

15 DAYS: GALAPAGOS ISLANDS & TROPICAL ANDES MOUNTAINS

EcoMinga's 20th Anniversary Ecotour & Celebration

Traverse some of Ecuador's most remarkable ecosystems—including a luxury cruise in the Galápagos and tours of three private orchid reserves—on a 15-day ecotour led by Javier Robayo, Executive Director of Fundación EcoMinga, and Callie Broadus, Founder and Executive Director of Reserva: The Youth Land Trust.

ITINERARY *Details subject to change.*

JAN 9

Arrival to Quito, Ecuador

Arrival in Quito, capital of Ecuador, and transfer to Hotel Wyndham, a four-star hotel located at a five-minute drive from the airport. Early arrivals can schedule short trips with our team to nearby attractions. Lodging: Hotel Wyndham

JAN 10-11

Cotacachi Cayapas National Park & Searching For Orchids At EcoMinga's Dracula Reserve

Welcome breakfast and introduction to trip guides. Travel to Cotacachi Cayapas National Park for a scenic hike around Cuicocha Lake, exploring orchids and high-altitude flora at over 10,000 ft. After an overnight stay in the artisan town of Cotacachi, enjoy a full-day outing to the Dracula Reserve to observe orchids and birds at 7,800 ft., guided by local experts.

Lodging: Hosteria Spa Pantavi



JAN 12

Exploring Jerusalem Andean Dry Forest

Visit one of the last remaining tropical dry forests in the Andes. At an elevation of about 7,500 to 9,200 ft., see a remarkable diversity of endemic and drought-adapted plant species.

Lodging: Boutique Hotel Casa Fosh

JANUARY 9 -24, 2026

Duration: 15 Days

Start/End: Quito, Ecuador

Capacity: 18 participants

RATES

Early Bird Price: \$7,450 (book by June 15, 2025)

Standard Price: \$7,680

Includes: in-country travel, lodging (all rooms are double occupancy), meals, and academic, cultural, and nature activities.

Does Not Include:

international airfare, four open meals, \$220 Galapagos Park fee, and \$200-\$350 in cash for gratuities. Upgrades available.

\$1,000 deposit, refundable in the unlikely event of tour cancellation. Balance due on September 1, 2025.

For questions, contact Lori Espinoza at:

lori@andeanstudy.org



A welcome letter and invoice with payment options will be sent to you after registration.

\$500 from each registration benefits Fundación EcoMinga, an Ecuadorian conservation NGO that protects areas of high biodiversity and endemism in Ecuador. This portion of your registration will be fully tax-deductible.





✈️ Quito > Guayaquil > Galapagos

JAN 13–15

Galapagos Islands by Luxury Yacht

Fly to the Galápagos and board the Infinity Yacht, with a serene panga ride through the mangrove estuary of Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz Island. Explore Genovesa Island's El Barranco—Prince Philip's Steps—home to red-footed boobies, owls, and nesting petrels along a lava plateau trail. Continue to Santiago and Rabida Islands for red volcanic landscapes, sea lion colonies, flamingos, endemic cacti, and *nine* species of Darwin's finches.

Lodging: Infinity Yacht ([learn more about the vessel here](#))

JAN 16–17

Exploring Santa Cruz Island

Land-based exploration of the island's volcanic highlands, home to a massive lava tunnel and the famous Galapagos giant tortoises—still critically endangered, but recovering. Santa Cruz, the most populous island in the Galápagos, hosts three genetically distinct tortoise populations.

Lodging: Hotel Ninfa

✈️ Galapagos > Guayaquil > Quito

JAN 18

Return to Quito

Return to Quito in the evening. Dinner and free evening.

Lodging: Casa Fosh

JAN 19–21

Avenue of the Volcanoes & Exploring EcoMinga's Reserves

Journey along the Avenue of Volcanoes; stop at Cotopaxi for paramo flora and lunch beneath the world's second-highest volcano. Explore orchid-rich trails at Tungurahua and Río Anzu Reserves; visit Pailón del Diablo waterfall. Final stop at Palmonte Reserve for orchid gardens and chance to spot the elusive Cock of the Rock.

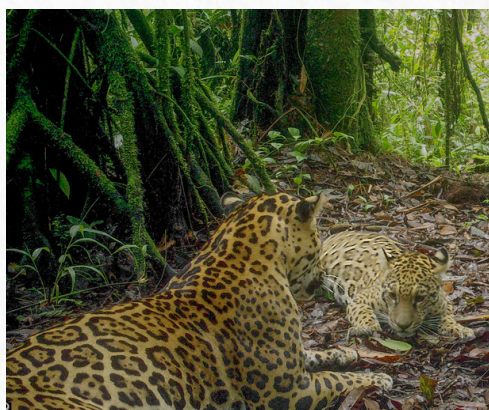
Lodging: MirameLindo

JAN 22

Baños Hot Springs & Travel to Quito

Enjoy the hot springs of Baños, and return to Quito.

Lodging: Hotel Casa Fosh





JAN 23

Travel to Antisana Volcano & the Hot Springs of Papallacta

Visit a massive glacier-covered volcano and a luxury lodge nestled in the high Andes at 10,500 feet. Enjoy private hot spring pools amid orchid-filled gardens, with optional short hikes and birdwatching in nearby cloud forest remnants.

Lodging: Termas de Papallacta

JAN 24

Return to Quito & End of Tour

Lodging Available at: Hotel Casa Fosh

POST-PROGRAMMING – JAN 24

EcoMinga's 20th Anniversary Celebration

Free day to explore Quito's rich history, architecture, and landscape, with option to join free or low-cost activities organized by EcoStudio Foundation. An option to visit the Quito Botanical Garden will also be organized. Tour participants are invited to join us for an evening celebration honoring 20 years of conservation action with Fundación EcoMinga!

For tour participants, there is no additional cost to attend the celebration. Lodging will be recommended.

MEET THE TOUR LEADERS

Javier and Callie have jointly led six research expeditions to Dracula Reserve since 2019, organizing multidisciplinary teams—from herpetology, mammalogy, and botany researchers to documentary film crews.



Javier Robayo

Javier is an award-winning conservationist and executive director of Fundación EcoMinga. He has led more than 200 research biology and teaching expeditions in Ecuador. His extensive, collaborative field work has led to the discovery of more than 10 species of orchids, a new genus containing two species of rodents, a new genus of frog, and five other species of amphibians. In 2022, he was named one of "50 People Changing the World" by The Explorers Club. www.ecominga.org

Expert focus: Botany, birds, and tropical biodiversity



Callie Broaddus

Callie is an award-winning Washington, DC-based conservationist and photographer focused on engaging youth in the protection of biodiversity hotspots. As founder of Reserva: The Youth Land Trust, she started a successful initiative to create the world's first youth-funded nature reserve—an expansion to EcoMinga's Dracula Reserve. Reserva now has ongoing projects in Panama, Colombia, and the Seychelles. www.calliebroaddus.com / www.reservaylt.org

Expert focus: Photography, expedition medicine



Meet Javier and Callie in the 28-min PBS documentary featuring EcoMinga's reserves, "Wild Hope: Can Youth Activists Defend Nature's Rights in Ecuador?"