

ECUADOR - CORMORANT SUPERIOR 8 DAY CRUISE B



INTRODUCTION

Discover the incredible beauty and wildlife of the Galapagos Islands that have intrigued explorers since Charles Darwin first set foot on the archipelago. Cruising aboard the Cormorant catamaran, you will explore the islands of Isabela, Fernandina, Santiago, Genovesa and North Seymour. Walk along trails that lead you through mangroves, prickly pear forests and along beaches, past colonies of birds, mammals and reptiles. Snorkel with marine turtles and sea lions and amongst schools of fish and come face to face with the giant tortoises in the highlands of Santa Cruz.

Every evening you return to the comfortable and luxurious Cormorant catamaran, where you can relax on its spacious sun deck, in the Jacuzzi or on your private balcony as you reflect on the day's adventures.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ECTSCS8B

DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

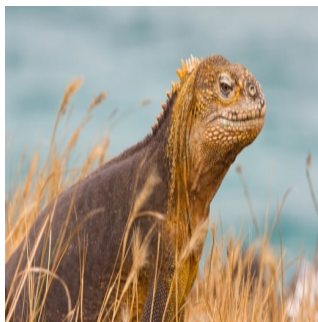
Ecuador, Galapagos
Islands



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DAY 1: Baltra & Charles Darwin Station

You will arrive at Baltra Island in the morning. After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by our representative and transferred to the yacht. You will be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing. In the Afternoon, you will head for the Charles Darwin Station. The Charles Darwin Research Station is home to turtles ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long. Subspecies of turtles interact with one another and many of the older turtles are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years old and strong enough to survive on their own.



DAY 2: Isabela

In the morning you will head for the Tintoreras Islet, on Isabela Island. The Tintoreras Islet, located a short distance from Puerto Villamil, is home to a great variety of wildlife. Its turquoise, crystalline waters are inhabited by white-tip reef sharks, Galapagos penguins, marine turtles and sea lions. One of its beaches surrounded by mangroves is one of the few sites where marine iguanas can reproduce successfully. In the afternoon you will head for the Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Centre. This centre was created to protect animals in their first years of life from the threats of foreign species such as pigs and donkeys. Giant tortoise eggs are collected and brought to the centre where they are hatched and kept for five years before being released to their natural environment.



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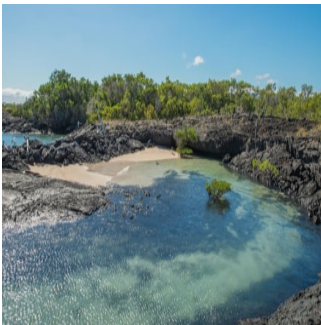
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DAY 3: Isabela: Moreno Point & Elizabeth Bay


In the morning you will arrive at Moreno Point, on Isabela Island. Moreno Point is located near Elizabeth Bay on the west coast of Isabela Island. The plethora of birds seen during a dinghy ride along the striking rocky shores or a hike along path through lava rock leading to tide pools and mangroves create a birdwatcher’s delight. In the tide pools, green sea turtles or white-tip sharks can be spotted. In the afternoon you will head for Elizabeth Bay. Elizabeth Bay is located on the east coast of Isabela Island. The bay contains many islets which can be visited by dinghy. Penguins and blue-footed boobies can be spotted on the rocky islets. With an abundance of marine life and clear water, the area is perfect for snorkeling and viewing schools of colorful fish, sea lions, and perhaps even sharks.



DAY 4: Fernandina & Isabela

In the morning you will arrive at Espinoza Point on Fernandina Island. No foreign species have ever invaded Fernandina Island, and therefore it is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. The volcano “La Cumbre” dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean. The island's highlight features the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk. In the afternoon you will head for Vicente Roca Point. Located on the northwestern coast of the island and comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (sunfish) may be spotted here. This bay is great for diving and snorkeling.

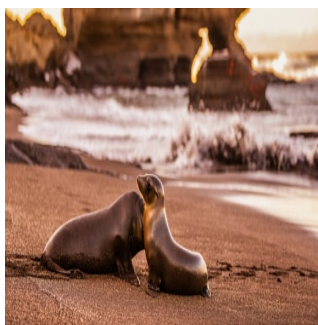


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DAY 5: Santiago Island

In the morning you will arrive at Egas port. Also known as James Bay, Egas Port is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to a coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos fur sea lions bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkelling site. In the afternoon you will head for Espumilla beach. Espumilla Beach is a popular place for marine iguanas and Sally Lightfoot crabs. The crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey. With an abundance of marine life including octopi, moray eels, and sharks, snorkeling is highly recommended. You will also head for Buccaneer Cove. Buccaneer Cove is a testament to the fact that Santiago Island was once a refuge for British buccaneers. These pirates would anchor in the protected bay to make repairs and stock up on tortoise meat among other things. The steep cliffs, where hundreds of seabirds perch in front of the dark red sand beach, are a magnificent site.



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DAY 6: Bartholomew Island & Santiago

In the morning you will arrive at Bartholomew Island. Home of the famous Pinnacle Rock, Bartholomew consists of an extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, black and even green volcanic formations. A trail of stairs leads to the summit of the volcano, boasting one of the best views of the islands. The beach is perfect for snorkelling and possible sightings of the Galapagos penguin. In the afternoon you will head for Sullivan Bay, on Santiago Island. A coral beach landing leads you towards a lava field as far as the eye can see. Hunt and peck over the two distinguished types of lava, pahoe-hoe and 'a'a, for signs of plant life that have managed to emerge over the past 100 years since the most recent volcanic explosion. A truly amazing volcanic experience...up close and personal!



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DAY 7: Santiago & Santa Cruz


In the morning you will head for Chinese Hat Islet. This small islet is located near the southeast coast of Santiago Island. Its name comes from the distinct shape of the islet's summit. This small islet is a great location to view many geological formations such as lava tubes and lava flows. In the afternoon you will head for Dragon Hill. Situated on Santa Cruz Island, Dragon Hill is one of the newest visitor sites accessible to tourists in the Galapagos Islands. One of the lengthier Galapagos walking trails will lead visitors along a beach and up a trail to the lagoon lookout where bright flamingos, pintail ducks, and land iguanas can be spotted.



DAY 8: North Seymour & Departure

In the morning you will head for North Seymour Island. Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies and magnificent frigatebirds are abundant on North Seymour Island. The island was formed by a series of submarine lava containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone. In the afternoon you will be taken back to Baltra Airport for your departure flight.




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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
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Inclusions	All meals and excursions Transfers in the islands Bilingual National Park Guide Use of snorkellin equipment/wetsuit Use of underwater camera Free Airport Assistance* Hotel night in Quito or Guayaquil (the day before the cruise)* 2 Free transfers to Galapagos Flights* *Applies when purchasing airfare from Royal Galapagos
	Exclusions Roundtrip airfare to/from Galapagos Alcoholic drinks Galapagos National Park Fee (USD\$100 per person subject to change) Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD\$20 per person subject to change) Travel/Medical insurance Gratuities Personal Expenses
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Discount for children under 12 years old 25% Discounts for children do not apply during the following dates: Easter (Apr. 10-19), Christmas (Dec. 20-27) and New Year's (Dec. 27- Jan. 3) Cormorant Cruise A: 'Central & Southern Islands' departing Saturdays also available to book.
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability Low season dates are: Jan 8 - 21 Mar 1 - 12 May 1 - Jun 30 Sep 3 - 30 Nov 26 - Dec 16

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SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

- 1) Only using local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprints. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting.

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2) Where possible, using locally owned and operated boutique hotels to maximise the return to the local community.

3) Chimu's "Pass it on" programme has provided funding to hundreds of local community projects in Latin America. Our aim is to empower local communities, helping them to develop their own infrastructure for the future. Since 2006, we have been working with Kiva (a well-known Non-Governmental Organisation), providing hundreds of loans to local businesses all over South America.

4) In our pre tour information we provide a range of tips and advice on how to minimise your impact on both local environments and communities.

5) Chimu Adventures' offices also take a number of sustainability measures including carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structures to create a paperless office and to reduce waste. There are also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff bike purchase assistance plan which encourages office staff to commute to work via bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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