilometers from Guayaquil, with 38,000 acres of mangroves and 12,000 acres of forest. It is one of the most important mangrove reserves in the country. Navigating along the canals, you can observe five different types of mangroves. This ecosystem is the habitat for more than 50 species of birds, crustaceans, and reptiles. In the forest of Churute, you can observe Howler and Cappuccino monkeys, squirrels, raccoons, land iguanas, insects, and birds. The Canclon or Horned screamer is an endemic bird from Churute Eco Reserve. We will also learn about the traditional human use of mangroves and how the artisanal fishermen make their living.
- Lunch at Cacao y Mango Farm, the best place to learn about cocoa and chocolate!
- Overnight at Guayaquil.

Day 3, Dec 24: Cuenca

- Visit Cajas National Park on route to Cuenca. This very beautiful and recently declared UNESCO World Heritage Site preserves high Andean landscapes and habitats, featuring nearly 300 stunning glacial lakes and pools that form the headwaters of the Tomebamba River, open páramo grassland and stands of Polylepis forest.
- Accommodation at Hostería Durán in the colonial city of Cuenca. Cuenca is redolent with history. The old city is the second cultural World Heritage Site in Ecuador, but human settlement in the area can be traced back 10,000 years to nomadic hunters who gradually settled and grew crops.
- Enjoy excellent cuisine as well as the relaxing and healing properties of thermal spring pools with an average temperature of 30°C degrees, natural steam Turkish baths, and private hot baths.

Day 4, Dec 25: Cuenca-Ingapirca

- Morning Colonial Cuenca city tour with a local guide, featuring a famous 'Panama' hat factory and we end with a very special lunch.
- Driving north a couple of hours, we arrive at the Ingapirca Ruins, a site of pure cultural wonders that will take you back in time to taste a moment of what our Incas lifestyle and costumes were all about. This is the largest and best-preserved archeological complex in Ecuador.
- Overnight at Posada de Ingapirca.





Day 5, Dec 26: Riobamba

- We take a four hour drive north to Riobamba.
- We will overnight at Chimborazo Lodge, located in the Chimborazo Reserve, in the heart of the Andes Mountains. This unique lodge is at an elevation of 4,000 m at the foot of Chimborazo, Ecuador's highest mountain. While staying at this lodge, we'll be closest to the sun and the farthest from the center of the earth than at any other time during our journey.



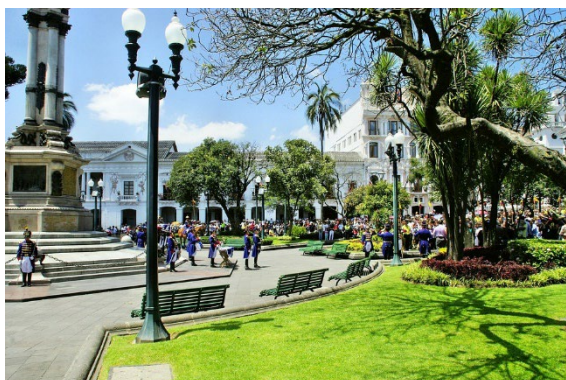
Day 6, Dec 27: Kapawi

- Travel by bus and plane from Chimborazo Lodge to Kapawi Ecolodge, deep in the Amazonian jungle, near the border with Peru.
- We travel by road for about four hours to Puyo and then have a 50 minute flight to Kapawi.
- Kapawi Reserve is one of the most remote, ecologically responsible, and culturally attuned Amazon jungle Ecolodges in the world. Your visit to this Amazon jungle lodge really contributes to sustainable socio-cultural communities and the protection of a unique natural environment. Kapawi Ecolodge is located in a remote and pristine region of the Amazon rainforest, untouched by logging, mining, or petroleum extraction. Deep in the nearly two million acres of the Achuar people's territory, the Ecolodge is accessible only by flying in small planes over an unbroken green expanse of the Amazon rainforest. Located in the territorial lands of the Achuar indigenous nation (7,000 people in 64 communities) still living as they have for generations and in intimate harmony with nature, the Ecolodge provides guests with a range and depth of cultural experiences unmatched by any other rainforest lodges.



Days 7-8, Dec 28-29: Kapawi

- We continue to immerse ourselves in the natural wonder of the Amazonian jungle and enjoy the hospitality of our Achuar hosts at this one-of-a-kind travel destination.



Day 9, Dec 30: Quito

- This is a travel day from Kapawi to Quito, Ecuador's capital city.
- We will fly back to Puyo and then have a five hour drive to Quito.

Days 10-16, Dec 31-Jan 6: Galapagos

- Fly to Baltra, Galapagos and board the M/V Samba.
- The Samba is the perfect choice to experience the Galapagos 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 Galapagos or mainland Ecuador. The crew takes great care to make everything environmentally friendly as well as socially responsible. The chef on the Samba serves excellent international cuisine and is happy to prepare special dishes to fulfill dietary requests (with advance notice). The majority of the food on board is organic and locally grown. 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.

Day 17, Jan 7: Guayaquil

- Return to Guayaquil and overnight at the Holiday Inn.

Day 18, Jan 8: Guayaquil

- Transfer to the airport to catch your flight home.

