



## DOLPHINCHARTERS

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### ECUADOR EXPLORATION 2015 A Tour with Ronn Patterson and Betty Sederquist

#### AMAZON

January 4 -11, 2015

\$1995

(\$1595 if taken with Galapagos)

#### GALAPAGOS

January 13 -23, 2015

\$5795

#### ECUADORIAN CLOUD FOREST

January 23 – 30 (if taken alone)

January 25 - 30 (if on Galapagos)

\$1995

(\$1795 if taken with Galapagos)

**NOTE:** Each trip can be taken independently. If taken independently, each trip includes nights in Quito with a City Tour/nights in Guayaquil with a mangrove tour. *All prices based on double occupancy!*

**Bird Watching • Wildlife Viewing • Ethnic culture**

**Photo leader: Betty Sederquist** Betty has led numerous photo trips for us over the years, mainly in Alaska, but also in Ecuador, and has a great knowledge of wildlife and landscape photography. She's always willing to help out with tips and is just an all around nice person! . Today her stock photo collection includes more than 100,000 edited images. View her website [www.sederquist.com/](http://www.sederquist.com/) for more viewing of her work.

## ECUADOR

Ecuador is an extraordinarily rich country that includes not only the Galapagos, but also some of the richest Amazon rainforest, complex Andean bioregions, and a highly varied coast and coastal plain area. The coastal area itself stretches from an intense rainforest of over 600 inches of rain per year in the North, to a desert in the south.

Ecuador is only about the size of the state of Colorado, making visiting its very diverse regions not only possible, but also efficient. Its biological abundance is truly amazing. Setting on the equator, it has an equatorial summer year round. Yet its higher peaks are covered in snow and ice. Quito experiences eternal spring, and the lowlands can be very warm.



This varied terrain makes for a birding paradise, with many unique species. For example, there are over 130 kinds of hummingbirds alone, and its 1600 bird species is over half of all the species in South America; and South America is considered the bird continent with 3,000 species of birds. This alone makes Ecuador one of the biological wonders of the world. Nowhere else is such a diversity of birds found in such a small area! Birds are numerous and can be everywhere, including downtown city parks. If anything, the plant diversity is even more amazing.

The **Amazon** Region and the Cloud Forest vie for having the greatest flowering of life on earth! In the Amazon, even gaudy macaws have to scream to be noticed, so intense is the vegetation, with as many as 200 species of trees per hectare (2.5 acres). And with water nearly everywhere, there are more fish species than in the Atlantic Ocean. The pink river dolphins will compete for your attention with numerous monkey species, sloths and other mammals. The western Amazon, near the eastern slope of the Andes has the highest diversity of life anywhere in South America.



Unequivocally the **Galapagos** is the most exciting wildlife preserve in the world due to the universal tameness of the animals. It is a virtual Garden of Eden and it is a living laboratory of evolution. It is the mecca for lovers of nature, but even with a casual interest you will be drawn into the naturalist world and thrill at the fascination of the unique flora and fauna. A few of the outstanding animals you will be watching include marine and land iguanas, giant land tortoises left from the age of reptiles, sea lions and fur seals, flightless cormorants, penguins on the equator, flamingos, tropic birds, two species of frigate birds, three species of boobies and a confusing array of Darwin's finches. The underwater life is also a highlight of the trip.



The **Cloud Forest** near the western slope of the Andes is even more than the Amazon an endemic center of life. It vies with the Amazon for its highly diverse richness of life, but a higher percent of its bird life are found nowhere else on earth – many of them occurring in tiny geographic area within the Cloud Forest. With abundant moisture, epiphytes are everywhere, including orchids, bromeliads, ferns, mosses and more. It is also one of the world's greatest birding areas. It is possible, for example, to see 30 species of hummingbirds in a day - all within a few miles of each other. This area is a favorite of Ronn's.

#### ECUADOR SPECIAL 2015

We have made it possible for you to visit three distinct and colorful areas of Ecuador in one trip: The Amazon, the Galapagos Islands and the Cloud Forest. As great and outstanding as are the Galapagos Islands, our goal is to help you explore more of one of Earth's jewels - the little country of Ecuador.

Ronn Patterson has led many trips throughout Ecuador, and is particularly familiar with the areas you'll be visiting. The Ecuadorian guides that accompany all the trips are very knowledgeable and informed about the diversity that Ecuador has to offer. The lodges for the Amazon and Cloud Forest and the motor vessel Samba for the Galapagos are quite comfortable and the food is wonderful!