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CME & ECO TOUR OF THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS & AMAZON

May 20 – June 1, 2026

The Organizers…

Doctors-on-Tour >

Doctors-on-Tour was created in 2000 and specializes in offering ecological, cultural, gastronomical and adventure travel to exotic destinations for physicians who want to combine learning and travelling. Our programs offer targeted educational programs offering updates on current topics of interest together with meetings and discussions with local health care representatives to specifically discuss common medical developments in, and challenges facing, the local health care systems in both Canada and the country where the meetings and discussions are being located. This also includes in-depth tours of hospital facilities (both public and private) in order to meet with local medical practitioners and review, and compare, facilities, techniques and practices on a firsthand basis. We offer programs in several worldwide locations including to such diverse and intriguing areas as South America (Brazil, Chile/Argentina, Ecuador/Peru); Africa (Kenya/Tanzania, Morocco, South Africa, Zanzibar, Kilimanjaro climb); India, Bhutan, China, Japan, South East Asia (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos & Bali), Malaysia/Singapore, Sri Lanka; New Zealand and Europe (Eastern Europe, Iceland, Spain).

Additional information, including detailed program brochures downloadable in pdf format and recent testimonials, can be found at www.doctorsontour.ca . The company is a licensed retail travel organization under The Travel Industry Act of Ontario thereby affording complete protection of all monies paid prior to departure. (TICO registration no. 50009110).

Contact us at - tel: 416-231-8466; toll free: 1-855-DOC-TOUR (362-8687); fax: 1-888-612-1459
e: info@doctorsontour.ca

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Dr. Peter Bloch, M.D. - Oakville, On.

Dr. Peter Bloch lived in Chile for 20 years, having started medical school there, but completed his training at Western. He has been a Family Physician in Oakville since 1976 (recently retired) and is an avid world traveller, including, with his wife Mary, his spirited hosting of several extremely successful CME cultural and ecological tours with Doctors-on-Tour since 2005 including Chile, Argentina, Vietnam & Cambodia, Ecuador & the Galapagos, Peru, Northern and Southern India, Kenya & Tanzania, Brazil, Spain & Portugal, South Africa, New Zealand, China, Bhutan, Malaysia & Singapore, Iceland, Morocco, Japan, Sri Lanka and, most recently, Bali.

This will be Peter & Mary's third time leading a program to the Galapagos Islands.

Dr. Bloch may be contacted at -

tel: (289) 242-2752, e: 78pbloch@gmail.com

Tour highlights …

- Embark on a 5-day cruise of the **Galapagos Islands** with expert naturalist guides aboard the boutique expedition vessel, **M/Y Isabella II.** Follow in the steps of Charles Darwin as you walk on lava fields, swim with the sealions, penguins and giant turtles, see blue-footed boobies, iguanas, unique bird life and so much more !Explore the country's cosmopolitan capital, Quito, and it's beautifully preserved colonial center - the first UNESCO designated city in the world

- Immerse yourself in **Ecuador's Amazon rainforest** at a pristine ecolodge. Look for caiman, giant otters & howler monkeys as you navigate the Amazon's backwaters by day and search for the nocturnal creatures of the Amazon by night on a night walk. And see the rainforest from a different perspective as you venture high into the canopy – your choice of a 130-foot observation tower, canopy walkway or even a canopy crane !

- Eat & sleep in **centuries-old Andean haciendas** boasting rich Spanish colonial history in the foothills of the Andes - these estate accommodations are unique to Ecuador

- Browse for original handicrafts in South America's biggest trading market in **Otavalo**

- Hike along the shores of a flooded volcanic caldera to witness the spectacular views of the **Otavalan Highlands in Imbabura, "the land of lakes"**

The Academic Program (15 CME hours)…

Complete details of our Academic Program will be provided in your full documentation package, however, as noted in the detailed itinerary, the program will include the following –

- **Academic Conference** with lectures by Canadian & Ecuadorian medical experts & interactive discussions
- Visit to the **M/Y Isabella II ship's hospital and meeting with the ship's doctor** to review on-board medical equipment and learn about common medical ailments at sea.
- Medical tour of both a provincial **public hospital in Otavalo** to meet with local doctors and learn about the Ecuadorian medical system
- Presentations on **traditional healing methods** by a shaman in one of the local Amazonian communities close to Sacha Lodge.
- Learn about **herbal medicine** through a "hands-on" rainforest walk (Quichua native) in the Amazon and a presentation on the Useful Plants of Sacha Lodge (from the 2005 professional study by Barry Thomson) *

In addition, any physician who would like to make a short presentation at the Academic Conference should register their interest by completing the relevant section of the program registration form and the Group Medical Director, Dr. Peter Bloch, tel: (289) 242-2752, e: 78pbloch@gmail.com) will contact you directly.

A certificate of attendance will be provided to all attendees of the Academic Program.

The Destinations… Quito, the Ecuadorian Amazon and the Galapagos Islands

If you are up for a larger than life experience consider the country of Ecuador. Despite its small size, Ecuador offers much more than one might ever imagine. The diverse landscape includes the Galapagos Islands; nearly 1400 miles of Pacific coastline, grasslands, volcanic mountains and the Amazon Rainforest and jungle. Considered a multicultural wonder, it is home to 44 different indigenous and ethnic groups whose culture and history contribute to the wide variety of delicious cuisine, all adding up to one big adventure for you!

Ecuador is located in north-western South America, bounded by Colombia on the north, by Peru on the east and south, and by the Pacific Ocean on the west. Named after the Spanish word for equator, Ecuador straddles the equator and has an area of 272,045 square kilometres. Ecuador's mainstream culture is defined by Ecuador's mestizo majority and, like their fascinating ancestry, is a mixture of European and Amerindian influences infused with African elements inherited from slave ancestors. Ecuador's indigenous communities are largely integrated into that mainstream culture to varying degrees, but some may also practice their own unique cultures, particularly the more remote indigenous communities of the Amazon basin.

Lying 965km west of the mainland in the Pacific Ocean, the **Galapagos Archipelago** encompasses over 50 islands of volcanic origin that are spread out over an area of about 4,500 square kilometers. Perhaps more so than any other place in the world, the fauna of the Galapagos Islands, part of Ecuador, are incredibly unique. The fascinating species found one these islands includes the Galapagos land iguana, blue-footed booby, Galápagos green turtle, sea cucumber, 13 endemic species of finch, Galápagos penguin, flightless cormorant, Galápagos hawk and sea lions to name but a sample. And, of course, the islands will always remain famous for the visit, in 1835, of Charles Darwin's ship, the Beagle. His observations of this amazing wildlife, their remarkable adaption to a hostile environment, and the subtle variations between races of the same species living on different islands led directly to his theory of natural selection and evolution.

Spend a couple of nights in **Imbabura**, commonly known as "the land of lakes", due to its high number of water reserves compared to other provinces. Lakes, volcanoes, valleys and paramo are some of the main components of Imbabura's landscape situated at the crossroads of the Andes.. Towns like Otavalo have a large indigenous population that produces handicrafts and multicoloured woven goods for export, made by hand, which represent the indigenous culture of the northern sierra and, in the same way, there are many other small towns that each have their own production speciality, several of which you will visit.

The **Ecuadorian Amazon** rainforest is one of the most breathtaking areas of the world. Under each broad leaf lies a whole new world, including 25,000 species of birds, 3,500 kinds of orchids and countless varieties of insects. This is the area with the greatest bio-diversity in the entire planet. Millions of different kinds of plants call this ecosystem their home. Over 50 varieties of multi-colored butterflies can be seen in their natural habitat. Search the trees for serpents and tarantulas, or watch as monkeys swing from branch to branch overhead and armadillos and ocelots prowl the forest floor. Visit a local indigenous community, many of whom are direct descendants of the Maya-Quiche culture of Central America. Watch how the women decorate traditional ceramics using their own hair as a paint brush and crushed, local stones as the base for paint. Or practice hunting your prey with a native, curare tipped blow gun which you've seen made in front of your eyes.

Quito is the perfect place to finish your tour of Ecuador as you explore the historic sites of Quito's Old Town (the first designated UNESCU World Heritage Site in the world) and its many museums, churches, shops, cafes, and restaurants.

Further information can be found at -

http://ecuador.travel/	Ecuador Tourist Board
http://www.galapagospark.org/	Galapagos National Park
http://www.galapagos.org	Galapagos Conservation Organization

The detailed itinerary…

Day 1 : May 20, 2026 - Depart Toronto for Quito, Ecuador

Fly from Toronto (or Montreal) to Quito, Ecuador.

After clearing customs and immigration, you will be met upon your arrival by a representative of our local tour operator partner in Ecuador and transferred to your Quito hotel.

Overnight in Quito.

Day 2- 7 : May 21 - 25 – Galapagos Islands cruise

M/Y Isabella II – 5 days/4 nights – North West Island itinerary – "Islands of Fire" (B, L, D)

Your five day **North West Island Itinerary** cruise of discovery has been designed to guarantee the best wildlife-viewing opportunities at several gorgeous landscapes in the archipelago.

This Western Galapagos itinerary begins when you fly into Baltra, a small island across the Itabaca Channel from **Santa Cruz Island**, home to giant tortoises, and research initiatives focused on conservation and sustainability. Explore the lush vegetation of the **Santa Cruz Highlands** before venturing down to the world-famous **Charles Darwin Research Station**. The next day, wake up to spectacular **Bartolome Island** and **Santiago Island**, each providing gorgeous scenery and captivating moments with the local wildlife, such as swimming off the white coral sand beach of Sullivan Bay, and exploring its dramatic lava field. The next morning takes us to **Dragon Hill,** home of dusty-yellow land iguanas, and then Buccaneer Cove with its dramatic cliffs and natural formations, following in the steps of Charles Darwin.

The following day, you will wake up in the western end of the archipelago, home to the largest and youngest islands in the archipelago — **Isabela and Fernandina** with their spectacular volcanic terrain. Take a zodiac to discover the wildlife of Punta Vicente Roca and later discover the youngest island in the archipelago, Fernandina, widely regarded as one of the most pristine environments anywhere on the planet, where life has evolved in its natural state, far from the intervention of man. The next day, say goodbye to the islands after an amazing journey! The entire crew aboard the Isabella II will do their utmost to ensure that your Galapagos experience is truly, deeply moving and memorable.

In 5 days, you can see 12 of the iconic **BIG15 Galapagos species**!

- Blue-footed Boobies
- Nazca Boobies
- Flightless Cormorants
- American Flamingos
- Great & Magnificent Frigatebirds
- Galapagos Sea Lions
- Galapagos Hawks
- Marine Iguanas
- Land Iguanas
- Galapagos Penguins
- Galapagos Fur Seals
- Galapagos Giant Tortoise

See them all at http://galapagosbig15.com/

Please note, the itineraries and programme are subject to change without prior notice, due mainly to adjustments in the policies and regulations of the Galápagos National Park, weather conditions, seasonal changes and safety reasons. For island excursions, you will always go ashore by zodiac (known locally as a panga) while the ship anchors off shore. There are two different kinds of island excursion landings, ie

- *Dry landing: guests step from the zodiac (panga) onto rocks or a dock.*
- *Wet landing: as the zodiac (panga) edges onto a sandy beach, guests step into around 20 cm (8 inches) of water and wade ashore.*

Day 2 : May 21 – Galapagos Cruise (Baltra, Santa Cruz Island – Puerto Ayora and Charles Darwin Research Station) (B, L, D)

Baltra *played an important role in the history of these islands. It was used by the U.S. Air Force during the Second World War; many U.S. Navy and crews of the submarines were stationed here to patrol the Pacific Ocean and protect the Panama Canal from enemy attack. During this period most of the indigenous fauna of the island was exterminated but land iguanas have recently been successfully re-introduced and can be seen near the Baltra airport. Ground finches, pelicans, frigate birds and the sea lions ("your Galapagos hosts" that can often be seen hanging around upon arrival at the dock to welcome visitors to the Islands) frequent the island which is a flat and dry, surrounded by reefs and few beaches with some vegetation such as cacti Opuntia (Prickly Pear Cactus) and other small trees. At the end of the war, the U.S. turned the base and its airport over to the government of Ecuador and today it is an Ecuadorian civil and military airport, as well as a naval base. As such, it is not actually within the boundaries of Galapagos National Park.*

Santa Cruz (*Area: 986 km 2, Maximum Altitude: 864m, Volcano: 964 m) supports one of the largest human populations of the five inhabited islands. Some 4,000 residents are distributed between the cattle-farming communities in the lush highlands and the coastal town of Puerto Ayora. Here you can visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to see the huge land tortoises, or los galápagos, which once flourished in the islands. The populations were decimated in the early 1800s by the whaling ships that stopped in the islands to fill their holds with fresh meat. On the north shore of the island, accessible only by sea, is an extensive mangrove lagoon called Black Turtle Cove. Here in the peacefulness of the mangroves turtles break the surface of the still waters, while fish, rays, and small sharks cruise below.*

Breakfast at hotel.

Transfer from hotel to airport for morning flight from Quito to Baltra next to Santa Cruz Island in the in the Galapagos Archipelago.

After landing at Baltra Airport, drive to the Itabaca Channel to take a ferry across to Santa Cruz Island. A 30-minute bus ride takes you to a restaurant in the fascinating, more humid Highlands of the island to enjoy lunch, and then continue south down to Puerto Ayora on the coast.

At the eastern end of Puerto Ayora, the largest town in the archipelago, we visit the **Charles Darwin Research Station** inaugurated in 1964 and located next to the Galapagos National Park administration. Both work together developing conservation programs for indigenous and endemic species to the archipelago. The Park Service is the state entity responsible for management and administration of both the land area of the Galapagos National Park and the Galapagos Marine Reserve. The Park Service has to manage and implement programs of protection and conservation of endangered species and work to maintain the ecological integrity of the Park in general. Here you can see tortoises from different islands, these species are found in large semi natural pens for protection and easy to see - divided into four stages: eggs, neonates, juveniles (at the age of being "repatriated"), and adults. It is also an excellent place to see finches of several species as well as some xerophytic vegetation.

Puerto Ayora, is the most populated village of the island and with the largest port in the archipelago. It offers different activities, restaurants and other amenities. The iguanas and seals rest on the load at the dock, while boobies and pelicans dive into the turquoise waters of Academy Bay.

Later in the afternoon, zodiac transfer to the Isabella II which is waiting in the bay.

Cabin assignment, Captain's welcome cocktail, introductory talk and dinner.

Day 3 : May 22 : Galapagos Cruise (Bartolome Island, Santiago Island) (B, L, D)

*An extinct volcano **Bartolomé Island (**Area: 1.2 km ², Maximum altitude: 114m) appears to be geology in its purest form: The island is dotted with craters, cinder cones, lava flows, spatter cones, and broken lava tunnels which run down from the summit. And, as an extinct volcano, it hosts a variety of red, orange, green, black and bright soils, bright volcanic formations and recent volcanic cones. And just offshore is Pinnacle Rock, the tuff cone that is probably the most famous (and most photographed) landmark in the Galápagos. Although at first glance, words that describe a moonscape — such as barren and desolate — might come to mind, Bartolomé supports a starkly beautiful complex of life. Some Arid and Littoral Zone plants have taken hold. On the slopes of the volcano, low-to-the-ground gray matplant thrives in the volcanic sand; and spurge, which forms a small tuft of green with tiny, white flowers, pushes up. Endemic lava cacti adorn some of the older lava. Species include brown pelican, Galapagos penguins, tintorera sharks and sea turtles.*

This morning, a Galapagos icon awaits - **Bartolome Island**. A great way to start the day, with a moderately steep hike to the summit of this diminutive island that boasts fantastic views of the archipelago - Pinnacle Rock, Sullivan Bay, and Daphne Major and Minor. The climb is aided by a wooden deck-like staircase, resting platforms and handrails – the view from the top is worth the effort!

Following the walk, we take a panga ride around colossal **Pinnacle Rock** in search of Galapagos penguins. There's also great snorkeling and swimming from the beach plus the chance to ride the glass bottom boat.

- *Wildlife: brown pelican, Galapagos penguins, white tip reef sharks, green sea turtles.*
- *Flora: Galapagos Carpetweed, maytenus octogena, thorn shrub, white / red mangrove, salt bush.*
- *Main attraction: a panoramic view of the archipelago and Pinnacle Rock.*
- *Type of terrain: wooden staircase (360 steps), beach.*
- *Physical Condition: Medium>high (if making the climb to the summit (optional) – 300+ steps on decking); Dry landing*

*Northwest of Santa Cruz Island**, Santiago Island**,also known as James Island (Area: 585 km 2, Maximum altitude: 920m, Volcanoe: 920 m, last eruption 1890) is one of the oldest of the islands and a place of great geological significance being the fourth territorial extension. Santiago is composed of a number of tuff cones and a central volcanic dome. The vegetation is dense in the highlands because of the humidity, and a scalesia forest covers the northwest side of the volcano. Once a favorite island of pirates and whalers, Santiago is now appreciated for its Galápagos fur seal grotto and newly plant-colonized lava flow on the southern coast. Unfortunately, settlers introduced goats, pigs, donkeys, and rats to Santiago Island, which devastated the landscape and caused it to go almost barren. At one time, the feral goat population was estimated to have reached about one hundred thousand, started by only four introduced animals in the early 1800s.*

Due to an extensive effort by the Galápagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Research Station, the goats have been eradicated and the vegetation on the island is returning to its natural state. Pigs were once the main predators of Galápagos green turtle eggs; but now, the pigs, too, have been entirely eradicated on Santiago. It has several unique landing spots including Puerto Egas, Espumilla Beach, **Sullivan Bay** and **Buccaneer Cove** (to be visited on Day 4).

In the afternoon, visit **Sullivan Bay**, a site of great geological interest located on the south-east of Santiago Island. Anyone interested in volcanology and geology is delighted with the incredible lava formations of Sullivan Bay. A white coral sand beach (where there will be the opportunity to swim) landing leads you towards a lava field as far as the eye can see as this area is covered by lava flows pahohoe type (lava solidified in a corrugated or accordion fashion) and 'a' a,. Sullivan lava formed in 1897, is geologically a very young flow. The magma formed is flat, but the movement of underground lava, the rapid cooling and other eruptions led to the break in many places. One can observe marine and terrestrial birds, a colony of Galapagos fur seals and black marine iguanas adapted very well to this environment.

- *The length of the path is 1.5 km approximately*
- *The zone is covered by flows such as Pahoehoe. The Sullivan lava was formed in 1897.The magma formed is flat, but the lava movement is underground, the fast freeze and another eruptions made that it has broken in different parts.*
- *Fauna: Galapagos hawk, lava lizard, Galapagos penguins, small ground finch, medium ground finch, large ground finch, cactus finch*
- *Flora: maytenus octogona, lava cactus, thorn shrub, White mangrove, mollugo, incense tree.*
- *Main Attraction: lava fields*
- *Type of field: lava and beach*
- *Physical condition: Low>medium (be sure to wear good solid walking shoes or boots as the “a” lava is sharp and pointy; Dry landing*

A coral beach landing leads you towards a lava field as far as the eye can see. Hunt and peck over the two distinguished types of lava, pahoehoe and 'a', for signs of plant life that have managed to emerge over the past 100 years since the most recent volcanic explosion. A truly amazing volcanic experience... up close and personal - the perfect place to see and understand the volcanic origin of the Galapagos.

Day 4 : May 23 : Galapagos Cruise (Santa Cruz Island, Santiago Island (B, L, D)

The north shore of **Santa Cruz** hosts the fascinating landscapes of **Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill)** – the site of this morning's landing. The first part of our walk passes a brackish-water lagoon frequented by shorebirds, ducks and flamingos, while further inland, the trail offers a beautiful view of the bay and the western islands of the archipelago, as well as the chance of observing land iguanas (for which the visitor site is named, following a concerted effort to conserve them by the Galapagos National Park). After our walk, there is the opportunity to snorkel from the shore, hoping to spot rays, green turtles and sea lions.

- *Wildlife: sea lions, marine iguanas, land Iguanas, flamingos, waders, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finches*
- *Flora: Torchwood trees, black and white mangrove, Galapagos croton/milkwort, leatherleaf, prickly pear cactus, saltbush*
- *Main attraction: Land Iguanas, flamingos, finches*
- *Type of terrain: coastal area sandy. Inland walk over rounded boulders (like a river bed);*
- *Physical Condition: Low; Dry landing*

Over lunch, sail back to **Santiago Island** and explore the coastline along the impressive cliffs of **Buccaneer Cove**, with it's distinct purple sands, learning about the area's distant and recent history. Pirates used to refit their boats and search for water and giant tortoises here and years ago, several ceramic jars were found at the bottom of the bay; some were filled with marmalade — others, wine. Today, the cove is home to a large number of marine birds, sea lions, and inter-tidal organisms. Enjoy fantastic natural formations such as the "Elephant Rock", "The Bishop" and an impressive natural cave. This is a great site for snorkeling or glass bottom boat ride.

- *Fauna: Galapagos Mockingbird, galapagos hawk, marine iguana, galapagos fur seals, galapagos dove, woodpecker finch, small ground finch, cactus finch, large ground finch, medium ground finch*
- *Flora: beach morning glory, thread leafed chaff flower, castela, yellow cordial, incense tree, galapagos lantana, gray matplan, prickly pear cactus*
- *Main Attraction: caves and salty mines, sea lion colony, snorkelling opportunities*
- *Type of terrain: Beach, paths;*
- *Physical condition: Low; Wet landing*

Day 5 : May 24 – Galapagos Cruise (Isabela Island, Fernandina Island) (B, L, D)

Isabela *is the largest of the Galápagos Islands, with more than half of the land surface area in the archipelago. It was formed by the joining of six young volcanoes (Alcedo; Cerro Azul; Darwin; Sierra Negra; Wolf, which has the highest summit in the Galápagos at an elevation of 5,600 feet; and Ecuador, an extinct volcano that has been destroyed by erosion and wave action) that are joined by extensive lava flows. Along with Fernandina Island, it is one of the most volcanically active spots on earth. While these volcanic regions contain extensive lava fields and little vegetation, the southern highlands and various other regions are covered by dense vegetation including the unique red mangrove. Isabela Island is also home to many native Galapageños living in the Island's largest town, Puerto Villamil.*

More wild giant tortoises live on Isabela than on any other island in the Galápagos. Isabela's large size and volcanic topography created barriers for the slow-moving reptiles; they were unable to cross the lava flows, causing several different sub-species of tortoise to develop. Today, Galápagos giant tortoises roam free in many of the calderas.

This morning we visit the **Punta Vicente Roca** area in the north where the remnants of an ancient volcano form two turquoise coves with a bay that is well protected from ocean swells. There is no landing site at this location but it is a popular anchorage from which to take zodiac rides along the cliffs that are the volcano's remains. As well as admiring the island's epic and beautiful coastline we will seek out abundant wildlife including colonies of Galapagos fur seals, the nesting sites of Nazca boobies, not to mention flightless cormorants, penguins, and marine iguanas. In addition to the dramatic geology found here. Ocean conditions permitting, you'll also enjoy the chance to hop aboard our glass-bottom boat or go snorkeling in the presence of green sea turtles, sea lions, ocean sunfish, and even penguins.

- *Wildlife: Green sea Turtles, Galapagos penguins, marine iguanas, sea lions, masked boobies, blue-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, frigate, flightless cormorants*
- *Flora: n/a*
- *Attraction: Volcanoes of Isabela swim with sea turtles, sea lions and manta rays.*
- *Type of land: Snorkeling in deep water for all.*
- *Physical Condition: Low; NO landing*

Back on board, we navigate along the Bolivar Channel, where nutrient-rich upwellings provide fertile fishing grounds for cetaceans as we head south to the neighbouring island of Fernandina.

*If stepping onto Baltra is like standing on the moon, visiting **Fernandina Island** is like seeing the Earth when it was brand-new. The most westerly of the Galápagos Islands, Fernandina is the youngest and most active volcanically, with eruptions occurring from its single volcano, La Cumbre, every few years. Lava fields extend from La Cumbre's base to the ocean, and both types of flows — `a`a and pahoehoe — can be seen. Fernandina is literally land-in-the-making. Being so young, Fernandina is arguably one of the most pristine ecosystems on the planet. It is a mangrove area where you can appreciate the geological differences that only Galapagos offers. The predominant species in this place is the endemic flightless cormorant. You will also find the largest colony of marine iguanas, as well as the Galapagos snake, Galapagos hawk, marine iguanas, lava lizards, Galapagos fur seals and Galapagos penguins.*

The afternoon is dedicated to exploring the youngest island of the archipelago, Fernandina, which, having no introduced mammals, boasts a very unique environment with a very high density of marine iguanas, who share their space with sea lions, Sally light-foot crabs, hawks, penguins and the flightless cormorants. At **Punta Espinosa**, a narrow stretch of land on the northeast that faces Isabela Island, you may walk on lava rocks amid thousands of stacked marine iguanas; and watch Galápagos penguins swim and large flocks of blue-footed boobies fish just offshore. Whales and dolphins may be seen in the water beyond them, while the nearby mangroves provide a habitat for yellow warblers, a variety of herons, and possibly the mangrove finch. Take the opportunity to snorkel, with the possibility of seeing and even swimming alongside flightless cormorants and penguins. Other available activities are kayaking and a glass bottom boat ride. In 1994, Punta Espinosa was raised between two and three feet by tectonic uplift, leaving the landing dock inaccessible except at high tide.

- *Wildlife: flightless cormorant, Galapagos snakes biserialis, Galapagos hawk, marine iguana, lava lizard, Galapagos sea lion, and Galapagos penguins.*
- *Flora: lava cactus, white mangrove, black mangrove, red mangrove, Galapagos shore petunia.*
- *Main Attraction: pahoehoe lava. The largest colony of marine iguanas, flightless cormorant's colony (unique in the world).*
- *Type of land: Galapagos National Park trails, lava and sand.*
- *Physical condition: Medium; Dry landing*

During the cruise, there will be the following CME activities which will take place when the ship is sailing between the island visits -

- Academic Session
- Visit to the ship's hospital to review on-board medical equipment
- Meeting with the ship's doctor to learn about common medical ailments at sea, emergency procedures etc .

The exact days / times will be notified with your complete documentation package.

Specific Inclusions and Exclusions re Isabella II…

Inclusions

- Cabin accommodation
- All meals
- Island sightseeing
- Naturalist guides and lecture services in English
- Snorkeling gear
- Luggage handling
- 24/7 Medical care on board (but not the cost of medication)
- Taxes and transfers in the islands
- Internet / Wi-Fi : Internet connectivity consists of 2 computers workstation in the business center and wi-fi in the yacht's social areas (given the remote location of the Galapagos Islands, the internet connection is intermittent and low bandwidth)

Exclusions

- Beverages (both soft drinks and alcoholic** beverages)
- Gratuities
- All items of a personal nature such as laundry services etc
- Galapagos Park Ingala Fee (US$20/person) – payable locally at Quito airport pre flight to Galapagos
- Galapagos Park Entry Fee (US$200/person) – payable locally upon arrival in Galapagos
- Wet Suits available for rent on board, US$20+taxes per guest

** The ship charges guests who wish to bring bottles of wine and/or spirits aboard our vessels a corkage fee of US$29+taxes.

Galapagos images…

Red lava crabs

Giant tortoise

Land iguana

Fur seal

Sea lion

Blue footed boobies

Day 6 : May 25 – Galapagos Cruise (Baltra) - Quito - Imbabura / Otavalo (B, D)

We disembark at Baltra Island in order to transfer to the airport to take the afternoon flight back to Quito where you will be met upon your arrival by a representative of our local tour operator partner in Ecuador for the next component of your Ecuador tour – 2 nights in a 300 year old hacienda north of Quito in the beautiful Imbabura region, close to Otavalo.

Imbabura *is commonly known as "the land of lakes", due to its high number of water reserves compared to other provinces. Lakes, volcanoes, valleys and paramo are some of the main components of Imbabura's landscape. Towns like* ***Otavalo*** *have a large indigenous population that produces handicrafts and multicoloured woven goods for export, made by hand, which represent the indigenous culture of the northern sierra. In the same way, and there are many other small towns that each have their own production speciality.*

Late afternoon arrival in Quito.

Take the drive north of Quito to the Imbabura province in the foothills of the Andes – a beautiful area of lakes and distinct picturesque towns where many of the inhabitants of Quito have their weekend escapes. This is the land of the Otavaleños including South America's most famous indigenous trading fair at Otavalo.

Dinner and overnight at a historic hacienda in the Otavalo area.

Day 7 : May 26 – Imbabura / Otavalo (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the hacienda.

In the morning, drive to the beautiful **Cuicocha Lake** (literally), a 3 km wide flooded volcanic caldera at the foot of Cotacachi Volcano in the Cordillera Occidental of the Ecuadorian Andes. Its name comes from the *Kichwa* indigenous language and means "Lago del Cuy" (or “Lake of the Guinea Pig” in English) after its shape. Take a walk along its shores to witness the spectacular views finishing off with a visit to the Interpretation Centre to learn about the region and its volcanic history.

Then onto **Cotacahi**, a town famous for its production of fine leather goods at exceptional value before stopping at a **music workshop** to see how many of the Andes wood instruments are made and enjoy a short performance.

Enjoy a late lunch at another of the historic properties in the area.

Then return to your resident hacienda later in the afternoon to enjoy some free time to enjoy the historic property and its extensive landscaped gardens. Here you will find hundreds of species of the most beautiful and colorful flowers, trees of every imaginable fruit, nutritious herbs for body and soul and even a stables.

Dinner and overnight at the hacienda.

Day 8 : May 27 – Imbabura / Otavalo - Quito (B, L)

Breakfast at the hacienda.

This morning there will be a split program -

Physicians – Visit to the Otavalo Provincial Hospital to learn about the Ecuadorian medical system.

Non-physicians – Spend time at **South America's most famous market in Otavalo** - explore, and barter, at the many stalls full of ponchos, scarves, blankets, wall hangings, woven belts (fajas), hats, handbags, silverware and much more.

Otavalo Indians are the most ambitious and prosperous of the Indian groups in Ecuador, often travelling abroad to sell their wares. Yet despite their exposure to foreigners, they have not lost their tribal identity and traditions.

Afterwards, start to make your way back to Quito with a stop en route at a local hosteria on the shores of Lago San Pablo where you will enjoy spectacular views of the Imbabura Volcanoe as you take lunch.

Continue the drive back to Quito through the foothills of the Andes including, as you depart the Imbabura province, a stop at Miralago for a wonderful sight of the San Pablo Lake returning to the Quito area in the late afternoon.

Dinner and overnight at a hotel in the Quito airport area as you will have an early flight tomorrow as you head to the Ecuadorian Amazon, the next component of your immersion in yet another totally different part of this diverse country.

Day 9 - 12 : May 28 – 31 (4 days / 3 nights) – Ecuadorian Amazon Rainforest Ecolodge Program (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Quito airport for your morning flight from Quito to Coca.

Fly over the high Andes and down to the Amazon frontier town of Puerto Francisco de Orellana (called Coca by the locals). From here you travel by motorized canoe two and a half hours down the Napo River - the canoe is covered against sun and rain, but a light jacket can be useful for the wind and spray. Be sure to wear sun protection, as the sun's reflection off the water can sometimes cause a burn.

All bags will be placed in waterproof bags for the trip down the Napo River, for protection against spray and rain. Following your canoe ride, a short walk through a thick palm forest to **Sacha Lodge** - your home for the next three nights and base for an incredible Amazon adventure!

Sacha Lodge is located within a 5000-acre private ecological reserve in Ecuador's Amazon region, an accessible yet pristine rainforest sanctuary and home to about 500 species of birds, pink dolphins, giant otters, caiman, tapirs, capybaras, and more. Among this lodge's exclusive attractions are a 940-foot long canopy walkway and tower giving unparalleled access and views of the treetops, one of the largest butterfly houses in Ecuador, and the Yasuni parrot lick. Combining these natural attractions with excellent food, comfortable lodging and some of the best guides in the whole Amazon area, Sacha commands a respected reputation amongst Amazonia ecolodges. For bird-lovers in particular this is considered to be one of the best lodges in Latin America.

During your stay you will learn about herbal medicine through a "hands-on" rainforest walk (Quichua native) and a presentation on the Useful Plants of Sacha Lodge (from the 2005 professional study by Barry Thomson).

There will also be presentation on traditional healing methods from a local village shaman.

Complete details of the lodges facilities, activities and typical days' programs can be found in the separate section on Sacha Lodge on page 27 of this brochure.

Day 12 : May 31 – Sacha Lodge – Quito (B, L, D)

*Built on a carpet of ancient Incan ruins, Ecuador's bustling capital of **Quito** was the first city in the world to be declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** being designated the "Heritage of Mankind".*

Located in the foothills of the Andean mountains and overlooked by Mount Pichincha, the city, and it's surrounding area, is considered one of the most beautiful regions in Latin America. Located at 9200 feet above sea level, but only 25 km from the Equator line, Quito enjoys a near perfect spring-like climate with mild, sunny mild days and cool nights almost year-round. Broad Ecuadorean smiles, racy salsa music and big bowls of hearty stews and soups warmly counter Quito's snowy mountainous backdrop. In the historic Old Town, superbly preserved baroque churches and monasteries exemplify the fusion of Spanish, Italian, Moorish, Flemish and indigenous influences while and contrast with the contemporary architecture of modern Quito, a cosmopolitan city of great cultural diversity.

Breakfast at the lodge.

Return from Sacha by the same route as upon your arrival to the lodge arriving in Quito late morning.

Lunch will be at a local restaurant en route to the old colonial centre of Quito.

After lunch, enjoy a walking tour of **Quito's colonial quarter**, the largest and best preserved of South America where you will visit the Independence Plaza, flanked by the Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, the Municipal Building and the Archbishop's Palace. Visit the temple of La Compañía de Jesús and its awesome gilded interior. Continue on to the Monastery of San Francisco, one the of great religious buildings of the New World; its impressive façade and atrium that lead to its Baroque interior influenced by Moorish style, with the winged Virgin of Quito at its main altar.

Farewell Dinner to relive the memories of your time in this fascinating and diverse South American country.

Overnight at hotel in Quito.

Day 13 : June 1 – Quito – Toronto (or Montreal) (B)

Breakfast at hotel.

Transfer to Quito airport for your return flight to Toronto (or Montreal).

Arrival back in Canada late in the day on June 1, 2026.

The Galapagos Islands cruise... – M/Y ISABELLA II (5 days / 4 nights)

Offering the perfect and intimate space for you and your companion, Yacht Isabela II invites you to step aboard and experience the Galapagos in absolute comfort. With an elegant yet relaxed atmosphere she cruises the Galapagos Islands efficiently, allowing guests to enjoy their adventure fully and in style and, with a crew that has remained almost unchanged for years, you can expect seamless attention to detail that will make your stay onboard extra special. Naturalist Guides will also form an important part of the journey aboard Isabela II, accompanying you on a fantastic and exciting selection of land and aquatic activities in the Galapagos. The vessel also has the latest in sustainable technology which gives it the added advantage of protecting the delicate Galapagos ecosystem that it navigates around.

Yacht Isabela II is a spacious Galapagos Yacht with a total of three decks (Main, Cabin & Sun Deck) which houses 40 guests in 20 spacious outside cabins, all with private bathrooms and air conditioning. Relax in the beautifully designed communal and viewing areas together with excellent entertainment space from the inside lounge, bar-salon, to the dining room and upper deck. Here you'll find ample seating, a bar and observation deck, a solarium, as well as a Jacuzzi for the more adventurous. Perfect to take in the magnificent vistas of the enchanted islands go during the day (when you’re not on an island landing expedition, of course…) and star gazing by night. There is also an extensive onboard library offering resources of natural history about the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador, while two computer stations in the business center offer internet and WiFi (although internet connections are intermittent and low-bandwidth). To work off those sumptuous meals, there is a 24-hour, indoor gym with glass panels to view outside on the Boat Deck. Throughout the ship, find TV screens outlining the day’s adventures and updating guests with necessary details. From the dining room to sundeck to stateroom, there is a superior sense of quality and high levels of service throughout.

Creative Ecuadorian and international cuisine will be prepared under the watchful eye of the ship's Cordon-Bleu trained gastronomic director. Freshly caught fish and seafood and locally grown organic fruit and vegetables will feature heavily on menus served in the main dining room with some meals also served al fresco on the sundeck when weather conditions and navigation permits. Drinks are a specialty aboard Isabela II as well, created by an expert, Peruvian mixologist.

Designed to provide both comfort and scientific information to guests visiting the Galapagos National Park, the ship offers five and seven night educational itineraries in the Northern, South-Eastern and Western Galápagos Islands sailing to some of the remotest islands of the Archipelago focused in the Natural History of the Galapagos while planned in such a way as to ensure the continued preservation of this unique ecosystem. On each itinerary, there is a **Galapagos Naturalist Team** consisting of an Expedition Leader and naturalist guides who will not only escort guests ashore in small groups but will also provide on-board presentations and eye-catching lectures regarding natural history issues that complement your island excursions. Together with the Captain, they will plan the day's program and at night as they also become your experts in explaining the beautifully arranged constellations of the southern skies. Activities range from daily land expeditions to a host of aquatic activities, including ocean kayaking, paddle-boarding, snorkeling with sea lions and glass bottom boat expeditions – all of the options permitted by the Galápagos National Park.

Ship specifications -

- Year Built - 1979
- Remodeled - 2018 (commissioned to renowned Ecuadorian designer Diego Arteta, who also decorated Ecuador's Casa Gangotena and Mashpi Lodge)
- Passenger capacity - 40
- Crew Members - 26 crew members (English, German, French, Spanish, and Italian)
- Length - 166 feet
- Beam - 38 feet
- Cruising speed - 10 knots, top speed – 12 knots
- Engines - 2 CUMMINS KTA-38-M1 1000 HP
- Tenders - 4

Certifications: For passenger and crew safety, the vessel is fully compliant with all IMO, MARPOL, and SOLAS guidelines

Facilities and amenities -

- Bar & Lounge
- Dining room
- Outside Sky Bar & Al-fresco dining
- Gift Shop
- Gym
- 24h Coffee station (coffee, tea, chocolates and chilled water)
- Satellite telephone
- WiFi hotspot (intermittent/low bandwidth)
- PA system
- Jacuzzi
- Reading room and natural history library
- Fitness rom
- Air conditioned throughout
- Snorkeling equipment (included)
- Wetsuit rental
- Glass bottom boat
- Kayaks and paddleboards
- 24/7 infirmary (medical doctor on board)

Cabin Categories -

Yacht Isabela II has 20 cabins to cater to 40 couples. On the Cabin Deck are 16 Classic Cabins, 2 Classic Family Cabins, and 1 Standard Single Cabin, whilst on the Main Deck is the Owner's Cabin. All cabins feature private en-suite bathrooms, AC, a hairdryer, safety deposit box, ample storage space, and ocean views.

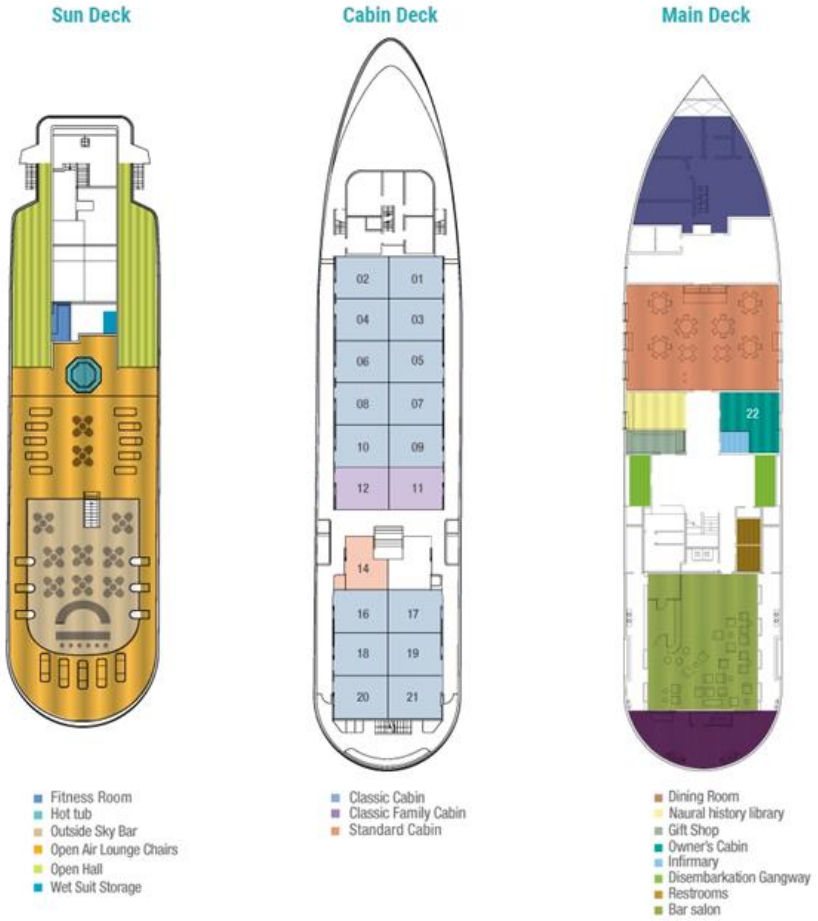
- 1 Standard single cabin, double bed (128 ft² / 12.05 m²), max occupancy 1 guest – Cabin Deck
- 16 Classic cabins, twin beds (139 ft² / 12.8 m²), max occupancy 2 guests – Cabin Deck
- 2 Classic family cabins, double bed + pull-out couch (139 ft² / 12.8 m²) max occupancy 2 adults + 1 child (12 and under) – Cabin Deck (on request)

* It is not possible to choose specific cabin numbers

Classic cabin

Classic family cabin

Deck Plan



Cabin amenities and features -

Classic cabin, twin beds (139 ft² / 12.8 m²), max occupancy 2 guests – Cabin Deck

- Exterior cabin, large windows (no portholes)
- 2 twin beds
- Small sofa
- Individually controlled air conditioning
- In-room Safe
- Biodegradable soap, shampoo, and conditioner
- Free reusable water bottles
- Luggage Storage
- Extra blankets
- 110V type A&B electrical outlets and USB ports
- Hair Dryer
- Spacious closet with hangers
- Public address system
- Reading lights

Classic Family cabin, double bed + pull-out couch (139 ft² / 12.8 m²) max occupancy 2 adults + 1 child (12 and under) – Cabin Deck

- As per Classic cabin (above) but with one double bed

Activities

The reason that you travel to Galapagos is to experience the islands and their unique Fauna. Therefore, we have designed your programs in such a way that they allow you to connect and engage with the Galapagos in the most fulfilling way possible from different perspectives: guided hikes, relaxing beach walks, snorkeling and swimming – even the ship's own glass bottom boat for those who wish a more relaxing option to view the diversity of the marine wildlife. The islands are visited twice a day and always involve a leisurely hike in a small group led by your own naturalist guide, allowing you to experience close encounters with nature. Enjoy the benefit of having a smaller Guest-Guide ratio, allowing excursion groups to stay well below the National Park maximum of 16:1. Transportation to each island is by ship's Zodiac as the Isabella II anchors offshore – part of the Galapagos Conservation Authority's regulations. There are both dry and wet (beach) landings dependent on each island and some of the hikes are on rocky, uneven terrain which require a certain level of physical condition (see physical condition rating for each island landing in the main body of the itinerary). Other activities include star gazing, scientific and ecological onboard conferences, and natural history lectures.

Additional information may be found at –

https://www.metropolitan-touring.com/galapagos-cruises/yacht-isabela-ii/

You will also find a short video on the Galapagos Islands and Isabella II at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qwL2aJFWkc

And click below for an article written about one of our Galapagos programs published in The Medical Post…

http://www.doctorsontour.ca/medical-post-2009.php

The hotel and hacienda bases…

Wyndham Quito Airport (4*)

Experience the warmest of welcomes when you visit the recently opened Wyndham Quito Airport hotel - a top choice of Quito hotels, with a prime location at the Mariscal Sucre International Airport (UIO). 150 well-appointed guest rooms with free high-speed WiFi, 51-inch flat-screen TV, digital safe, 24 hour room service and special extras such as an iPod docking station, ergonomic work space and digital safe. Facilities include a restaurant & bar, fitness centre & spa treatments, massage, indoor pool and conference centre.

Additional info at -

https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham/quito-ecuador/wyndham-quito-airport/overview#

Hacienda Cusin, Otavalo (4*) …in the foothills of the Andes

Hacienda Cusin is a restored, 17th-century Andean estate close to the famous market town of Otavalo. Guest rooms, are furnished with antiques and select Andean craft, have log-burning fireplaces, beamed-ceilings & gardens. Ancient lakebed soil, a predictable equatorial sun and avid gardeners have created several acres of year-round flowering gardens including cobblestone lanes, fountain patios, belladonna, bougainvillea, agapantha, foxgloves, orchids, palms, which attract over 50 species of birds**.** Often snow-capped 15,000ft/4,570m Imbabura & Cotacachi mountains are reflected in Lago San Pablo.

https://www.haciendacusin.com/

In the unlikely event that a property needs to be changed it will be substituted with one of a similar standard.

The Amazon Ecolodge… SACHA ECOLODGE (4 days / 3 nights)

Location

Sacha Lodge is east of the town of Coca on the Napo River in Ecuador's Amazon region within a 5000-acre private ecological reserve.

Getting there

From Quito, a 25-minute flight takes you over the Andes Mountains' majestic snow-covered peaks and down over 8500 feet (2600 meters) into the Amazon Region. The flight destination is the port town of Puerto Francisco de Orellana, locally known as Coca, where you will be met by your guide and taken to a private dock to boarding a covered motorized canoe for a 2-hour, 50-mile (80-kilometer) trip down the sediment-rich waters of the Napo, the largest river in Ecuadorian Amazonia.

During the journey you may spot handsome shore birds such as herons, kingfishers, spoonbills and ospreys between the scattered native huts as you travel steadily away from civilization. Upon arrival to Sacha Lodge's private reserve, take your first walk along a raised boardwalk through dense flooded palm forest where several species of monkeys are often sighted. The path leads to Pilchicocha lake, a blackwater paradise where dugout canoes await to carry you across the lake to the lodge.

History

Sacha Lodge’s story begins in the 1970s when a Swiss citizen founder called “Benny” came to Ecuador in search of adventure. He was captivated by the Napo River, and in 1985, Benny opened his first tourist lodge, La Casa del Suizo, on the Upper Napo River.

Soon, civilization approached, and to satisfy his appetite for wilderness, Benny looked deeper into the Ecuadorian forest. Months later, he found a stretch of forest some two hours away from Coca.

Benny immediately fell in love with the mysterious black water of Pilchicocha Lake and purchased 500 hectares of land surrounding it. With the help of 170 local employees, Sacha Lodge was officially opened in 1992.

Facilities

Lodging at Sacha combines the highest comfort to the traveller with the preservation of the environment and rainforest ambience. All of the 26 cabins, with high thatched roofs and private shaded terraces are constructed with traditional materials and nestle subtly into the lush surroundings. Each of the cabins has two comfortable double beds, a private bathroom with flushing toilet and hot shower, insect screens, electrical outlets, ceiling fans and hammocks overlooking the jungle where you may see fauna such as toucans, agoutis and monkeys right outside the cabin. Internet connections are available in the open areas of the lodge (additional cost).

The lodge has 2 restaurant / bars -

La Balsa - a covered al fresco lounge area with a breath taking view over the shimmering Pilchicocha Lake. As well as swerving a buffet breakfast and lunch, it is the perfect place to read a book with a glass of wine, spot birds, caiman and giant otters, or to watch the crimson sunsets and tremendous thunder storms.

Oropendola - a rustic, airy restaurant where an a la carte dinner is served, bringing fine dining to the jungle. Using fresh and sustainable products, the lodge's chef prepares meals to delight the tastes of a world traveler while satisfying the appetite of an adventurer!

Activities

Days during your stay at Sacha Lodge are filled with discovery. Activities are spread out over a wide area and allow visitors to explore several distinct but equally fascinating habitats. Several trails lead through pristine terra firme forest, where 150 foot kapok trees tower above and roots form huge buttresses to give trees support. Others follow strategically raised boardwalks in seasonally flooded forests, where walking on the ground would be nearly impossible during most of the year due to groundwater.

A favorite activity is to paddle dugout canoes along tannin-rich black-water creeks and lakes, where luxuriant lianas, orchids, bromeliads and palm trees thrive. And wherever an outing may lead the possibilities of spotting animals, from the tiny pygmy marmoset to the feared ocelot or puma, are endless. Swimming and piranha fishing are also popular and, for the adventurous visitor, there are night walks and canoe trips in search of caimans and other nocturnal creatures. Note: Swimming in Pilchicocha Lake is at your own risk and is only allowed in the enclosed, netted pool off the restaurant dock and, from a safety perspective, NOT in open lake water outside of this enclosed, netted pool. Please observe and follow Sacha Lodge warnings if you wish to swim in this enclosed area.

A typical day at Sacha…

A typical day at Sacha begins at sunrise or earlier, in order to take advantage of the cool morning hours when the rainforest's animals are most active. In the afternoon, visits begin at around 3:00 and often continue into the evening, when the nocturnal insect and frog chorus begins.

Sacha Lodge's guests are divided into small groups for activities, each of which are led by not one but two guides. One is a native guide, raised in the area and with expert knowledge of the rainforest's medicinal and other useful plants. This guide will often share stories from local culture, and lead the way with accustomed eyes that are incredible for spotting the jungle's hidden creatures. The second guide to accompany each group is a bilingual naturalist, who has been educated in the biology and ecology of the rainforest and who will translate for the native guides as well as share their own scientific knowledge about any plants and animals you may encounter.

A typical day is as follows -

5:30 am – 6 am | Early wake up

6 am - 6:30 am | Breakfast buffet at "La Balsa" restaurant

6:30 am – 7 am | Depart for morning excursion.

10:30 am - 11:30 am | Return to the lodge for a snack. You can visit our Butterfly House, get refreshed at our Lake Pool or go Piranha catch & release fishing.

1 pm – 2 pm | Lunch buffet at our lakeside "La Balsa" restaurant.

2 pm – 3:30 pm | During your free time, visit our Butterfly House, get refreshed at our Lake Pool or go for Piranha catch & release fishing.

3:30 pm – 4 pm | Depart for the afternoon excursion.

6 – 6:30 pm | Return to the lodge and plan your next day tours with your guide at "Oropendola" Bar.

7 – 8:30 pm | A la carte gourmet dinner.

8:15 pm – 8:30 pm | Depart for the night excursion.

Recharging night's sleep.

Sacha Lodge offers a number of very unique sites to its visitors. A **130-foot observation tower** and a **940-foot canopy walkway** both give visitors a chance to get above the rainforest canopy for incredible views of the area. There is also the recently added **canopy crane** where guests may ride 45 meters above the ground to explore the rainforest canopy in an elevator-like metal basket suspended from a boom. Our guides, via remote control, will move throughout 2 acres of forest to find and drop in on birds and monkeys from above as they go about their daily business. All of these special facilities offer a perfect way to observe toucans and macaws and, with luck, spot noisy howler monkeys or a three-toed sloth.

Another site is the **butterfly house** where over 40 local butterfly species are bred. Visitors can see the process of breeding and raising these colorful insects and wander through the "flying room." Finally, there's the **Yasuni Parrot Lick**. Just a short distance from Sacha Lodge is Ecuador's most famous parrot lick, where visitors can observe dozens of the magnificently colored birds feeding on the clay.

Moderate physical condition is required to participate in several of the lodge's activities – however, according to your interests and physical condition (but not your age!), different activity levels are offered which depend mainly on the distance and time you would like to spend on the rainforest trails; all other activities can be included in any program….. and there is always the option of taking some time to just relax in your hammock and experience the sights and sounds of the Amazon…

A full list of activities may be fund at https://www.sachalodge.com/attractions/

And complete information regarding all aspects of the lodge at http://www.sachalodge.com/

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The price… Cdn $12,795 / person (Early Booking Price valid until Oct 27, 2025)

Pricing (exc. Insurance) / per person - Cdn$	Including Air from Toronto (and all regional air in Ecuador)

Per person (double occupancy)	
- registrations up to Oct 27, 2025	**$ 12,795**
- registrations after Oct 27, 2025	$ 13,295

Single supplement	$ 4,680
Single share matching fee	$ 300 **
Transportation / hotel taxes and fees	$ 765
Academic program registration fee	$ 950 (per MD registrant)
Payable locally - Galapagos Park Entry Fee - Galapagos Park Ingala Card	 US$ 200 US$ 20

** Single share matching fee – can't find a traveling partner but don't want to pay a single supplement? We'll keep our eyes open for similar clients and try and find you a compatible person to share a room with.

CANADIAN $ PRICING !

Please note, unlike many programs offered by other companies including a Galapagos cruise component (and which are also usually land only prices excluding air fare), which are quoted in US$, **our prices remain in Canadian$** - and, with a premium now of around 40% (at August 2025) when paying in US$, this makes a significant difference.

Flights are also available from **Montreal** (supplement applies).

BUSINESS CLASS UPGRADES AVAILABLE – see our registration form for details.

COST EFFICIENT INVOICING !

For **invoicing** purposes re Academic Program registrants and their companions, we can also provide a separate invoice with the registrant's air cost plus 100% of the accommodation costs included in the registrant's invoice.

REPEAT CUSTOMER DISCOUNT

If you are one of our many repeat clients, having travelled with Doctors-on-Tour on one of our previous educational tours, you are eligible for our Repeat Customer Discount. Simply deduct $100 /person for each separate tour that you have travelled with the company on up to a maximum of $300 /person (ie travelled on one previous tour, deduct $100; two tours, $200; three or more tours, $300). **Please note, this discount is subject to the payment (s) for the tour being made by cheque**. The discount is to be made from the final balance payment with the deposit amount being paid in full.

ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM

Our **online registration form** may be accessed via the direct link below –

https://fs22.formsite.com/Doctorsontour/GALAMAZ2604/index.html

Full program information, interesting links, Medical Post / Doctors Review articles may be found at –

http://www.doctorsontour.ca/cme-programs-ecuador-galamazon-upcoming-2604.php

OUR PROGRAMS HAVE LIMITED CAPACITY !

OUR UNIQUELY DESIGNED ECUADOR PROGRAMS ARE ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR AND USUALLY BECOME FULLY SUBSCIBED WELL BEFORE THE EARLY BOOKING PRICING DEADLINE.

WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND REGISTERING (WITH A DEPOSIT OF $1,000 PER PERSON, PLUS APPLICABLE TRAVEL INSURANCE PREMIUM) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE YOUR RESERVATION

Inclusions and Exclusions…

Inclusions –

- Round trip international flights from Toronto to Quito, Ecuador. Internal flights in Ecuador as per detailed itinerary.
- Modern, air conditioned coach transportation
- All meet and greet services and arrival and departure transfers **
- 5 day / 4 night Galapagos cruise (North West Islands itinerary) on the M/Y Isabella II (Classic cabin, Cabin Deck)
- 4 days / 3 nights at Ecuadorian Amazon Sacha Ecolodge
- 3 nights in Quito (4* hotel)
- 2 nights at a Hacienda in the Ecuador highlands
- 12 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 11 dinners
- Comprehensive daily itineraries including, island sightseeing, naturalists and lecture services, Amazon ecolodge activities, escorted tours of local cultural sites and museums
- Academic program and tour of local provincial hospital in Otavalo
- All admission fees (except those specifically noted above)
- Fully escorted tour including services of local English speaking cultural, ecological and naturalist experts
- Porterage
- Hosting by Group Leader and Medical Director, Dr. Peter Bloch and his wife, Mary

** meet and greet services and airport arrival and departure transfers are included if you are travelling on our group arranged flights – if you choose to arrange your own international flights (and they arrive / depart at different times to the group flights) additional private transfer costs will apply

Exclusions –

- Beverages (both soft drinks and alcoholic beverages)
- Gratuities (for both Galapagos cruise and land components)
- Galapagos Park Ingala Fee (US$20/person) – payable locally at Quito airport pre flight to Galapagos
- Galapagos Park Entry Fee (US$200/person) – payable locally upon arrival in Galapagos
- Sacha Lodge - Native community interpretation center entrance fee (US$10/person)
- Airport departure taxes (none as of August 2025)
- Travel insurance – please note, **travel insurance (including medical and trip interruption coverage) is highly recommended** for this tour. Coverage is available through Doctors-on-Tour – please check for further details in our brochure (page 28)
- All items of a personal nature such as telephone / internet usage, laundry services etc

Online registration is available at

https://fs22.formsite.com/Doctorsontour/GALAMAZ2604/index.html

REGISTER BY OCTOBER 27, 2025 AND SAVE $1,000/COUPLE !

Misc information you need to know…

Travel documentation and visas

An entry visa for Ecuador is not required for Canadian citizens but your passport must have an expiry date no earlier than 6 months after your scheduled departure date from Ecuador and at least one blank page for your Ecuador Immigration entry stamp (see below).

Upon entry, all visitors are required to complete a brief international embarkation card, which is stamped along with your passport, as it will be required when leaving the country.

Mandatory vaccinations

There are no mandatory vaccinations required at the present time (August 2025) for entry into Ecuador.

A list of our full medical **recommendations** will be provided closer to departure – this will include up to date Hepatitis A/B, typhoid vaccinations as well as malaria precautions and yellow fever vaccination for the Ecuadorian Amazon component and altitude mountain sickness precautions for those that may be susceptible to the effects of high altitude (Quito 9,200ft).

Travellers should always ensure that they are up to date on **routine vaccines** such as measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, varicella (chickenpox), shingles and influenza and COVID-19.

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Travel insurance information… Coverage available through Manulife Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance to protect you against the unexpected due to, in particular, limited provincial health care coverage afforded to Canadians while traveling overseas and the cancellation provisions inherent in your booking. We offer the following insurance coverage options through Manulife Insurance, one of Canada's leading insurance providers –

NON-MEDICAL INCLUSIVE PLAN

There are **significant inherent cancellation penalties** associated with your booking as detailed in our booking terms and conditions and this insurance package provides coverage for cancellation penalties if you should have to cancel due to medical, or other listed, reasons either relating to yourself or a member of your immediate family. It also covers you for trip interruption costs short notice return flight home etc) for medical reasons again, either relating to yourself or an immediate family member as well as flight and travel accident and baggage insurance.

ALL INCLUSIVE PLAN

This plan provides coverage for all the components in the Non-medical Inclusive plan, plus health coverage while in the destination

"Cancel for any reason (CFAR)" coverage - NEW and at no additional cost !!

So long as you **purchase either of the two insurance policies above at the same time as your tour booking**, you are automatically entitled to this added benefit of CFAR coverage whereby, if you need to cancel your tour booking up to 14 days or more before departure **for any reason,** your policy will refund you up to a maximum of 50% of the cancellation penalties incurred. This is excellent peace of mind coverage to protect you against (50% of the) cancellation penalties incurred in a situation where the reason for cancellation is not one of the regular covered risks in your policy (ie it is essentially "change of mind" insurance).

PREMIUM PROTECTION PLAN ("PPP")

As a third option, Manulife is now also offering a new enhanced travel insurance policy, their **Premium Protection Plan ("PPP")**. This is Manulife's most comprehensive coverage, providing all the same types of coverage as the All-Inclusive plan (above) but with higher covered amounts in most areas. It is also a simplified policy in so much that, whereas the All-Inclusive plan and Non-medical Inclusive plan (above, and as is the case with most insurance company travel policies) have a list of specific covered events, the **PPP offers cancellation coverage for *any* unexpected and unforeseen event** (ie., any event, situation or circumstance that is beyond your control that prevents you from travelling) with only a few exclusions that apply.

An overview of the PPP may be found by clicking here

A comparison of the enhanced benefits provided by the PPP compared to Manulife's regular All Inclusive plan may be found by clicking here

A major benefit of the PPP is that coverage for reimbursement of inherent cancellation penalties under the **Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR)" coverage is increased to 80%** of the cancellation penalties incurred for all cancellation **up to 7 days or more before departure.**

Please note, the PPP is only available to clients under the age of 75 (at the date of purchase of the insurance coverage) and **must be purchased at the same time as the travel tour booking is made** (72 hour grace period).

A detailed overview of coverage benefits and limitations of each insurance policy that we offer through Manulife may be found at -

https://www.igoinsured.com/Direct/ManulifeGlobal.aspx?ag=ONTOTPR&lang=E

Manulife's insurance premiums (dependent upon your age at the time of purchasing insurance and your total tour costs) are below –

Total insurable costs ($/person)	NON-MEDICAL INCLUSIVE								ALL-INCLUSIVE							
Age>	0-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+	0-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
4000 - 4500	406	406	454	487	536	743	1,040	1,040	474	474	581	669	878	999	1,472	1,472
4500 - 5000	440	440	494	534	590	817	1,135	1,135	508	508	622	716	932	1,060	1,567	1,567
5000 - 5500	474	474	535	582	644	892	1,229	1,229	542	542	662	763	986	1,121	1,661	1,661
5500 - 6000	507	507	575	629	698	966	1,324	1,324	575	575	703	810	1,040	1,181	1,756	1,756
6000 - 6500	541	541	616	676	752	1,040	1,418	1,418	609	609	743	858	1,094	1,242	1,850	1,850
6500 - 7000	575	575	656	723	806	1,114	1,513	1,513	643	643	784	905	1,148	1,303	1,945	1,945
7000 - 7500	609	609	697	771	860	1,189	1,607	1,607	677	677	824	952	1,202	1,364	2,039	2,039
7500 - 8000	642	642	737	818	914	1,263	1,702	1,702	710	710	865	999	1,256	1,424	2,134	2,134
8000 - 8500	676	676	778	865	968	1,337	1,796	1,796	744	744	905	1,047	1,310	1,485	2,228	2,228
8500 - 9000	710	710	818	912	1,022	1,411	1,891	1,891	778	778	946	1,094	1,364	1,546	2,323	2,323
9000 - 9500	744	744	859	960	1,076	1,486	1,985	1,985	812	812	986	1,141	1,418	1,607	2,417	2,417
9500 - 10000	777	777	899	1,007	1,130	1,560	2,080	2,080	845	845	1,027	1,188	1,472	1,667	2,512	2,512
10000 - 10500	811	811	940	1,054	1,184	1,634	2,174	2,174	879	879	1,067	1,236	1,526	1,728	2,606	2,606
10500 - 11000	845	845	980	1,101	1,238	1,708	2,269	2,269	913	913	1,108	1,283	1,580	1,789	2,701	2,701
11000 - 11500	879	879	1,021	1,149	1,292	1,783	2,363	2,363	947	947	1,148	1,330	1,634	1,850	2,795	2,795
11500 - 12000	912	912	1,061	1,196	1,346	1,857	2,458	2,458	980	980	1,189	1,377	1,688	1,910	2,890	2,890
12000 - 12500	946	946	1,102	1,243	1,400	1,931	2,552	2,552	1,014	1,014	1,229	1,425	1,742	1,971	2,984	2,984
12500 - 13000	980	980	1,142	1,290	1,454	2,005	2,647	2,647	1,048	1,048	1,270	1,472	1,796	2,032	3,079	3,079
13000 - 13500	1,014	1,014	1,183	1,338	1,508	2,080	2,741	2,741	1,082	1,082	1,310	1,519	1,850	2,093	3,173	3,173
13500 - 14000	1,047	1,047	1,223	1,385	1,562	2,154	2,836	2,836	1,115	1,115	1,351	1,566	1,904	2,153	3,268	3,268
14000 - 14500	1,081	1,081	1,264	1,432	1,616	2,228	2,930	2,930	1,149	1,149	1,391	1,614	1,958	2,214	3,362	3,362
14500 - 15000	1,115	1,115	1,304	1,479	1,670	2,302	3,025	3,025	1,183	1,183	1,432	1,661	2,012	2,275	3,457	3,457

Total insurable costs ($/person)	PREMIUM PROTECTION PLAN (PPP)		
Age>	0-69	70-74	75+
4000 - 4500	675	1,296	Coverage not available if age 75 or over at the date of purchasing insurance
4500 - 5000	750	1,440	
5000 - 5500	825	1,584	
5500 - 6000	900	1,728	
6000 - 6500	975	1,872	
6500 - 7000	1,050	2,016	
7000 - 7500	1,125	2,160	
7500 - 8000	1,200	2,304	
8000 - 8500	1,275	2,448	
8500 - 9000	1,350	2,592	
9000 - 9500	1,425	2,736	
9500 - 10000	1,500	2,880	
10000 - 10500	1,575	3,024	
10500 - 11000	1,650	3,168	
11000 - 11500	1,725	3,312	
11500 - 12000	1,800	3,456	
12000 - 12500	1,875	3,600	
12500 - 13000	1,950	3,744	
13000 - 13500	2,025	3,888	
13500 - 14000	2,100	4,032	
14000 - 14500	2,175	4,176	
14500 - 15000	2,250	4,320	

For residents of Ontario, simply accept your choice of insurance (Non-medical Inclusive, All-Inclusive or Premium Protection coverage) on our *online* registration form and we will apply the premium above on your invoice confirmation (if using our *pdf* registration form, enter the applicable premium from the above table when competing the registration form)

For residents of Canadian provinces other than Ontario, insurance regulations state that travel insurance should be taken out directly with Manulife Insurance, albeit through a direct web link hosted on our web site, ie you should purchase your travel insurance policy by simply following the link below to take advantage of our preferred rates with Manulife) via our company's exclusive Manulife link:

https://www.igoinsured.com/Direct/ManulifeGlobal.aspx?ag=ONTOTPR&lang=E

Non-Canadian residents

For residents of countries outside of Canada (including the USA), insurance regulations allow us to sell "**Trip Cancellation**" insurance (this policy includes both trip cancellation and trip interruption coverage but not medical coverage). Hence it is not possible for non-Canadian residents to purchase either the All Inclusive or Premium Protection plans from Manulife. We do find that many of our overseas clients already have medical insurance through other channels and therefore, if this is the case, you may purchase "Trip Cancellation" coverage by following the link below to purchase the "Trip Cancellation" insurance policy (taking advantage of our preferred rates with Manulife) via our company's exclusive Manulife link:

https://www.igoinsured.com/Direct/ManulifeGlobal.aspx?ag=ONTOTPR&lang=E

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Travel insurance that may be available through your credit card

When considering any of the travel insurance policies above, if you believe you may have coverage through your **credit card** we would strongly advise checking with the credit card company the actual coverage afforded to ensure it covers medical, trip cancellation and trip interruption as not all of these items are covered (or may only offer limited coverage as to trip duration or insured $amount in the event of a claim - sometimes as low as only $1,000 per person) by all kinds of cards. Also, most coverage through credit card benefits does not include Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) coverage.

Testimonials

"A thoroughly enjoyable week – informative lectures, well organized tours and great company!
Dr. Dagnija Kalnins, Port Credit – Los Cabos, Mexico, 2003

"Great hotel facilities, excellent service – an extremely enjoyable, and educational, week
Dr. Doug Wooster, Toronto – Chile, 2005

"Great company, well organized and interesting tours, educational lectures and great food (and wine….!) – Fantastic trip!"
Dr. Ray Martin, Toronto – Argentina, 2006

"Thanks for planning such an amazing trip. Our congenial group enjoyed so many rich experiences together and collected memories to last a lifetime. Each day was an adventure!
Andrea Maurice – Vietnam / Cambodia, 2007

"I want to express our appreciation for a wonderful trip. The tour operator and the guides were excellent and everything went very smoothly…. this was a tremendous trip which we will need to review again over the coming days to catalogue and appreciate all the places we visited and the marvelous things we saw.. Thanks again for all the hard work in putting the trip together with the memorable result that was achieved…
Dr. Rudy Hyles, Mississauga – **Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2008**

"Wonderful people! Wonderful places!"
Dr. Phil McGuire, Ottawa – Peru, 2009

"The organization and accommodation were both excellent. We were always looked after with consideration and provided with a wide variety of interesting activities and experiences. The guides were most helpful and informative. A wonderful tour!"
Dr. Michael Dales, Toronto - **Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2009**

"I do not have words to express my appreciation and admiration for the your hospitality and service provided by your company and your partners on the ground in India"
Dr. Sudhir Pandya – Northern India, 2009

"I would like to thank you very much for a wonderful trip.
The Galapagos experience and the snorkeling was memorable.
I especially loved the Amazon rainforest/jungle experience.
That was the highlight of my trip. I loved every second of it.
The overnight (Achuar village) experience was the absolute best.
Your planning of the trip was personal and perfect.
Your choice of guide was impeccable. Carlos was the best guide we have ever had in our travelling experience.
The group bonded and I would to travel again with them.
My wife and I have done quite a bit of travelling in the past few years, and your expertise and personal touch made the trip worry-free, professional, interesting, knowledgeable, and extremely unique.
We will definitely travel with you again.
In fact, we are already saving money for our next trip with you."
Dr. Rick Black, Ancaster - **Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2009**

"We thoroughly enjoyed the recent trip to East Africa.
All lodges were excellent. The event was a huge success. A lifetime highlight"
John Bright - Kenya & Tanzania – March, 2010

"The guides throughout the trip were superb, well informed with excellent local knowledge and willing to discuss any topic!
The visits to the local hospitals were excellent. A fantastic tour!"
Dr. Linda Stirk, Toronto - **Ecuador & the Galapagos (and Peru), 2010**

"A wonderful trip. It was amazing to see so many different animals co-existing on the beautiful African plains. The Kenyan and Tanzanian people we met were gracious and welcoming.
Our host/trip manager was excellent - very bright, knowledgeable, good problem solver, great people skills - a delightful man who really made our trip memorable. Our guide/driver was also excellent - very knowledgeable, an excellent driver and keen to make our safari experience a good one. We had lots of fun and learned a lot from him.
I loved the parks and reserves - the Serengeti and Ngorongoro are absolutely amazing".
Andrea Maurice, Toronto – Kenya & Tanzania – March, 2010

"In addition to exploring the fantastic sights, and tastes, of Northern India, our group visited local hospitals and clinics to learn more about how medicine is practiced in India as well as in the SOS Children's village in Jaipur and the Mother Teresa charity Mission in Agra" - Dr. Serge Puksa, Northern India, 2011

"The trip surpassed all my expectations. The country itself was far more interesting than I thought and the tour itself was very well organized. The wineries were a treat and the physicians and there spouses were lots of fun. I would be happy to do another trip! "
Dr. Steven Traplin, Guelph – Spain Gourmet tour, 2011

"We found this tour to be a wonderful adventure… even more than we had anticipated. The planning and attention to detail on the ground ensured we had a comprehensive introduction to the many wonders of Ecuador. I will definitely consider participating in another program and will be certain to share details with my colleagues"
Dr. Alison Kelford, Oakville - **Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2011**

"The Southeast Asia tour was a great success. Ellen and I are resonating with the sights, sounds and smells from the visit! " Dr. Ron and Ellen Pace, Waterloo – Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia, 2012

"We really enjoyed the tour of Bali and we were glad that we could do it with Dr. (Mel & Bonnie) Borins who showed us the real Bali and not the tourist angle. Every moment was an experience of it's own. Thank you so much for organizing such a unique experience"
Dr. Nilam Clerk & Shobha Amin, Toronto - Bali, 2012

"Excellent! Loved the trip and well worth it. Life changing experience, excellent speakers and very well organized. Met some great people and will keep in touch for future trips. Will definitely book another doctors-on-tour trip in the future"
Dr. Janel Gracey, London – Bali, 2012

"This was a fantastic trip that I will cherish forever. Your programs are well planned and excellent. We look forward to doing another one soon"
Dr. Ricki Sabga, Leamington – **Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2012**

"We had a magical time in Machu Picchu - such a spiritual time at day break - our guide was great! Memorable and well organized. Many thanks for the fabulous trip - your company does such a great job and such an opportunity for us.. and what a great group of people to share such an amazing trip with."
Dr. Paul Bates, London – **Ecuador & the Galapagos, Peru 2012**

"What an amazing trip this was ! You did such a fantastic job – well organized with wonderful support staff – everything left on time, great food, weather & traveling companions – and (our guide) Gonzalo was the best ! Thank you very much for such an unforgettable adventure."
Jack & Lore Brown, London - **Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2012**

"I have been fortunate to enjoy four trips with doctors-on-tour since 2009 - to Ecuador, Vietnam/Cambodia/Laos, India and Bali. All these tours were wonderful. Well-organized, excellent accommodations, top notch guides, remarkable CME experiences that broaden one's outlook on medicine and really great leaders of the tours. You should seriously consider taking one of these exotic trips. Beats lying on a beach!"
Dr. Linda Rapson, Toronto – 2013

“Just back from the South India tour and it was amazing!!! I am already keen to return to the north on one of your tours. I am a total convert to the doctors on tour trips!! I really enjoyed the varied itinerary...Kumar was outstanding, very professional and certainly made the trip run smoothly, never an easy job in a group that size, different personalities,etc....but he really was exceptional. Lacuma was also fantastic, very capable and organized. So....well done!!”
Dr. Susan Smith, Fredericton, N.B. – South India, 2013

“The whole trip was wonderful and very well organized. We appreciated the advance preparation information packages. The hotel accommodation was excellent and the guides provided a lot of background information in Indian culture and society which made the trip even more valuable as a learning experience. We enjoyed all of it – including meeting Dr. Peter, & Mary, Bloch (Group Medical Director) and the great people in the group!”
Dr. Ron Eliosoff, Ottawa - South India, 2013

“A wonderful trip that I would recommend to anyone”
Dr. Janel Gracey, London – Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos, 2013

“We had a wonderful trip. It was such an interesting mix of people that we laughed all the way through - an amazing experience and a fabulous time. The Pantanal was awesome and we also totally loved the old colonial town of Paraty. We enjoyed ourselves so much we are thinking of signing up for another one soon. Thanks again - you did a wonderful job - it was a dream”.
Dyana Fournier, Toronto – Brazil, 2013

"I was extremely pleased with my second trip through doctors-on-tour to Kenya & Tanzania - the tour was one of the most amazing things I have experienced!"
Dr. Kerri McGuire, Ottawa - Kenya & Tanzania, 2013

"I wanted to let you know that the trip to East Africa was excellent. The safari was well organized from beginning to end and John, our knowledgable guide, unfailingly and graciously coped with all the challenges of the adventure. This was my third trip to Tanzania in the past 2 years and I came away feeling that I had finally seen the positive side to this beautiful country. We were fortunate to see far more animals than we had anticipated and the drivers took time to let us watch various scenarios play out rather than simply snapping a picture and moving quickly on. Having compared this safari to reports from others and to my previous one to the Ngorongoro Crater last year, I can honestly say that this was superior in every way. I definitely would recommend it to interested others.
Dr. Pat Barry, Burlington - Kenya & Tanzania, 2013

"Fantastic experience! Every detail to perfection."
Dr. Les Marien, Orangeville, On. - Spain Gourmet, 2013

“The experience was fantastic. Thoroughly enjoyed ourselves”
Dr. Pat Stansberry, Sherwood Park, AB - **Ecuador (Galapagos) & Peru, 2013**

"Had a great time! Very well organized"
Dr. Yusuf Januwala, Ipswich, Queensland, Australia - **Ecuador (Galapagos) & Peru, 2013**

"I want to give you some feedback on our amazing trip to South Africa. Our guide Craig was exceptional; lunch at La Petite Ferme was a highlight, great food, wine and scenery; in Swaziland, glass factory was very good the candle factory was great; Kapama River (Game) Lodge - amazing ! Soweto - great ! South African Airlines were great to travel with friendly service and, overall, it was a great trip"
Dr. Steve and Marg Szarka, Hamilton, On. - South Africa, 2014

"We had a wonderful trip. Places we stayed during the tour were all very nice and I every one had a good time. Your local tour manager was wonderful, extremely helpful and very well organized. Thanks again for all your help"
Dr. Kumar Banerjee, Vancouver, B.C. - South India, 2014

"It was an amazing trip thru Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos. It exceeded all our expectations. Peter and Mary (Bloch) were gracious hosts. Their thirst for adventure and generosity of spirit added so much to our trip. The group we traveled with were a great bunch and we hope to cross paths in the future. The CMEs were informative and I enjoyed seeing the varied medical sites in each country"
Dr. Tom Stark, Timaru, New Zealand - Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos, 2014

"A brief note from Hillary and me to thank you for the flawless organization. The guides were superb and the choice of events, above and beyond the usual tourist musts. These were a lot of fun, while adding to our understanding of local cultures".
Dr. Alan Barkun, Montreal, Qc. - Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos, 2014

"Macchu Picchu and Galapagos were the highlights. Wonderful guides, very well organized and enjoyable. Tour leader did a great job !"
Dr. Michael Garner, Montreal, QC - **Ecuador (Galapagos) & Peru, 2014**

"Our guide was absolutely fantastic - the best I have ever been with. A very informative trip.
Dr. Yusuf Mnyusiwalla, Waterloo, On. - New Zealand, 2015

"The trip to South Africa was awesome - I would rank it up there with my favorite so far with Doctors on Tour. The people in our group were wonderful - it was a total joy and I can see now why South Africa is one of your favorite destinations"
Dyana Driscoll, Toronto, On.- South Africa, 2015

"Bob and I enjoyed the time shared with each of you in Bali,
My expectations for the tour were met and exceeded .It really was a small window into the Balinese culture.
To (our group leaders) Bonnie and Mel, Thanks! Hope this isn't our last tour.
You all were interesting and gracious, Terima Kasih. Salamat Jalan"
Dr. Bob & Evelyn Lawler, Gibsonia, PA - Bali 2015

"We had a fabulous experience, enjoying a fun group of travelers and loving the beautiful art and history of Spain. The warm, friendly and family culture feeling of Spain was memorable and a testimony to the connections of Chef Fernando Garcia".
Dr. Gerry Mittler, Vancouver, BC - Spain Gourmet, September 2015

"Thank you for your outstanding guidance during our trip to Ecuador. The trip was very good, and the logistics and handling of the group were excellent"
Dr. David Spence, London, On - **Ecuador (including the Galapagos and Amazon), 2015**

"The trip was exceptional in every way. Our guide was more than just a tour guide - the knowledge she shared was detailed and interesting - what an ambassador for her country ! The high level of care that she offered was above and beyond anything that we have ever experienced. We thoroughly enjoyed every minute of this trip ! Thank you !"
Dr. Les Marien, Orangeville, On - New Zealand, 2016

"An enjoyable and enlightening tour"
Dr. Brian Davies, Sarnia, On. - China, 2016

"A great exposure to Balinese culture and the spiritual aspects behind their healing philosophy"
Dr. Karyn Klapecki, Toronto, On. - Bali, 2016

"A most excellent tour escort - genial, helpful, very knowledgeable and organized. Very well chosen sights and experiences"
Dr. Michael Garner, Montreal, Qc. - South Africa, 2016

"The trip was exceptional in every way. Our guide was more than just a tour guide - the knowledge she shared was detailed and interesting - what an ambassador for her country ! The high level of care that she offered was above and beyond anything that we have ever experienced. We thoroughly enjoyed every minute of this trip ! Thank you !"
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"An enjoyable and enlightening tour"
Dr. Brian Davies, Sarnia, On. - China, 2016

"A great exposure to Balinese culture and the spiritual aspects behind their healing philosophy"
Dr. Karyn Klapecki, Toronto, On. - Bali, 2016

"The trip was amazing – everything went very smoothly.
The group was interesting and all got along very well .
Our guide was amazing - just as you said !"
Dr. Steve Szarka, Hamilton, On. – Galapagos & Peru, 2016

"An extremely interesting, informative and invigorating tour. The medical CME components were excellent and I'm glad that we were able to see and experience so much".
Dr. Paula Chalmers, Vancouver, B.C. - South Africa, 2017

"Myanmar was very well organized and our guide was excellent - the best I have ever had! The sites and activities in Bhutan were very enjoyable and the local medical facilities and clinics that we visited as part of the CME were good"
Dr. Brenda Cholin, North Battleford, SK - Myanmar & Bhutan, 2017

"It was an incredible tour - we saw so much !"
Dr. Mo Meghji, Kitchener, On. - Argentina & Chile, including Patagonia cruise, 2017

"This was a very good tour. The progress that the country has made over the years has been very significant. However, China still has multiple levels of Red Tape, both public and private that will not change ever, so it must be accepted. Overall a 9.5 out of 10 !"
Dr. Ted Erb, Waterloo, On. - China, 2017

"It was our first trip with your company. John and I loved it. The itinerary was perfect. Busy days followed by quieter ones. Lorna and Ashley were lovely and so capable! The coordination was superb. Thank you. We had the trip of a lifetime!"
Dr. John Gapski, Mississauga, On. – **Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2017**

"We really enjoyed traveling with an interesting group of professionals which gave us the opportunity to visit places where the public normally does not have easy entry. Excellent pre-departure information and the tour was well-balanced with a mixture of historic and social highlights, while travelling through very different landscapes and areas of the country. The public/private health care system was well described on the Groote Schuur Hospital tour and the children's' song and dance performance at SOS children's village in Cape Town was touching. Our local tour guide was outstanding [5+++] and provided excellent context for the political, economic and social aspects of SA. He was calm, professional, responded quickly to everyone's needs and was very proud of his country".
Helle & Tony Tosine, Toronto, On. – South Africa, 2017

"Everything was excellent! We had a wonderful time. Hotels were superb. Thank you again for the well organized, all details worked out, great trip!"
Dr. Andrea Cordas, Burlington, On. – South India, 2017

"We really enjoyed New Zealand and the services provided by your company. The Academic Conference presentations were top caliber and contained information useful to both the specialist and generalist. I enjoyed getting to know and learning from the other group participants. We would recommend this trip and plan to travel with Doctors on Tour again".
Dr. John Britt, Winston-Salem, NC - New Zealand, 2018

"We enjoyed our trip very much. The hotels we stayed in were superb, the itinerary was great and the guides, both in Bhutan and in Myanmar, were fabulous. Overall it was a wonderful, memorable trip. Thank you very much!"
Dr. Sabine Ernsting, Adelaide, South Australia - Bhutan & Myanmar, 2018

"So many highlights – favorites include Cape of Good Hope, Table Mountain, Kapama Game Reserve – because of excellent game rangers and trackers – saw the big 5 and so much more. Our local escort – excellent!!! Bus drivers also excellent. Coaches comfortable – great bonus to be able to charge cell phones inside buses. Bottom line – Awesome experience!!" Dr. Cinda Lee, Toronto, ON - South Africa, 2018

"I found this to be a very well organized trip. It exceeded my expectations. I'd like to repeat it, but I'll join your other trips instead. Too much to see and to learn in this world."
Dr. Kas Tuters, Toronto, ON – Bali, 2018

"I totally loved Singapore and Malaysia. The local escorts were honestly a ten star. There was nothing they would not do for us".
Dyana Driscoll, Toronto, On. – Malaysia & Singapore, 2018

"This was an exceptional trip – thanks again! Everything was perfectly well orchestrated. It feels like we have been travelling for more than two weeks. We have learned so much. We will definitely recommend this trip to our friends. We have seen so many things. We have had exceptional guides. The group we travelled with was fantastic! Again, an amazing adventure!"
Dr. Collette Deslandres-Leduc, Montreal, Qc. – **Ecuador and Peru, 2018**

"That was a fantastic tour - well done! See you next trip!"
Dr. Saramin Galinski, Hamilton, On. – **Ecuador and Peru, 2018**

"Good guides, amazing sightseeing, loved the Patagonia cruise"
Dr. Chantal Breton, Kirkland, Qc. - Argentina & Chile, including Patagonia cruise, 2019

"This was an excellent unique tour combining both the cruise and a varied land component with spectacular sights ! Great group, and wonderful local tour escort and cruise staff !"
Dr. Evelyn Brett, Toronto, On. – Iceland circumnavigation cruise and land, 2019

"Thanks for sending along (the song that you wrote about Bali) and for everything else. your stories, tips, enthusiasm, quiet presence and good company. This trip was certainly quite special. Please also pass on my thanks to Bonnie. Take good care"
Dr. Louise Lefort, Ottawa, On. – Bali, 2019

"Peter & Mary Bloch did an excellent job leading the group. The guides and others were very helpful and excellent - Amit 5*, plus Sheva and team. I thoroughly loved the trip. It exceeded my expectations. The people are so sweet and lots of smiles! This is a great place to visit."
Dr. Vickie Carducci, Kilworthy, On. - Northern India, 2019

"Malaysia was exhilarating! We had a wonderful, adventurous time, especially in the Borneo Rainforest. The local guides were very friendly and helpful, very well versed in the history of Malaysia and we learnt a lot. The canopy walk was breathtakingly hair-raising. The tour was very well organized and the optional stay in Singapore was very relaxing. We look forward to more of your tours in the future".
Dr. Shiraz Walji, Calgary, AB - Malaysia & Singapore, 2019

"The tour was wonderful – enjoyed every minute of it"
Dr. Irina Perelmutter, Tel Aviv, IL – **Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2019**

"Fantastic trip – well organized, packed with loads of things to do and see – but did not feel 'superficial'. Just loved the opportunity to do and see so much. The group was fantastic – made new friends. Ian was a great tour leader"
Dr. Lorraine Manzig, Toronto, ON – **Ecuador & the Galapagos, 2019**

"Your tours are great. Thanks for the experience!"
Dr. Ikenna Ezeilo, Lethbridge, On. – South East Asia, 2020

"Thank you for making this first post pandemic trip for Val and I a special one".
Dr. Les Marien, Orangeville, On. - Iceland circumnavigation cruise and land, 2022

"Our local tour escort was very knowledgeable and helpful, restaurants were all very good and we really enjoyed the overnight tent experience and sunset camel ride in the Sahara!"
Dr. Dominic Tang, North York, On. - Morocco, 2022

“We are having a fantastic time.
Great group - have made many new friends.
We are ecstatic to be here.
(our local tour escort) Malik is a kind and patient person who gives 110% of himself - he truly goes above and beyond to make sure everyone is happy.
Thank you. Thank you Thank you.”
Drs. Loraine Manzig and Kevin Sliwowicz, Toronto, On. - Malaysia & Singapore, 2022

“Fun, food, fellowship, culture, history, knowledge, perspectives, some ailments & mishaps — all packed in 12 days. Thanks everyone for enriching Kitty & my life! This is by far the most magical CME trip we’ve ever had for the past 3 decades! 😇😇”
Dr. Wing Lim, Sherwood Park, AB - Co-founder of Physician Empowerment - Spain Gourmet tour, 2022

“Need another vacation after this trip as we saw so much! The group was fantastic and fun to be with. We enjoyed everyone’s company!”
Dr. Nihad Ali-Ridha, Toronto, On. – Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos, 2023

“Thank you so much for arranging this very special adventure.
It was wonderful! I so wish I had done it sooner so I could do it again.
Our local tour escort (Dion) was so knowledgeable, willing to share the history of the country in a way that helped us understand the WHY as well as the WHAT of the history of that breathtakingly beautiful country while he made us each feel welcome and valued as visitors. He obviously loves his homeland and has reason to do so.
The group was very compatible and new friendships were made. Caroline was very efficient”.
Dr. Pat Barry, Burlington, On. – South Africa, 2023

“The Japan experience ranks among the very best offered by DoT - seamlessly blending the country's rich history and culture with outstanding cuisines and activities. The farewell Kimono dinner with Geisha entertainment was particularly noteworthy as well as the beauty of the Five Lakes region, majesty of Mt. Fuji, the ryokan experience and the many beautiful Japanese gardens and historic sites! Outstanding experience!”
Dr. Bruno Salena, Ancaster, On.- Japan, 2023

This was an excellent trip – my 2nd time with Doctors-on-Tour to Iceland and I would do it again! I enjoyed seeing a few new locations and different restaurants (thanks to Thordis). I can’t recommend this trip highly enough! As all of your tours have been, it was well planned, well organized and very good value. Thanks so much. See you next year in Japan!
Dr. Mary Bruckschwaiger, London, On. - Iceland Circumnavigation Cruise and Land, 2023

“A wonderful trip. A busy itinerary but allowed freedom for personal time. Cannot say enough about the knowledge, enthusiasm and energy of our guides - always willing to cheerfully go that extra mile. Hotels were all high quality and well located.”
Dr. Stephen Pond, Fredericton, NB – Spain, 2023

“Our trip to Morocco exceeded all expectations. We left with a better understanding of the country, its people and culture. The information, locations, activities and meals were exceptional. Our knowledgeable tour guide Mustapha answered any and all questions with pride. Our driver Mohamed was incredible and we always felt safe with him at the wheel. Our group leader and medical director Dr. Rachel Kassner, along with her husband Joel, had our days and nights running smoothly. They included the entire group and went above and beyond to care for everyone. A trip we will always remember. We loved the format of the tour and will definitely be booking with you in the future”
Dr. Moses Rambaran, Miramichi, NB - Morocco, 2024

“Shioji is a great tour guide, attentive, fun, knowledgeable and speaks English well. Definitely deserves more tours in the future. This trip was well run with right mix of culture, scenery, great food, etc. Having luggage sent by truck and placed in rooms a great feature. Well done CME and Marg and Steve!”
John & Anne Wolff, Ancaster, ON – Japan 2024

“This was a marvelous Doctors-on-Tour trip to Sri Lanka. The destination is a gem. The hotels were magnificent. The food excellent. I loved the people and the fascinating tours. It was worth every penny! Thanks for putting together such an exciting tour. Plus we had a really good group of participants”.
Maureen Lush, Oakville, On. - Sri Lanka, 2024

“An excellent tour! Hotels and food were top notch. Guides, superb. We covered so much, amazing to do that in just two weeks. Well done!”
Dr. Carolyn Stark – Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos, 2025

“This was a wonderful experience in a country that has so much to offer. Our guide made the trip exceptional and went to great lengths to explain things. Excellent tours. Very interesting to see the approach to healthcare”.
Dr. Linda Spigelblatt, Montreal, QC – Bali, 2025

“Thank you for organizing such a wonderful tour to Japan. My self and Sharada enjoyed the tour thoroughly. The Group Leaders, Lorna and Ashley and local escorts, Shioji and Pauline were excellent. It was our first travel with your group and we would love to travel again with your the groups. Last but not the least, thank you very much for organizing my birthday celebrations in Kyoto, an unforgettable experience in my life”.
Dr. Srini Manchikanti and Sharada Manchikanti, Edmonton, AB – Japan, 2025

And about your Group Leaders and Medical Director, Dr. Peter, and Mary, Bloch (Oakville, On.)

"Very well organized ! - Peter & Mary were excellent in encouraging productive and enjoyable interactions between group members which resulted in a cohesive and unified group and resulted in the whole tour unfolding smoothly"
Dr. Elizabeth Weber, Toronto - Spain, 2011

"Peter and Mary were excellent hosts (as usual). It was particularly helpful having Peter at the ATMs which seemed to mystify me. It was also wonderful having Peter talk about Chile - growing up there, his summers in Vina - our own personal tour guide!
Andrea Maurice, Toronto – Chile & Argentina, , 2012

“I am writing to let you know how much we enjoyed our recent trip to India. We all agreed that Peter and Mary were exceptional hosts. They were incredibly warm and welcoming and were on top of situations as they arose”
Dr. Ron Eliosoff, Ottawa - South India, 2013

"I want to give you some feedback on our amazing trip to South Africa. Our guide Craig was exceptional; lunch at La Petite Ferme was a highlight, great food, wine and scenery; in Swaziland, glass factory was very good the candle factory was great; Kapama River (Game) Lodge - amazing ! Soweto - great ! Overall it was a great trip, the group was easy to get along and of course Peter and Mary were great group leaders!"
Dr. Steve and Marg Szarka, Hamilton, On. - South Africa, 2014

"It was an amazing trip thru Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos. It exceeded all our expectations. Peter and Mary (Bloch) were gracious hosts. Their thirst for adventure and generosity of spirit added so much to our trip. The group we traveled with were a great bunch and we hope to cross paths in the future. The CMEs were informative and I enjoyed seeing the varied medical sites in each country"
Dr. Tom Stark, Timaru, New Zealand - Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos, 2014

"Our guide was absolutely fabulous - she took superb care of us and added so much to the trip through her knowledge of New Zealand history, flora and fauna. Peter and Mary (Bloch) were wonderful medical leaders - calm, helpful, interesting and vivacious- kudos to them."
Drs. Peter & Louise Bobechko, Toronto, On. - New Zealand, 2015

"Mary & Peter were definitely an 11 (out of 10). I thought they were absolutely amazing, kind and friendly"
Dianne Fournier, Toronto, On. - China, 2016

“Excellent tour guide - Excellent meals! Peter and Mary did a great job.
Dr. Sy Lam, Calgary, AB - South Africa, 2017

“Peter and Mary Bloch – great hosts, helped bring participants closer and engage as a group”
Dr. Jack Richman. Oakville, On. - Iceland circumnavigation cruise and land, 2019

“Thanks to you and Mary for your all your care and attention. It was a fantastic trip. Sorry we slept through happy hour… 😊
Dr. Sonia and Joel Kurtz, Toronto, On. - Iceland circumnavigation cruise and land, 2019

“Very good tour – very good guides, very good, friendly and helpful group leaders, Peter and Mary – a pleasure! Excellent tour organization and visits.”
Dr. Michael Garner & Dr. Jeanne Teitelbaum, Montreal, QC – Northern India, 2019

“Peter & Mary did a marvellous job !”
Dr. William Callaghan, Ottawa, On. - Spain Gourmet, 2022

“Dr. Peter and Mary Bloch were exemplary in their role as group leaders. Mary is a gem! Outstanding experience!”
Dr. Bruno Salena, Ancaster, On. - Japan, 2023

“Dr. Peter Bloch and Mary - You did a splendid job, we loved your guidance”.
Drs. Yusuf and Gulshan Mnyusiwalla, Waterloo, On. - Sri Lanka, 2024

“This was our fifth Doctor on Tour trip, and the second one with Dr. Peter and Mary Bloch as our leaders. They were fantastic - helpful, attentive, and a delight to the group. We highly recommend this trip!"
Dr. David Trask, Medford, Oregon – Sri Lanka, 2024

“Our Group Leaders, Peter and Mary (Bloch) were terrific, as always”
Dr. Mike Garner, Montreal, QC – Bali, 2025

Doctors-on- Tour – Ecuadorian Amazon

Doctors-on-Tour - India

Doctors-on-Tour – Spain

Doctors-on-Tour - Chile & Argentina

Doctors-on-Tour – South East Asia

Doctors-on-Tour – China

And finally, this is an article written by one of our Group Medical Directors, and published in Doctor's Review, who hosted our November 2009 program to Ecuador …

ECUADOR (including the Galapagos, Amazon & Quito)

An article by Dr. Rachel Kassner– Group Medical Director, Doctors-on-Tour - November 2009

A physician fines a wonderful way to combine education and travel

My husband, our 12 year old son and I just returned from what I can only describe as a trip of a lifetime. We were on an exceptional tour with several other physicians organized by doctors-on-tour, a Toronto based company specializing in offering a combination of *vac*ation and (professional advancement) *edu*cation to exotic worldwide locations. We spent almost 2 weeks visiting Ecuador, the Galapagos and the Amazon rainforest.

It's difficult to choose what was the most spectacular part of the trip but we loved Ecuador. After a couple of nights in Quito, we flew on to the Galapagos Islands. The Galapagos, made famous by Darwin, are part of Ecuador and are situated in the Pacific Ocean over 900 km. west of the mainland. We were met at the airport by the crew of the Galapagos Explorer II, a 100 passenger ship that sails among the various islands. We spent 4 nights aboard the ship. All the wildlife in the Galapagos is heavily protected and access is strictly controlled. The ship has its own Galapagos born and trained guides who are walking encyclopedias on the geological history of the Islands and the wildlife endemic to each. Twice a day we would board zodiacs from the ship and head out for about 3 hours to visit a particular island. The guides made sure that we didn't miss a thing: land and sea iguanas; Sally Lightfoot crabs; the incredible frigate bird with his red gullet puffed out like a balloon to attract a mate; blue footed boobies; sea lions in abundance; enormous land tortoises; penguins; flightless cormorants; other birds in large numbers and varieties; and more and more species too numerous to mention. We also had a number of snorkeling opportunities, and there's no bigger thrill than swimming with the sea lions as they frolic around you.

And then back to Quito. Quito is a wonderful city, with a rich history. We also had an opportunity to journey north to Otavalo. What a treat! We visited towns that each specialized in only one craft: leather; weaving; mazapan (ornaments made out of dough and then glazed in captivating designs and colours – our son brought back a spectacular chess set whose pieces depict the wildlife of the Galapagos). We visited a 3rd generation family of musicians and makers of all types of pan flutes. They demonstrated how they make a simple pan flute, the sounds of each of the different instruments, and then put on a performance for us. We were captivated. We visited the Otavalo craft market which was an absolute kaleidoscope of colours. The wares are a bargain by North American standards and of course we always wished that we had bought more. The people are friendly and their clothing is so picturesque. An enchanting hacienda provided us with a refreshing overnight stay. None of us wanted to leave. Our guide Carlos was wonderful; he showed us his country and left us with a real understanding and appreciation for Ecuador and its people.

As incredible as all of this was, I think that our family felt that if we had to choose the most unique and spectacular part of the trip, it was the 4 days we spent in the Amazon rain forest.

Amidst all of this travel and moving from locale to locale, there was still time for a CME component. There were presentations on various topics from members of our group; a discussion on Ecuadorian health care by a local physician in Quito; visits to both public and private hospitals; a presentation by a biologist in the Galapagos; a visit to the ship's infirmary, and a hands-on introduction to natural and herbal medicines by our guide in the rainforest. There was also a local shaman who performed a cleansing ritual on one of our group that left us all agape!

This was a fabulous way to visit exotic places and still get first hand knowledge and understanding of health care as it exists other than in our North American environment.

Dr. Rachel Kassner is a family physician in Charlottetown, PEI and travels extensively. She is formerly the Head of the Department of Family Medicine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Charlottetown and is also the President of the Medical Society of Prince Edward Island as well as being a physician liaison on the project to implement unified electronic health records Province-wide.

The fine print…

Please take the time to read and understand the Terms and Conditions of booking set out below prior to booking a tour with us.

The Terms & Conditions contained herein are the terms under which Doctors-on-Tour and on-Tour (being operating brands of Britcan International Consulting (B.I.C.) Inc. and together, for the purposes of these Terms & Conditions, being referred to collectively as DOT/OT/BIC) accepts reservations for participation on a tour. Our liabilities are limited. When you make a payment of deposit and/or final payment, it is also an acknowledgement of receipt and acceptance of these Terms and Conditions.

1. RESERVATIONS & DEPOSIT: Early reservations are recommended to guarantee your reservation as several of the accommodation providers with which we make arrangements on your behalf have limited capacity. All services are strictly on a request basis, both for air travel and land requirements and subject to availability of seats and hotel/lodge/camp rooms and cruise cabins. A guaranteed non-refundable deposit of $1,000 per person, together with the applicable travel insurance premium, is required with your reservation request. Tour extensions and, where applicable, seat upgrades in aircraft cabin categories higher than economy, are also subject to additional non-refundable deposits as detailed in each specific program's brochure. Reservations made for travel within 95 days (105 days for programs which include a cruise component) of the travel date will require full payment at the time of reservation. Certain non-standard arrangements may require higher deposit and the same will be advised to you at the time of booking. Please be aware that some airfares (outside of our group air blocks) require full payment at time of booking and will be advised to you accordingly at the time of your booking confirmation.

2. FINAL AND/OR BALANCE DUE PAYMENT: Guaranteed payment of all balances due is no later than 95 days (105 days for programs which include a cruise component, 110 days for Sri Lanka programs and 125 days for Morocco programs) prior to departure date. If payment of the balance due is not received by the stipulated date, we reserve the right to cancel your reservation without refund of deposit.

3. CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS: Visa & MasterCard credit cards are accepted as form of payment. We do accept any other kinds of cards, including either American Express or Diners Club. Your online authorization by way of our Online Registration Form acts as your approval for the credit card provided as part of your registration to be charged for both the initial deposit (and travel insurance premium, where applicable) as well as the future balance payments on the date they become due, together with any other charges due relating to the booking that have been requested by you in writing (including by current or future electronic mail communication). For registrations that are not received via our Online Registration Form, but instead are forwarded to DOT/OT/BIC by mailing, faxing or e-mailing a scanned completed copy of our (non-online) Registration Form, your signature on such (non-online) Registration Form verifies your approval for your credit card to be charged. No services will be provided without receipt of either the authorized Online Registration Form or the duly signed (non-online) Registration Form. Third party payments may have restrictions.

4. CANCELLATIONS & CHANGES: The deposit amounts (for both the main tour and any optional extensions reserved), as well as any travel insurance premiums paid, are 100% non-refundable and non-transferable. Cancellation penalties for bookings cancelled by the client after the final balance due date (95 days before departure; 105 days before departure for programs which include a cruise component; 110 days for Sri Lanka programs,125 days for Morocco programs) are as follows: 95 – 61 (105 - 61 days for programs which include a cruise component) days before departure – 25% of total price paid; 60 – 31 days – 50% of total price paid; 30 days or less – 100%. Our Sri Lanka programs have different cancellation penalties after the balance due date, as follows, Sri Lanka : 110 – 91 days before departure – 20% of total price paid; 90 – 61 days – 35% of total price paid; 60 – 31 days – 50% of total price paid; 30 days or less – 100%. The cancellation penalties listed above apply to the main tour package and any other additional services requested, including but not limited to additional hotel nights and transfer costs. (Notwithstanding the foregoing, any domestic Canada flight purchased as an additional service to the advertised package is 100% non-refundable irrespective of the date of cancellation). If payments are not received by their due dates, we reserve the right to cancel the booking without further notice. Bookings are non-transferable. There will be no refund for unused land arrangements after departure from North America. In the event of the cancellation by DOT/OT/BIC of any or all components of the travel services offered herein, DOT/OT/BIC will offer either a refund, or future travel credit, depending on the situation with our supplier partners subject to any specific penalties relating to airline seats that would be out of our control and would obviously be dependent upon the air ticket conditions as well as any cancellation penalties that may be charged by third party suppliers of services at the destination. Irrespective of whether a tour booking is cancelled by the client or if any or all components of the travel services are cancelled by DOT/OT/BIC, airfares may be subject to different rules and cancellation fees including some airfares may be fully non-refundable once the booking is confirmed regardless of when it was made including upgraded air cabin classes (ie premium economy, business and first class cabins) which are subject to different rules and cancellation fees based on the individual fare class in which the seats are purchased.

5. TRAVEL INSURANCE: To protect against cancellation charges, we strongly recommend purchasing Cancellation Protection and Travel Interruption Insurance. In the event of illness, medical and hospital expenses are the traveler's responsibility and no refunds will be made, partial or total, for the purchased tour. We strongly urge that you purchase either the Non-Medical Inclusive insurance (ie Cancellation Protection and Travel Interruption Insurance), All Inclusive insurance (Non-Medical coverage plus health coverage), or the Premium Protection Plan insurance package (All Inclusive coverage with higher coverage limits) offered by DOT/OT/BIC through Manulife Insurance. COVID-19 is currently viewed as a pre-existing situation by all insurance companies, including Manulife Insurance, and therefore is an exclusion under those policies that include health insurance, ie All Inclusive and Premium Protection Plan insurance packages. For coverage relating to COVID-19 health claims while on your tour, Manulife offers separate coverage, ie COVID-19 Pandemic Travel Insurance. Some countries may require proof of medical insurance, including specifically for COVID-19.

6. TRAVEL DOCUMENTATION, VISA & OTHER IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS: A Canadian citizen must be in possession of a passport that must remain valid for a minimum of 6 months from the date of conclusion of their journey for all destinations offered with the exception of New Zealand, Spain/Portugal and countries on our Eastern Europe program where the passport must remain valid for a minimum of 3 months from the date of conclusion of their journey. Tour participants must also ensure that they comply with all visa and health requirements of countries they intend to visit.

For Canadian citizens, a tourist entry visa (or, in some cases, a reciprocity fee) is required for entry into the following destinations offered by DOT/OT/BIC -

- Bali (Indonesia), Bhutan, Brasil, China, India, Kenya, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Vietnam (tourist entry visa, or a visa pre-approval letter in some cases, must be obtained prior to departure from Canada); Cambodia, Laos, Zambia (tourist entry visa may be obtained upon arrival in the destination)
- A tourist entry visa is not required for entry into Argentina, Chile, Ecuador, Iceland, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, South Africa, Spain and any country on our Eastern Europe program.

Non Canadian citizens may have different requirements. It is the passenger's responsibility to ensure that all his or her passport, visa and mandatory health vaccination requirements for entry into the country are met and the cancellation penalties referred to above will apply if a passenger is not allowed into the destination country (or determines in advance of departure that he will not be allowed into the destination country) due to lack of proper documentation including, but not limited to, passport, visa, customs, health or currency provisions required by the destination country thus preventing him from participate in the tour.

While COVID-19 remains an ongoing issue, some countries may introduce specific medical requirements for entry which may completing medical wellness declarations upon arrival and/or proof of a negative COVID-19 test and/or proof of having received an approved COVID-19 vaccination. Proof of medical insurance, including specifically for COVID-19, may also be required. As regulations and requirements continue to change by country, we will notify you of any specific necessary requirements for your destination closer to departure.

Final tour documents consisting of detailed tour itinerary, vouchers, and airline tickets will be forwarded approximately 2-3 weeks prior to departure subject to receipt of final payment.

7. PRICING POLICY: Accommodations and services at the destination are contracted in local currencies and/or US Dollars. Due to frequent fluctuations in currency exchange (as well as other factors beyond our control including, but not limited to, fuel costs, transportation taxes and airport and local surcharges), prices are subject to change with or without notice and surcharges may apply for which we would endeavor to inform you as soon as possible. However, once we have received your final payment we would either waive any price increase or allow you to cancel your booking without penalty.

8. UNUSED PORTION OF THE TOUR: No refund will be made for any unused accommodations, missed meals, transportation segments, cruise portions, sightseeing tours or any other service. Such unused items are neither refundable nor exchangeable.

9. ACCOMMODATIONS: We use a variety of accommodations on our programs with many of our properties specifically chosen to reflect the local style and culture of the region. Our rating system reflects the majority of the accommodations throughout each program but some variety can occur. Ratings are based not only on room quality but also on facilities and location. Accommodation ratings in overseas destinations outside of Canada are an arbitrary measure and their definition from country to country can differ slightly as well as not always being consistent between individual properties in that particular destination nor are they necessarily comparable to an equivalent rating in North America. Rooms are assigned by the respective supplier(s) on a run-of-the-house basis, in category (ies) as specified in the itinerary and the right is reserved to substitute properties/hotels/lodges/camps/cruise/ships as conditions warrant such change for reasons beyond our control. Accommodations on twin occupancy basis, is provided at the properties/hotels/lodges/camps/cruise ships as specified or similar. Single room supplements apply to persons occupying sole use of a room/cabin but travelling with other passengers on the same tour and sharing transport cost on transfers, game drives, coach tours, sightseeing and excursions. Quoted single room rate does not necessarily mean single occupancy of a double room, as several of the establishments offered have especially designed single occupancy units.

10. SINGLE PASSENGERS TRAVELLING TOGETHER: If you are travelling with a companion and each paying separately the regular each of two double sharing accommodation rate and your companion decides to cancel, the remaining travelling passenger will be responsible for either finding a replacement travelling companion to take the cancelled passenger's place or must pay the single supplement and travel on a single basis.

11. AGE & HEALTH REQUIREMENTS, PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Minimum Age: The minimum age for the majority of our tours is 12 at the time of travel.

Maximum Age: We have no upper age limit for our tours though we inform you that our tours ~~may~~ include ~~some~~ components which require group members to have a moderate level of physical condition in order to be able to participate.

You are responsible for assessing whether a tour is suitable for you. It is your responsibility to assess the risks and requirements of each aspect of the tour based on your own unique circumstances, limitations, fitness level and medical requirements.

DOT/OT/BIC reserves the right to deny you permission to travel or participate in any aspect of a tour at any time and at your own risk and expense where DOT/OT/BIC determines that your physical or mental condition renders you unfit for travel or you represent a danger to yourself or others. Travel with DOT/OT/BIC may involve visiting remote or developing regions, where medical care may not be easily accessible and medical facilities may not meet the standards of those found in your home country. The condition of medical facilities in the countries you may visit on your tour varies and DOT/OT/BIC make no representations and give no warranties in relation to the availability or standard of medical facilities in those regions.

We will provide details on mandatory and recommended health requirements with respect to vaccinations and other forms of medical protection relevant to the particular destination that you are travelling to but it is your responsibility to ensure that you obtain proper and detailed medical advice at least 6 weeks prior to travel for the latest health requirements and recommendations for your destination and how they impact your own personal health situation.

12. MEALS & BEVERAGES: Meals as included on our itineraries are either buffet meals and/or table d'hôte. Meals ordered through room service are not included and must be paid directly to the establishment. Alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, and bottled water are included only where indicated on the itinerary. Unless specifically mentioned in your itinerary, all drinks (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic) are to purchased and paid directly to the establishments.

13. OPTIONAL TOURS & EXCURSIONS AND TOUR EXTENSIONS: It is our intent to operate any optional tours & excursions and tour extensions on a private group basis. However, should the number of participants be of an insufficient level, we reserve the right to either **-**

(1) add a surcharge to the previously stated selling price to be able to still offer the extension on a private basis or
(2) operate any individual tour on a shared basis with other non-group participants or
(3) cancel the tour and provide a full refund of all monies paid.

No refunds can be provided for cancellation of any tour by the client while in the destination.

14. SPECIAL REQUESTS: While we will make every effort to accommodate special requests, eg., room/cabin locations, adjoining rooms, non-smoking rooms, bed preferences, special dietary meal requests, these cannot be guaranteed and DOT/OT/BIC cannot be held responsible if such requests cannot be fulfilled. Requests for upgrading rooms/cabins are subject to additional charges. Any deviations to the standard program arrival and departure flight dates should be notified to us by separate e-mail at the time of booking and are subject to availability and also any applicable flight class supplement.

15. SEATING ASSIGNMENT ON FLIGHTS: Our air arrangements are made via group contracts with the airlines and are therefore subject to more restrictive airline Terms & Conditions and policies than for seats purchased individually from airline web sites. If you have a particular seat request, we will do our best to fulfill it subject to the policies of the airlines. Certain airlines assign group seating automatically for which the specific location within the group block is out of our control and to which the airlines do not provide access for us to change specific seat locations; and several airlines do not allow for specific advance seat assignment at all in which case specific seats will be assigned at airport check-in.

16. DOCUMENT DELIVERY: Your travel documents will be sent to you approximately 3 weeks prior to departure. For bookings received within 3 weeks of departure, express delivery of documents will require a courier delivery fee of $30 to cover extra handling and processing. Additional courier charges will apply for all residents outside of Canada, irrespective of when the booking is made.

17. CONSUMER PROTECTION: DOT/OT/BIC are licensed under the Ontario Government Ministry of Consumer & Corporate Relations, Travel Industry Act 1974, Registration No. 50009110. The Act is administered by the Travel Industry Council of Ontario (TICO), the government regulated body which is responsible for enforcing and monitoring the Travel Industry Act, including the protection of advance monies paid to its registrants by consumers. More information about TICO is available at http://www.tico.on.ca/

18. NOTICE TO TRAVELLERS: Canadians enjoy a living standard which is among the highest in the world. In other countries, the uninterrupted supply of water and electricity, local health conditions, levels of security and standards of food and beverages may sometimes differ from those enjoyed at home. Illness or inconvenience resulting from the services provided or omitted at the destination are outside the reasonable control of DOT/OT/BIC who bear no responsibility for such illness or inconvenience. DOT/OT/BIC cannot accept responsibility for the behavior of other guests/groups nor the unlikely event of the withdrawal of services or facilities due to local cultural and political events, or strikes.

19. ACCEPTANCE OF RISK:

You acknowledge that participation in overseas travel involves a degree of personal risk and that you may be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes present dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. You acknowledge that you are choosing to travel at a time where you may be exposed to epidemics and/or pandemics including, but not limited to, the COVID-19 virus. We will take all reasonable steps to ensure your safety and may require you to follow additional safety protocols on your trip.

We use information from government foreign departments and reports from our own contacts in each destination, including our local destination supplier partners, assessing whether the itinerary should operate. However, it is the responsibility of every traveller to acquaint yourself with all relevant travel information, including applicable health and safety risks and the nature of your itinerary including checking the Government of Canada's Travel Advisories page https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories (for travellers resident outside of Canada, you should refer to the equivalent travel advisory sources of your own government) for information and updates about your travel destination in order to be aware of any issues that may impact the safety and security of your travel. You acknowledge that your decision to travel is made in light of consideration of this information and you accept that you are aware of the personal risks attendant upon such travel. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we accept no liability in relation to these additional risks.

20. FORCE MAJEURE: DOT/OT/BIC shall not be liable for any claims, losses, damages, costs, expenses, delays or loss of enjoyment, of any nature or kind whatsoever, resulting from events beyond our or a supplier's reasonable control, including but not limited to acts of God; war; civil commotion or insurrection; riot; blockade or embargo; fire; explosion; breakdown; union dispute, strike, lockout or other labor disputes or disruptions; earthquake; epidemic, pandemic or other health emergency; flood; windstorm or other extreme weather event; lack or failure of courses of supply; passage of any law, order, proclamation, regulation, restraint, ordinance, demand, requisition or requirement or any other act of any government authority, whether or not foreseeable, which would make it dangerous or not viable for a trip to commence or continue.

21. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES: DOT/OT/BIC makes arrangements with a network of third party suppliers, ie., airlines, tour operators, ground handlers, accommodation providers, cruise companies, activity providers, coach and transfer companies, car rental companies, tour and local guides, government agencies, and other independent contractors and individuals to provide you with the travel services and other services you purchase. Although we take care in selecting these third party suppliers, we have no control over them and, therefore, cannot be responsible for their acts or omissions. In the unlikely event that a particular hotel / lodge / cruise ship described in this brochure is not available we reserve the right to provide an alternate hotel / lodge / cruise ship of the equivalent standard. We also reserve the right to substitute another airline if the particular airline described in this brochure is not available.

The travel services provided by DOT/OT/BIC are subject to the applicable provincial Travel Industry Acts and Regulations and are subject to the conditions imposed by our third party suppliers and their liability is limited by their tariffs, conditions of carriage, tickets and vouchers and international conventions and agreements.

DOT/OT/BIC shall not be responsible for any loss, damage or injury, whether physical or mental, or to property, resulting from any delay, substitution or deficiency of quality of equipment or service, or any act, omission, negligence or commission of any party supplying any of the services or accommodation herein, its agents, servants, employees, subcontractors or for any claims for such loss, damage, or injury, whether physical or mental, arising therefrom, or from any cause that arises by reason of actions of parties other than DOT/OT/BIC. In the event that it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort, well-being or security of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to cancel or alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to DOT/OT/BIC. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, also to decline to accept or retain any passengers as participants of the tours should such person's health, mental or physical condition, in the sole opinion of DOT/OT/BIC, impede, or threaten to impede, the operation and/or enjoyment of the tour for the other passengers. In such a case, DOT/OT/BIC will refund any monies that can be recovered for the unused portion of the tour, taking into account any additional charges or penalties from third party suppliers of services at the destination. DOT/OT/BIC can assume no responsibility for lost tickets or coupons. The liability of DOT/OT/BIC for any loss, damage or injury, whether physical or mental, arising from its own acts, omissions or negligence, is limited to the price of the services purchased.

22. SEVERABILITY: In the event that any term or condition contained in these Terms & Conditions is unenforceable or void by operation of law or as being against public policy or for any other reason then such term or condition shall be deemed to be severed from this contract or amended accordingly only to such extent necessary to allow all remaining terms and conditions to survive and continue as binding.

23. PRIVACY POLICY: Any personal information that we collect about you will be handled in accordance with our Privacy Policy and may be used for any purpose associated with the operation of a trip. In making this booking you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons such as our agents, service providers or other suppliers to enable us to operate the trip or, if permitted by any relevant e-marketing spam laws, to send you marketing material in relation to our events and special offers.