



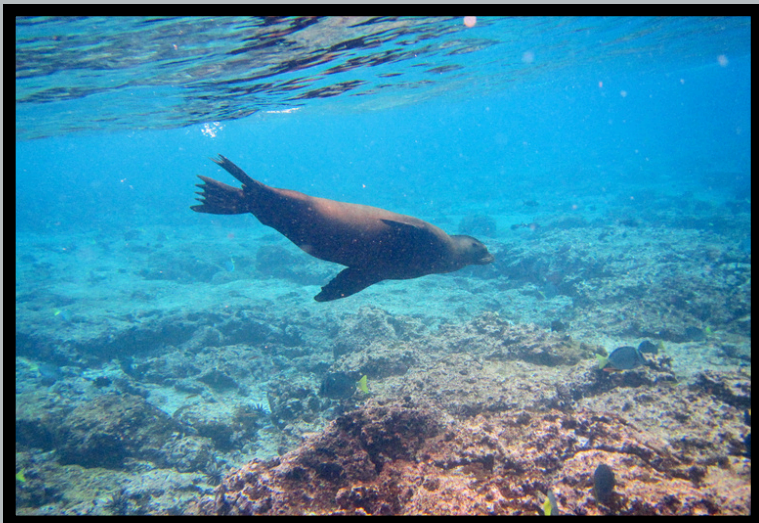
**ISLANDS TO INCAS:
GALÁPAGOS & MACHU PICCHU
NOVEMBER 6-15, 2027**



SAIL WITH SETH™
Hosted by Audrey



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Now you can fulfill two of your biggest travel dreams on one amazing vacation. From eye-level encounters with the wildlife of the Galápagos to a soaring visit to Machu Picchu, there are almost too many high points to count!

First, in the Galápagos Islands, your naturalist guides will introduce you to giant land tortoises, sea lions, blue-footed boobies and other creatures found nowhere else on earth—often in extreme close-up. You'll have abundant chances to walk, kayak and snorkel, and you'll stay in perfectly-sited waterfront boutique hotels.

Then make the seamless transition to the mainland and ascend to Machu Picchu. On this unforgettable journey, you'll spend two days at the famed site, plus you'll have leisurely exposure to the rest of Peru with its conquistador-tinged history, indestructible Inca architecture and spectacular geography with your guide, who is a native Quechua (indigenous groups descending from the Inca Empire).

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NOVEMBER 6: QUITO ARRIVAL

Your extraordinary Galapagos odyssey begins in Quito, a captivating tapestry of pre-Columbian ruins, Spanish colonial grandeur, and vibrant indigenous culture. Wander the cobblestone streets of La Ronda, where traditional music and dance echo through the centuries-old neighborhood. Indulge in culinary delights like empanadas and locro de papa, savoring the rich flavors that have delighted Ecuadorians for generations. Or just relax at your hotel in preparation for the explorations of the islands that begin tomorrow.

NOVEMBER 7: GALAPAGOS / SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

This morning, transfer from the Ecuadorian mainland to Santa Cruz Island, where you'll have the remarkable experience of walking among some of the oldest animals in the world. The island is home to giant tortoises that can grow up to 500 pounds and live for 175 years or more. To see them, follow your guides along a scenic trail to the tortoises' natural habitat in the highlands at El Chato Reserve. It's an easy walk of an hour or so. When you reach the watering hole, it's just you with a couple of dozen tortoises. There are no fences or moats between you and these amazing creatures, and your naturalist guides see to it that you get so near that you can hear them breathe and chomp on grass. It's a close encounter like you've never had before. The same rich volcanic soil that the animals love is perfect for growing coffee, sugar cane, and fruit, as you discover on a visit to a family-owned plantation owned by our friend Adrianno. You'll spend time with the family and workers, learn about their organic, sustainable operation, and taste products grown and made on the property. Your day ends at your waterfront resort. Claim a chair under an umbrella on the bayside terrace. It's a perfect spot to sip on something cold and watch the world go by.

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NOVEMBER 8: GALAPAGOS / SANTA FE ISLAND

From Santa Cruz Island your cinematic view stretches to Santa Fe Island, the oldest of the Galápagos islands and a terrific microcosm of what the archipelago is all about. After breakfast, you'll boat over to the island with your guide for a day of snorkeling and barbeque. Santa Fe has its own species of iguana that's found nowhere else. And, it's home to groves of opuntia cactus that look like trees with huge, prickly paddle-shaped leaves. In fact, the island is a non-stop photo op with plenty of chances to spot an incredibly wide variety of wildlife, from sea lions and sea turtles to Galápagos hawks, Nazca boobies and so much more. It doesn't get better than spending time with your boat captain Sebastian whose family fished these waters for years. After an incredible day, Sebastian drops you back in Puerto Ayora in the late afternoon where there is time to relax or shop and explore the town before dinner.

NOVEMBER 9: GALAPAGOS / LAS TINTORERAS

This morning you transfer seamlessly to Isabela Island, the largest of the Galápagos Islands. Isabela straddles the equator, and at one million years old, it is also the youngest of the islands. There's no waiting for your first wildlife sightings! This afternoon take to the water to kayak with sea lions, green sea turtles and marine iguanas while keeping your eyes sharp for blue-footed boobies in the trees along the shores as well as watching how they hover over the sea and dive for fish. This evening, about the time when the cruise crowd heads back to their ships, you'll be relaxing at your boutique hotel overlooking the sea.

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NOVEMBER 10: GALAPAGOS / VOLCAN SIERRA NEGRA

The islands are some of the most volcanically active spots on earth and Isabela was actually formed by the merger of six volcanos. Today, you experience that terrain and get a firsthand look at how millennia of eruptions and lava flows have formed the unique Galápagos habitat. You won't forget this morning's walk along the rim of 500,000-year-old Volcan Sierra Negra. Up here, you get one of the most spectacular views in the islands. The six-mile-wide crater is one of the largest active calderas on the planet, and the scale is awesome. Your guides will show you how – with its orange, red and yellow lava formations and puffing fumaroles – this is more like walking on Mars than Earth. But the island is surprisingly lush at this altitude. Ferns and papaya trees and angel's trumpets (with blossoms a foot long or more) line the trail. Darwin's finches, hawks, flycatchers and many other birds supply a natural soundtrack. After refueling over a leisurely lunch at a friend's private hacienda, you have time in the late afternoon to relax by the beach with the local colony of sea lions, or even to stroll the lazy beach town and soak up island life.

NOVEMBER 11: GALAPAGOS / ISABELA ISLAND / LIMA

You choose how you want to spend your final morning on Isabela Island. Want to sleep in? Prefer to go for a final swim in the sea, stroll along the beach spotting iguanas or go for a nature hike to commune with the flamingos? It's your vacation. And it's your choice. After, you're in rare company as you make your way from one incredible bucket list destination to another with your flight from Ecuador to Peru.

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NOVEMBER 12: PERU / SACRED VALLEY

Today you'll take a short flight to Cusco, where you have the incredible opportunity to visit spectacular Inca ruins on a gentle downhill walk through the Peruvian countryside. First stop is Sacsayhuaman, one of the most stunning examples of Inca architecture in Peru. Tens of thousands of workers labored on the structure for over seven decades, hauling massive stone blocks – the biggest is 125 tons and 24 feet tall—to make this impressive monument. The Incas built the city of Cusco in the shape of a puma and made Sacsayhuaman the puma's head. The zigzag wall represents the animal's teeth. Your guide takes you through each part of this amazing ruin, explaining the different theories surrounding its construction and pointing out the symmetry and beauty of the Inca-fit stones. En-route to the Sacred Valley, you'll have a chance to learn the ancient weaving techniques used to create Andean clothing at Awanacancha, a breeding center for llamas, alpacas and vicunas. Your day comes to a beautiful conclusion as you settle into your hotel overlooking the Urubamba river. Dinner tonight offers your first taste of excellent Peruvian cooking – a cuisine that is reminiscent of Spanish food with plenty of beef and seafood, all prepared with a special local accent.

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NOVEMBER 13: OLLANTAYTAMBO / URUBAMBA

This morning, enjoy a special visit to a Quechua mountain village unchanged for hundreds of years. Just past flocks of sheep, you'll be welcomed either into a local school—when classes are in session—or into a family's home during village holidays, with a special opportunity to spend quality time with the children and their teacher or parents. (Consider packing pens, pencils and notebooks from home for the children.) No Duo Lingo, Babel or Rosetta Stone needed here! You'll be able to communicate with the children using Quechua words and phrases that you've learned from your guides. Later this morning, stop in Ollantaytambo, a still-thriving Inca village set below ancient ruins that retain the stonework, narrow streets, and family courtyards of pre-Columbian times. Much of the Inca history in Peru was destroyed by the Spanish, but Ollantaytambo is an important ceremonial site and scene of one of the only major Inca victories against the invading Spaniards. As you explore and visit with the colorfully dressed townspeople, you have the feeling of stepping back into the 15th century. Following lunch, pause in the town of Urubamba for a visit to a pottery workshop to meet a friend, Pablo Seminario, in his studio. (One of Peru's most renowned ceramists, Pablo has a permanent exhibition at Chicago's Field Museum.) A short walk takes you to the busy Urubamba market, where street vendors still sell livestock, produce, crafts and chicha, a thick white fermented corn drink that was prepared by the Chosen Women in the Inca court, and is still consumed throughout Peru.

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NOVEMBER 14: MACHU PICCHU

Start the day with a scenic chug out of the valley on the Inca Rail train. You don't have to rise with the tree frogs in order to arrive before the onslaught of day-trippers. The explorer Hiram Bingham re-discovered Machu Picchu hidden in the cloud forest in 1911. The task of revealing the site is almost as hard to fathom as the original process of constructing it. With an overnight here, you have plenty of time to explore on your own and to hear the stories your guide has to tell. The Incas worshipped nature and built many of their structures in harmony with the dramatic landscape. Your guide leads you through the mazes of plazas, chambers and dwellings, explaining the different theories surrounding the city. (Some think it was the home of an Inca ruler, Pachakutec; others speculate that its function was to maintain a reliable supply of coca leaves for the priests and royals of Cusco. And some think that Machu Picchu was a university where the children of the leaders conquered by the Incas were taken to be taught and brainwashed!) A highlight is the round Temple of the Sun. An astronomical observatory; the windows are perfectly aligned to catch the first rays of the sun on the mornings of winter and summer solstices. Since these ruins remained hidden during the Spanish conquest, they were spared from destruction. After lunch, you can return to the ruins to explore more or do some easy birding with a chance of spotting hummingbirds, the unmistakable crimson silhouette of the gallito de las rocas, or maybe even a Technicolor quetzal. You can also take advantage of the exceptional spa services available on property, take a walk into town, or relax with a cocktail before dinner.

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NOVEMBER 15: CUSCO

After breakfast, mid-morning, board the Inca Rail train for Ollantaytambo and Cusco, a sort of “Zorro-meets-Raiders-of-the-Lost Ark” city and the ceremonial heart of the Inca empire. Your final afternoon offers an excellent opportunity to explore the highlights including the Temple of the Sun. Once, its walls were covered with over 700 sheets of gold studded with emeralds and turquoise. It’s hard to believe that people in the 21st Century still walk through narrow cobblestone streets flanked by Incan stone walls every day -- and you join them as you walk to the Plaza de Armas for a visit to the Cathedral. It’s an impressive Baroque reminder of Spanish colonization. If you'd like, join your guide for a short walk to the artists' quarter of San Blas Whitewashed buildings with bright blue doorways house galleries, studios and small shops filled with weavings, alpaca sweaters and ceramics. As your bucket list trip draws to a close in the late afternoon, you can choose to fly to Lima for flights home that night, or extend your stay in Cusco.



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Wyndham Quito Airport (1 night before Galapagos flight): This modern hotel offers convenient access to the airport and features well-appointed rooms with stunning views of the surrounding mountains, making it the perfect place to relax before your adventure to the Galapagos.



Angermeyer Waterfront Inn (2 nights): Nestled on the waterfront of Santa Cruz Island, this charming inn boasts beautiful views and easy access to the local wildlife. Enjoy cozy accommodations and a relaxing atmosphere while being immersed in the natural beauty of the Galapagos.



Iguana Crossing (2 nights): Located on the beautiful beachfront of Isabela Island, Iguana Crossing offers comfortable rooms with stunning views of the ocean and nearby volcanoes. Guests can enjoy spacious accommodations and take advantage of the nearby recreational activities, including snorkeling and hiking.

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Wyndham Costa Del Sol Lima Airport (1 night before Cusco flight): This contemporary hotel conveniently located near the Lima airport features modern amenities and comfortable rooms, ensuring a restful night's stay before your journey to Cusco.



Inkaterra Hacienda Urubamba (2 nights): Set in the stunning Sacred Valley, this luxurious property combines traditional Andean architecture with modern comforts. Guests can explore lush gardens, enjoy authentic local cuisine, and take in breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains.



Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel (1 night): Located just a short distance from the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu, this enchanting hotel blends harmoniously with nature. Guests can relax in beautifully designed accommodations while enjoying the tranquil gardens and the opportunity to explore the nearby archaeological site.

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PRICING:

DOUBLE OCCUPANCY:
\$13,393 PER PERSON

SINGLE OCCUPANCY:
\$14,888 TOTAL

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Enjoy all breakfasts, six lunches, and four dinners during your journey, providing you with a taste of local cuisine.
- Stay at award-winning boutique properties that have been thoughtfully selected for their exceptional location, design, history, and regional character, ensuring a memorable experience.
- Benefit from the expertise of our knowledgeable guides, who are well-connected local friends, providing access to people and places you wouldn't find on your own.
- All land transportation as listed in the daily itinerary is included, covering fares for ferries and other modes of travel. Intra-air travel between Ecuador/Galapagos and Galapagos/Peru is also included. Your final air city will be Cusco, and you'll be responsible for travel home from there.
- Enjoy premium gear and expert guidance for kayaking, snorkeling, hiking, and other activities as outlined in the daily itinerary on select tours, ensuring an engaging and adventurous experience.