

ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS ISLAND HOPPING 8 DAY



TRIP CODE

ECTSGIH8

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos
Islands



INTRODUCTION

The Galapagos archipelago is unlike any other place on Earth - rugged, strikingly beautiful, fragile and sometimes bizarre and home to a fascinating array of wildlife. From land and marine iguanas to giant tortoises, red and blue-footed boobies, frigatebirds, turtles, Galapagos penguins, mockingbirds, dolphins, whales, albatrosses, lava lizards and Darwin's finches - the wildlife is mesmerizing.

If you are looking for more than a cruise to the islands then a week of touring the less-explored parts of the Galapagos Islands is the answer. Explore Santa Cruz and Isabela Islands, returning to the comfort of a hotel each evening. Snorkel with rays, sea lions and iguanas and experience the breath-taking beauty of the Galapagos archipelago as you discover the islands. Island Hopping Tours are an excellent option for those looking for a more active Galapagos Islands tour without spending days at sea. These land-based tours offer you a unique perspective of the Galapagos Islands, the way the locals see them. Each night you will stay in a small boutique island hotel, perfect for those that prefer to sleep on firm dry land!

ITINERARY

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DAY 1: Arrival in Baltra, Puerto Ayora

Prepare for an exciting day ahead as you embark on a flight from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra's airport. Once you arrive, a knowledgeable naturalist guide will be waiting to transfer you to Puerto Ayora. After enjoying a delicious lunch in town, head to the port to board a public speedboat that will take you on a scenic 2-2.5 hour journey to Isabela Island. Upon arrival, a friendly representative will greet you and escort you to your hotel for check-in. You'll then have the opportunity to visit the Flamingo Lagoon, where you can observe these magnificent birds in their natural habitat. After a fulfilling day of exploration, return to your hotel for a delectable dinner and comfortable accommodation. *Note: In order to fully execute this itinerary, it's essential to book an early flight that arrives no later than 10am at Baltra.



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DAY 2: Sierra Negra Volcano and Tintoreras

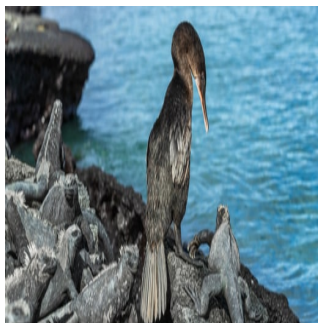
Get ready to start your day early with a private trip to Sierra Negra Volcano, which will begin at approximately 7:30 am. You'll be transported to the Galapagos National Park control site, which takes around 45 minutes. From there, you'll embark on a trek to the Sierra Negra and Chico Volcano, with a box lunch provided along the way. After the trek, you'll return to the hotel in the afternoon to recharge. Then, prepare to go to Tintoreras Islet, a must-see spot in the archipelago. Head to the dock of Puerto Villamil to embark on small speedboats, which will take approximately 20 minutes to arrive at Tintoreras. Upon arrival, hike through the islet and get up close with starfish, multicolored fish, sea urchins, and if you're lucky, you may even spot manta rays, sharks, and sea lions swimming alongside you while snorkeling. It's an unforgettable experience you won't want to miss! Afterward, you'll return to Isabela for dinner and accommodation, where you can rest and recharge before your next adventure. Get ready for more exciting experiences as we continue to explore the enchanting Galapagos Islands.



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DAY 3: Roca Union and Los Tuneles

Get ready for another day of exploration as we take you to Roca Union, located just 40 minutes from Puerto Villamil. Here, you'll have the rare opportunity to see the masked pike, a remarkable sight to behold. From there, we'll continue to the Tunnels (Los Tuneles), a unique geological site formed by the lava that emanated from the Sierra Negra volcano, creating natural arches, points, tubes, and tunnels both above and underwater. Enjoy a leisurely 10-15 minute walk to observe the volcanic formations and birds, followed by a visit to El Finado, a hidden cove with crystal-clear and calm waters. Snorkel among the mangroves and swim alongside sea turtles, reef fish, and sharks that rest in this tranquil paradise. A box lunch is included to keep you energized throughout the day. After the excursion, you'll return to Isabela and have a free afternoon to relax and explore at your own pace. Enjoy dinner at your accommodation.



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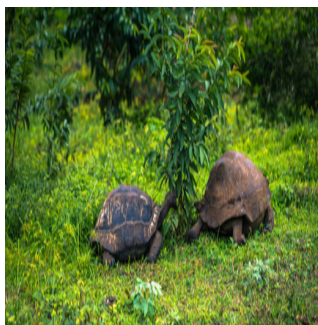
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DAY 4: Santa Cruz Highlands

On this day, your adventure begins bright and early at 5:30 am when you will be escorted to the port to board a public speedboat headed for Santa Cruz (approximately 2-2.5 hours of navigation). Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in and breakfast. Your guide will then take you to the stunning highlands of Santa Cruz, where you will have the chance to witness tortoises in their natural habitat. The highlands are adorned in a rich, deep green hue, which contrasts beautifully with the drier, lower islands. The scalesia trees, which grow in a lush green color, are the dominant vegetation of the highlands. You will also have the unique opportunity to explore underground lava tubes, which are over half a mile long and offer a surreal, unforgettable experience. After a lunch in town, you will visit Tortuga Bay. During this adventure, you will hike for approximately 45 minutes, walking through a cactus trail until you reach the first beach, known as Playa Brava. This beach boasts strong currents and is home to a variety of marine iguanas, marine birds, and pelicans. After visiting Playa Brava, you will continue with an additional 15-minute walk to reach Playa Mansa, a natural lagoon that attracts blue-footed boobies and pelicans. It is also a beautiful location for swimming and relaxing on the beach. As the sun begins to set, you will return to your hotel for dinner and accommodation after walking the same distance back.



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DAY 5: North Seymour Island

Today, you will have the opportunity to explore North Seymour Island, a stunning destination known for its diverse wildlife and scenic landscapes. Your adventure will begin with a hike along the island's trails, where you will encounter an abundance of unique wildlife such as frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, gulls, and hawks. As you wander through the island's rocky terrain, keep an eye out for the iconic Galapagos Sharks that often swim in the surrounding waters. After your hike, it's time to cool off with a refreshing swim and snorkel in the turquoise waters around North Seymour Island. Here, you can observe the majestic green sea turtles as they glide gracefully through the water and the vibrant marine life that thrives beneath the surface. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to explore one of the Galapagos' most captivating islands and experience its natural wonders up close. ***NOTE:** The order of the itinerary for day 5, 6 and 7 may vary. During these three days, you will have the opportunity to visit three out of these four islands, depending on availability: Bartolome, North Seymour, Santa Fe and South Plaza.



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DAY 6: Bartolome Island

Bartolome Island is a must-visit destination in the Galapagos Islands, renowned for its stunning landscapes and breathtaking views. The island boasts two beautiful bays, offering visitors the chance to appreciate the unique geological formations of lava and volcanic cones that make this island so special. You can expect to be amazed by the striking contrast between the dark volcanic rock and the crystal-clear waters that surround the island, creating a truly unforgettable experience. In addition to the incredible landscapes, visitors to Bartolome Island will also have the chance to encounter a wide range of wildlife, including penguins, sea lions, and a variety of birds. Whether you're hiking up to the top of the island or snorkeling in the surrounding waters, there's always something amazing to discover on Bartolome Island. With so much to see and do, it's no wonder that this island is one of the most photographed destinations in the Galapagos Islands, offering a truly unforgettable experience for visitors of all ages.

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DAY 7: Santa Fe Island

Santa Fe Island is a unique destination in the Galapagos archipelago, offering visitors a glimpse into the ancient geological history of the region. The island is one of the oldest in the area, with volcanic rocks dating back approximately 4 million years. The island's vegetation is dominated by palo santo trees, prickly pear cactus, and brush, making for a distinctive landscape. One of the main attractions of Santa Fe Island is its endemic species, including the Santa Fe Land Iguana and the Santa Fe Rice Rat. Visitors can also enjoy snorkeling in the clear waters surrounding the island, where they may spot colorful tropical fish and sea turtles. The island's picturesque beaches, such as Playa Escondida, offer a peaceful retreat and a chance to soak up the island's natural beauty.

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DAY 8: Departure Day

In the morning, you will start your day by visiting the Charles Darwin Station. You will get to observe a diverse range of Giant Tortoises and learn about the conservation programs aimed at protecting these magnificent creatures and the overall environment of the archipelago. After your visit to the station, you will head to the airport with your guide for the approximately one-hour journey. At the airport, you will board your flight back to Quito or Guayaquil, bringing an end to your unforgettable Galapagos adventure.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotels
Inclusions	<p>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 Scheduled Visits All Transfers from Puerto Ayora - Isabela Island - Puerto Ayora</p> <p>Not Included: Air Ticket Snorkeling Equipment Galapagos National Park entrance fee USD 100.00 INGALA Migration Control Card USD 20.00 Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages Tips</p>
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

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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.

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