



## **Machu Picchu to the Galapagos**

*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, "Lost City of the Incas;" and the fascinating Galapagos Islands, Darwin's "living laboratory," for a four-night island-based adventure.*

### **Itinerary**

Created on Apr 1, 2025

# **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/Aguas Calientes**

This morning we board a train for the 1½-hour journey to Aguas Calientes, where after lunch we travel by bus for Machu Picchu, where we embark on our first guided visit of the stunning ruins here. Thanks to the small size of our group, we will be able to move nimbly through the ruins as we absorb both the beauty and the mystery of this impressive site.

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 6: Machu Picchu/Cuzco**

This morning, we enjoy our second guided tour of this UNESCO site. Later, 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, which bears the marks of its mixed Inca and Spanish heritage.

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch

### **DAY 8: Cuzco/Lima**

Today we return to Lima arriving mid-afternoon. After some time to rest and refresh, we reconvene for dinner together this evening.

*Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 9: Lima/Quito**

We fly today from one South American capital to another. Nestled in the Andes foothills, Quito boasts many fascinating sites, as we see on our tour that includes the Middle of the World Monument. This evening, we attend a briefing about our Galapagos adventure and then dine on our own.

*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. We dine together tonight at our hotel.

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **DAY 11: North Seymour Island/Bachas Beach**

This morning we board the *Sante Fe*, our privately chartered yacht, 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 via our private yacht 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 tropic birds, Nazca and blue-footed boobies, and a male colony of sea lions (“the bachelors”). After lunch aboard the *Santa Fe*, 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 set out to explore Quito with its well-preserved historic center as we see on our city tour. Highlights include Plaza la Independencia and the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Monastery of San Francisco. We then enjoy a tour of Quito's Botanical Gardens featuring an orchidarium with more than 1,200 species of orchids; and a visit to Ñaquito Market, a colorful riot of fresh produce and spices. Then we return to our hotel for some leisure time 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**

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 Apr 1, 2025. Please visit the Machu Picchu to the Galapagos page at <https://www.odysseys-unlimited.com/tours/central-south-america/machu-picchu-to-the-galapagos/> for the latest and most accurate information.