

ARRIVE EARLY

Since you are arriving one or more days early in the first destination of your pre-trip extension or main trip, you're able to rest after your flight and acclimate to your new destination and time zone—or you can begin to explore on your own. This personalization option includes private airport transfer upon arrival, accommodations at the first hotel featured on your adventure or a comparable centrally located hotel (if your first hotel is located at or near the airport), and daily breakfast at your hotel. You are free to choose however you'd like to spend this additional time exploring, including the tours you take, activities you plan, and restaurants you visit. Check with your hotel's concierge desk for recommendations on how to spend your time.

Please note: If you booked your own international flights, airport transfers are NOT included and are not available for purchase.

Destination: Lima

Number of Nights Arriving Early: 3

Arrival Date: 10/30/2025

Accommodations:

JOSE ANTONIO LIMA
AVE 28 DE JULIO 398
LIMA

Peru

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YOUR DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Sunday, Nov 02, 2025

Depart U.S.

- Accommodations:
JOSE ANTONIO LIMA

Depart the U.S. today on an international flight to Lima, Peru, arriving late in the evening or early morning. Please refer to your individual itinerary for exact arrival and departure times. An O.A.T. representative will greet you at the airport and assist you with the transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Monday, Nov 03, 2025

Lima • Local interaction

- Destination: Lima
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations:
JOSE ANTONIO LIMA

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: At leisure. You are free to relax and enjoy the amenities of your conveniently-located hotel. Or venture out into the city for a *café con leche* (coffee with milk) and sightseeing.

You'll gather with your small group later this morning, including travelers who took our optional *The Peruvian Amazon: Treks, Cruises & Indigenous Communities* pre-trip extension, and those who arrived early in Lima before the main adventure, at a Welcome Briefing held at the hotel.

Then, we'll set off to explore Lima's Miraflores district on an orientation walk. This stylish, modern neighborhood is a cultural and artistic center full of small cafés, fine shops, and art

galleries. We'll stroll through boulevards, plazas, and even the Miraflores *malecón* (boardwalk), a six-mile long walkway that stretches along the Pacific Ocean.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: After lunch, we'll take a short walk to the Parque Kennedy, a park in central Lima named for American president John F. Kennedy in honor of the aid he gave Peru to promote democracy during his presidency. Here, you'll witness a slice of daily life in Peru.

Then, we'll return to our hotel, and the rest of the day is free to explore on your own.

Dinner: On your own.

Evening: Spend the evening as you prefer. You may choose to venture out on your own to experience the contrast of Lima's high-rises alongside colonial buildings and the way they're illuminated at night.

NOTES:

Day 3 Tuesday, Nov 04, 2025

Explore Lima • Fish market • Larco Museum

- Destination: Lima
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations:

JOSE ANTONIO LIMA

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to the Chorrillos fish market, where we'll be met by a local guide and interact with local fishermen who make their living off of small-scale artisanal fishing operations in the wharf as they start their day. This market is a favorite among locals as the catch is fresh and includes fish that inhabit the waters immediately surrounding Lima. You'll learn about what life is like for these men who work adjacent to one of Lima's most wealthy areas (Miraflores), and have the opportunity to ask them questions.

Then, drive to the Larco Museum, known for its privately-owned collection of pre-Columbian artifacts and artwork, including thousands of ceramic objects. The museum is housed in a former viceroy's mansion dating back to the 18th century, and is built on the site of a seventh-century temple. We'll browse the collection on a guided tour.

Next, drive to downtown Lima, where we'll begin a walking tour with our Trip Experience Leader. Together, we'll explore Lima's colonial streets and architecture—evidence of the city's Spanish heritage. We'll walk through the Historic Centre of Lima, where we can witness landmarks such as the Archbishop Palace, the Museum of Italian Art, and the House of Aliaga.

Lunch: Enjoy a Welcome Lunch at a local restaurant, and experience an authentic taste of Lima with your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers.

Afternoon: We'll walk towards Lima's historic central area in the company of our local Trip Experience Leader. We'll have opportunities to interact with vendors, city guards, and other locals to immerse ourselves into the flow of daily life in Lima.

After our tour, you'll have the option to either head back to hotel or venture to the vibrant neighborhoods of Miraflores and Barranco, residential and shopping districts of particular interest

in Lima. Rub elbows with locals as they go about their daily routine, wander in and out of shops, and enjoy the lively, bustling environment here.

Dinner: On your own. Perhaps you'll opt to continue your quest for authentic Peruvian cuisine, such as *Lomo Saltado*, a classic hearty dish of stir-fry beef and potatoes. Or maybe you'll try a Pisco Sour, a South American favorite cocktail made from Pisco liquor, citrus juices, simple syrup, and in some cases, egg whites and Angostura bitters.

Evening: Rest up for tomorrow's adventures or continue exploring on your own. If you chose the latter, perhaps you'll head back into Miraflores to enjoy live music with a *chilcano* (brandy cocktail) or *chicha morada* (purple corn-based cocktail) beverage in hand.

NOTES:

Day 4 Wednesday, Nov 05, 2025

Fly to Cuzco • Weaving demonstration • Controversial Topic: Coca leaves in Peru • The Sacred Valley

- Destination: The Sacred Valley
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations:

VILLA URUBAMBA HOTEL

Activity Note: Please be advised that we will be taking a one-hour flight today, and we'll spend the next six days at elevations above 8,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated and eating light while at high altitude. Travelers may rest at the hotel if necessary.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to Lima’s airport for your flight to Cuzco, arriving in the early afternoon. After we land, we’ll drive to the Sacred Valley with stops along the way.

Lunch: We’ll enjoy a boxed lunch en route to the Sacred Valley.

Afternoon: Drive to the mountain weaving village of Huayllarcocha, which—at an elevation of 12,500 feet—is a literal high point of our exploration of the Sacred Valley, and provides scenic views of the surrounding mountains.

This small village is known for its weaving industry, which is all done by hand by local women, who use plants and, in some cases, bugs, to produce the dye they use. We’ll have an opportunity to chat with the weavers about life in the small village and ask questions about the process of designing and creating these vibrant garments. Then we’ll observe a textile-making demonstration, seeing how the local women create complex patterns in colorful cloth as their ancestors have for centuries.

Next, en route to our hotel, we’ll meet a local vendor of fruits, coffee, and coca leaves. This vendor will be our guest expert for a conversation about the **Controversial Topic** of coca leaves in Peru.

After our conversation, we’ll continue driving to our hotel, where we’ll check in and take an orientation walk around the area with our Trip Experience Leader.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: Your evening is free to relax and enjoy the amenities at your hotel or explore Urubamba.

NOTES:

Day 5 Thursday, Nov 06, 2025

Explore the Sacred Valley • Experience *A Day in the Life* of Urubamba village • **Grand Circle Foundation: School Visit • Home-Hosted Lunch**

- Destination: The Sacred Valley
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations:
VILLA URUBAMBA HOTEL

Activity Note: We will spend the day at elevations above 9,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated while at high altitude. If today's school visit falls on a weekend or holiday when school is not in session, an alternate activity may be arranged.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today we will experience *A Day in the Life* of Urubamba, a town of around 2,700 people and the largest community in the Sacred Valley. Our immersive cultural experience begins when we arrive at Arin School—supported in part by **Grand Circle Foundation**—where we'll meet the students (when school is in session) and spend time with their teachers to see what education is like in this part of rural Peru.

Grand Circle Foundation

Arin School

Total donated: **\$34,968**

Partner since: **2017**

Over the years, Grand Circle Foundation—along with the generous support of our travelers—has helped to provide a wide array of items for Arin School, including a sunshade for the playground as well as school uniforms. During our visit, we'll first be welcomed by the students with a short dance or song, followed by time to interact with the children. The students are between the ages of

6 and 11 years old, and although they learn Spanish in school, their native language is Quechua. Many of them come from impoverished circumstances and must walk one or even two hours to school; therefore, they are very fortunate to be getting an education here—especially because the government doesn't always provide adequate support. We'll learn more about the challenges these children face when we meet with the school principal, Flora Quispe. As we'll learn from Flora, child labor is common in this agricultural region, as parents are eager to receive help caring for crops. We'll have the opportunity to ask any questions we may have about this controversial matter before touring the school. Then, we'll join the students once again and enjoy time to play, practice English, or perhaps help them with homework.

We'll then depart for Urubamba's market, where the town's locals do their daily shopping and conduct their business. Here, we'll get a true local experience as our Trip Experience Leader gives us a few soles (local currency) and sends us off with an assignment—to shop for ingredients that we'll use later to prepare a meal when we meet a local family for a **Home-Hosted Lunch**.

As we navigate the market stalls, we'll see for ourselves the wide variety of goods on display in traditional Andean markets such as these. Most people in this region don't have a means of keeping their food cool, so we might see how locals determine the freshness of various products. We may also learn how certain herbs are used to naturally preserve food.

We'll then drive into town, where our ***A Day in the Life*** experience continues with a visit to a *chicheria*—a typical tavern specializing in *chicha*, a popular local alcoholic beverage made from fermented corn. *Chicherias* are popular among field laborers, serving as a meeting place between shifts. These establishments are plentiful, but unless you know where to look, you might miss them: they are typically located in a small adobe house adjacent to the

owner's home. There is no official signage; rather, patrons know they're open when they see a bamboo stick with a red plastic bag planted in the ground. Our Trip Experience Leader will lead us to a *chicheria* where we'll sample this unique brew, and chat with any highland farmers or other locals who might have stopped in to take a break from their busy work day.

Lunch: Next, we'll visit the home of a local family in the Sacred Valley, where we'll enjoy a **Home-Hosted Lunch**. Typically, the families we visit will live in a rural, single family adobe brick home. Many of these families have their own gardens and even a space to keep rodents or poultry. Upon arrival, we'll get to know the family and join them in the kitchen, where we'll use the ingredients we bought at the market to help prepare a typical Andean meal. Our lunch will very much depend on the season, but it may consist of quinoa soup, black potato soup, corn tortillas, hot peppers, and perhaps even a taste of a local specialty—roasted guinea pig.

Afternoon: After we share lunch, we'll explore the family's property, and see what life is like in the Sacred Valley. We'll also have the opportunity to ask our hosts any questions we may have about country life in Peru. Following lunch, we'll say goodbye to our hosts and the rest of the day is free to explore on your own.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: The night is free to settle in or explore Urubamba on your own. Take a walk through the quaint town, stop at one of the local cafés near your hotel, or ask your Trip Experience Leader for a recommendation based on your interests.

NOTES:

Day 6 Friday, Nov 07, 2025

Sacred Valley • Machu Picchu

- Destination: Machu Picchu
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations:
EL MAPI BY INKATERRA HOTEL

Activity Note: Today's discoveries involve extensive walking on steep and uneven planes and an altitude of more than 7,000 feet. We recommend you stay hydrated and rest if necessary.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Gather with your fellow travelers at your hotel to witness a traditional healing ceremony conducted by a *curandero*, an Andean medicine man. This ancient healing tradition has deep roots in Inca culture and is not simply a cure for illnesses, but also a prayer for good health and well-being with an offering to Pachamama, a deity associated with fertility and Mother Earth. We are likely to see coca leaves being used once again, as they play a major role in these exercises. We'll have the opportunity to ask the *curandero* questions, to better understand the ceremony's importance and the instruments he uses. We also may participate in a ceremony to thank Mother Earth for allowing us to visit the Sacred Valley.

Then, drive to the Ollantaytambo Station to catch a train to Aguas Calientes. The train ride offers views into the scenic gorge of the Urubamba River.

Lunch: A boxed lunch will be served aboard the train.

Afternoon: We'll disembark from our train in Aguas Calientes, often simply known as Machu Picchu town. Then, we'll drive to the storied ruins. Most travelers visit Machu Picchu on a day trip, which makes for a hectic pace and only limited time at this unique archaeological wonder. We can take a closer look, and

have a more relaxed pace, during our overnight visit to Machu Picchu, an uncommon experience that O.A.T. is one of the few travel companies to offer. Enjoy the journey up the mountain as our driver skillfully navigates the hairpin switchback route up the steep hill to the ruins. (The return trip by bus takes the same amount of time; or if you prefer, you can walk downhill and along the valley floor for about two hours).

Our expert Trip Experience Leader gives us a complete and compelling look at the fabled “Lost City of the Incas,” which was discovered in 1911 by Yale archaeologist (and later, U.S. Senator) Hiram Bingham. Subsequent discoveries (such as Bingham’s later unearthing of the Inca Trail and the 1941 discovery of nearby Huayna Picchu) suggest that Machu Picchu was not simply a “lost city” but part of a whole “lost region.” More than 172 tombs have been excavated, and in 2002 Peruvian archaeologists uncovered the first complete burial site, with a woman’s skeleton, bronze pins, and a clay pot.

Here we can explore sites like the Ritual Baths, the Palace of the Princess, the Main Fountain, and the Temple of the Sun, quietly contemplating the achievements of this most fascinating and mysterious civilization. Today we will enjoy almost three hours to explore the sprawling ancient civilization before driving back to Aguas Calientes—and we’ll be back for another look tomorrow.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: You can choose to retire to your hotel or continue to explore the town throughout the evening on your own.

NOTES:

Day 7 Saturday, Nov 08, 2025

Second visit to Machu Picchu

- Destination: Machu Picchu
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations:
EL MAPI BY INKATERRA HOTEL

Activity Note: Today's discoveries involve extensive walking on steep and uneven planes and an altitude of more than 7,000 feet. We recommend you stay hydrated and rest if necessary.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today, we'll head back to Machu Picchu to further explore the site. Our overnight stay and second day of exploration allows you to take in this enigmatic site at your own pace and absorb the scenery as you hike. You can remain at the hotel if you wish, but most travelers appreciate this chance to see the ruins in a different light.

After a morning of archaeological wonder, we'll reconvene and drive back to Aguas Calientes.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: The remainder of the day is free for you to make your own discoveries in Aguas Calientes. Perhaps you'll decide to walk the orchid trail tour, where you'll behold a surprising array of orchid species native to Peru or visit the traditional market to barter with the locals for fresh produce.

Dinner: On your own tonight. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to provide you with suggestions for regional cuisine that's in line with your preferences.

Evening: Enjoy free time tonight by relaxing at your hotel or joining up with your fellow travelers to further explore the town. Perhaps you'll get to know the locals or other visitors at a nearby café where you'll share appetizers, drinks, or laughs.

NOTES:

Day 8 Sunday, Nov 09, 2025

Transfer to Cuzco • Ollantaytambo

- Destination: Cuzco
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations:
JOSE ANTONIO CUSCO HOTEL

Activity Note: We will spend the day at elevations above 11,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated while at high altitude.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to the station and board a train for a ride through the Urubamba Gorge, alighting at Ollantaytambo station. From there, we'll split into smaller groups and drive to the massive Inca fortress of Ollantaytambo. This is one of the few places where the Spanish lost a battle during the conquest of Peru. In 1536, the army of the king Manco Inca held off a Spanish invasion company led by Hernando Pizarro. We can climb up the huge terraces guarding the ancient hilltop temple area.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Drive to our hotel in Cuzco and check in.

Dinner: On your own tonight. Perhaps you'll try a local favorite, *adobo*, a pork stew made with corn beer. Daring diners might like to try roasted *cuy* (guinea pig).

Evening: Tonight, you're free to make your own discoveries in Cuzco. You can catch a folk dance performance at the Centro Qosqo de Arte Nativo, or ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions.

NOTES:

Day 9 Monday, Nov 10, 2025

Cuzco • Qoricancha Sun Temple • San Blas walking tour • Optional Sacsayhuaman tour

- Destination: Cuzco
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations:
JOSE ANTONIO CUSCO HOTEL

Activity Note: We will spend the day at elevations above 11,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated while at high altitude.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Start the day with a walk to the Qoricancha Sun Temple, Cuzco's most important ceremonial structure during the Inca era. Historical records of the time note that its walls were once covered with 700 sheets of gold studded with emeralds and turquoise; when the sunlight streamed through the windows, the reflection off the precious metals was blinding. Upon arrival, we'll embark on a walking tour during which your Trip Experience Leader will enrich your experience with interesting trivia about the temple.

Then, enjoy a walking tour around downtown Cuzco, specifically the historic San Blas neighborhood. As we walk, we'll witness the artistic and architectural relics that tell the colonial history of this central Cuzco area. Tucked away to the northeast of the Plaza de Armas, San Blas owes its colonial architecture to the Spanish

conquest, after which it was made a parish. These days, it's known as the *barrio de los artesanos* (artisans' quarter) and boasts plenty of nice cafés and views. These views are due to the fact that San Blas is at a higher elevation than the Plaza de Armas, but the climb is worth the effort, especially if you take the ancient Inca road, *Hathunrumiyoc* (Quechua for "great stone street"). Keep an eye out for the famous 12-angled stone, set into some of the best-preserved Inca walls of Cuzco.

Then, you may choose to join an optional tour that begins with lunch at a local Cusco restaurant followed by a visit to Sacsayhuaman, an important Incan archaeological site located on a hilltop overlooking the city and adjacent valley. Shrouded in mystery, the Incas built Sacsayhuaman from huge stones, some weighing nearly 300 tons.

Lunch: On your own today, unless you are participating in the optional Sacsayhuaman tour.

Afternoon: You'll have the rest of the afternoon to yourself until dinnertime to make your own discoveries in Cuzco. Your Trip Experience Leader can provide recommendations, or you may choose to visit the Cuzco Cathedral or shop like a local at the San Pedro Market.

Before dinner, gather for a Farewell Briefing with your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers as you prepare for tomorrow, when you'll leave Peru behind and greet new experiences in Ecuador.

Dinner: Bid farewell to your Peruvian Trip Experience Leader this evening during an included Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.

Evening: Relax at your hotel after dinner and finish up any last-minute packing for Ecuador, or head out for one last look at Cuzco.

NOTES:

Day 10 Tuesday, Nov 11, 2025

Cuzco • Fly to Quito, Ecuador

- Destination: Quito
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations:
NH COLLECTION ROYAL QUITO

Activity Note: We will spend the day at elevations above 8,000–9,000 feet. We recommend staying hydrated while at high altitude. Travelers may rest at the hotel if necessary.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to the airport for our flight to Lima, followed by a connecting flight to Quito, Ecuador. You'll meet your Ecuadorian Trip Experience Leader at the airport, then transfer to your hotel and check in.

Lunch: Have lunch onboard your flight from Lima to Quito, or grab something to take onboard when we stop in the Lima international airport.

Afternoon: Settle into your Quito hotel or take a stroll around town to take in your surroundings.

Dinner: On your own tonight. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to provide you with suggestions for regional cuisine. Maybe you'll sample some traditional *hornado*, or fried pork.

Evening: Feel free to relax after today's travels or further explore Quito at your leisure. Perhaps you'll mingle with locals at a nearby café or bar, or take in one of the many scenic hilly views at night.

NOTES:

Day 11 Wednesday, Nov 12, 2025

Grand Circle Foundation visit: Sinamune Children's Orchestra • Visit Inti Nan & Equator Museums • Explore downtown Quito

- Destination: Quito
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations:
NH COLLECTION ROYAL QUITO

Activity Note: If the visit to the Sinamune School falls on a weekend or holiday, alternative activities will be planned as the school won't be open.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to Sinamune School, where we'll enjoy a moving musical performance by the Sinamune Disabled Children's Orchestra—supported in part by **Grand Circle Foundation**.

Grand Circle Foundation

Sinamune School

Total donated: **\$285,320**

Partner since: **2004**

Sinamune provides disabled people with the opportunity to hone their musical talents, while improving their cognitive and physical function. It also offers people with disabilities a space

for community and kinship. Sinamune was founded in 1992 by Maestro Edgar Augusto Palacios and his wife Marcia, with the goal of rehabilitating people with special needs as well as integrating them into mainstream society. Over the years, Grand Circle Foundation—together with our generous travelers—has donated \$285,320 to Sinamune, funds which have helped refurbish the auditorium and also gone toward the purchase of musical instruments, scholarships, school uniforms, food stipends, and much more.

We'll sit down to hear a performance, which may only be instrumental or may also incorporate dance. Afterward, we'll meet some of the parents, teachers, and students, as well as ask any questions we may have. Perhaps you'll ask about the impact of music therapy on their lives. In the past, travelers have described bonding with the people here as meaningful and a highlight of their experience in Ecuador.

Learn more about the sites we support »

Next, drive to the Inti Nan Museum. Inti Nan is the Quechua phrase for “Path of the Sun,” and the sun quite literally charts a path through the museum—it sits directly on the equator. Explore the museum's replicas of indigenous sun temples and other interesting artifacts.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: The rest of the day is yours for independent exploration. Head back to the local craft market, further explore the area at your leisure, or relax with a book at your hotel.

Drive to downtown Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There, we'll enjoy a walking tour of Quito's colonial nucleus: Independence Plaza (Plaza de La Independencia), featuring a winged statue representing freedom. We'll also see the Presidential Palace from the outside, with its stalwart guards in traditional uniforms keeping watch. And we'll visit the most

ornate church in Ecuador, Iglesia de la Compañía de Jesús. Construction of the Jesuit church began in 1605 and it would take another 160 years to complete. A masterpiece of Spanish Baroque architecture, Iglesia de la Compañía has a well-earned reputation as one of the most beautiful churches in the continent.

Dinner: On your own tonight. Perhaps you and your fellow travelers will gather to scour the area around your hotel for South American cuisine you have yet to try.

Evening: Tonight you may wish to retire early to our hotel and rest up to prepare for a very early wake-up call.

NOTES:

Day 12 Thursday, Nov 13, 2025

Quito • Optional Termas de Papallacta Thermal Spa tour

- Destination: Quito
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations:
NH COLLECTION ROYAL QUITO

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Enjoy a free day to pursue individual interests in Quito. Or, you may wish to choose a full-day optional tour to Termas de Papallacta, a spa resort located high in the Andes adjacent to the Cayambe-Coca Ecological Reserve. At close to 11,000 feet above sea level, Papallacta is also Ecuador's highest town, and is renowned for the thermally-heated waters that pour from the ground by the subterranean activity of nearby Volcan Antisana. You can enjoy a relaxing soak in any of the eight pools located at the spa, whose therapeutic waters range in temperatures from

a bath-like 86° F to a scalding 158° F. Other treatments ranging from mud wraps to massages are available at the spa, and you may wish to reserve a treatment of your choosing.

We'll also enjoy a nature hike to take in the stunning scenery of the surrounding cloud forest, which is home to an abundance of flora and fauna. Along with mosses, bromeliads, ferns, and orchids, more than 120 bird species can be found here, from mountain toucans and hooded mountain tanagers to dozens of types of hummingbirds. It is also possible to spot spectacled bears and the endangered Andean condor.

Lunch: Included at the spa in Papallacta for travelers on the optional tour. On your own for those remaining in Quito.

Afternoon: Travelers joining the optional tour will arrive back at the hotel in Quito by late afternoon. Later, all travelers will regroup for dinner together.

Dinner: At a local restaurant in Quito.

Evening: On your own.

NOTES:

Day 13 Friday, Nov 14, 2025

Quito • Galápagos

- Destination: Santa Cruz Island
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations:
PLAZA LUNA HOTEL

Breakfast: Enjoy a complimentary coffee and light breakfast station set up for your convenience very early this morning before your flight.

Morning: Drive to the airport before sunrise and fly to Santa Cruz Island in the Galápagos. Upon arrival, we'll drive to a nearby dock where we'll board a small ferry for a ride to a private tortoise ranch. The Galápagos Islands are known for being home to the giant tortoise, and today, we'll have an opportunity to learn about them at this sanctuary. This privately-run organization offers visitors a chance to get up-close and personal with giant tortoises, examine empty tortoise shells, as well as walk through tunnels made of cooled, hardened lava.

Lunch: At the ranch's restaurant.

Afternoon: Throw on some rubber boots after lunch and venture out into the tortoise habitat. Please be aware that visitors are not allowed to touch or feed the animals, but simply admire from a comfortable distance. Then, we'll make our way to the lava tubes, where we'll get a firsthand look into unique geological formations within the earth's crust.

Then, we'll drive to our hotel the heart of Puerto Ayora, just a short walk from the Charles Darwin Research Center. Enjoy a few hours to explore on your own before dinner. Perhaps you'll visit the beautiful beaches of Tortuga Bay, where you can enjoy the sun and glimpse some of the wildlife exclusive to this region.

Dinner: Tonight's dinner will give you a fresh perspective on this small island community when you visit Los Kioskos Street, an exuberant walkway lined with open-air food kiosks, dining tables, and hungry people. As you approach, notice the aroma of freshly grilled or fried fish wafting through the air before enjoying a feast of local sea creatures.

Evening: The remainder of the evening is free for your own discoveries.

NOTES:

Day 14 Saturday, Nov 15, 2025

Galápagos • Sugar Cane Plantation visit • Embark ship

- Destination: the Galápagos Islands
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations:

CARINA GALAPAGOS CRUISE

Activity Note: From Day 14 to Day 16, you will enjoy a cruise through the pristine Galápagos archipelago. The following description is meant only as a general guide to the cruise itinerary that you are likely to follow. The selection and order of islands visited cannot be guaranteed due to the Galápagos' frequently variable weather, marine, and environmental conditions, and changes in airline schedules between the mainland and the Galápagos. This is a carefully managed park with fragile ecosystems. To safeguard them (and to ensure your own comfort), ship and park authorities have the prerogative to revise our course at a moment's notice. Typically, you'll have two shore excursions a day (one in the early morning and one in the afternoon) lasting about 1.5-2 hours each. Depending on the island, there may be a specific timeframe allotted for our visit. Your Trip Experience Leader will keep you informed of the schedule on a daily basis. You will also have the opportunity to snorkel the surrounding waters.

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Check out of the hotel and venture to the Charles Darwin research center. Here, receive an insider's look at life on the island with a visit to a working sugar plantation, with the option to sample a shot of blue moon liquor, a type of moonshine made from sugarcane. Then, we depart for our ship and embark.

Lunch: Served onboard in the ship's dining room.

Afternoon: Take time to get comfortable—stow your gear in your cabin and orient yourself on deck. We'll stay onboard in simple yet comfortable cabins for the next four nights, roaming the archipelago with the services of our boat crew and our expert Trip Experience Leader, who is a certified Galápagos naturalist. You'll attend a safety drill, and then have the rest of the day to relax onboard.

During the summer and fall, the Humboldt Current moves through the Galápagos Islands, cooling sea and land temperatures, and creating a mist that covers the islands—locally known as *garua* (soft rain)—during the day. The Humboldt Current is strongest from July to October, delivering the choppy water that surrounds the islands.

Dinner: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

NOTES:

Day 15 Sunday, Nov 16, 2025

Galápagos Cruise

- Destination: the Galápagos Islands
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations:

CARINA GALAPAGOS CRUISE

Activity Note: The following description is meant only as a general guide to the cruise itinerary that you are likely to follow. Your Trip Experience Leader will keep you informed of the schedule on a daily basis.

Today's Activities: Today we continue our exploration of the Galápagos. Our Trip Experience Leader will give us daily briefings, including conservation techniques suggested by the Galápagos National Park. You will also have an opportunity to snorkel the surrounding waters.

He or she is a graduate of the elite certification program conducted at the Charles Darwin Research Station on Isla Santa Cruz by the Galápagos National Park Service. We file our Galápagos cruising itinerary with the conservation authorities of the Galápagos National Park. Park biologists periodically review it, and they have the authority to make changes to our plan to minimize our impact on the ecosystems of the islands. Our Trip Experience Leader also provides the park with information on species behavior, and we are proud to work in cooperation with Park officials in preserving the priceless natural wonders of the Galápagos.

During our cruise, we'll see unique wildlife and striking geological formations. We'll make numerous landings by Zodiac that involve wading ashore. Once on land, we'll walk with our Trip Experience Leader along trails that bring us close to the many unique species. Wildlife sightings are unpredictable, but you may see a wealth of unique species. When we are not viewing wildlife on shore, we can swim, sunbathe, and perhaps go snorkeling. We'll see remote white-sand beaches, sparkling clear water, and volcanic landscapes of black and red rock.

During your free time aboard, you may choose to take a tour of the bridge and perhaps chat with our ship's captain, or, at night, enjoy star mapping with a view of the sky alongside your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers.

Today's Meals: All meals will be served in the ship's dining room.

NOTES:

Day 16 Monday, Nov 17, 2025

Galápagos Cruise

- Destination: the Galápagos Islands
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations:
CARINA GALAPAGOS CRUISE

Activity Note: The following description is meant only as a general guide to the cruise itinerary that you are likely to follow. Your Trip Experience Leader will keep you informed of the schedule on a daily basis.

Today's Activities: Here is a preview of the islands you may call on during your Galápagos cruise. The islands visited depend on your ship's itinerary. You will also have an opportunity to snorkel the surrounding waters.

Santiago (James): Tidal pools reveal a profusion of octopi, starfishes, and other undersea life. Rare fur sea lions that were once on the verge of extinction cavort nearby, and we often spot oyster-catchers, blue herons, and yellow-crowned night herons.

Bartolome: One of the youngest islands, Bartolome displays a fantastic landscape of lava formations—including its famous signature, Pinnacle Rock. Penguins are often spotted on the shore.

Mosquera Beach: Mosquera Beach is a very small, white-sand islet, located between Baltra and Seymour. It is ideal for swimming and snorkeling, and sea lions often visit.

Rabida (Jervis): A reddish beach and steep volcanic slopes give this island a distinctive look.

Santa Cruz (Indifatigable): At the Charles Darwin Research Station, learn about pioneering ecological studies and the giant Galápagos tortoise-breeding program.

Isabela (Albemarle): The largest island of the Galápagos chain and the least visited, Isabela is known for its large population of land tortoises, and the flocks of flamingos that grace the lagoons and marshes at dusk.

Floreana (Charles): Like the other islands, Floreana has its coterie of remarkable creatures. But it's the human stories that will engage you here as your guide tells of the first inhabitant, a shipwrecked Irishman, and the quirky "post office" in a barrel, where sailors since 1793 have been leaving letters for delivery. This "post office" still operates today.

Santa Fe (Barrington): Hike through a forest of opuntia cactus where land iguana doze, and then snorkel in clear water with coral reefs, sting rays, sea turtles, and colorful schools of fish.

North Seymour: Here you'll find the largest colony of frigatebirds in the Galápagos and a major nesting site for the blue-footed booby, depending on the season. On the beach, sea lions ride the waves.

San Cristobal (Chatham): The town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on this island is the sleepy capital of the Galápagos province. Nearby is Lobos Island, home to pelicans, frigatebirds, and a sea lion colony.

Española (Hood Island): Sea lions, marine iguanas, and many kinds of birds are found here, including Darwin's finches, Hood mockingbirds, and blue-footed and masked boobies. Along the southern shore, cliffs rise up from the sea. From April to

November, the waved albatross, which can spend years at sea without touching land, can be seen performing their unique, choreographed mating ritual.

During your free time aboard, you may participate in a *ceviche* making demonstration so you can make a South American favorite dish for your friends and family once you return home.

Today's Meals: All meals will be served in the ship's dining room. Your crew and Trip Experience Leader will inform you of precise start times. Tonight, we'll toast to the end of our voyage with a Farewell Dinner onboard.

NOTES:

Day 17 Tuesday, Nov 18, 2025
Galápagos • Quito • Return to U.S.

- Destination: Quito
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations:
WYNDHAM QUITO AIRPORT QUITO

Activity Note: Today, we will fly to Quito from the Galápagos. Depending on your ship and flight itinerary, you'll depart from either Baltra Island or San Cristobal Island. We do not recommend that travelers departing from San Cristobal make their own international flight arrangements before 10pm, since flights from San Cristobal arrive to Quito around 6pm.

Breakfast: Onboard in the ship's dining room.

Morning: Drive to the airport for our flight from the Galápagos back to Quito.

Lunch: Grab your lunch on the go today. Your Trip Experience Leader can advise you on time-saving options.

Afternoon: We'll touch down in Quito and arrive at our hotel in the afternoon. We will have a day room available to us at the hotel in Quito, before our flight home. Depending on the time of your flight, you may have a few hours free to rest, refresh, or pack before your international flight.

Dinner: At the hotel.

Evening: This evening, we'll transfer to the airport for our overnight flight to the U.S. If you are taking the post-trip extension to *Bolivia: La Paz & Lake Titicaca*, you will catch your flight to La Paz.

NOTES:
