

## **Kusa Treks – Medpace – Cotopaxi & Galapagos Itinerary**

### **High Level Itinerary**

- July 3: Transfer in Quito. Hotel Holiday Inn Airport.
- July 4: Cotopaxi National Park visit. Cooking class. Hacienda Chilcabamba
- July 5: Horseback riding in Cotopaxi area. Bonfire at the lodge. Hacienda Chilcabamba
- July 6: Transfer to Quito airport. Flight to Baltra Island. Highlands Visit.
- July 7: Tour of South Plazas Island. Hotel Ikala.
- July 8: Tour of Tortuga Bay & Charles Darwin Station. Hotel Ikala.
- July 9: Day tour to North Seymour Island. Hotel Ikala.
- July 10: Flight to Quito. Colonial Tour & Middle of World. Farewell Dinner. Hotel in Quito.
- July 11: Transfer to the airport for flight home.

**NOTE:** Exact hotels are subject to change, but will be same class and quality.

### **Tour Includes**

- 4 transfers (airport – hotel – airport)
- 1 night in a first-class hotel in Quito’s airport – Hotel Holiday Inn Airport
- 1 Cotopaxi National Park visit – Cooking class
- 2 nights in a first-class hacienda in the Cotopaxi area – Hacienda Chilcabamba
- 1 Horseback riding in the Cotopaxi area – Bonfire at the lodge
- Domestic airfare: Quito – Baltra Island – Quito
- 4 nights in a first-class hotel in Santa Cruz Island – Hotel Ikala
- 1 Day tour to Tortuga Bay & Charles Darwin Station
- 1 Day tour to South Plazas Island
- 1 Day tour to North Seymour Island
- 1 Colonial City tour in Quito & Middle of the World visit
- Private transportation
- English – Spanish speaking guide
- Meals described in the itinerary (7 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 7 Dinners)
- All entrance fees of the activities described

### **Tour Does Not Include**

- International flights
- Galapagos National Park tax: \$200 USD per person (due on arrival)
- CTC (Control Traffic Card) \$ 20 USD per person (due on arrival)
- Alcoholic & non-alcoholic beverages
- Tips, gratuities & personal expenses

### **2026 Rates**

- Double Occupancy: \$3,600 USD per person
- Triple Occupancy: \$3,776 USD per person
- Single Occupancy: \$4,682 USD per person

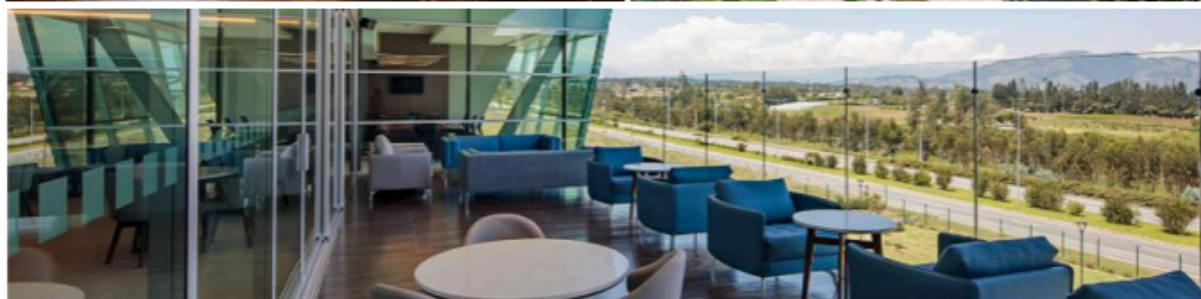
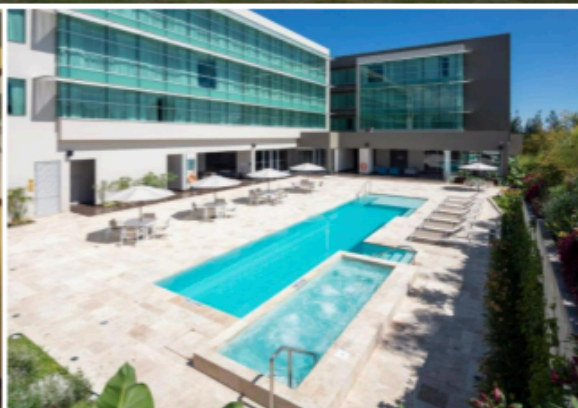
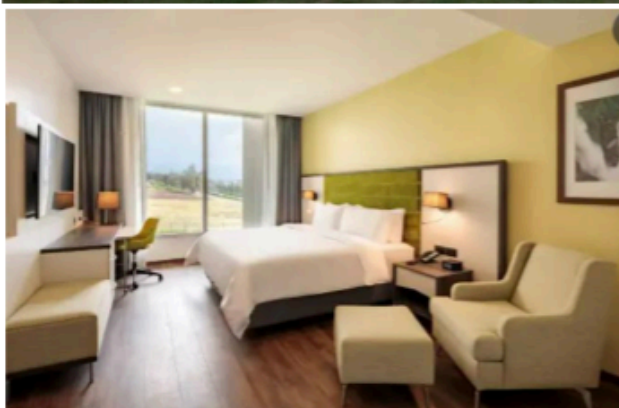
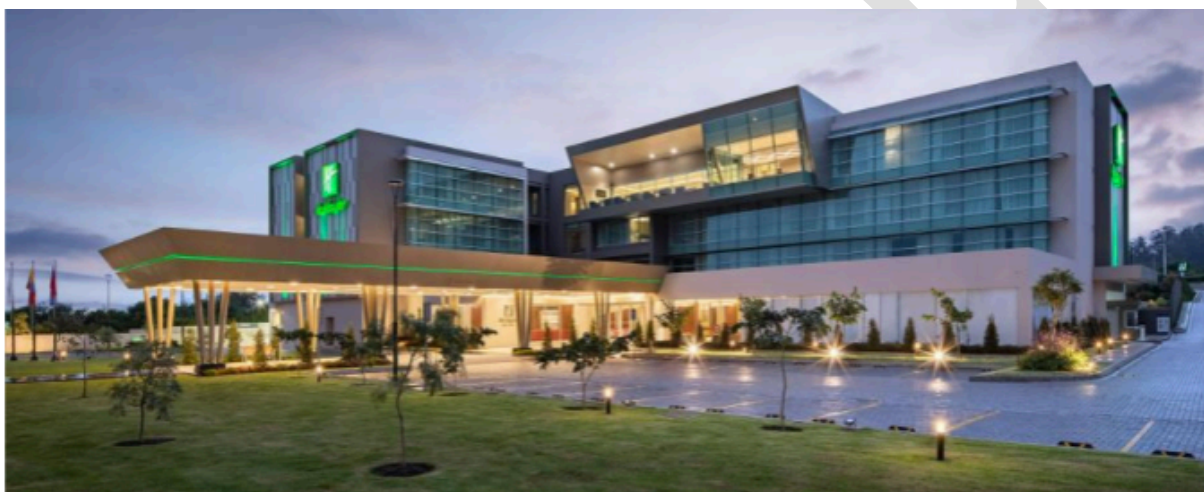
## Detailed Itinerary

### July 3: Transfer in Quito

**Meals Included:** None

**Accommodation:** Holiday Inn Airport Hotel

When you arrive in Ecuador, you will be welcomed by our representative and transferred to your charming hotel outside of Quito's airport.



## July 4: Cotopaxi National Park Visit & Cooking Class

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Accommodation:** Hacienda Chilcambamba

Your Cotopaxi adventure will start with a drive out of Quito to the south, where you will admire Cotopaxi (19,347ft.), which is one of the highest active volcanos on earth. Upon your arrival to the park you will visit the Interpretation Center where you will learn about the last Cotopaxi eruption and about the flora and fauna of this beautiful national park.



Afterwards you will visit the Limpiopungo Lake to experience the Andean moorlands, which is full of birds and other wildlife. In the afternoon you will be transferred to a colonial hacienda. where you will enjoy of a cooking class in the lodge for dinner.



## July 5: Horseback Riding in the Cotopaxi Area. Bonfire at the Lodge

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Accommodation:** Hacienda Chilcambamba

Chilcambamba Mountain Lodge is located in a gentle valley circled by the rugged peaks of four towering mountains. It is the perfect getaway from Quito, Ecuador's capital.

Today you will experience an unforgettable horseback ride in the Andes of Ecuador. You will have a brief lesson to teach you how to ride and to get acquainted with the horses. During the ride, a native guide will share his knowledge about this special area. The ride will provide some of the most breathtaking views of the Ecuadorian Andes. In the late afternoon you will enjoy of a bonfire at the lodge where you will try a traditional drink called canelazo, which will warm you up in the cold mountain air.



## July 6: Transfer to the Quito Airport. Flight to Baltra Island

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner

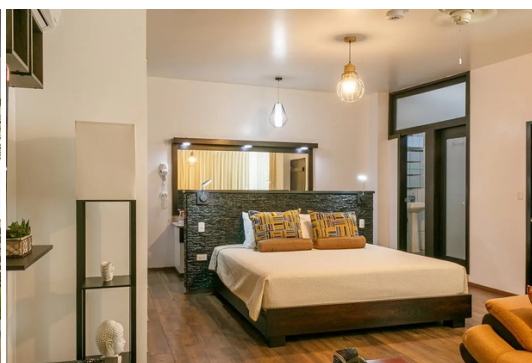
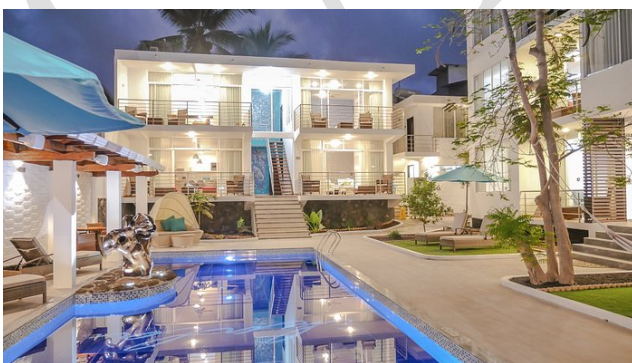
**Accommodation:** Hotel Ikala

Early in the morning you will take a flight to the magical Galapagos Islands, which will take around 2 hours. Upon your arrival at Baltra Airport on the Galapagos Islands you will be welcomed by one of our representatives, who will lead you to the Itabaca canal. From there you will have 5-minute ferry ride and then a 45 minute car ride to your hotel in Puerto Ayora.

Then you will visit the highlands of Santa Cruz, which is located in the center of the island and has a humid ecosystem, compared to the dry coastal area. You will visit a private farm and Tortoise Reserve located in the hills, where giant tortoises wander around freely. You will learn about how these farms help to protect the tortoises.

In the mountains of Galapagos it is also possible to admire different kinds of birds, such as tree and ground finches, vermillion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (usually on the shell of tortoises).

Following your visit to the highlands you will be transferred back to your hotel.



## July 7: Day tour to South Plazas Island

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Ikala

At 7:30AM you will be picked up and transferred to the dock of the Itabaca Canal to board a yacht that will take you to Islas Plazas. Here you will see several species of amazing animals native to the Galapagos Archipelago.

You will enjoy breakfast on the boat and after 2 hours of navigation, you will disembark and immediately see one of the largest colonies of sea lions in the archipelago. Also, close by is a group of land iguanas.

Your group will walk on a path that goes to the other side of the small island. Your walk will be along a ravine, where you can see land and marine iguanas, and several dozen species of birds, including: boobies, gulls of bifurcate nesting, tropical birds, frigates and pelicans.



## July 8: Day Tour of Tortuga Bay and Charles Darwin Station

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Ikala

Your guide will pick you up at 8:00AM to begin your tour to Tortuga Bay. Don't forget to take sun protection and water, as you will start with a one hour walk to the beach.

During this walk you will spot different types of finches and cactus throughout the whole path. Tortuga Bay has been given its name by the many sea turtles that nest on this beach. The beach is split into two sections: the wild beach and the calm beach.

Your group will walk along the shore, where you will see sea iguanas contrasting with the beautiful landscape of white sand. It is not recommendable to go swimming on the wild beach as it is known for its strong currents, but once you reach the calm beach you can go for a swim and enjoy the calm water surrounded by mangroves.

In the afternoon, your guide will lead you to the Charles Darwin Research Station, which was home of the famous hundred-year-old tortoise. Solitary George came from Pinta Island and died in June 2012. The Station has a visitor center where you will learn about the history of the islands, as well as various enclosures with information detailing conservation programs for the wildlife of the Galapagos.

Following your visit to the Charles Darwin Station, the group will be led back to your hotel.



## July 9: Day Tour to North Seymour Island

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel Ikala

North Seymour Island is a small island located to the north of Baltra Island. It is one of the few Galapagos Islands, that did not form from a volcano, but was created by seismic uplift.

The main attraction here is the incredible bird life. North Seymour is home to large colonies of blue-footed boobies and magnificent frigate birds. The group will observe these birds hunt, interact, and best of all, engage in flamboyant mating rituals. During a short hike inland, you will also observe palo santo, land iguanas, and many other bird species.





## July 10: Flight Quito. Colonial City & Middle of the World. Farewell Dinner.

**Meals Included:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner

**Accommodation:** Ilatoa Lodge in Quito

Today you will visit Quito, one of the most beautiful colonial cities in South America, a city that UNESCO declared to be part of the cultural heritage of mankind! You will begin the day by exploring the colonial part of Quito, starting in Independence Square, where you'll visit the presidential palace, city hall, Sagrario church and the Cathedral.



You will then visit La Compañía church (built in 1605) and its breathtaking gilded altars, a wonderful example of baroque art in America. After this, you will visit San Francisco church (1535), followed by the art & crafts gallery of Tianguéz. Your final stop in Quito will be a drive up to Panecillo hill, where you will enjoy an amazing view of Quito from above.

After visiting the colonial center of Quito your guide will take your group to the Middle of the World, which is located 25 km north of Ecuador's capital. Here, you will visit the Intiñan museum, where the latitude is  $0^{\circ} 0' 0''$  and you will experience all the interesting phenomenon that happens in this unique place.

Your last stop of the day will be the Middle of the World Monument, where you can stand in both hemispheres at the same time.

After visiting the Middle of the World, your group will enjoy a Farewell Dinner together. Your last night will be spent in historic Quito at the charming Ilatoa Lodge.



## July 11: Transfer to Quito Airport

**Meals Included:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** NA

In the morning you will enjoy breakfast at the hotel before being transferred to the UIO airport for your flight home.

We will see you again on your next adventure!

