



EDUCATIONAL  
TOURS

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# DISCOVER ECUADOR: ECOSYSTEMS & ISLANDS

11 days | Quito | Santa Cruz Island | Isabela Island | Tena

Ecuador is home to four major ecosystems: the rough and jagged landscapes surrounding the towering Andes, the misty and mysterious cloud forests, the tropical rainforests of the Amazon, and the sunny, white-sand Galápagos Islands. Soak up local culture and customs as you dive deep into the region's awe-inspiring scenery, and glimpse magnificent sunsets just outside your door.

## EVERYTHING YOU GET:



**Full-time Tour Director**



**Sightseeing:** Comprehensive sightseeing of natural attractions



**Entrances:** Mindo Cloud Forest hike; butterfly garden; Charles Darwin Research Center; Cotapaxi National Park; whitewater rafting; Indigenous village visit



**Personalized learning guide:** Our personalized learning experience engages students before, during, and after tour, with the option to create a final, reflective project for academic credit



**All of the details are covered:** Round-trip flights on major carriers; comfortable motorcoach; internal flights; boats; 9 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast and dinner daily; lunch on days 3-5



Sea lion





*Anyone can see the world.*

# YOU'RE GOING TO EXPERIENCE IT.

As you can see, your EF tour includes visits to the places you've learned about in school. That's a given. But it's so much more than that. Immersing yourself in new cultures—surrounded by the people, the language, the food, the way of life—creates inspirational moments that can't be listed in an itinerary. They can only be experienced.

And the experience begins long before you get your passport stamped and meet your Tour Director in your arrival city. It begins the moment you decide to go. Whether it's connecting with other travelers on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, or delving deeper into your destinations with our personalized learning experience, the excitement will hit you long before you pack your suitcase.

When your group arrives abroad, everything is taken care of so you can relax and enjoy the experience. Your full-time Tour Director is with your group around the clock, handling local transportation, hotels, and meals while also providing their own insight into the local history and culture. Expert local guides will lead your group on sightseeing tours, providing detailed views on history, art, architecture, or anything you may have a question about.

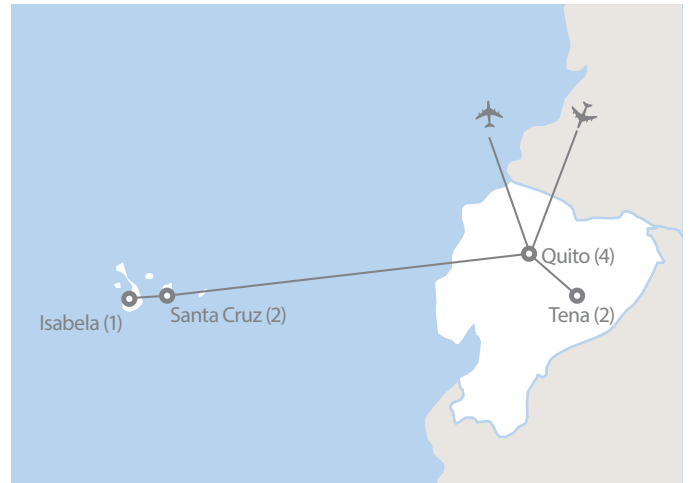
When your journey is over and you're unpacking your suitcase at home, you'll realize the benefits of your life-changing experience do not end. They have just begun.

*@EFtours I attribute my college semester abroad to the love for travel I discovered on an EF Tour in high school #traveltuesday*

— MELISSA, TRAVELER



Via Twitter



Learn from your Tour Director and expert local guides



Pichincha Volcano

**CHECK OUT WHAT A TOUR IS ALL ABOUT**

Watch the videos at  
**[eftours.com/](http://eftours.com/)**

Your teacher's Tour Website

## What you'll experience on your tour

### Day 1: Fly to Ecuador

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Ecuador.
- Arrive in Quito, the warm and relaxed capital of Ecuador carved into a narrow plateau high above the Andean valleys, beneath the peaks of the Pichincha Volcano.

### Day 2: Quito | Mindo Cloud Forest

- Continue on for a hike in the Mindo Cloud Forest, a diverse natural landscape nestled on the slopes of the Pichincha Volcano on the southern edge of the Choco-Andean Corridor. Mindo is home to over 300 different species of tropical birds and nearly 400 types of orchids.
- Visit a butterfly garden.

### Day 3: Quito | Baltra Island | Santa Cruz Island

- Fly to Baltra Island.
- Travel to Santa Cruz Island.
- Visit the Twin Craters
- Visit a tortoise ranch in the Santa Cruz Highlands to see wild tortoises.
- Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and see the breeding center for the giant tortoises from which the islands took their name.

### Day 4: Santa Cruz Island | Isabela Island

- Continue on to Isabela Island, the largest of the Galápagos Islands. In 1959, the archipelago was declared a national park in order to protect the flora and fauna that Charles Darwin observed while formulating his theory of evolution. Critical to his studies were the islands' iguanas, penguins, flightless cormorants, and 13 species of finches, whose beak sizes and shapes provided invaluable insights into the process he called natural selection.
- Visit Los Humedales, a wildlife reserve that formerly housed a prison colony.
- Take an excursion to a pink flamingo habitat.
- Visit a tortoise breeding center.
- Enjoy a snorkeling activity where you'll see animals like sea turtles, sea lions, and exotic fish. You'll also participate in a boat excursion that brings you to the Tintoreras Islet, made entirely out of lava. While exploring Tintoreras, you'll view the large colonies of black marine iguanas.

### Day 5: Isabela Island | Santa Cruz Island

- Travel by boat to Santa Cruz Island.
- Enjoy a hike in Tortuga Bay.
- Visit the Playa de los Alemanes.

### Day 6: Santa Cruz Island | Baltra Island | Quito

- Enjoy free time on Santa Cruz Island.
- Travel to Baltra Island.
- Board your flight to Quito.

### Day 7: Quito

- Experience Ecuador's wealth of volcanic history during an excursion to Cotopaxi National Park with a short hike in the shadow of the Cotopaxi volcano.

### Day 8: Tena

- Travel to Tena, a city in the Amazon rainforest and the charming capital of the Napo Province.
- Participate in an Amazon hike.

### Day 9: Tena

- Enjoy a whitewater rafting excursion.

### Day 10: Quito | Depart for home

- Visit a small, Indigenous village to immerse yourself in local culture and customs.
- Transfer to Quito to board your return flight home.

### Day 11: Arrive home

*Traveling to Quito in Ecuador was an amazing experience. Quito is a unique city with lots to see.*

– JOHN, GROUP LEADER



*This trip was so awesome. Now I want to live in Ecuador.*

– RACHEL, TRAVELER



## TOP THREE THINGS I WILL SEE, DO, TRY, OR EXPLORE

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

— The easiest ways to —

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EF Educational Tours  
Two Education Circle  
Cambridge, MA 02141

*My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides.*

—CHARLOTTE, PARENT OF TRAVELER



Tour review

## THE WORLD LEADER IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

For over 55 years, EF has been working toward one global mission: *Opening the World Through Education*. Your teacher has partnered with EF because of our unmatched worldwide presence, our focus on affordability, and our commitment to providing experiences that teach critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and global competence. What's more:

- **We always offer the lowest prices** so more students can travel.
- **We're fully accredited, just like your school**, so you can earn credit while on tour.
- **All of our educational tours feature experiential learning activities** and visits to the best sites.
- **We're completely committed to your safety.** We have more than 600 schools and offices in over 50 countries around the world, so local EF staff members can react quickly and in person wherever you travel.
- **Your full-time Tour Director is with your group** every step of the way on tour, providing insight about your destinations as well as great local tips.



Education First