

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page	
2	Table of Contents
4	Basic Journey Information
5	Physical and Health Requirementszmmnm
7	Journey Cost
9	Cost Amounts and Due Dates
12	Document Due Dates
13	Estimated Airfare Cost
14	Other Costs
15	Bogota Sample Itinerary
20	Bogota Weather
22	Bogota Recommendations What to Bring
23	Quito, Ecuador Itinerary
27	Quito Weather
29	Quito What to Bring
30	Quito Price Policy and Cancellation Charges
32	Galápagos Land Tour Itinerary and Information
40	Galapagos Weather
41	Galápagos Cancellation Policy
42	Optional Tour Extension Itinerary, Huarorani Amazon Encounter
47	Amazon Recommendations What to Bring
48	SuviaTour Amazon Tour Booking and Cancellation Plan
50	Amazon - What to Pack
51	Ambassador Prospect List
52	Valuable Links
53	Colombia Guide on Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette

58	Ecuador Guide on Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette
62	Contact Information and Communication Keys
64	Friendship Force Pledge

BASIC JOURNEY INFORMATION

Your seven night Bogota, Colombia homestay will start on April 26, 2019. You should plan your airline reservations to arrive in Bogota (BOG) on April 26, 2019 and your departure back home should be from Quito, Ecuador (UIO) on May 11, 2019 or May 16, 2019 if you do the Optional Amazon tour extension. You are responsible for arranging your International air reservations as well as the costs which are not included in the journey cost.

On May 3, we will fly from Bogota (BOG) to Quito (UIO) where we will have a four day three day stay in a hotel and do two full days of tours of Quito.

On May 6, we will fly early in the morning to Baltra (GPS) on the Galápagos Islands where we will do a six day five night land adventure and discovery tour of four islands in the archipelago.

On May 11, you will fly home from the Galápagos Islands unless you would like to partake in an optional extension to the Ecuadorian Amazon.

On May 12, after an overnight hotel stay near the airport, we are picked up to begin the Amazon Optimal Extension.

On May 15, we are transported back to Quito where we will spend one night at a hotel to relax and rest up for our trip home.

May 16, we fly back to our home destinations from Quito.

PHYSICAL AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Your health should be in good with no physical limitations. One should be aware that both Bogota and Quito are located in high elevations. If you do not do well in high elevations, you should not go on this journey.

Galápagos is an adventure which there will be hiking on uneven rocky terrains. There will be several exciting snorkeling excursions which is an highlight of visiting the Galápagos Islands. If you chose not to snorkel, you can either stay on the boat or enjoy the beach. If you are afraid of animals, you should not join this journey. If you had issues with the sun, you should take that into consideration. Punctuality is required.

The Amazon Optional Extension is in the jungle thus it is hot and humid. There are bugs, reptiles and animals. There is no air condition in the hotel. The on-line reviews are amazing.

You are required to have travel/trip insurance. To cover pre-existing conditions you must purchase the policy within 15 days of first payment which is June 15, 2018. Be sure you include all your air travel costs which you are responsible. It is recommended that you purchased your trip/travel insurance through Friendship Force International. You are required to provide proof of paid coverage to the journey director, Bonnie Evans.

The country of Ecuador **requires** proof of travel trip insurance. Visitors must be adequately insured against personal accidents and medical expense as well as travel cancellation and baggage insurance to protect you.

JOURNEY COST

- \$165.00 Friendship Force International Journey Fee**
- \$190.00 Friendship Force Bogota Journey Program fee**
- \$495.00 Quito Ecuador Tour Package Fee**
- \$2500.00 Galápagos Land Tour six days five nights**
- \$25.00 Administration Fee**
- \$130.00 Tip Allocation**
- \$190.00 Contingency Fee**
- \$3695.00 Total Bogota Quito Galápagos**

- \$920.00 Optional HUAORANI AMAZONIAN ENCOUNTER (4 DAYS - 3 NIGHTS) must have 4-15 people to do extension. The price includes a hotel near the airport before and after the encounter making the total days being 6 days and 5 nights.**

INTERNATIONAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN AIRFARE NOT INCLUDED. Gabriela Rojas, agent of SuviaTour, will be arranging group travel within South America for us but as a separate expense. It is to assure that as a group we arrive in Quito, Galápagos and back to Quito as a group.

GALÁPAGOS TOUR

*******The Galapagos Island is a popular destination where people reserve a year ahead. The Galapagos National Park strictly limits the number of visitors to the archipelago. There is a limited number of hotels that can accommodate our group of 20. The tour company will NOT make hotel and tour guide reservations until we pay 50% of the \$2500 up front. I also have to provide the following information to Guiding Galápagos Expeditions at the time I wire the funds.**

Full Name as on Passport:

Passport Number:

Copy of Passport:

Airline and flight number to and from (I will supply once the air reservations are made)

Gender:

Date of Birth:

Nationality:

Shoe Size

Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL

Telephone Number: (download WhatsApp on your cell phones)

Emergency Contact person and phone number

Dietary Restrictions: (If Applicable) if NONE write NONE

Special Health Conditions: (If Applicable) if NONE write NONE

I realize that much of this information is on the Ambassador Application and Pledge.

FEE AMOUNTS AND DUE DATES

- \$165.00** Friendship Force International Fee for Journey Number 15113. Pay on line at FFI website or mail them a check with the journey number on the check. **DUE JUNE 15, 2018**
- \$190.00** Friendship Force Bogota program fee covering the seven night homestay. **DUE BY JANUARY 4 2019.**
- \$150.00** SuviaTour due 30% of \$495.00 to reserve Quito tour and hotel. **DUE BY JUNE 15, 2018.**
- \$345.00** SuviaTour balance due for Quito tour. **DUE BY JANUARY 4, 2019**
- \$1250.00** Guiding Galápagos Expeditions requires a 50% deposit. **DUE BY JUNE 15, 2018.**
- \$1250.00** Guiding Galápagos Expeditions balance due. **DUE BY JANUARY 4, 2019.**
- \$130.00** Tip allocation. **DUE BY JANUARY 4, 2019.**
- \$25.00** Administration fee (nonrefundable) **DUE BY JUNE 15, 2018**
- \$190.00** Contingency Fee (buffer on costs) **DUE BY JANUARY 4, 2019**

Cost is based on double occupancy.

\$276.00 Optional Amazon Extension Tour. DUE BY JUNE 15, 2019

\$644.00 Balance of Optional Amazon Extension Tour. DUE BY JANUARY 4, 2019

**Mail to Bonnie Evans
1954 Musket Ct
Stone Mountain, GA 30087-1702**

SUMMARY OF COSTS AND DUE DATES

June 15, 2018 \$165.00 pay to FFI

June 15, 2018 \$1425.00 check payable to FFGA (add \$276.00 if doing the Optional Amazon Extension)

Jan 4, 2019 \$2105.00 check payable to FFGA (add \$644.00 if doing the Optional Amazon Extension)

TOTAL FOR JOURNEY \$3695.00 (add \$920 if doing the Optional Amazon Extension)

*******TRIP TRAVEL INSURANCE IS REQUIRED. COPY OF PAID RECEIPT BY AND OUTLINE OF COVERAGE IF NOT PURCHASED THROUGH FFI. ASSURE IT COVERS YOUR AIRFARE COSTS, TOO.**

With just the basic tour and air cost total \$5016.00

With Amazon Extension and air cost total \$5936.00

FFI grid shows insurance premium for US Citizens to be \$413.00 for coverage between \$5001 and \$6000.

https://www.thefriendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Benefits_and_Plan_Costs.pdf

You can apply for the FFI travel insurance on line at the same above link.

Here is a link to the copy of the policy if the applicant lives in the state of Georgia.

https://friendshipforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Other_States.pdf

MOST INSURANCE COMPANIES WILL COVER PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS IF PURCHASED WITHIN 15 DAYS*** must purchase by **June 30, 2018.****

Send Bonnie proof of payment by June 30, 2018.

DOCUMENT DUE DATES

AMBASSADOR APPLICATION AND PLEDGE DUE JUNE 15, 2018. Initial checks will NOT be cashed unless you have been accepted as an ambassador for this journey.

Link to Ambassador Application and Pledge: <https://friendshipforce.azurewebsites.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Ambassador-Application-and-Agreement-1.pdf>

COPY OF PASSPORT DUE JUNE 15, 2018

The following information by June 15, 2018.

Passport Number:

Copy of Passport:

Airline and flight number to and from (I will supply once the air reservations are made)

Gender:

Date of Birth:

Nationality:

Shoe Size

Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL

Telephone Number: (download WhatsApp on your cell phones)

Emergency Contact person and phone number

Dietary Restrictions: (If Applicable) if NONE write NONE

Special Health Conditions: (If Applicable) if NONE write NONE

Mail or email to Bonnie Evans

1954 Musket Ct

Stone Mountain, GA 30087-1702

kbemje@bellsouth.net

ESTIMATED AIRFARE COST

When making international airline reservation, you should make it arriving in Bogota, Colombia on April 26, 2019 and departing from Quito on May 11, 2019 with no Amazon Tour Extension. These are estimates based on my research of airfares.

\$675.00 ATLANTA TO BOGOTA, QUITO TO ATLANTA (You will make this reservation from and to your home airport)

\$360.00 BOGOTA TO QUITO (Air reservations will be made by Suviatours but you pay as a separate expense)

\$286.00 QUITO TO BALTA GALÁPAGOS ROUND TRIP (Air Reservations will be made by Suviatours but you pay as a separate expense)

OTHER COSTS

Travel/Trip Insurance

Drinks

Host Gift

Host Meal

Meals not specified on itinerary

Middle of the World Intinan Museum \$4.00

Companies de Jesus Golden Church \$5.00

Transit Control Card \$20.00

Galápagos National Park Fee \$100.00

There are no entrance/visa fees to enter Colombia or Ecuador

EXAMPLE OF BOGOTA, COLOMBIA ITINERARY

DAY ONE : Arrival of the group at El Dorado airport.
Hosts will be at the airport to welcome you

DAY TWO:

- 10 am- 12:30 am Visit to **Ministry of Culture of Colombia**

The **Ministry of Culture**, is the national executive ministry of the Government of Colombia charged with preserving, promoting, and encouraging the growth, free expression and understanding of the culture of Colombia in all its multi-ethnic forms.

- **Visit to Museum Santa Clara** is one of Bogotá's most richly decorated churches and also its oldest. It's now run by the government, by the Ministry of Culture as a museum. Built between 1629 and 1674, the single-nave construction features a barrel vault coated in golden floral motifs that look down over walls entirely covered by 148 paintings and sculptures of saints.

Lunch at home or at downtown with your hosts who is taking you to the Ministry. (Pay for your own lunch)

- 6-9 pm **Welcome event** –Dinner at a Colombian restaurant.

Dancing and Music! FF Bogota pays for your dinner.

Beverages and drinks are not included.

Colombia is a country full of world champion dancers. So its no surprise that Colombians can move.

It is not difficult for visitors to catch up, just learn the steps, feel the beat and set your hips in motion to dance Salsa, Merengue, cumbia , joropo and valenato.

DAY THREE

8am-8 pm bus tour

- Visit to a **rose's farm** in town of Tocancipa-

The rose farms are located in the incredibly fertile savannah of Bogotá, high in the Andes mountains of Colombia, where the weather is perfect for rose growing: warm days and cool nights.

- Visit to the **Basilica Nuestra Señora de Fatima**, de la Orden de los Caballeros de la Virgen (Heralds of the Gospel-Knights of the Virgen) There is a growing devotion of Colombians to the Virgin of Fatima, Msgr. João S. Clá Dias, Founder and Superior General, devised, encouraged and guided with special care, to the minimum details the construction of the church. He suggested that it should be a temple full of color and light that spoke of faith and hope to those who gathered in it to praise God and his Blessed Mother.

- Lunch at **Universidad de la Sabana** in town of Chia. Is a Colombian private higher education institution founded in 1979. It is located in the municipality of Chía, 7 km north of Bogotá. The university has been given the High Quality Institutional Accreditation by the National Ministry of Education. Lunch is paid by FF Bogota.

- Visit to **Salt Cathedral in city of Zipaquirá** , Admission is paid by FF Bogota

The Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá is an underground Roman Catholic church built within the tunnels of a salt mine 200 meters underground in a halite mountain near the town of Zipaquirá, in Cundinamarca, Colombia.

It is a very popular tourist destination and place of pilgrimage in the country.

The temple at the bottom has three sections, representing the birth, life, and death of Jesus. The icons, ornaments and architectural

details are hand carved in the halite rock. Some marble sculptures are included.

Snacks and soft drinks on the bus will be offered.

Host will take you to a meeting point at 8 am and pick you up at the same place at 8 pm at night.

DAY FOUR:

Flexible schedule, we mention times in case that you want to meet with others of your group that will follow the suggested times, but you can decide this between you and your hosts, the places to see are:

- 9 a.m. Climb to **Montserrat Hill**, for massive capital views, This is a Bogota proud symbol. The church up top is a major mecca for pilgrims, due to the church's altar statue of Fallen Christ (Señor Caído) to which many miracles have been attributed. It is 500 more meters higher than Bogota (ambassadors will pay for the round trip in cable car, approx 8 dollars)

Down the station of Monserrate there is an **Emerald store**, if you are not interested on buying, you are welcome just to visit it. You have to mention to your host if you would like to see them.

Colombia produces the largest percentage of the world's emeralds. Colombia may actually contain up to 90% of the world's emerald deposits.

- 11-12 noon or longer, visit to **Gold Museum**. Bogota's most famous museum. Contains more than 55.000 pieces of gold from all the major pre-Hispanic cultures in Colombia

Lunch on your own. You can stay in downtown or if your host has prepared lunch, you will be told by them and taken home.

- **Museo Botero** . Paintings and sculptures of Colombia's most famous artist, Fernando Botero. He donated these works. Rest of the day is free. Hosts will have ideas for you of what to do.

DAY FIVE:

7:30 am to 9 pm Day trip to the state of Boyacá.

The State or Department of Boyacá evokes a sense of patriotism among Colombians.

It was here that Colombians troops won their independence from Spain at the Battle of Boyacá.

- Stop at **Boyacá Bridge**. Is one of the most important battlefields of Colombia's modern history. On August 7th, 1819 the armies of Simon Bolivar defeated Spanish troops sealing Colombia's independence.

- Villa de Leyva, one of the most beautiful colonial villages in Colombia. It is a city frozen in time. Declared a national monument in 1.954. Filled with, museums, festivals. It has one of the largest town squares in the Americas. It's paved with with massive cobblestones and surrounded by magnificent colonial structures.

- Lunch in town paid by FF. Snacks and soft drinks on the bus.

English guide the whole day.

Hosts will take you to the meeting point and will pick you up at night.

DAY SIX: Free day to spend with your hosts

Options:

Visit **Usaquen** . Still lives like a village. A quaint central plaza surrounded by stylish antique shops, chic bars and fusion style restaurants. Its best coming on Sunday for its flea market

Mass, Malls, downtown, family meetings, visit farms of the hosts etc...

DAY SEVEN:

WORKERS DAY is a national holiday in Colombia which we will celebrate with our hosts.

Free morning to spend with hosts. . Host will have ideas for you

- 1-5 pm **Farewell Carnival and Pot luck lunch** with live music to dance. Same as you we have an annual carnival , declared intangible cultural heritage of Humanity by UNESCO, the Barranquilla Carnival . Please bring attires or accessories of your Mardi Gras Carnival and we will have our to wear for the event of sharing carnivals.

Beverages and drinks are not included.

TUESDAY June 12th

Departure of the group

Host will take you to the Airport.

April Climate & Weather Averages in Bogota

Years on Record: 21

Average Temperature



	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	56	55	56	57	57	57	56	55	55	56	56	56	55

Years on Record: 21

Average High Temperature



	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	65	66	66	67	66	65	64	64	64	65	65	65	66

Years on Record: 21

Average Low Temperature



	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	46	43	45	47	48	48	48	47	46	46	47	47	45

Years on Record: 125

Average Precipitation



	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
in.	37.8	1.9	2	3.2	4.7	4	2.4	1.8	1.9	2.3	5.6	4.5	2.7

Years on Record: 30

Average Number of Days With Precipitation



	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Days	205	11	13	17	19	22	20	18	18	17	19	18	13

Years on Record: 21

Highest Recorded Temperature



	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	86	84	77	84	86	74	77	82	81	75	72	82	81

Years on Record: 21

**Lowest Recorded Temperature**

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	25	27	25	28	32	32	32	32	32	31	32	27	27

Years on Record: 30

**Average Length of Day**

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Hours	12.5	12.3	12.3	12.4	12.6	12.7	12.8	12.7	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.3	12.2

Years on Record: 125

**Most Rain Reported in a Month**

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
in.	64.2	5.4	5.5	15.5	13.1	9.5	6	4.5	4.5	7.8	13.2	12.5	7

Years on Record: 30

**Average Relative Humidity**

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
%	82.5	80	80	85	85	85	80	80	80	80	85	85	85

Years on Record: 20

**Average Morning Relative Humidity**

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
%	92	95	94	93	93	92	91	90	91	92	92	93	94

Years on Record: 19

**Average Evening Relative Humidity**

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
%	70	67	68	70	73	72	69	66	65	68	74	76	73

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Important outfits: Camera, sunscreen lotion, insect repellent, cap or hat, sun glasses, gloves, bathing suit, towel, sandals, binoculars, backpack or handbag, comfortable walking shoes or tennis shoes, one dressy outfit, T-shirts, long sleeves shirts, long and short trousers, wind breaker and waterproof jacket, warm sweaters, passport, and some cash (US dollars) for entrance fees, meals or drinks.

QUITO ECUADOR ITINERARY

Suviatour is our tour company for Quito. Trip Advisor shows 112 review of which 108 were rated excellent and four very good. Website address is <http://operadora.suviatour.com/index.php/en/about>

Here is a video link about what we may see in Quito. It is a WOW to me.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AsdrIGDeu9IUTmXuBGZaqDyLIVd-DkDC/view>

QUITO AND OTAVALO INDIAN MARKET (4 DAYS - 3 NIGHTS)

ITINERARY:

DAY 1.- At any day or any time, according to your flight schedule; after landing in “Mariscal Sucre” Airport of Quito, your certified bilingual tour guide will be waiting for you, holding a sign with your name on it, in order to pick you up and drive you approximately 45 minutes up to the old town of Quito! Once we arrive to the city, we will stay the overnight in Hotel Patio Andaluz, which is in a very privileged location in the colonial town of Quito!

Bonnie note: Excellent Hotel in an ideal location. Trip Advisor Rated #6 out of 118 as a Best Value Hotel. Awarded Trip Advisors Travelers Choice Award for 2018. Hotel Class: 4 star. Link: <http://www.hotelpatioandaluz.com/en-gb>

DAY 2.- Your tour guide will pick you up at 08h30 from your hotel. Transfer to the viewpoint of the Pululahua Volcano, one of

the two inhabited craters in the world! This volcanic complex consists of a main boiler, a central volcano with two craters and the remains of a third party, and several volcanic domes within the caldera located on the edge and outside of it. Then we head to the Intiñan Museum, geographically located at 0 degrees, 0 minutes and 0 seconds, that marks the division between northern and southern hemisphere as established by French Geodesic Mission in the eighteenth century, we will see beautiful displays of different ethnic groups in Ecuador, plus the story of their lifestyles, explained by an specialist tour guide! This is an opportunity to be photographed with both of your feet on the northern and southern hemispheres at the same time! On the way back to Quito, we will pass close by the equatorial monument. Lunch on your own (not included). In the afternoon we go to the historical centre of Quito, the first world cultural heritage site (UNESCO 1978! During our walk, we will pass through the Independence Square, scene of many dramatic battles of revolution in the history of the Republic of Ecuador. And we will have the opportunity to visit the Cathedral, the Archbishop's palace, the Church of the Society of Jesus of Quito, summit of the Latin America Baroque, the charming neighborhood of La Ronda, and the Church and Convent of San Francisco, built in 1540! We will be back in your hotel approximately at 15h00.

DAY 3.- Otavalo is located in Imbabura province, 86 km north of Quito, this town is now one of the most important tourist destinations of Ecuador, surrounded by mountains, lakes, rivers, streams and springs, making this small city a paradise where you always return! The city of Otavalo is known worldwide for the famous handicraft Indian Market. Departure at 08h00, bound to the colorful town of Otavalo and most famous Indian fair in South America! We take the Pan-American Highway,

which takes you through spectacular mountain scenery, to enjoy a spectacular view of people and their communities, while conducting their activities and daily life! Our first stop will be at Guayllabamba where you can taste the "chirimoyas" typical fruit of the region; also visit the viewpoint of Cayambe, to admire and photograph the beautiful valleys and snow-capped mountains surrounding this place! Before going to Otavalo, we will visit the viewpoint of the Laguna San Pablo, at the foot of Imbabura volcano. We continue our journey, and then we arrive at the Otavalo market or Plaza de Ponchos showing varied handmade indigenous crafts! It is also possible to visit the rural parish of Peguche, where we can learn more about the local culture and the weaving process of the tapestries! After lunch we visit the Cotacachi village, known as the "music capital of Ecuador", rich in the production of fine leather garments, which are displayed and sold in small shops along the centre of the city. Then we will drive up to Cuicocha Crater Lake, located in the Cotacachi volcano (5.000 m.a.s.l.). Once we finished, we will be back in Hotel Patio Andaluz approximately at 17h00.

DAY 4.- According to your flight schedule, you will be picked up from your hotel to drive you back to the airport, in order to take your flight, on time, to continue your exciting journey!

THIS TOUR INCLUDES:

Airport transfers IN / OUT

Private transport

Certified English speaking guide

Mentioned excursions and visits

Cuicocha Crater Lake entrance fee

3 Hotel overnights in double rooms

Mentioned accommodation or similar (depending on availability) Breakfast

THIS TOUR EXCLUDES:

Airline tickets to/from Ecuador

Other meals

Drinks

Some Entrance fees

Extra expenses

WEATHER QUITO:

May Climate & Weather Averages in Quito

MONTHLY - WEATHER AVERAGES SUMMARY

[Show All Data]

[°C]

°F

Years on Record: 20

Average Temperature



	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	58	58	58	58	59	58	58	58	58	58	58	58	58

Years on Record: 20

Average High Temperature



	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	67	66	66	66	66	66	67	67	67	68	67	67	66

Years on Record: 20

Average Low Temperature



	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	50	50	50	50	51	51	49	49	49	49	49	49	50

Years on Record: 100

Average Precipitation



	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
in.	47.5	4.5	5.1	6	6.9	4.9	1.9	0.8	1	3.1	5	4.3	4.1

Years on Record: 30

Average Number of Days With Precipitation



	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Days	160	13	13	18	19	16	11	7	6	11	15	16	15

Years on Record: 20



Highest Recorded Temperature

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	106	86	84	88	106	82	82	84	81	82	86	81	84

Years on Record: 20



Lowest Recorded Temperature

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	32	32	32	34	32	39	32	34	37	39	41	37	37

Years on Record: 30



Average Length of Day

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Hours	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5

Years on Record: 30



Average Relative Humidity

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
%	75	80	80	80	80	80	70	65	60	70	75	80	80

Years on Record: 18



Average Morning Relative Humidity

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
%	84	88	87	88	89	88	80	75	73	79	85	86	87

Note: When we tour higher elevations, it will be colder.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Important outfits: Camera, sunscreen lotion, insect repellent, cap or hat, sun glasses, gloves, bathing suit, towel, sandals, binoculars, backpack or handbag, comfortable walking shoes or tennis shoes, one dressy outfit, T-shirts, long sleeves shirts, long and short trousers, wind breaker and waterproof jacket, warm sweaters, passport, and some cash (US dollars) for entrance fees, meals or drinks. (This is the same as Bogota,)

Insurance: It is responsibility of every traveller that he/she is adequately insured against personal accidents and medical expenses during his/her trip to Ecuador, as well as having travel cancellation and baggage insurance to protect him/her.

As requested by Ecuadorian Government since 2018, all tourists must travel with an appropriate insurance.

For groups a passengers list should be sent with the following information:

Full Names:

Passport Number:

Gender:

Date of Birth:

Nationality:

Dietary Restrictions: (If Applicable) Special Health Conditions: (If Applicable)

PRICE POLICY AND CANCELLATION CHARGES:

The price is per person in United States Dollars and applies for this particular group.

Payments for groups must be done with anticipation. To book and confirm the services, a pre-payment of 30% is required. The remaining balance must be paid no later than 90 days before departure of the tour. If a client fails to pay for the tour in full before the agreed final payment dates (90 days before departure) the client risks losing the tour. Equally, by failing to make the full payment before the due date, the client will lose the deposits for all travelers included in the reservation. If the tour fee has not been paid in full before the arranged travel start, SUVIATOUR will be released from its service obligations and may require the customer to pay any appropriate resignation costs.

For payments:

- Our Ecuadorian bank information for wire transfers:

BANK: Banco del Pichincha Quito - Ecuador BANK ADDRESS:

Amazonas y Pereira

SWIFT CODE: PICHECEQ

NAME: SuviaTour Cia. Ltda.

CURRENT ACCOUNT NUMBER: 3340608704

NOTE: The total wire transfer costs should be assumed by the sender

- Our US bank information for deposits and transfers: BANK:

Bank of America

SWIFT CODE: Bofaus6s

NAME: Andrea Rojas

CURRENT ACCOUNT NUMBER: 8980 7187 3177 WIRE

TRANSFER: 0260009593

NOTE: The total wire transfer costs should be assumed by the sender

Credit card payments with electronic invoice

Ask for your electronic invoice

A 6% financial fee will be charged to the final invoice.

For cancellations:

The customer can withdraw from the tour at any time before beginning the tour. However this must be done by e-mail.

Refunds can only be made under the following cancellation guidelines as pre-tour costs will be incurred and cannot be recuperated. Therefore the following cancellation fees will be charged for cancelled tours:

50% of the total amount - 90 days or more before tour start date

75% of the total amount - 30 to 90 days before tour start date

90% of the total amount - 20 to 29 days before tour start date

100% of the total amount - 19 days previous until departure date

GALÁPAGOS LAND TOUR 6 DAYS 5 NIGHTS

Tour Company: Guiding Galápagos Expeditions
Rated #1 on TripAdvisor with 210 reviews of which 199
excellent, 10 very good, 1 average.
Website: <http://www.thegalapagosguide.net/>

Galapagos Island Hopping
Any date in 2019: 6 days and 5 nights
(Arrival and departure to and from Baltra Airport)

Our accommodations will be in the moderate category which is above tourist class and below luxury.

Names of accommodations in the moderate category are Santa Fe Suite, Deja Vu, Wooden House Hotel, Hotel Volcano

Day 1 - Transfer in and visit to the Highlands of Santa Cruz with organic lunch menu at the tortoise farm

On arrival at the Baltra airport and after having passed the passport control, a guide will be waiting for you, accompanying you to Santa Cruz Island, from where you will have a private transport to your hotel in Puerto Ayora. On the way to Puerto Ayora you will be visiting the Highlands of Santa Cruz on a private guided tour. This visit includes three sites; first of all a farm where you will be able to observe giant tortoises in the wild, being as close as possible to them. This is also the place where you will get an organic lunch menu as well as organic coffee produced by the same farm.

Then you will be exploring a lava tunnel before stopping by at the "Gemelos", two large craters that were once underground magma chambers.

When arriving to Puerto Ayora, you will be getting your high-quality snorkel equipment as well as wetsuits which you can keep for the entire stay in order to be able to enjoy all snorkel activities in the following days to the fullest. Then, on the way to your hotel, you will get a little "city tour" by car so that you will be able to find your way around at night when going out for dinner. Dinner on your own.

Main attraction of the tour to the Highlands: Giant tortoises in the wild (only place to see them in the wild)

Day 2 - Day tour to North Seymour Island and Bachas beach

After a comfortable navigation in a nice yacht to the north of the archipelago (departing from the Itabaca Canal), you will reach North Seymour island. This island is inhabited by colonies of frigate birds and blue-footed boobies, as well as yellow land iguanas resting under the ancient cactus trees next to sea lions of all ages. You will spend about an hour on that island; enough time to take good photographs and to get to know this island with its inhabitants, accompanied by your naturalist guide who will be able to answer any questions you might have.

Back on board and after a short navigation, you will get a chance to experience the incredible underwater world around this place during a snorkel activity.

After lunch on board and another short navigation, you will disembark on the magnificent Bachas beach with coral sand,

mangroves and black lava inhabited by colorful crabs, marine iguanas, lizards and pelicans. You can also go for a walk to a nearby lagoon where flamingos often can be spotted, do some snorkeling or simply relax a while on this beautiful beach.

Dinner on your own.

Main attractions: Frigate birds, yellow land iguanas, blue footed boobies (from April - December)

Day 3 - Day tour to Santa Fe Island and Hidden Beach

After breakfast, you will depart from the main pier in Puerto Ayora to Santa Fe Island. After about 40 minutes of navigation you will reach the calm and gorgeous bay of Santa Fe Island with crystal-clear, turquoise water. This site offers an incredible underwater world, famous for being one of the best snorkeling spots in the entire archipelago. There are colonies of sea lions who love to play with people in the water, swarms of tropical fish, manta rays, sharks and sea turtles. There will be a second opportunity to do some more snorkeling at another snorkel site, close to the rocks before the freshly prepared lunch will be served on board. Then there will be a disembarkation on "Hidden Beach", a picturesque beach of the archipelago, which can only be reached by boat.

The boat returns to Puerto Ayora in the afternoon.

Dinner on your own.

Main attractions: Snorkeling with playful sea lions in the water, crystal-clear turquoise water (the only place in Galapagos that has this)

Day 4 - Isabela Island - Land tour and bay tour with Tintorera Islet

Early in the morning a speedboat (about 2 hours ride) will take you to Isabela Island (as mentioned already, we can also arrange an airplane instead of the speedboat).

John, our local guide on Isabela Island will welcome you at the pier on Isabela Island and after the hotel check-in, the "land tour", which includes a visit to a Giant tortoises breeding centre, a flamingo lagoon as well as a walk through the wetlands, leading to a beautiful beach adorned by coconut palm trees.

After lunch at a local restaurant the "bay tour" will take place, exploring the beautiful bay around Isabela that is home to the famous Galapagos penguins. Disembarkation on "Tintorera islet", where besides the many marine iguanas many white tip sharks that can be observed resting in the warm water of the islet's thin gorge (depending on the season).

Open water snorkel activity with sea turtles, sharks and manta rays and then return to Puerto Vilamil (Isabela Island), where the night will be spent.

Dinner on your own.

Main attractions:

- Land tour: Flamingos, giant tortoises of all ages (babies - oldest ones close to 200 years old)
- Bay tour with Tintorera Islet: Marine iguanas, Galapagos penguin, (sea turtles)

Day 5 - Visit to the Marine Lava Tunnels and Finado Bay and return to Santa Cruz island in the afternoon

After breakfast, the boat tour to visit the spectacular marine lava tunnels (official name: "Cabo Rosa") will start. This area is characterized by geological formations formed by lava collapsed into the water, depicting a unique landscape and an incomparable underwater world. After a walk on those lava formations that are a famous nesting spot for blue-footed boobies, you will be able to discover the lava collapses and lava caves from underneath the water during two snorkel activities at the nearby Finado Bay. The underwater world at this site is one of the best places for observing the white-tipped reef sharks, sea turtles, penguins, golden rays, aguila rays and seahorses. You will get a small lunch on board before returning to Puerto Vilamil (Isabela Island).

John will pick you up from the pier and accompany you to get proper lunch at one of the local restaurants.

In the afternoon a speedboat will take you back to Santa Cruz Island, where our staff will welcome you back at the pier in Puerto Ayora and bring you to your hotel.

Dinner on your own.

Main attractions: Unique lava tunnel landscape, blue-footed boobies, reef sharks in the water, seahorses (sometimes hard to see)

Day 6 - Excursion to Tortuga Bay with guided kayak tour and pick-nick on the beach - Transfer to the airport on Baltra

Today after breakfast, you will get a private guided visit to Tortuga Bay, one of the most beautiful white sand beaches in the archipelago. On this beach you will find lots of marine iguanas and you can either relax on the beach, go for a walk to a second beach or do some snorkeling. Also, you will get a guided kayak tour along the beach, exploring the surroundings, before we will be having a picnic on the beach. Either of the two ways from Puerto Ayora to Tortuga Bay will be made by boat and the other one walking (a beautiful path through a cactus forest, about 45 minutes by foot). Depending on the departure time of your flight, you will be picked up at your hotel in order to take you to the airport on Baltra Island.

Main attractions: Most beautiful, white sanded beach with big marine iguanas and mangroves

Special notes:

The price for the itineraries includes absolutely everything apart from dinners and personal expenses. For example, it includes all tours and activities accompanied by a naturalist guide authorized by the National Park of Galápagos, all transport on land and water during the entire stay (wherever possible private and we will be picked up at our hotel each day and dropped off. We will have transport to and from the airport, piers, lunch on all days of activities, high quality snorkel and wetsuits for entire stay.

We will not have the same guide with us everyday (as usually every boat has its own guide contra Ted on a long term.) We will have assistance during all tours. Each boat had its own crew and they are all. They experienced and well prepared.

Boat crews and yachts are all licensed by the a National Park as well as the guides.

The National Park rules while visiting the islands are very strict. Walks and hikes are on a predetermined path. You are not allowed to touch, feed or disturb the animals in any possible way and must keep a distance of at least 6 feet on land as well as in the water. If one disobeys the rules, they can be excluded from other tours at their expense.

Guides are all bilingual and fluent in English and Spanish.

Tours do not have flexible timing so one must make sure they are on time for the board. We will generally return to our hotel between 3pm and 5pm.

Tours are authorized by the National Park and the park can make changes for example restrict visits to certain islands or make parts inaccessible. If that happens tours will be switched for another tour of the same value. Such situations are very rare but theoretically possible.

The itinerary does not included the Charles Darwin Station nor the fish market. These two places do not require a lot of time and can easily be visited on our own after the tour to the Highlands on the first day or after the tour to Santa Fe or North Seymour Island.

The Charles Darwin Station is only 10-15 minutes by foot from the main pier and only \$1.50 by taxi from the hotel.

Dinners are inexpensive on the islands and start at \$6.00 in the local restaurants.

May Climate & Weather Averages in Galápagos Island

Years on Record: 30



Average Temperature

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	76.6	78	79	79	79	78	76	73	75	74	75	76	77

Years on Record: 30



Average High Temperature

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	85	87	87	87	87	87	85	80	84	81	84	85	86

Years on Record: 30



Average Low Temperature

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
F	68	70	71	70	70	69	67	66	65	66	66	67	69

Years on Record: 30



Average Precipitation

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
in.	25.9	3.2	4.1	3.9	2.4	4.7	2.1	0.8	0.5	0.8	1.1	1.4	0.9

Years on Record: 30



Average Number of Days With Precipitation

	ANNUAL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Days	125	12	13	13	10	9	6	7	7	24	8	7	9

Years on Record: 30



Average Length of Day

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Regarding the cancellation policies, these are as follows. However, Guiding Galápagos Expeditions always do their best to resell tours and hotel rooms so that they can help our customers to recuperate more than what is defined by Galapagos' cancellation policies.

- In the case of a cancellation more than 1 month before arrival we will retain 50% of the total amount
- In the case of a cancellation more than 14 days before arrival we will retain 75% of the total amount.
- In the case of a cancellation 14 or less days before arrival we will retain 100% of the total amount.

OPTIONAL TOUR EXTENSION
HUAORANI AMAZONIAN ENCOUNTER (4 DAYS - 3 NIGHTS) plus a night at a hotel before and after the encounter making it 6 days and 5 nights

Pre-Stay at Posada Mirolindo Hotel located near the airport. Hotel provides transportation to and from the airport.

Hotel link: <http://www.posadamiroindo.com>

DAY 1

You`ll start this unique and fantastic life experience at 08h00, towards the “Amazon basins”! After traveling through the Valley of Tumbaco, crossing the eastern cordillera of the Andes, and then descending through the cloud forest to reach the small village of Papallacta, we`ll stop to enjoy its hot springs, which gives us the opportunity to enjoy it`s incredible healing properties! Then you continue the drive towards the Arahuno River, where our motorized canoe awaits for you! After a 10 minutes boat ride, we arrive at **Itamandi Lodge**, and after having had some time to rest, we start an unforgettable nocturnal excursion to get used to all the creatures and sounds that we will hear for the next few nights in the middle of the tropical rain forest! Time for Dinner and rest.

Hotel link: <http://itamandi.com>

DAY 2

Breakfast. You will ride the canoe for about 30 minutes, downstream, through the Arahuno River, to visit the animal rescue center “AmaZOOnico”, where you have the opportunity to spot a lot of local birds, mammals and reptiles in their local habitat, in a relatively short time! After this fascinating experience, you`ll have a rewarding and delicious pic-nic at the Arahuno´s riverside, enjoying the sounds of the jungle at the same time! Then we continue with our spirit of adventure to visit a local Kichwa community; there we will learn all about the local people´s way of living, their traditions and daily nutrition. Walking around the community´s farm lands we will find interesting tropical products such as banana, pineapple, cocoa, coffee, papaya, etc. On our way back to the lodge, we will make a stop in a cocoa plantation, in order to prepare by ourselves our own dessert based in pure and tasty fine chocolate! After dinner, you´ll receive a briefing for next day, about the Huaorani culture and we will learn how to behave with them during the visit.

DAY 3

After having breakfast, you will ride through the river about 10 minutes, then we will take our private transportation to travel by land about one and a half hour more! We start passing different control points that belong oil companies. We will make different stops on our way, accompanied by a native guide, in order to spot different interesting and exotic animals! Then suddenly we start seeing naked indigenous walking through the roads that were built by the oil companies!! They will invite us to pass to their territory! The first contacts with the Huaorani happened in 1956, by an evangelical

mission, when after several contacts they reached the Curaray River area (Pastaza), throwing machetes and picks from the sky, to let them build a track to land on a sandy beach located at the banks of Curaray River, 1.300 meters far from what it is today Toñampari. The first 5 missionaries were found dead on January 21, 1956, pierced by several Huaorani spears! We will discover different types of flora and fauna that the Huaorani culture knows how to take advantage of their medicinal properties! We will know how is life in the jungle, how to survive in extreme weather conditions, how to collect jungle fruits, how to make traditional hats, how to make different utensils; all this unforgettable life experiences surrounded by a well-preserved primary forest and accompanied by Huaorani people all the time! In the afternoon you have lunch, and you will organize a blowpipe competition and you can also enjoy their ceremonial dances and their beautiful handicrafts. Before dark we'll be back in our lodge to enjoy a tasty dinner, and to relax with a little bit more comfort..!

DAY 4

Before breakfast, you will wake up earlier, to visit a parrot licking spot. You will be regaled, looking hundreds of colourful parrots approaching to you!! After breakfast, we start our drive back to Quito, and finally it will be the end of this unforgettable life experience, with one of the most recent human being groups contacted by the western world!!

POST ENCOUNTER HOTEL is Posada Mirolindo Hotel which provides transportation to and from the hotel.

There is NO air condition at the Amazon hotel. If heat and humidity bother you, you should not do the extension. If insects scare you, skip the extension. This is an adventure. It is also why we will spend one night at a hotel before leaving for home.

NOTE: You need to get a yellow fever vaccination and malaria pills when traveling to the Amazon basin. Discuss with your doctor.

RECOMMENDED DAYS: Any day of the week.

Include:

- Private transport
- Canoe rides
- Certified English speaking guide
- Native guides
- Mentioned hotels or similar (depending on availability)
- All meals according to itinerary
- Guided excursions
- Hot springs entrance fee
- Kichwa community entrance fee
- Huaorani Reserve entrance fee
- Mentioned itinerary and visits

Exclude:

- Drinks
- Extra meals
- Huaorani handicrafts
- Kichwa handicrafts
- Volunteer donations (grilled chicken, fried rice, candies, wáter filters)
- Extra expense
- Not specified visits

Amazon Recommendations:

Important outfits: Camera, waterproof covers for cameras and cellphones, sunscreen lotion, insect repellent, cap or hat, sun glasses, bathing suit, towel, sandals, binoculars, backpack or handbag, comfortable walking shoes or tennis shoes, T-shirts, long sleeves shirts, long and short trousers, wind breaker and waterproof jacket, passport, and some cash (US dollars) for additional meals or drinks.

Average temperature: 15 C° - 27 C° / 59 F° - 81 F° (high humidity]

Insurance: It is responsibility of every traveller that he/she is adequately insured against personal accidents and medical expenses during his/her trip to Ecuador, as well as having travel cancellation and baggage insurance to protect him/her.

Let us spray: What to look for when shopping for insect repellent

When it comes to spray to keep the bugs away, Consumer Reports tested different insect repellents and found these three to be most effective:

1. Total Home (CVS brand) Woodland Scent Insect Repellent (6 oz is \$5.99)
2. Off! Deep Woods Insect Repellent VIII Dry (2.5 oz is \$3.48 at Walmart)
3. Repel Plant-Based Lemon Eucalyptus Insect Repellent (4 oz is \$4.99 at Amazon)

SuviaTour Booking and Cancellation Policy: Our tours are based on private transportation and guiding services. - All tour prices are given in U.S. dollars. - All services should be fully pre-paid before starting the tour. - Bookings must be done through www.suviatour.com, or by paying directly at our offices. - For last minute bookings, our clients must request availability via phone or e-mail. After confirming availability, bookings must be fully pre-paid before starting the tour. - Special physical conditions, allergies and dietary restrictions must be informed to a Suviatour's representative in advance. - Our tours will be guided in fluent English, or Spanish languages, as it is required. For special language requirements, passengers should inform at least 5 days in advance.

Suviatour shall have no liability with passengers in case of accidents or sickness. Therefore, Suviatour deeply recommends private travel insurance.

Suviatour reserves the right to cancel or suspend tours depending on weather conditions, natural disasters, government regulations, etc. Always regarding for the safety of the passengers.

Under no circumstances, Suviatour will refund money on the same day that the tour takes place. Cancellations must be done 48 hours previous the departure day.

Suviatour refunds 50% of the total amount if the client decides to cancel a tour 30 days or more, before tour departure date.

Suviatour refunds 25% of the total amount if the client decides to cancel a tour between 15 to 29 days before tour departure date.

Suviatour refunds 10% of the total amount if the client decides to cancel a tour between 3 to 14 days before tour departure date.

15 to 29 days before tour departure date.

Suviatour refunds 10% of the total amount if the client decides to cancel a tour between 3 to 14 days before tour departure date.

What to pack for the Ecuadorian Amazon

If you have already decided to visit us, here are a packing list and some recommendations to help you get ready:

1. Lightweight long pants and long sleeved shirts for walks
2. Shorts, short sleeve shirts and bathing suit for the lodge
3. Comfortable shoes and sandals, socks
4. Rain jacket
5. Small day pack
6. Passport
7. Binoculars
8. Flashlight and batteries
9. Insect repellent (if possible not chemical)
10. Sun protection (sun cream / sunglasses / hat or cap)
11. Water bottle
12. Camera, film, and flash
13. Plastic bags to protect cameras, binoculars, film, etc...
from rain

IMPORTANT TRAVEL LINKS

Enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency

Link:

<https://step.state.gov/STEPMobile/Default.aspx>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Colombia.html>

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Ecuador.html>

https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/pregnant.vfr/colombia?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001

https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/vfr/ecuador?s_cid=ncezid-dgmq-travel-single-001

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2018/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/yellow-fever-malaria-information-by-country/ecuador#seldyfm879>

(note: yellow fever vaccination and malaria needed when traveling to the Amazon Basin) CHECK with your physician or travel health departments.)

Colombia Guide

Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette

Facts and Statistics

Location: Northern South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea, between Panama and Venezuela, and bordering the North Pacific Ocean, between Ecuador and Panama

Capital: Bogota

Population: 46,245,297 (July 2014 est.)

Ethnic Groups: mestizo 58%, white 20%, mulatto 14%, black 4%, mixed black-Amerindian 3%, Amerindian 1%

Religion: Roman Catholic 90%, other 10%

Language in Colombia

The official language of Colombia is Spanish and spoken by around 43 million people. In addition there are approximately 500,000 speakers of American Indian languages.

Colombian Society & Culture

Catholicism

- Most Colombians would consider themselves to be Roman Catholics.
- The Church has historically been a very important influence over personal affairs such as marriage and family life.
- The parish church is often seen as the centre of a community, with the local priest representing divine authority and leadership.

- The church also has some influence in areas such as education, social welfare and union organization.

The Role of the Family

- The family takes centre stage in the social structure.
- It acts as a source of support and advice and therefore great loyalty is shown to families. Although extended families rarely live under one roof, apart from in rural areas, many still live very close and frequent one another's houses often.
- It is still common for children remain at home until they marry.
- The elderly are generally revered for their age and experience.

Hierarchies

- Colombia can be termed a hierarchical society.
- People earn respect due to age and position.
- Older people are naturally perceived as being wise and as a result are afforded great respect. You will always see the oldest person in a group served their food and drinks first.
- With this position also comes responsibility - Colombians expect the most senior person, whether at home or at work, to make decisions.

Etiquette and Customs in Colombia

Meeting and Greeting

- Men shake hands with direct eye contact.
- While shaking hands, use the appropriate greeting for the time of day: "buenos dias" (good day), "buenas tardes" (good afternoon), or "buenas noches" (good evening/night).
- Women often grasp forearms rather than shaking hands.
- Once a friendship has developed, greetings become warmer and a lot more hands on - men will embrace and pat each other on the shoulder (known as an "abrazo") and women kiss once on the right cheek.
- Most Colombians have both a maternal and paternal surname and will use both.
- The father's surname is listed first and is the one used in conversation.
- Always refer to people by the appropriate honorific title and their surname.

Gift Giving Etiquette

Gifts are given for birthdays and Christmas or the Epiphany (January 6th). In Colombia a girl's 15th birthday is considered an important milestone.

If you plan to give gifts in Colombia, here are some handy tips

- When going to a Colombian's home, bring fruit, a potted plant, or quality chocolates for the hostess.
- Flowers should be sent in advance.

- Do not give lilies or marigolds as they are used at funerals. Roses are liked.
- If you are going to a girls 15th birthday, gold is the usual gift.
- Imported alcohol (especially spirits) are very expensive and make excellent gifts.
- Wrapped gifts are not opened when received

Dining Etiquette

Dining etiquette is quite formal in Colombia as they tend to give importance to decorum and presentation.

Below are some basic tips - if you are ever unsure the general rule is "observe and follow":

- Wait to be seated by the host.
- Hands should be kept visible when eating.
- Do not rest elbows on the table.
- The host will say "buen provecho" (enjoy or have a good meal) as an invitation to start eating.
- It is polite to try everything you are given.
- Unusually all food is eaten with utensils - even fruit is cut into pieces with a knife and fork.
- It is considered polite to leave a small amount of food on your plate when you have finished eating.
- Do not use a toothpick at the table.

Ecuador Guide - Language, Culture, Customs and Etiquette

Facts and Statistics

Location: Western South America, bordering the Pacific Ocean at the Equator, between Colombia and Peru

Capital: Quito

Climate: tropical along coast, becoming cooler inland at higher elevations; tropical in Amazonian jungle lowlands

Population: 15,654,411 (July 2014 est.)

Ethnic Make-up: mestizo (mixed Amerindian and white) 65%, Amerindian 25%, Spanish and others 7%, black 3%

Religions: Roman Catholic 95%, other 5%

Government: republic

Language in Ecuador

There are many languages spoken in Ecuador. The predominant and official language is Spanish, in addition to Quechua and other pre-colonial American languages.

2,300,000 speakers of American Indian languages (Adelaar 1991).

Ethnologue lists 22 languages of Ecuador which include Achuar-Shiwiar, Cha'palaachi, Cofán, Colorado (Tsachila), Cuaiquer, 9 varieties of Quichua, Secoya, Shuar, Siona, Tetete, Waorani.

Society and Culture

Ecuadorians

Ecuador is far from homogenous. The population is a mix of Mestizo (mixed Amerindian and white), Amerindian, Spanish and Blacks. 3%.

There are more than 14 indigenous groups on the mainland each with their own identities and nuances.

The main indigenous groups of the Amazon region are the Huaoranis, Achuar, Shuar, Cofán, Siona-Secoya, Shiwiar, and Záparo. The government declared the Tageri, relatives of the Huaoranis, "intangible," denoting their desire to live far from civilization.

The principle indigenous groups of the highlands are the Quichua, Cañaris, and Saraguros. The Awa live in northern Ecuador. The Chachis, Cayapas, Tsáchilas, and Huancavilcas live on the northern coast.

Regionalism

Regional differences exist and manifest in the way people dress, their physical appearance, language and family name. The people from the Sierra ("serranos") and the people from the Costa ("costenos") display the most pronounced regionalism. Ecuador has 4 diverse regions: the Amazon Rain forest, the Coast, the highland Andes, and the Galapagos Archipelago.

The Sierra is the heartland of Ecuador's indigenous culture. The oldest cultures of America lived on the Ecuadorian coast.

Three cultures still exist: the Aws, the Chachis or Cayapas and the Tsachilas or Colorados.

Religion

The Roman Catholic Church has a strong influence on personal and social behaviour is part of national identity. Most holidays and celebrations are based on Christian festivals. Due to historical circumstances the Church is wrapped up with the process of government.

Indigenous Ecuadorians, while nominally Catholic, tend to blend Catholicism with their traditional beliefs.

Machismo

Machismo survives in a culture where traditional gender roles remain. The man is the breadwinner and the wife looks after the home. From birth, children are raised to understand that they will have different roles and expectations in life.

Etiquette and Customs in Ecuador

Ecuador Map

Meeting and Greeting

- The most common greeting is a handshake with direct eye contact and a smile.
- While shaking hands, use the appropriate greeting for the time of day: "buenos dias"(good morning), "buenas tardes" (good afternoon), or "buenas noches" (good evening).
- People that are close greet in a much more tactile manner; men embrace and pat each other on the shoulder (called an "abrazo"), and women kiss once on the right cheek.

- Always let the Ecuadorian determine when to move to this level of formality.
- Always refer to people by the appropriate honorific title (Senor or Senora) and their surname.
- In general, only close friends or family use first names.
- Once someone uses your first name it is a sign that you may also do so.

Gift Giving Etiquette

- Ecuadorians give gifts for birthdays, Christmas or New Year, as well as religious events in a person's life.
- A young girl's 15th birthday is considered a special date and is much celebrated.
- If invited to an Ecuadorian home, bring flowers, good quality spirits, pastries, imported sweets for the hosts.
- A bouquet of roses is always well received.
- Do not give lilies or marigolds as they are used at funerals.
- Do not give scissors or knives as they indicate you want to sever the relationship.
- If you know the person well, perfume is an excellent gift.
- Gifts are generally opened when received.

Dining Etiquette

- Never arrive on time when invited to a home. Although it may sound strange you should arrive a little later than invited, i.e. 30 -45 minutes late.
- Dress well as this affords the host respect.
- Don't discuss business at social events unless prompted to.

- It is considered good manners to reciprocate any social invitation.
- Table manners are Continental -- the fork is held in the left hand and the knife in the right while eating.
- Guests are served first.
- The host says "buen provecho" ("enjoy" or "have a good meal") as an invitation to start eating.
- Food is always eaten with utensils. Even fruit is eaten with a knife and fork.
- It is considered polite to leave a small amount of food on your plate when you have finished eating.
- Meals are social occasions and can be quite lengthy.
- Expect lively conversation during the meal.
- Wait for a toast to be made before taking the first sip of your drink.
- The host makes the first toast. The most common toast is "Salud!"
- When you lift your glass, look at the person being toasted.
- If you do not want to drink more, leave your glass one-quarter full.

CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Bonnie Evans, Journey Coordinator
Cell Phone: 404.771.0010
1954 Musket Court
Stone Mountain, GA 30087-1702
Email: kbemje@bellsouth.net

COMMUNICATION TIPS

Effective communication is the most important and often the most difficult thing that we will do on this trip. If we all do it well, we should not encounter any serious difficulties. Do it poorly, even if it just one person, then the trip can be wrought with delays, lost ambassadors, anger, frustration and exhaustion. So please pay attention to these important requirements.

1. Listen intently to instructions especially in group meetings. Please respect whomever is speaking by being silent. BUT, speak up if you cannot hear us.
2. If you do not understand something, ask!

3. If you encounter a problem, do not let it fester. Please share it with the Ambassador Coordinator as soon as possible.

4. Please make every effort to be on time. Leave plenty of time getting to the next place.

5. Carry communication information with you at all times so you can make contact with the Ambassador Coordinator if you become lost. I will provide you with needed contact information.

FRIENDSHIP FORCE PLEDGE

As a member of the Friendship Force,

I recognize that I can make a difference.

I have a mission to be a friend to the people of the world.

As I embark upon this adventure, I know that others will be watching.

**I know that through my example to my fellow citizens and the people
of other nations, the cause of friendship, love and peace can be
advanced.**

I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

