


ECUADOR - NORTH & CENTRAL ISLANDS | EDEN



TRIP CODE
ECTSENCI
DURATION
7 Days
LOCATIONS
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands


INTRODUCTION

Set sail aboard the Eden to explore the northern and central islands of the Galapagos archipelago. This Galapagos adventure introduces you to the spectacular scenery and some of the fascinating and varied wildlife that thrives here. Witness the rugged volcanic landscapes of Bartolom  with its spatter cones and lava flows as you look out for Galapagos penguins and lava lizards. Spot nesting sea turtles on Bachas Beach and colonies of red-footed and masked boobies at El Barranco. Snorkel around underwater craters and the famous Pinnacle Rock to discover incredible marine life, and finally visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn more about the iconic Galapagos giant tortoises.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Quito

Arrive at any time. Feel free to explore the city of 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.



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DAY 2: Quito & Baltra


This morning you will have an early transfer to the airport for your flight to the Galapagos Islands. On arrival we head to Bachas Beach where the sand is made of decomposed coral, making it soft and white, and a favourite site for nesting sea turtles. Spot abundant Sally Lightfoot crabs on the lava rocks along the water's edge -- these crabs will eat anything they can get their claws on! Trek to see a wide range of wildlife, including flamingos, hermit crabs, black necked stilts, and sea lions.



DAY 3: Genovesa Island

In the morning visit this sunken caldera for a great snorkelling opportunity. See large schools of tropical fish swarming near the vertical walls, and, if lucky, see a manta ray or hammerhead. Walk along the white coral sands of Darwin Bay surrounded by bustling sea birds. Follow the trail and see nesting frigatebirds, gulls, and boobies. Be sure to bring your camera to take some snaps of your new feathered friends. In the afternoon visit "El Barranco" aka Prince Phillip's Steps located on the southern tip of the island for an amazing wildlife watching opportunity. Hike up the steps to see a sea bird colony that is full of life including the breeding grounds for red-footed boobies and masked boobies.



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DAY 4: Bartolomé Island

Today we visit Bartolomé for a guided tour to see the island's dramatic volcanic features. Continue to Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island to witness the giant lava formations contrasting the white-coral-sand beach. Hike to Bartolomé's summit for a stronger perspective of the islands' not-too-distant volcanic origins and enjoy a panoramic view - it's one of the best among the islands! See other Galápagos Islands in the distance as well as Pinnacle Rock, the island's famous towering landmark. Take the opportunity to swim and snorkel around Pinnacle Rock, one of the most iconic volcanic rock formations on the islands. Home to Galápagos penguins, friendly sea lions, sea turtles, and a huge variety of fish, Bartolomé and its surrounding waters are a fantastic place to explore the natural wonders of the Galápagos. We continue onto Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island to see one of its star natural attractions - striking and fascinating giant lava formations. Very few plants have managed to survive on this island due to its harsh environment and relatively new lava flow. Enjoy a walk along the lava formations before coming to a white-coral sand beach, where abundant Sally Lightfoot crabs and sea lions gather on shore.



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DAY 5: Black turtle cove and Dragon hill

After breakfast, you'll head to Black Turtle Cove, located on the north coast of Santa Cruz Island. The cove is a protected mangrove estuary that provides shelter to a variety of marine species, including sea turtles, rays, and sharks. You'll explore the area on a panga (small motorized boat) and enjoy the peaceful surroundings while observing the wildlife from a safe distance. Keep your eyes peeled for green sea turtles, which are known to mate and nest in the area. This Afternoon continue on to Dragon Hill, located on the northwestern coast of Santa Cruz Island. The area is named after the land iguanas that can be found in the surrounding hills, which resemble dragons. You'll take a guided walk through a trail that leads to a lagoon where you can see flamingos, pintail ducks, and other species of birds. You'll also have the chance to observe the land iguanas up close as they bask in the sun or feed on cactus pads. The hike ends with a breathtaking view of the bay, which is surrounded by volcanic formations.



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DAY 6: Santa Cruz & Quito

We will disembark in Puerto Ayora and visit the Breeding Centre, a great place to observe many species of tortoises and land iguanas in captivity. Brought back from the brink of extinction, see the famous Galápagos tortoise up close - a corral houses adult tortoises, and a nursery cares for the young until around age three when their shells have hardened. This area also houses the Charles Darwin Research Station, a scientific organization initiated in 1964, which works to preserve the Galápagos' ecosystem through the conservation efforts of scientists, researchers, and volunteers. While the offices themselves are not open to visitors, the research station provides a study location for international scientists and environmental education for the local community. In the afternoon we fly back to Quito and you're transferred back to your hotel.



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DAY 7: Transfer to the Airport

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.



DAY 7: Depart Quito

You will be collected from your hotel at the appropriate time and transferred to the airport for your onward flight.




INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
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Inclusions	Inclusions Accommodation Internal Flights All shore excursions All meals throughout the cruise (6 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 4 dinners) Galapagos National Park Certified Guide Snorkelling equipment and wetsuits
	Exclusions USD\$100 Galapagos National Park Fee (must be paid in cash on arrival at Galapagos) USD\$20 Transit Control Card (must be paid in cash at Quito Airport) International or domestic flights to or within South America, unless specified Transfers not mentioned in the itinerary Airport arrival or departure taxes Passport, visa, reciprocity and vaccination charges Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges Hotels and meals not included in itinerary Optional excursions not included in the itinerary All items of a personal nature Gratuities Visas
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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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.
- 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

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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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