



# The Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu

## Two of the World's Rarest Treasures in One Unforgettable Tour!

☉ Includes Majestic Lake Titicaca & the Sacred Valley of the Incas ☉  
**An Ultimate TRIPS Lifetime Moments Adventure!!**

March 16 - 28, 2025

13 Days / 11 Nights

Join TRIPS on a voyage of discovery you've only dreamt about - the amazing Galapagos Islands and majestic, mysterious Machu Picchu!

These two rarest of all Lifetime Moments feature 4 incredible days of discovery staying in those utterly unique islands time seems to have forgotten! The Galapagos Archipelago, Darwin's living laboratory, is home to an abundance of wildlife, much of it found nowhere else in the world, where you'll experience up close encounters with marine iguanas, sea lions, tortoises and some of the most fascinating birdlife.

Then incredibly, you'll follow that up by exploring the breathtaking Inca city of Machu Picchu! Built at the height of the Incan Empire in the 1400s, it was abandoned when Spanish conquerors invaded Peru in the 1530s. Seemingly forgotten, its mist-shrouded ruins were later re-discovered in 1911, bringing worldwide attention to this spellbinding site with its imposing air of grandeur and palpable sense of mystery!

There's much more too - before all that, you'll start off in Ecuador's capital of Quito, visiting its historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll also be charmed by the native people and markets of nearby Otavalo village. Then after the Galapagos and before Machu Picchu, you'll travel to culturally vibrant Lima, Peru, as well as Cusco, once the capital of the Inca Empire. You'll tour the Sacred Valley's ruins of Incan palaces and temples, along with thriving Andean villages and markets set within landscapes that will simply take your breath away. Your tour concludes enchantingly as you travel to Puno and the amazing man-made Uros Islands scattered across gorgeous and iconic Lake Titicaca!

### Itinerary

#### March 16, 2025 - Your Journey Begins!

You'll board your international flight bound for **Quito, Ecuador**, and on arrival this evening will be assisted to check in to your Quito hotel.

Overnight: Quito, Ecuador - Mercure Hotel Alameda Quito

#### March 17, 2025 - Welcome to Quito, Ecuador

You'll enjoy a **tour of Quito, Ecuador's capital** high in the **Andes Mountains** at an altitude of 9,350 feet, and founded in the 16th century on the ruins of an Inca city. Despite a deadly 1917 earthquake, in its **Old Town** the city boasts the **best-preserved historic center** in Latin America, with architecture and rich interiors that fuse Spanish, Italian, Moorish, Flemish and Indigenous designs. You'll also visit culturally significant **Intiñan Museum** and the **Equator Line**, where you can straddle across the Northern and Southern Hemispheres! Afterward, you'll check in to your hotel with the evening at your leisure.

Overnight: Quito, Ecuador - Mercure Hotel Alameda Quito

#### March 18, 2025 - Scenic and Cultural Wonders of Otavalo

This morning, you'll make the exciting journey to colorful **Otavalo** in Imbabura province. Your first visit en route will be to **Guayllabamba** and its celebrated market where you can sample the "cherimoya," a traditional fruit. Continuing on, you'll stop at "Mirador de San Pablo" to view the stunning landscape of the lake sitting at the foot of **Imbabura volcano**. In the afternoon you'll arrive at Otavalo and enjoy lunch at a charming little restaurant before visiting a handicraft market known as "**Plaza de Ponchos**," in which you'll find carpets, wool coats, bags and pottery made by native Otavalo Indians. You'll also visit the beautiful 50-ft-tall **Peguche Waterfall**, an impressive vista that's also a cherished Indigenous Ceremonial Site. You'll then return to your hotel in Quito to relax and unwind for the evening.

Overnight: Quito, Ecuador - Mercure Hotel Alameda Quito (B/L)

#### March 19, 2025 - Arriving in the Galapagos Islands

You'll leave the Ecuadorian mainland from Quito this morning to board

your flight onward to your next great adventure spot, the **Galapagos Islands!** Once you land there on Baltra Island, a guide takes you to Santa Cruz Island across the scenic Itabaca Channel, then up to the **Highlands of Santa Cruz** to check in to your resort. The Galapagos Islands are a living testament to the marvels of evolution, and a haven for **amazing biodiversity!** This pristine archipelago, formed by volcanic activity, is renowned chiefly for its **unique ecosystems** and the **extraordinary wildlife** calling it home. These islands boast a surreal landscape of volcanic craters, lava formations, and pristine beaches, where turquoise waters meet rugged volcanic cliffs in an otherworldly setting captivating all of us who are fortunate enough to experience it!

Overnight: Santa Cruz Is., Galapagos-Ecuador - Royal Palm Hotel (B/L)

#### March 20, 2025 - Gorgeous Bartolome Island

Today you'll head out to **Bartolome Island**, a volcanic islet in the Galapagos group just off the east coast of Santiago Island. One of the "younger" islands in the archipelago, Bartolome offers some of the **most beautiful Galapagos landscapes**, comprising an extinct volcano and a variety of red, orange, green, and glistening black formations. Bartolome has a **volcanic cone** that's easy to climb and provides great views of the other islands. It's also famous for **Pinnacle Rock**, the island's most distinctive characteristic and the chief representative landmark in all of the Galapagos! You'll be able to **swim and snorkel** around Pinnacle Rock, and its underwater world is really impressive, including **penguins, marine turtles, white-tipped reef sharks**, and other tropical fish.

Overnight: Santa Cruz Is., Galapagos-Ecuador - Royal Palm Hotel (B/L)

#### March 21, 2025 - Seymour or Plaza Island

You'll explore either **Seymour or Plaza Island**, whichever is approved by the local authorities. **North Seymour** is a small island covered with low, bushy vegetation, and an extraordinary place for breeding birds including one of the largest populations of nesting **blue-footed boobies** and magnificent **frigate birds**. Pairs of the boobies can be seen in their mating ritual as they offer each other gifts, whistle and honk, stretch their necks towards the sky, spread their wings, and dance while showing off

their bright blue feet. Despite its small size, **South Plaza Island** hosts a large number of animal species and is famous for its extraordinary flora. On the steep banks you may see a great number of birds including nesting **red-billed tropicbirds** and **swallow-tailed gulls**. The beautiful prickly pear cactus trees and a large colony of **Galapagos Land Iguanas** are quite fascinating as well.

Overnight: Santa Cruz Is., Galapagos-Ecuador - Royal Palm Hotel (B/L)

**March 22, 2025 - Darwin Research Station and Puerto Ayora**

In the morning you'll go on your guided tour of the **Charles Darwin Research Station**, which houses museums on the history and development of the Galapagos Islands, as well as information on the protection of their natural heritage. Endemic **giant land turtles** can be seen here, and thanks to the station the many varied turtle populations are not in danger of extinction. You'll then have free time to explore and shop in the port town of **Puerto Ayora**. Later you'll traverse through the cactus forest to **Tortuga Bay**, stopping at **Playa Brava ("Evil Beach")**, so named for its strong currents. You'll find many **marine iguanas**, birds and sea pelicans here. You'll then reach **Mansa Beach**, a natural lagoon where you can see **blue-footed boobies and pelicans**, and perhaps go swimming or sunbathing.

Overnight: Santa Cruz Is., Galapagos-Ecuador - Royal Palm Hotel (B/L)

**March 23, 2025 - Onward to Lima**

Today you'll fly to **Lima**, the **vibrant capital of Peru** where ancient history fully intertwines with modern vitality. You'll take a tour through this coastal metropolis filled with **colonial architecture, culinary delights, and a rich cultural heritage**. You'll encounter well-preserved colonial architecture, churches, and plazas, all offering insights into the country's past and its role in shaping South American history. Today's lunch is included too while visiting the wonderful **Larco Museum**. Lima is also renowned for the warmth and friendliness of its people, memorably enhancing your adventurous journey.

Overnight: Lima, Peru - Crowne Plaza Lima Miraflores (B/L)

**March 24, 2025 - The Sacred Valley of the Incas**

You'll fly from Lima to **Cusco**, the historic **capital of the Inca Empire**, and gateway to the Sacred Valley. Nestled between towering peaks and fertile landscapes, the **Sacred Valley of the Incas** is a breathtaking stretch of Peru's Andes Mountains. Your immersive journey unfolds amid ancient ruins, traditional markets, and majestic panoramas, offering a glimpse into the heart of Inca civilization. You'll explore the ruins of **Pisac**, an impressive complex with agricultural terraces, temples, and observatories. You'll visit lively **Pisac Market**, where you'll find a variety of local handicrafts, textiles and exotic foods, while interacting with locals and experiencing the vibrant and friendly culture here. You'll also view the intriguing circular depressions of **Moray** that served as agricultural laboratories for the Incas. As you traverse the Sacred Valley, you'll be immersed into the rich cultural heritage of the Incas, encounter stunning views, and experience the warm hospitality of the people. After this day

of thrilling exploration, you'll check into your hotel in the Sacred Valley. Overnight: **Agus Calientes, Peru** - 4/5\* hotel in the Sacred Valley (B/L)

**March 25, 2025 - Unforgettable Machu Picchu**

This morning, you'll board train and bus rides going up to **Machu Picchu**. Nestled high in the Peruvian Andes, Machu Picchu is a spellbinding testament to the ingenuity and architectural prowess of the ancient Inca civilization! This **mystical citadel**, perched on a ridge above the Sacred Valley, is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** and one of the **Seven Modern Wonders of the World**. You'll wander through the ancient city's intricate network of stone structures, plazas, and agricultural terraces, with today's lunch included at Café Incaterra. The precision with which the Incas crafted the temples, residential areas, and ceremonial spaces is simply awe-inspiring. Notable structures include the **Temple of the Sun**, the **Room of the Three Windows**, and the **Intihuatana Stone**. Exploring the marvels of Machu Picchu creates a profound sense of spiritual connection from its harmonious blend of natural beauty and ancient architecture. With its mystical aura and unparalleled beauty, Machu Picchu is a destination that transcends mere tourism, inviting us all to embark on a rich adventure through time! You'll take the train back to Cusco afterward.

Overnight: Cusco, Peru - Costa del Sol Wyndham (B/L)

**March 26, 2025 - Ancient Inca Capital of Cusco in Depth**

Today you'll take a captivating journey through **Cusco**, once the **capital of the mighty Inca Empire!** With its cobblestone streets, colonial architecture, and vibrant cultural scene, Cusco is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** with immense historic significance as not only the Incan capital but also the **center of Spanish colonial rule**. Walking through its streets is a journey through centuries of history, from the Inca period through the Spanish conquest. Cusco's blend of **ancient wonders and modern charm** invite you to immerse yourself in a cultural odyssey throughout this captivating city in the heart of the Andes. After the tour, you'll go to the airport to for your flight to Puno, and then check in to your hotel before enjoying your **Farewell Dinner** at a local favorite!

Overnight: Puno, Peru - Sonesta Posadas del Inca Puno (B/L/D)

**March 27/28, 2025 - Titicaca's Uros Islands and a Fond Farewell!**

This morning as you approach **Lake Titicaca**, the world's highest navigable lake, the **Uros Islands** emerge like floating jewels on its azure surface! Stepping onto these man-made islands floating atop the lake and crafted entirely from **woven totora reeds** feels like entering a surreal dreamscape. These unique islands, with their **floating architecture** and vibrant communities, provide a home where the Uros people have maintained their ancient way of life, passing down ancient knowledge for centuries, letting tradition and innovation dance gracefully on the ripples of serene and lovely Lake Titicaca. After the tour, you'll head to the airport to board your outward flights to Lima and then the US, arriving home the next day. **Memories of your Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu tour will stay happily with you for a lifetime!** (B)

**\*\*Please note all itineraries are subject to change.**

# The Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu

## \$9,698.00

per person / double occupancy

Single Supplement is an additional \$2,198.00

**Trip cancellation/interruption Travel Protection is available and is recommended.**

Check with your club representative for details.

### Inclusions

- Roundtrip airport transfers from Mountain Home including gratuities
- Roundtrip international airfare to Quito, Ecuador and from Lima, Peru (checked baggage fees not included)
- **All five local and inter-island flights in Ecuador and Peru as specified in the itinerary, and private transportation on land and water throughout the tour with English-speaking tour escorts**
- 7 nights 4/5\* hotel and resort accommodations in Ecuador and Peru
- 4 nights accommodations at the Royal Palm resort in the Galapagos Islands
- Breakfast daily at your hotels, 9 lunches and a farewell dinner
- All sightseeing and admissions as described in the detailed itinerary
- Porterage of 1 full size suitcase, per person
- All taxes and government fees
- **Passports are required for this tour!**

**Call today to reserve your space!!!**

CST # 2057913-10

Reservations for "The Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu" are accepted on a first come/first served basis.

An initial **\$650.00** per person deposit is required to hold space on this tour. This deposit is fully refundable up to November 6, 2024.

**Final Payment is due in the TRIPS office on or before November 6, 2024.**

**Therefore, please make sure that payment is submitted to your club director at least 10 days prior to this date.**

100% non-refundable as of November 6, 2024.

Make checks payable to **Let's Travel With Judy**

c/o Judy Matty

PO Box 2665 Mountain Home, AR 72654

Phone - Cell (870) 421-5941 - Office (870) 701-5160



The taxes, fuel surcharges, and other fees imposed by airlines and cruise lines have been included in the cost of your tour as of printing on March 12, 2024. Any increases in these fees or baggage fees imposed by any air carriers or cruise lines are the responsibility of the individual passenger. TRIPS makes arrangements with airlines, hotels and other independent parties to provide travel services you purchase. We do not own or operate any of the accommodation, transport or other facilities used in connection with our programs. We therefore cannot accept liability for negligence of the staff of these organizations. These parties are independent suppliers over whom we have no direct control. TRIPS is not liable in the event of any failure by any person or company to render any transportation, accommodation or other travel service provided on tours, or for expenses incurred due to delays caused by weather, strikes, war, civil disturbances, natural disasters, flight delays, government actions, mechanical failures or any acts of God. TRIPS cannot assume any responsibility for flight delays, cancellations or missed connections and is not liable for any expenses or consequences resulting therefrom, and such expenses are to be borne by the traveler. Specific airline Conditions of Carriage will apply. These conditions are the subject of International Agreements and may limit or exclude liability. The participant waives any claim against TRIPS for any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, due to any act or negligence of any airlines, surface transportation companies, hotels or any person rendering any of the services or accommodations included. TRIPS cannot be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages for delay of baggage or other properties, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, upset and disappointment, distress or frustrations, whether physical or mental, resulting from the act or omission of any party providing services. The participant assumes and understands that all travel has inherent risk that may result in injury or death and that participation in activities, including but not limited to: driving, hiking, walking, touring, visiting archaeological sites, walking on uneven surfaces, riding on rough roads, rafting, boating, riding in helicopters, on trains, boats, swimming, horseback and any other activities. The information contained in this brochure and online has been compiled with all reasonable care, is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is given in good faith. All services are subject to the laws of the countries in which services are rendered. Payment for any TRIPS tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in these Terms & Conditions and is binding on all travel participants.