

The Ultimate Bucket List Trip

Galápagos & Machu Picchu Wildlife Walking Adventure



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— *Travel + Leisure*

One Vacation, A Lifetime of Experiences

Now you can fulfill two of your biggest travel dreams on one amazing vacation. From eye-level encounters with the wildlife of the Galápagos to a soaring visit to Machu Picchu, there are almost too many high points to count! First, the Galápagos Islands off the Ecuadorian coast. Your naturalist-guides will introduce you to giant land tortoises, sea lions, blue-footed boobies and other creatures found nowhere else on earth—often in extreme close-up. You'll have abundant chances to walk, kayak and snorkel, and you'll stay in exceptionally-sited waterfront boutique hotels, rather than being marooned on a cruise ship. The contrasts couldn't be more extreme as you make the seamless transition to the mainland and ascend to Machu Picchu. Your first view of the famed ruins will give you the shivers just like you knew it would on this unforgettable journey. Plus you have leisurely exposure to the rest of Peru with its conquistador-tinged history, indestructible Inca architecture and spectacular geography. And your guide is a native Quechua who'll make you as comfortable in Cusco as you'll be among mountain villagers and llama herders.

DAY 1

GUAYAQUIL

- Relax or explore Guayaquil
- Stroll through colorful neighborhoods

Situated along the beautiful Guayas River, cosmopolitan Guayaquil is the largest city in the country. In addition to being an active port city, it's filled with scenic and interesting landmarks that include the Metropolitan Cathedral, Tower Morisca, and Malecon 2000. Stretch your legs, you can go for a stroll through colorful neighborhoods, like Las Peñas, and charming parks, such as Las Iguanas. When you're hungry, follow in the footsteps of the indigenous cultures who have for centuries-old brought together ingredients from the Andes, Amazon and Pacific coast to create mouth-watering dishes to enjoy at street markets, local eateries and highly regarded restaurants.

Overnight: Guayaquil

DAY 2

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

- Venture into the highlands to interact with the 500-pound giant tortoises
- Accept an invitation to a coffee plantation for a tasting

This morning, transfer from the Ecuadorian mainland to Santa Cruz Island, where you'll have the remarkable experience of walking among some of the oldest animals in the world. The island is home to giant tortoises that can grow up to 500 pounds and live for 175 years or more. To see them, follow your guides along a scenic trail to the tortoises' natural habitat in the highlands at El Chato Reserve. It's an easy walk of an hour or so. Happily, it's too far for cruise ship passengers on a tight schedule (they settle for a smaller crowded site near the coast). So, when you reach the watering hole, it's just you with a couple of dozen tortoises. There are no fences or moats between you and these amazing creatures, and your naturalist guides see to it that you get so near that you can hear them breathe and chomp on grass. It's a close encounter like you've never had before.

The same rich volcanic soil that the animals love is perfect for growing coffee, sugar cane, and fruit, as you discover on a visit to a family-owned plantation owned by our friend Adrianno. You'll spend time with the family and workers, learn about their organic, sustainable operation, and taste products grown and made on the property.

Your day ends at your waterfront resort. Claim a chair under an umbrella on the bayside terrace. It's a perfect spot to sip on something cold and watch the world go by.

Overnight: Santa Cruz

Meals: L

DAY 3

SANTA FE ISLAND

- Snorkel and barbeque from your own boat
- Explore one of the most unique of the Galápagos islands

From Santa Cruz Island your cinematic view stretches to Santa Fe Island, the oldest of the Galápagos islands and a terrific microcosm of what the archipelago is all about. After breakfast, you'll boat over to the island with your guide for a day of snorkeling and barbeque. Santa Fe has its own species of iguana that's found nowhere else. And, it's home to groves of opuntia cactus that look like trees with huge, prickly paddle-shaped leaves. In fact, the island is a non-stop photo op with plenty of chances to spot an incredibly wide variety of wildlife, from sea lions and sea turtles to Galápagos hawks, Nazca boobies and so much more.

It doesn't get better than spending time with your boat captain Sebastian whose family fished these waters for years. "Now, because of guests like those from Classic Journeys who want to really experience the wildlife in these waters, the octopus I used to be able to catch and sell to a restaurant once is now my business partner. I can take people to snorkel to his hidden places and he reveals himself to us."

After an incredible day, Sebastian drops you back in Puerto Ayora in the late afternoon where there is time to relax or shop and explore the town before dinner.

Overnight: Santa Cruz

Meals: B, L

DAY 4

LAS TINTORERAS

- Come face to face with Galapagos penguins
- Spot blue-footed boobies
- Kayak with baby sea lions and green sea turtles

This morning you transfer seamlessly to Isabela Island, the largest of the Galápagos Islands. Isabela straddles the equator, and at one million years old, it is also the youngest of the islands.

There's no waiting for your first wildlife sightings! This afternoon take to the water to kayak with sea lions, green sea turtles and marine iguanas while keeping your eyes sharp for blue-footed boobies in the trees along the shores as well as watching how they hover over the sea and dive for fish.

This evening, about the time when the cruise crowd chugs back out to their ships, you'll be relaxing at your boutique hotel overlooking the sea.

Overnight: Isabela

Meals: B, D

DAY 5

VOLCAN SIERRA NEGRA

- Explore one of the largest volcanic craters in the world
- Refresh yourself over a delicious lunch of local specialties at a private hacienda in the highlands

The islands are some of the most volcanically active spots on earth and Isabela was actually formed by the merger of six volcanos. Today, you experience that terrain and get a firsthand look at how millennia of eruptions and lava flows have formed the unique Galápagos habitat.

You won't forget this morning's walk along the rim of 500,000-year-old Volcan Sierra Negra. Up here, you get one of the most spectacular views in the islands. The six-mile-wide crater is one of the largest active calderas on the planet, and the scale is awesome. Your guides will show you how – with its orange, red and yellow lava formations and puffing fumaroles – this is more like walking on Mars than Earth. But the island is surprisingly lush at this altitude. Ferns and papaya trees and angel's trumpets (with blossoms a foot long or more) line the trail. Darwin's finches, hawks, flycatchers and many other birds supply a natural soundtrack.

After refueling over a leisurely lunch at a friends' private hacienda, you have time in the late afternoon to relax by the beach with the local colony of sea lions, or even to stroll the lazy beach town and soak up island life.

Overnight: Isabela

Meals: B, L

DAY 6

ISABELA ISLAND / ECUADOR / LIMA

- Part company with a return flight to mainland Ecuador
- Fly Quito to Lima

After a leisurely morning, transfer from Isabela Island to Baltra Island for your return flight back to mainland Ecuador. From there, you will fly to Lima and overnight in Lima.

Overnight: Lima

Meals: B

DAY 7

PERU / SACRED VALLEY

- Fly from Lima to Cusco
- Follow a countryside footpath to impressive Inca ruins
- Relax at your hotel at the foot of the Andes

You're in rare company as you make your way from one incredible bucket list destination to another with your flight from Ecuador to Peru. *Please note that you will need to check into your own flight to Cusco and your Peruvian guide will meet you in Cusco.

After you touch down in Cusco this afternoon, you have the incredible opportunity to visit spectacular Inca ruins on a gentle downhill walk through the Peruvian countryside. First stop is Sacsayhuaman, one of the most stunning examples of Inca architecture in Peru. Tens of thousands of workers labored on the structure for over seven decades, hauling massive stone blocks—the biggest is 125 tons and 24 feet tall—to make this impressive monument. The Incas built the city of Cusco in the shape of a puma and made Sacsayhuaman the puma's head. The zigzag wall represents the animal's teeth. Your guide takes you through each part of this amazing ruin, explaining the different theories surrounding its construction and pointing out the symmetry and beauty of the Inca-fit stones.

En route to the Sacred Valley, you'll have a chance to learn the ancient weaving techniques used to create Andean clothing at Awanacancha, a breeding center for llamas, alpacas and vicunas. Your day comes to a beautiful conclusion as you settle into your hotel overlooking the Urubamba river. Dinner tonight offers your first taste of excellent Peruvian cooking – a cuisine that is reminiscent of Spanish food with plenty of beef and seafood, all prepared with a special local accent.

Overnight: Sacred Valley

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

OLLANTAYTAMBO / URUBAMBA

- Visit with locals in a remote highland village
- Mingle with vendors in a local market
- Learn about Peruvian techniques in a ceramics workshop

This morning, enjoy a special visit to a Quechua mountain village unchanged for hundreds of years. It's not far from your hotel, just past flocks of sheep. Here, you're welcomed into a local school with a special opportunity to mingle with the kids and their teacher. (Consider packing pens, pencils and notebooks from home for the village children.) Everyone has an opportunity to try out the Quechua words you've learned from your guides.

Later this morning, stop in Ollantaytambo, a still-thriving Inca village set below ancient ruins that retain the stonework, narrow streets, and family courtyards of pre-Columbian times. Much of the Inca history in Peru was destroyed by the Spanish, but Ollantaytambo is an important ceremonial site and scene of one of the only major Inca victories against the invading Spaniards. As you explore and visit with the colorfully dressed townspeople, you have the feeling of stepping back into the 15th century.

Following lunch, pause in the town of Urubamba for a visit to a pottery workshop to meet a friend, Pablo Seminario, in his studio. (One of Peru's most renowned ceramists, Pablo has a permanent exhibition at Chicago's Field Museum.) A short walk takes you to the busy Urubamba market, where street vendors still sell livestock, produce, crafts and chicha, a thick white fermented corn drink that was prepared by the Chosen Women in the Inca court, and is still consumed throughout Peru.

Overnight: Sacred Valley

Meals: B, L

DAY 9

MACHU PICCHU

- Ride the rails with cinematic views of the Sacred Valley to Machu Picchu
- Channel your inner Hiram Bingham as you explore the Sun Gate and the citadel

Start the day with a scenic chug out of the valley on the Inca Rail train. You don't have to rise with the tree frogs in order to arrive before the onslaught of day-trippers. The explorer Hiram Bingham re-discovered Machu Picchu hidden in the cloud forest in 1911. The task of revealing the site is almost as hard to fathom as the original process of constructing it. With an overnight here, you have plenty of time to explore on your own and to hear the stories your guide has to tell.

The Incas worshipped nature and built many of their structures in harmony with the dramatic landscape. Your guide leads you through the mazes of plazas, chambers and dwellings, explaining the different theories surrounding the city. (Some think it was the home of an Inca ruler, Pachakutec; others speculate that its function was to maintain a reliable supply of coca leaves for the priests and royals of Cusco. And some think that Machu Picchu was a university where the children of the leaders conquered by the Incas were taken to be taught and brainwashed!!) A highlight is the round Temple of the Sun. An astronomical observatory; the windows are perfectly aligned to catch the first rays of the sun on the mornings of winter and summer solstices. Since these ruins remained hidden during the Spanish conquest, they were spared from destruction.

After lunch, you can return to the ruins to explore more or do some easy birding with a chance of spotting hummingbirds, the unmistakable crimson silhouette of the gallito de las rocas, or maybe even a Technicolor quetzal. You can also take advantage of the exceptional spa services available on property, take a walk into town, or relax with a cocktail before dinner.

Overnight: Aguas Calientes

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 10

CUSCO

- Trace the spectacular Urubamba River on your Inca Rail train
- Cap your bucket list trip with an exploration of Cusco

After breakfast, mid-morning, board the Inca Rail train for Ollantaytambo and Cusco, a sort of "Zorro-meets-Raiders-of-the-Lost Ark" city and the ceremonial heart of the Inca empire. Your final afternoon offers an excellent opportunity to explore the highlights including the Temple of the Sun. Once, its walls were covered with over 700 sheets of gold studded with emeralds and turquoise.

It's hard to believe that people in the 21st Century still walk through narrow cobblestone streets flanked by Incan stone walls every day. But they do, and you join them as you walk to the Plaza de Armas for a visit to the Cathedral. It's an impressive Baroque reminder of Spanish colonization. If you'd like, join your guide for a short walk to the artists' quarter of San Blas. Whitewashed buildings with bright blue doorways house galleries, studios and small shops filled with weavings, alpaca sweaters and ceramics.

As your bucket list trip draws to a close in the late afternoon, you can choose to fly to Lima for flights home that night, or extend your stay in the Peruvian Amazon, exploring the famous rainforest.

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



Wyndham Guayaquil

Situated just steps from the historic Santa Ana Hill and its famous Lighthouse, this luxury high-rise hotel offers an ideal location near Guayaquil's many attractions.

OVERNIGHT: Guayaquil | **NIGHTS:** 1



Angermeyer Waterfront Inn

Built of native lava rock and driftwood, this first-class hotel is situated right on the waterfront. Guests enjoy peace and total privacy, plus a perfect chance to experience what the owners call the true 'Galápagos spirit'.

OVERNIGHT: Santa Cruz, Galapagos | **NIGHTS:** 2



Iguana Crossing

The ocean laps at the front door. There's nothing but National Park (with a live volcano) out the back. This hotel is cool, very close to nature and eco-minded. Amenities include a swimming pool, a roof-deck Jacuzzi and its own excellent restaurant.

OVERNIGHT: Isabela, Galapagos | **NIGHTS:** 2



Wyndham Costa Del Sol

This 4-star hotel is connected to the Lima airport terminal by sky bridge. It is furnished in minimalist contemporary style. Guest rooms have flat screen televisions, and the property offers both a workout facility and spa.

OVERNIGHT: Lima | **NIGHTS:** 1

Tour Hotels



Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba

This contemporary hotel with colonial inspiration was built in the heart of Urubamba Valley, among flowers, mountains and trees. From the comfort of this luxurious Andean property, you can discover the history, nature and charm of the Sacred Valley.

OVERNIGHT: Huayabamba | **NIGHTS:** 2



Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

Set among 13 acres of tropical gardens featuring over 140 species of orchids, this hotel proudly 100% carbon neutral. Spacious rooms are situated in unique hillside casitas and feature lovely tile floors, carved wood furniture and luxurious bathrooms.

OVERNIGHT: Aguas Calientes | **NIGHTS:** 1

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	10 Days, 9 Nights
START	Wyndham Guayaquil - hotel lobby, Guayaquil, Ecuador
END	Cusco Airport, Cusco, Peru
TERRAIN	Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths.

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 6 lunches and 3 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide
- All activities in the itinerary, including gear for snorkeling and kayaking in the Galápagos
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

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Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST
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ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!


President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Galápagos & Machu Picchu...

- Coming face-to-face with giant tortoises, blue-footed boobies, Galápagos penguins, seal lion pups and more
- Snorkeling, sea-kayaking and walking the rim of one of the world's largest volcanoes
- One amazing day at Machu Picchu with a guided visit
- Meeting village schoolchildren, llama-herders and traditional weavers in small Peruvian villages
- Your local guides who are experts in Galápagos wildlife and Inca life in the Andes