

M/C ENDEMIC



INTRODUCTION

Delve into the world of wildlife that inspired the works of Charles Darwin as you sail for 8 days aboard the Endemic, around the beautiful and intriguing Galapagos Islands. Explore the islands of Santa Cruz, Genovesa, Santiago, Isabela, Fernandina and Rabida and the Islets of Mosquera and Marielas. Colonies of frigatebirds, masked boobies, Galapagos penguins and sea lions, fumaroles, lava fields, pirate haunts, giant tortoises and nesting sea turtles - this and so much more is waiting to be discovered on this Galapagos adventure.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Baltra Airport - Santa Cruz Island

On arrival at Baltra Airport, you will be met and transferred to the M/C Endemic. In the afternoon, visit Las Bachas, a beautiful white-sand beach, located on the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island. Go for a stroll or do some easy snorkeling in the gentle surf. Sea turtles lay their eggs at the edge of the vegetation. You can also look for a rusted pontoon, a relic of the Second World War. In fact, "bachas" is a poor pronunciation of "barges," two of which were wrecked offshore at that time, the locals mispronounced the name and it stuck.



TRIP CODE

ECTSE8A

DEPARTURE

Sundays

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8 Days

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DAY 2: Genovesa Island

In the morning, visit Darwin Bay, which is the only sandy beach found in the caldera on Genovesa. Colonies of the Great Frigates are found along the beach. Male exhibit their red balloon pouch to females for hope of a match. Red-footed boobies nest in the trees in contrast to the other two booby species which do so on the ground. In the afternoon, go to El Barranco (Prince Philip's Steps). The carved stone stairs will lead you to a wide plateau, where you can observe large colonies of masked boobies, frigate birds, storm petrels and ducks. During this easy stroll you will cross a small Scalesia forest, habitat of the short-eared owl. The same path will lead you back to the boat.



DAY 3: Santa Cruz Island - Santiago Island

In the morning, after breakfast, visit the Twin Craters. Located in the highlands of Santa Cruz on the road to Baltra airport from Puerto Ayora, these scenic craters are approximately 30 meters deep. These two huge land depressions are surrounded by a Scalesia forest with abundant birds such as the yellow warbler and the Vermilion Flycatcher. Gorgeous views of the leafy green highlands forest are also part of the visit. Return to the M/C Endemic. In the afternoon, visit Sullivan Bay, located on the east coast of Santiago Island. Land on a white coral sand beach and begin a walk over lava that flowed less than 100 years ago. This is the perfect place to see and feel the volcanic origin of Galapagos and admire flora that grows in lava fields.



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DAY 4: Isabela Island

Isabela Island is the largest of the archipelago with a surface of 4,588 square kilometers. It encompasses more than the half of the total land area of Galapagos. In the morning, you will be transported to the Wetlands (Humedales), that are a complex of trails of 6 kilometers long, located south of Isabela Island. See a wide variety of flora and abundant bird life, including gallinules, finches, stilts and ducks among others. Or you may visit Sierra Negra Volcano, one of largest craters in the archipelago with a diameter of five kilometers. It offers mesmerizing views with great contrast in colors between lava fields, vegetation and fumaroles. On the way up to Orchilla hill, giant tortoises and marine iguanas will appear. From the viewpoint the spectacular scenery of the bay, the town of Puerto Villamil, volcanoes, islets and rocks can be appreciated. Isabela wetlands has endemic and introduced species. After lunch visit the Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center of Isabela, infant and juvenile giant tortoises can be seen until they are ready to be released and survive in the wild. Or you may visit the Wall of Tears. This is a man-made monument which has been built in the 40's by prisoners, since Isabela Island was once an Ecuadorian penal colony and building up the wall was part of the punishment.



DAY 5: Isabela Island

In the morning, discover Elizabeth Bay, which is a marine visitor site. The excursion is carried out in a zodiac and so there is no landing point. Your zodiac ride starts with a visit to the Marielas islets where there is the largest and most important penguin colony in the Galapagos Islands. The excursion continues into the cove that is surrounded by red mangroves where you can spot sea turtles, flightless cormorants, spotted eagle rays, golden rays, brown pelicans and sea lions. In the afternoon visit Urbina Bay where you will see coral formations and large colored land iguanas. The possibility of seeing giant turtles, flightless cormorants, blue-footed boobies, penguins and marine iguanas is excellent.



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DAY 6: Isabela Island - Fernandina Island

After breakfast, Tagus Cove will be the first attraction to see. A ride along the cliffs in a zodiac will give visitors a good chance to see the Galapagos penguin, the flightless cormorant and other sea birds. From the landing dock it is about a 30-minute hike along the trail up to the top of the cliff from where you can view Darwin Lake, a saline lake saltier than the sea. You can also see several volcanoes from this location. After lunch, Espinoza point will be visited, which is one of Fernandina's visit points. Located within a fascinating lava scenery with Lava-Cactuses. On the surface of the lava, mangroves thrive. The highlights are sea lions, penguins, the flightless cormorant (especially in spring and summer), and one of the biggest iguana colonies of Galápagos.



DAY 7: Santiago Island - Rabida Island

In the morning, you will have the opportunity to discover the Buccaneer Cove that is located just north of James Bay. It was known as a safe haven in the 17th and 18th century for pirates to stash their loot, take on fresh water and capture tortoises for food. It is a nice place for a zodiac ride, snorkeling and kayaking. Blue-footed, Nazca boobys, fur seals, and Galapagos hawks can be seen flying overhead. Or visit Espumilla Beach, a pristine sandy beach and 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 eel, and shark, snorkeling is recommended and available. In the afternoon, you will be taken to Rabida Island. Its main attraction is the red sand beach, famous for its cactus groves and rock formation scenery, aside from the vegetation of the arid zone and the presence of native and endemic species. During the walk on the red sand beach you will see brown pelicans' nests, and a lagoon where flamingos are seen from time to time.



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DAY 8: Santa Cruz Island - Baltra Airport

In the morning, visit Mosquera, a small islet found between Baltra and North Seymour Islands. Lava gulls, sea lions, Sally light foot crabs inhabit this sand bank with an extension of over 600 meters. It also hosts the largest populations of sea lions and orca whales that can be seen occasionally depending on the season you visit the islet. After this last visit, transfer to Baltra airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Deluxe

Inclusions

Accommodation
 All Meals and snacks
 Soft drinks and juices
 Glass of house wines for dinners
 Captain's Welcome and farewell cocktail
 Bilingual Naturalist
 Guided excursions
 Transfers in Galapagos Islands
 Wetsuits
 Buffs
 Snorkelling Equipment
 Sea Kayaks
 Water container

Exclusions:
 Flights to/from Galapagos Islands
 Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee
 Galapagos Transit Control Card
 Tipping
 Items of a personal nature

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request

Notes

Contact us for more details

Price Dependent upon

Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

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

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- 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.
- 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 structured 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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