

WILDLIFE WALKING ADVENTURE

# Galápagos & Machu Picchu

## The Ultimate Bucket-List Trip



CLASSIC JOURNEYS  
THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS



“

*Classic Journeys  
provides unbeatable  
access to experiences  
around the globe.”*

TRAVEL + LEISURE

## One Vacation, A Lifetime of Experiences

Now you can fulfill two of your biggest travel dreams on one amazing vacation. From eye-level encounters with the wildlife of the Galápagos to a soaring visit to Machu Picchu, there are almost too many high points to count! First, in the Galápagos Islands, your naturalist guides will introduce you to giant land tortoises, sea lions, blue-footed boobies and other creatures found nowhere else on earth—often in extreme close-up. You'll have abundant chances to walk, kayak and snorkel, and you'll stay in perfectly-sited waterfront boutique hotels. Then make the seamless transition to the mainland and ascend to Machu Picchu. On this unforgettable journey, you'll spend two days at the famed site, plus you'll have leisurely exposure to the rest of Peru with its conquistador-tinged history, indestructible Inca architecture and spectacular geography with your guide, who is a native Quechua.

## The Classic Journeys Difference

- ACTIVE HIKING & WALKING
- LOCAL WELL-CONNECTED GUIDES
- PREMIERE HOTELS
- FOODIE FOCUSED
- HANDCRAFTED TRIP DESIGN
- MORE IS INCLUDED

## What's Included

- All breakfasts, 6 lunches and 3 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide
- All activities in the itinerary, including gear for snorkeling and kayaking in the Galápagos
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

## Above & Beyond Benefits

### → INVISIBLE CHECK-IN

When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately. No waiting – no tipping.

### → PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS

One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

## Terrain

Easy to moderate on good trails and coastal paths.

DAY 1 »

## Santa Cruz Island

This morning, transfer from the Ecuadorian mainland to Santa Cruz Island, where you'll have the remarkable experience of walking among some of the oldest animals in the world. The island is home to giant tortoises that can grow up to 500 pounds and live for 175 years or more. To see them, follow your guides along a scenic trail to the tortoises' natural habitat in the highlands at El Chato Reserve. It's an easy walk of an hour or so. Happily, it's too far for cruise ship passengers on a tight schedule (they settle for a smaller crowded site near the coast). So, when you reach the watering hole, it's just you with a couple of dozen tortoises. There are no fences or moats between you and these amazing creatures, and your naturalist guides see to it that you get so near that you can hear them breathe and chomp on grass. It's a close encounter like you've never had before.

The same rich volcanic soil that the animals love is perfect for growing coffee, sugar cane, and fruit, as you discover on a visit to a family-owned plantation owned by our friend Adrianno. You'll spend time with the family and workers, learn about their organic, sustainable operation, and taste products grown and made on the property.

Your day ends at your waterfront resort. Claim a chair under an umbrella on the bayside terrace. It's a perfect spot to sip on something cold and watch the world go by.

MEALS: L      OVERNIGHT: SANTA CRUZ

DAY 2 »

## Santa Fe Island

From Santa Cruz Island your cinematic view stretches to Santa Fe Island, the oldest of the Galápagos islands and a terrific microcosm of what the archipelago is all about. After breakfast, you'll boat over to the island with your guide for a day of snorkeling and barbeque. Santa Fe has its own species of iguana that's found nowhere else. And, it's home to groves of opuntia cactus that look like trees with huge, prickly paddle-shaped leaves. In fact, the island is a non-stop photo op with plenty of chances to spot an incredibly wide variety of wildlife, from sea lions and sea turtles to Galápagos hawks, Nazca boobies and so much more.

It doesn't get better than spending time with your boat captain Sebastian whose family fished these waters for years. "Now, because of guests like those from Classic Journeys who want to really experience the wildlife in these waters, the octopus I used to be able to catch and sell to a restaurant once is now my business partner. I can take people to snorkel to his hidden places and he reveals himself to us."

After an incredible day, Sebastian drops you back in Puerto Ayora in the late afternoon where there is time to relax or shop and explore the town before dinner.

MEALS: B, L      OVERNIGHT: SANTA CRUZ

DAY 3 »

## Las Tintoreras

This morning you transfer seamlessly to Isabela Island, the largest of the Galápagos Islands. Isabela straddles the equator, and at one million years old, it is also the youngest of the islands.

There's no waiting for your first wildlife sightings! This afternoon take to the water to kayak with sea lions, green sea turtles and marine iguanas while keeping your eyes sharp for blue-footed boobies in the trees along the shores as well as watching how they hover over the sea and dive for fish.

This evening, about the time when the cruise crowd chugs back out to their ships, you'll be relaxing at your boutique hotel overlooking the sea.

MEALS: B, D      OVERNIGHT: ISABELA

DAY 4 »

## Volcan Sierra Negra

The islands are some of the most volcanically active spots on earth and Isabela was actually formed by the merger of six volcanos. Today, you experience that terrain and get a firsthand look at how millennia of eruptions and lava flows have formed the unique Galápagos habitat.

You won't forget this morning's walk along the rim of 500,000-year-old Volcan Sierra Negra. Up here, you get one of the most spectacular views in the islands. The six-mile-wide crater is one of the largest active calderas on the planet, and the scale is awesome. Your guides will show you how – with its orange, red and yellow lava formations and puffing fumaroles – this is more like walking on Mars than Earth. But the island is surprisingly lush at this altitude. Ferns and papaya trees and angel's trumpets (with blossoms a foot long or more) line the trail. Darwin's finches, hawks, flycatchers and many other birds supply a natural soundtrack.

After refueling over a leisurely lunch at a friends' private hacienda, you have time in the late afternoon to relax by the beach with the local colony of sea lions, or even to stroll the lazy beach town and soak up island life.

MEALS: B, L      OVERNIGHT: ISABELA

DAY 5 »

## Isabela Island / Guayaquil

You choose how you want to spend your final morning on Isabela Island. Want to sleep in? Prefer to go for a final swim in the sea, stroll along the beach spotting iguanas or go for a nature hike to commune with the flamingos? It's your vacation. And it's your choice.

After a leisurely morning, transfer to Baltra Island for your return flight back to Guayaquil. On the Ecuadorian coast, you can enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.

MEALS: B      OVERNIGHT: GUAYAQUIL

DAY 6 »

## Peru / Sacred Valley

You're in rare company as you make your way from one incredible bucket list destination to another with your flight from Ecuador to Peru.

After you touch down in Cusco this afternoon, you have the incredible opportunity to visit spectacular Inca ruins on a gentle downhill walk through the Peruvian countryside. First stop is Sacsayhuaman, one of the most stunning examples of Inca architecture in Peru. Tens of thousands of workers labored on the structure for over seven decades, hauling massive stone blocks—the biggest is 125 tons and 24 feet tall—to make this impressive monument. The Incas built the city of Cusco in the shape of a puma and made Sacsayhuaman the puma's head. The zigzag wall represents the animal's teeth. Your guide takes you through each part of this amazing ruin, explaining the different theories surrounding its construction and pointing out the symmetry and beauty of the Inca-fit stones.

En route to the Sacred Valley, you'll have a chance to learn the ancient weaving techniques used to create Andean clothing at Awanacancha, a breeding center for llamas, alpacas and vicunas. Your day comes to a beautiful conclusion as you settle into your hotel overlooking the Urubamba river. Dinner tonight offers your first taste of excellent Peruvian cooking – a cuisine that is reminiscent of Spanish food with plenty of beef and seafood, all prepared with a special local accent.

MEALS: B, L, D      OVERNIGHT: SACRED VALLEY

DAY 7 »

## Ollantaytambo / Urubamba

This morning, enjoy a special visit to a Quechua mountain village unchanged for hundreds of years. It's not far from your hotel, just past flocks of sheep. Here, you're welcomed into a local school with a special opportunity to mingle with the kids and their teacher. (Consider packing pens, pencils and notebooks from home for the village children.) Everyone has an opportunity to try out the Quechua words you've learned from your guides.

Later this morning, stop in Ollantaytambo, a still-thriving Inca village set below ancient ruins that retain the stonework, narrow streets, and family courtyards of pre-Columbian times. Much of the Inca history in Peru was destroyed by the Spanish, but Ollantaytambo is an important ceremonial site and scene of one of the only major Inca victories against the invading Spaniards. As you explore and visit with the colorfully dressed townspeople, you have the feeling of stepping back into the 15th century.

Following lunch, pause in the town of Urubamba for a visit to a pottery workshop to meet a friend, Pablo Seminario, in his studio. (One of Peru's most renowned ceramists, Pablo has a permanent exhibition at Chicago's Field Museum.) A short walk takes you to the busy Urubamba market, where street vendors still sell livestock, produce, crafts and chicha, a thick white fermented corn drink that was prepared by the Chosen Women in the Inca court, and is still consumed throughout Peru.

MEALS: B, L      OVERNIGHT: SACRED VALLEY

DAY 8 »

## Machu Picchu

Start the day with a scenic chug out of the valley on the Inca Rail train. You don't have to rise with the tree frogs in order to arrive before the onslaught of day-trippers. The explorer Hiram Bingham re-discovered Machu Picchu hidden in the cloud forest in 1911. The task of revealing the site is almost as hard to fathom as the original process of constructing it. With an overnight here, you have plenty of time to explore on your own and to hear the stories your guide has to tell.

The Incas worshipped nature and built many of their structures in harmony with the dramatic landscape. Your guide leads you through the mazes of plazas, chambers and dwellings, explaining the different theories surrounding the city. (Some think it was the home of an Inca ruler, Pachakutek; others speculate that its function was to maintain a reliable supply of coca leaves for the priests and royals of Cusco. And some think that Machu Picchu was a university where the children of the leaders conquered by the Incas were taken to be taught and brainwashed!) A highlight is the round Temple of the Sun. An astronomical observatory; the windows are perfectly aligned to catch the first rays of the sun on the mornings of winter and summer solstices. Since these ruins remained hidden during the Spanish conquest, they were spared from destruction.

After lunch, you can return to the ruins to explore more or do some easy birding with a chance of spotting hummingbirds, the unmistakable crimson silhouette of the gallito de las rocas, or maybe even a Technicolor quetzal. You can also take advantage of the exceptional spa services available on property, take a walk into town, or relax with a cocktail before dinner.

MEALS: B, L, D      OVERNIGHT: AGUAS CALIENTES

DAY 9 »

## Cusco

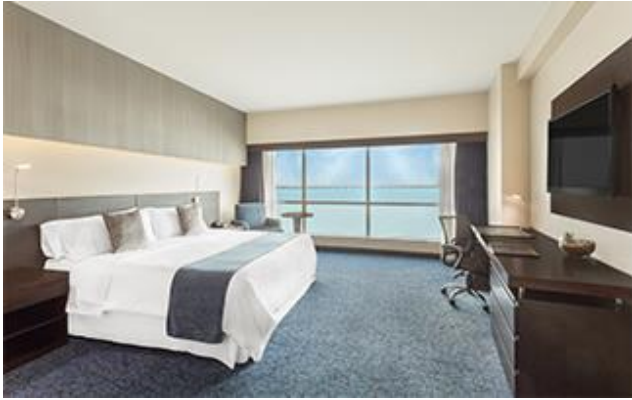
After breakfast, mid-morning, board the Inca Rail train for Ollantaytambo and Cusco, a sort of “Zorro-meets-Raiders-of-the-Lost Ark” city and the ceremonial heart of the Inca empire. Your final afternoon offers an excellent opportunity to explore the highlights including the Temple of the Sun. Once, its walls were covered with over 700 sheets of gold studded with emeralds and turquoise.

It's hard to believe that people in the 21st Century still walk through narrow cobblestone streets flanked by Incan stone walls every day. But they do, and you join them as you walk to the Plaza de Armas for a visit to the Cathedral. It's an impressive Baroque reminder of Spanish colonization. If you'd like, join your guide for a short walk to the artists' quarter of San Blas. Whitewashed buildings with bright blue doorways house galleries, studios and small shops filled with weavings, alpaca sweaters and ceramics.

As your bucket list trip draws to a close in the late afternoon, you can choose to fly to Lima for flights home that night, or extend your stay in the Peruvian Amazon, exploring the famous rainforest.

MEALS: B

## Tour Hotels



### Wyndham Guayaquil

Situated just steps from the historic Santa Ana Hill and its famous Lighthouse, this luxury high-rise hotel offers an ideal location near Guayaquil's many attractions.

NIGHTS: 1 nights



### Angermeyer Waterfront Inn

Built of native lava rock and driftwood, this first-class hotel is situated right on the waterfront. Guests enjoy peace and total privacy, plus a perfect chance to experience what the owners call the true 'Galápagos spirit'.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



### Tour for Muggles LTD

The ocean laps at the front door. There's nothing but National Park (with a live volcano) out the back. This hotel is cool, very close to nature and eco-minded. Amenities include a swimming pool, a roof-deck Jacuzzi and its own excellent restaurant.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



### Wyndham Costa Del Sol

This 4-star hotel is connected to the Lima airport terminal by sky bridge. It is furnished in minimalist contemporary style. Guest rooms have flat screen televisions, and the property offers both a workout facility and spa.

NIGHTS: 1 nights





#### [Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba](#)

This contemporary hotel with colonial inspiration was built in the heart of Urubamba Valley, among flowers, mountains and trees. From the comfort of this luxurious Andean property, you can discover the history, nature and charm of the Sacred Valley.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



#### [Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel](#)

Set among 13 acres of tropical gardens featuring over 140 species of orchids, this hotel proudly 100% carbon neutral. Spacious rooms are situated in unique hillside casitas and feature lovely tile floors, carved wood furniture and luxurious bathrooms.

NIGHTS: 1 nights

# Arrival & Departure

## → ARRIVAL DETAILS

START LOCATION: **Wyndham Guayaquil - hotel lobby**  
START CITY: **Guayaquil**  
START TIME:

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## → DEPARTURE DETAILS

END LOCATION: **Cusco Airport**  
END CITY: **Cusco**  
END TIME: **5:00 PM**