

Galapagos Cruise in Style, Ecuador

A fabulous first class cruise round the islands of the Galapagos with close-up wildlife encounters on land and water.



Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

Holiday overview

Style	Adventure Cruising
Accommodation	Hotel, Premier Class Yacht
Grade	Tour
Duration	11 days from London to London
Trekking / Walking days	
Min/Max group size	2 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 2
Trip Leader	Local Guide Galapagos
Land only	Joining in Guayaquil, Ecuador
Max altitude	

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



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Managing Director: Steven Berry. Registered in England No. 2118433. VAT No. 496 6511 08

Departures

Group departures

2022 Dates:

Fri 04 Mar - Tue 15 Mar

Fri 21 Oct - Tue 01 Nov

Fri 02 Dec - Tue 13 Dec

Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

Single cabins: If you are travelling on your own and are willing to share, we will attempt to pair you up with another solo, same sex traveller. Where this is not possible a resulting single cabin has to be paid for. Please contact us for prices.

Deposit

A higher deposit is required to secure your booking on this holiday, this includes a prepayment for your Galapagos accommodation and excursions. For full details please contact the office or refer to our terms and conditions on our website <http://www.mountainkingdoms.com/essential-information>.

No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 2 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday. If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

Your guide



Our Galapagos guides are fluent in English, and are incredibly passionate about their country's flora, fauna and history. They bring the Islands' fascinating birds, animals and landscapes to life in an entirely new way with their expert knowledge, and also share the incredible stories of the Islands' human inhabitants - a side of the Galapagos that many travellers never discover. Our guides are trained to support the well-being of natural areas and the wildlife and people who live in and around them. They are highly qualified and experienced ecotourism specialists with a commitment to providing an unforgettable travel experience and top quality, personalised service.

Your trip highlights

- Cruise in style on a first class motor yacht with premium cabins and facilities
- Spend seven days cruising between many of the islands of the archipelago including Santa Cruz, Bartolome and Floreana
- Enjoy daily land excursions on the islands in the company of expert naturalists
- Snorkel or kayak with the amazing marine life of the Galapagos such as sea lions, penguins and rays

At a glance itinerary

Days 1-2	Fly to Guayaquil and overnight in hotel there.
Day 3	Fly to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno in the Galapagos and transfer to cruise boat.
Days 4-9	Seven night cruise exploring the islands of San Cristobal, Espanola, Floreana, Santa Cruz, Bartolome and North Seymour.
Day 10	End cruise, visit interpretation centre on San Cristobal and transfer to airport. Fly from San Cristobal to Guayaquil. Transfer to hotel.
Days 11-12	Overnight flight to London

Trip summary

For your seven night cruise around the Galapagos Islands, you will sail on a first class motor yacht with plenty of time to see some of the many natural wonders of these islands. You will board your cruise yacht, the MY Letty, which features three decks of spacious staterooms and takes a maximum of 20 passengers. Accommodation is in ten stylish, outside-facing cabins that each have double beds, air-conditioning, a private bathroom and a picture window or porthole. On board there is a dining room, a well-stocked bar and a conference area and you can also relax in a lounge chair on the sun deck. You'll truly be sailing in style!

The cruise will explore the Galapagos archipelago and each day you will have guided excursions and daily briefings with expert English-speaking naturalists. There will be easy-paced walks on the islands as well as opportunities to snorkel or kayak so that you can enjoy up-close encounters with the amazing wildlife of the Galapagos. In fact, every day will bring new and exciting experiences with memories to treasure long after you return home.

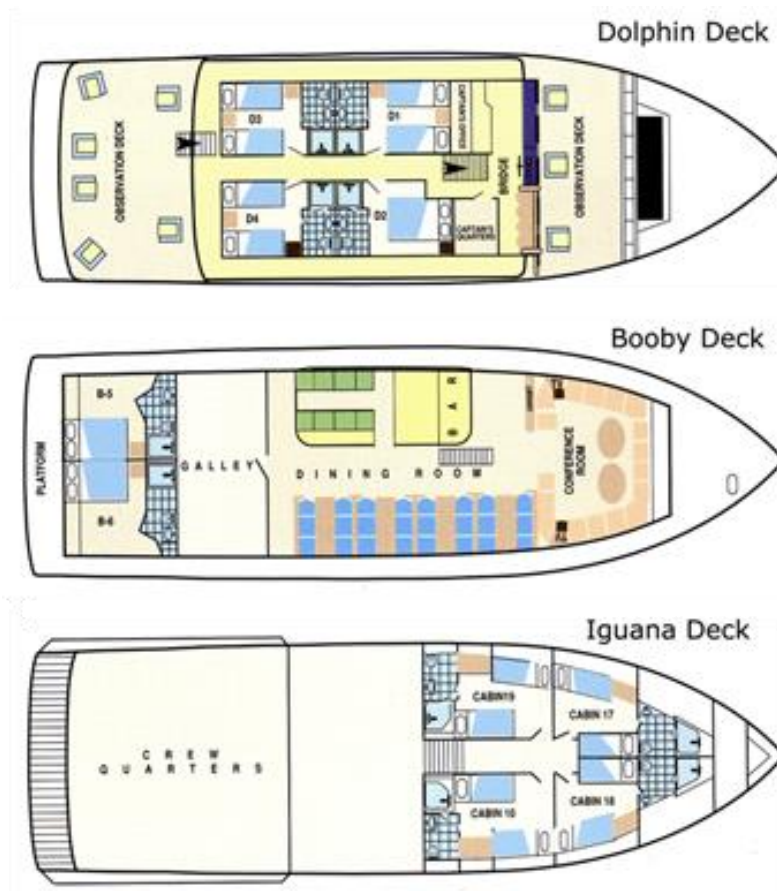
If you would like to extend your cruise with other activities we offer a variety of exciting excursions in Ecuador. From Guayaquil you can take a city tour, or by flying to Quito from the Galapagos after your cruise, you can spend a day walking in Cotopaxi National Park, visit Otavalo Market or spend a day at a cloudforest wildlife reserve.

We also offer a five night pre-cruise extension in Ecuador that stays in good, characterful accommodation and offers scenic walks, a visit to Otavalo Market, a fun cookery lesson and time at a condor rehabilitation project. In fact, whatever's available we can help make it happen and create a genuine once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Special notes

Cabin category

There are 3 cabin categories on the Galapagos yacht we use. Our price is based on twin share cabin on the Iguana Deck . Prices will vary according to departure date, and grade of available cabin. Please contact us for details and availability.



Your trip itinerary

Day 1: Fly London To Guayaquil

You depart London today for your overnight flight to Guayaquil.

Overnight: In flight

Day 2: Arrive Guayaquil. Shuttle bus to hotel.

On arrival in Guayaquil you will take the free shuttle bus to your hotel - these run every hour to/from the airport.

Overnight: Hotel Oro Verde or Similar, Guayaquil

Day 3: Fly to Galapagos and transfer to start your cruise at San Cristobal.

Early this morning you will take the free hotel shuttle bus to the airport for your flight to the Galapagos. You should be sure to allow enough time to get this shuttle and to check in for your flight. You will fly to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the capital of the Galapagos, located on San Cristobal Island. On arrival you will be met and escorted to your vessel, a short bus ride and Zodiac transfer to your yacht anchored in the bay. There will be a welcome introduction to your boat and its facilities and a safety drill. You will also choose your snorkel gear before being shown to your cabin. Lunch will then be served on board.

After lunch you travel by road to Cerro Colorado on the northeast of San Cristobal where you will visit the Jacinto Gordillo Breeding Centre (also known as La Galapaguera). Here, giant tortoises are bred and kept in a protected wild area. You will learn about the origins and evolution of one of the Galapagos' most famous creatures and about the steps being taken to preserve the species from various threats. You may see baby hatchlings and young tortoises in the centre before following the walking trail where you can spot giant tortoises in their natural habitat.

You make the return drive to your yacht and once back on board there will be a briefing followed by a welcome cocktail party given by the captain. A delicious four-coursed dinner will be served and your adventure will begin.

Overnight: Premium Class Yacht (Meals: BLD)

Day 4: Cruise day two - Cerro Brujo and Punta Pitt, San Cristobal.

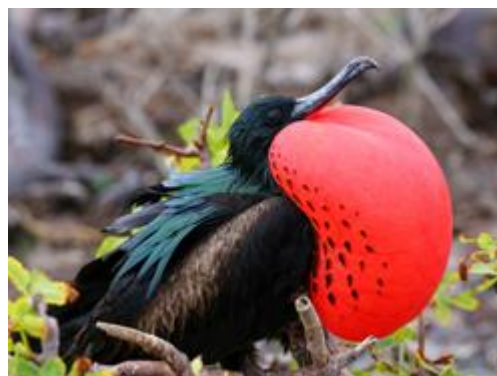
Today you land at Cerro Brujo, a breathtaking white coral sand beach, considered one of the most spectacular in Galapagos and perfect for a peaceful walk with expansive views. You have an opportunity to snorkel or kayak from the beach or swim with sea lions. A Zodiac ride takes you through a cave called "The Cathedral".

During lunch you cruise towards the north-eastern tip of San Cristobal to Punta Pitt, a tuff formation that serves as a nesting site for many sea birds including all three types of boobies: Blue footed, Nazca and Red-footed, both Frigate species, Swallow-tailed gulls, Storm petrels, Shearwaters, Brown pelicans and a colony of sea lions. Punta Pitt is considered to be a first class site for sea birds on par with Genovesa (Tower) Island. You can snorkel at Pitt Rock with sea lions and colourful fish such as King Angel and Surgeon fish. Back on board, you cruise around Leon Dormido (Kicker Rock), a vertical tuff cone formation that rises abruptly almost 500 feet out of the ocean. From the sun deck you can spot Blue-footed boobies, Nazca Boobies and Magnificent Frigate birds.

Overnight: Premium Class Yacht (Meals: BLD)

Day 5: Cruise day three - Punta Suarez and Gardner Bay, Espanola Island.

When you disembark at Punta Suarez, Espanola (Hood), today, you witness the highest rate of endemic species in Galapagos. Sea lions noisily greet you as you land on their beach. Curious Hood mockingbirds peck at your



shoelaces. From April to December, the Waved albatross, found only on Espanola, perform their wild mating ritual. Colonies of blue-footed boobies engage in "sky-pointing" to show off for potential mates. Nazca boobies busily care for their young. Stunning swallow-tailed gulls are the only nocturnal gulls in the world and fish at night. Red-billed tropicbirds take shelter under the cliffs. Also found are Darwin's Finches, Galapagos Doves and Galapagos Hawks. You might also see a unique species of marine iguana identified with traces of red and green colourings. Colourful sally light-foot crabs crawl along the shoreline near to the famous "blow hole".

After lunch you make a wet landing on Gardner Bay, Espanola (Hood) and walk along a seemingly endless stretch of white sandy beach where you'll find large colonies of sea lions. There is no trail to follow so this is a chance to explore or take a long walk. You may find a Galapagos Hawk, Darwin's Finches or Hood Mockingbird. You may also swim with sea lions right from the beach, explore the bay and islets by kayak or just relax on the beach. There's an excellent snorkelling site off Gardner Islet with a colourful diversity of sea life near Tortuga Rock. You may also take a Zodiac ride to explore the caves. You will return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner.

Overnight: Premium Class Yacht (Meals: BLD)

Day 6: Cruise day four - Punta Cormorant and Post Office Bay, Floreana Island.

You will land at Punta Cormorant, Floreana (Charles), one of the few populated islands in the Galapagos. Floreana presents a human history rich with mystery and intrigue. You land on a green-sand beach alive with the sounds of sea lions, Lava herons, Yellow-crowned night heron, Blue-footed boobies and penguins. You follow a trail to a brackish lagoon, home of the Bahama ducks, Common stilts, Galapagos flycatcher, Yellow warblers and the Greater flamingos, the pinkest in the world. You wind your way past a rich variety of plants including Morning glory, Cut leaf daisies, black, red and white mangroves, Palo Verdes and Scalesia. The trail leads to a beach with powder soft sand where sea turtles lay their eggs in the sand dunes and rays swim in the shallow water. After the walk, you will have an opportunity to snorkel at Champion, a shallow sunken crater colonized by a brilliant array of colourful fish and coral. Today lunch will be served on the sundeck if weather conditions permit.

After lunch, you visit Post Office Bay, not the most scenic, but one of the most famous sites in Galapagos. Here in the 18th century a post barrel was erected and put into use by English whaling vessels. You are invited to leave a post card and to pick up any mail to deliver in your home area. There is a chance to swim from the beach with sea lions. In the late afternoon, you take a Zodiac ride at Baroness Point where you can spot sea turtles and rays. Return to the yacht for a briefing followed by dinner.

Overnight: Premium Class Yacht (Meals: BLD)

Day 7: Cruise day five - Puerto Ayora and Charles Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz Island.

You wake today to the sight of a harbour full of boats and activity at Puerto Ayora - a bustling town with a population of some 24,000 people. Your morning excursion today is by bus to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island. The scenery gradually changes as you wind your way through all seven vegetation zones found in Galapagos. Here, you visit the tortoise reserve at "Las Primicias" one of the private farms in the highlands where you encounter giant tortoises in their natural habitat. You stop at "the tunnels", the largest lava tubes found in Galapagos and visit Los Gemelos, Spanish for "The Twins", a pair of large pit craters where you find the bright red male Vermilion flycatcher.



After lunch, you will visit the Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena (Charles Darwin Research Station) where you will see the tortoise corrals (formerly home to famous Lonesome George) and the breeding centre with new hatchlings and miniature tortoises not yet ready to be repatriated. Scientists from all over the globe work at the station and conduct biological research from anatomy to zoology.

After leaving the centre you will have a little free time to explore Puerto Ayora and perhaps do some souvenir shopping. This evening you have the option to return to your yacht for dinner or to remain in town on your own account.

Overnight: Premium Class Yacht (Meals: BLD)

Day 8: Cruise day six - Bartolome Island.

Bartolome with its strange lunar landscape is your first stop today. This young Island is inhospitable to most plants and animals. After a dry landing you will climb 30 minutes up stairs leading to the summit of a once active volcano. Along the way you may pause to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones and cinder cones. From the top of the wooden stairs, you can gaze out across panoramic views of the island and "Pinnacle Rock", an eroded tuff cone. You may snorkel from the beach in the crystal clear water with schools of tropical fish and Galapagos penguins or take a Zodiac ride.



You return to your yacht for a BBQ lunch on the deck after which you visit Black Turtle Cove (Caleta Tortuga Negra) by Zodiac. You will sail through a series of coves and inlets surrounded by mangroves where you can view pairs of mating sea turtles (Sep to Feb), white-tipped reef sharks and golden cow-nosed rays.

Tonight you will anchor in a calm protected area and enjoy an enthralling lecture after dinner.

Overnight: Premium Class Yacht (Meals: BLD)

Day 9: Cruise day seven - South Plaza islet and North Seymour Island.

This morning you sail to South Plaza, a small geological uplift with tall cliffs offering spectacular views. After a dry landing, the trail leads you through Prickly Pear or Opuntia and Sesuvium. Here you can find the Galapagos land iguana feeding on the cactus leaves. Toward the end of the hill, you may encounter a colony of bachelor sea lions. The dominant bulls are in various stages of recovery from battles lost over prime beach territory. You may also see Swallow-tailed gulls, Shearwaters and Red-billed tropicbirds which build their nests along the cliffs.

After lunch, you have a dry landing at North Seymour, a small geological uplift. You follow a trail that leads you to Swallow-tailed gulls, Blue-footed boobies and the endemic Land iguanas and visit the largest colony of Magnificent frigate birds found in Galapagos. As you stroll along the beach, you will see Marine Iguanas and sea lions which body surf the northern swells.

You return to the yacht for the Captain's farewell cocktail party and dinner as well as a special slide show presentation by your guides.

Overnight: Premium Class Yacht (Meals: BLD)

Day 10: End cruise. Time in San Cristobal. Group transfer to airport. Fly to Guayaquil and depart for London.

Today you will visit the Interpretation Centre on San Cristobal Island for an interesting overview of the natural and human history of the islands. Later there will also be some time to wander round town, perhaps visit a local bar or buy some last minute souvenirs before heading to the airport for your flight back to the mainland.

On arrival in Guayaquil you will need to catch the free shuttle bus back to your hotel.

Overnight: Hotel Oro Verde or Similar, Guayaquil - B (Meals: B)

Day 11: Take the shuttle bus to the airport. Depart Ecuador.

After breakfast at your hotel you will once again catch the shuttle bus to take you to the airport in time to check-in for your overnight flight home.

Overnight: Departure day (Meals: B)

Day 12: Arrive London.

Our grading system

Galapagos Cruise in Style is graded as a Tour as described below.

Tours

Tours may include any of the following activities: sightseeing, visiting local villages, exploring temples, game viewing, birdwatching, husky sledding, mountain flights, city tours and dramatic journeys by road, rail, or river. Occasionally there will be short, gentle walks so that you can properly explore the cultural sites you are visiting.

What the price includes

Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

What's included:

- ✓ Seven night Galapagos cruise on a superior yacht with onboard naturalist, all excursions and full board accommodation. Price based on a cabin on the Iguana Deck.
- ✓ Good standard hotel accommodation (4 star) in Guayaquil on twin share, bed and breakfast basis
- ✓ Flights between San Cristobal (Galapagos) and Guayaquil
- ✓ Galapagos Tourist Transit Card (TTC)
- ✓ National Park Tax for Galapagos.
- ✓ All road transport by private vehicles
- ✓ All meals except dinner in Guayaquil
- ✓ The following are included on your cruise: all meals and snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, purified water, Captain's welcome and farewell cocktail, house wine and local beer served during dinner, guided shore excursions, use of wet suits, snorkel equipment and sea kayaks and all transfers in the Islands between the airport and dock
- ✓ Carbon offset flights (flight inclusive option)
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle

Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

What's not included:

- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Visa fees if applicable
- ✗ Evening meals in Guayaquil
- ✗ Airport departure taxes, if applicable
- ✗ Optional trips
- ✗ Tips

Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>.

Your accommodation



Hotel Oro Verde or Similar, Guayaquil

The Hotel Oro Verde is a comfortable, good quality hotel located in downtown Guayaquil just a short distance from the Malecon, the long, pleasant promenade bordering the Guayas River.



Premium Class Yacht

You will join the first class yacht, MY Letty, which was custom-designed for Galapagos cruising. Originally built in 1991 it is refurbished annually. The yacht accommodates a maximum of 20 guests and feature three decks of spacious staterooms with polished teak interiors trimmed with shiny brass fittings. Accommodations include ten double outside-facing cabins with a window or porthole view, one double bed or two twin lower beds. Cabins are fully air-conditioned with private bathroom (hot and cold water showers), bio-degradable soap/shampoo dispensers, hair dryer, closet, drawers, intercom and separate climate controls for your comfort. There's a dining room, well-stocked bar and conference area with a flat screen TV, library and panoramic picture windows. You may also relax in a lounge chair on the sun deck.

Meal arrangements

Breakfast in Guayaquil. All meals on cruise: hot and cold buffet breakfast, 3 course lunches, 4 course dinners; snacks and afternoon tea.

Flight arrangements

Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

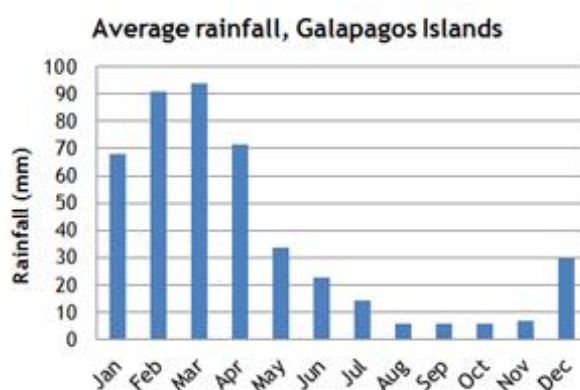
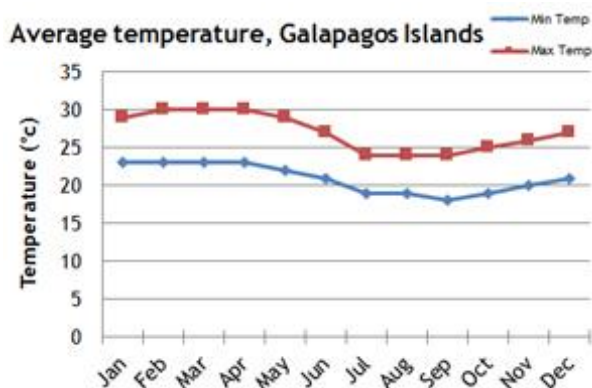
Further information

When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

The nature of adventure travel

Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

Climate information



Extensions

Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at www.mountainkingdoms.com.



Gentle walking extension, Ecuador

We offer a six day pre-cruise extension that combines delightful, easy-paced walks in the picturesque rural highlands of Ecuador with visits to Otavalo craft market, a condor rehabilitation project and a city tour of Quito. You stay in characterful, good quality accommodation and fly direct to the Galapagos from Quito.

Guayaquil excursions

Extend your time in Guayaquil and you can tour the highlights of Ecuador's largest city. The crown jewel of Guayaquil is the revitalised Malecon 2000, a two mile path along the Guayas River lined with cafes, shops, botanical gardens and are museums. You can also visit the historic 'barrio' district, the artesan market and the city parks.



Day trips from Quito

Fly to Quito after your cruise and there are several options for exploring further. You can visit the famous craft market at Otavalo, take a tour of the historic downtown area of Quito, walk amidst the dramatic volcanic peaks of Cotopaxi National Park or spend a day birdwatching at a private cloudforest reserve.



Extra hotel nights and upgrades

If you want to extend your time in Guayaquil before or after your cruise, or spend time in Quito, we have a selection of accommodation for you to choose from. All hotels are high quality and offer comfort, convenience and local charm.

Sacred Valley & Machu Picchu

Take a six night pre-tour extension to Peru to enjoy scenic walks and to explore the incredible Inca ruins of the Sacred Valley. You will also enjoy a tour of the attractive mountain city of Cuzco and take the train to Machu Picchu for a full guided tour of this incomparable ancient site. At the end of the extension you fly to Guayaquil to begin your Galapagos cruise.



Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

- We use a small, premium yacht for our Galapagos cruise ensuring a more indulgent, personal experience and better wildlife viewing opportunities. The ratio of the accompanying expert naturalist to clients is 1:10.
- The Galapagos cruise is a continuous seven day cruise. Unlike many of the bigger boats the yachts we use do not waste time going backwards and forwards to drop off and collect more passengers.
- You will get close up to the unique Galapagos wildlife on a variety of walks and marine activities; boat trips, swimming, snorkelling and kayaking.
- We include the \$120 Galapagos National Park fee / Galapagos Tax in the price of our trip, and don't have any other hidden costs.
- Our partner in Galapagos is an award winning eco-tourism specialist who works with the Galapagos Parks Authority and local communities on various sustainable tourism initiatives across the islands.
- As our minimum group size is just 2 the trip is extremely likely to get up and running.
- We offer a flexible service and can extend your holiday with a wide range of activities and excursions including a 6-day gentle walking extension in the highlands of Ecuador
- We have a wealth of travel experience at Mountain Kingdoms with a team of friendly and knowledgeable travel experts. If you have any questions about any aspect of this holiday please don't hesitate to give us a call on 01453 844400 or email info@mountainkingdoms.com.
- We work directly with some of the world's major airlines. If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact us for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: www.mountainkingdoms.com or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

Truly independent

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

Complete financial security

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

No Surcharge Guarantee

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

Award winning Responsible Tourism

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at www.mountainkingdoms.com.

Genuine small group travel

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

Loyalty Discount

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

Comprehensive information

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit www.tourismdeclares.com

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

Carbon Offsetting

Already doing:

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

Will do:

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

Reducing Carbon Emissions

Already doing:

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

Will do:

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

