



## **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 Nov 6, 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.

### **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.

*Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 3: Lima/Cuzco/Sacred Valley**

Arriving in Cuzco today, we stop at the ruins of Sacsayhuamán fortress, a masterpiece of Incan architecture. Then we continue on to the Sacred Valley, a region of Inca sites and indigenous villages. We visit the colorful town of Pisac before reaching our hotel late afternoon.

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 4: Sacred Valley**

We begin our day attending a traditional “Offering to the Earth” ceremony. Next 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 demonstration of Peruvian weaving. Dinner tonight is at our 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.

*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.

*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.

*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 tonight.

*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

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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 Laquito 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**

Please note: 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 Nov 6, 2024. Please visit the Machu Picchu to the Galapagos page at [https://www.odysseys-unlimited.com/?post\\_type=tours&p=14084](https://www.odysseys-unlimited.com/?post_type=tours&p=14084) for the latest and most accurate information.