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2022 MOST OUTSTANDING
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The Galápagos Islands



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WHY TRAVEL WITH CHIMU ADVENTURES?

We create life changing experiences in Latin America and the Polar regions that leave a positive impact on our travellers, environment and communities.



SUSTAINABILITY

We strive to conduct all of our operations responsibly, including being environmentally accountable. We also carbon offset all our cruises.



ACCESS TO OVER 35 SMALL SHIPS

Chimu offers the largest range of world-class vessels and experiences to the Galápagos. We only recommend the highest quality of ships for our clients, whether it's on the basis of service, expertise, knowledge or sustainability – we have you covered!



WE WORK AROUND YOU

Tell us your travel style and we'll find the best vessel for you. We can also extend your itinerary in South America, using our first hand knowledge we work with you to make it the perfect itinerary.



OFFICES ON GROUND

Chimu have operations in Peru, Argentina, Chile and Brazil, directly employing local guides and local support staff. This way we ensure that our quality standard is always carried out. We are constantly sourcing new properties, routes, experiences and new ways to visit locations, to make every journey memorable.

THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

The Galápagos Islands are located west of mainland Ecuador and are renowned for being the home to a vast array of fascinating species of wildlife, including lava lizards, the giant tortoise as well as red and blue-footed boobies. They are one of the world's foremost destinations for wildlife viewing, many of the plant and animal species being found nowhere else in the world. Located at the confluence of three ocean currents and surrounded by a marine reserve, the islands abound with marine species. The Galápagos Islands, of which there are 19 main islands, are an archipelago of volcanic islands in the Pacific Ocean. They lay either side of the Equator and 1,000km west of the South American continent and mainland Ecuador of which they are a part. The islands were formed as a result of processes caused by volcanic and seismic activity. These processes along with the isolation of the islands resulted in the development of unusual animal life. Charles Darwin's visit to the islands in 1835 was the inspiration for his theory of evolution by natural selection.

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GALÁPAGOS ISLAND LOCATIONS

Learn more about these unique islands and why you should consider them when planning your cruise.



FERNANDINA ISLAND

Fernandina is the main westernmost island in the Galápagos Islands, the third largest and youngest of the islands, less than one million years old. It is the most volcanically active and sits at the center of the hot spot that created the Galápagos Islands.

Wildlife found here includes Galápagos hawks and penguins, pelicans, marine iguanas, sea lions, fur seals and the flightless cormorant – the only flightless cormorant in the world.

WHY GO

- It is the most pristine island with the most active volcanoes in the of the Galápagos.
- Home to a large population of marine iguanas.



ISABELLA ISLAND

The largest and one of the younger islands, Isabela Island was formed by the joining of six shield volcanoes, all apart from one are still active!

The west coast of Isabela is known as the best place to see whales in the Galápagos. Some 16 species of whales have been identified in the area including humpbacks, sperms, sei, minkes and orcas.

WHY GO

- Sierra Negra Volcano is one of the most impressive volcanos and is considered to be the second largest caldera in the world.
- Endless wildlife sites including Elizabeth Bay, Moreno Point, Urbina Bay and more
- Dive sites – Four Brothers, Tortuga Island, Urbina Bay, Tagus Cove, Punta Vicente Roca, Roca Redondo, and Cape Marshall.
- The west coast of Isabella is known as being one of the best places to swim with penguins.



SANTIAGO ISLAND

Also known as Isla San Salvador or James Island, this is one of the more popular Galápagos Islands to visit, with a number of excellent tourist sites. Centrally located between Santa Cruz and Isabela Islands, this island is the fourth largest in the archipelago at 585 square kilometres. It was the second island to be visited by Charles Darwin aboard the Beagle.

WHY GO

- Puerto Egas on James Bay to see lava pools as well as caves and inlets that are home to an amazing variety of wildlife.
- Sugar Loaf Volcano, with some spectacular views of the surrounding landscape.



FLOREANA ISLAND

Floreana Island is the site of the first "post office", established in 1793 by whalers. It was the first island to be colonised by Ecuadorians in 1832 as a penal colony that didn't last long because of the lack of fresh water.

WHY GO

- Cormorant Point to see two contrasting beaches, one that consists of olive-green sand and the other known as Flour Beach, made up of fine, pulverised coral.
- 'Devil's Crown', a volcanic crater that has been eroded leaving a ring of jagged rocks that jut out of the water is the premier snorkelling spot in the Galápagos.



BALTRA ISLAND

Home to one of two airports connecting Galápagos with mainland Ecuador, this is the point of arrival for most travellers to Galápagos. After clearing the immigration desk at the airport, travelers are transported by bus to the cruise ships anchored at Aeolian Bay or to the dock at the Itabaca Canal, where a ferry service connects Baltra with the island of Santa Cruz.

WHY GO

- Arrival point for most Galápagos cruises



GENOVESA ISLAND

GENOVESA ISLAND

Genovesa Island is a horseshoe shaped island located in the northeastern region of the Galápagos Archipelago. Its distinct shape was formed from the eruption of a shield volcano and the eventual collapse of one side of the caldera. The resulting submerged crater formed Darwin Bay, which is surrounded by steep cliffs that provide homes for many seabirds.

Genovesa has developed a reputation as "The Bird Island" because of the numerous and varied bird species that nest there.

WHY GO

- Unique wildlife and bird species
- One of the few places in the Islands where Red-footed Boobies are found en masse.



SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Santa Cruz is the main tourism hub for all of the Galápagos, given its proximity to the airport on Baltra.

Puerto Ayora is the heart and soul of the Galápagos Islands' human population and is the main tourism hub in the archipelago.

WHY GO

- Lava tubes –enormous tunnels created by lava flows leaving only their shell behind.
- Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station
- The Fausto Llerena Tortoise Center



SANTA FE ISLAND

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

Española is the southernmost of the Galápagos Islands and is also one of the oldest. Geologists estimate it is about four million years old.

Because Española is one of the most isolated islands, it has a large number of endemic species — the Española mockingbird, the Española lava lizard, and the waved albatross.

WHY GO

- Punta Suarez for it's variety and quantity of wildlife.
- Gardner Bay – This expansive white sand beach attracts napping sea lions

SAN CRISTOBAL



SAN CRISTÓBAL ISLAND

San Cristóbal is the fifth largest and easternmost island of the Galápagos. It is comprised of three or four fused volcanoes, all extinct. Its name comes from the Patron Saint of seafarers, St. Christopher.

The town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno is the capital of the Galápagos province. It is home to an Ecuadorian Navy facility, and an airport with daily flights to the mainland.

WHY GO

- A large number of sea lions, crabs, tortoises and birds such as Yellow Warblers, frigatebirds, and numerous species of finches can be seen.
- Famous for kicker rock – one of the most popular photograph opportunities in the archipelago.
- Red footed boobies often sighted at Punta Pitt.



WILDLIFE IN THE GALÁPAGOS - THE BIG 15

Given the vastness of the Galápagos archipelago, deciding where to go and what to see can be difficult. The **Galápagos Big 15** list of iconic species features the archipelago's most fascinating wildlife.



Galápagos Albatross

The Galápagos albatross, the largest bird in the Galápagos with a 250 cm wingspan, is critically endangered due to a single breeding site. Their mating dance involves circling and beak clacking, and they aren't strictly monogamous. They're seen on the islands from April to December via specific itineraries.



Blue Footed Boobie

Blue-footed boobies (*Sula nebouxi*) are loved by tourists for their striking blue feet and entertaining mating dance. Males with more turquoise feet attract females. They're skilled fishers with spectacular dives. About half of them live in the Galápagos, where they're part of the colorful Sulidae seabird family.



Nazca Boobie

The Nazca Booby, the largest on the islands, has an orange beak, distinguishing it from the masked booby with a yellow beak. On Genovesa, they nest along the shoreline, often engaging in siblicide, pushing smaller siblings out. Females lay two eggs days apart as a backup strategy. Look for them in flight with their black tail and wing feathers.



Red Footed Boobie

The red-footed booby (*Sula sula*) is the archipelago's most numerous but rarely seen by humans. They primarily nest on Genovesa and San Cristobal Islands, preferring the outskirts for their high-speed flying skills to catch flying fish. They can be found on Genovesa, Punta Pitt (eastern San Cristobal), North Seymour, some Floreana satellite islets, and a few on North Seymour.



Flightless Cormorant

The Galápagos or Flightless Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax harrisi*) is the world's rarest and largest cormorant. It's known for unique mating behavior where females lead and compete, often deserting mates and offspring. They're exclusively found on Fernandina and Isabela's west coast.



American Flamingo

Galápagos flamingos, part of the American flamingo species, are a unique southwest outlier. Their pink hue results from a shrimp-rich diet, making them among the largest birds in the archipelago, with 314 individuals counted. They stand up to 145 cm tall.



Frigatebirds

In the Galápagos, both the great (*Fregata minor*) and magnificent (*Fregata magnificens*) frigatebirds coexist. The magnificent is pelagic, while the great is coastal and often robs other seabirds. Their distinct markings can be seen in various locations, with nesting colonies on San Cristobal, Española, and Genovesa Islands.



Galápagos Hawk

The Galápagos hawk (*Buteo galapagoensis*), an endemic apex predator. Recent genetic studies suggest it arrived around 300,000 years ago. With roughly 150 breeding pairs across most islands, they prey on various creatures, including insects, iguanas, tortoise and turtle hatchlings. Their wingspans vary, from 116cm on Marchena to 140cm on Española.



Galápagos Land Iguana

The Galápagos land iguana (*Conolophus subcristatus*) can weigh up to 13 kg and mainly feeds on plants, especially cacti. They roll cactus fruit over sand to remove spines and can live for about 50 to 60 years. During the hot season (December-May), their courtship behavior includes aggressive chasing and vibrant skin coloration.



Marine Iguana

The marine iguana (*Amblyrhynchus cristatus*) is a remarkable Galápagos species with astonishing adaptations and evolutionary changes. They evolved from terrestrial to marine, with unique adaptations like reduced heartbeat, skin vessel constriction, and a large supraorbital gland for salt extraction, leading to their famous sneezing behavior. They have a shorter lifespan, about 40 years, and vary across islands.



Santa Fe Land Iguana

The Santa Fe land iguana (*Conolophus pallidus*) is found exclusively on Santa Fe Island off Santa Cruz's eastern coast. Camouflaged and weighing up to 11 kg, it primarily feeds on prickly-pear cactus but may also consume insects, carrion, and Portulaca flowers during blooming season.



Galápagos Penguin

Galápagos penguins (*Spheniscus mendiculus*) are unique as the only equatorial penguins. They're the rarest of all penguin species, the second-smallest and the only species of penguin that has no set breeding season. Their survival near the equator is thanks to their breeding biology adapting to the unpredictable upwelling of nutrient-rich water in the Galápagos archipelago.



Galápagos Sea Lion

The Galápagos sea lion (*Zalophus wollebaeckii*) thrives on the equator despite harsh conditions. It's the smallest sea lion, with females at around 75 kg (165 lbs) and males up to 200 kg (440 lbs). Although widespread in the Galápagos, they are endangered due to their small endemic range.



Galápagos Fur Seal















The Galápagos fur seal (*Arctocephalus galapagoensis*) is the smallest seal, with females at 30 kg and males at 80 kg. They recently arrived in the archipelago, resembling mainland relatives more than Galápagos sea lions. Around 15,000 exist, but they're vulnerable to El Niño, risking pup starvation.

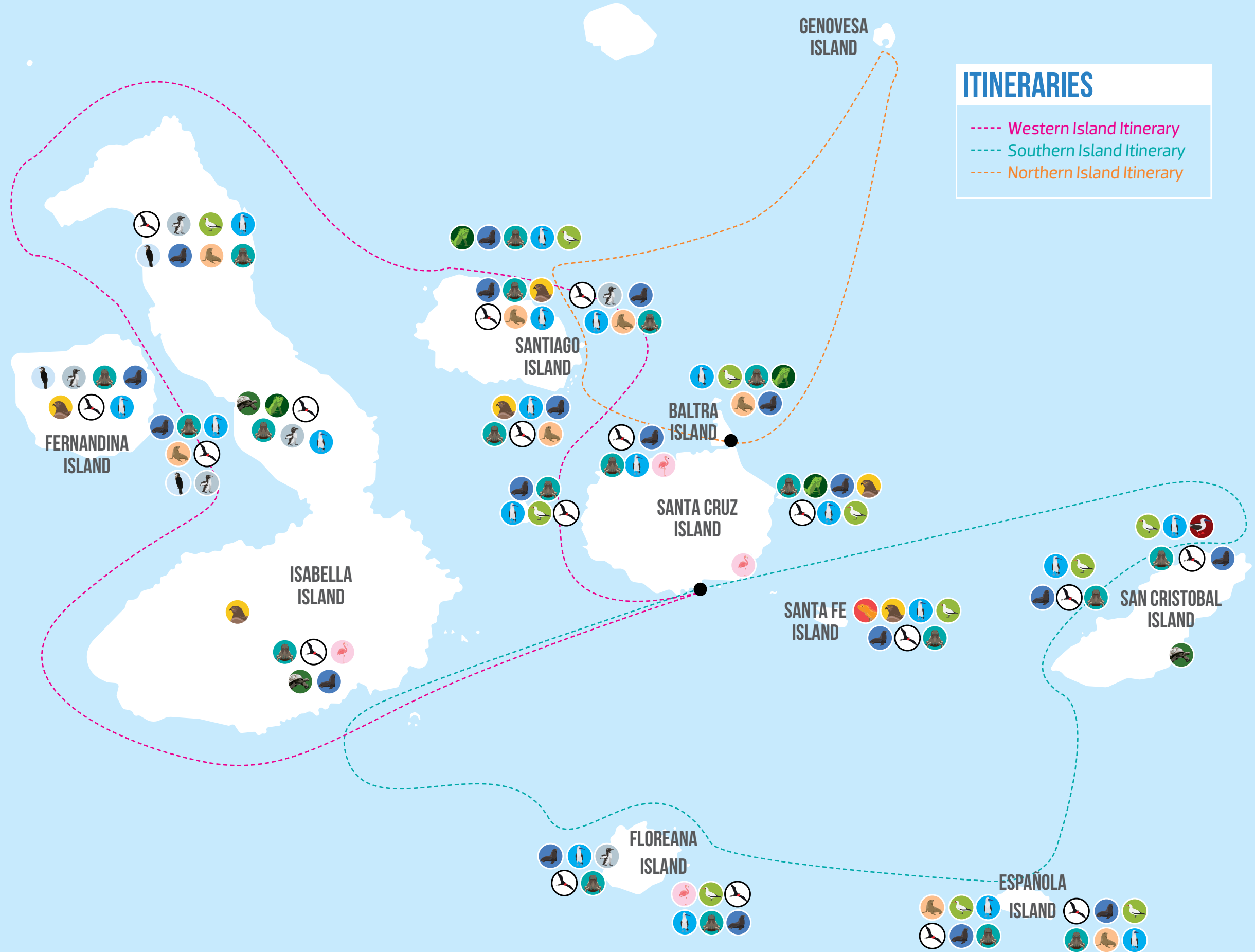


Galápagos Giant Tortoises

Galápagos giant tortoises (*Chelonoidis nigra*) are the world's largest tortoises, weighing up to 250 kg. They played a role in naming the archipelago and are dominant plant eaters. They move slowly and have varying shell shapes based on the island's humidity, with larger, domed shells on humid islands and smaller, "saddleback" shells on dry islands. These gentle giants grow slowly, often living over 100 years.

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS BIG 15

-  Galápagos Albatross
-  Blue Footed Boobie
-  Nazca Boobie
-  Red-Footed Boobie
-  Flightless Comorant
-  American Flamingo
-  Frigatebirds:
Great & Magnificent
-  Galápagos Hawk
-  Land Iguana
-  Marine Iguana
-  Santa Fe Iguana
-  Galápagos Penguin
-  Galápagos Sea Lion
-  Galápagos Fur Seal
-  Galápagos Giant Tortoise



ITINERARIES

- Western Island Itinerary
- Southern Island Itinerary
- Northern Island Itinerary



MARINELIFE IN THE GALÁPAGOS

More than 2,900 marine species have been monitored, according to the Galápagos National Park. With too many to list, these are a few interesting ones to look out for:



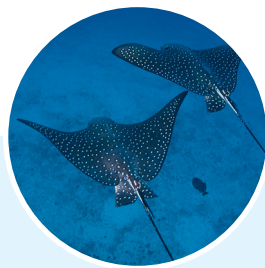
Whale sharks

Whale Sharks (*Rhincodon typus*) are a migratory species. At a number of coastal locations, predictable aggregations of whale sharks occur at certain times of year. These are between the months of June to November and spotted in the northwest islands near Darwin and Wolf Islands.



Sunfish

Sunfish (*Mola* spp) prefer temperatures of at least 10° C – anything colder may cause disorientation. There are two *Mola* species that are thought to be found in Galápagos: *Mola mola*, the ocean sunfish and *Mola ramsayi*, the southern sunfish.



Spotted Eagle Ray

Spotted Eagle Rays (*Aetobatus narinari*) have black tops with a splattering of white spots. They also have pointy heads with a long tail tipped with spines. They can be found in small lagoons, such as at Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz, though snorkelers also see them off Turtle Island and Floreana.



Galápagos Sharks

The Galápagos shark (*Carcharhinus galapagensis*) is quite similar to the Grey Reef Shark but has a rounder head and a thicker body towards the tail section. Primarily found on Darwin Island and Wolf Island, they feed on bottom living fishes (eel, flatfish, triggerfish), but also feed on squid and octopus.



Green Sea Turtles

The Galápagos green turtle (*Chelonia mydas agassizii*) are the only species of sea turtle to nest in Galápagos, with some females returning several times to lay their eggs, and are also the most common species sighted.



Hammerhead Sharks

The scalloped hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*) is one of the most iconic marine species and the Galápagos Marine Reserve remains one of the best places in the world to see them. Their diet ranges from schooling fish such as sardines and herrings to stingrays, squid and even crustaceans.



Bottle-nosed dolphins

The bottlenose dolphin can be seen in small or large pods and can be identified by its long snout and gray body. It prefers deep, cooler waters and varies in length from 2 to 4 m. It is a friendly and curious animal that will approach divers.



Sally light-foot Crab

Sally Lightfoot crabs (*Grapsus grapsus*) are brightly-coloured coastal scavengers, found in the Galápagos Islands. This makes them an important part of the ecosystem, as they provide services such as keeping the shore clean of any organic debris and eating ticks off marine iguanas.



Stingray

Stingrays are probably the most commonly sighted rays in Galápagos: look for them anywhere there is a sandy bottom with occasional rocks. Despite their reputation, stingrays are pretty much harmless. You're only in danger from it if you step on one: they are not aggressive.



Manta Ray

The Manta Ray or Giant Manta (*Manta birostris*), is the largest of the rays. They can often be seen from the cliffs at South Plaza Island or even from the beach shore on Rabida Island.



Yellow-tailed Surgeon Fish

The yellow-tailed Surgeonfish (*Prionurus punctatus*) are rounded, silver-and-yellow colored fish that often swim together in large and schools. They get their name from the sharp spine in their tail, which is meant to discourage predators. They're seen just about everywhere and tend to ignore snorkellers.



King Angelfish

The King Angelfish (*holacanthus passer*), is a dazzling blue with orange/red fins and tail. It's a medium-sized, squarish fish, commonly seen at most snorkelling sites, although they're a little shy and may swim away from snorkellers.



Parrot Fish

Parrot fish (*Scaridae* family) are long, colorful fish that feed on organisms that live on and in coral. They have to crush the coral with their "beak" of a mouth, which gives them their name. They are brightly colored, blue, green and orange and tend to prefer shallow, rocky waters with lots of coral for them to gnaw on.



Orca

Orca's (*Orcinus orca*) conspicuous black-and-white coloration is easy to spot from the deck or the shore as they porpoise through the tropical waters. Resident Galápagos orca pods tend to prefer fish, whereas transient pods prey more on marine mammals.



Pilot Whale

Short-finned pilot whales are much more likely to be seen as they enjoy cruising along the water's surface in large groups throughout the Galápagos. They are distinct from the orcas with their largely black bodies and melon-shaped head.



CRUISING IN THE GALÁPAGOS

Set against the backdrops of spectacular landscapes that range from volcanic peaks to ancient lava fields, from lagoons to coral reef-lined bays and from mangrove forests to white and red sandy beaches, the Galápagos Islands are undoubtedly one of nature's most impressive wonders that is best to be explored by cruise.

HOW DO I GET TO THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS?

Most visitors will travel to Galápagos by air from mainland Ecuador. Flights depart daily from the principal cities of Guayaquil or Quito (direct or via Guayaquil).

There are two main airports in Galápagos, one on Baltra Island and the other on San Cristóbal.

HOW SHOULD I VISIT THE GALÁPAGOS?

As each of the islands in the Galápagos feature their own unique landscapes and wildlife, we recommend cruising to see as many of them as possible. These cruises feature dighys (known locally as a panga) on board so you can spend time out exploring the wilderness led by a highly trained guide. Because you travel between the islands at night while you are sleeping, this allows full days of exploring.

There are land based itineraries available, however this will restrict the amount of islands you can visit. If you prefer to spend your nights on land, there are some islands that offer hotel accommodation and island-hopping day trips.

ITINERARIES

There are strict rules for cruising the Galápagos, with vessels only allowed to visit a site once in a 14-day period. It is for this reason that most ships break their trips up into east, west and south island itineraries over a four week loop to adhere to these rules.

ACTIVITIES

The Galápagos is a world-class destination for scuba divers and snorkellers because of the abundance of sharks, sea lions, fur seals, marine turtles, rays, mantas, marine iguanas, and reef fishes. Other activities include wildlife spotting, kayaking, hiking and photography programs.

EXPERT NATURALIST GUIDES

Naturalist guides in the Galápagos Islands are invaluable. With their profound knowledge and passion for the islands' unique flora and fauna, these guides play a pivotal role in enhancing visitors' experiences. Armed with expertise in biology, geology, and ecology, they lead explorations through diverse landscapes, unravelling the intricacies of the islands' geology, and revealing the behaviors of endemic species. Their ability to identify elusive wildlife and provide context on Charles Darwin's groundbreaking observations connects visitors to the islands' evolutionary significance.

LANDINGS

Landings in the Galápagos are strictly controlled by the Galápagos National Park (GNPD). Visitors to any protected areas within the Galápagos National Park must be accompanied by a naturalist guide authorized by the GNPD. Each guide can take a maximum of 16 guests per guide and only 100 visitors are allowed at one site at a time.

Dry Landings: Passengers step directly from a panga to rocks or onto a dock.

Wet Landings: The panga (dighy) will edge up to a beach, allowing you step into knee-deep water assisted by crew members and guides. Please consider if you are comfortable and physically able to do a wet landing, which also involves getting in and out of the panga.

VOLCANOES

The Galápagos Islands owe their existence to volcanic eruptions, which might make you wonder if it's dangerous to visit. In reality, the risk posed by volcanoes is minimal. Galápagos Volcanos are **shield volcanos**, meaning that they don't erupt violently (and therefore are of little risk to humans). If there is an eruption, they tend to be gentle but with extensive lava flows over the surrounding land. Eruptions only lead to their respective islands being closed off for tourists. The rest of the archipelago remains open for adventure!

HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT CRUISE FOR ME?

Your choice of expedition vessel will play an essential role in your overall experience. As Galápagos cruising specialists, we have the knowledge and experience to help you get this decision just right. These are the factors to consider:



DURATION

You may not yet know where you want to go in the Galápagos but you probably will know how much time you have to travel.



DEPARTURE DATE

The dates you have available will also determine what cruises are available to depart on that day or time of year. This is a major factor for which cruise will be recommended to you by our specialists.

If your dates don't line up with your preferred locations on your preferred boat, please just let us know as we should be able to find you a similar ship that works better with your dates.



DESTINATION

If you have a particular destination, like Floreana Island, in mind, check that the ship visits that location.



SHIP SIZE (PASSENGER NUMBERS)

As previously mentioned, only 100 passengers are allowed per landing site. You must be with a guide who can have a maximum of 16 guests at a time.

For this reason, we recommend a boat of 16 passengers for the best Galápagos experience.



COST

It really depends on the duration of your cruise, size of the vessel and the comfort levels you desire.

Many operators offer early bird discounts, so it pays to plan ahead.



ACTIVITIES

Cruises offer a variety of activities like snorkelling, paddleboarding, scuba diving and nature hikes.

Make sure you pick a cruise that offers the activities you want to take part in, and if they are offered on the departure you want.

For example: you will need to book a specific dive boat and dive departure for scuba diving.



COMFORT LEVELS

Cruises in the Galápagos are more about exploring the destination than having private butlers and fine dining. Discuss your requirements with our Destination Specialists and they can suggest the right ship to suit your needs.



A TYPICAL DAY ON A GALÁPAGOS CRUISE

Every day will bring different wildlife viewing opportunities, but this is a general day onboard a small ship cruise in the Galápagos Islands.

MORNING



Wake up early and enjoy a hearty breakfast on board the cruise ship.

Activities could include guided hikes, nature walks, or snorkeling sessions, depending on the island's unique features and wildlife.

Lead by knowledgeable naturalist guides, you will encounter diverse and often endemic wildlife species up close, such as marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, giant tortoises, sea lions, and more.



MIDDAY



Return to the cruise ship for a delicious lunch and discuss the morning's activities while the ship sails to the next destination.

Sit back and enjoy the stunning sea views and potential sightings of dolphins, whales, and other marine life along the way.



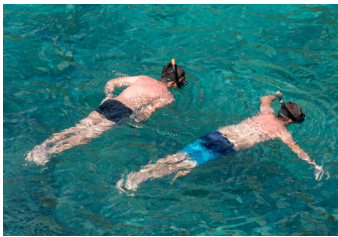
AFTERNOON



Arrive at another landing spot for an afternoon excursion.

Activities may include snorkeling, kayaking, paddleboarding, or a land-based excursion for more exploration.

Witness unique landscapes and geological formations, such as volcanic craters, lava fields, and pristine beaches.



EVENING



Return to the cruise ship to freshen up and relax.

One of the naturalist guides may hold a presentation or discussion focusing on topics related to the Galápagos ecosystem, conservation efforts, or Charles Darwin's theories.

Enjoy a gourmet dinner on board, often featuring local and international cuisine with fellow passengers, sharing stories and experiences from the day's activities.

Relax on the ship's deck, gazing at the stars and retire to your cabin to rest up for another day of adventure.



CLIMATE IN THE GALÁPAGOS

The Galápagos Islands have two distinct seasons throughout the year. Despite this, the islands are a year-round destination with each season offering its own unique attractions and wildlife experiences.

HIGH SEASON DECEMBER - MAY

Peak season for naturalist tours is typically December through to June which encompass the warm and wet season. This brings unique opportunities for wildlife encounters, pleasant weather, and vibrant landscapes.

The warmer waters during this season attract a wide variety of marine species, including colorful fish, sea turtles, sharks, and rays. Snorkelling and diving are particularly rewarding as underwater visibility is excellent, and the chance to swim alongside playful sea lions and other marine creatures is high.

It is generally warmer and sunnier during this time with higher ocean temperatures (of up to 24°C). It can be hot and humid from January to March.

PROS

- Warmer ocean temperature makes it comfortable for snorkelling
- Birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts have the chance to spot a wider variety of avian species, adding to the diversity of the wildlife experience.
- Clear skies and calmer seas, make boat rides and water-based activities smoother and more enjoyable.

CONS

- Can be hot & humid

LOW SEASON (GARÚA SEASON) JUNE - NOVEMBER

"Garúa" is a Spanish term that refers to a type of coastal fog or mist that is common in coastal areas of South America, including the Galápagos Islands. The word is often used to describe a specific type of fog that occurs along the coast.

Garua season is from June to November. It is generally not as warm and you can expect cool winds that occasionally bring with them a light misty drizzle (garúa). From June, ocean temperatures can dip to as low as 15°C. The average year-round temperature is 24°C (76°F).

The months June, July and August can be popular, as the animals tend to be more active due to the influence of the Humboldt Current. This leads to an increase in marine life, making it an excellent time for snorkeling and diving. Marine species such as penguins, whales, dolphins, and various fish are more active and easily spotted.

PROS

- Breeding/Mating season –Visitors have the opportunity to witness fascinating courtship displays, nesting behaviors, and adorable baby animals.
- Lower visitor numbers and discounted prices

CONS

- Colder weather and ocean temperatures. However ships have wetsuits onboard to borrow or hire to make snorkelling more comfortable.

Month	Air Temp °C	Water Temp °C
January	16–27	22–23
February	16–29	22–24
March	19–32	22–23
April	16–29	21–24
May	16–27	21–23
June	16–24	18–23

Month	Air Temp °C	Water Temp °C
July	16–24	17–21
August	15–21	17–19
September	16–24	15–19
October	16–24	17–21
November	16–24	18–22
December	16–27	19–22

Signature Galapagos

📍 Galápagos Islands, Ecuador



📍 Seaman Journey



📍 Sea Lions, Fernandina Island

11 Days | **Quito to Quito** | [Click for Pricing](#)

This 11-day in-depth adventure will see you exploring the western archipelago of the Galapagos Islands and experiencing the highlights of Quito and surrounds in style.



Why you will love this itinerary

- ✓ Your home in the Galápagos will be onboard the Seaman Journey, a first-class catamaran with a maximum occupancy of 16 passengers. This small and luxurious catamaran will give you access to remote and hard to access areas where lizards swim, birds walk, and humans don't take centre stage.
- ✓ Discover sea lions, rays, large marine iguanas and unique species like the flightless cormorant and Galápagos penguin at one of the most impressive areas of the Galápagos, with its high cliffs, ash and lava formations.
- ✓ Visit a favourite nesting site for sea turtles, where you can also spot abandoned barges from the Second World War.



📍 Cotopaxi National Park

DAY 1 Quito

Sitting at 2,850 metres above sea level high in the Andean foothills lies Quito, the capital of Ecuador. The city, a short distance from the Equator and with an amazing backdrop of snow-capped mountains, is known for its stunning colonial architecture and art-work. Founded in the 16th century on the ruins of an Inca city, Quito has one of the largest, least-altered and best-preserved historic centres in the Americas. It was declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1978.

DAY 2 Quito

This morning you will be collected from your hotel to commence a colonial city tour of Quito exploring the bustling streets and squares of the largest historical old town in the Americas. Visit some of its most important churches such as the majestic La Compañía and iconic San Francisco which have stunning multi-ethnic designs and cultural heritage. We then travel by road to the Equatorial Monument, 25km (16 miles) north of Quito, which marks the exact middle of the World, Latitude 0°, where you can stand with a foot on each hemisphere. A certificate for having crossed the Equator is issued to each guest. The surrounding, volcanic scenery is stunning and you can choose to either

visit the Ethnographic Museum or the Inti Ñan Museum, both located near the site of the monument. On completion of the tour, you will be returned to your hotel. Please note this is a private tour that includes a local English speaking guide.

DAY 3 Cotopaxi National Park Excursion

Depart south from Quito to visit Cotopaxi National Park. Cotopaxi (5,943 m) is the highest active volcano in the world. Despite the altitude, the Park is home to numerous birds and varied plant life. Northeast lies Rumiñahui (4,557 m) and between the two mountains the plain and lagoon of Limpiopungo (3800m approx.). If weather permits, from the north face we may have spectacular views of the mountain. The surrounding scenery also includes volcanoes like Pasochoa, Ruminahui and Sincholaqua. Lunch is included at a restaurant at the base of the mountain. The tour also includes a visit to an indigenous market nearby.

You will be returned to your hotel in Quito at the end of the tour.

DAY 4 Fly to Galapagos Islands

Take a morning flight to the Galápagos from Quito Airport. The flight from Quito to the Galápagos is 4 hours, stopping at Guayaquil on route. On arrival at Baltra Airport you will be met by your naturalist guides who will collect your luggage and transport you to Ranch Mazanillo. Here you will be able to see giant tortoises in their natural habitat.

Journeying across Santa Cruz into the highlands, you will be delighted by the island's variety of life and geology. Beginning at the coast and travelling across Santa Cruz the road departs from Puerto Ayora climbing through the agricultural lands and into the mist covered forests. Santa Cruz possesses all the various life zones present in the archipelago. As you travel through these zones' bird-watching enthusiast will be enchanted. Whether it's the bright red feathers of a vermillion flycatcher or one of Darwin's finches, almost every bird present in the Galápagos can be found here.

Santa Cruz also offers excellent opportunities for viewing and tracking wild Galápagos tortoises. There are also plenty of lava tubes, sinkholes and craters to explore. These eerie formations offer a fascinating insight into the volcanic make-up of the island.

DAY 5 Fernandina Island

Mangle Point lies off the eastern coast of Fernandina and is a superior snorkelling site and a beautiful location for riding in a panga or Zodiac through a forest of mangrove trees. You are likely to see penguins, sea lions, pelicans, rays, marine iguanas and numerous birds.

Punta Moreno is located on the north coast of Isabela Island between Sierra Negra Volcano and Cerro Azul Volcano. A trail runs along a pahoehoe lava flow (solidified lava with a smooth, shiny or swirled surface), into a complex of coastal lagoons. The main attractions are several species of birds that can be found around the lakes and mangroves. Three species of cactus are also found here.

DAY 6 Isabela Island

Urbina Bay is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast of Isabela Island, between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. The most unique feature at Urbina Bay resulted from a major uplift of the island in 1954, when a 6km stretch of coral reef rose up 5 metres, leaving marine life stranded on the new shore and coral exposed on the land. Urbina Bay has a path that starts at the beach where a wet landing is made, and takes you through the sand, pumice, lava, coral and vegetation. Flightless cormorants, pelicans, Darwin's finches, giant tortoises and land and marine iguanas can be seen on land, whilst rays and turtles can be seen in the bay. It is an ideal place to see red and blue lobsters and a great place for snorkelling. There is also a large amount of interesting vegetation including chamomile and rosewood, as well as the beautiful flowers of the Galápagos or Darwin's cotton, endemic to the Galápagos Islands.

Tagus Cove is located west of Darwin Volcano on Isabela Island. Its name originated from a British warship that went through the islands in 1814 looking for the Galápagos tortoise for food. This was a favourite spot for pirates and whalers who etched their names into the cliffs and inside caves. Due to explosive eruptions that have occurred at the site, the substrate has a large amount of volcanic rocks of different sizes. Among the most common are small spherically shaped balls known as the "lapilli" or petrified rain.

A short, steep hike brings you past Darwin Lake, a deep saltwater lake and a great spot for viewing land birds such as ground and tree finches, hawks, large-billed flycatchers, yellow warblers and sometimes the woodpecker finch.

DAY 7 Fernandina Island

Espinoza Point is famous for its large colonies of marine iguanas and as the habitat of species such as the flightless cormorant, Galápagos penguin, Galápagos hawk and Galápagos snake. Other attractions include sea lions and Sally Lightfoot crabs. Espinoza Point is one of the best places to see the lava cactus. La Cumbre volcano dominates the landscape.



📍 Blue Footed Boobies, Galápagos Islands



📍 Santiago Island

Punta Vicente Roca. This is one of the most impressive and spectacular places in the enchanting Galápagos Islands, with high cliffs, tuff stone, ash and lava formations giving the area a majestic touch. Located on the north-western coast of the island, this large bay has a spectacular marine life with seahorses, sea turtles and the strange yet fascinating mola-mola or sunfish. It is a great place for snorkelling. It is common to see "feeding frenzies" with groups of whales, dolphins, sea lions, tuna, blue-footed and Nazca boobies, pelicans and other marine birds all feeding simultaneously.

DAY 8 Santiago Island

Playa Espumilla, Santiago Island – Espumilla Beach is located on the northern coast of Santiago Island in James Bay. The beach is an important site for nesting marine turtles. A walk through the mangrove forest leads to a lagoon usually inhabited by a group of flamingos as well as pintail ducks and common stilts.

Puerto Egas, Santiago Island – It's black beach is located on the west side of the island and is the main attraction of the island. Their volcanic tuff deposits have favoured the formation of this special black sand beach. This site is called Puerto Egas, because there was an attempt to start the exploitation of salt, which failed because the price of salt in the continent was very cheap, and did not justify its exploitation in Galápagos. The project was abandoned and the infrastructure was left abandoned.

DAY 9 Rabida Island and Chinese Hat

Rabida Island is unique because of the red colour of the rocks and sand. The volcanic material in this island is extremely porous and external factors such as rain, salt water and sea breeze have acted as an oxidizing agents.

A short walk along a trail leads you to a coastal lagoon behind the beach where you can observe land birds such as finches, doves, yellow warblers and mockingbirds. At the lagoon there is a colony of flamingos.

Chinese Hat – Sombrero Chino is a small islet (1 sq km) located just off the south eastern tip of Santiago Island and composed of delicate lava and spatter cones. It is a recent volcanic cone, shaped like a Chinese hat when seen from the north side. It is an excellent site for interpretation of geological features such as lava tubes and lava flows. The landscape is covered by sea lion colonies, marine iguanas and Galápagos penguins.

DAY 10 Santiago and Bartolome Island

Santiago, also called James, or San Salvador Island, is located in the western central part of the Galápagos archipelago. Santiago is also volcanically active, with many young flows and cones to be seen, particularly along the south, west and east coasts. A number of historic eruptions have been reported over the last 2 centuries. Lava is the main focus of the visit here with reddish-yellow tuff cones standing out in the middle of the lava flow and tiny Mollugo plants growing out of the fissures.

Bartolome Island is situated across from Sullivan Bay. It has an altitude of 114 metres and is famous for its distinctive Pinnacle Rock. From the island's summit there are spectacular views of Pinnacle Rock, the vast black lava flows at Sullivan Bay and the rest of Santiago Island. There are volcanic cones, lunar-like craters, lava fields and lava flows. There is very little vegetation on this island but the tequila plant grows here as does the lava cactus. Marine turtles are found here as well as a very small colony of Galápagos penguins.

DAY 11 Santa Cruz Island

Bachas Beach is found to the west of Turtle Cove. The sandy white-coral beach is a major nesting site for sea turtles. There is a small lagoon behind the beach where it is possible to observe flamingos and other birds such as black-necked stilts, white-cheeked pintail ducks and whimbrels. There are the remains of a floating dock and old abandoned barges used by the Americans during WWII to be found here.

After the morning excursion you will be taken to Baltra Airport for your flight back to the mainland.



📍 Snorkelling



SCAN to view all Seaman Journey cruises

SEAMAN JOURNEY

Length: 27.6m
Breadth: 11 m
Draught: 1.45m

Speed: 10 knots
Passengers: 16

M/C Galápagos Seaman Journey is an expeditionary first class catamaran offering superior comfort, size, style, and stability.

This vessel has a maximum capacity of 16 passengers and provides in each of its corners, areas for rest and recreation for everyone. This vessel is the perfect combination of adventure, comfort, service and excellence.

ITINERARIES



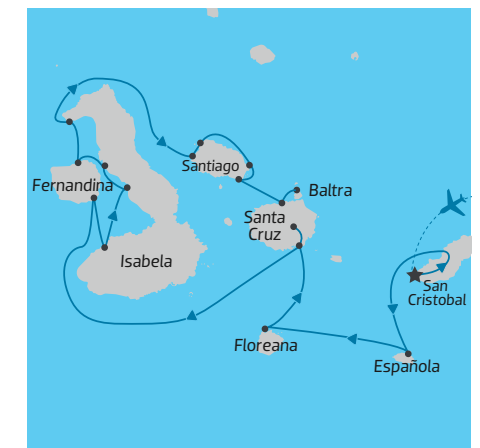
4 Days Galápagos 4 Day Cruise

DAY 1	North Seymour Island
DAY 2	Genovesa Island
DAY 3	Santa Cruz & Santa Fe Islands
DAY 4	San Cristobal Island



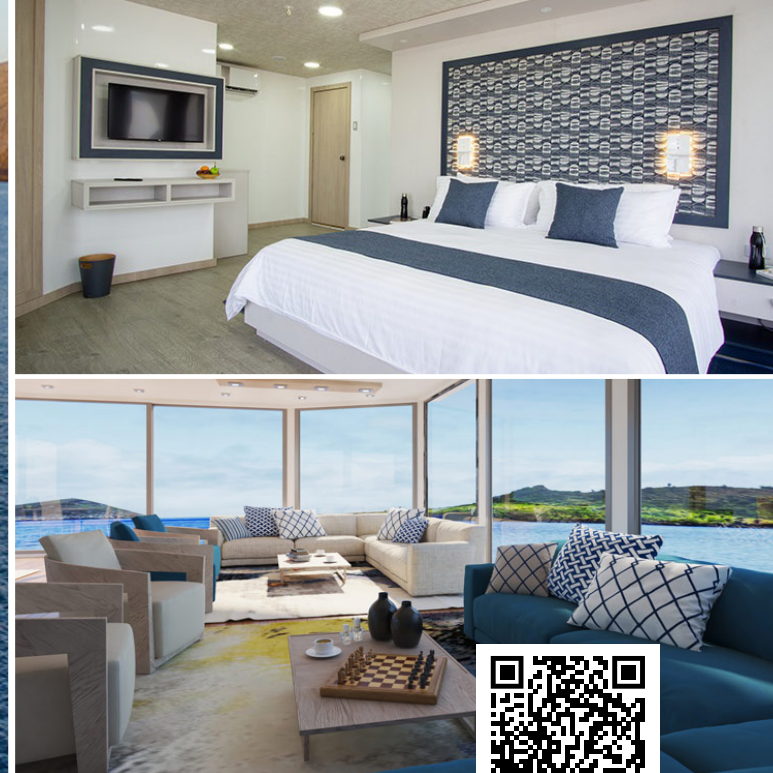
9 Days Signature Galápagos Express

DAY 1-3	Quito, Ecuador
DAY 4	Galápagos Islands
DAY 5	San Cristobal Island
DAY 6	Española Island
DAY 7	Floreana Island
DAY 8	Santa Cruz & Baltra Islands
DAY 9	Quito, Ecuador



12 Days Galápagos 12 Day Cruise

DAY 1-2	San Cristobal Island
DAY 3	Española Island
DAY 4	Floreana Island
DAY 5	Santa Cruz Island
DAY 6-8	Isabela & Fernandina Islands
DAY 9-11	Santiago & Rabida Islands
DAY 12	Santa Cruz Island



CORMORANT II



SCAN to view all
Cormorant II cruises

GALAXY YACHT



SCAN to view all
Galaxy cruises

Length: 48m
Breadth: 13.5m
Draught: 1.4m

Speed: 13 knots
Passengers: 16

The Cormorant II mega-catamaran is one of the most secure, comfortable and noiseless vessels in the archipelago. It offers an intimate and luxurious experience carrying just 16 passengers, allowing for remote travel and quieter landings larger vessels cannot achieve. Each of the 10 cabins come with private balconies, floor-to-ceiling windows, panoramic views and a comfortable and modern design.

Length: 35m
Breadth: 7.6m
Draught: 1.8m

Speed: 12 knots
Passengers: 16

Galaxy has 9 double cabins for 16 passengers. Each cabin has private facilities: private bathrooms, cold/hot water; air conditioned, hair dryer, telephone for internal communication on board, safe box, and high speaker. Galaxy Yacht offers a spacious sun deck with a fantastic area to enjoy Galápagos' landscapes, dinner area, lounge, bar and small library.

ITINERARIES



5 Days Galápagos 5 Day Cruise

DAY 1	Balra Island
DAY 2	Genovesa Island
DAY 3	South Plaza & Santa Fe Islands
DAY 4-5	San Cristobal Island



8 Days Eastern Islands

DAY 1	Santa Cruz Island
DAY 2	Genovesa Island
DAY 3	South Plaza & Santa Fe Islands
DAY 4-5	San Cristobal Island
DAY 6	Espanola Island
DAY 7	Floreana Island
DAY 8	Santa Cruz Island



8 Days Western Islands

DAY 1	Santa Cruz Island
DAY 2-3	Isabela Island
DAY 4	Fernandina Island
DAY 5	Santiago Island
DAY 6	Bartholomew Island
DAY 7	Santiago Island
DAY 8	North Seymore Island



4 Days Galápagos 4 Day Cruise

DAY 1	Balra Island
DAY 2	Santiago & Bartolome Island
DAY 3	Genovesa Island
DAY 4-5	San Cristobal Island



5 Days Galápagos 5 Day Cruise

DAY 1	San Cristobal Island
DAY 2	Espanola Island
DAY 3	Floreana Island
DAY 4	Santa Fe & South Plaza Islands
DAY 5	Santa Fe Island



8 Days Galápagos 8 Day Cruise

DAY 1	Balra & Santa Cruz Island
DAY 2-3	Isabela Island
DAY 4	Floreana Island
DAY 5	Fernandina Island
DAY 6	Santiago Island
DAY 7	Santa Cruz Island
DAY 8	Seymore Island



GRAND QUEEN BEATRIZ

Length: 30.2m
Breadth: 11.2m
Speed: 12 knots
Passengers: 16

Custom built, with a stylish modern design, ensuite bathrooms, outward-facing windows in all cabins (and private balconies in some), and a jacuzzi on the sundeck, the 'Grand Queen Bea' will be one of the newest boats operating in the Galápagos.

ITINERARIES



10 Days Classic Galápagos South Eastern Islands

DAY 1	Quito
DAY 2	Baltra & Santa Cruz Islands
DAY 3	Santa Fe Island
DAY 4	Española Island
DAY 5-6	San Cristobal Island
DAY 7	Bartolomew Island
DAY 8	Santiago Island
DAY 9	Santa Cruz Island & Quito
DAY 10	Quito



10 Days Classic Galápagos Southern Islands

DAY 1	Quito
DAY 2	Baltra Island
DAY 3	Isabela Island
DAY 4	Floreana Island
DAY 5	Santa Cruz Island
DAY 6	Santa Fe Island
DAY 7	Española Island
DAY 8	San Cristobal Island
DAY 9	San Cristobal Island & Quito
DAY 10	Quito



10 Days Classic Galápagos Central Eastern Islands

DAY 1	Quito
DAY 2	San Cristobal
DAY 3	Bartolome Island
DAY 4	Santiago Island
DAY 5	Santa Cruz Island
DAY 6	North Seymore Island
DAY 7	Santa Cruz Island
DAY 8	Rabida Island
DAY 9	Baltra Island & Quito
DAY 10	Quito

REINA SILVIA VOYAGER

Length: 31.45m
Breadth: 12.3m
Speed: 13 knots
Passengers: 16

Built in 2020, the Reina Silvia Voyage is a sleek custom-built catamaran designed to reflect notions of evolution. Operating with just 16 passengers, the Silvia proposes a modern and intimate experience as you cruise through the Galápagos Islands.

ITINERARIES



10 Days Central & Eastern Islands

DAY 1	Quito
DAY 2	Santa Cruz Island
DAY 3-4	Espanola Island
DAY 5	Santa Fe & South Plaza Is.
DAY 6	Genovesa Island
DAY 7	Santiago & Bartolome Is.
DAY 8	Rabida Island
DAY 9	Baltra Island & Quito
DAY 10	Quito



10 Days Western & Central Islands

DAY 1	Quito
DAY 2	Santa Cruz Island
DAY 3	Floreana Island
DAY 4	Isabella Island
DAY 5-6	Isabella & Fernandina Island
DAY 7	Santiago Island
DAY 8	Santa Cruz & North Seymour Is.
DAY 9	Baltra Island & Quito
DAY 10	Quito

Signature South America



SCAN to view all
South America tours

In South America, Chimu offers superior styled itineraries that have been refined, simplified and perfected, especially for the discerning traveller and their travel party.

Signature South America Circle



21 DAYS

- DAY 1-2** Santiago, Chile
- DAY 3** Valparaiso and the Casablanca Valley, Chile
- DAY 4-6** Buenos Aires, Argentina
- DAY 7-9** Iguazu Falls, Argentina & Brazil
- DAY 10-12** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- DAY 12-13** Lima, Peru
- DAY 14-15** Sacred Valley, Peru
- DAY 16** Machu Picchu, Peru
- DAY 17-19** Cusco, Peru
- DAY 20-21** Santiago, Chile

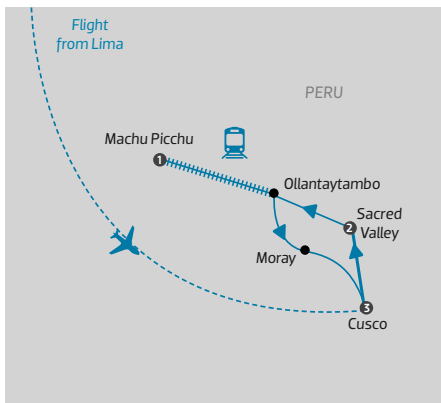


Signature Peru



9 DAYS

- DAY 1-2** Lima, Peru
Enjoy a walking food tour
- DAY 3-4** Sacred Valley, Peru
Sacred Valley of the Incas tour
- DAY 5-6** Machu Picchu, Peru
Scenic train ride and guided Machu Picchu tour
- DAY 6-9** Cusco, Peru
Full day tour



Signature Patagonia



9 DAYS

- DAY 1-2** Santiago, Chile
Half day tour
- DAY 3-6** Torres del Paine, Chile
Stay in an all-inclusive lodge of your choice and explore Patagonia with activities including hiking, horse riding and bike riding
- DAY 7-9** El Calafate, Argentina
Perito Moreno Glacier boat cruise



Signature Buenos Aires to Rio



9 DAYS

- DAY 1-3** Buenos Aires
Half day city tour, Asado, Tigre Delta cruise and Tango Show
- DAY 4** Iguazu Falls, Argentina
Full day tour
- DAY 5** Iguazu Falls, Brazil
Half day tour
- DAY 6-9** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
City tour including cable car up Sugarloaf mountain, Christ the Redeemer and half day historical tour.

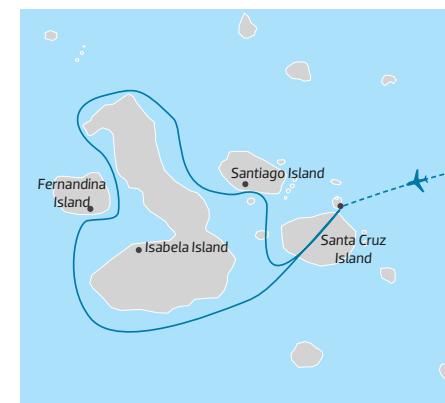


Signature Galápagos



11 DAYS

- DAY 1-3** Quito, Ecuador
- DAY 4** Galápagos Islands
- DAY 5** Fernandina Island
- DAY 6** Isabela Island
- DAY 7** Fernandina Island
- DAY 8** Santiago Island
- DAY 9** Rabina Island
- DAY 10** Bartolome Island
- DAY 11** Santa Cruz Island



Signature Salt Flats



11 DAYS

- DAY 1-3** San Pedro de Atacama, Chile
- DAY 4** Bolivian Altiplano, Bolivia
- DAY 5-6** Uyuni Salt Flats, Bolivia
- DAY 7** La Paz, Bolivia
- DAY 8** Puno, Peru
- DAY 9** Lake Titicaca, Peru
- DAY 10-11** Puno, Peru





SCAN to view all Ocean Endeavour cruises

ANTARCTICA ON THE OCEAN ENDEAVOUR

YOUR EXPERIENCES THROUGH THE OCEAN ENDEAVOUR'S IN-DEPTH EXPEDITION PROGRAM IS THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY!

Length: 137.10 M
Breadth: 21.00 M
Draught: 5.80 M
Gross Tonnage: 12,907 ITC
Speed: 16.0 knots
Cruise Speed: 15 knots
Passengers: 200
Expedition Staff to Passenger Ratio: 1:8
Classification: Bureau Veritas: Ice Class 1B
Ice Class: 1B

SUSTAINABILITY

All voyages are carbon offset.

EXPEDITION FIRST

The main goal is getting passengers off the ship and experiencing the destination.

EXPEDITION GUIDES 1:8

There is a marine biologist, a geologist, glaciologist, even a penguin-ologist. They share their passions during the educational program that we have on board the ship.

FOUR EMBARKATION POINTS

With 20 Zodiacs on the ship, all clients can get off the vessel at any given time and embark faster, safer and easier.

TWO LANDINGS A DAY

As this ship is under 200 passengers, you can enjoy two landings per day (weather permitting)

DINING

From a hearty buffet breakfast with omelette station, a varied and filling lunch, and a three-course dinner, plus morning tea, afternoon scones, and tea and coffee, you'll love the delicious gourmet meals served onboard.

SPA, SAUNA, GYM & SWIMMING POOL

There is a heated swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna and gym for those who like to keep active. You can also visit the spa for a relaxing massage or spa treatment during your voyage.

PHOTOGRAPHY PROGRAM

Photography enthusiasts of any skill level can fast-track their learning, gain access to expert advice from the Ocean Endeavour's expert photography guides, and make photography a focus of your Antarctic expedition.

ICE CAMPING

There's nowhere better to camp than Antarctica. Fall asleep amid the snow-capped mountains as you watch the colours of the Antarctic twilight bounce off the ocean and surrounding glaciers. Your expedition team will provide you with everything you need to spend a night on the great white continent, an unforgettable addition to your voyage.

KAYAKING

Experience the unforgettable thrill and serenity of kayaking in Antarctica as part of a small, expertly guided paddling group. It's an intimate, close-up immersion into the sea ice and Antarctic environment, with seals, whales, and penguins frequently seen. Kayakers will paddle up to four times per voyage.

DAY PADDLING

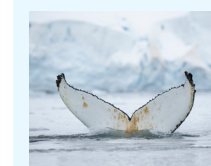
Prefer a once-off paddle? The day paddle offers one small group an expert-led kayaking experience either in the morning or afternoon. Absorb the majestic scenery as ice floats by as you explore in your kayak, designed with stability and comfort in mind—it's ideal for both beginners and experienced kayakers.

SNOWSHOEING

Snowshoes and ski poles are provided and you'll be expertly led on a small group adventure. It's one of the best ways to experience the untouched Antarctic wilderness by foot as you discover imposing mountain ranges, beautiful glaciers, and soaring cliffs.

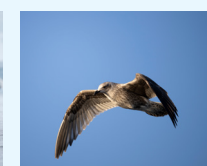
CITIZEN SCIENCE ON THE OCEAN ENDEAVOUR

On every Antarctic voyage, you have the chance to observe, record, and report on natural phenomena as part of a collaboration project with Antarctic scientists through citizen science programs. Your help will directly benefit researchers as you count seabirds, photograph whales, or observe weather patterns.



HAPPY WHALE

Upload your photos of whales' flukes to analyse and identify the individual whale and then track their movement.



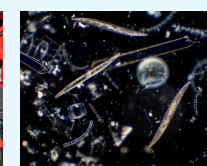
BIRD WATCHING

Working in small groups with an Ornithologist, you will help to identify and count various sea birds.



SECCHI DISK

To test the clarity of the water, a Secchi Disk will be lowered vertically from a Zodiac into the seawater.



PHYTOPLANKTON

Collect samples from your Zodiac which will help to track their abundance and distribution throughout their growing season.



11 Days
Best of Antarctica



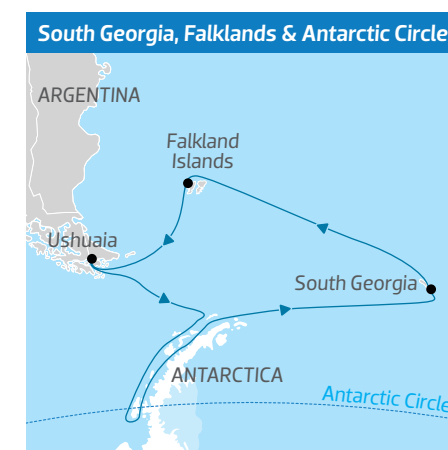
14 Days
Journey to the Antarctic Circle



21 Days
Shackleton's Antarctica, South Georgia and Falklands



14 Days
Best of Antarctica In Depth



23 Days
Ultimate Antarctica: Falklands, South Georgia & Antarctic Circle



The Polar and South America Travel Specialists

Chimu Adventures is a specialist travel operator with over 20 years of experience in South America, Antarctica and The Arctic. We don't try to do it all—instead, we focus on what we know best and our knowledgeable staff have a true passion for the Polar regions and South America.

As South America specialists, we also have ground operations throughout South America, ensuring we're with you, and your clients, every step of the way.

Think South America and Antarctica - Think Chimu!

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