

# ECUADOR ESCAPE

Join **Explorertori Tours** on a once in a lifetime journey uncovering the many wonders of enchanting Ecuador- a small country which packs a big punch! We'll combine cruising in the **Galapagos Islands** to view the unparalleled variety of unique wildlife with a stay at the award winning National Geographic endorsed **Mashpi Lodge**. We'll soak up the vibrant atmosphere and enjoy sightseeing in Guayaquil and the UNESCO Heritage listed city of Quito. This tour will give travellers a wonderful insight to what makes Ecuador so unique, from delectable cuisine to the abundant endemic wildlife and the wonderful friendly faces who call this enchanting country home.

Because the **Galapagos Islands** are one of the truly magical 'Bucket List' places on Earth we ensure there is plenty of time to explore these mystical islands. A 3 or 4 night cruise here simply won't do these islands justice, so we spend a full 5 nights on board the new ship Santa Cruz II exploring the lesser visited Western Islands of the archipelago.

The Mashpi experience is about discovering life in the tree tops, trekking along trails, listening to animal calls, bathing in pure waterfalls, or simply relaxing with a view of clouds playing hide-and-seek with the forest. **Mashpi Lodge** is a 5 star cosy cocoon amid the forest, with an exclusive location and warm climate year-round. With over 400 different species of birds and other animals **Mashpi Lodge** rivals the **Galapagos Islands** for wildlife variety.

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Phone- 03 442 9815  
Free phone- 0800 23 23 20  
Email- [explorertori@xtravel.co.nz](mailto:explorertori@xtravel.co.nz)



## HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Explore the Western Galapagos Islands on a 5 night cruise on board the new 5 star Santa Cruz II
- \* Enjoy a stay in the 5 star Mashpi Lodge- one of National Geographic's 'Unique Lodges of the World' and explore the beautiful Ecuadorian Cloud Forest
- \* Soak up the history of the colonial cities of Guayaquil- Ecuador's largest city- and Quito- the second highest capital in the world
- \* Play hopscotch between two hemispheres along the Equator
- \* Meet local artisans in Quito and Otavalo- home to South America's largest Indian market
- \* Taste the local flavours and enjoy incredible Ecuadorian cuisine

## INCLUDES

- Return international flights from Auckland to Ecuador on Lan Airlines
- Internal flights within Ecuador as per itinerary
- 13 nights' 4 - 5 star twin-share accommodation with private ensuite facilities (6 nights' hotel, 5 nights Galapagos Cruise, 2 nights' Cloud Forest Lodge)
- A Guayaquil scenic day tour
- 5 night/6 day Western Islands cruise in a Horizon Deck Explorer cabin on-board the Santa Cruz II
- A Quito city and Equator tour with lunch
- A day tour to the Otavalo markets with lunch
- An evening Panorama tour of Quito with farewell dinner
- All transfers, tipping, 13 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 8 dinners
- Galapagos Islands National Park entrance fees
- Shore excursions with expert qualified naturalist guides in the Galapagos Islands
- Tours as per the itinerary with local English speaking guides
- Fully escorted from New Zealand by Tori Keating
- Limited to 16 passengers

## NOT INCLUDED

Domestic flights within New Zealand  
Travel Insurance  
Meals unless indicated  
Porterage  
Items of a personal nature

## TOUR PRICE

From \$16,758.00 per person twin share  
Limited space on single supplement- please enquire

Business Class Upgrade- \$4250.00 per person  
(Premium Economy only within South America)

Machu Picchu 4 night extension- \$2845.00 per person





# ITINERARY



## Day 1

**Monday 14 August, 2017**

Depart Auckland on Lan Airlines and relax upon arrival in your 4 star hotel in Guayaquil.



## Day 2

**Tuesday 15 August, 2017**

Spend the day exploring Ecuador's largest City with a guided scenic sightseeing tour.



## Day 3

**Wednesday 16 August, 2017**

After breakfast fly to Baltra airport to begin our Galapagos Islands adventure. The afternoon is spent exploring North Seymour Island where we will have our first glimpse of the blue footed booby.



## Day 4

**Thursday 17 August, 2017**

Today we encounter a Galapagos highlight- the flightless cormorant and delve into the islands of Isabela and Ferdinandina.



## Day 5

**Friday 18 August, 2017**

A great day for getting in the water and seeking out some of the underwater treasures of the Galapagos Islands with snorkelling and swimming. We'll visit Tagus Cave and Urbina Bay on Isabela Island.



## Day 6

### Saturday 19 August, 2017

The Charles Darwin Research Centre on Santa Cruz Island is the starting point for our sightseeing today- these are the headquarters of scientific investigation, conservation and the National Park administration. In the afternoon from activities including mountain biking, kayaking and hiking.



## Day 7

### Sunday 20 August, 2017

Our last full day in the Galapagos Islands brings us to Floreana with its famous Post Office Bay. In the afternoon we'll visit Champion Islet- an extinct shield volcano regarded as one of the best snorkelling and glass bottom boat spots in the archipelago- and Cormorant Point.

## Day 8

### Monday 21 August, 2017

After our final farewells we head back to Baltra for our onward flight to Quito.

## Day 9

### Tuesday 22 August, 2017

Journey to the centre of the world- latitude 0° - where we stand on both sides of the Equator at the Middle of the World monument. We'll discover UNESCO Heritage listed Quito and meet the people living and thriving in this vibrant city of an exclusive sightseeing tour.



## Day 10

### Wednesday 23 August, 2017

Transfer to the stunning Ecuadorian Cloud Forest and beautiful 5 star Mashpi Lodge- named a National Geographic Unique Hotel of the World. In the afternoon our forest adventure awaits.





## Day 11

**Thursday 24 August, 2017**

Our second day in the cloud forest might see us hiking through riverbeds, riding Mashpi's one of a kind Skybike, or visiting the Hummingbird station to see the local inhabitants. Or just relax and soak up the scenery of this majestic part of the world.



## Day 12

**Friday 25 August, 2017**

After a final morning sojourn into the surrounding cloud forest we head back to Quito in the afternoon. Enjoy free time to sample some of Quito's famed restaurants and night spots.

## Day 13

**Saturday 26 August, 2017**

Today we head for the colourful market town of Otavalo- home to South America's most famous Indian fare. We'll visit a nearby village to watch artisans create the colourful handicrafts and enjoy a local lunch before heading back to Quito for a final farewell dinner with a night panoramic tour.



## Day 14

**Sunday 27 August, 2017**

An early start as we say farewell and travel to the airport for our flight home. For those extending their trip to Peru and magical Machu Picchu we'll start the journey together but say goodbye in Lima.

## Day 15 – Day 16

**Fly home and arrive back in Auckland on Tuesday 29 August, 2017.**

## Machu Picchu extension- Day 14 – Day 20

**Spend 5 days exploring the Lost City of the Incas, Ollantaytambo and the Sacred Valley before returning to Auckland to arrive on Saturday, 2nd September**

# The Santa Cruz II

Metropolitan Touring, the leading travel company in Ecuador, has been guiding expeditions through the Galapagos Archipelago since the 1960's, but today it is further enhancing its tours with the release of its newest Galapagos cruise ship, the Santa Cruz II.

This 50-cabin vessel provides guests with an elegant new way to experience the glories of the Galapagos Archipelago in both style and comfort. On top of Metropolitan Touring's unrivalled expeditions, this ship guarantees that the utmost care will be given to the Galapagos Islands by implementing the newest sustainable advances in sailing, thus protecting their delicate ecosystem.

With five spacious decks and gorgeous chic interiors the Santa Cruz II offers tours that are better than ever. Based on the principle of stylish simplicity, our new vessel guarantees its guests a luxurious ambience from which they can appreciate the breath-taking views of the enchanted islands.

The three guest decks of Santa Cruz II host 90 guests throughout 50 modern cabins. Guests may choose from a variety of options, which include single, double and family cabins. However, if they desire something more lavish, we also offer the exclusive Darwin Suites, which meet an exceptional standard of accommodation on the boat's Panorama Deck. These suites provide guests with enhanced service, as well as particularly selected details such as a take-home Galapagos coffee table book and a tablet loan for each cabin.

When not exploring the islands' treasures, guests can kick back in the elegantly designed communal spaces or viewing platforms. These include indoor and outdoor dining, a lounge bar, complete library, two sumptuous hot tubs overlooking the ocean and a gym.



# Mashpi Lodge

The wonders waiting at Mashpi will delight your senses. Perched at 900 meters, (3,116 feet) above sea level between lower mountain rainforest and cloud forests, the Lodge is surrounded by a profusion of plant species, from ferns and bromeliads to large numbers of orchid species, many newly-discovered. A staggering 500 species of birds – including some 36 endemics - are estimated to inhabit the forest, fluttering through the canopy. Monkeys, peccaries and even puma make their homes inside the Reserve crisscrossed by waterfalls, all between dramatic, verdant hills.

Mashpi is more than a five-star Lodge in the forest: it was conceived and is meant to be one-of-a-kind Travel Experience where the material features of the property are just the ideal complement for an unbeatable contact with the fauna, flora, geological, geographical, ecological, climatic, scenic and historic features of one of the most remarkably biodiverse corners of the world, now protected as a Nature Reserve.

The sophisticated and strikingly-contemporary Lodge is designed as the ideal springboard for exploring the unique world of the Mashpi Reserve, located in the heart of the Equatorial Chocó Bio-Region, regarded as one of the planet's most important "hot spots" of biodiversity, just three hours from Quito, the capital of Ecuador. A hideaway in the forest, only accessible to its privileged guests and located on a scenic plateau, Mashpi features amazing views of the surrounding forested mountains right up close through its floor-to-ceiling panoramic glass windows.

Mashpi offers a close-up experience of some of the most pristine forests in the world with the help of a team of naturalists and scientists. Not only do they lead hikes and give talks, they are involved in continuing studies of the local wildlife at the hotel's research center. From guided nature walks to the innovative Sky Bike and the newly opened Dragonfly Canopy Gondola, the lodge provides an array of ways to get out into the forest. Guests don boots and get muddy exploring by day, and then return in the evening to a relaxing and sophisticated setting, surrounded yet removed from the life of the jungle.

