



GALÁPAGOS CRUISE & MACHU PICCHU WITH HX EXPEDITIONS

Classic Cruising Tour | 21 Days | Physical Level 2

LIMA – SACRED VALLEY – AGUAS CALIENTES – CUSCO – LIMA – QUITO – GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS – QUITO

From the mystical lands of the Incas to the entralling islands of the Galápagos, this tour brings together two legendary destinations. Explore Peru by land, ticking off Machu Picchu as you go, before cruising the Galápagos archipelago to see the wildlife that inspired a scientific revolution.

- Explore the beautiful Sacred Valley
- Marvel at the Incan citadel of Machu Picchu
- Admire Lima's colonial sights
- Visit nine of the most inspiring Galápagos Islands - Baltra, Santa Cruz, Isabela, Fernandina, Floreana, Santiago, Rábida, Bartolomé and Genovesa
- Observe some of the diverse wildlife of the Galápagos

TOUR MAP



TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and fuel surcharges (unless on land only option)
- 8 night Cruise with HX Expeditions
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated (*if dining on board throughout*) - 18 breakfasts (B), 17 lunches (L), 18 dinners (D)
- All sightseeing and entrance fees, transportation and transfers pre and post cruise
- English speaking Local Guides pre and post cruise or English speaking National Escorts (if your group is 10 or more passengers)
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guide

Pre and post cruise, the only elements or aspects you may have to pay for are personal expenditures e.g., drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.

During the cruise, your meals on board will be included in the main dining areas, however, should you wish to dine in any of the speciality restaurants not included in your cruising package, you will be required to pay for these locally. In addition, if you opt to dine off the ship, these meals will also be paid for locally, and please note you will not be refunded for meals missed on board.

CLASSIC CRUISING TOURS:

These tours are designed for travellers who want to experience the vibrant cultures, stunning landscapes, and iconic sights of Peru, combined with an unforgettable expedition cruise to the Galápagos Islands. Offering excellent value, this group tour allows you to explore some of South America's most captivating cities and natural wonders while travelling with like-minded people.

Your tour is fully inclusive before and after the cruise, ensuring that all arrangements, from accommodation to guided sightseeing, are seamlessly taken care of. Throughout the land portion of your journey, you will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and Local Guides, whose expert knowledge and passion will transform your holiday into an extraordinary adventure. While on the cruise, you will enjoy the excellent services and facilities provided by the cruise staff.

JOINING YOUR TOUR:

The tour is 21 days in duration including international flights. Join the tour on Day 1 in Lima and end the tour on Day 19 in Quito.

For travellers that have booked a 'Land & Cruise Only' tour with no international flights, please note the price includes your arrival/departure airport transfers if you are arriving on the start and departing on the conclusion date of your tour, or when booking pre/post night accommodation with Wendy Wu Tours.

ITINERARY CHANGES:

We intend to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours, or as dictated by local conditions. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip. Similarly, while cruise liners always endeavour to adhere to the published itineraries, they may be changed at the discretion of the captain due to weather advisories, port traffic, and any other unforeseeable circumstances. HX's expedition routes and excursions can change due to weather or sea conditions. If changes occur while you are at sea, they will keep you updated on alternative routes or port call substitutions. Your safety is always the top priority. If changes occur before embarkation, we'll inform you in a timely manner.

PHYSICAL LEVEL:

Our tours come with a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of our tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

'Galápagos Cruise & Machu Picchu' is rated as a **physical level 2** tour. A reasonable level of fitness is required, and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You will be getting on and off coaches, trains or boats and walking around the sights, often including steps, plus occasional longer walks.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time, often on uneven surfaces
- Cusco sits at 3,400 metres above sea level – activity at these altitudes will be at an easier pace
- You will be required to get on and off smaller panga boats in the Galápagos Islands, and the crew will guide you on how to board these
- You will be required to board the cruise ship without assistance and get on and off at ports if you wish to disembark the ship
- During the cruise, embarking and disembarking at ports or during shore excursions may involve steps, ramps, or small boats. Passengers should be comfortable with boarding and disembarking independently. While guides and crew will provide assistance where possible, travellers should consider their mobility when selecting this itinerary.
- Shore excursions included with HX can vary, and sometimes may be physically demanding. Please speak to HX staff onboard to find out more about what will be involved and if it's suitable for you.

Of course, while on land, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

GROUP SIZE:

For pre and post cruise touring most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by National Escorts. On this tour, there will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. Your HX cruise has a maximum capacity for 90 guests, most of whom will not be part of your Wendy Wu tour group.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 10 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so.

DETAILED ITINERARY

 Day 1: **Arrive in Lima** Meals: D

Fly to the Peruvian capital of Lima. Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport by your English-speaking representative. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, travel to your hotel and check in.

Please note: Early check-in is not included. If your flight arrives in the morning and you wish to arrange this, please speak to your reservation's consultant.



Destination Information

Lima – Overlooking the Pacific in Peru's central region, Lima is a huge city of 10 million people. It was founded by conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535 and became the capital of the Viceroyalty of Peru, remaining as capital after the War of Independence gave Peruvians their freedom. The historic centre of the city is beautiful and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988.

 Day 2: **Lima – Fly to Cusco – Sacred Valley** Meals: B, L, D

Fly to Cusco and transfer to the Urubamba Valley. Also known as the Sacred Valley, it is home to Incan citadels and beautiful scenic landscapes.

Pay a visit to Manos de la Comunidad, learning about the traditional crafts of weaving, pottery and jewellery making from local artisans. Afterwards, make your way to explore picturesque Pisac followed by lunch at a local restaurant.

Finally, transfer to your hotel in the Sacred Valley for check-in.



Please note: This day is at altitude.

Destination Information

Sacred Valley – Lying between Cusco and Machu Picchu, the Sacred Valley of the Incas is an impressive landscape made up of fertile agricultural land with huge Andean mountains at every turn. At the Sacred Valley, you will also find ancient Inca towns, terraces and citadels.

Day 3: **Sacred Valley**

Meals: B, L, D

Today, journey approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes to the magnificent Moray, the Inca agricultural laboratory that boasts impressive circular terraces. These terraces are believed to have been used as a testing ground for various crops in order to determine the most optimal growing conditions, suggesting the advanced farming techniques of the Incas.

Continue to Maras, located 2 miles from Moray. Here, you will witness the marvellous salt evaporation ponds, used by the Incas to catch salty water as it emerges from the mountains, until the water evaporates leaving only the salt behind. The evaporation ponds are most famous for producing the pink table salt we all recognise today. Lunch will then be served at a local restaurant.



Afterwards, enjoy a visit to the Santuario de Colibríes, which translates to "Hummingbird Sanctuary". Located in a beautiful Andean cloud forest, this sanctuary is home to a variety of hummingbirds and other native bird species. The sanctuary provides the unique opportunities to spot different species as they flutter among native flowers and feeders. You will also learn all about the rich biodiversity of the area and the important conservation efforts that protect these delicate ecosystems.

Finally, journey to Ollantaytambo, where you'll visit and explore the old fortress, offering a glimpse into ancient Andean civilization.

Please note: This day is at altitude.

Destination Information

Moray – Composed of three groups of circular terraces that descend 150 metres, the purpose of Moray's construction has ignited much debate with the Incas having no written language. However, today, Moray is largely believed to have been used as an experimental farm over 500 years ago for various crops.

Maras – The Maras Salt Mines or Salineras de Maras as referred to locally, boasts over 3,000 salt ponds, all locally owned by 600 local families and are all connected through an impressive underground network of canals that fill these pools with salt water. Under the intense sun, the process of evaporation begins, leaving only the salt behind.

Ollantaytambo – Ollantaytambo was once the royal estate of the Emperor Pachacuti and is the starting point for the famous Inca Trail. Surrounded by a fortress of Incan ruins, the town itself is a prime example of an Incan city – it is still laid out as it was when it was built by Pachacuti in the 13th century.

 Day 4: **Sacred Valley – Machu Picchu – Aguas Calientes** Meals: B, L, D

Today, board the panoramic Expedition train and travel through the mountainous landscapes to the small town of Aguas Calientes. From here, you will hop on the bus to the magnificent Machu Picchu. Long abandoned by the Inca, it came to international attention when it was stumbled upon by Hiram Bingham in 1911. It is now considered one of the new 7 Wonders of the World. A guided tour will provide you with some insight into the Inca Empire.



Afterwards, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to the village of Aguas Calientes (also known as Machu Picchu Pueblo) for your overnight stay. Dinner will be served at your hotel this evening.

Please note:

- *This day is at altitude.*
- You will need to prepare a small bag for your visit to Machu Picchu today. Your main luggage will be transferred separately to your hotel in Cusco.

Destination Information

Machu Picchu – One of the world's great archaeological discoveries, Machu Picchu sits on a mountain ridge 2430 metres above the Sacred Valley. Built around 1450, it was abandoned about 100 years later, and left 'undiscovered' (the local people knew of it) until 1911 when it was brought to international attention. A classic example of Incan style, there are three main structures – the Temple of the Sun, the Inti Watana and the Room of Three Windows.

Aguas Calientes – Just 110km from Cusco, Aguas Calientes is in a unique setting, being surrounded by stone cliffs and forest greenery on all sides. The town was founded in 1901 as a camp for labourers and their families working on the nearby railroad to connect Cusco to the mine of Santa Ana. Nowadays, Aguas Calientes more commonly serves as the gateway for travellers to Machu Picchu.

Day 5: Aguas Calientes – Cusco
Meals: B, L, D

Enjoy free time relaxing in the charming town of Aguas Calientes. You may chose to return to Machu Picchu independently, stroll through the towns handicraft market or simply rest before continuing your onward journey.

After lunch at a local restaurant, return to Aguas Calientes train station to catch the Vistadome train back to Ollantaytambo. Enjoy local music, snacks, and a front-row seat to Peru's stunning scenery.



Upon arrival at Ollantaytambo rail station, transfer to Cusco and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant before heading to your hotel for the evening.

Please note: This day is at altitude.

Destination Information

Cusco – Founded around the 12th century, it became the Inca capital and the centre of their vast civilization, symbolizing political, spiritual, and cultural power. When the Spanish arrived in the 16th century, they conquered the city, building colonial churches and plazas atop Inca foundations—creating the unique blend of Incan and Spanish architecture that still defines Cusco today.

Day 6: Cusco
Meals: B, L, D

Home to an incredible Incan legacy, Cusco has some of the richest heritage in Latin America and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Today's half-day tour will begin with a visit to the Fortress of Sacsayhuaman, a colossal structure built with huge carved rocks jointed with absolute accuracy. Next, make a stop at Cristo Blanco to admire this large statue and admire the panoramic views before exploring San Pedro Market. The next stop will be the Qoricancha, a temple dedicated to the Sun god, and Cusco Cathedral.



Please note: This day is at altitude.

Destination Information

Sacsayhuaman – Just north of Cusco, on top of a steep hill, lies Sacsayhuaman, believed to have been a ceremonial fortress that holds religious significance and dates back to as early as 1100. It is estimated that Sacsayhuaman retains only 40 percent of its original structure. The site also features a number of sacred buildings, towers, shrines and warehouses.

Qoricancha – Once one of Cusco's, and the whole Incan Empire's most important temple, Qoricancha's walls were once covered in sheets of solid gold. Although the temple was demolished to make way for a colonial church, the Incan foundations remain and incorporates original Incan stonework.

Day 7: Cusco – Fly to Lima

Meals: B, L, D

Fly to Lima, Peru's historic capital, and enjoy lunch on arrival. Afterwards, embark on a city tour beginning at the Main Square to admire the grand exteriors of the Government Palace, Cathedral and City Hall — all fine examples of the city's enduring colonial elegance. Step inside the Cathedral, where numerous chapels reflect diverse architectural influences.



Next, visit the Larco Museum, located in an 18th century Spanish colonial mansion and home to over 3,000 years of Peru's "pre-Columbian" historical artefacts. The museum is especially known for its remarkable gold and silver collections and a unique display of erotic ceramics, offering insight into ancient Peruvian beliefs. Conclude your tour with dinner at a local restaurant before transferring to your hotel for check-in.

Destination Information

Lima – Overlooking the Pacific in Peru's central region, Lima is a huge city of 10 million people. It was founded by conquistador Francisco Pizarro in 1535 and became the capital of the Viceroyalty of Peru, remaining as the capital after the War of Independence which gave Peruvians their freedom. The historic centre of the city is beautiful and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988.

Day 8: Lima – Fly to Quito

Meals: B, L, D

Today, you will be transferred from your hotel to Lima airport for your flight to Quito, Ecuador.

Upon arrival, you will be met at the airport by a HX Expeditions representative. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, travel to your hotel for check in.

Destination Information



Quito – At an elevation of 9,350 feet, Quito ranks as the world's second-highest capital city. It is surrounded by dramatic Andean peaks, including Pichincha Volcano, which towers right above it. The city is just 15 miles (24 km) south of the equator, which gives Ecuador its name.

Day 9: Quito

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, embark on a guided exploration of Quito's extraordinary Old Town - one of South America's largest and most beautifully preserved colonial districts. Stroll along its cobbled streets as you take in the striking architecture and indulge in rich Ecuadorian chocolate crafted from the country's finest cacao.

Afterward, travel about 16 miles north to the legendary "Middle of the World City." Following lunch, pay a visit to the renowned monument marking the equatorial line. Don't forget your camera - you'll have the unforgettable chance to pose with one foot in each hemisphere.



Please note: Today's touring is provided by HX Expeditions and will involve touring in a group that may include people who are not travelling with Wendy Wu Tours.

Destination Information

Old Town – Arguably Quito's greatest attraction, the Old Town is built atop a former Inca settlement. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, the area is filled with beautifully preserved colonial architecture, from vibrant plazas and grand churches to striking monuments.

Middle of the World City – About 16 miles (26 km) north of Quito, this cultural and scientific complex is one of Ecuador's most famous attractions. At its heart stands a 98-foot (30m) tall monument, topped with a globe, which marks the general location of the equatorial line. Visitors love taking memorable photos with one foot in each hemisphere.

Day 10: Fly to Baltra Island – Embark Cruise

Meals: B, L, D

This morning, HX will provide transfers to the airport for a short flight to Baltra Island. On arrival, they will transfer you to the port to board your expedition ship. Settle into your cabin and explore the ship's facilities as you prepare for the extraordinary journey ahead.

This afternoon, your Galápagos adventure begins as you sail along the northern coast of Santa Cruz toward the striking landscapes of Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill), where you'll go ashore. The walk starts beside a tranquil brackish lagoon, often visited by elegant shorebirds and vibrant American flamingos. Continuing inland, the path reveals sweeping views over the bay and the western isles of the archipelago, while offering the exciting opportunity to encounter land iguanas in their natural habitat.



Please note: The cruise itinerary may vary due to weather and sea conditions. If changes occur while you are at sea, they will keep you updated on alternative routes or port call substitutions.

Destination Information

Galápagos Islands – A remote volcanic archipelago located about 600 miles (1,000km) off Ecuador's coast, the Galápagos Islands are one of the world's most extraordinary travel destinations. Celebrated as the place that inspired Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, they remain a living laboratory of biodiversity and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Santa Cruz Island – As the most centrally located and second-largest island in the Galápagos, Santa Cruz serves as both a vibrant hub for visitors and a sanctuary of remarkable natural beauty. Home to the archipelago's main town, Puerto Ayora, and the Charles Darwin Research Station, it is a place where conservation, culture, and adventure converge. Santa Cruz is famous for its giant tortoise reserves, where visitors can observe these gentle icons roaming freely in the lush highlands. The island also boasts diverse habitats, from white-sand beaches and lava tunnels to mangrove-fringed bays.

Cerro Dragón – One of the Galápagos' most fascinating visitor sites, renowned for its dramatic landscapes and thriving wildlife. The site is named Dragon Hill for its healthy population of land iguanas, often seen basking on the volcanic rocks or feeding on prickly pear cacti. Conservation efforts here have been central to restoring these remarkable reptiles to the island.

Day 11: **Cruise – Isabela and Fernandina**

Meals: B, L, D

Begin the day on the remote northwestern tip of Isabela Island at Punta Vicente Roca. After breakfast, set out by panga boat (similar to a Zodiac) to trace the rugged coastline, as your naturalist guides share insights into the area's dramatic volcanic formations. This remarkable site is a haven for birdlife - keep an eye out for Flightless Cormorants, Galápagos Penguins, and blue-footed boobies nesting along the shore. Conditions permitting, you'll also have the option to snorkel beneath the cliffs, where encounters with green sea turtles, oceanic sunfish, and playful fur seals await.



This afternoon, your adventure continues on Fernandina Island, celebrated for its untouched ecosystem and thriving population of marine iguanas. Along the coast, look out for sea lions, Sally Lightfoot crabs, Galápagos hawks, and penguins as they animate this pristine volcanic landscape.

Destination Information

Isabela Island – As the largest island in the Galápagos archipelago, Isabela is a haven for adventure and wildlife. Shaped like a seahorse and formed by six massive volcanoes, the island boasts some of the most dramatic landscapes in the Galápagos.

Fernandina Island – Fernandina is the youngest and most untouched island in the Galápagos archipelago, making it one of the best places to experience nature in its purest form. Its dramatic volcanic landscapes, from jagged lava flows to rugged cliffs, create a raw and otherworldly environment that few islands can match.

Day 12: **Cruise – Santa Cruz Island**

Meals: B, L, D

Today, you'll discover the highlights of Santa Cruz Island. Begin the morning in Puerto Ayora with a visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station. Observe recently-hatched giant tortoises and marvel at Darwin's finches, the iconic birds that inspired his theory of evolution. Wander among a striking prickly pear cactus forest, home to a variety of land birds. Lunch is served in the cool, verdant highlands, where giant tortoises roam freely, grazing and wallowing in tranquil pools.



This afternoon, choose from a selection of activities, such as mountain biking or exploring a sugar plantation. More details on the options will be provided onboard.

Destination Information

Charles Darwin Research Station – Founded in 1964, the Charles Darwin Research is a world-renowned centre for conservation, research, and environmental education. It plays a pivotal role in preserving the archipelago's unique biodiversity and serves as a model for ecological restoration worldwide. The station is famous for its giant tortoise breeding and rehabilitation program, which has successfully helped restore populations of endangered species, including the legendary Lonesome George.

 Day 13: **Cruise – Floreana Island**

Meals: B, L, D

After breakfast, set out by panga along the north shore of Floreana Island, admiring in the striking scenery from Baroness Cove. Later, visit Post Office Bay before enjoying lunch.

Afterwards, explore the waters around Champion Islet by panga or from the comfort of a glass-bottom boat, with the option to snorkel in one of the Galápagos' most vibrant marine environments. The day continues at Cormorant Point, where a stroll from an olivine-crystal beach leads to a tranquil brackish lagoon, often visited by American flamingos, pintail ducks, and other striking birdlife.



Destination Information

Floreana Island – Floreana is one of the southernmost islands in the Galápagos, steeped in history, legend, and remarkable wildlife. Known for its dramatic coastlines, lush highlands, and pristine bays, it offers travellers a blend of natural beauty and intriguing human history. The island is a haven for marine life, including sea lions, rays, and colourful tropical fish, making snorkelling a highlight. On land, look for Floreana Mockingbirds, green sea turtles, and various seabirds along its coast.

Post Office Bay – A unique historical site that has been an integral part of the Galápagos for over two centuries. It's famous for its iconic barrel, where sailors, whalers, and travellers have historically left and collected mail without formal postal services - a tradition that continues today.

Champion Islet – A small, rocky islet renowned for its extraordinary marine life and clear waters, making it one of the best snorkelling spots in the Galápagos. The islet's surrounding waters are teeming with tropical fish, green sea turtles, rays, and occasionally reef sharks, providing unforgettable underwater experiences for snorkelers. Above water, seabirds such as boobies and frigatebirds often glide overhead, adding to the islet's vibrant ecosystem.

Day 14: Cruise – Baltra Island

Meals: B, L, D

Today, relax on board as the ship anchors near Baltra Island. Enjoy the onboard amenities at your leisure - browse the library, stay active in the gym, or simply admire your surroundings.

This afternoon, visit Las Bachas Beach on the northern shore of Santa Cruz Island. This pristine white-sand beach with turquoise waters is perfect for spotting iconic Galápagos species, including flamingos and sea turtles. You will have the opportunity to swim or snorkel in these vibrant waters before returning to the ship for an expedition briefing about the adventures awaiting the next day.



Destination Information

Las Bachas Beach – Las Bachas Beach offers breathtaking views of the Galápagos' pristine coastline, with powdery white sand, calm turquoise waters, and surrounding mangroves creating a serene and picturesque setting. The name "Bachas" derives from the WWII-era abandoned barges that once rested on the shore, adding a subtle historical dimension to this natural paradise.

Day 15: Cruise – Santiago Island

Meals: B, L, D

Today, you'll discover the pristine beaches and captivating landscapes of Santiago Island. Begin at Buccaneer Cove on the northwest coast, where dramatic cliffs provide a haven for marine birds and playful sea lions. Experience the scenery up close with a variety of water activities and admire striking rock formations, including the famous 'Elephant Rock' and 'The Bishop.'



This afternoon, pay a visit to Puerto Egas, widely regarded as one of the island's most remarkable sites. Observe a colony of Galápagos fur seals and vibrant birdlife during a guided excursion, or simply enjoy swimming and snorkelling along the rocky shorelines, often accompanied by graceful marine turtles.

Destination Information

Santiago Island – Located in the central Galápagos, is renowned for its rugged volcanic landscapes, pristine beaches, and rich biodiversity. The island offers visitors a mix of scenic beauty, wildlife encounters, and geological wonders. Santiago features lava fields, volcanic craters, cliffs, and sheltered coves, providing a dramatic backdrop for exploration. Santiago is home to marine birds, Galápagos fur seals, and sea turtles, along with a variety of shorebirds and coastal species. Its diverse ecosystems make it a hotspot for wildlife observation.

Puerto Egas – Located on the western shore of Santiago Island, Puerto Egas is a striking coastal site known for its black volcanic rock formations, tidal pools, and rich wildlife. The area combines geological intrigue with excellent opportunities for close wildlife observation.

Day 16: Cruise – Rábida & Bartolomé

Meals: B, L, D

Begin your day just off the southern coast of Santiago on the tiny Rábida Island. Embark on a panga ride along the shore and explore the island's stunning red-hued beach. Delight in the sights and sounds of a sea lion colony, and keep watch for marine iguanas, mockingbirds, Yellow Warblers, and several species of Darwin's finches.

This afternoon, sail to Bartolomé Island, famed for its golden beaches and the iconic Pinnacle Rock.

Enjoy swimming or snorkelling in the crystal-clear waters, observe vibrant marine life from a glass-bottom boat, or have the chance to spot Galápagos penguins along the shore. For breathtaking panoramas, hike to the summit of the island, where sweeping views of the surrounding islands await.


Destination Information

Rábida Island – Rábida Island is renowned for its distinctive red beaches and volcanic landscapes, creating a truly unique and photogenic environment. The island's rust-coloured sand and cliffs are formed from high iron content in volcanic material, offering a breathtaking contrast against the turquoise waters of the surrounding ocean.

Bartolomé Island – Bartolomé Island, located near Santiago, renowned for its golden beaches, volcanic terrain, and the striking Pinnacle Rock, a volcanic spire rising from the sea. Bartolomé's waters teem with tropical fish, sea lions, and green sea turtles, while the shoreline is frequented by Galápagos penguins, the only penguin species found north of the equator.

Day 17: Cruise – Genovesa Island

Meals: B, L, D

Today, you'll discover the remarkable Genovesa Island. Begin the morning with a short but steep climb of just 90 feet up Prince Philip's Steps (El Barranco) to reach a rocky plateau. From here, enjoy a walk while observing large colonies of Nazca Boobies, Red-footed Boobies, Great Frigatebirds, and Storm Petrels. For a change of pace, embark on a kayaking adventure along the island's sheltered waters.



This afternoon, discover the pristine beach at Darwin Bay. Enjoy a refreshing swim, or stroll along the shore to marvel at hundreds of island birds. Alternatively, simply relax on the beach, snorkel, swim, or kayak, soaking in the tranquil beauty of this extraordinary island.

Destination Information

Genovesa Island – Also known as Bird Island, Genovesa Island is located in the northeastern Galápagos and is celebrated for its exceptional seabird colonies and dramatic landscapes. The island is shaped like a horseshoe due to a collapsed volcanic caldera, creating protected coves, cliffs, and coves ideal for wildlife viewing. Its shores are also home to sea lions and occasional marine iguanas.

Darwin Bay – Located on the eastern side of Genovesa Island, Darwin Bay is a serene and protected bay surrounded by dramatic volcanic cliffs. Its calm, turquoise waters and white sand beaches make it a perfect spot for wildlife observation and aquatic activities.

Day 18: Cruise – Santa Cruz Island – Fly to Quito

Meals: B, L, D

Begin your final morning on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island. After a dry landing at the passenger wharf, a short bus ride will take you to the island's lush highlands, where you'll experience one last highlight of your expedition; giant tortoises in their natural habitat. The windward slopes are a protected reserve, home to two species of these iconic tortoises. Stroll through fertile landscapes filled with Galápagos daisies, orchids, and bromeliads, and savour your final moments amid the island's extraordinary flora and fauna.



Afterwards, you'll transfer directly to Baltra Airport for your flight to Quito. On arrival, transfer to your hotel for an overnight stay.

Days 19-21: Depart Quito

Meals: B

Any time before your flight is at leisure. Then transfer to Quito airport for your flight home, arriving 2 days later due to crossing the international date line.

Please note: Late check-out is not included. If you wish to book a late check-out or additional nights, please contact our reservations department who can confirm additional pricing and arrangements for you, subject to availability at the hotel.



PLEASE INFORM OUR RESERVATIONS TEAM OF ANY ALLERGIES AND/OR SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS AT TIME OF BOOKING.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

CRUISE – MS SANTA CRUZ II:

The MS Santa Cruz II is a 90-passenger, carbon-neutral expedition ship built in 2002 and refitted in 2021 for exploring the Galápagos Islands with a focus on luxury, small-ship intimacy, and environmental responsibility. The ship offers amenities like the Beagle Restaurant, Panorama Bar & Lounge, a Science Corner, and decks for relaxing or lectures, with a cozy yet elegant atmosphere for guests to enjoy both the ship and the destinations. It provides an intimate expedition experience with immersive excursions and a high level of service, including locally sourced organic meals and a commitment to carbon-neutral operations and local community engagement. Your ship gives you everything you could wish for in a home away from home: places for stimulation, relaxation, and meetings with your fellow guests. With a Scandinavian-inspired décor and all modern conveniences, MS Santa Cruz II does it in comfort and style.

This sleek, spacious ship has a layout that allows you to enjoy your cruise from start to finish. Enjoy delicious food in the elegant restaurant, increase your knowledge of the Galápagos Islands with your fellow travellers in the Science Corner or maybe mingle out on the Sky deck. While exploring the Galápagos, you'll have the ability to actively engage in activities and encounters. After a day in Darwin's footsteps, you will enjoy coming home to a casual atmosphere with the best service there is. MS Santa Cruz II's amenities easily appeal to all world explorers.

Each day brings a new adventure, with guided excursions led by the expert Expedition Team. Activities include small boat trips, nature hikes, wildlife watching, and cultural visits, with evening briefings to prepare for the next day's explorations. An onboard photographer captures key moments throughout the voyage, and guests receive a digital logbook with a selection of professional images and a summary video after their journey.

Complimentary Starlink Wi-Fi is available throughout the ship, though connectivity may be limited due to the remote regions visited. Wellness facilities include a fitness room, hot tubs, and comfortable lounges with panoramic views. Dining onboard features locally inspired cuisine, with breakfast, lunch, and dinner included, along with complimentary soft drinks, house wine, beer, tea, and coffee throughout the day.

Rather than traditional cruise style entertainment, evening entertainment focuses on enrichment, with lectures, workshops, and wildlife viewing opportunities. Guests can also unwind in the ship's bars and lounges, sharing stories from the day's adventures.

CRUISE ACCOMODATION AND CABINS

At the time of booking, subject to availability, you may have the option to choose from an outside cabin or a larger outside cabin. If you wish to upgrade or have a specific request regarding cabin location, please contact our reservations department for assistance. Although these requests cannot be guaranteed we will also do our best to accommodate them.

Your ship gives you everything you could wish for in a home away from home: places for stimulation, relaxation, and meetings with your fellow guests. With a Scandinavian-inspired décor and all modern conveniences, MS Santa Cruz II does it in comfort and style. All cabins have a large window that allows you to take in the views and offer an elegant and comfortable space to relax in after a day of active exploring. All cabins also have private bathrooms with a shower, as well as a safe and USA two-pin plug sockets.

CRUISE EMBARKATION & DISEMBARKATION:

For Galápagos cruises, guests will stay for two nights in a hotel in Quito before their flight to Baltra Island on Day 10. This hotel will be assigned by HX Expeditions and staffed by their local representatives, who will provide boarding cards and essential information, including transfer departure times to the airport.

Upon arrival in Baltra Island on Day 10, guests will be transferred to the port for embarkation. The Expedition Team and crew will conduct a mandatory safety briefing before departure. At the end of the voyage on Day 18, the ship will return to Baltra Island, where guests will disembark and transfer to the airport for their flight to Quito.

SHORE EXCURSIONS AND CRUISE INCLUSIONS:

During your cruise, you will have the opportunity to take part in a range of excursions at various landing sites. HX Expeditions offers expertly guided experiences focused on nature, wildlife, and exploration. In the Galápagos Islands, some explorations are made using smaller panga boats.

Please note that all landings and excursions are weather-dependent and may be modified or cancelled for safety reasons at the discretion of the expedition team. Excursions in the Galápagos Islands are generally included as part of your expedition.

On the national park islands, there are no restroom facilities. If needed, guests will need to return to the ship for restroom use.

SOUVENIRS:

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs, so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrate a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone, so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

INSURANCE:

It is a condition of your booking that you are insured for the duration of your trip. We recommend comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, medical requirements, luggage, repatriations and additional expenses. At a minimum, the policy is required to cover medical requirements including medical evacuations / repatriations. The choice of insurer is yours. We strongly suggest you purchase insurance at the time you pay your deposit. This is because cancellation fees and charges are payable from that time.

We may request you to provide evidence that you have taken out and paid for a policy to comply with this condition. If you fail to provide a certificate of currency of insurance within a reasonable time after our request, then this will be deemed a cancellation by you and standard cancellation fees will apply.

ACCOMMODATION:

Accommodation is selected for its convenience, comfort, and character, with hotels ranging from well-appointed city properties to boutique options reflecting the local culture. In larger cities such as Lima and Cusco, guests can expect internationally recognised hotels of a 4 – 5 star standard, offering modern amenities such as private bathrooms, air conditioning, Wi-Fi, and on-site dining.

In smaller towns or more remote locations, accommodation may be of a slightly lower standard, with fewer facilities and variations in service levels. While hotels in Peru and Ecuador generally adhere to international classifications, the quality of rooms, size, and amenities may differ from those in New Zealand. In some cases, hotels may not provide porters, so guests should be prepared to handle their own luggage. All hotels used are regularly inspected to ensure they meet the necessary standards for comfort and quality.

VISAS:

Peru: New Zealand passport holders can visit Peru without a visa for up to 90 days for tourism. However, you must have a valid passport with at least six months of validity remaining when you arrive back into New Zealand, a blank visa page, and proof of onward or return travel arrangements.

Ecuador: New Zealand passport holders can visit Ecuador without a visa for up to 90 days for tourism. Your passport must be valid for at least six months from when you arrive back into New Zealand.

For the latest information on visa procedures, processing times and requirements, please kindly refer to our website <https://www.wendywutours.co.nz/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/>

Please note the visa procedures and requirements may change at any time. These changes are often made by the relevant embassy or consulate, Wendy Wu Tours acts as a third party and has no influence on the process of a visa. Wendy Wu Tours does not accept responsibility for lost or undelivered items.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MACHU PICCHU:

You must provide full name, date of birth, nationality and passport number to us at time of booking. Visitors must bring their passport with them to be allowed entry to Machu Picchu and this must match the information provided to us in advance.

Hand luggage on board the train to/from the citadel should not exceed 5kgs and measure no more than 40 cm x 35 cm x 20 cm. You will need to bring an overnight bag of this size for your overnight stay at Machu Picchu on day 4. The following items are not allowed in – single use plastics, professional cameras (i.e. equipment that needs accessories for its use such as tripods) and cameras that have magnifying lenses exceeding 2kg; drones; selfie sticks; walking sticks without a rubber tip; aerosol sprays; high heeled shoes; sharp objects; banners or posters.

ALTITUDE:

On this tour you will be spending several nights at altitude – in Cusco at 3,400 metres. At these sort of altitudes, Altitude Sickness is a risk. Symptoms may include dizziness, fatigue, nausea and shortness of breath. It is recommended that travellers utilise their first day in high-altitude destinations to acclimatise. To help you acclimatise we have designed our tours to be at a slower pace with more convenience stops and more free time, during the first few days. Staying hydrated, eating light meals and following a very light schedule will all help. We recommend that any symptoms that are unusual should be brought to the attention of your guide. Your guide will be extremely well-trained in dealing with its effects – taking it easy and taking some time to acclimatise are the best ways to prevent and combat it. Serious cases, meaning that you must descend immediately, are rare.

There are no specific factors, such as age or fitness, that can cause you to suffer from. Altitude Sickness can affect anyone at any time and symptoms may vary. In some instances, a short spell on oxygen can help enormously. All the hotels that we have selected to use on our programmes provide oxygen free of charge, please ask to use this. There is medication - that can help treat and prevent symptoms. Consult a doctor before taking any of these medications, before engaging in strenuous activity at high altitude and regarding any necessary vaccinations in plenty of time before travelling.

VACCINATIONS AND YOUR HEALTH:

We recommend that you contact either your doctor or health centre for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Safetravel has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.safetravel.govt.nz

AIRPORT TRANSFERS:

As we offer a variety of airlines to suit your needs, passengers will arrive in Lima and depart from Quito at different times throughout the day. Depending on the number of travellers arriving or departing at the same time as you, the type of transfer to or from your hotel will vary.

You will always be met on arrival by English-speaking staff and transferred to your hotel either by:

- **Shared coach** (with other passengers, not just Wendy Wu Tours clients)
- **Private vehicle** (if arranged in advance)
- **Airport shuttle** (for some hotels)

For your departure, English-speaking staff will assist with transfers to the airport. If you have opted and paid for a private transfer, a dedicated vehicle will be arranged for you.

Your local guide will be available to answer any questions upon arrival at your welcome dinner or, if arriving late, at the following morning's welcome meeting after breakfast.

TRANSPORT:

Coaches: Air-conditioned coaches are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions, and longer transfers where required. Roads in Peru have generally been improved over recent years, but please be aware traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. There may be sections of road where the surface may be comparatively bumpy but our drivers will do their utmost best to lessen the impact. In more remote areas, road conditions may be less developed, with occasional uneven surfaces.

Public Transport: Peru has efficient public transport networks, including buses and metro systems, which can be useful for independent exploration. Taxis and ride-hailing apps such as Uber are widely available and offer a convenient way to get around.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, using reputable airlines. Lithium-ion batteries, such as those used in laptops, mobile phones, and digital cameras, must be carried in hand luggage, not checked baggage. Portable chargers must display their capacity; those over 160wh are not allowed on flights.

Within Latin America flights are often changed multiple times before departure, both timings and flight numbers. The utmost care will be taken to ensure that your final documents will have the latest information; however, your local guide will confirm this in the destination. Boarding passes can be collected directly at the airport. The flights booked as part of your itinerary will always reflect the best timings to suit the touring itinerary, with direct flights wherever possible; however, due to limited schedules some flights may require a fairly early departure or late arrival.

FOOD, MEALS & DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

On this tour, you will enjoy a variety of dining experiences across Peru, Ecuador and aboard your cruise. Pre- and post-cruise, meals will be arranged as a group, offering a mix of local and international cuisine. During the cruise, you will dine independently.

Peruvian food incorporates dishes introduced by the indigenous population and from a wide variety of immigrant populations from Europe, Asia and Africa. The four traditional staples of the diet are corn, potatoes, legumes and grains such as quinoa. The diversity of climates and altitudes in Peru have a strong influence on what is eaten – close to the sea, ceviche containing fish is popular, whilst in the Andes, meat from indigenous animals such as alpacas and guinea pigs are eaten. A typical dish from this region is pachamanca, a variety of meats, herbs and vegetables slow cooked underground with heated stones. Savour the food in Lima, it is Latin America's gastronomic capital! Peru also has plenty of international cuisine options.

Ecuadorian cuisine is a variety of flavours, deeply rooted in its diverse geography and cultural heritage. Along the coast, the air is filled with the tang of freshly caught seafood, with dishes like ceviche—a zesty mix of shrimp or fish marinated in lime—served alongside crispy plantain chips. In the Andean highlands, hearty meals warm the cool mountain air, with dishes like hornado, succulent roasted pork served with mote (hominy) and llapingachos, cheesy potato pancakes. Even in the Galápagos, where the sea reigns supreme, fresh langostinos and seafood stews like cazuela are brimming with tropical richness. Each meal is often accompanied by a spicy kick of ají sauce, and locals cherish almuerzo (lunch) as the heartiest meal of the day. Ecuadorian cuisine is a flavourful blend of indigenous traditions, Spanish influences, and the use of local, fresh ingredients from the land and sea.

Pre & post cruise: All meals (excluding drinks) are included in fully inclusive group tours from arrival to departure. Breakfast is usually buffet-style at the hotel, while lunches and dinners may be pre-set menus featuring a selection of local and Western dishes. In some locations, meals may be arranged in traditional restaurants, allowing you to sample regional specialities. On days with extensive sightseeing, meals may be served immediately after the tour rather than returning to the hotel.

Cruise dining: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner are served in the Beagle Restaurant, offering a variety of high-quality meals. Still and sparkling water, soft drinks, house wines, draught beer, coffee, and tea are included with meals. Complimentary tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and soft drinks are available throughout the day at self-service refill stations. Wine, beer, and spirits are included, though premium drinks such as cocktails and champagne are available at an additional cost.

Dietary Requirements

If you have dietary requirements, please inform us at the time of booking. Our guides and cruise staff will make every effort to accommodate requests such as gluten-free, vegetarian, or lactose-free meals. However, in remote areas or during the cruise, food availability and preparation methods may limit certain options.

While South America is becoming more accustomed to catering to Western dietary needs, specific requests may not always be met in the same way as at home. Travellers with food intolerances or particular dietary needs are encouraged to bring extra snacks or supplements, especially for the cruise portion of the tour, where availability of specialised items may be more limited. Your patience and flexibility are appreciated in ensuring an enjoyable and authentic dining experience.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE:

This itinerary takes place in December, a transitional month between the dry and wet seasons in Peru and Ecuador, while the Galápagos Islands move into their warm/wet season. Travellers should expect a mix of sunshine, occasional showers, and varying conditions depending on altitude and location.

Peru:

- **Lima:** Summer begins in December. Days are warmer, averaging 23–27°C, with high humidity but little rainfall.
- **Cusco & the Sacred Valley:** Expect warm days of 18–22°C, cooler nights around 7–9°C and frequent afternoon showers.
- **Machu Picchu:** Similar to Cusco, temperatures range between 12–24°C.

Ecuador:

- **Quito:** Mild temperatures year-round due to altitude, with daytime highs of 18–21°C and cooler evenings with a mix of sun and occasional showers.

Galápagos Islands:

- **Temperatures:** Air temperatures average 25–30°C, with rising humidity.
- **Rain:** Light to moderate showers are possible, but they are often brief and followed by sunshine.
- **Sea conditions:** Seas begin to calm and the water warms to 22–25°C, creating excellent conditions for snorkelling and swimming.
- **Wildlife:** A vibrant month for wildlife – giant tortoise eggs begin hatching, marine iguanas turn bright colours for mating, and seabirds are highly active.

Daylight and Time Zones

- Peru and mainland Ecuador both follow UTC -5.
- The Galápagos Islands are one hour behind mainland Ecuador, on UTC -6.
- Daylight is fairly consistent year-round, with about 12 hours of daylight (sunrise around 6am, sunset around 6pm).

Onboard Comfort / Cabin Temperatures

Rooms are equipped with adjustable thermostats for personalised comfort.

APPROPRIATE DRESS:

For this tour, you will be travelling through various regions of Peru with quite diverse climates especially in Cusco, where all four seasons can be experienced in one day. Dressing in layers is key to staying comfortable throughout your journey. We recommend taking a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen, along with T-shirts made of breathable materials, hiking trousers (with the option to turn into shorts) and comfortable walking shoes for exploration. A light jacket or sweater may be useful for cooler evenings, as well as a waterproof rain jacket, scarf and warm hat and warm socks. A small backpack that fits into your main hand luggage to carry your daily essentials should also be taken.

In Ecuador, cities like Quito have cooler temperatures year-round due to the high altitude. Temperatures can range from chilly mornings to warm afternoons, followed by cooler evenings. We recommend taking a fleece jacket for colder parts and the evenings. The Galápagos has two main seasons: the cool and dry season from June to December, and the warm and rainy season from January to May. The weather remains relatively temperate throughout both seasons, making it a great destination year-round.

Life on board is casual and relaxed — formal evening wear is not required unless you choose to bring it. Pack comfortable daytime clothing, trainers or sandals, swimwear, and gym clothes for the fitness room and hot tubs. On embarkation, you'll receive a complimentary refillable waterproof bottle and a small backpack to carry it in — both are yours to keep at the end of the voyage.

Travelling in December, expect warm, humid conditions with occasional showers. Pack light, breathable clothing and items for sun protection, walking, and wet landings. Recommended essentials include:

- Shorts, loose tops, and a light sweater or windbreaker
- Rain jacket or poncho
- Sturdy walking shoes or boots
- Sandals or water shoes
- Swimsuit
- Insect repellent, sunglasses, wide-brimmed hat
- Reef-safe sunscreen is essential to protect marine life. Please avoid products containing oxybenzone, as these are harmful to the reef and won't comply with our requirements. While you can purchase sunscreen once you arrive in Ecuador, we recommend bringing your own from home for a wider selection.
- Splashproof phone/camera case
- Prescription snorkel mask (if needed)

DEVELOPMENT IN PERU AND ECUADOR:

Peru is a country of contrasts, with modern infrastructure in cities and more basic facilities in rural and highland areas. Lima offers international-standard hotels, restaurants, and services, while destinations such as Cusco and the Sacred Valley are well set up for tourism but can be affected by their mountain location and weather. In more remote areas, such as the Amazon, facilities are simpler and services less predictable. Travellers should be prepared for varying standards depending on the region.

Ecuador also combines modern development with areas that remain more traditional. Quito provides good transport links, modern hotels, and reliable services, while the Galápagos Islands and rural Andean communities have more limited infrastructure. Facilities are designed with sustainability in mind, particularly in the Galápagos, which means they may be more basic compared to urban centres.

CULTURAL DIFFERENCE:

Peruvian and Ecuadorian cultures reflect a blend of Indigenous traditions and Spanish colonial influence, with warm hospitality and strong community values. Visitors are not expected to know every custom, but being mindful of local etiquette will enrich the experience. Guides will offer insight into local practices and traditions during the journey.

In Peru, greetings are typically with a handshake or, among friends, a kiss on the cheek. Dining is often a family affair, and meals may begin once everyone is served. Punctuality is appreciated in formal situations but can be more relaxed in social settings. Local markets are a central part of life, and bargaining is common but should always be done politely.

In Ecuador, greetings are also warm, with a handshake or kiss on the cheek common. Sharing food and drink is an important part of social life, and visitors may be offered local specialities such as canelazo (a warm spiced drink). In rural or Indigenous communities, traditions are strong, and showing respect for local customs and dress is important. As in Peru, punctuality is flexible outside formal settings.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

If travelling during national holidays, please note that celebrations may affect services, transport, and opening hours. Some attractions may be busier than usual, while festivals can offer an added cultural highlight.

TIPPING / GRATUITIES

Local tipping is customary in Latin America; however, this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, with years of experiences in providing the best customer service, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escorts will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people. The amount is stated on each Group Tour page and will be advised again on your final documentation. Tipping is in US Dollars and will be collected by your National Escorts on arrival in both Peru and Ecuador and distributed throughout the tour on your behalf. Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Further guidance for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation. We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy, but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. As this is a group tour, we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

On the cruise: Onboard gratuities are included in your trip cost.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES PRE AND POST CRUISE:

Our fully-inclusive Classic tours are designed to ensure you experience all the must-see sights and unforgettable moments. Occasionally, when time allows, we offer optional extras such as evening shows for those seeking extra excitement. If any optional activities are offered, these will be advised and paid for on ground directly with your guide.

LUGGAGE:

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each: a suitcase with a maximum weight of 23kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of five kilograms. It is essential that your luggage is lockable.

For your cruise aboard the MS Santa Cruz II, it's essential to adhere to luggage allowances. Typically, the flights within this itinerary permit one checked bag weighing up to 23 kg (50 lbs) and one carry-on bag. Please note that these allowances are strict, and purchasing additional weight may not be possible.

Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated. Please note luggage restrictions apply when travelling to Machu Picchu by rail, please refer to the information listed under **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MACHU PICCHU** in this document.

PORTERAGE:

Pre & Post Cruise: Porterage is not included in our tours before or after the cruise. Travellers will need to manage their own luggage within hotels and when using transport such as coaches or domestic flights. While some hotels in Peru and Ecuador may provide porterage, services are not guaranteed, and tipping is customary if assistance is given (tipping for this extra service is not included in Wendy Wu Tours tipping kitty).

Cruise: Porterage is included onboard. Upon embarkation, your luggage will be transferred from the check-in area at the port to your cabin. On the final night of your cruise, luggage should be left outside your cabin for collection, and staff will arrange delivery for disembarkation. Tipping for porterage is appreciated and is not included in Wendy Wu Tours tipping kitty.

TERRAIN CONSIDERATIONS (STEPS, SLOPES & UNEVEN SURFACES):

Many of the destinations visited on this tour involve walking over uneven ground, cobblestones, steps, and natural paths. Comfortable, sturdy footwear is essential. In cities such as Cusco, Quito and Lima, walking tours may include uneven pavements, sloped streets, and stairways to reach historic sites. At archaeological ruins such as Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley, pathways can be steep, uneven, and slippery when wet. Visitors should be prepared for inclines and multiple steps.

In Ecuador, the Galápagos Islands often require embarking and disembarking from small boats (pangas) onto piers or beaches. Some island walks involve volcanic rock, sand, or rugged terrain with little shade. Travellers should be comfortable moving independently, though guides and crew will always provide assistance where possible.

Those with knee or hip difficulties, balance issues, or reduced mobility should carefully consider the physical requirements of this itinerary.

MONEY, CASH AND PERSONAL EXPENSES:

Exchanging cash: The unit of currency in Peru is the Peruvian Sol (PEN), while Ecuador uses the US Dollar (USD) as its official currency. In Peru, US dollars are also accepted in some hotels and tourist areas, but local currency is preferable in shops, markets, and rural regions. Notes should always be in good condition, as damaged or torn currency may not be accepted.

ATMs are widely available in cities, though some may limit the amount you can withdraw per transaction. We recommend consulting your bank about withdrawal fees and limits before travelling. It is best to use ATMs inside banks. Credit cards are commonly accepted in hotels, restaurants, and larger shops, but not always in rural areas, markets, or smaller establishments. Keeping small notes and coins is useful, as vendors may not be able to provide change for larger denominations.

Personal expenses: You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you.

SAFETY & CRIME

Peru and Ecuador are welcoming destinations, but as with many countries in Latin America, travellers should remain alert, particularly in larger cities and crowded tourist areas. Petty crime such as pickpocketing and bag snatching can occur in markets, transport hubs, and busy streets. To stay safe:

- Avoid displaying valuables such as expensive jewellery or large cameras.
- Keep passports, extra cash, and valuables in hotel safes where possible.
- Stick to well-lit and busy areas, especially after dark.
- Use ATMs located inside banks or shopping centres and be cautious when withdrawing money.
- Only use registered taxis or rideshare services (such as Cabify or Uber in Lima and Quito).

While both countries are generally safe to visit, travellers should be aware of occasional demonstrations in city centres, which are best avoided. Your guide will always advise you on local conditions to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.safetravel.govt.nz as in the event of an emergency, New Zealand Consular assistance will be more readily available.

Up until the day you travel, it is vital you keep up to date and familiarised with the entry requirements as these can change at short notice. You are personally responsible for completing any entry forms, conducting any covid tests (if necessary), etc and adhering to countries' specific entry requirements.

You can also access the New Zealand Government's travel advisory service for up-to-date information about your destination on the same website.

AFTER YOUR BOOKING:

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive an email with your confirmation invoice, along with a link to our website where you can find your visa information (if applicable) and other important information. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

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