Mi Querido Ecuador + Galápagos
14-Day Guided Language Immersion Program in Ecuador

Live, laugh and learn in Quito while attending morning Spanish classes at the Academia Guayasamín. In the afternoons, enjoy activities such as cooking, salsa dancing and trips to La Mitad del Mundo and Otavalo, South America’s largest handicraft market. Spend evenings relaxing at home with a quiteña host family (2-3 students per family). Then, transfer to the Galapagos Islands, where you will enjoy volcano hikes, snorkeling with sea lions, and seeing the famous tortoises of Charles Darwin’s “living laboratory.”

Features & Inclusions
- ROUND-TRIP AIRFARE
- OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS
- IN-COUNTRY TRANSPORTATION
- INSURANCE
- 24/7 EMERGENCY SUPPORT WHILE ABROAD

Trip Overview

14 DAYS  GUIDED

WITH FAMILY STAY  FROM $5,499

What Others Are Saying

“My family was so welcoming, and I learned so much being included in the small activities of their daily life. I miss them already!” — Katherine S., Brookfield, WI

“I loved how this trip seemed to open my son’s eyes to different cultures and gave him a sense of accomplishment with his use of his language skills.”
— Laura M., Granby, CO

Visit xperitas.org for more photos, stories and pricing information.
Xperitas is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to promoting global citizenship through authentic immersion experiences. We have more than 40 years of experience organizing programs that embody true language and cultural immersion, inspire personal connections with diverse individuals and communities worldwide and provide transformational experiences for our participants.

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The order of this itinerary, and all itinerary items, are subject to change based on unforeseen circumstances that may arise prior to or during international travel.

**Trip Itinerary**

**DAY 1 | Quito**
Arrive in Quito, transfer to your hotel.

**DAY 2 | Quito**
Explore Quito with a costumed character from the capital city’s colorful history. Visit sites such as Plaza de la Independencia, el Palacio Presidencial and la Basílica. After a day of exploring what UNESCO refers to as the most well preserved colonial city in Latin America, enjoy an Xperitas welcome dinner. B D

**DAYS 3-6 | Family Stay / Academia Guayasamín**
On day 3, you’ll begin classes at the esteemed Academia Guayasamín and begin a six-night family stay with your Ecuadorian hosts. In addition to Spanish instruction, you’ll be treated to visits to a local fruit market, Museo Guayasamín and la Capilla del Hombre. Spend an afternoon practicing your language skills while participating in a volunteer activity, and try your hand at a new skill during salsa dancing and cooking classes. Enjoy the afternoons and evenings with your host family. B L D

**DAY 7 | Family Stay / Mitad del Mundo**
Take a ride up the Teleférico skylift for a panoramic view of Quito. Then, stop at the Mitad del Mundo, or the center of the world, whose monument was once thought to be the geographic location of the equator. Experience the oddities of standing on the actual equator line during your visit to the intriguing Intiñan Museum and top everything off with a chocolate tour. B L D

**DAY 8 | Family Stay / Otavalo**
Board the bus for an exciting day outside of Quito. Your day begins in Otavalo, the site of the most famous handicraft market in South America. First, visit a local workshop to learn about this community’s traditional way of weaving. After browsing the stalls of the bustling market, head to Cotacachi, where you’ll listen to the rhythms of traditional Andean instruments played by a local family of musicians. On your way back to Quito, stop to take in the tranquil beauty of la Cascada de Peguche. B L D

**DAYS 9-10 | Galápagos Islands**
Fly to Baltra Island and transfer to Floreana Island to begin your adventure. Jump right into your surroundings as you hike, snorkel, kayak and paddle about the beautiful island. Enjoy the evening at a local bed and breakfast. B L D

**DAYS 11-12 | Galápagos Islands**
An early morning boat ride takes you to Isabela Island and las Tintoreras. Snorkel in crystal clear waters as sea lions and penguins join you for a swim. Then it’s off to the giant tortoise breeding center, where you’ll come face-to-face with the slow-moving creatures. For your next adventure, explore the otherworldly craters and volcanoes that form Isabela’s highlands. B L D

**DAY 13 - 14 | Quito/Return**
Transfer to the airport for your return flight to Quito where you will catch an evening flight to the U.S. B

B Breakfast | L Lunch | D Dinner

We believe that living with a family, speaking their language and participating in their customs is the best and most authentic way to experience another culture. It’s also what makes our programs different from any other travel experience. After more than 40 years of arranging family stays, we’re no longer surprised when our participants say that living with a family was the best part of their experience!