



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 to the Andean Cloud Forests and climb to the highest active volcano of the world! You'll experience Old Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a vivid reminder of the colonial times, as well as the markets, hot springs, and natural landscapes of the Andes before traveling to 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 on earth, 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](http://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:*

Jan 5-22, 2025

*Tour Cost:*

\$11,900.00

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

*Inclusions*

- 24/7 Tour Director/Guide
- Accommodations
- Ground/sea 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, Jan 5: Quito

- Arrival in Quito and transfer to the Holiday Inn Quito Airport.
- Meet your guide and enjoy the company of fellow travelers at the Welcome Dinner.

## Day 2, Jan 6: Quito

- Take a one hour drive to the Papallacta area, located in Cayambe-Coca National Park, a park of approximately 1 million acres that contains mountains, forests, páramos, rivers, and lagoons. This area has well conserved patches of Polylepis forest and it is an excellent place to observe high mountain bird species.
- Your guide will lead you on a trail walk in the park to enjoy of the incredible landscape of the Andes. Later, we will rest and enjoy the Papallacta Hot Springs and Spa. The spa consists of five hot thermal pools and one cold pool. The thermoludic area is the ideal place to experience a variety of different hydro massages using either water jets or air bubbles.
- Overnight at the Holiday Inn Airport.



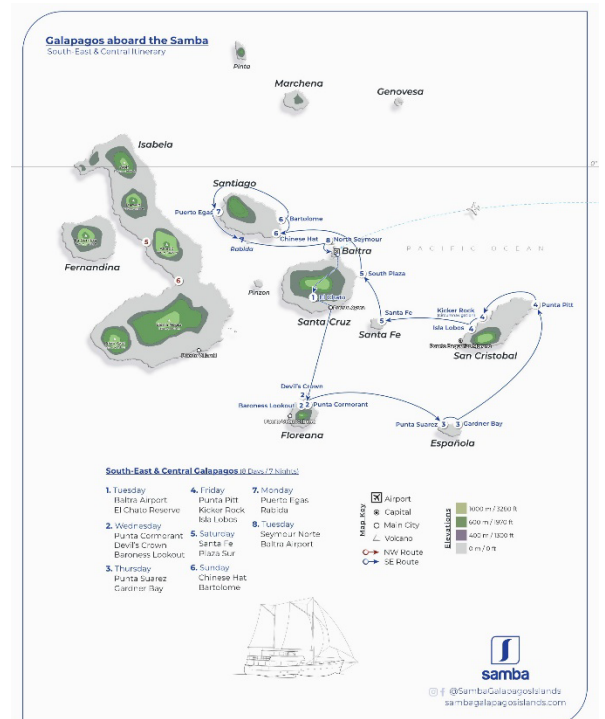
## Days 3-9, Jan 7-13: Galápagos

- 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 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 10, Jan 14: Quito

- Fly to Quito and overnight at 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.







## ***Day 11, Jan 15: Quito & Mitad del Mundo***

- In the morning, you will visit the old, or colonial, part of Quito, which is reminiscent of 450 years ago, with narrow cobblestone streets 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.

- 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.

- In the afternoon you will depart to the north, where you will visit The Equator Line (El Mitad del Mundo), which is located just at 30 minutes north of Quito. This monument highlights the location of the Equator. Archaeological evidence indicates that the pre-Incan and the Inca civilizations recognized and worshiped the path of the equator as the marker of the equinox.

- Continue on to Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge.



## ***Day 12, Jan 16: Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge***

- Birding before breakfast is unmatched! Wake up to the sounds and songs of the forest and discover hummingbirds, tanagers, toucans, and more. Large numbers of hummingbirds hover constantly around the feeders, and it is easy to identify six to eight species at very close range. They sometimes will even perch on your finger.

- After breakfast, we go for a guided hike through the exuberant vegetation of the Cloud Forest, enjoying its bird life and marveling at the adaptations that were made to thrive in this special environment. Every hike reveals something new, even for those of us who are fortunate enough to live in the forest every day!

- Lunch at Huaycapi for lovely Ecuadorian food and more colorful birds. Before the day ends, we will do our best to find the Cock-of-the-rock!

- Overnight at Bellavista.



## ***Day 13, Jan 17: Kapawi***

- Travel by bus and plane from Bellavista Cloud Forest Lodge to Kapawi Ecolodge, deep in the Amazonian jungle, near the border with Peru.

- We travel by road for about five 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 14-15, January 18-19: 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 16, Jan 20: Cotopaxi National Park

- This is a travel day from Kapawi to Hacienda El Porvenir in Cotopaxi National Park. We will fly back to Puyo and then have a three hour drive to Cotopaxi.
- On our way there, we will stop to admire the highest active volcano in the world. We will take a short hike up to the climbing hut (Refugio José Ribas) at 4,800 m. (15,744 ft), where we can feel the sheer power of the immense volcano at close quarters.
- Once back in the vehicle, we continue on our way, driving down to Limpiopungo Lake, where we'll enjoy a box lunch. We'll visit interesting sites ideal for descriptions of the local flora and fauna as well as details of the various eruptions of Cotopaxi along the way.
- Dinner and Lodging at Hacienda El Porvenir.

## Day 17, Jan 21: Quito

- Return to Quito and overnight at Holiday Inn Airport.

## Day 18, Jan 22: Quito

- Transfer to the airport to catch your flight home.

