



family vacations

**WITH GUEST EXPERT
 MARCELO CHAVEZ**
 Naturalist & Ecuadorian
 Tourism Specialist

Marcelo Chavez was born in Ecuador some time ago – but not nearly as long ago as the islands known as the Galapagos and a certain rainforest (Amazon!) about which you've heard.

For the last 10 years, Marcelo has been sharing the people, places, and natural wonders of his homeland with visitors from around the world. He knows all the best places to go, has oodles of stories and factoids, and possesses all the passion and expertise you might expect from a licensed naturalist. When he's not on tour, Mr. Chavez is at home in Quito (rhymes with *neato*) with his family and friends.



INSPIRED HIGHLIGHTS

All domestic air and internal transportation

Four nights/five days aboard four-star G.A.P Adventure V yacht

Three nights/four days at the Amazon Jungle Lodge

Two nights in Quito

All meals during cruise and in the jungle

Choice of six jungle activities at the Amazon Jungle Lodge

Discover the pleasures of Ensemble® Inspired Journeys – exclusive vacations that redefine travel with authentic encounters and intimate experiences, enriching your life long after you return home. Custom-designed for the entire family, this active getaway – *Family Adventure in the Galapagos Islands & Amazon Rainforest with Marcelo Chavez* – is a 12-night land and sea sojourn in South America. Explore the amazing landscapes and discover the unique creatures of the Galapagos Islands and Amazon Rainforest.

Family Adventure in the Galapagos Islands & Amazon Rainforest

July 1-13, 2009

Twelve nights traveling Ecuador via sea and overland from Quito to the Galapagos for a five-day cruise aboard *G.A.P Adventure V* – including visits to the “residents” of the isles of Santa Cruz and Española – and then onto the Amazon and its rainforest for a lodge stay

DAY 1 USA/QUITO

Wednesday, July 1

Arrive in Quito. You will be greeted at the airport and transferred to the Marriott.

DAY 2 QUITO

Thursday, July 2

After breakfast, guest expert Marcelo Chavez will host a welcome party and present the kids with surprise welcome packages with special trip journals and more. Then you'll enjoy a brief tour of the sparkling capital city of Quito, named after the Quitus tribe that inhabited the area in pre-Columbian days. Afterwards, gather for a tranquil lunch at one of Marcelo's favorite cafés. Spend a leisurely evening back at the hotel. *(Breakfast and Lunch)*

DAY 3 BALTRA/SANTA CRUZ

Friday, July 3

To the Galapagos we go! We'll take a quick morning flight to Baltra, where Marcelo will introduce you to your local naturalist guide. After a brief welcome and boat safety session, travel to the highlands of Santa Cruz for a chance to see giant tortoises in the wild! *(Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner)*

DAY 4 ESPAÑOLA

Saturday, July 4

This archipelago's southernmost isle – Española – should be called “birdland”: Masked Boobies, Blue-footed Boobies, and Red-billed Tropicbirds gather here and dash madly through the air. From the western shore's Punta Suarez (be on the lookout for sea lions!) with its jagged cliffs and *gargantuan* (really big) waves follow the blazed trail through a *rookery* (birthplace of baby birds) to brush up on island history with a *naturalist* (smart person who knows all about weather, flowers, plants, and animals). Sail to Garner Bay this afternoon, where you can snorkel among submerged volcanic rock and even swim with some of those sea lions you spied earlier today. *(Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner)*

**Family Adventure in the
Galapagos Islands &
Amazon Rainforest**

Twelve nights traveling Ecuador

July 1-13, 2009

Per Person*	\$4,499
Single Supplement	\$2,275

** Based on double occupancy. Exclusive of air transportation – internationally and/or in the Continental U.S. – unless otherwise noted. Boat contains eight double-occupancy cabins. Cabins are a mix of two beds, two bunks beds or one double-bed. If your group has an odd number of people, a single add-on must be purchased.*

OF SPECIAL NOTE

There are no baby-sitting services available on this journey. Parents or guardians must accompany children at all times, including when walking on the boat's outer decks, swimming, snorkeling, hiking, shopping, and touring, unless children are involved in a naturalist-hosted activity. It is recommended that all children use a life jacket while swimming. Life jackets and snorkel equipment are available in smaller sizes. However, if you have specific requirements, we suggest you bring your own gear. Itineraries in the Galapagos Islands are subject to change at any time without notice due to weather conditions or at the discretion of the Galapagos National Park Authority. Additionally, as wild animals are unpredictable by their very nature, we cannot guarantee sightings of any one specific species of animal during your trip to the Galapagos or the Amazon.

DAY 5 SAN CRISTÓBAL/SANTA FÉ

Sunday, July 5

Isla San Cristóbal has an alias – Chatham Island – but no matter how you say it, there's lots to see (like mockingbirds, frigatebirds, lava lizards and the archipelagos only freshwater lagoon) and do here (hike, snorkel, surf). We'll get the "whole" picture at the San Cristóbal Interpretation Center, just outside of the provincial capital of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. In the afternoon, we'll sail on to Santa Fé Island, the centre of the Galapagos archipelago, where four-million-year-old volcanic rocks have been discovered. Adults and kids alike will learn about the prehistoric-looking land iguanas and the secret reason mangrove trees can survive in this harsh environment, plus enjoy watching the comical antics of the local sea lion colony. *(Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner)*

DAY 6 SOUTH PLAZA/SANTA CRUZ

Monday, July 6

Sail to South Plaza Island early this morning – you'll be underway before dawn. This teeny isle has a gigantic Land Iguana population. You might even get to see them sunbathing (they love this time of day, but hide from the midday sun). We'll spend the afternoon swimming and sunning on Santa Cruz Island's Bacchus Beach. The beach is really, really soft and super-duper white, because it's made of decomposed coral. Nesting sea turtles love it here, and so will you! *(Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner)*

DAY 7 BLACK TURTLE COVE/QUITO

Tuesday, July 7

Let's *panga* to Isla Santa Cruz Island's Black Turtle Cove! What's that you say? Well, it's how they say "zodiac" boat in the Galapagos. Climb aboard for a spin through inlets surrounded by mangroves. Keep your eyes peeled for frolicking sea turtles and schools of Golden Mustard Rays. We'll say adiós this afternoon to the Galapagos Islands and fly back to our hotel in Quito to prepare for the next phase of our journey. *(Breakfast)*

DAY 8 QUITO/AMAZON JUNGLE LODGE

Wednesday, July 8

Take a short flight over the snow-covered Andes Mountains to El Coco, a small port town in the Ecuadorian Amazon. There, Marcelo and we will meet up with our way-smart on-site Amazon naturalist guide – who is a *logy* expert – as in "biology" and "ecology." We'll board motorized dugout canoes and take a leisurely trip down river – spotting native huts and Amazonian herons, kingfishers, spoonbills, and ospreys along the way. Once ashore, we'll walk along an elevated boardwalk to the Amazon Jungle Lodge, located deep within a 5,000-acre private ecological reserve. Don't forget to *stop*, *look*, and *listen* along the way: Monkeys sing and dance in the dense palm forests that surround you! *(Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner)*

DAYS 9 & 10 AMAZON JUNGLE LODGE

Thursday, July 9 and Friday, July 10

Choose from the many jungle activities offered by the Amazon Jungle Lodge, including:

- *Trail Hikes* – Well-marked trails that lead through the dense jungle, where 150-foot kapok trees tower above your head. Brave a steel cable zip-line through rich swamp land.
- *Dugout Canoeing* – Paddle dugout canoes along the black-water creeks and lakes, where luxuriant lianas, bromeliads, and palm trees thrive.
- *Night Trips* – When the nocturnal chorus of frogs begins, grab a flashlight and step out into the darkness for a night walk and canoe trip that will reveal creatures seldom seen.
- *Kapok Tower* – This 135-foot high observation tower, allows you to climb into and above the rainforest canopy for a magnificent view of the surrounding area.
- *Canopy Walk* – A 940-foot canopied walkway is suspended 94 feet above the ground, offering an unbelievable opportunity to spot dozens of animals and tree-clinging plants.
- *Parrot Lick* – An exposed clay bank where brightly colored parrots of different species gather to perch on and eat the exposed clay. *(Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner)*

DAY 11 AMAZON JUNGLE LODGE/QUITO

Saturday, July 11

To cap off our Amazonian experience, we'll travel back out of the jungle via dugout canoe to El Coco, where we'll board our flight back to our hotel in Quito. Tonight during dinner, parents and Marcelo are entertained with the children's favorite tales of the isles of the Galapagos and rainforests of the Amazon. What fun! *(Breakfast and Dinner)*



DAY 12 QUITO

Sunday, July 12

After breakfast travel north to Otavalo. Here, Marcelo will instruct you in the art of bartering in world-famous markets filled with remarkable handicrafts. Practice your negotiation skills while the kids try their hands at beading. Stop at the Equator to partake in amazing feats that can't be accomplished elsewhere! Return to the hotel in Quito. Of course, no trip would be complete without a marvelous farewell dinner! (*Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner*)

DAY 13 QUITO/USA

Monday, July 13

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to the airport for departure. (*Breakfast*)

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Please request a copy of the complete terms and conditions, which include deposit and final payment requirements, cancellation policy, and recommendations for travel protection insurance.

Information subject to change.

Call us today to book your Family Vacations Ensemble® Inspired Journey.