



# Tours for Girl Scouts®

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## CHARTING THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

9 days | Ecuador

Journey to the equator and explore the wonders of Ecuador—including the Galápagos Islands, some 620 miles off the country's Pacific coastline. Retrace the footsteps of Charles Darwin. Some of the wildlife you may see include penguins, sea lions, turtles, blue-footed boobies, and other exotic birds. On the mainland, your troop will visit the Equatorial Line and enjoy a salsa dance lesson.

### EVERYTHING YOU GET:

-  **Full-time Tour Director**
-  **Sightseeing:** 2 sightseeing tours led by your Tour Director; comprehensive sightseeing of natural attractions
-  **Entrances:** Santo Domingo Monastery; Intinan Museum; Charles Darwin Research Station
-  **Experiential learning:** Salsa dance lesson
-   **All of the details are covered:** Round-trip flights on major carriers; comfortable motorcoach; internal flights; boat; 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms;
-   breakfast and dinner daily; 3 meals on Days 3-5





*EF Tours for Girl Scouts gives girls the confidence to work toward a significant goal and the courage to try new things while traveling. They return with character and want to make their world a better place.*

Kim H., Group Leader

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#### **DAY 1: FLY TO ECUADOR**

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Quito, the Ecuadorian capital carved into a narrow plateau high above the Andean valleys, beneath the peaks of the Pichincha Volcano. Here you'll explore the colonial quarter, where wrought-iron balconies and majestic stone pillars grace 300-year-old plazas, churches, and palaces. The area was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978. At the Intinan Museum, discover how the Incas determined the middle of the Earth. Pose for a photo on the equator, the namesake of Ecuador. If you've ever wanted to stand in both hemispheres at the same time, this is your chance.

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#### **DAY 2: QUITO**

- Take a tour of Quito: Independence Plaza; Government Palace.
- Visit the Santo Domingo Monastery.
- Take an excursion to the equatorial line.
- Visit the Intinan Museum.
- Take a salsa dance lesson.

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#### **DAY 3: BALTRA | SANTA CRUZ ISLAND**

- Fly to Baltra.
- Continue on to Isabela Island, the largest of the Galápagos Islands and nearly four times the size of Santa Cruz, the second largest of the Galápagos. The wildlife, flora, and fauna are beyond compare, offering up-close encounters with wild tortoises, goats, and more. The west coast of Isabela is also noted as the best place in the Galápagos to view whales and dolphins.

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#### **DAY 4: ISABELA ISLAND**

- Enjoy a full day of activities on Isabela Island. You'll take a boat ride where you will go snorkeling and check out all of the wildlife, from penguins and sea lions to iguanas and exotic birds. Your group will then dock and explore Tintorerías lava islet.

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#### **DAY 5: SANTA CRUZ ISLAND**

- Board a boat and continue on to Santa Cruz Island. 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 island's iguanas, penguins, flightless cormorants, and 13 species of finches, whose beak sizes and shapes provided invaluable insights into the process he called natural selection. At the Charles Darwin Research Station, see the breeding center for the giant tortoises from which the islands took their name. Discover the unique wildlife of neighboring islands on boat excursions. Photo opportunities will be endless, but please remember that the island's ecosystems are fragile. Park regulations are designed to protect the area for future generations.
- Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station.
- Travel to Santa Cruz Highlands to see giant tortoises out in the wild.

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#### **DAY 6: SAN CRISTÓBAL ISLAND**

- Enjoy a boat excursion to San Cristóbal Island, the oldest permanent settlement of the islands and where Darwin first went ashore in 1835. With a small lake located at the top of the island, it remains the only source of permanent fresh water in the islands.
- Take a coastal walk along La Lobería, followed by snorkeling. Hike Tijeratas Hill and visit the San Cristóbal Interpretation Center. See panoramic views of Punta Carol from the top of this hill.
- Visit sea lions at Playa Man.

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**DAY 7: SAN CRISTÓBAL | QUITO**

- Spend the morning shopping for local crafts.
- Fly back to Quito in the afternoon.

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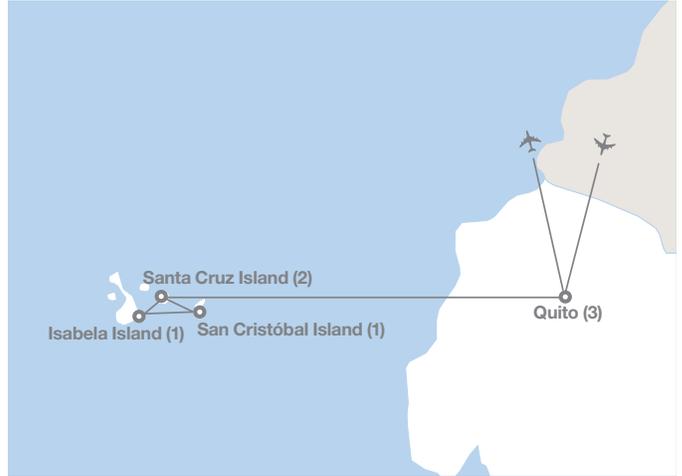
**DAY 8: OTAVALO | QUITO**

- Visit the market towns of Otavalo and Cotacachi. Surrounded by the Imbabura and Mojanda volcanoes, Otavalo is a small farming town known for its textiles. Otavaleña women traditionally wear lace blouses with dark skirts and a colored band around their waists. You'll have the opportunity to shop for handmade goods and other souvenirs crafted by the area's local residents at one of the largest craft markets in the country. And don't think that handicrafts are the only thing you will find here—you can purchase anything from musical instruments to a meal. Plus, the market offers a unique glimpse into traditional Andean culture, as locals have frequented the markets for hundreds of years.
- Transfer to the airport for your overnight flight home.

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**DAY 9: ARRIVE HOME**

Itinerary subject to change. For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

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

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

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