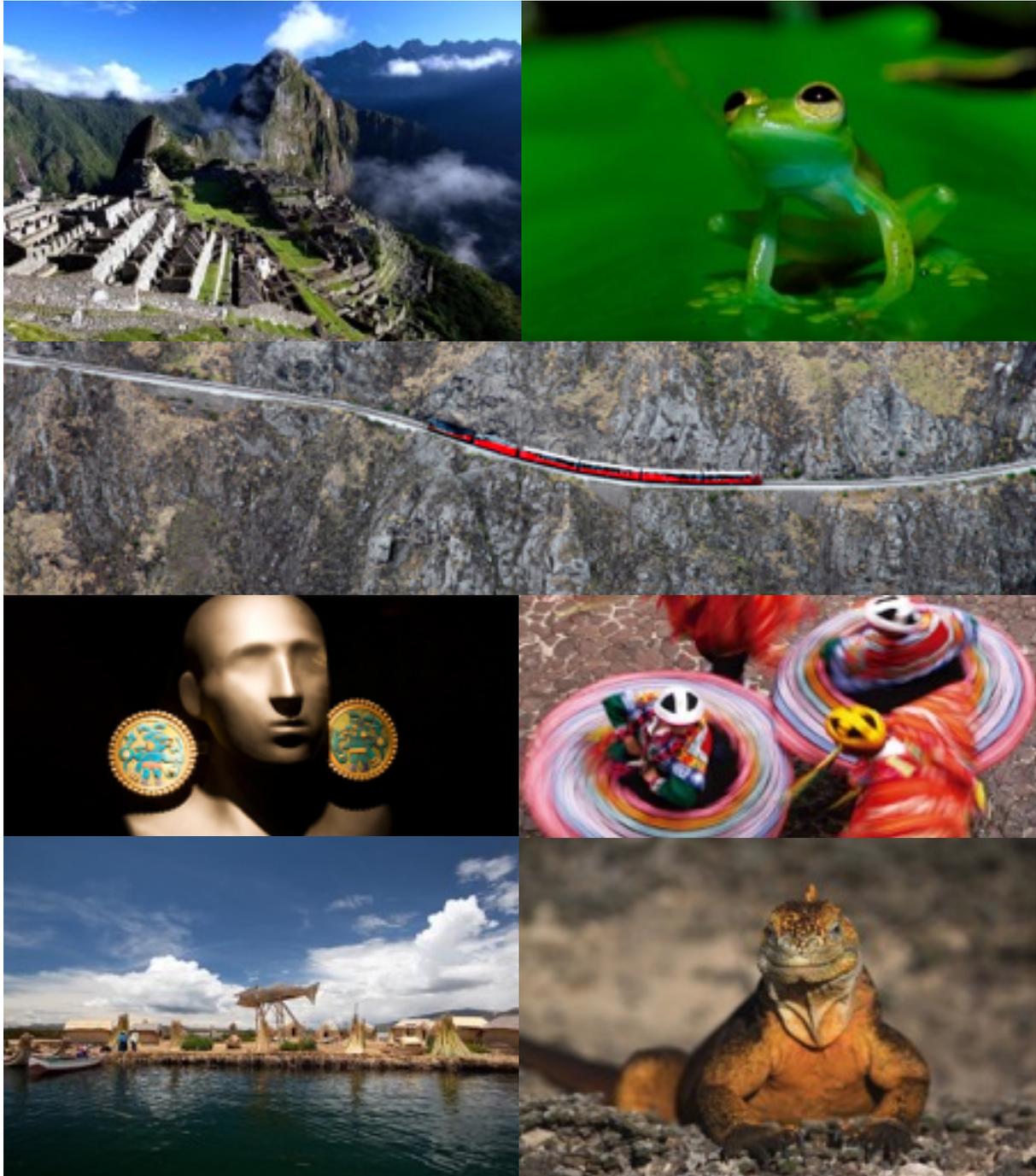


# Galapagos Insights

11th July - 11th August 2016



# Touring Programme

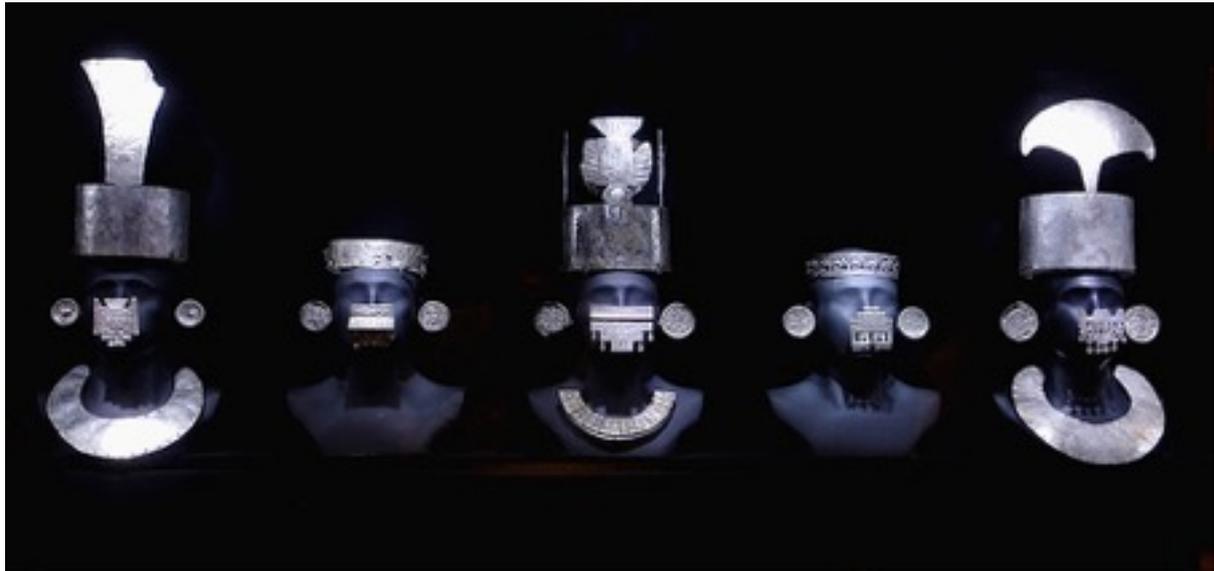
## **Day 1    Monday 11th July            Sydney to Lima, Peru**

Depart Sydney for Lima, Peru crossing the International Date Line to arrive on the same day. We are met and transferred to our hotel.

Two nights at Casa Andina Miraflores.

## **Day 2    Tuesday 12th July            Lima**

City tour with local guide. The tour begins in the Plaza de Armas, at the centre of the city built by Francisco Pizarro in the 1500's. We visit the Cathedral, dating from 1535, the old Palacio de los Virreyes, the baroque Archbishop Palace and the City Hall Palace decorated with beautiful wooden-carved colonial balconies. From the Plaza Mayor, we continue to the Convento de San Francisco, the most important and beautiful architectural complex of the city. Its construction began in 1542. Larco Museum, which we visit after lunch, has the largest collection of pre-Columbian pottery in the country. There are abundant archaeological pieces from the northern cultures: Vicus, Mochica and Chimú.



## **Day 3    Wednesday 13th July            Lima to Puno**

Morning flight to Juliaca, near the shore of the world's highest navigable lake, Lake Titicaca. We have lunch then drive to our hotel at Puno where we stay two nights. En route from Juliaca to Puno we visit the pre Incan necropolis of Sillustani overlooking Lake Umayo. The ruins of Sillustani feature chullpas or circular stone burial towers and it is thought that this was where mystical rituals were conducted.

Two nights at the Casa Andina Puno Hotel.



**Day 4      Thursday 14th July      Lake Titicaca**

After breakfast, transfer to Lake Titicaca where we board our vessel for a day excursion on the lake, including a visit to two of the Uros people's floating islands and World Heritage-listed Taquile Island, where we will have lunch. The floating islands are made of straw layers from a reed that grows abundantly on the lake, and are inhabited by the descendants of the ancient ethnic group known as the Uros.

**Day 5      Friday 15th July      Puno to Cusco**

Depart Puno onboard the *Andean Explorer* train to travel over the altiplano – the high plateau – to the Incan capital city of Cusco. Lunch is served on board, and we arrive at Cusco in the early evening.

Two nights at the Hotel Mercado Tunquio.

**Day 6      Saturday 16th July      Cusco**

Today we have a guided tour of the rich historical centre of Cusco. In the city, we will visit Coricancha, the most important religious centre of the Inca empire, above which the colonising Spaniards built the cathedral of Santo Domingo, which now lodges the greatest collection of Peruvian colonial art. Just to the north of Cusco we visit the ruined fortress of Sacsayhuaman and the district of Colcampata. On a hill east of Cusco is the complex encompassing Qenqo, which was a very important sanctuary during the Inca period. We also visit Puca Pucará fortress featuring inner squares, baths, aqueducts, watchtowers and an

old road easily recognisable, and Tambomachay, traditionally known as the bath of the princess, with two aqueducts where clean water flows all year round.

**Day 7      Sunday 17th July                      Cusco to Ollantaytambo**

Travel by chartered coach from Cusco to the fortress town of Ollantaytambo. En route we'll visit the market at Chinchero, the town of Maras and the Salineras Inca salt mines, and the ancient farming laboratory of Moray. Lunch at Wayra Restaurant, which offers the valley's delicious treats as well as a Peruvian Paso horse demonstration and a performance of the Marinera dance.

Two nights at the Aranwa Hotel.

**Day 8      Monday 18th July                      Machu Picchu**



Board the *Inca Rail* First Class train to Aguas Calientes, for an unforgettable day trip experiencing the incredible mountaintop landscape and exploring the famous Machu Picchu ruins. After lunch at the Sanctuary Lodge we transfer to the station for our return journey to Ollantaytambo.

**Day 9      Tuesday 19th July                      Ollantaytambo to Cusco**

Travelling back to Cusco, we visit the attractive town of Písaq, famous for its peasant fair, and the Fortress of Ollantaytambo.

Overnight at the Hotel Mercado Tunqui.

**Day 10    Wednesday 20th July            Cusco to Quito, Ecuador**

Depart Cusco, flying to Quito via Lima, to commence the Ecuadorian leg of our touring. We overnight at Quito to allow for an early departure tomorrow to the Cloud Forest Lodge at Mashpi Reserve.

Overnight at Hotel Patio Andaluz.

**Day 11    Thursday 21st July            Quito to Mashpi Cloud Forest Lodge**

Travel by coach from Quito to Mashpi Reserve. The three-hour journey descends from 2800 m to 1000 m in the evergreen wilds of the western slopes of the Andes. The spectacular natural diversity of the Andean landscape unfolds as our route passes through the dry valley of Pomasqui towards the cordillera's western flank, Pululahua Crater, then into lush, misty cloud forest.

Mashpi Cloud Forest Lodge is a nature sanctuary located in the spectacular Chocó, one of the most celebrated bio-regions in the world, known for its record-high endemism, rainfall and altitudinal range. You will have the opportunity to get up close to an incredible diversity of wildlife and flora, with naturalist guides leading walks and providing insights into this unique bio-region. Highlights include a night-time forest walk where you may encounter sparkling fireflies, little bats, bioluminescent fungi and the kinkajou (a relative of the raccoon)!

Two nights at Mashpi Cloud Forest Lodge.



**Day 12    Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July****Mashpi Cloud Forest Lodge**

Start the day on the hotel's terrace where the dawn light lures a variety of fascinating species in search of food. Enjoy your morning coffee with the delights of nature, with our guides on hand to help spot the rich array of life around the lodge. Later in the morning enjoy a treetop walk through the canopy and views from the observation tower, or take a ride on the Sky Bike for a different perspective of the forest.

Lunch at the lodge restaurant, then late afternoon and evening walks. There are numerous walking trails to explore, with varying degrees of difficulty, and the forest Life Centre where our naturalist guides will share their extensive knowledge about the flora and fauna of the reserve, including the elusive howler monkey. Not far from the Life Centre is a tropical orchard where many varieties of fruit trees, including banana, manioc, cacao, hot chili pepper, coffee and wild raspberries are grown.

**Day 13    Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July****Mashpi to Guayaquil**

Begin the day with an early morning bird walk, hoping to see over 20 different species, and return to the lodge for breakfast. After breakfast we head to Copal Waterfall for a beautiful two-hour walk through a lush landscape of moss-covered trees, bromeliads and orchids. The trail ends at a spectacular waterfall over 50m high. We return to the hotel by noon for lunch before heading back to Quito. From Quito we fly to the coastal city of Guayaquil ahead of our four-day tour by El Tren Crucero, or Cruise Train.

Overnight at Hotel Oro Verde Guayaquil.

**Day 14    Sunday 24th July                    Guayaquil to Bucay**

Depart Guayaquil on El Tren Crucero eastward to Bucay via Yaguachi and Naranjito. El Tren Crucero, under steam and diesel power, offers a 4-day/3-night journey from Guayaquil to Quito. Winding from the coastal plains up through the majestic Andes, this is a unique experience aboard South America's leading luxury train. Our journey eastwards passes through typical coastal plantations of bananas, sugarcane and rice. At Naranjito, we transfer to a coach to visit a coastal hacienda for a typical Montubio ballet and later, a cocoa plantation to sample arguably some of the world's best chocolate.

Overnight at Hotel D'Franco Bucay.

**Day 15    Monday 25th July                    Bucay to Riobamba**



Rejoin El Tren Crucero for an exciting ascent of the Andes, from the coastal forest to the high sierra. We stop at Pistishi to appreciate the amazing engineering feat of the Devil's Nose, known as the most difficult railway in the world, before the train then traverses the Devil's Nose in a series of switchbacks – quite a thrill! Safely arrived in Alausí, we have time to explore this picturesque town, and continue our journey by train to Guamote. Lunch is served on board. In the afternoon, the train departs across colourful quinoa plantations to Colta, where we transfer to a coach for an afternoon excursion to Calpi, an indigenous community. Back at Colta the journey continues by steam locomotive to Riobamba.

Overnight at Hacienda Abraspungo Riobamba.

**Day 16    Tuesday 26th July                    Riobamba to Latacunga**

Depart Riobamba and rejoin El Tren Crucero at Urbina, the highest point on our rail cruise, located at 3,609 metres above sea level. Here we visit the “Men of Ice” Interpretation Centre and meet one of the last ice-gatherers of Chimborazo volcano, the highest in Ecuador. We continue by train to the city of Ambato for lunch, with distant views of the active Tungurahua volcano. After lunch we leave for Cunchibamba to visit a spectacular rose plantation and continue the journey to Latacunga, where we transfer to our hotel.

Overnight at Hacienda La Cienega.



**Day 17    Wednesday 27th July        Latacunga to Quito**

Depart Latacunga by train to El Boliche. Excursion to Cotopaxi National Park for a short hike in the shadow of the Cotopaxi volcano to enjoy the landscapes, the flora and fauna, continuing to the historic Hacienda San Agustín de Callo, where we enjoy a delicious lunch. After lunch, we continue by coach to Chimbacalle station in Quito, where our 4-day rail cruise comes to an end.

Two nights at Hotel Patio Andaluz.

**Day 18    Thursday 28th July        Quito**



City tour of Quito. The colonial quarter of Quito is the largest and best preserved in South America, and is a World Heritage-listed site. We take a walking tour to best appreciate its grandeur, rich architecture and historic significance. We also visit the Equatorial Monument, right on the equator, where you can stand with a foot on each hemisphere. The monument also hosts the Ethnographic Museum showing the different Native American groups living in Ecuador.

**Day 19 Friday 29th July****Quito to La Selva Amazonian Jungle Lodge**

Flight to Puerto Francisco de Orellana, known as Coca, where our journey continues by motorised canoe along the Rio Napo and its tributaries until we reach the award-winning La Selva Amazonian Jungle Lodge, positioned on Garzacocha lake, deep in the Amazon jungle of Yasuní National Park. From our luxurious base, you will have the opportunity for jungle excursions with bilingual naturalist guides, lectures, nighttime nature walks, kayaking and canoeing, or simply taking in the view from the open-air lounge and bar. Luggage will be transported by lodge staff, but it is recommended to keep your camera handy!

Three nights at La Selva Amazonian Jungle Lodge.

**Day 20 Saturday 30th July****Amazonian Jungle Lodge**

An array of activities is on offer for you to gain an understanding of the very special natural world that exists here in abundant biodiversity. All activities are led by informed local guides, who are passionate about the Amazonian forest and especially the flora and fauna of Yasuni. La Selva Lodge has been awarded international recognition for its conservation efforts and ecotourism orientation. After an early breakfast, walk the Chaguamango Trail with the lodge guides and learn about the bush medicine of the Amazonia indigenous peoples. A good chance of spotting troops of squirrel monkeys on the return by canoe. In the afternoon, walk to the lodge butterfly farm and return by canoe to observe the animals and birds that visit Garzacocha lake in the afternoons, seeking food. When the sun goes down, go paddling around the lagoon on a night canoe ride with our guides, looking for caimans, boas, bats, owls, night mammals and more nocturnal wildlife. If the sky is clear, we might have the chance to do some star gazing.

**Day 21 Sunday 31st July****Amazonian Jungle Lodge**

Morning motorised canoe ride to the incredible parrot clay lick on the banks of the Rio Napo. Hundreds of parrots and parakeets will approach the treetops and later will come down to a clay bank to eat this soil rich in minerals. A special visit to the home of a local Kichwa family, who show us their home and garden or “chacra”.

**Day 22 Monday 1st August Amazonian Jungle Lodge to Quito**

Depart by motorised canoe upstream to Coca, transfer to airport for our flight to Quito.

Overnight at Hotel Rincon de Puenbo Quito.

**Day 23 Tuesday 2nd August Quito to Galapagos Islands**



Flight to San Cristóbal. We board the Isabela II at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on San Cristóbal Island for our cruise of the world-renowned Galapagos Islands. Insights Tours has specially selected this ship and cruise itinerary as the best Galapagos tour, considering its route, ports of call, shipboard facilities, knowledge and qualifications of the crew. The Isabela II is very well equipped both in terms of safety and passenger comfort. The total number of passengers is limited to 48. The crew includes qualified naturalist guides who will lead onshore excursions, snorkelling, viewing by glass-bottom boat as well as conducting briefings and reviewing the sightings of each day. Guests will experience a representative cross-section of the incredible biodiversity of the Galapagos. After lunch onboard the vessel, we disembark to visit Cerro Colorado on the southern shore of San Cristóbal, home to a breeding centre for the islands' famous giant tortoises and a fantastic deciduous forest inhabited by dozens of bird species and the endemic San Cristóbal lava lizard. We sail north overnight, crossing the equator on the way, to awake at the sunken caldera of Genovesa Island.

**Day 24 Wednesday 3rd August Galapagos Islands: Genovesa Island**

The morning starts with a panga (zodiac) ride along the cliffs of the dramatic Genovesa Island, followed by landing with a steep climb up some stairs to reach a flat plateau. Along our walk, we can observe large colonies of Nazca boobies, red footed boobies, great frigate birds and storm petrels. Those not wishing to disembark can enjoy a longer panga ride along the cliffs (depending on weather conditions). We can also enjoy snorkelling and kayaking.

In the afternoon, we land at Darwin Bay for an easy stroll observing hundreds of birds, mainly frigate birds, red footed and Nazca boobies, gulls, herons, finches and mockingbirds.

There's an optional walk over sharp lava and uneven terrain for dramatic views, or snorkelling at this beautiful natural harbour.

**Day 25 Thursday 4th August Galapagos Islands : Santiago Island**

Coastal exploration along the impressive cliffs of Buccaneer's Cove, learning about the area's distant and recent history. 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. Discover the underwater realm whilst snorkelling or onboard the glass-bottom boat.



Disembark at popular Puerto Egas, affording a great opportunity to see land and marine birds amid a landscape of tuff-stone layers and lava flows. At low tide, marine iguanas graze upon the algae beds and we can also observe a colony of fur-sea lions. Sail overnight to Fernandina Island.

**Day 26 Friday 5th August Galapagos Islands: Fernandina Island, Isabela Island**

Arriving at daybreak at Fernandina Island, the youngest island of the Galapagos, we land at Punta Espinoza, with its contradictory combination of barren volcanic landscape and abundant wildlife. Highlights include hawks, penguins and the flightless cormorant. We skip across the narrow Bolivar Channel to Isabela Island and anchor at Tagus Cove, reputedly a favourite anchorage for pirates and whalers over the centuries. An uphill hike takes us to the rim of salt water-filled Darwin Crater followed by a panga ride to spot local wildlife, with optional swimming, kayaking or snorkelling.

**Day 27 Saturday 6th August Galapagos Islands: Isabela Island**

We continue our exploration of Isabela Island at Urbina Bay, the intriguing result of an uplifting of the ocean floor, home to large and very colourful Galapagos land iguanas and occasionally, to giant tortoises, and then at Punta Vicente Roca. At Punta Vicente we do not land but make our exploration by panga, with our naturalist guide on hand to explain the dramatic geology of the area, and depending on the weather conditions, we have the chance to snorkel along the cliffs, hopefully encountering green sea turtles.

**Day 28    Sunday 7th August**

**Galapagos Islands: Rabida Island, Santa Cruz Island**



Disembark at the red beach of Rabida Island to observe its large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin's finches. Later in the day we visit the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, home to land iguanas and with a trail that offers a beautiful view of the bay.

**Day 29    Monday 8th August            Galapagos Islands to Guayaquil**

The Galapagos cruise ends on arrival at Baltra Island. Transfer to the airport for flight to Guayaquil.

Overnight at Hotel Oro Verde Guayaquil.

**Day 30    Tuesday 9th August            Guayaquil to Sydney**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flight to Santiago for connecting flight to Sydney.

Overnight in flight.

**Day 31    Wednesday 10th August**

Cross International dateline.

**Day 32    Thursday 11th August            Arrive Sydney**

Arrival mid-morning.

Tour concludes upon arrival in Sydney.

# General Information & Booking Conditions

## Cost

The tour cost is AUD 24,525 per person on a twin share basis.

Single accommodation is available for an additional cost of AUD 6,545.

Tour cost includes:

- **economy class flights** ex Sydney to Lima and return. Contact us for business class upgrade.
- If you wish to depart from a city other than Sydney, this can easily be arranged: please contact us with your request.
- **all** other flights as per the itinerary in economy class
- **accommodation** for 23 nights on a twin share basis in either first class hotels or best available lodges
- 6 night Galapagos cruise aboard the first class Isabella II
- **all** road transport by air-conditioned coach
- **all** sightseeing excursions, guided touring and entrance fees to all places as specified in the itinerary
- **all** meals
- **all** taxes, tips and gratuities
- Insights Tours escort throughout the tour
- drinking water at lunch and dinner daily

## Additional costs:

- drinks, travel insurance and items of a personal nature
- any other cost not included in tour cost

## Single accommodation

As always we negotiate the best possible tariff for our single guests and we pass on only the direct additional costs. Unique to this tour is the cruise in the Galapagos, which entails a very substantial single supplement. This is due to the charge being per cabin regardless of how many guests occupy it. The published single supplement is therefore the best arrangement that we can offer.

## Booking

This tour is for a maximum of 16 guests.

To secure your place on the tour, please complete the enclosed booking form and return it to Insights Tours with your deposit. Deposit is AUD 2000 per person, payable at time of booking and non-refundable in the event of cancellation. The balance is due no later than Monday 4th of April 2016.

Payment may be made by cheque or direct deposit.

## Cancellation Policy

Due to the impositions placed on us by the various providers' terms and conditions, especially in the Galapagos, the following terms and conditions apply:

- Cancellations prior to or on Monday 4th April 2016 forfeit the deposit of AUD 2,000 per person.
- Cancellations after Monday 4th April 2016 forfeit the total tariff.

## Viability of Tour

In the event that the economic minimum number of guests is not reached, the tour will be cancelled by Insights Tours no later than Thursday 11th February 2016 and we will refund in full any money paid. In the event of the Australian dollar falling below our nominated exchange rate threshold before the due date of the final balance, we will write to you and advise of any required supplement.

## Changes to Itinerary

There is always the chance that our itinerary could be delayed or curtailed in some way beyond our control. Except for prolonged or unexpected events, the tour will be conducted as closely as possible to the itinerary stated above. Every reasonable endeavour will be made to conduct the advertised itinerary however we reserve the right to alter the itinerary in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

## Insurance

Insights Tours accepts your booking only on the proviso that you have comprehensive travel insurance. It should cover cancellation fees, costs incurred due to delays, medical assistance, repatriation and lost luggage.

We are an accredited agent of Aussie Travel Cover insurance and can assist with arranging your insurance.

## Health & Medical

Insights Tours recommends that to fully enjoy this tour you should be comfortable walking up to 3kms over well trodden bush/forest tracks. Most of the walking will be in national parks and reserves accompanied by expert local guides with the aim of seeing the unique flora and fauna.

**Please note that we have carefully constructed the itinerary to reduce the effects of altitude.** When we fly to Puno, we have the afternoon to rest and acclimatise as is recommended by local authorities.

Please be aware that Peru and Ecuador have limited infrastructure and services so please be mindful that the medical facilities may not exist at the standard as in Australia. **Insights Tours strongly recommends that you consult your dentist and a travel medicine**

**practitioner in regards to inoculations, vaccinations and precautions, at least 6 weeks prior to departure.**

### Visas

Australian passport holders do not require a visa for entry into Peru or Ecuador. However, passports must be valid until at least 11th February 2017. If you will be travelling on other than an Australian passport, please confer with us when you book.

### Luggage

Please limit your luggage to one suitcase and one piece of hand luggage per person.

To comply with the most restrictive weight on any of our flights, **maximum checked luggage weight is 20kg per person. Maximum hand luggage weight is 7kg per person.** Porterage of luggage will be provided at hotels and wherever practicable throughout the tour. However at major airports you will need to manoeuvre your own luggage

### Money

In Peru, local currency is the Nuevo Sol. United States dollars (USD) are the best currency to use for exchange which can be done at most hotels and foreign exchange bureaux. In Ecuador the official currency is USD. Credit cards are widely accepted in both countries.

### Electricity

Peru and Ecuador both use the flat, twin plug as pictured.



### Guides

Insights Tours has engaged licensed expert, English speaking guides for all guided touring throughout the itinerary.

### Tour Escort

As with all Insights Tours' itineraries, this tour is fully escorted. Your tour escort is there to ensure that all of the pesky administrative and operational aspects of the tour are fulfilled and that the tour runs as smoothly as possible.

# About Insights Tours



Insights Tours is a boutique tour business operated by father-and-son team, Paul and John Tuckerman.

Our philosophy is to arrange tours with a spectrum of interesting visits, inspections and conveyances. Each tour is uniquely arranged to encompass the most interesting sights of the regions visited. We specialise in tours that take the way you travel seriously – by plane, train or coach, boats and sometimes outriggers – not just comfortable but interesting! Our hallmark is touring by chartered heritage train with supporting coach travel or private aeroplane tours to places like Lake Eyre, Australia. Our unique international tours encompass the same touring aspects as our Australian tours – scenery, history, transportation along with cultural and culinary experiences.

We provide our guests with spacious and comfortable accommodation, mixing the modest with the opulent. We engage our own guides to ensure that our guests have the very best insight into the places we visit.

Our guests attest to the convivial, comfortable (some say luxurious) yet stimulating experience of our tours.

If you would like more details about any aspect of the itinerary or facilities, please contact Paul Tuckerman:

Telephone: (61) 02 4267 2535

Facsimile: (61) 02 4267 5530

Email: [paul@insightstours.com.au](mailto:paul@insightstours.com.au)

Postal: PO Box 180

Thirroul NSW 2515

In person: by appointment at 14 Allenby Parade Bulli

# Galapagos Insights

## Booking Form

	Guest 1	Guest 2
Name (exactly as on passport)		
Address		
Telephone		
Email		
Passport Details		
Passport #		
Date of Birth		
Expiry Date		
Nationality		
Emergency Contact Person & Telephone		
Any special requirements or requests (especially dietary)		
Room type (please circle)	<input type="checkbox"/> Twin (2 beds) <input type="checkbox"/> Double (1 large bed) <input type="checkbox"/> Single supplement (additional \$6,545, includes separate cabin in Galapagos)	
<b>Deposit</b> * Cheque enclosed - Please make cheques payable to "Insights Tours" * Electronic transfer/direct deposit Account Name: Insights Tours Client Travel Account BSB: 062607 Account Number: 10131313		

I/we acknowledge the terms and conditions of booking

Signature/s:

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Guest 1

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Guest 2

Please return to: Insights Tours  
PO Box 180  
THIRROUL NSW 2515  
Facsimile: +61 2 42 675530