

## ECUADOR - NORTH, CENTRAL & SOUTH ISLANDS | EDEN



### TRIP CODE

ECTSENC5

### DURATION

10 Days

### LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands



## INTRODUCTION

This 10-day adventure introduces you to the natural wonders, rugged yet beautiful scenery, incredible flora and fauna and fascinating history of the northern, central and southern Galapagos Islands. Sail to the remote north-eastern outpost of Genovesa in search of red-footed boobies and cruise as far afield as Espanola, the spectacular southernmost island of the Galapagos with its huge waved albatross colonies. In between discover the islands of Bartolome, Santiago, Santa Cruz and Floreana. Snorkel around the underwater volcano known as Devil's Crown, take in the panoramic views from Bartolome, explore the mangroves of Black Turtle Cove, learn the history of Post Office Bay, see the marine iguanas on Floreana and the majestic giant tortoises of the Santa Cruz highlands.

## 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.



## ECUADOR - NORTH, CENTRAL & SOUTH ISLANDS | EDEN

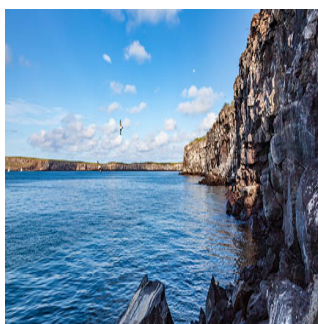
### DAY 2: Quito & Baltra

This morning you will have an early transfer to the airport for your flight to the Galapagos Islands. On arrival we head 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.



#### TRIP CODE

ECTSENC5

#### DURATION

10 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos  
Islands



## ECUADOR - NORTH, CENTRAL & SOUTH ISLANDS | EDEN

### 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.



#### TRIP CODE

ECTSENC5

#### DURATION

10 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos  
Islands



### 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. After the visit to Black Turtle Cove, you will be continuing 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.



## ECUADOR - NORTH, CENTRAL & SOUTH ISLANDS | EDEN

### DAY 6: Santa Cruz

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.



#### TRIP CODE

ECTSENC5

#### DURATION

10 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands



### DAY 7: Floreana Island

This morning we visit Post Office Bay and learn about its unique history. In the late 18th century, English whaling vessels placed a barrel here to be used as a post office. Today, the box is used mainly by tourists, who may drop off and pick up unstamped letters to be carried to far destinations. Continue the tradition - leave a letter and take one to deliver (be sure it makes it to the correct location)! We visit Punta Cormorant, the only landing site on Floreana Island, and discover two amazingly different beaches: one with green sand, coloured by olivine crystals, and another with white sand particles known as 'Flour Beach'. In the afternoon observe flamingos and other shore birds feeding in the lagoon. Spot penguins and marine iguanas at the water's edge. Enjoy an amazing snorkeling experience at the 'Devil's Crown', an old underwater volcanic cone just north of the Punta Cormorant. Spot large schools of tropical fish, rays, reef sharks, and sea turtles that make their home among the coral reef. Be sure you're a strong swimmer; the currents can be intense.





## ECUADOR - NORTH, CENTRAL & SOUTH ISLANDS | EDEN

### DAY 8: Espanola Island

Today we enjoy the day on Espanola, one of the oldest in the archipelago. We visit Punta Suárez, one of most rich wildlife landing sites in the Galápagos. Be greeted by surfing young sea lions on arrival. Head to the trail to find many species of nesting sea birds, and, if lucky, see the waved albatross. Follow the path up to a cliff for great views over the ocean, and watch sea birds gliding in the wind. We visit Gardner Bay's magnificent white sandy beach, home to sea lions and sea birds. Be sure to explore the beautiful turquoise water and its incredible sea life. Spot young sea lions and large schools of surprisingly big tropical fish, including yellow-tailed surgeonfish, king angelfish, and bump-head parrot fish. In the afternoon we head to Tortuga Rock and Gardner Bay for a spectacular snorkeling experience. Spot playful young sea lions and large schools of tropical fish, including yellow-tailed surgeonfish, king angelfish, and bump-head parrot fish. Look for white-tipped reef sharks napping on the bottom.



#### TRIP CODE

ECTSENC5

#### DURATION

10 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos  
Islands



### DAY 9: San Cristobal

Today we learn about the history of the Galápagos Islands from the very beginning of their volcanic origins through to today's conservation efforts. Tour the Human History exhibit to learn about the islands' discovery and colonization, and discover the natural history and variety of flora and fauna that make the Galápagos so fascinating. In the afternoon we fly back to Quito and you're transferred back to your hotel.



### DAY 10: Transfer to the Airport

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



ECUADOR - NORTH, CENTRAL & SOUTH ISLANDS | EDEN

DAY 10: Depart Quito

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



TRIP CODE

ECTSENC5

DURATION

10 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<div>                     Accommodation                      Internal Flights                      All shore excursions                      All meals throughout the cruise (9 breakfasts, 8 lunches &amp; 8 dinners)                      Galapagos National Park Certified Guide                      Snorkelling equipment and wetsuits                 </div> <div> <b>Exclusions</b>                      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                 </div>
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:

- 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.

### TRIP CODE

ECTSENC

### DURATION

10 Days

### LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos  
Islands

