

**GOWAY**

PRESENTS:

# NATURAL SELECTION

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF LEGENDS IN MACHU PICCHU & THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS



## CA \$48,595

per person based on double occupancy

CA \$10,999 Single supplement



### DAY 1. 11 NOVEMBER 2020. ARRIVE LIMA - LD

After arriving in Lima and spending the morning getting your bearings, head on an afternoon exploration of Barranco, Lima's bohemian quarter that showcases the city's vibrant cultural life with museums, designer boutiques, handicrafts fairs, and street concerts.

Cross the Bridge of Sighs, the Puente de los Suspiros, then take in the Pedro de Osma Museum with its fine collection of colonial-era paintings, furniture, and textiles. The tour continues with a visit to MATE, a museum owned by renowned photographer Mario Testino. We will then visit Hotel B, displaying the charms of a Belle Epoque mansion in the heart of the historical Barranco neighbourhood, where we will learn to make Pisco Sours with a cocktail class.

We return to our hotel with time to get ready for our dinner at the Huaca Pucllana Restaurant. Located within the ruins of Huaca Pucllana, an archaeological compound built between 200 and 700 AD by the early inhabitants of Lima, the restaurant is illuminated by the night sky, offering some amazing views as you dine under the covered terrace. The cuisine is a reinterpretation of the Peruvian Criollo tradition, which combines local flavors and ingredients with contemporary techniques. After dinner, return to your hotel.

*Overnight: AC Hotel by Marriott Lima Miraflores*

[www.naturalselection.goway.com](http://www.naturalselection.goway.com)

**DAY 2. 12 NOVEMBER 2020. CULINARY AND COLONIAL LIMA – BLD**

After breakfast we head out for a culinary tour of Lima. Learn about the many ingredients that make up this world-famous fusion cuisine. Visit some local markets and sample exotic fruits, herbs, and spices. Then enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

The full afternoon tour of Colonial Lima starts with a visit to the modern and historical region of the city for a visual juxtaposition of how Lima is both “old” and “new.” Starting in the districts of Miraflores and San Isidro, including an overview of the impressive Huaca Hualamarca, a pre-Incan archaeological site right in central Lima, the tour conveys to the Globetrotter not only the size of Lima but how quickly the city continues to develop. At the conclusion of the city tour we head to Casa Aliaga. Tonight, you sit at a table once used by conquistadors for a truly unique dining experience. From Casa Aliaga, you'll return to your hotel.

*Overnight: AC Hotel by Marriott Lima Miraflores*



**DAY 3. 13 NOVEMBER 2020. LIMA AND PASO HORSE SHOW – BLD**

Today is spent immersing ourselves in the rich equestrian history of Peru. The Peruvian Paso Horse Show takes place in Mamacona, a historic hacienda in the shadows of the Pre-Inca Pachacamac Ruins. The Peruvian Paso Horse is the result of Spanish and Berber cross breeding for over 300 years. The horse trots in a series of synchronized movements of the front and rear legs, in parallel motion, a trait that has made it one of the most beautiful and elegant breeds of horse in the world. All this takes place while you enjoy a sumptuous Peruvian lunch.

We return to Lima and the hotel for some downtime before gathering for dinner at one of Lima's most famous restaurants, Cala. Located right on the ocean, at Cala, you will find an innovative cuisine with traditional Peruvian flavours fused with Mediterranean secrets. Led by Alfredo Aramburu and his son Jose Alfredo, they merge their experience and culinary creativity, offering a menu that will delight you with a variety of tastes and exotic flavours from the sea. After dinner, return to the hotel.

*Overnight: AC Hotel by Marriott Lima Miraflores*

#### DAY 4. 14 NOVEMBER 2020. PARACAS - BLD

Get an early start and board our air-conditioned vehicles and head down the Peruvian coast towards Paracas. The desert and the sea come together in spectacular landscapes in Paracas and the cliffs that fringe the beaches are teeming with life. Once we arrive Paracas, we'll head to our hotel, the Libertador, check in, and enjoy lunch. The afternoon is free to relax and laze by the pool.

This evening, we head off into the desert for a Bedouin-style dining experience. Hopping into your dune buggies, your professional driver will take you on an adrenaline-filled ride across and over monstrous sand dunes before "landing" at your exotic desert dinner camp. Enjoy wines, cervezas, and fine dining in the cool desert night with a clear sky above you for amazing star watching. After dinner, return to your hotel.

*Overnight: Hotel Libertador Paracas*



#### DAY 5. 15 NOVEMBER 2010. FLIGHT OVER NAZCA LINES AND RETURN TO LIMA - BLD

Scattered over 500 square kilometers on an arid plateau between the Nazca River and Ingenio River, the Nazca Lines are huge representations of geometric patterns, animals, human figures, and thousands of perfectly straight lines that go on for kilometers. The images on the ground are so huge that the only way to fully observe them is from the sky. Luckily, you'll head into the air to take in these marvels.

In the morning, transfer to the nearby airport for your flight over the Nazca Lines. Flying over the Nazca Desert, you can marvel looking at the perfect shape of a monkey, a spider, a whale, a lizard, and various types of birds, including hummingbirds, seabirds, and the mighty Andean Condor. After the flight, enjoy a champagne bites lunch before heading back to Lima. Once you arrive back in Lima, you'll have time to refresh before heading out to dinner at Matria Restaurante.

*Overnight: AC Hotel by Marriott Lima Miraflores*

## DAY 6. 16 NOVEMBER 2020. LIMA TO CUSCO – B

Get an early start today for your flight up and over the Andes to the ancient Inca capital of Cusco. Choose from a Photography Tour, Artisan Tour, or Ceramic Workshops Visit. After your chosen activity in the morning, the afternoon is free to wander the streets of Cusco. Cusco is a destination in its own right due to its historical importance in South America, beguiling blend of cobblestone streets, colonial period architecture, and that unmistakable Peruvian street spirit. Tonight, we once again gather at our hotel for a special guest lecture by our special guest guide for the next few days—Peter Frost.

As described by National Geographic, “Peter Frost is a writer, photographer, archaeologist, and independent scholar who has explored the Andes and Amazon for 35 years, and lived in Peru since 1987. He has published four books on Peru and Ecuador, including a guide to the Cusco region and a book on Machu Picchu. In 2001 and 2002, he led National Geographic Society-sponsored expeditions into the remote region of Vilcabamba, finding and exploring the previously unknown Inca and pre-Inca site of Qoriwayrachina. His finds have been featured in National Geographic magazine.”

*Overnight: Belmond Palacio Nazarenas*



## DAY 7. 17 NOVEMBER 2020. CUSCO, SACSAYHUAMAN, AND PLANETARIUM – BD

Get right to the heart of a city where Incan, traditional, and colonial Peruvian cultures come together. This tour of the oldest continuously-inhabited city in the western hemisphere includes the important landmarks of enchanting Cusco and the nearby ruins of Kenko, Puca Pucara, and the Sacsayhuaman Fortress. You will also visit Cusco's Cathedral, Santo Domingo Church, and the Plaza de Armas.

If conditions allow, tonight we will visit the nearby Planetarium. Planetarium Cusco is probably the most original planetarium in the world and is located only 15 minutes away from downtown Cusco and surrounded by a beautiful natural environment. Head to “The Dome,” where you will see a starry sky projection to learn the “official” constellations as well as the southern skies constellations, and the Incas’ constellation. All this is accompanied by some fascinating stories. Finish the visit—weather dependent—with treasures of the skies (stars, planets, nebulae, and constellations of the southern skies) with the use of professional telescopes. Afterwards, return to the hotel.

*Overnight: Belmond Palacio Nazarenas*

## DAY 8. 18 NOVEMBER 2020. CUSCO AND MISMINAY – BLD

Embark on a flavours tour and Tuber wine tasting with Manuel Choque in the town of Chinchero. This ultimate foodie experience in the heights of Cusco will reveal Peru's incredible agro-diversity. Your host will welcome you to his home, explain his work, and present you with a sample of the over 370 varieties of potatoes he holds in his repository.

Today, we also have the opportunity to visit Misminay, a local community, and participate in local farming activities, learn ancestral techniques, and use farming tools that date back to pre-Inca times. After lunch, the community will show you how they make textiles from the collection of wool and natural dyes. A day of living the Incan way is something not soon forgotten. Then return to our hotel for a casual dinner.

*Overnight: Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba*



#### DAY 9. 19 NOVEMBER 2020. SACRED VALLEY OF THE INCAS – BL

Continue to discover the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Today, visit a “living” Incan town—Ollantaytambo. Travel further down the Sacred Valley to where the main road ends and the famous fort town of Ollantaytambo is located. Strategically located as a choke point in the valley, the fort and village is a living Incan town with much of the original structure and irrigations systems still in functional use. It has been inhabited since the 13th century.

You are welcome to participate in the preparation of a Pachamanca lunch, and while the food cooks, you can visit the organic farm and learn about traditional and contemporary organic farming practices. The lunch includes a variety of fresh cuts of chicken, pork, and lamb (with alpaca, rabbit and cuy—Guinea Pig—upon request), Andean potatoes and camotes, organic farm vegetables, and farm quiche, which are all cooked underground, as Pachamanca translates roughly to “earth oven” in Quechua. The lunch is accompanied with a variety of house-made salads and sauces as well as chicha morada (purple corn beverage). Lunch is served at the farm with breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains, glaciers, and Inca archeological sites.

*Overnight: Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba*



#### DAY 10. 20 NOVEMBER 2020. MORAY AND MARAS – BLD

Head down through the unspoiled and picturesque Sacred Valley and Andean communities on the way to the Incan agricultural experimental centre of Moray, famous for its sunken amphitheater, made up of four circular terraces, which appear to fade away into the earth like an artificial crater. The site was apparently an Inca agricultural research station filled with fertile earth and watered by a complex irrigation system and designed for experimenting with crops at various altitudes.

Continue onto the impressive Maras Salt Pools formed by water emerging from a lake inside the mountain in the Urubamba Valley. An amazing view is offered of the evaporating ponds used for the extraction of salt. Learn about ancestral agricultural, irrigation, and salt-recollection techniques, as well as Andean festivals and rites. After, return to the hotel.

*Overnight: Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba*



#### DAY 11. 21 NOVEMBER 2010. MACHU PICCHU – BLD

Today, board the famous and luxurious Hiram Bingham Train for the ride through the Sacred Valley of Urubamba to the “Lost City of the Incas,” Machu Picchu. Perched 8,200ft/2,500m above the valley, Machu Picchu was hidden by mountains and semi-tropical jungles for 400 years until rediscovered by Hiram Bingham III, a professor from Yale University, in 1911.

Upon disembarking the train at the Aguas Calientes train station, your baggage will be transported to the hotel and you’ll walk to the nearby bus stop where buses transport travellers from the town of Aguas Calientes to the ruins of Machu Picchu (it’s about a 20-min bus ride up to the idyllic mountain-top location). Once you arrive at the ruins, you’ll begin your guided tour. You must exit the ruins by 5pm.

After the tour, you will exit with your guide and return by bus down to Aguas Calientes and our hotel for the night. Dinner is at the Sumaq Machu Picchu Hotel in their award-winning restaurant. After dinner, stroll the streets of this quaint town and do some shopping before returning to your hotel.

*Overnight: Sumaq Machu Picchu Hotel*



#### DAY 12. 22 NOVEMBER 2020. SECOND VISIT TO MACHU PICCHU – BL

Today you will visit Machu Picchu and have the opportunity to explore at your own pace. After ascending the multi-switch-back dirt road, you will be dropped off at the entrance to Machu Picchu. Enjoy Machu Picchu at your pace or partake in one of the following walks: Climb Huayna Picchu, Climb Machu Picchu Mountain, Walk to the Incan Bridge, and Walk to the Sun Gate.

After your time in the ruins, you will exit, meet your guide, and board the first available bus down the hill to the town of Aguas Calientes where everyone will gather for lunch. After lunch, you can shop some more before walking to the train station where your baggage will be. We then board the train for the return journey to Cusco (departs approx. 4 pm, although schedules vary and are subject to change without notice). Dinner that night is at leisure back in the Sacred Valley.

*Overnight: Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba*



#### DAY 13. 23 NOVEMBER 2020. HELICOPTER FLIGHT TO CUSCO – BLD

After breakfast, enjoy the VIP treatment of a helicopter transfer from the Sacred Valley back to Cusco. You'll then have the rest of the day to simply relax in and around Cusco. Visit the many art galleries, antique stores, and markets. We will gather for a deluxe lunch before you have the afternoon to finish your shopping and exploring. Tonight, join the group for dinner at the Palacio Manco Capac.

*Overnight: Belmond Palacio Nazarenas*



#### DAY 14. 24 NOVEMBER 2020. CUSCO AND OVERNIGHT TRAIN TO LAKE TITICACA – LD

The Belmond Andean Explorer, South America's first luxury sleeper train, departs Cusco at 11am, with check-in at 10am for the journey across the Altiplano to the shores of Lake Titicaca. This classic journey was recently voted "one of the top ten railway journeys of the world" and cuts across the formidable Peruvian Altiplano, whose high plains are rich with llama herds, green ibises, and mountain villages where life is harsh, but the resilient locals keep their communities together with pride and good humor.

During the journey, you will see the changing landscapes among mountains, rolling plains, and the various weathers of each area. En route there is a quick stop at Raqchi Temple. The Inca site at Raqchi was a primary control point on a road system that originated in Cusco and expanded as the Incan empire grew. There is also a stop at La Raya, the highest point on the journey, where you can purchase some local handicrafts. The train arrives in Puno at 11:30pm.

*Overnight: Belmond Spirit of the Water Train*



#### DAY 15. 25 NOVEMBER 2020. LAKE TITICACA – BLD

Rise to a magnificent sunrise over the sacred Lake Titicaca, with breakfast on board before disembarking the train at approximately 8am. You'll then head to the Sillustani Ruins.

Created by the pre-Incan Colla civilization that thrived in the area surrounding the lake until around the 1500s, when the Inca destabilized their hold on the area, the ruins at Sillustani are most strikingly comprised of circular towers. These spires, known as "chullpas," were built out of large stacked blocks. Each tower was built to hold an extended (usually noble) family within its rounded walls. The stones reflect the precise stonework later perfected by the Inca (although the Colla used symmetrical rectangles while the Inca often built with stones having irregular corners). Many of the blocks in the towers still bear the crude animal symbols that were added to the towers centuries ago.

After exploring the ruins, transfer to your hotel overlooking Puno and on the shores of Lake Titicaca. Enjoy dinner as the sun sets on the highest navigable lake in the world and the ancestral birthplace of the first Incan king and queen.

*Overnight: Casa Andina Premium Lake Titicaca*



**DAY 16. 26 NOVEMBER 2010. AMANTANI ISLAND AND RETURN TO PUNO – BLD**

The world's highest navigable lake is more than just one of South America's natural wonders. It's also home to the Uros people and several fascinating islands. The reed islands dotting Titicaca's surface are the Uros floating islands made of reed and named after the Indigenous peoples who inhabit them.

Amantani Island has opened its doors to outsiders who are willing to live for a few days as the Aymara-speaking islanders do—and that means sleeping on beds made of long hard reeds and eating potatoes for every meal. There is no running water or electricity and night-time temperatures drop to freezing even in the summer. But those happy to rough it can catch a glimpse of an Andean agricultural community that has maintained the same traditions for centuries. Some Amantani residents live and die without ever leaving the island.

Prepared visitors usually bring gifts of fruit—a rarity on the isolated island. The socializing begins when a family member who speaks English offers a guided walk around the island to enjoy spectacular views. Women wearing traditional black and white lace dresses pass by with slingshots in their hands to kill scavenging birds.

*Overnight: Casa Andina Premium Lake Titicaca*



**DAY 17. 27 NOVEMBER 2020. FLY TO LIMA – BLD**

Enjoy breakfast and spend the morning savoring the views on offer from your hotel before being transported to the nearby airport for your flight to Lima. Food—and, more importantly, good food—is key to any travel experience. Peru was named the World's Leading Culinary Destination at the World Travel Awards in 2012. When you combine this with a rich cultural history, you have a perfect “fusion” for good food and unique dining.

Once you arrive in Lima, transfer to the Larco Museum, one of Lima's most famous pre-Incan museums. The museum houses a remarkable chronological set of galleries tracing the 3,000 years of Peruvian pre-Columbian civilization. The curator will walk you through the pre-Incan history on this unique guided tour. Then head to the in-house restaurant for a fabulous meal to round out your day. Enjoy a Pisco Sour, an entree, a main meal, and dessert before you transfer to your hotel.

*Overnight: AC Hotel by Marriott Lima Miraflores*

**DAY 18. 28 NOVEMBER 2020. LIMA TO QUITO – BD**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito, Ecuador. The world's second-highest capital, and once the sister Incan capital to Cusco, Quito is packed with restaurants, museums, and cafés for you to explore. The entire city is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Transfer to your hotel in the old town and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Dinner tonight is a mestizo (a person of combined European and Indigenous South American descent, regardless of where the person was born) culinary experience at the Hotel Gangotena. It is a gastro-sensorial tribute to the best local ingredients prepared to the top levels of international cuisine. This is a truly trendsetting approach to authentic Ecuadorian gastronomy. Dinner tonight is in the Sala Roja with a sumptuous tasting menu and wine pairing.

*Overnight: Hotel Gangotena*



**DAY 19. 29 NOVEMBER 2020. QUITO – BLD**

The place to start your exploration of Ecuador is Quito and its surrounds. You'll head to the "Mitad del Mundo," the Middle of the World, a site located just 30 minutes north of Quito, where a monument marks the equator at its closest point to the city. Later, you'll visit the "Ciudad Mitad del Mundo," a group of buildings designed to explain the significance of the site, as well as the Ethnographic or Intiñan Museum, located right on the Equator. Here, you will have the chance to stand in two hemispheres at the same time.

Back in Quito, after lunch you'll visit the city's impressive colonial center, the reason Quito was the first city to be named a World Heritage Site by the United Nations. First on the agenda is a walk through the main plaza, the Plaza de la Independencia, where you will see the Government Palace, the Cathedral, and some of the most important churches built around the 16th and 17th centuries, including the San Francisco Monastery, a building whose construction began only five days after the founding of the city. Tonight, you'll enjoy the tasting menu from the Urko restaurant.

*Overnight: Hotel Gangotena*



**DAY 20. 30 NOVEMBER 2020. QUITO – BL**

According to new archaeological research, the world's oldest cocoa plant was found in the Southern Amazonia of Ecuador and dated back to 5,000 BC. This proves that the relationship between cocoa and Ecuador is old, but the modern industry is relatively new.

Enjoy a day of chocolate and more chocolate. The Pacari Chocolate Tasting Experience is where you will learn all about the process of making great chocolate. You will learn why Ecuador is the best country in the world to grow fine cocoa, and about the story of cocoa in world history. The tour showcases the process of creating chocolate and activities include a guided tour explaining the history of cocoa in Ecuador followed by a tasting of award-winning Pacari chocolate. The presentation also focuses on the agricultural aspects of cocoa production and the communities that work with Pacari to bring their product to market.

As part of the tour you will be able participate in a live digital game experience that visualizes the chocolate process from harvest to fabrication. You will then be able to produce truffles with real organic ingredients, without sugar and milk. Dinner is at leisure tonight.

*Overnight: Hotel Gangotena*



**DAY 21. 1 DECEMBER 2020. QUITO TO THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS**

Nowhere embodies the spirit of eco-travel like the Galapagos Islands. They have inspired nature lovers all the way back to Charles Darwin, and today draw visitors from all parts of the globe. As the world's second-largest marine reserve after the Great Barrier Reef, the islands are best experienced on a guided cruise.

You are transferred to the airport in Quito for your flight to the Galapagos Islands. On arrival in Baltra, pass through immigration and baggage claim and transfer to the yacht, the Infinity. You will be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing.

In the afternoon: Black Turtle Cove  
Visit Black Turtle Cove in the northern part of Santa Cruz. This inlet is surrounded by mangroves and is only accessible by dinghy. The shallow cove is a haven for young marine life. Black-tip and white-tip reef sharks, sea turtles, and a variety of rays are often spotted here.

*Overnight: Infinity Luxury Yacht*





## DAY 22. 2 DECEMBER 2020. GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

### In the morning: El Barranco

El Barranco, also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, is a steep, rocky path that leads up a high cliff face to a spot where you can appreciate the marvelous view. This site is also home to Palo Santo vegetation as well as red-footed boobies, short-eared owls, Galapagos storm petrels, and Galapagos doves.

### In the afternoon: Darwin Bay

Visit the white-sand coral beach of Darwin Bay, which includes a half-mile trail (0.75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls can easily be spotted here. Further down the path we'll find tidal pools where sea lions swim playfully. At the end is a spectacular view of a cliff.

*Overnight: Infinity Luxury Yacht*



## DAY 23. 3 DECEMBER 2020. GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

### In the morning: Sullivan Bay

You will visit Sullivan Bay located on the southeast part of Santiago. This place is interesting for its geology because the area is covered by lava flows. This place has elevations in the form of small volcanoes formed by the lava flows.

### In the afternoon: Rabida

You will visit Rabida Island (or Jervis), which is one of the most colorful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago as well as a great snorkeling site. We will start on Rabida's famous maroon/red sand beach, and after an easy hike, you will arrive at a stunning lookout to enjoy the amazing landscapes. The island is a bird-watcher's delight. Some species are abundant such as a few varieties of finches, Galapagos vermilion flycatchers, Galapagos hawks, and brown pelicans.

*Overnight: Infinity Luxury Yacht*

## DAY 24. 4 DECEMBER 2020. GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

### In the morning: Fausto Llerena Breeding Center

You will visit "Fausto Llerena" Giant Tortoises Breeding Center in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, where giant tortoises are bred in captivity. This is home to tortoises ranging from 3in (new hatchlings) to 4ft-long adults. Subspecies of the giant tortoises interact with one another, and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years-old and strong enough to survive on their own.

### In the afternoon: El Chato

El Chato Reserve is divided into two areas: Caseta and Chato. The trail begins at Santa Rosa (13.7mi / 22 km) from Puerto Ayora, with the Caseta route being the most challenging. The reserve allows visitors to observe giant tortoises in the wild during the dry season and is also a good place to spot short-eared owls, Darwin's finches, yellow warblers, Galapagos rails, and paint-billed crakes.

*Overnight: Infinity Luxury Yacht*



## DAY 25. 5 DECEMBER 2020. GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

### In the morning: Dragon Hill

The visitors' site at Dragon Hill is located in northwestern Santa Cruz Island and consists of a 1,600m-long trail that runs through three different environments. The beach is very rocky. At high tide it's a nice place for snorkeling. At this visiting site you can find vegetation of the typical intertidal zone and dry zone.

### In the afternoon: Bachas Beach

Bachas Beach is located on the north shore of Santa Cruz and is a beach for swimming. One of the few remnants of the U.S. World War II presence in the Galapagos, a floating pier, can be seen here. You may see flamingos, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black-necked stilts, and whimbrels. Sea turtles also nest on the beach.

*Overnight: Infinity Luxury Yacht*



## DAY 26. 6 DECEMBER 2020. GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

### In the morning: Post Office Bay

You will land on a beach and head to a spot where 18th-century whalers placed a wooden barrel used as an official mail box. The custom continues to this day with Galapagos visitors. So, don't forget your postcards, and don't be surprised if the postcard arrives to its destination before you even get home!

### In the afternoon: Cormorant Point

Cormorant Point hosts a large flamingo lagoon where other birds such as common stilts and white-cheeked pintails can also be seen. The beaches on this island are distinct. The Green Beach is named so due to its green color, which comes from a high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand, and the Four Sand Beach is composed of white coral.

### Afterwards: Devil's Crown

You will have a chance to snorkel around Devil's Crown, which is the rocky remains of an offshore volcano sticking out of the water. This is a great location to spot a wide range of marine creatures.

*Overnight: Infinity Luxury Yacht*

## DAY 27. 7 DECEMBER 2020. GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

### In the morning: Suarez Point

On the trail to Suarez Point you will have the chance to spot blue-footed boobies, albatrosses, and Nazca boobies. This island is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses. You will also visit a beautiful site on the ocean front where there is a cliff that the large albatrosses use as a launching pad! You will have the chance to see the famous blowhole that spurts seawater into the air. The landscape is great for photography.

### In the afternoon: Gardner Bay, Gardner Islet & Osborn Islet

This excursion takes you to spectacular Gardner Bay. After landing, you can walk across a lovely white-sand beach amongst a busy sea lion colony or dive into the water to swim with sea lion pups. You may also see curious mockingbirds on the beach.

*Overnight: Infinity Luxury Yacht*



**DAY 28. 8 DECEMBER 2020. GALAPAGOS ISLANDS AND RETURN TO QUITO**

**In the morning: Interpretation Center**

This site is part of an environment project. The tour of this center will explore the natural history of the islands, including human interaction and conservation efforts. The Museum of Natural History explains the volcanic origin of the archipelago, ocean currents, climate, and the arrival of endemic species. The Human History exhibit chronologically describes significant events such as the discovery and colonization of the islands.

After this final visit, you will be transferred to the San Cristobal Airport in time for your flight back to the mainland. On arrival, you are transferred to the hotel. Dinner is at leisure in Quito tonight.

*Overnight: Hotel Gangotena*



**DAY 29. 9 DECEMBER 2020. OTAVALO – BLD**

Today we travel north on the Panamerican Highway to visit Otavalo, the largely Indigenous town in the province of Imbabura, which is famous for its woven textiles. En route we stop at Hacienda La Compañía, the Rose Hacienda. Enjoy a tour of the home that was built in 1919 and has been meticulously maintained. We will visit the rose showroom, the greenhouses, and what is referred to as the “post-harvest” room. Here, our guide will explain the processes of how the roses are grown, harvested, and exported.

It is then onto Otavalo. The Otavalo Market, which makes this market town famous, is undoubtedly one of the most important and spectacular markets in all of Central & South America. The Otavalo Market is attractive to visitors for both its outstanding shopping and its cultural significance. Local people use market day much the way their ancestors did during Ecuador’s pre-Columbian history. The Otavalo Market is a fascinating way to experience traditional Ecuadorian culture and the traditions of the Andes.

After a bustling day of activity, enjoy a quiet meal in the tranquil surrounds of Otavalo.

*Overnight: Art Hotel Otavalo*

**DAY 30. 10 DECEMBER 2020. OTAVALO MARKET AND COTACACHI – BLD**

With still blue waters and vivid flora, Laguna de Cuicocha really should be on the cover of Ecuador guide books. But, like with many amazing places, it is still somewhat of a secret.

Laguna de Cuicocha is a 3km (2mi)-wide crater lake that sits at the foot of Cotacachi Volcano. Some 3,100 years ago, the volcano erupted and formed the enormous caldera. Today, the highest point of the caldera climbs up to 3,246m (10,650ft). Down the sides are native plants, and in the caldera’s basin, you’ll find a highly alkaline lake with two uninhabited islands breaking the surface. You’ll take in the view of the caldera from a viewpoint, but there are options for some short treks as well.

Like Otavalo and many other villages in this part of Ecuador, Cotacachi is an artisan town. Just 20 minutes northwest of Otavalo, Cotacachi is Ecuador’s famous leather town. Artisan shops line the main street and you can buy any type of leather item, from shoes, boots, and jackets to coin purses, bags, and suitcases—even upholstered furniture. Prices for all these items are 50% to 75% less than you would pay in the U.S or Canada. Afterwards, return to Quito.

*Overnight: Hotel Gangotena*



**DAY 31. 11 DECEMBER 2020. HELICOPTER TOUR OF THE AVENUE OF THE VOLCANOES – BLD**

Quito sits in the heart of the Andes at approximately 2,850m / 9,350ft, surrounded by multiple volcanoes. The view on a clear day from ground level is astounding. Now imagine that view from above the volcanoes as you circle overhead in your own private helicopter. Running for 200mi south of Quito between two parallel cordilleras, Ecuador's Avenue of the Volcanoes contains seven peaks more than 5,000m / 17,000ft high.

After this stunning aerial experience, we then head south to the base of one of the volcanoes, Cotopaxi, where we base ourselves at the Chilcabamba Hacienda. The lodge is the perfect base for immersing yourself in the magnificent surrounding countryside—on foot, horseback, or bicycle. Exploring the Pita River, whose source is the glacial meltwater of the giant Cotopaxi Volcano, is a must during a visit to Chilcabamba. We then return to Quito for our final meal together at Zazu Restaurant.

*Overnight: Hotel Gangotena*

**DAY 32. 12 DECEMBER 2020. DEPART**

After breakfast, we bid farewell to Ecuador and newfound friends as you are transferred to the airport for your return flights home. Complimentary use of the airport VIP lounge is included.



## INCLUSIONS:

- Guiding and lecture from special guest Peter Frost in Cusco and the Sacred Valley
  - Peter Frost guided tour of Machu Picchu, plus Huayna Picchu climb
  - Luxury Belmond train journeys to Machu Picchu and overnight to Lake Titicaca
- 8-day private luxury charter in the Galapagos Islands - Exclusive helicopter flights over the Sacred Valley, and the Avenue of the Volcanoes
- Unique dining including a traditional Pachamanca, a Bedouin style desert dinner, and the best of Lima's exciting restaurant scene
  - A choice of Cusco tours themed around photography or local artisans
- All regional airfares, tipping, 5-star accommodations, and transfers are included, with complimentary lounge access at Lima and Quito airports

**PLUS MANY MORE**