Ecuador’s Highlands & Islands

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

Photography by Christopher Unkel
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 Ecuadorean 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.
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.
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.
Sail somewhere new

S/S Sagitta.
Off Punta Morena, Isabela.
Day 11, Sunday 1 May, 6:33AM.
Climb the peak...
...for a new perspective...
Volcan Cayambe.

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

...just not too long
Enjoy the accommodations
Don’t be a crab

Sally lightfoot crab.
Punta Espinosa, Fernandina.
Day 12, Monday 2 May, 5:15PM.
Step out for a while

Puerto Egas, Santiago.
Day 13, Tuesday 3 May, 7:58AM.
Day 13, Tuesday 3 May, 8:07 AM.
Puerto Egas, Santiago.

Survey your domain.
Look for romance

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

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