



Machu Picchu to the Galapagos 2024

They rank as two of South America's greatest treasures, and a small group tour is the natural selection for both: the enigmatic ruins at Machu Picchu, where we overnight at an intimate on-site hotel; and the fascinating Galapagos Islands, Darwin's "living laboratory," for a four-night island-based adventure.

**With an Pre-Tour Option:
Amazon Rainforest**

Itinerary

Created on Feb 14, 2024

Machu Picchu to the Galapagos

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY 1: Depart U.S. for Lima, Peru

We depart today for the Peruvian capital. Upon arrival we transfer directly to our hotel.

Accommodations: Westin Lima Hotel

DAY 2: Lima

We meet our Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and fellow travelers at a briefing, then embark on a tour of colonial Lima and the MALI art museum. Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner at our hotel.

Accommodations: Westin Lima Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 3: Lima/Cuzco/Sacred Valley

Arriving in Cuzco today, we stop at the important Incan site of Koricancha, dedicated to the Sun God. Then we continue on to Sacred Valley, a region of Inca sites and indigenous villages. We visit the colorful Indian market at Pisac before reaching our hotel late afternoon.

Accommodations: Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4: Sacred Valley

Today we explore Ollantaytambo, both a living town and site of massive Incan ruins that still inspire wonder. Then we visit the Incan farming town of Chinchero, where residents live much as their ancestors did and where we see a traditional weaving demonstration. Before dinner at our hotel tonight, we attend a native "Offering to the Earth" ceremony.

Accommodations: Aranwa Sacred Valley Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5: Sacred Valley/Machu Picchu

This morning we board a train for the 1½-hour journey to Aguas Calientes, where we transfer by shuttle bus to our hotel for lunch. Then we embark on our first guided visit of the stunning ruins at Machu Picchu, the "Lost City of the Incas." Thanks to the small size of our group, we are able to move nimbly through the ruins and have the leisure to absorb both the beauty and the mystery of this impressive site. With an overnight stay here, we have the rare privilege of seeing the ruins after the tourists have departed.

Accommodations: Belmond Sanctuary Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6: Machu Picchu/Cuzco

This morning before the day trippers arrive, we enjoy our second guided tour of this UNESCO site. Following lunch at our lodge, we return to Aguas Calientes with some free time before our mid-afternoon train to Cuzco.

Accommodations: Belmond Hotel Monasterio

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 7: Cuzco

Known for its Incan and Spanish colonial heritage, Cuzco is the archaeological “hub” of the Americas and the continent’s oldest continuously inhabited city. This morning we tour this UNESCO site then stop at the ruins of Sacsayhuaman fortress, a masterpiece of Incan architecture. We enjoy lunch today at a local restaurant.

Accommodations: Belmond Hotel Monasterio

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8: Cuzco/Lima/Quito

Early today we fly via Lima to the Ecuadorian capital of Quito, arriving late afternoon. This evening, we attend a briefing about our Galapagos adventure and then dine together at our hotel.

Accommodations: Swissotel Quito

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9: Quito

Nestled in the Andes foothills, Quito boasts a well-preserved historic center, as we see on today’s city tour that includes the Middle of the World Monument

Accommodations: Swissotel Quito

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 10: Quito/Baltra/Santa Cruz Island

Today we fly to the island of Baltra then transfer to Santa Cruz, our island-based home for our Galapagos exploration. We reach our beautiful hotel set on 370 lush, unspoiled, and secluded acres in the highlands within Galapagos National Park in time for lunch. Then we visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to see and learn about the giant Galapagos tortoises.

Accommodations: Royal Palm Hotel Galapagos

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11: North Seymour Island/Bachas Beach

This morning we embark on our first excursion aboard the *Santa Fe*, our privately chartered yacht. We set out for North Seymour, a flat, low-lying island with ample opportunities for close encounters with the wildlife on our naturalist-led walk. After lunch, we head back to Santa Cruz island for a nature walk.

Accommodations: Royal Palm Hotel Galapagos

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 12: South Plaza Island/Punta Carrion

Today's destination is the small in size but rich in flora and fauna island of South Plaza. Boasting abundant wildlife and colorful flora, and surrounded by turquoise waters, South Plaza ranks as one of the most popular (and colorful) of the Galapagos islands. During our nature walk, we are on the lookout for such local residents as land and marine iguanas, bright orange Sally Lightfoot crabs, red-billed tropicbirds, Nazca and blue-footed boobies, and a male colony of sea lions ("the bachelors"). Then we cruise to Punta Carrion, where we have the opportunity to snorkel in the calm waters of a shallow cove.

Accommodations: Royal Palm Hotel Galapagos

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 13: Santa Cruz Island

Today we explore Santa Cruz itself, the second largest of the Galapagos islands. We see the giant Galapagos tortoises in their natural habitat; the huge twin craters of Los Gemelos; and Garrapatero, a secluded white-sand beach where we see an abundance of marine and terrestrial wildlife.

Accommodations: Royal Palm Hotel Galapagos

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 14: Santa Cruz Island/Baltra/Quito

This morning we transfer to Baltra for the flight to Quito, arriving mid-afternoon. Tonight we celebrate our adventure at a farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

Accommodations: Swissotel Quito

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 15: Quito/Depart for U.S.

This morning we visit Quito's Botanical Gardens, featuring an orchidarium with more than 1,200 species of orchids; and Iaquito Market, a colorful riot of fresh produce and spices. Then we return to our hotel for an afternoon at leisure before tonight's transfer to the airport for our overnight flight to the U.S.

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 16: Arrive U.S.

We arrive in the U.S. this morning and connect with our return flights home.

PLEASE NOTE

This trip involves considerable walking on uneven terrain. Also, there are both wet and dry landings in the Galapagos. You should be in good physical condition to enjoy the tour to the fullest. In addition, Cuzco's high altitude (11,150 feet) could pose problems for travelers with certain health conditions. Please consult your physician if you have concerns.

This tour itinerary was generated for Machu Picchu to the Galapagos on Feb 14, 2024. Please visit the Machu Picchu to the Galapagos page at <https://www.odysseys-unlimited.com/tours/central-south-america/machu-picchu-galapagos/> for the latest and most accurate information.