

Calling all photographers! Unleash your creativity and capture the essence of Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands, where every frame tells a story of diverse landscapes, vibrant cultures, and unique wildlife

capture the essence of Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands, where every frame tells a story of diverse landscapes, vibrant cultures, and unique wildlife encounters. From the bustling markets and colonial charm of Quito to the untouched beauty of the South Galápagos Islands, this journey offers a visual feast for photographers seeking both cultural richness and natural wonders. Picture yourself navigating the Napo River in the Amazon Rainforest, where exotic wildlife and lush vegetation provide an unparalleled backdrop for your lens.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

"Embark on a captivating journey through Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands, exploring a diverse tapestry of landscapes, wildlife, and ancient history."



Ecuador is called the country of the four worlds because of its diversity. Ecuador is a unique country mostly based on the four different climate zones you can find in Ecuador: Amazonas, Andes, Coast and the Galapagos Islands. Since they are all very close to each other, you could easily visit all four "worlds" of Ecuador within one week of holiday!

Highlights

- Begin your adventure in **Quito**, Ecuador's capital nestled high in the Andes. Marvel at the historic Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with its colonial architecture and vibrant markets.
- Venture into the heart of the Amazon Rainforest with a visit to the Napo Wildlife Centre. Immerse yourself in the lush biodiversity of the jungle, encountering exotic wildlife and vibrant bird species. The Amazon experience offers a unique blend of adventure and ecological discovery.
- Next, ascend to the heights of **Cotopaxi National Park**, home to the majestic Cotopaxi volcano. Hike through stunning landscapes, surrounded by rugged peaks and the beauty of high-altitude flora and fauna. The crisp mountain air and panoramic views create an unforgettable experience and amazing images. Cotopaxi, standing as one of the world's highest active volcanoes, graces the Ecuadorian landscape with its majestic presence. This iconic stratovolcano, shrouded in a perpetual cloak of snow, pierces the sky at an elevation of over 19,000 feet. Located in Cotopaxi National Park, the volcano offers an awe-inspiring backdrop of rugged beauty. The perfect symmetry of Cotopaxi's cone, coupled with the surrounding Andean highlands, provides a captivating sight for visitors. Adventurous souls can embark on a journey to its glaciated summit, while others can enjoy the panoramic vistas from various viewpoints in the park. Cotopaxi's towering stature and natural grandeur make it a symbol of Ecuador's rich volcanic heritage, enticing explorers and nature enthusiasts from around the globe.
- Quilotoa a majestic volcano in the Ecuadorian Andes, boasts one of the most stunning crater lakes in the world. The mesmerizing Quilotoa Crater Lake, with its turquoise waters, sits within

the vast volcanic caldera, creating a breathtaking and otherworldly landscape. The rim of the crater offers panoramic views of the surrounding Andean peaks and valleys, making it a haven for nature enthusiasts and photographers alike. Visitors can hike the crater rim, descend to the water's edge, or simply marvel at the dramatic beauty of this natural wonder. Quilotoa stands as a testament to the geological wonders of the Andean region, inviting travelers to immerse themselves in its serene beauty and awe-inspiring vistas.

- Trace the footsteps of ancient civilizations at Ingapirca, Ecuador's most significant Inca archaeological site. Explore the intricacies of this historical gem, where the Inca and Canari cultures converge, leaving behind a rich tapestry of ruins and cultural heritage.
- Baños a picturesque town surrounded by waterfalls and nestled in the shadows of Tungurahua volcano, offering endless opportunities for capturing the scenic beauty of the Andean highlands
- Continue your journey to the charming city of Cuenca, known for its well-preserved colonial architecture and vibrant arts scene. Stroll through cobblestone streets, visit local markets, and soak in the cultural atmosphere of this UNESCO-listed city.
- Finally, set sail to the **South Galápagos Islands**, where nature takes center stage. Encounter unique wildlife, from playful sea lions to iconic giant tortoises, as you explore the pristine landscapes of these enchanted islands. Snorkel in crystal-clear waters and photograph iguanas, sea lions, exotic birds and walk along lava trails, Witness and photograph the fascinating interplay of life in one of the world's most untouched ecosystems.

This extraordinary itinerary promises an immersive experience, blending natural wonders, cultural exploration, and the unparalleled beauty of Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands.



 \sim

ITINERARY

"Quito, a city where history whispers through cobbled streets, and the soul of the Andes echoes in every colonial facade. In its altitude, you find not just elevation but a city elevated by the richness of its culture, the warmth of its people, and the timeless beauty that graces its historic heart."



DAY 1 | 5 May: Arrival in Quito

Our guides will receive you at the airport. Transfer to hotel in Quito, group gathering, presentations and dinner.

Accommodation: Patio Andaluz or similar.

DAY 2 | 6 May: Quito City Tour

Today we will take it easy whilst we recover from the long flight(s) and jetlag. We will visit some of the most famous squares, churches and colonial buildings including The famous "Teleferico (cable car) de Quito": The view, as you ascend, reveals a singular landscape of the city and the opportunity to travel more than 2,500 meters in less than 20 minutes, to discover places of unparalleled beauty.

Accommodation: Patio Andaluz or similar.

DAY 3 7 May: Flight to Coca City/Jungle Tour

Transfer to the airport and flight to Coca city for Jungle Tour.

DAY 3-6 | 7-10 May: Napo Wildlife Centre, 4-day jungle tour

4-day tour at the Napo Wildlife Center Lodge in Yasuni National park. Full board. Immerse yourself in the lush biodiversity of the jungle, encountering exotic wildlife and vibrant bird species.

Accommodation: Napo Wildlife Center (Full board).

DAY 6 | 10 May: Flight back to Quito – Transfer to Cotopaxi Area/Colonial Hacienda

Transfer from the airport in Quito and then trip to your hacienda in Cotopaxi.

Accommodation: Hacienda La Cienega or similar.







DAY 7 | 11 May: Cotopaxi Volcano and Quilotoa Lagoon, trip to Baños

Our guide will pick you up at your hotel to transfer you to one of the most emblematic points of Ecuador, the Cotopaxi volcano and considered the largest active volcano in the world at 5,897m high (19,347 feet high). During our stay in the National Park we will admire and photograph its natural environment, its flora and fauna with our naturalist guide. We will try to ascend to the refuge located at 4,810m (15,392 feet high).

Since the Cotopaxi Volcano is currently active, the ascent will be granted by the National Park authorities. We will also walk around Lake Limpiopungo to observe some birds from the Paramo region (Andean Grasslands). On a clear day, the views of the volcano reflected on the lake's surface are magnificent. We will briefly visit the small museum to learn about the National Park, its nature, wildlife and the eruptions. Then we'll go to the Quilotoa Volcano, with a stunning turquoise crater lagoon, making it one of the most beautiful and photographed landscapes of Ecuador. We take a short hike to appreciate the magnificent view of the volcano (if weather conditions allow). In the afternoon we go to Baños. where we will spend the night.

Accommodation: Luna Volcan (first class) or similar

DAY 8 | 12 May: Baños – Route of the Cascades, Chimborazo Volcano and trip to Riobamba

After breakfast we will visit the town and we will explore "The way of the waterfalls" and trek to "El Pailon del Diablo"; a beautiful and majestic waterfall where we will have the opportunity to walk and live a completely unforgettable adventure through the cloud forest. We will then travel to Riobamba and on the way, we will stop to photograph the Chimborazo volcano and the wild llamas that live around the mountain. Hopefully the llamas cooperate for a beautiful foreground!

Accommodation: Andaluza (first class) or similar.

ITINERARY CONTINUED

"Ecuador's volcanoes stand as sentinels of time, their majestic peaks and smoky exhales weaving tales of ancient forces and enduring beauty. In their slopes, adventure unfolds, and in their summits, one discovers the breathtaking convergence of nature's raw power and delicate grace. Ecuador's volcanoes are not just geological wonders; they are the beating heart of a land shaped by fire and sculpted by time."



DAY 9 13 May: Riobamba, Ingapirca and Cuenca

After breakfast, we will visit to Colta lagoon and the Balbanera, a picturesque Andean town, with a peaceful lagoon in whose waters, the beautiful Chimborazo volcano is reflected on clear sunny days. We'll continue our trip to the area of the "Devil's nose train" – the train our is not operating at this time, but our guide will show you the operation of the train and other details about the route. We will then visit the Inca Ruins of Ingapirca and we will travel to Cuenca.

Accommodation: Mansion Alcazar (first class) or similar.

DAY 10 | 14 May: Cuenca City Tour - Gualaceo - Chordeleg

After breakfast, we will start our city tour. Cuenca is a beautiful town declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO with plenty of photographic opportunities. We will discover its cultural and architectural diversity including its most important churches and monuments. We will visit the "broken bridge" and Turi lookout, with an amazing panoramic view of the entire city of Cuenca.

In the afternoon, we will visit Gualaceo and Chordeleg, famous towns for their gold and silver handcrafts, and for their colonial traditions.

Accommodation: Mansion Alcazar (first class) or similar.

DAY 11 | 15 May: El Cajas National Park - Guayaquil City

After breakfast we visit El Cajas National Park or the Gualaceo Valley (depending on weather conditions) and then we will travel to Guayaquil. El Cajas National Park has several small beautiful lagoons (more than 230). They are the remains of the last ice age. The lakes are connected by small rivers, crystal-clear waters flow into the Pacific. We will have a short walk through this protected area and we will continue our trip to Guayaquil and a short city tour in the afternoon around the main places of the city.

Accommodation: Unipark (first class) or similar.





DAY 12 | 16 May: Transfer to Guayaquil airport and flight to Galapagos

Transfer to the airport to take the flight to the enchanted Islands of Galapagos. At your arrival our guide will meet you at the airport to take you on board.

DAY 12-17 | 16-21 May: Luxury-Class Catamaran – South Galapagos Islands (6-day/5-night tour)

Encounter unique wildlife, from playful sea lions to iconic giant tortoises, as you explore the pristine landscapes of these enchanted islands. Snorkel in crystal-clear waters and photograph iguanas, sea lions, exotic birds and walk along lava trails, Witness and photograph the fascinating interplay of life in one of the world's most untouched ecosystems.

We will explore the Galapagos in the Alya catamaran offers comfortable cabins, as well as many social areas aimed at your comfort and relaxation. The itinerary combines hiking, snorkeling, beach and kayaking; while our Certified Guides of the Galapagos National Park will introduce you to the most relevant sites.

The Alya is a luxury-class catamaran that guarantees smooth sailing in the seas surrounding the Galapagos Islands. This 16-passenger boat offers a great itinerary (Route C) that includes snorkelling, kayaking and hiking. After the day's excursions, relax in the library viewing a movie from the DVD collection, or on the sundeck while enjoying a drink from one of the catamaran's two bars. You'll rest well in one of the pleasant cabins, eight of which have private balconies. All are equipped with private bathrooms, cold/hot water, air conditioning, safe box and other amenities. Throughout, the Alya yacht is elegantly and tastefully decorated. The Alya eight crew members and bilingual, certified naturalist guide will assure you a safe and informative journey through the Galapagos Islands.

A ship created with highest quality standards on navigation including a state-of-the-art technology in order to show the best of the Galapagos Islands.

DAY 17 | 21 May: Flight back to Quito

Morning visit in Galapagos and transfer to the airport to fly back to Quito for our last night in Ecuador. Dinner, critique session and farewell.

DAY 18 | 22 May: Transfer to Quito International Airport and flight back home

Breakfast and transfer to Quito International airport. End of tour.









ITINERARY CONTINUED



PHOTOGRAPHY EXPERIENCE

"All skill levels are welcome. Whether you're a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and processing." Ignacio Palacios



Central to this unforgettable tour is YOU. Through Ignacio's guidance, you'll not only learn the secrets of the masters, but you'll take your photography skills to the next level and leave your South American adventure with a collection of powerful, moving photographs you'll share with pride:

Some of the photography skills you'll learn throughout the tour include:

- The art of composition
- Post-processing techniques tips and tricks
- How to work with light
- Optimising your equipment and filters
- Pre-visualisation and the creative process
- The unique techniques of landscape photography, wildlife photography, portrait photography, while also touching on aerial, black and white, and night photography
- Ignacio will also be there to offer one-on-one guidance on other specific skills you'd personally like to master.

Photography and camera skills

All skill levels are welcome. Whether you're a beginner or expert, the tour is designed to cover all aspects of image capture and processing as it applies to where you are on your photography journey. As for equipment, we can help you optimise any equipment you chose to use; from mobile phone to tablets, compact camera to digital SLR cameras. The best way to learn the art of photography is by taking photos. So, Ignacio will be by your side in the field sharing his unique insight, expertise, and guidance as you shoot. Ensuring you don't just leave the tour with incredible photographs, but with skills that will transform the way you pursue your photography passion.

The creative process

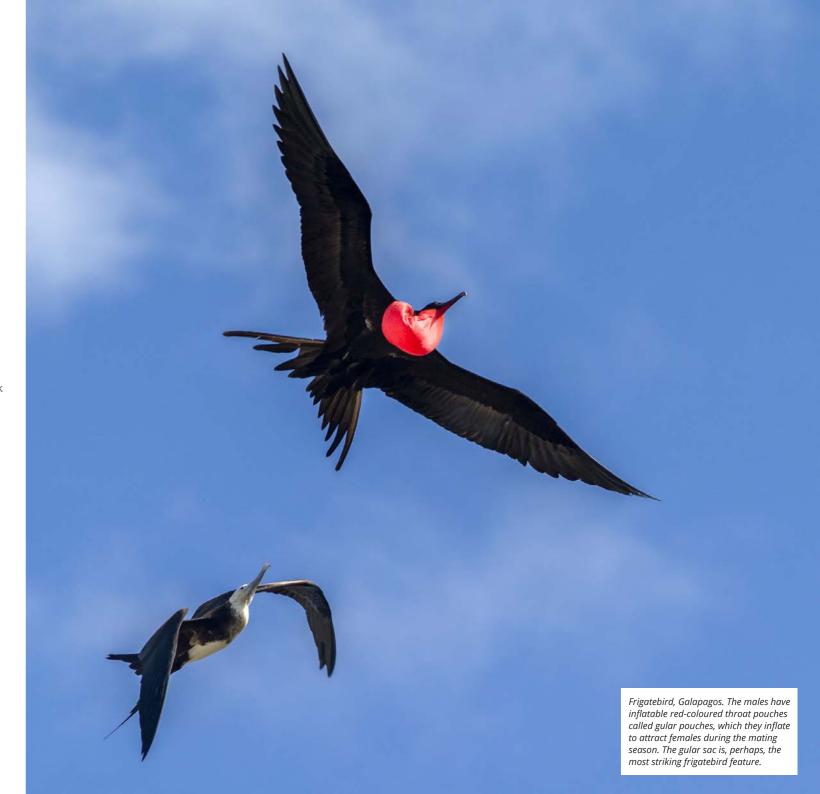
Throughout the tour, you'll also have the opportunity to process and enhance your images using Lightroom, Photoshop, Capture One, and other editing software. Learning first-hand how to create photographs that tell a story, evoke emotion and ultimately help you find your unique style and personality as an artist.

Critique session

Should you dream of entering competitions, or simply wish to push yourself as a photographer, critique sessions are an invaluable part of the learning process. Ignacio will offer one-on-one critique sessions during the tour. Providing constructive evaluation and feedback supported by recommendations and tips through the eyes of a professional. While having your work critiqued can feel overwhelming at first, this is one of the most powerful ways to improve your skills as a photographer.

Physical considerations

While you'll be experiencing South America in style there will be times when the group needs to embark on a walk/hike to visit and photograph the best locations. As part of the pre-tour planning, we ask you to share any existing health conditions with us so we may plan for your comfort and safety.



ACCOMMODATION











THE TEAM



IGNACIO PALACIOS

When it comes to photography and travel, few can rival Ignacio Palacios' experience, skill, and passion. A third-generation photographer, Ignacio has been honoured with over

100 prestigious photography prizes and awards from around the world and has travelled to over 100 countries in his 25 years career. It's little wonder he's developed a reputation as a leading photographer in the fields of travel, landscape, and nature photography.

Born in Spain, Ignacio now calls Sydney, Australia home – though his unmistakable Spanish spirit continues to influence his work and define his signature style.

Combining his love of travel and photography has proved a powerful combination, and today Ignacio leads some of the world's best photography tours to incredible destinations around the world. As an AIPP double Master of Photography, Ignacio shares his insight, experience, and technique with his clients to help them find their own success and joy on their photographic journey.

"I hope that through my images and my tours, I can open people's eyes to the incredible world we live in. I want to give my guests both travel and photographic experience. We are privileged to have such a beautiful planet and it's our responsibility to respect, cherish and protect it."

Ignacio's distinct, award-winning style can be defined by his mastery of composition, colour, and light. With his minimalistic style and unique ability to connect with his audience through storytelling through his images, Ignacio invites his audience to experience the subject not as how he captured it, but how he experienced it, evoking an emotional connection between the viewer, subject and artist.

Photography and travel will always be Ignacio's passion, and he is dedicated to helping others ignite their passion too.



RICHARD I'ANSON

Our guest photographer on this expedition is Richard l'Anson. Richard is a freelance photographer who has built a career on his twin passions for travel and photography. Over the

past 37 years he has travelled the world, amassing a substantial and compelling collection of images of people and places in more than 100 countries on all seven continents.

His images are published worldwide in books, magazines, newspapers, brochures, calendars, posters, cards and websites. Richard has published thirteen books including five editions of the best-selling Lonely Planet Guide to Travel Photography and the large format pictorials: Australia: 42 Great Landscape Experiences, Nepal and India: essential encounters.

Richard was one of five photographers selected for the first series of the National Geographic Channel television series *Tales by Light* (now showing on Netflix). He is a Master of Photography awarded by the Australian Institute of Professional Photography (AIPP), an Ambassador for the Australian Himalayan Foundation and represents Canon Australia as a Canon Master Photographer.

Richard runs workshops teaching all aspects of travel photography for individuals and small groups and leads photography tours to Australian and international destinations. He is also much sought after as a speaker & judge for photography and travel industry events and competitions.

His photography is represented by Getty Images and AWL Images. When he's not on the road he lives in Sydney, Australia. For more information about Richard and his photography log onto www.richardianson.com, @richianson on Instagram and www.facebook.com/richardiansonphotography.



can be way of change and I feel an obligation and responsibility to share what I have captured and created with my camera in the hope that I can not only inspire people to take better images but to care for the environment."

Ignacio Palacios

"I believe that photography

CHECKLIST



"My strongest motivation is to create. I want to create beautiful images of natural subjects that can inspire others and the joy comes from sharing those incredible moments."

Ignacio Palacios

Camera equipment

- DSLR or Medium Format (check your baggage allowance with your airline/travel agent)
- Tripod with quick release plate
- Standard zoom, wide angle and telephoto lenses
- Battery and chargers
- Shutter cable release
- Polarising filter and ND filters
- Laptop computer with Photoshop and Lightroom and/or Capture One
- External backup drives and memory cards for storage.

We recommend to shrink-wrap your baggage at your departure airport. Ensure your telephoto lenses are packed in protective packs designed for such lenses. We also recommend that you pack your camera equipment as your hand luggage as much as possible so that if the checked-in baggage is lost or delayed at least you can start photographing as soon as you arrive.

Note: please contact me if you want to discuss equipment for this trip.

What to bring, clothing and other

- Jacket, hat, light gloves
- Light Sweater
- Trekking boots
- Comfortable clothing for cool and hot weather
- Waterproof poncho (not necessary if the jacket is waterproof)
- Hat and sunglasses with UV protection
- Thermos to fill with water or camelback
- Sunscreen
- Small personal first aid kit
- Small personal hygiene kit
- A small backpack
- Clothes for hot weather that include some long sleeves, preferably of fast drying fabrics such as dry-fit
- Swimming suit
- Lip balm
- Large but light plastic bags for packing clothes and garbage
- Mosquito repellent
- Clothes for cold weather between 5C° and 10C° at least two layers
- Clothes for the Amazon jungle (Long Sleeves, hat, and sunglasses, trekking shoes)
- Note: Remember to have liquid all the time to hydrate yourself all the time in hot places like Tatacoa, La Macarena or The Amazon

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to cancel this workshop. *In the event of this happening, all* payments received will be refunded but participants shall have no further claim against IP Travel Photography arising from such cancellation. Any such refund will not include payments for any bookings for other services made in addition to the itinerary outlined above. The responsibility for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection insurance prior to paying the first deposit.

To reserve your place for 2026 or to make an enquiry, please email ignacio@ iptravelphotography.com.au

Note: A much more detailed of equipment and what to be to the trip will be provided to participants closer to the tim of departure.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS



WORKSHOP DATES AND PRICES

Tour dates: **5 - 22 May 2026**

The tour commences in **Quito** and ends in **Quito**

Cost is **US\$19,990** per person, twin share;

Optional single room supplement to have your own cabin in Galapagos **US\$9,990** (The Ayla catamaran has 8 cabins only). Optional single room supplement for the land part of the tour **US\$2.390**

Maximum **12** participants + 2 instructors

A deposit of **US\$3,000** is required when you book the workshop

Terms of payment

- A deposit of US\$3,000 must be paid to secure your place. The deposit is non-refundable unless you can sell your place to someone else. You will get refunded if the tour did not go ahead
- The Registration Form must be filled in and signed by each participant at the time of paying the first deposit.
 Participation will be declined otherwise
- The remaining balance must be paid on or before
 1 December 2025
- Bookings will be accepted strictly in the order they are received
- Important: the workshop requires a minimum of 9 participants to run so please don't book your flights until this has been confirmed.

What's included

- 18 days (17 nights) in Ecuador with all land content in first class hotels as indicated within the itinerary
- Luxury class catamaran in Galapagos (Itinerary C, 6 days/5 nights)
- Photography tuition by Ignacio Palacios and Richard l'Anson
- Private transport with private driver and tour guides
- Accommodation with full board – breakfast, lunch and dinner
- All airport transfers and internal flights to Galapagos islands
- Permits and taxes to enter the National Parks

- Activities as described and entry fees.
- Permanent bilingual guide or non-permanent local guide in Spanish according to the plan chosen
- Contributions to the communities.

What's not included

- Airfares from Australia/US and other international destinations
- Travel insurance with emergency evacuation (this is mandatory as a condition of booking)
- Optional personal activities
- · Visa to enter Ecuador
- Alcohol
- Snacks and drinks between main meals
- · Laundry service
- · Camera/Equipment Insurance
- Tips to the local guides along the way
- · Any other personal expenses.

Cancellation Policy

A written notice of any cancellation must be received by you at which time the following cancellation fees will apply:

- If the workshop is cancelled between 1 December 2025 and end of February 2026, a fee equal to 60% of the workshop cost will be payable
- If the workshop is cancelled after 1 March 2026 and before departure, a fee equal to 100% of the workshop cost will be payable
- Failure to pay by the due dates will be considered a cancellation of the booking and fees paid will be non-refundable

Bookings made after
 1 December 2025 must be paid in full.

Camera gear

There is really no limit to what camera gear you take but we always recommend to travel light! Check with your airline about weight restrictions. Whatever level of camera equipment you have, we will help to ensure you get the most out of it.

Fitness and health considerations

This workshop has been planned within the ability of average people in good health conditions.

Participants will be required to walk on uneven terrain or tracks and hiking. A basic level of walking fitness will help, but this tour is not a hiking tour or a trekking tour so nothing extreme will be required. If you have concerns about your own capabilities or health please check with your doctor before booking a place.

By signing the Registration Form, you guarantee that to the best of your knowledge, you do not have any physical or other disability that could create a risk for you or other tour participants. Once a booking has been accepted by IP Travel Photography, medical circumstances will not be accepted as an exemption to the Cancellation Policy above.

Within the Registration Form, please indicate any health issues, allergies or dietary requirements. IP Travel Photography does not assume any responsibility or liability for medical care or special dietary requirements.

If a participant becomes ill during the workshop, IP Travel Photography reserves the right to continue the tour for the benefit of the rest of the participants. IP Travel Photography will make every effort to assist you whilst trying to minimize disruption of the workshop for other participants.

Visas

An Australian passport, valid for at least six months beyond the expected date of entry is required for travel to Ecuador.

For further information please contact your nearest Ecuadorian Embassy or Consulate prior to arrival.

Rights

IP Travel Photography reserves the right to:

- Substitute hotels/ accommodation
- Make changes in the itinerary or transport if required due to changes in airline schedules, or when necessary. We may be forced to change or alter the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances; please be aware, however, that we will attempt to stick as close to the original program as possible
- Cancel the workshop prior to departure, in which case a full refund of all payments received will be given. If such an event occurred, IP Travel Photography will not be responsible for any other expenses such as non-refundable air fares, visa fees and other related expenses. The responsibility

for such bookings lies with the participant. As such, IP Travel Photography recommends participants to purchase a travel protection and cancellation insurance prior to paying the first deposit

- Substitute the tour leader and guest photographer as originally specified, in which case this substitution will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Run the photography workshop without the guest photographer if the group size is less than 6 participants. This will not entitle the participant to a refund
- Accept or refuse any person as a participant in the workshop
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to adverse currency exchange fluctuations, airline schedule changes, fuel and tax price charges.
- Change the price of the workshop at any time due to major unforeseen increases in expedition related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.

Liability

The operation of the workshop is at the sole discretion of Ignacio Palacios, having in mind the wellbeing and interests of all participants and the safe and sensible operation of the program as specified within this itinerary.

IP Travel Photography does not accept any liability for the acts, omissions or default, whether negligent or otherwise of third party providers.

IP Travel Photography disclaims liability for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or trouble caused by force majeure or any other event which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on IP Travel Photography's part.

IP Travel Photography

IP Travel Photography is an ASIC business name with Australian Business Number 16578586693 and registered in Australia under the Business Names Registration Act 2011. IP Travel Photography (Ignacio Palacios) will guide and provide photography tuition to all participants during the tour. IP Travel Photography is not a travel agent or travel service provider.

34 party providers. 35









TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE FOR 2026 OR TO MAKE AN ENQUIRY, PLEASE EMAIL IGNACIO@IPTRAVELPHOTOGRAPHY.COM.AU



©2024 IP Travel Photography www.iptravelphotography.com.au