



## INTRODUCTION

The Galapagos Islands overflow with exotic wildlife set against backdrops of spectacular landscapes. Our Galapagos Island Hopping Tours are a great alternative to Galapagos cruises, especially for those non-seagoing travellers who prefer to stay on dry land. Explore the natural wonders and fascinating wildlife of the Galapagos archipelago by day, sleeping in comfortable boutique hotels at night. Speed boats or public transportation takes you from island to island and at the end of each day you return to your island hotel. On this 5 day tour you will get to enjoy the highlights of the inhabited islands of San Cristóbal, Isabela, Floreana and Santa Cruz that offer the perfect combination of amazing destinations, great activities and lovely accommodation. Snorkel with rays, sea lions and iguanas and experience the breath-taking beauty of the Galapagos Islands as you explore the archipelago.

We use small island hotels that have been artfully built with an inspirational design. Our trips are activity-packed and include visits to see the unique Galapagos animals and volcanic landscapes found nowhere else on the planet. Your excursions also include time for snorkelling and discovering the underwater magic of this wilderness sanctuary.

## ITINERARY

### TRIP CODE

ECTSGIH5

### DURATION

5 Days

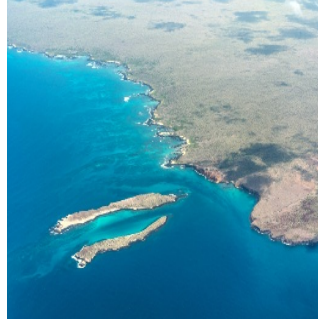
### LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos  
Islands



## DAY 1: Arrival in Baltra, Puerto Ayora

Fly from Quito or Guayaquil. On arrival at Baltra's airport, you'll be met by a naturalist guide, who will accompany you on the transfer to Puerto Ayora. On the way, there will be a stop to visit the Highlands. After lunch at the harbour, continue to the hotel, where there'll be a short break. Then we'll head over to the Charles Darwin Research Station to see some of the Giant Tortoises who are kept there, and learn about which islands they originally came from, and hear about the conservation work that goes on to preserve the Giant Tortoises, as well as the environment of the archipelago as a whole. Return to your hotel in time for Dinner.



## DAY 2: North Seymour, Bartolome, Plazas, Santa Fe

After breakfast, meet your guide in the hotel's lobby for the transfer to the dock, and start the tour. Lunch will be included on board the small yacht. In the afternoon, you'll return to the port. Today you will have the option to choose one of the following tours (you will visit only one of these islands): North Seymour Island is a spectacular place for hiking, swimming and snorkelling. The main attractions are the frigate birds, boobies, gulls, hawks, green sea turtles and the famous Galapagos Sharks. Bartolome Island is the most attractive landscape of the archipelago and undoubtedly the most photographed in all the Galapagos Islands. You'll marvel at the view of two spectacularly beautiful bays and observe the fascinating formations of lava and volcanic cones. Plazas consists of two islands. The turquoise waters of the channel contrast brilliantly with the white sand and black lava coast. It is a wonderful spot to observe marine life, including manta rays, and there are some great snorkelling spots. Santa Fe Island (Spanish: Isla Santa Fe), also called Barrington Island after admiral Samuel Barrington, is a small island of 24 square kilometres (9.3 sq mi) which lies in the centre of the Galapagos archipelago, to the south east of Santa Cruz Island. Geologically it is one of the oldest, since volcanic rocks of about 4 million years old have been found. The vegetation of the island is characterized by brush, palo santo trees and stands of a large variety of the prickly pear cactus *Opuntia echios*. Return to your hotel in time for Dinner. Island will be chosen according to available spaces.



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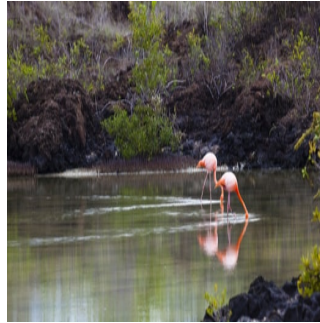
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## DAY 3: Santa Cruz - Isabela

After breakfast, the guide will take you to enjoy Tortuga Bay. Here, you walk for around 45 minutes approximately, along a cactus trail to Playa Brava, named after its strong currents. On this beach you'll observe marine iguanas, marine birds and pelicans. Then there's another short walk to Playa Mansa. This second beach is a natural lagoon visited by blue footed boobies and pelicans. It is also a beautiful place for swimming and sunbathing. Continue to the harbour for lunch. Afterwards, you'll board the public speedboat that will take you to Isabela Island (approximately 2-2.5 hour navigation). On arrival, you'll be met and escorted to your hotel. Once you've checked in, there'll be a visit to Flamingo Lagoon. Dinner will be at the port and then you'll return to the hotel.



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## DAY 4: Full Day Isabela

Today you will have the opportunity to choose a full day tour from the next two options (only one):

**Option 1:** Approximately at 7:30 am, the trip to Sierra Negra Volcano will start. The passengers will be transported by bus or other transportation for about 45 minutes to the Galapagos National Park control site in order to record the visit. Then, we will begin a trek to the Sierra Negra and Chico Volcano. During the trek (about 3-4 hours) a box lunch would be provided. In the afternoon, we will return to the hotel. After a short break, we will be transferred to the Concha Perla for snorkeling.

Then, you would return to the hotel for Dinner and Accommodation. **Option 2:** Breakfast. Prepare to go to Tintorerías Islet. Go to the dock of Puerto Villamil in order to embark on small speedboats. After a short ride (approx. 20 min.), we arrive at Tintorerías. After the hike through the islet, we will snorkel. We can see starfish, multicolor fish, sea-urchins, and with luck manta rays, sharks, and sea lions that may swim with us close up. Return to hotel for lunch. In the afternoon, visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding Center of Isabela, where we will be able to see a variety of species of giant tortoises in captivity. Visit the Wall of Tears. The wall has a length of 100m and a height of 7m. The name is derived from the difficult and painful nature of the conditions in which the prisoners were forced to work. Visit a Lava Tunnel near the Wall, as well as visits to Mirador Orchilla, Estero de Isabela, and Playa del Amor. Then, you would return to the hotel for Dinner. We recommend option 2 for older people, who cannot make a trekking tour of several hours. Note: all tours on Isabela Island are shared with other persons (except for the first class hotel category, the Sierra Negra tour is private - Tintorerías is always shared).



## DAY 5: Departure Day

At 5:30 am, you will be transferred to the Port for embarkation. On arrival at Santa Cruz about 3 hours later, a guide will be waiting to transfer you to Baltra airport, for your flight back to Quito or Guayaquil. On the way, there will be a brief stop to visit "Los Gemelos" - two ancient sinkholes that look like craters.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

### Accommodation

Hotels

### Inclusions

Accommodation in double rooms  
All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner). First day: lunch and dinner. Last day: breakfast  
Transportation and Maritime timed views  
Bilingual naturalist guide (English, Spanish)  
Scheduled Visits  
Snorkeling Equipment  
All Transfers from Puerto Ayora - Isabela Island - Puerto Ayora  
Shared tours on Isabela Island  
Navigation tours are shared

#### Not Included:

Air Ticket  
Galapagos National Park entrance fee USD 100.00  
INGALA Migration Control Card USD 20.00  
Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages  
Tips

### Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

### Single Surcharge

Available upon request

### Notes

\* To execute this itinerary, it is important to choose a late flight that departs not before 11am from Baltra.  
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 local businesses all over South America.



## ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS ISLAND HOPPING 5 DAY

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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