

Ecuador's Highlands & Islands



Photography by Christopher Unkel

Tablecloth embroidery.
Hacienda Zuleta.
Day 5, Monday 25 April, 4:47PM.

About the images

Embroidery on hand towel.
Hacienda Zuleta.
Day 5, Monday 25 April, 4:24PM.

I took all the photographs during Wilderness Travel's trip *Ecuador's Highlands and Islands: A Photography Expedition with Jonathan Green*, 21 April to 5 May 2005. The two-week trip included several days in the mountains of Ecuador as well as a week in the Galápagos; the inside and outside back cover contain a detailed itinerary and map of the Galápagos respectively. The trip itinerary was designed as much as possible with photographic needs in mind, especially the need for good light. A majority of photographs contained in these pages were taken within two hours of sunrise or sunset.

The Galápagos are rich with photographic opportunity and the selection of photographs here reflect that. 31 of the 46 photographs here are from the islands. Wildlife is abundant and can often be approached very closely. In particular, birds are the subject of many of the photographs.

Among the 15 photographs from the Ecuadorian Andes, two locations stand out. The weekly market in Otavalo features the bright colors of both the wares and garb of the Otavaleño Indians. Hacienda Zuleta, where we spent three nights, is a seventeenth-century farmhouse on beautiful grounds. Zuleta is now a productive dairy and vegetable farm and the estate also serves as a focal point for such projects as embroidery and rehabilitation of Andean condors.

The description of each image includes an approximate location and exact local time the picture was taken. For photographs in the Galápagos, the location generally identifies the island and landing site; the photograph may have been taken some distance from the landing site. All photographs were taken with a Canon EOS 20D.

Finally, special thanks go to trip guide Jonathan Green, for invaluable photographic advice and for leading a most enjoyable trip.

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Galápagos map created from Mountain High Maps® Copyright © 1993 Digital Wisdom, Inc.





Rise to meet the sun

Sea lion.
Puerto Egas, Santiago.
Day 13, Tuesday 3 May, 6:49AM.

Spread your wings

Waved albatross.
Punta Suarez, Española.
Day 9, Friday 29 April, 5:12PM.





Sparkling violetear.
Hacienda Zuleta.
Day 5, Monday 25 April, 6:03PM.

Meet new people

Child in textile booth.
Otavalo Market.
Day 3, Saturday 23 April, 9:30AM.





Otavalo Market.
Day 3, Saturday 23 April, 9:09AM.

Girl by the side of the road
between Zuleta and Cusin.
Day 6, Tuesday 26 April, 10:49AM.





Otavalo Market.
Day 3, Saturday 23 April, 9:12AM.

Do some shopping

Bags for sale.
Otavalo Market.
Day 3, Saturday 23 April, 9:14AM.





Embroidered blouses for sale.
Otavalo Market.
Day 3, Saturday 23 April, 11:16AM.

Yarn for sale.
Otavalo Market.
Day 3, Saturday 23 April, 9:11AM.





Watch the birds

Male frigate bird.
Caleta Tortuga Negra, Santa Cruz.
Day 14, Wednesday 4 May, 7:29AM.

Great blue heron.
Puerto Egas, Santiago.
Day 13, Tuesday 3 May, 6:44AM.





Sparkling violetear.
Hacienda Zuleta.
Day 5, Tuesday 25 April, 6:02PM.

Andean condor.
Condor rehabilitation project, Zuleta.
Day 5, Tuesday 25 April, 1:18PM.





Lava heron.
Punta Espinosa, Ferndandina.
Day 12, Monday 2 May, 4:30PM.

Charles Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz.
Day 8, Thursday 28 April, 4:03PM.





Pelican.
Puerto Egas, Santiago.
Day 13, Tuesday 3 May, 7:57AM.

Ponder life's forms

Cheese molds.
Hacienda Zuleta cheese factory.
Day 5, Monday 25 April, 10:00AM.





Hacienda Cusin.
Day 2, Friday 22 April, 2:58PM.

Sail somewhere new

S/S Sagitta.
Off Punta Morena, Isabela.
Day 11, Sunday 1 May, 6:33AM.





Climb the peak...

Bartholomé.
Day 13, Tuesday 4 May, 3:12PM.

...for a new perspective...

S/S Sagitta
from peak of Bartolome.
Day 13, Tuesday 3 May, 3:54PM.





...or view it from afar.

Volcan Cayambe.
Day 6, Tuesday 26 April, 10:42AM.

Lounge around

Sea lion.

Bartholomé.

Day 13, Tuesday 3 May, 4:34PM.





Have some lunch...

Great blue heron with lava lizard.
Puerto Egas, Santiago.
Day 13, Tuesday 3 May, 7:49AM.

...play with your food...

Lava gull with small fry.
Off Punta Espinosa, Fernandina.
Day 12, Monday 2 May, 8:44AM.





...just don't fight over it

Marine iguanas fighting over fish backbone.
Puerto Egas, Santiago.
Day 13, Tuesday 3 May, 8:04AM.

Take a siesta

Tortoise.
Charles Darwin Research Station, Santa Cruz.
Day 8, Thursday 28 April, 4:17PM.





Bask in the sun...

Sea lion.
Gardner Bay, Española.
Day 9, Friday 29 April, 8:20AM.

Land iguana.
South Plazas.
Day 8, Thursday 28 April, 6:53AM.





...just not too long

Land iguana carcass.
South Plazas.
Day 8, Thursday 28 April, 7:00AM.

Enjoy the accommodations

Hacienda Zuleta.
Day 4, Sunday 24 April, 3:53PM.





Don't be a crab

Sally lightfoot crab.
Punta Espinosa, Fernandina.
Day 12, Monday 2 May, 5:15PM.

Step out for a while

Pelican.
Puerto Egas, Santiago.
Day 13, Tuesday 3 May, 7:58AM.





Marine iguana.
Day 13, Tuesday 3 May, 8:07AM.
Puerto Egas, Santiago.

Survey your domain

Look for romance

Sally lightfoot crabs copulating.
Punta Espinosa, Fernandina.
Day 12, Monday 2 May, 5:17PM.





Pink flamingos.
Punta Cormorant, Floreana.
Day 10, Saturday 30 April, 7:12AM.

Leave time for reflection

Lava heron.
Punta Espinosa, Fernandina.
Day 12, Monday 2 May, 4:33PM.





Reflection of blue footed booby.
Caleta Tortuga Negra, Santa Cruz.
Day 14, Wednesday 4 May, 7:34AM.

Find fresh faces

Marine iguana.
Punta Suarez, Española.
Day 9, Friday 29 April, 4:04PM.





Waved albatross.
Punta Suarez, Española.
Day 9, Friday 29 April, 4:55PM.

Marine iguana.
Punta Espinosa, Fernandina.
Day 12, Monday 2 May, 4:24PM.





Watch the sunset

Sunset.
Islas Mariela.
Day 11, Sunday 1 May, 5:57PM.

Blue footed booby against sunset.
Punta Suarez, Española.
Day 9, Friday 29 April, 5:54PM.



Day 1, Thursday 21 April

Air travel San Francisco to Miamia to Quito
 Night Hotel Colon, Quito

Day 2, Friday 22 April

AM Drive to Cusin
 PM Visit yarnmaking and weaving
 Night Hacienda Cusin, Cusin

Day 3, Saturday 23 April

AM Visit Otavalo Market
 PM Drive to Zuleta
 Hike to overlook of Zuleta
 Night Hacienda Zuleta, Zuleta

Day 4, Sunday 24 April

AM Horseback riding to overlook of Zuleta
 PM Tour miliking house
 Night Hacienda Zuleta, Zuleta

Day 5, Monday 25 April

AM Tour cheese factory
 Horseback ride to condor project and salmon farms
 PM Visit embroidery project
 Presentation of Jonathan's slides
 Night Hacienda Zuleta, Zuleta

Day 6, Tuesday 26 April

AM Walk through Zuleta community
 Drive to Quito
 PM Bus and walking tour of Quito
 Dinner at Theatrum
 Night Hotel Colon, Quito

Day 7, Wednesday 27 April

Air Travel Quito to Guyaquil to Baltra
 PM Board Sagitta, Baltra
 Navigation 4nm to N. Seymour
 1400-1430 Snorkel, Isla Seymour
 1600-1800 Dry landing, Isla Seymour
 Navigation 14nm to Islas Plazas

Day 8, Thursday 28 April

0615-0845 Dry landing, S. Plazas
 0945-1030 Snorkel, S. Plazas
 Navigation 19nm to Academy Bay, Santa Cruz
 1445-1800 Dry landing, Puerto Ayora, Charles Darwin Research Station
 1900-2100 Dinner at Angermeyer Point
 Navigation 39nm to Gardner Bay, Española

Day 9, Friday 29 April

0730-0930 Landing, Gardner Bay, Española
 1030-1115 Snorkel, El Baho, Española
 Navigation 4nm to Punta Suarez, Española
 1530-1800 Landing, Punta Suarez, Española
 Navigation 43 nm to Punta Cormorant, Floreana

Day 10, Saturday 30 April

0615-0800 Landing, Punta Cormorant, Floreana
 0930-1100 Snorkel, Devil's Crown
 Navigation 3nm to Post Office
 1215-1300 Landing, Post Office Bay, Floreana
 Navigation 112nm to Punta Moreno, Isabela
 Stop ~91W for whales and hydrophone
 Stop at dusk for whale sharks

Day 11, Sunday 1 May

0630-0815 Dry landing, Punta Moreno, Isabela
 Navigation 11nm to Derek's Cove, Isabela
 1115-1215 Snorkel, Derek's Cove, Isabela
 Navigation 3nm to Islas Mariela
 1500-1715 Panga ride and kayaking, Isabela
 1730-1815 Sunset photography from panga, Islas Mariela
 Navigation 15nm to Urvina Bay

Day 12, Monday 2 May

0615-0815 Wet landing, Bahia Urvina, Isabela
 Navigation 14nm to Punta Espinosa, Fernandina
 1100-1200 Snorkel, Punta Espinosa, Fernandina
 1545-1815 Dry landing, Punta Espinosa
 Navigation 92nm to Puerto Egas, Santiago

Day 13, Tuesday 3 May

0630-0830 Wet landing, Puerto Egas, Santiago
 0930-1100 Snorkel off Puerto Egas, Santiago
 Navigation 32nm to Bartholomé
 1445-1630 Landing Bartholomé
 Navigation 19nm to Caleta Tortuga Negra, Santa Cruz

Day 14, Wednesday 4 May

AM Panga ride, Caleta Tortuga Negra, Santa Cruz
 Navigation 5nm to Baltra
 Disembark Sagitta, Baltra
 Air travel Baltra to Guyaquil to Quito
 PM Farewell dinner
 Night Hotel Colon, Quito

Day 15, Thursday 5 May

Air travel Quito to Miami
 Night Holiday Inn Coral Gables, Miami

Day 16, Friday 6 May

Air travel Miami to San Francisco

All times are approximate.

Itinerary