



Tip Top II private yacht sailing past Kicker Rock, Galapagos Islands

# Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands by private yacht

7 – 19 November 2022

With Amazon Extension

7 – 23 November 2022

Quito – Cloud Forest – Andes – Galápagos Islands



Jon Baines  
tours



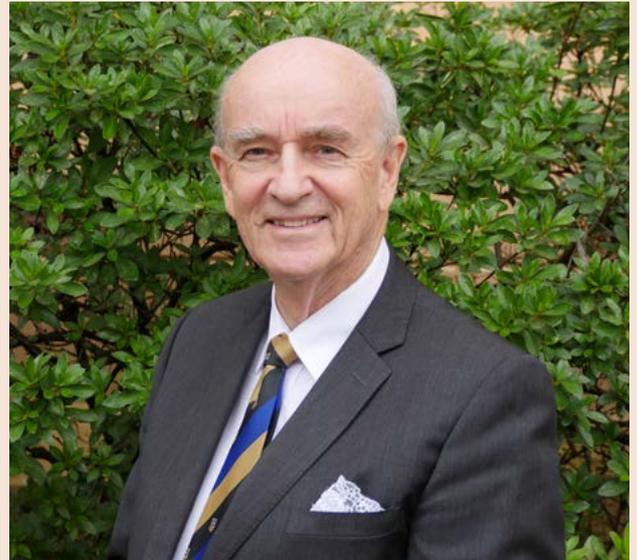
Marine Iguana, in the Galapagos Islands

**Ecuador is a land of enormous cultural and natural diversity. Its cultural legacy encompasses the descendants of Spanish conquistadores and many distinct indigenous communities, markedly different in dress and lifestyle. Its bio-diversity is extraordinary, the jewel in its crown being the incomparable Galápagos Islands. The remote island group encompasses cool lava landscapes, cactus forests, lush green highlands, turquoise coves and perfect white sand beaches, and is the only place in the world where it is possible to swim with penguins and tropical parrot fish at the same time. There is also the option to extend at a luxury eco lodge in the Amazon jungle after the tour.**

This tour encapsulates the great variety to be found within this compact country, with visits and specialist talks from expert tour leader, Professor John Pearn. Experience colonial Quito, the exquisite cloud forests of Mindo, the high country thermal springs at Papallacta in the Andes and finally the incomparable Galápagos islands on an exclusive charter first class yacht. We understand that the Galápagos Islands are a once-in-a-lifetime experience for most people, so have carefully designed this tour to visit at an ideal time of year, on a private yacht and in the company of an experienced, natural historian tour leader. This tour is strictly limited to fifteen people.

## Tour Leader

**Professor John Pearn** is a clinician and medical historian. He has been an academic and clinical teacher for 50 years in Medicine and Health Sciences, based at the University of Queensland and the author of some fifty books and more than 800 published papers. As Major General John Pearn, he served in the Defence Reserves for 35 years, ultimately in the appointment of Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force. He commanded the 2 Field Hospital, formerly No. 1 Casualty Clearing Station which was the pivot medical unit on the beach at Gallipoli, 25 April 1915. Professor John Pearn was a founder, later president and then honorary life member of the Australian and New Zealand Society of the History of Medicine and is a historian of the Order of St John. John's range of interests include medical and scientific history, butterflies, nusiomatics and botany amongst



many others. John was the invited speaker to deliver the oration at Litchfield Cathedral on the bicentenary of the death of Erasmus Darwin. He is also an experienced tour leader with great natural charm and attentiveness to each member of the group.

*“Tour leader was very very good indeed”*

Caroline Bond, Kingdoms of the North, May 2019

Antisana Volcano



2 nights Quito – 2 nights Mindo Cloud Forest – 3 nights Papallacta  
– 4 nights Galápagos Islands – 1 night Quito



## Day 1: Quito (Mon, 7 Nov) **D**

**Pm:** Arrive and transfer to the Hilton.  
**Eve:** Welcome dinner.

## Day 2: Quito (Tue, 8 Nov) **B L D**

**Am:** Tour of colonial Quito. Visit Independence Plaza flanked by the Cathedral and Archbishop's Palace, La Compania Church and San Francisco Monastery.  
**Pm:** Walking tour of the old quarter of Quito.  
**Eve:** Dinner at Urku – a modern Ecuadorian restaurant.

## Day 3: Quito / Mindo (Wed, 9 Nov) **B L D**

**Am:** Drive to the "Centre of World." Continue to the rim of the giant, extinct Pululahua Volcano.  
**Pm:** Lunch by the crater with spectacular views. Continue onto Mindo and the Sachatamia Lodge. Take a nature walk in Mindo.  
**Eve:** Talk: *"Lepidoptery, the beautiful world of butterflies"*

## Day 4: Mindo (Thur, 10 Nov) **B L D**

**Am:** Early morning birdwatching including the humming bird feeders. Visit the Mariposario Mindo Butterfly Farm.

**Pm:** Cable car across the Rio Nambillo with the cloud forest valley below. Take a nature walk to the Mindo waterfalls.

**Eve:** Nocturnal Walk to see the spiders and other nocturnal creatures.

## Day 5: Mindo / Papallacta (Fri, 11 Nov) **B L D**

**Am:** Early morning birdwatching including the humming bird feeders. Drive to Paramao High Andean forest to observe the Polylepis trees, some of the oddest and rarest trees on the planet.  
**Pm:** To Papallacta and the Termas de Papallacta thermal resort in the Andes.  
**Eve:** Talk: *"Beyond the Clouds, dynamic geology and biology"*

## Day 6: Papallacta (Sat, 12 Nov) **B L D**

**Am:** Visit the Antisana National Park in the Andes to see condors and spectacular views of the surrounding snow-capped volcanoes. Walk in the park.  
**Pm:** At leisure in Papallacta to enjoy the hot springs.  
**Eve:** Visit the Guyango Lodge for Dinner followed by a nocturnal nature walk.

## Day 7: Papallacta (Sun, 13 Nov) **B L D**

**Am:** Visit the weekly traditional Sangolqui market. Return to the resort and option to enjoy the thermal springs.  
**Pm:** Talk: *"Everything from Shells – the evolution of the theory evolution"*

## Day 8: Papallacta / Baltra and Santa Cruz Islands, Galapagos (Mon, 14 Nov) **B L D**

**Am:** Transfer to airport to fly to Baltra Island. Cross the Itabaca Channel to Santa Cruz Island and drive across the highlands looking for giant tortoises to the port of Puerto Ayora.  
**Pm:** Board the Tip Top II Yacht. Visit to the Charles Darwin Station and its Interpretive Center



Pm: Arrive Quito and transfer to the Hilton Colon Hotel.  
Eve: Farewell dinner.

**Day 13: Quito (Sat, 19 Nov)**

**B**

Am: Transfer to the airport for onward flight.  
Or take extension into the Amazon.

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## Extension into the Amazon: 7 – 23 November 2022

**Day 13: Quito**

**/ Sacha Lodge, Amazon (Sat, 19 Nov)**

**B L D**

Am: Transfer to the airport for flight to Cocoa.  
Pm: Arrive and transfer by river to Sacha Lodge.  
Eve: Nocturnal guided tour.

**Day 14: Sacha Lodge, Amazon**

**(Sun, 20 Nov)**

**B L D**

Am: Take dugout canoes along creeks and lakes, past orchids, bromeliads and palm trees, looking for wildlife from the tiny pygmy marmoset to the ocelot or puma.  
Pm: Trek through pristine Terra Firme forest, where 150-foot kapok trees tower

above and roots form huge buttresses to give trees support, look out for the crest owl and howler monkeys.

Eve: Optional Night walk.

**Day 15: Sacha Lodge, Amazon**

**(Mon, 21 Nov)**

**B L D**

Am: Board the motorized canoe along the Napo River to visit the Providencia Community of Yasuní. Learn of their way of life and experience their cooking techniques, See the parrot disco on the clay lick on the way back.

Pm: Walk along the Canopy Walk, a bridge across the treetops to spot dozens of animals and birds.

Eve: Optional Night canoe trip for Caiman spotting.

**Day 16: Sacha Lodge / Quito**

**(Tue, 22 Nov)**

**B D**

Am: Transfer back to Coco.  
Pm: Fly to Quito and transfer to the Hotel Hilton Colon.

**Day 17: Quito (Wed, 23 Nov)**

**B**

Am: Transfer to the airport.

Highland market





Sacha Lodge

## Amazon extension at Sacha Lodge

The Sacha Lodge team will meet you in Coca and guide you to the Lodge, which blends seamlessly into its forest surroundings. The spacious cabins are built of traditional materials with a high thatched roof and private shaded terrace. They each have a hammock, private bathroom, flushing toilet and hot shower, large windows for an immersive jungle experience and ceiling fans. You could see giant otters duck, dive and call to each other as you eat breakfast; caimans glide under the walkway as you head back to your room; hear monkeys chattering outside your balcony; or see giant sloths hanging out on trees by the cabins.

A typical day at Sacha begins at sunrise, in the cool morning hours when the rainforest animals are most active. Each day you will return to the Lodge for lunch after the morning activities. Relax until the afternoon excursion, which often continues into the evening when the nocturnal insect and frog chorus begins. Days at Sacha Lodge do not end with the fading of the light. Night walks and canoe trips, with the aid of flashlights, often reveal creatures seldom seen during daylight.

Between excursions you are at leisure to enjoy the Lodge, lounging on sun chairs on the al fresco lakeside lounge, in the Lake Pool, or at the bar, restaurant or shop.

**\* Please note: activities are subject to weather.**



Inside a room at Sacha Lodge (top);  
A toucan in the Amazon (above)



Tip Top II at Sea

## Tip Top II Galápagos Private Yacht

This first class, stylish yacht is on private charter for this tour. It accommodates just 16 passengers in 10 cabins with private facilities. Redesigned in 2015- 2016, this superbly comfortable yacht is both stable and stylish, with facilities including a lovely open deck area with lounge chairs and a bar, an indoor dining room and comfortable lounge area. There are eight experienced crew members, a chef who combines Ecuadorian and international cuisine to create delicious dishes, and a bilingual naturalist guide.



Turtle at Sea

Sun Loungers on the top deck (top); Seating on deck; Cabin on the Tip Topp II (above)

## Facts on the Galápagos Islands

- The first recorded visitors to the Islands were the Spanish. Bishop Tomás de Berlanga arrived in 1535 and nicknamed the giant tortoises he saw 'Galápagos', after a popular type of saddle.
- The Spanish also called them 'las islas encantadas' (the Enchanted Isles) as treacherous currents and swirling mists caused sailors to frequently lose sight of islands right in front of them.
- The Galápagos Islands were home to the only surviving giant Pinta tortoise, 'Lonesome George', who sadly died in June 2012.
- The convergence of three major oceanic currents brings an incredible mix of marine life to Galápagos.
- The endemic Galápagos marine iguana is the only lizard to swim in the ocean.
- Darwin's research in Galápagos led to his theory of The Origin of Species.
- In 1978 UNESCO designated Galápagos as the first World Heritage site.
- Galápagos has one of the world's rarest ecosystems in which the herbivores at the top of the food chain are reptiles.

## Weather and wildlife in November

November is getting towards the end of the Galapagos cool, dry season and the temperature is pleasant with an average of 26 degrees Celsius and the water temperature an average of 22 degrees Celsius

There is nowhere else in the world like the Galápagos Islands, where each island is distinct with its own landscapes, flora and fauna. For bird watchers there is plenty of activity with Boobies (blue-footed, red-footed and Nazca) all nesting with young chicks, while Brown Noddy Terns and Storm Petrels are busy beginning their breeding

season. Band rumped storm petrels start nesting again.

There are excellent conditions for snorkeling and diving and the sea temperatures are ideal for Galapagos marine species like sea lions and sea turtles who enjoy plentiful food and nutrients in the water. The green sea turtle mating season starts, and they are often seen coupling up in the sea. In November playful sea lion pups are exploring the sea for the very first time and are old enough to play with tourists.



Great Heron at Kicker Rock



Termas de Papallacta Resort

*“Special Memories - Hummingbirds inches from your nose... Sea lions everywhere - on pavements, parks, beaches, rocks. Watching the sun set from the zodiac boats, with frigate birds and pelicans overhead. White sand beaches and turquoise seas, iguanas and other wildlife at your feet. The joy of being so close to nature.”*

Valerie and Michael Knight, Ecuador and Galapagos Islands Tour, May 2019

## Hotels

### **Hilton Colon Hotel (Quito)**

A modern 5-star hotel, this is a typical Hilton venue – comfortable, efficient and centrally located with good, friendly customer service. It also offers some wonderful views.

### **Sachatamia Lodge (Mindo)**

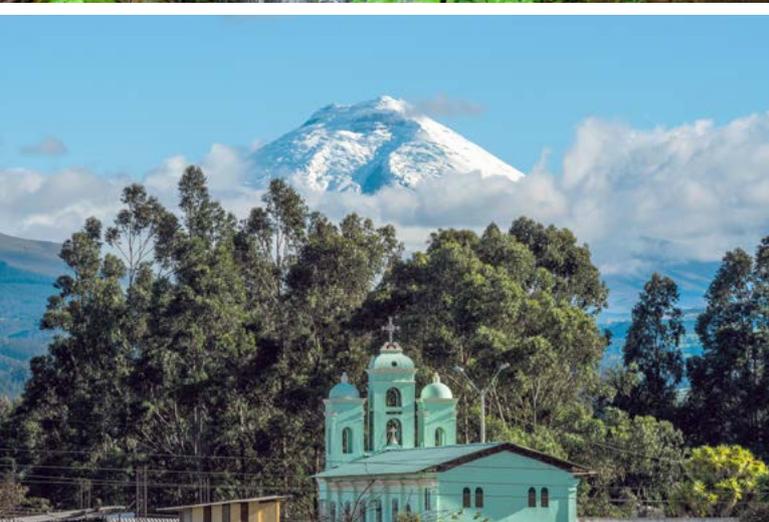
This is a charming lodge with cabins, as well as rooms in the main building, making good use of beautiful local woods and crafts. Located in a private ecological reserve consisting of more than 750 acres, it incorporates five pristine rivers within the cloud forest and has a pool.

### **Termas de Papallacta (Papallacta)**

Termas de Papallacta is perched in a high Andean valley, surrounded by green mountains. The spa resort offers relaxing natural thermal baths, spa treatments, an excellent restaurant and attractive rooms.



Sachatamia Lodge, Mindo (top);  
A cabin at Termas de Papallacta Resort (above)



Quito Rooftops (top); See the jewelled hummingbirds of Mindo;  
A waterfall in Mindo; Cotapaxi volcano (above)

**Tour cost is US \$8,092 per person sharing (excluding international flights and transfers)**

**The cost includes:**

- Comprehensive pre-departure information
- Tour leader Professor John Pearn

**In Ecuador the cost includes:**

- Eight nights' accommodation in twin bedded rooms with private facilities in a five-star hotel, a cloud forest lodge, and an Andean resort

**The single supplement\* is US \$696**

- All meals daily
- A full programme of sightseeing, walks and talks as per the itinerary
- Admission fees and tips
- Services of experienced English speaking guide
- All transport including internal flights

\* Only three cabins are available as singles in the Galapagos and are strictly available on a first come first served basis.

**In the Galápagos the cost includes:**

- Four nights' accommodation in cabins with private facilities aboard the Tip Topp II
- All meals with soft drinks
- Island visits with English speaking naturalist guide
- Galapagos National Park tax, dock fee and tips

**The extension to Sacha Lodge costs US \$1,728 per person sharing and includes:**

- Three nights' accommodation in twin bedded rooms with private facilities in a five-star jungle lodge and one night in a five-star hotel

**The single supplement for the four nights in Ecuador is US \$754**

- All meals at Sacha Lodge, breakfast and dinner in Quito
- Drinks with meals (soft drinks, water, tea and coffee)
- A full programme of activities as per the itinerary.
- Services of experienced English speaking guides
- All transport including internal flights
- Tips

**The cost excludes:**

- International flights
- Personal extras such as laundry etc
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance

# About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.

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See condors in the Andes (top); The Andean highlands in Ecuador;  
A Galápagos giant tortoise; Blue footed boobies (above)



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tours

