



ECUADOR & PERU

GALAPAGOS AND MACHU PICCHU TOUR ABOARD THE M/V SANTA CRUZ II



DURATION:	14 days / 13 nights
SEASON:	April through December
DEPARTURES:	Guaranteed with a minimum of 2 participants
TRIP RATING:	Easy/moderate Natural History Cruise & Cultural Tour, Grade (II) – This trip includes a 5-day cruise with occasional wet landings (ankle to knee deep water) to reach the observation sites, optional water activities such as swimming, kayaking or snorkeling and nature hikes up to 4 hours duration on occasionally rough or rocky trails. The Cusco/Machu Picchu segment includes walking tours of 1-3 hours duration and takes place at high elevations with a maximum altitude of 12,335'. The itinerary has been designed to allow gradual adjustment to the altitude. Anyone in good fitness and condition able to walk up to 4 hours, should be able to enjoy this trip.

2022 DATES : On request any week throughout the season, subject to availability
The M/V Santa Cruz II won't be on dry dock during 2022

INTRODUCTION:

Galápagos National Park straddles the equator 600 miles west of Ecuador's Pacific coast. Undisturbed for centuries and isolated from the mainland, unusual species of birds, plants, reptiles and some mammals developed on the rocky, volcanic atolls of the *Enchanted Isles*. Darwin's visit and subsequent studies of the island's flora and fauna in 1835 contributed to the formulation of his theory on the evolution of species and brought this fascinating ecosystem to the attention of the world. The park, Ecuador's largest, was established in 1959 to protect the archipelago's unique environment and wildlife. Its landmass consists of nearly 3,000 square miles which is divided between 6 large islands, 12 smaller islands, and over 40 islets. In 1986, the creation of the Marine Resources Reserve expanded the preserved area to include more than 27,000 square miles of ocean. This exciting program offers a great value in the archipelago, featuring one of the most complete 6-day cruise itineraries, aboard one of the most comfortable vessels in these waters.

After a night in Guayaquil, our first day is spent touring this historical and vibrant city. Following a morning flight to Baltra Island, we begin the cruise aboard our 90-passenger, first-class expedition ship. Accompanied by some of the best English-speaking naturalist guides in the Galápagos, we learn about the natural history of these enchanted islands, visiting the most outlying sites as well as important central and southern islands. We learn about fascinating species such as marine and land iguanas, flightless cormorants, Galápagos penguins, and the diving blue-footed boobies. Water activities include swimming with green sea turtles or snorkeling with sea lions and fur seals! Enjoy beautiful views of white sand beaches and turquoise water and prepare to be impressed by powerful forces of nature. Following our cruise, we fly back to Guayaquil and connect to Lima. The following morning we fly to Cusco where we spend a couple of days exploring impressive Inca sites such as the Coricancha, Sacsayhuaman, Chinchero and Ollantaytambo. A visit to Pisac is another opportunity to experience and shop in a colorful Andean market before taking the Vistadome train to Machu Picchu. Spending the night at the most exquisite hotel in town we have plenty of time for in-depth explorations of the Incas' *Lost City* before returning to Cusco and Lima.

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY:

DAY 01 (TUE): USA / GUAYAQUIL

Arrive this evening to Ecuador's coastal, vibrant and commercial city of **Guayaquil**, located at the western banks of the Guayas River. Meet your friendly Southwind guide at the airport and transfer 15 min by private vehicle to one of the city's finest hotels, the riverside [Wyndham Hotel](#) for the night. Meals are on your own today.

DAY 02 (WED): GUAYAQUIL

The full day city tour of **Guayaquil** starts with a stop at the historical park, a glimpse into the beginnings of this important port city, as well as its lively present-day culture and natural environment. The park's gardens burst with the region's endemic flora. It is also an ideal location to learn about the birds, reptiles, and mammals of this region. Then we go for a short walk to the Southern Malecon 2000, a boardwalk overlooking the Guayas River, where you'll peruse the Integration Plaza with its famous Southern Marketplace and **Cristal Palace**. Lunch is included at a traditional Ecuadorian restaurant with samples of fine local cuisine. Next, visit the Olmedo Plaza and see the monument to Jose Joaquin Olmedo, a recognized Ecuadorian poet. We also stop at the Morisca Tower for excellent views of the city and the famous monument to the four elements of the planet. Then, we visit the Ecu-Andino hats workshop and learn about the elaboration of the famed Panama hats made of Toquilla straw. For our final visit of the day, we head over to the oldest sectors of the city, the colonial neighborhood of Las Peñas (declared as Cultural Heritage in 1982) where we can walk its narrow streets and admire the magnificent wood architecture and colorful houses. Overnight at the [Wyndham Hotel](#). (B,L)

DAY 03 (THU): GUAYAQUIL / BALTRA ISLAND / SANTA CRUZ ISLAND (GALAPAGOS)

Following breakfast, meet your guide at the hotel and transfer to the airport with check-in assistance for the 2 hour commercial jet flight to **Baltra Island**. Upon arrival, we pass through an inspection point where park officials ensure that no foreign plants or animals are introduced to the islands. Meet your naturalist guides and transfer to the boat docks to catch the motorized zodiac rafts, or dinghies, out to the well-appointed [M/V Santa Cruz II](#) to begin our 5 day/4 night cruise. After the crew welcomes us onboard and discusses safety, lunch is served en route to view the fascinating rocky landscapes of Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill) on the north shore of **Santa Cruz Island**. The first part of our walk passes a brackish-water lagoon frequented by migratory shorebirds, pintail ducks and flamingos. The flamingos feed on microscopic organisms that need very specific water conditions to survive and there are only few of these suitable lagoons in the Galápagos. Further inland, the trail offers a beautiful view of the bay and the western islands of the archipelago, as well as the chance of observing land iguanas feeding on the fruits and flowers of the Opuntia Cacti. Green turtles, sharks, and rays may be spotted on the zodiac ride. Back on board we receive a briefing and a welcome cocktail before dinner. (B,L,D)

DAY 04 (FRI): ISABELA ISLAND / FERNANDINA ISLAND

The morning light shines on the summit of Darwin Volcano, and as one of the most active volcanoes in the archipelago this area is a perfect example of the geological activity of the islands. After breakfast, we explore the coast of **Punta Vicente Roca** by zodiac, while our naturalist guide explains the dramatic geology of the area, nesting place for several Galápagos highlights: flightless cormorants, Galapagos penguins, fur seals and boobies. Depending on weather conditions, we can snorkel along the cliffs of this area rich in marine life, seasonally-visited by green sea turtles and oceanic sun fish (Mola mola). After lunch on board, this afternoon is dedicated to exploring **Punta Espinosa** on the northern side of Fernandina Island, the youngest island of the archipelago, which, having no introduced mammals, boasts a very unique environment with a very high density of marine iguanas, the largest in the archipelago, who share their space with sea lions, Sally light-foot crabs, Lava Lizards, hawks, penguins and the flightless cormorants. We watch these flightless birds as they go through their courtship ritual, build their nest or incubate their eggs. A curious sight, these agile blue-eyed swimmers appear rather clumsy on land as their wings dangle uselessly from their sides and they hop from rock to rock. Fernandina's lava landscape is one of the most dramatic we see during our trip, and we observe lava cactus and other colonizing plants among the stark black rocks. We return to the ship for dinner and a preview of tomorrow's activities. (B,L,D)

DAY 05 (SAT): SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

This morning we anchor in Academy Bay on **Santa Cruz Island**, home to the bustling village of Puerto Ayora. After breakfast, we disembark to visit the **Charles Darwin Research Station** within an impressive giant prickly-pear cactus forest home to many land birds. Here we learn about the threats that exist to the wildlife and the conservation efforts to protect the islands. We watch both hatchling and young Galápagos tortoises in the baby tortoise house where the young are raised until large enough to survive on their own. We also watch some of the remaining 11 subspecies found on the islands and interact with them during our visit to the different enclosures where males and females pass their days, quietly munching on greens and greeting visitors. These lumbering vegetarians are very impressive; for many guests coming face-to-face with the giant tortoises is a trip highlight. A full-grown adult male can weigh up to 550 pounds, and we see just how large they are as we approach to within a few feet! Later this morning, board a private bus to enjoy lunch in the cooler highlands of Santa Cruz Island, a completely different ecosystem. This afternoon we have several options available (mountain biking, kayaking in

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Tortuga Bay, hiking), which can be discussed in advance with your Expedition Leader. At the end of the day, we return to Puerto Ayora and embark on the Santa Cruz II for a delicious dinner and the daily briefing. (B,L,D)

DAY 06 (SUN): FLOREANA ISLAND

This morning is a dry landing on **Floreana Island**, one of the Galápagos most famous islands due to many strange stories of past settlers. There are several diverse sites to visit including **Post Office Bay** and the “Baroness’s Viewing Point” followed by an exploration of the north shore of Floreana along narrow channels teeming with marine life. Flamingos also populate the island and may be seen. The Baroness’s Viewing Point is the perfect place to take in the special environment that defines Floreana, and a great spot to talk and ponder regarding the intriguing history of the Baroness and her three lovers. In the 18th century whalers passing through the islands placed a wooden barrel on Floreana Island for use as an unofficial mail box. The tradition continues today as visitors leave addressed postcards in the barrel and sort through left mail to deliver at home. Back onboard we enjoy a fresh lunch before boarding zodiacs and glass-bottom boat to explore the underwater wonders around **Champion Islet**, an extinct shield volcano, regarded as one of the best snorkeling spots in the archipelago. From there, it’s on to **Cormorant Point**, beginning with a wet landing on the olivine-crystal beach for an easy walk that includes a brackish water lagoon where bird species such as American flamingos, pintail ducks, common stilts, herons, sandpipers, and others gather. We continue our walk over to a white-sand beach, where sea turtles emerge from the sea at night to nest (from December to May). Returning to the vessel, we enjoy dinner before beginning our next navigation.

(B,L,D)

DAY 07 (MON): BALTRA ISLAND / GUAYAQUIL / LIMA

After breakfast and goodbyes to the crew, we disembark at **Baltra Island** and transfer to the airport to catch the flight to the mainland. Baltra’s flat substrate (due to its uplifted origin) is the reason why the island was chosen back in the 1940s as the location to building an airport. Once in **Guayaquil**, Southwind’s friendly staff greets you at the airport and assists with a connection to the 2-hour evening flight to **Lima, Peru**. Reception in Lima by a Southwind staff member and assistance checking-in to the [Wyndham Costa del Sol Hotel](#) located near the International Terminal. (B)

DAY 08 (TUE): LIMA / CUSCO / SACRED VALLEY

Your Lima guide walks with you from the hotel to the terminal to provide check-in assistance for your spectacular, one-hour flight over the Andes to **Cusco**, the archaeological capital of the Americas. Meet your Andean guide at the Cusco airport and drive one-hour to the **Sacred Valley of the Incas**. The route follows a winding mountain road providing superb vistas of the rugged canyon formed by the Urubamba River. Descending into the warm valley, our first stop is the town of **Pisac** (9,708') where we visit the main square and some craft shops. Artists and vendors set up their stalls around the main plaza to sell colorful handicrafts. We enjoy a delicious Andean lunch and later on tour Pisac’s impressive Incan ruins, perched spectacularly on a ridge overlooking the town and countryside. The walking tour is about 2 miles and follows a wide, exposed, stone-paved trail high above the valley. We visit the main sections of the site including the religious center *Intihuatana*, or Hitching Post of the Sun. Observing dozens of agricultural terraces, these formations were aesthetically built to follow the contours of the hillside rising from the Urubamba River valley. We continue down the valley to the community of Urubamba and check-in to the [Sol y Luna Hotel & Spa](#) (9,430'), a charming Andean hacienda style Relais & Chateaux property where you can relax and unwind with dinner included this evening. (B,L,D)

DAY 09 (WED): CHINCHERO / OLLANTAYTAMBO

Enjoy a morning drive up to the highlands with panoramic views of the snow-capped Urubamba range including Mount Veronica and Pitusiray, both over 18,000 feet high. We arrive midmorning at **Chincho** (12,335'), a charming community characteristic of Andean towns in that it combines both Incan and colonial architecture. We observe a massive Inca wall with ten trapezoidal niches, which dominates the village’s main square, and visit the colonial church. After exploring the ruins of Inca Yupanqui’s palace, we join a local community in their courtyard for an overview of the Andean weaving process. After wool is carded, spun, and dyed, learn about the different techniques used to create ponchos, belts (*fajas*), and shawls (*mantas*). On the way back to the fertile Urubamba Valley we stop at the Inca Salt Mines, then continue in our private vehicle to enjoy a buffet-style Andean lunch. Here we have a chance to sample a variety of native delicacies including: several types of potatoes (tubers such as oca); quinoa (sacred to the Incas, referred to as the “mother of all grains”); fava beans; and perhaps try a taste of *cuy*, a savory meat roasted with a variety of herbs. Afterwards, we drive past burial tombs and ancient farming terraces still in use today to reach the town of **Ollantaytambo**. We visit the main plaza and some of the side streets of this unique community which still retains the original street plan and foundations designed by the Incas. We’ll explore the impressive terraced remains of the Sun Temple before returning to the [Sol y Luna Hotel & Spa](#). (B,L)

DAY 10 (THU): MACHU PICCHU

Rise early to head back to Ollantaytambo to board the **Vistadome train** for a 1.5 hour ride to the village of Machu Picchu. Ascending to **Machu Picchu** (7,874') by shuttle, join your expert guide for a private tour of this superb archaeological site. Perched atop a crest high above the meandering Urubamba River and surrounded by rugged, green Andean hillsides, Machu Picchu stands as more than just the jewel of Inca architecture. It represents the perfect union of human engineering and the natural environment, a city in harmony with its surroundings. Never reached by the Spanish, this magical

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place was brought to the world's attention in 1911 by the American historian, Hiram Bingham. Our explorations of *The Lost City of the Incas* include all of the sectors of the ruins; the industrial area, Temple of the Sun and Royal Tomb, the ceremonial water fountains and baths and Sacred Plazas. There should be time in the afternoon for the 30-minute walk to the Inca Drawbridge. We stay at the [Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel](#), a former National Geographic Unique Lodge of the World, situated in 12 acres of cloud forest garden along the Urubamba River in town with dinner included this evening at the hotel gourmet restaurant. (B,L,D)

DAY 11 (FRI): MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO

Early risers can head up to the ruins (gates open at 06:00) to catch the early morning light as the sun comes over *Intipunku*, or the Gateway of the Sun. There are several optional guided hikes in and around the site for active group members. **Huayna Picchu Mountain** (8,860') forms the backdrop to Machu Picchu. A steep and challenging trail requiring good physical conditioning leads to terraced ruins on top, providing an excellent birds-eye view. The route ascends steadily uphill approx 1.5 hours (952 ft) on a winding and sometimes exposed trail requiring hands for balance and to hold handrails on steeper sections. There is low cloud forest vegetation along the trail. The hike back down takes approx 1 hour, roundtrip is usually about 2.5-3 hours depending on rest breaks. This trail has abrupt drops and exposure, so it's not recommended for anyone with a fear of heights or vertigo.

A nice less-crowded alternative hike is the **Temple of the Moon** (elev 6,692'). A 3 hour roundtrip up and downhill shaded trail leads to the mysterious, partially excavated ruins on the backside of Huayna Picchu. A series of caverns likely contained mummies during Incan times. This quiet ceremonial site is perched above the Urubamba River, access is via the same gate as Huayna Picchu then forks to the left initially following a stone paved section that traverses up and around the base of the mountain. In some areas you will see hand cables for added security, but experienced hikers with good balance may not need to use them. You then arrive to a forested area of the trail (about 70% of the route) and descends steadily on wider stone staircases 1,280 ft down to reach the Temple complex. There are no bridges on the temple route, the trail does pass through cloud forest vegetation and may be slick in spots from humidity or moss. The Temple site dates about 1,500 years and remained hidden away until rediscovered in 1936 (25 years after the Hiram Bingham expedition). The schedule is flexible, those who prefer can relax or explore a favorite spot at your own pace. We meet together for lunch before catching the early afternoon **Vistadome train** for the 1.5 hour scenic journey back to Ollantaytambo. Tracing the course of the Urubamba River, we wind our way past Incan terraces and Quechua communities leaving the lush cloud forests to make our way back to the highlands. Meet the private vehicle and transfer 1.5 hours to **Cusco** (11,150') and the historic [Palacio del Inka Hotel](#) centrally located near the main plaza. This Luxury Collection hotel by Marriott is the former Palace of the first governor of Peru, Francisco Pizarro and is built over Incan foundations. For dinner on your tonight, after a full day, we recommend the hotel's *Inti Raymi* restaurant and perhaps a pisco sour, a traditional Peruvian drink. (B,L)

DAY 12 (SAT): CUSCO

After breakfast, we enjoy a private orientation tour (combination of walking and vehicle) of this friendly, historical city. As we explore the main plaza and side streets, we realize that **Cusco** is still a very colonial city. There are no skyscrapers and most buildings are whitewashed adobe with red tile roofs set on Inca foundations. Cobble streets lead up narrow passageways with brightly painted balconies overhead. Small plazas are filled with flowers and fountains. Our visits include such impressive sites as the *Coricancha*, the Inca's Sun Temple; the main square and cathedral with stones built from nearby Inca palaces; and the Incan walls along *Hatunrumiyoc Street*, named for the 12-angled stone that is clearly visible. Driving up to the surrounding hills we explore the Incan fortress of **Sacsayhuaman**, a spectacular complex with commanding views of the Cusco valley, and time permitting, *Tambo Machay*, whose ceremonial pools have remained clear and cold since the time of the Empire. We return to the [Palacio del Inka Hotel](#), lunch is on your own with leisure time for the remainder of the afternoon to visit town. Dinner is on your own this evening to try some of Cusco's gourmet restaurants. (B)

DAY 13 (SUN): CUSCO / LIMA / USA

Morning at leisure for personal explorations of Cusco's colorful San Pedro market and the many side-street craft shops, museums and plazas. We are picked up at the hotel late-morning for the drive to the airport in **Cusco** to catch the flight back to **Lima**. Upon arrival we join our local guide for a private tour of colonial Lima and the fascinating **Larco Herrera Museum** with an extensive collection of pre-Columbian artifacts. Lunch and dinner are on your own to try a typical seafood meal such as ceviche at one of the several fine restaurants in the upscale Miraflores district. Participants leaving tonight have a return transfer to the airport this evening. (B)

DAY 14 (MON): USA

Arrive in the US this morning and make onward connections home.

NOTES ON THE ITINERARIES: Although we do our best to adhere to the schedule listed above, the day-by-day activities on these itineraries are subject to change at any time for numerous reasons beyond our control including

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Galápagos Park Regulations and/or participant health, weather, sea and/or road conditions. Reservations are recommended well in advance of your preferred departure (at least 4-6 months for regular programs or 1 year for holiday departures) to ensure your place on the trip of your choice. Reservations made less than 90 days prior to departure are subject to availability and must be paid in full at the time of booking. These programs are suitable for physically fit participants accustomed to outdoor activities age 6 and up. The Huayna Picchu ascent is only recommended for kids age 12 and older. Regular departures may include some families and children on the cruise. Hiking or driving distances and altitudes are approximate, and times indicated are NET (they do not include lunch breaks, rest stops, time to explore the area, etc.).

2022 LAND COSTS:	<u>Expedition Deck Explorer cabins</u>	<u>Panorama Deck Explorer cabins</u>
	\$11,360 ppd (2-3 participants)	\$11,510 ppd (2-3 participants)
	\$10,860 ppd (4-6 participants)	\$11,010 ppd (4-6 participants)
	\$10,460 ppd (7-12 participants)	\$10,610 ppd (7-12 participants)
	\$1,385 Single Supplement (hotels only)	

ppd = per person double occupancy

On the M/V Santa Cruz II there are a total of 50 cabins for up to 90 guests, 43 of which are Explorer Cabins and located in different decks (23 on the Horizon Deck, 17 on the Expedition Deck and 3 on the Panorama Deck). All are the same size (163.2 sq ft), have the same size large windows, and beds that can convert from twin to double beds.

3 larger Darwin Suites (325 sq ft) are available at additional cost on the Panorama Deck, they feature double picture windows, provide superb comfort and deluxe amenities for more discerning guests. Available in double or twin beds. The Suites can be connected with an Explorer cabin. For families traveling with children, the vessel also offers 2 Triple cabins with a sofa sleeper (192 sq ft) and 36 connected cabins. Explorer double cabins for single use do have a surcharge of 15% except during Peak season. Only 5 cabins are available for single use.

Peak Season cruises: For cruise departures during Christmas and New Year (Dec 23-Jan 02, 2022/23), there is a Holiday surcharge of \$240 per adult and \$145 per child and no discounts apply during this period. Different deposits, cancellation fees and payments procedures apply for these departures. Please contact your Southwind Travel Consultant for details.

Children's Discount: Kids 6-11 years old at the time of travel are entitled to a discount of \$1,130 ppd (Expedition Deck cabins) or \$1,150 ppd (Panorama Deck cabins) on the *Galápagos and Machu Picchu* Land Cost. **Note:** Children's discounts are limited to one per each accompanying adult sharing a Cabin. No discounts are allowed during the Peak season (Christmas and New Year's departures). Other restrictions may apply.

SERVICES INCLUDED:

- Comprehensive **pre-departure planning packet** and expert travel advice.
- All **in-country transfers** as scheduled (transfers on different days are additional). Ground transportation in spacious and comfortable private vehicles with professional drivers.
- **First-class round trip Vistadome or similar train** from Ollantaytambo to Machu Picchu town. Machu Picchu bus service to/from town and the archaeological sanctuary.
- Local and return flight reconfirmation, **in-country airport check-in and luggage assistance**.
- Galápagos National **Park entrance fee** of \$100 p.p. (\$50 per child 11 or under).
- Galápagos **Transit control card fee** of \$20 per person.
- All **accommodations in first-class (4-5 star) hotels** as listed (or at similar hotels) on a shared basis with private bath. Advanced bookings are recommended if you require double beds (King/queen) for couples, or plan to arrive early or extend your stay.
- All **meals** indicated on the itinerary (B=breakfast; L=lunch; D=dinner). **Vegetarian diets accommodated** on request (advance notification required). For other diets, consult your travel specialist before making a reservation. Bottled water is provided on the cruise and mainland.
- All **guided tours** and excursions listed on the mainland (including entrance fees), accompanied by knowledgeable, English-speaking resident guides in Guayaquil and Cusco/Machu Picchu regions.
- Arrival and departure transfers in the Galápagos.
- Accommodations on the First-class, 90-passenger, M/V Santa Cruz II in an outside cabin with private bath. Snorkeling gear is provided on board at no extra cost.
- Experienced sailing crew and staff of 60 plus up to 7 naturalist guides and 1 expedition leader (1 guide every 16 passengers) and a permanent Medical officer. Officers on board are also bilingual.

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NOT INCLUDED:

- US Domestic, International nor local flights from Guayaquil-Lima-Cusco-Lima, and to/from the islands (see **Estimated Airfare**).
- Early arrivals, dayrooms or late check-outs at hotels.
- Tours, meals or other services not listed on the itinerary.
- Alcoholic beverages or items of a personal nature like laundry, telephone calls, souvenirs etc.
- Tips to the local staff as warranted.
- Any expenses incurred in preparing for this trip such as but not limited to non-refundable airline tickets or travel insurance, nor additional costs resulting from flight schedule changes, delays, cancellations or missed connections.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend purchasing coverage to protect your trip investment. Travel insurance is important in case of unexpected events prior to departure causing the need to cancel or change your dates. Weather, natural events, quarantine due to medical reason, local strikes, personal injury/illness for you, your traveling companion or family members, could require itinerary interruption or changes. Missed connections, delayed arrival, lost/delayed baggage or the need for medical attention or evacuation are also reasons why coverage is important. Southwind recommends **Travel Insured International** which offers coverage options at a good value. If you, your traveling companion or a family member has a pre-existing medical condition, you can still receive coverage if a recurrence of the condition forces you to cancel your trip, but you do need to purchase a plan **within 21 days of your deposit**. Southwind can provide eQuote for insurance to review upon receipt of your deposit and Trip Reservation eForm.

[Learn more about coverage offered by Travel Insured International](#)

M/V Santa Cruz II: Refurbished in 2015, the ship shows a new attractive look to explore Galapagos in style and comfort. This vessel guarantees that the utmost care will be given to the environment by implementing the newest sustainable advances in sailing, thus protecting the delicate ecosystem. With 5 spacious decks and elegant interiors the [M/V Santa Cruz II](#) assures guests a luxurious ambience from which they can appreciate the breathtaking scenery of the enchanted islands. Its 3 cabin decks host 90 guests in 50 modern cabins. Cabin options include single, double and family cabins. All cabins are equipped with private bathrooms, air conditioning, a large picture window, hair dryer, iPod / MP3 docking station, electrical outlets, in-room safe, reading lights and more. The vessel also offers the exclusive Darwin Suites on the boat's top Panorama Deck. These suites provide guests with enhanced service, as well as selected details such as a take-home Galapagos book and a tablet loan for each cabin.

When not exploring the islands, guests can relax in communal spaces, decks or viewing platforms. Enjoying facilities such as indoor and outdoor dining, a lounge bar, complete library, two hot tubs overlooking the ocean and a gym. Meals are served in the Beagle Dining Room or outside Al fresco on the Panorama Deck. Snacks & drinks are served after explorations, whether in the bar, in the library or on the outdoor terrace, where you can take in the fabulous vistas and marine breezes of the Galapagos. A 24-hour coffee station located in the library provides free coffee, tea, and water. Santa Cruz offers menus featuring freshly caught fish and seafood plus organically grown vegetables and fruit, all prepared by a team passionate to provide culinary delights of Ecuadorean and international cuisine under the creative lead of the Gastronomy Director.

Offering 5 and 7-day itineraries, the vessel includes explorations of the Northern, Eastern and Western Islands of Galapagos. Throughout each of these excursions, up to 7 of the knowledgeable naturalists will be available to guide visitors, along with an Expedition Leader who is responsible for ensuring that the outings fully highlights the wonders of the Galapagos. Daily expeditions are adjusted to the personal needs and interests of the guests, including hikes and aquatic activities such as kayaking, snorkeling, and zodiac or glass-bottom boat excursions.

ON BOARD: A typical day on board begins with a beautiful sunrise and breakfast served generally at 07:00. Afterwards, at about 08:30, we join our English-speaking naturalist for a 3-4 hour shore excursion. (Certified by the Charles Darwin Research Station and the National Park Service, the guides aboard these boats are typically level III, meaning they have achieved the highest level of certification and experience.) We board our zodiac, or small motorized dinghy, and travel to a specified visitor's site for disembarkation. We may have either a dry landing on a rocky beach or special jetty, or a wet landing where wading through knee or thigh deep water is required. Once on shore our guide will explain the unique features of this location and talk about the life forms we encounter as we hike along designated trails and beaches. There is typically time for swimming or snorkeling before lunch for those that enjoy these activities.

Lunch is onboard with siesta time while cruising to the next visitor site. In the afternoon, a 3 hour excursion might include snorkeling amid colorful tropical fish, swimming with sea lions or cruising in the zodiac to view marine birds and wildlife along the cliffs if there is not a designated landing site. Guides will discuss the next day's activities and special features of the

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observation sites we visit as well offer lectures about natural history of the islands before we enjoy a delicious dinner featuring Ecuadorian as well as International specialties, which is served on board at about 19:30. The ship guarantees all its departures without a minimum number of passengers and a maximum number of 90. Southwind offers this trip for a minimum of 2 passengers. There will be other travelers on board the ship who have booked through other tour companies or travel agencies. They will not participate in the full Southwind program that includes the other mainland services and does not count toward group size for land cost pricing.

Note: To learn more about this vessel and view a photo/video gallery, please visit: www.cruises.ec/santacruzii/

FAMILY ADVENTURES: A visit to the enchanted Galápagos Islands makes an ideal family vacation. Adults and children alike love communing with wildlife and the water activities. Children age 6-11 are welcome aboard and qualify for the discounts indicated on page 5.

WEATHER: The Galápagos Islands have a surprisingly cool, sub-tropical climate. Weather is regulated by the cold Humboldt Current (flows north-westward along western coast of South America and out to the islands) during the dry season and the warm waters from the Panama Basin during the wet season. The islands only receive an average of 10" of rain per year so it is never "rainy". Temperatures vary according to the strength of the trade winds.

December – June: Cooling currents subside and temps rise. Many consider this the hot/wetter season. Daytime highs are upper 80's-low 90's and 70's at night. The water temp is at its warmest (ave 72-76°F). Feb-Apr have the highest precipitation levels (1-2"/month), rest of year is less than 1"/month.

July – November: The trade winds pick up and the climate becomes cool & breezy. Many consider this the cool/drier season. Daytime air temp ave is 73°F and 62°F at night. The ave water temp is 68°F. The sea can be a bit choppy during these months and the sky can be misty, a phenomenon locally called "garua."

TEMPERATURES	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
MAX AIR TEMP	84	86	88	86	82	78	76	74	76	77	78	80
MIN AIR TEMP	70	74	74	72	72	68	66	64	62	64	66	68
AVE SEA TEMP	74	76	76	76	74	74	72	66	68	70	72	74
AVE RAINFALL	1	1	2	1.5	0.75	0.25	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.5

Temperatures are given in degrees Fahrenheit and rainfall amounts are in inches.

Peru: The second half of the trip is in mountainous regions where weather conditions change suddenly. The best policy for enjoying such capricious weather is to be prepared for all possibilities ranging from intense sunshine to rain, cold, and/or wind. Generally the Andean climate during the months of April-November is clear, dry and cool, but as this program includes time in the cloud forests on the eastern slopes of the Andes, rain should be expected anytime. Brief hail, sleet or snow storms might also occur at the highest elevations anytime. Andean nights are cold, while the days are pleasant and springlike.

Cusco has daytime highs in the mid-70's and nighttime lows in the upper 30's. Both daytime and nighttime temperatures in the Sacred Valley are about 10-15° warmer. The Cusco region gets more precipitation (averaging 4-6 inches/month) during the wet season, December-March, when high temperatures average between the mid-60's & 70 degrees during the day and mid-40s at night. The likelihood of rain at Machu Picchu is high. Expect showers, overcast days or mist on most departures. The daytime temperatures in the Lost City are hot (78-85°F), with mild nights (lows around 45-50°F). The sun is quite intense at these elevations, (and in the Galápagos), so a good sun hat along with sunscreen is needed to prevent severe sunburns. Insect repellents such as Skintastic or Skin-so-Soft or long pants are a wise choice to guard against the no-see-ums at Machu Picchu.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE: The Land Cost DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY FLIGHTS. Round-trip airfare from US gateway cities to Quito is about \$600-900 per person. Flights to Quito are offered by American Airlines (from Miami), United (Houston), Delta (Atlanta), JetBlue (Ft Lauderdale) and LATAM Airlines (Miami). Some carriers offer flights to Guayaquil (GYE) where we can assist with arrangements, but we recommend Quito as the most convenient routing. Estimated fares are \$550/person for the Galapagos and \$750 for Guayaquil-Lima-Cusco-Lima. Southwind coordinates your Galapagos

Ecuador & Peru: Galápagos and Machu Picchu

flights in conjunction with your island visit, that fare is payable on your Southwind invoice. Southwind's ticketing specialist for Latin America can quote flights to match your itinerary, you'll benefit from personal support in case schedule adjustments are needed along the way plus access to special fares and seat assignment assistance. You have the option to arrange your own flights or redeem award travel yourself if you prefer. The airlines request that tickets match names as shown in your passport. Upon receipt of your deposit, we send flight booking information to match your travel dates. It is important to NOT purchase any tickets until Southwind notifies you that your trip is confirmed.

HOW TO SIGN UP: Please complete Southwind's [Trip Reservation eForm](#). There are fields for up to 6 travelers per form with the same address. The deposit is **\$1,500 per person**, [please click here to pay your deposit](#) by any major credit card through our secure CardConnect system. In the total amount due box, enter your deposit amount (without a comma) based on the number of travelers in your party. If you prefer, you can also call us at 1-800-377-9463 to make payment arrangements by phone or send a check. You will receive confirmation of your deposit. Once your trip is guaranteed to operate, you will receive comprehensive pre-departure planning documents by email.

Land Balance: Final payment is due at 120 days by Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express or check. You will receive a trip invoice indicating your balance due. Provided services and space are available, reservations can be accepted up to 60 days before departure.

Galápagos vessels are relatively small compared to other cruises, so they typically sell out several months in advance. Early booking is required for most departures.

Cancellation Fees and other policies are outlined under the [Terms & Conditions](#) on Southwind's website.

We look forward to having you travel with us in Ecuador!

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Southwind Adventures, Inc

Tel: (303) 972-0701 or (800) 377-9463
info@southwindadventures.com • www.southwindadventures.com