

Ecuador and Galapagos

Andean Culture & the Galápagos

January 17 - January 26, 2028

Women Travel Tribe

Small Group Adventures for Women 50+

womentraveltribe.com/tours/ecuador-and-galapagos-jan-2028

Tour Overview

Duration:	10 days
Maximum Group Size:	12 women
Start Date:	January 17, 2028
End Date:	January 26, 2028
Arrival Airport:	Mariscal Sucre International Airport (UIO)
Departure Airport:	Mariscal Sucre International Airport (UIO)

Join us on an unforgettable journey through Ecuador and the Galápagos! This trip is designed exclusively for women who want meaningful travel, cultural depth, and once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

The 10-day adventure begins in the **heart of historic Quito**, where colonial beauty, vibrant plazas, artisan chocolate, and sweeping views set the tone for an immersive exploration of the Andes. From wandering cobblestone streets to standing beneath the glowing gold interior of La Compañía Church, you'll feel the rich history of Ecuador come to life all around you.

Leaving Quito, the journey continues north to the highlands, where our time in Otavalo offers something truly special. **You'll connect with Indigenous women leading inspiring community projects**, take part in hands-on craft workshops, and witness powerful ancestral rituals honoring Pachamama. Surrounded by volcanoes, lakes, and market squares overflowing with color and creativity, this portion of the trip is all about connection - to culture, to community, and to each other.

Your Galápagos adventure begins aboard the **beautiful Horizon yacht**, your home as you explore some of the world's most extraordinary islands. Discover dramatic volcanic landscapes, walk across ancient lava flows, explore hidden coves and pristine beaches, and snorkel in crystal-clear waters teeming with marine life. Along the way, you'll have incredible opportunities to encounter giant tortoises, playful sea lions, marine iguanas, Galápagos penguins, blue-footed boobies, sea turtles, and countless other fascinating creatures, many found nowhere else on Earth. From the spectacular scenery of Isabela and Fernandina Islands to peaceful mangrove forests and the remarkable giant tortoise breeding center on Santa Cruz, every day brings new discoveries. It's an unforgettable journey through one of the world's most unique natural environments, filled with breathtaking scenery, incredible wildlife, and experiences you'll be talking about for

years to come,

Thoughtfully designed for curious, adventurous women 50+, this journey blends culture, nature, comfort, and meaningful connection...without crowds, big buses, or rushed schedules. **If you've ever dreamed of a trip that feels both deeply personal and wildly inspiring, this adventure through Ecuador & the Galápagos is one you will never forget!**

Itinerary

Day 1: Quito / Arrival Day

Included meals: Dinner

Upon your arrival, our representative will greet you at the airport, assist with your luggage, and ensure a smooth transfer to your hotel near the charming Quito Old Town. Once the entire group has arrived, we will gather for a brief orientation, followed by a delicious welcome dinner. This will be an ideal start to this spectacular trip!

Day 2: Quito's Colonial Grandeur

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today we'll explore Quito's Old Town, a beautifully preserved colonial center and designated Historic Centre. We begin at Independence Square, also known as Plaza Grande, the city's main gathering place and the seat of Ecuador's executive power. At its center stands the monument to the heroes of August 10, 1809, marking the First Cry of Freedom from Spanish rule. Next, we visit the breathtaking Church of La Compañía, one of the finest examples of colonial baroque architecture in the Americas. Built between 1605 and 1650, it is known for its gold-covered interior, intricate carvings, paintings and magnificent dome. We then continue to San Francisco Square, home to the impressive Church and Convent of San Francisco, Quito's largest colonial architectural complex, with beautiful tile work, baroque details and Moorish-influenced ceilings. To round off the experience, we'll visit a vibrant local market in the Historic Center, where you'll meet local women, hear their stories and discover native fruits, vegetables and ingredients. The day continues with a hands-on culinary session led by a local chef, followed by lunch together. Afterward, we return to the hotel, and the afternoon is free to relax or explore at your own pace.

Day 3: Quitsato Sundial / San Pablo Lake / Arrive to Otavalo

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We'll depart Quito and head north along the Panamerican Highway, a scenic two-hour drive through rolling hills, lush valleys and snow-capped volcanoes. Our first stop is the Quitsato Sundial, located at La Mitad del Mundo - the true Middle of the World - where we'll learn about the site's astronomical and cultural significance. Next, we'll visit a beautiful hacienda and explore a rose showroom featuring more than 4,000 stems in a vibrant display. Afterward, we'll enjoy lunch prepared with local ingredients and traditional techniques, followed by Ecuador's famous bizcochos - crispy, buttery biscuits - served with hot, freshly made cocoa. We'll then continue to Otavalo, known for its colorful markets, artisanal crafts and rich indigenous heritage, before arriving at Palmeras Inn. After check-in, you'll have time to relax, freshen up and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere. In the evening, we'll gather for dinner, a warm and charming end to a day filled with culture, scenery and local flavors.

Day 4: Calera community (Sumak Warmi Kuna Project)

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast we'll delve into the vibrant culture of the Calera community, experiencing the impactful Sumak Warmi Kuna Project which empowers indigenous women through tourism. You'll participate in two enriching workshops: the SUMAK MUYU Workshop, where you'll learn to craft beautiful tagua necklaces with Marisol Muenala, and the ALLÍ MAKI Workshop, introducing you to the art of traditional manual embroidery and local textile traditions. For lunch, we'll savor a delicious, traditional meal featuring fresh, organic produce at the Sabores y Tradiciones community dining room. Afterward, a short walk leads us to a sacred natural water source. Here, the community's Shaman will perform a ceremonial ritual, demonstrating the spiritual and healing power of Pachamama and offering insight into medicinal plants and essences. This immersive day offers a unique connection to the Calera community's cultural, spiritual, and natural heritage, all while supporting women's empowerment. After a day of profound experiences, we'll return to our hotel.

Day 5: Otavalo Market / Quito

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today, we dive into the world-famous Otavalo indigenous market, the largest in South America and a vibrant hub of exceptional craftsmanship! At the Plaza de los Ponchos, you'll find rows of colorful stalls brimming with exquisite handmade textiles - ponchos, scarves, blankets, and more - all crafted with age-old techniques. Beyond textiles, browse stunning jewelry, pottery, wood carvings, and leather goods, each piece reflecting the unique culture of the local Otavalo people. As you explore, enjoy the lively sounds of traditional Andean music, creating an enchanting backdrop to your visit. After soaking in the market's sights and sounds, we'll have a delicious traditional lunch in a beautiful hacienda before returning to Quito to relax and prepare for our exciting journey to the Galápagos Islands tomorrow!

Day 6: Quito / Galapagos / Santiago Island

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today, we fly from Quito to the legendary Galápagos Islands! Upon arrival at Baltra Airport, you'll be warmly greeted by our Horizon staff and transferred to your luxury yacht, your home for this incredible adventure. Settle into your cabin, enjoy lunch, and receive a welcome briefing. In the afternoon, your first stop is Sullivan Bay, on the southeastern coast of Santiago Island, where you'll discover a fascinating volcanic landscape shaped by ancient lava flows. Walk across remarkable lava formations, admire the dramatic scenery, and get your first glimpse of the extraordinary natural wonders that make the Galápagos Islands so unique. Type of Landings: Dry landing Difficulty: Easy/Moderate Activities: Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride

Day 7: Isabela and Fernandina Islands

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Start your day exploring Vicente Roca Point, a spectacular bay on Isabela Island known for its dramatic cliffs, sheltered coves, and incredible marine life. This is one of the Galápagos Islands' most exciting snorkeling spots, where you may swim alongside sea turtles, colorful fish, and perhaps even spot a seahorse or the fascinating ocean sunfish. Keep your eyes open for Galápagos penguins, blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, and playful sea lions along the rocky coastline. This afternoon, cross the Bolívar Channel to Fernandina Island, one of the most pristine and volcanically active islands in the Galápagos. At Espinoza Point, you'll walk through an extraordinary landscape of rugged lava formations, passing large colonies of marine iguanas basking in the sun and sea lions relaxing along the shore. One of the highlights is the chance to observe the rare flightless cormorant, a remarkable bird found only in the Galápagos. You may also spot Galápagos penguins and the majestic Galápagos hawk, all against the dramatic backdrop of La Cumbre volcano. Type of Landings: Dry landing Difficulty: Easy/Moderate Activities: Hiking, snorkeling

Day 8: Isabela Island

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Begin your day at Tagus Cove on Isabela Island, a beautiful and historic anchorage surrounded by dramatic volcanic scenery. Ships have sheltered here since the 1800s, leaving behind a fascinating maritime history. Enjoy a scenic walk along trails that wind past Lake Darwin and climb to a ridge offering breathtaking views of the surrounding landscapes, including Darwin Volcano and the sparkling waters of the Bolívar Channel. Along the way, keep an eye out for Galápagos penguins, flightless cormorants, and other remarkable wildlife. Later in the day, explore Urbina Bay, located at the foot of Alcedo Volcano on Isabela Island's western coast. This extraordinary area was dramatically transformed in 1954 when a powerful geological uplift raised the coastline by more than 16 feet, exposing what was once the ocean floor. Today, it's a fascinating place to walk among unique volcanic landscapes while looking for some of the Galápagos Islands' most iconic wildlife, including giant tortoises, impressive land iguanas, and Galápagos hawks. You'll also have the opportunity to snorkel in the clear waters, where sea turtles, rays, and colorful tropical fish may be waiting beneath the surface. Type of Landings: Dry and wet landings Difficulty: Moderate/Difficult (AM), Easy/Moderate (PM) Activities: Hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, dinghy ride

Day 9: Isabela Island

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Begin your morning exploring the beautiful Elizabeth Bay on Isabela Island, a peaceful haven filled with fascinating wildlife and lush mangrove forests. You'll explore the bay and its small rocky islets by dinghy, keeping an eye out for Galápagos penguins, blue-footed boobies, sea turtles, and rays gliding through the clear waters. The sheltered mangrove channels offer a wonderful opportunity to observe wildlife up close, while the surrounding coastline is home to

playful sea lions, herons, and an incredible variety of marine life. Then discover the striking volcanic landscapes of Moreno Point, where ancient lava flows have created a remarkable network of crystal-clear tidal pools and hidden lagoons. As you walk across the rugged black lava, you'll encounter fascinating pockets of life thriving in this seemingly barren landscape. Look for elegant pink flamingos, white-cheeked pintail ducks, and gallinules in the brackish lagoons, while the clear tidal pools may reveal sea turtles and white-tip reef sharks swimming beneath the surface. It's a wonderful combination of dramatic scenery, unusual geology, and unforgettable wildlife encounters. Type of Landing: Dry and wet landings Difficulty: Easy/Moderate (AM), Moderate/Difficult (PM) Activities: Hiking, snorkeling, dinghy ride

---

Day 10: Santa Cruz Island / Flight to Quito

Included meals: Breakfast

This morning, visit the famous Fausto Llerena Tortoise Breeding Center in Puerto Ayora, where you'll get an up-close look at one of the Galápagos Islands' most iconic residents: the giant tortoise! This important conservation center helps protect and restore endangered tortoise populations, caring for everything from tiny hatchlings to impressive adults measuring up to four feet long. Learn about the fascinating life cycle of these gentle giants, the efforts to ensure their survival, and the important role they play in the islands' unique ecosystem. Along the way, keep an eye out for Darwin's finches and other native birds that make this remarkable place their home. After our island visit, you'll be transferred to the Baltra airport in time for our flight back to Quito. Type of Landing: Dry landing Difficulty: Easy Activities: Hiking Once back in Quito, depending on the time of your international flight you can wait at the airport or we can book you an extra night at a hotel if your flight is at night or the following day. **Important Note:** Departing flights from Quito should be made for 6:00pm or later on the departure day in order to give yourself enough time.

Tour Inclusions

Included

✓ Small group (maximum 12 participants)

✓ English-speaking tour leader / guide on the mainland

✓ Accommodation (9 nights - 4 nights on our luxury yacht, 5 nights in 3* boutique hotels)

✓ Daily breakfast

✓ 8 lunches and 7 dinners

✓ Excursions, transfers and meals as advertised

✓ Galapagos Cruise Director

✓ Galapagos naturalist guide (we will make every effort to provide a female guide)

✓ Galapagos round trip flights from mainland Ecuador

✓ Galapagos National Park entrance fee

✓ Galapagos transit control card

✓ Use of expedition gear: kayaks, paddle boards, wetsuits, snorkeling equipment (mask, fins), underwater cameras, walking sticks and binoculars onboard

✓ Carbon Footprint Compensation

✓ All airport transfers

Not Included

✗ Flights to/from Ecuador

✗ Passport/visa fees

✗ Meals and activities not mentioned

✗ Travel insurance (mandatory)

✗ Gratuities for local guides

✗ Alcoholic beverages

✗ Bank fees

Pricing

Shared Room:	**$ 8,800**
Single Room:	**$ 9,870**
Deposit:	**$ 750**

Accommodations

IMPORTANT: Due to strict regulations in the Galapagos, each yacht must have a minimum number of guests on board. As a result, our yacht has 6 single rooms and 2 shared rooms available.

Shared rooms: If you book a shared room, you will have a SINGLE room for 5 nights on the mainland. You will then share a cabin with another woman from our group for 4 nights on board our luxury yacht in the Galapagos. These shared cabins will have 2 separate beds.

On the mainland, you will stay in comfortable 3-star hotels, all offering quality facilities for your convenience.

While in the Galapagos, you'll spend four nights aboard the Horizon, a private luxury trimaran. All cabins are equipped with balconies, en suite bathrooms, hot water, air-conditioning, safety box, hair dryer and bathrobes for your comfort.

Physical Demand

MODERATE-HIGH

This is an active nature and culture trip. On the mainland, guests can expect city walking tours, high-altitude locations, stairs, uneven streets and full days. In the Galapagos, the experience includes daily yacht disembarkations, dinghy rides, dry and wet landings, nature walks on unpaved trails, uneven volcanic terrain, beach landings, snorkeling and optional kayaking or paddle boarding. Most days will also include early wake up times.

Some island visits are easier, while others require more effort, including stairs, hills and longer walks in exposed conditions. Guests may always choose to skip an excursion and remain on board the yacht at any time.

Ready to Book Your Adventure?

Women Travel Tribe

Phone: (646) 481-6284
Email: team@womentraveltribe.com
Website: womentraveltribe.com
Tour Details: womentraveltribe.com/tours/ecuador-and-galapagos-jan-2028

Small group adventures designed specifically for women 50+
Experience the world with like-minded travelers!