

ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS & LA SELVA EXPLORER



INTRODUCTION

Enjoy a 9 day journey exploring the Amazon and the diversity of the Galapagos Islands. Cruise the waters of the Napo River and get your exercise by following Amazon trails through the rainforest and if you're lucky perhaps come across a squirrel monkey or two! Welcome the breathtaking scenery of the Galapagos aboard the luxury Cormorant and visit various islands where you'll find ancient lava fields, crystal clear bays, white sandy beaches and a large variety of wildlife.

La Selva and Galapagos Experience

Discover the beauty of Ecuadorian culture in colonial and artistic capital â Quito. In 1978, the city was declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site due to its historic centre. Continue further on your adventure to La Selva Lodge in a rainforest heart of Amazon.

Located within Ecuador's YasunÃ Biosphere Reserve and on the borders of the famous YasunÃ National Park â one of the most biodiverse areas of the planet â La Selva Amazon Ecolodge belongs to one of the first rainforest lodges in Ecuador. The main lodge and restaurant are the perfect spots to observe local birds or other wildlife while socializing with other visitors or simply relaxing with a cocktail. Typical Ecuadorian meals with local ingredients mixed with international dishes will be served to you while you settle back in your chairs and enjoy scenic views of the lake or surrounding forest. You will be accommodated in stylish, breezy and comfortable suites where you can admire the lake view while relaxing in a hot tub or rainforest shower. Make use of one â of â a â kind spa or try one of intimate yoga sessions on the jetty with a water view. Explore the rainforest from up close with one of the provided activities including canoeing, kayaking, walking, climbing or visiting native communities while accompanied by a knowledgeable English -speaking naturalist guide.

Cormorant Catamaran also offers a [8 day cruise](#) and [5 day cruise](#)

TRIP CODE

ECTSGSE

DEPARTURE

Enquire for exact departure dates

DURATION

9 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Amazon, Galapagos Islands



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. Experience also: [La Selva](#)

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival transfer in Quito

On arrival, please make your way through to the Arrivals Hall where our representative will be waiting for you to transfer you to your hotel. He/she will be holding a sign with your name on it. Should you not be able to locate them, please refer to the front of your itinerary for emergency contact details of our representative office. Please note this service is with a driver only.



DAY 1: 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.



DAY 2: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

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



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DAY 2: La Selva Day 1: Welcome to the Amazon

After a 30 minute commercial flight the city of El Coca, our representative from La Selva will take you by private transportation to the city's main dock on the Napo River. An amazing journey of approximately two and a half hours in a motorized canoe will be the beginning of a great experience in the neo-tropics of the Ecuadorean Amazon. This Afternoon visit the Matapalo Trail, named after the Spanish Strangler fig, one of many remarkable trees that you will find during this short introductory walk. Your native and naturalist guides will share with you their knowledge of flora and fauna in the neo-tropical forest. After that we invite you to a night walk, a flashlight and a camera will be the only items you'll need to enjoy all of the insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals that you might see during an hour walk in the darkness of the forest with your guides. Lunch & dinner included



DAY 3: La Selva Day 2: Discover Amazon Trails

After breakfast we will take you through Chaguamango trail. It begins behind the lodge and finishes at the edge of the lake. During the walk your guides will show you the medical botany that we can find in the rainforest. Many plants have been used by the indigenous groups of the Amazon Basin to cure different ailments; some of them will be spotted on the way. At the end of the walk, we will head back to the lodge by canoe. If you're lucky, you might see groups of squirrel monkeys approaching the water, inviting you to take amazing photos of the wildlife in action. After lunch visit the Charapa trail, which lasts for an hour and a half. It begins at the butterfly farm and ends on the outer skirts of the lake. It's a wonderful loop that begins with a walk, returning to the lodge by canoe. Along the way we will try to sight different groups of mammals, monkeys and birds that in the afternoon hours get close to the lakeshore to look for food. **NIGHT CANOE RIDE** With the help of a spotlight, your guides will take you in a canoe paddling around the lagoon looking for caimans, boas, bats, owls, night mammals and more nocturnal wildlife. If the sky is clear, you'll also have the chance to do some star gazing. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included



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DAY 4: La Selva Day 3: Discover Amazon Trails

After breakfast enjoy a visit to the most biologically diverse spot on earth, the Yasuni Nation Park. A 20 minute canoe ride, plus a 15 minute walk will take you back to the Napo River. A motorized canoe ride lasting 10 minutes will let you enjoy one of the most amazing displays of the wild and natural world. Hundreds of parrots and parakeets flock to the treetops and come down to a clay bank to eat the soil rich in minerals they need in order to help digest the fruits and seeds they consume daily. It is essential to have binoculars to enjoy it and a camera to capture it. After this wonderful morning, full of parrots, parakeets and other birds, visit an Amazonian Quichua family. They'll receive you in the home and take you to see a part of the Amazonia you don't usually find on maps and the indigenous Amazon people. **AFTERNOON VISIT A BUTTERFLY FARM:** Learn about the fascinating biology of butterflies and perhaps witness the amazing process of metamorphosis on our farm! We'll show you the different stages of the butterfly. Now that you have enchanting photos for your album, the adventure continues with fishing for piranhas in Garzacocha Lake. Fishing lines will be provided by your native guide. Depending on the size of the fish, we sometimes put them back in the water or if it is big enough you can give it to our chef and enjoy a delicious fish dinner. The fish is always tastier when you catch it yourself! Breakfast, lunch and dinner included



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DAY 5: La Selva Day 4: Departure Day:

The lodge staff will assist you with your checked luggage. Ride upstream in our motorized canoe back to Coca, where our representative will take you to the airport and help you with your checked luggage and boarding passes. Breakfast included



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DAY 6: Transfer to the airport for onward destination

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



DAY 6: Arrival & San Cristobal

In the morning you will arrive at San Cristobal Airport where you will be met by our representative and transferred to your yacht. In the afternoon you will head for Kicker Rock. This striking rock formation is located a couple hours off the western shore of San Cristobal. Jutting out of the water, the rocks stand vertically at hundreds of feet above the ocean divided by a small channel. Although there are no landing areas, kayaking and scuba diving allow visitors to spot a variety of marine life.



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DAY 7: Espanola Island

In the morning you will arrive at Suarez Point, located on Espanola Island. This area is great for spotting blue-footed boobies, albatrosses and Nazca boobies. A beautiful site on the ocean front, the large waved albatrosses use the cliff as a launching pad. The famous attraction is the magnificent blowhole, spurting water high into the air. This site presents wonderful photograph opportunities. In the afternoon you will head for Gardner Bay. Gardner Bay, on the eastern side of the island, is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses. It has an ample white sandy beach with a myriad of sea lions, perfect for relaxing. Its rocky shores make this site a great place for diving and snorkelling.



DAY 8: Floreana Island

In the morning you will head for Post Office Bay. In the 18th century whalers passing through the islands placed a wooden barrel on Floreana Island for use as an unofficial mail box. The tradition continues today as visitors leave addressed postcards in the barrel and sort through left mail to deliver at home. In the afternoon you will head for Cormorant Point. This site hosts a large flamingo lagoon where other birds such as common stilts and white-cheeked pintails can also be seen. The beaches on this island are distinct: The "Green Beach" named so due to its green color, which comes from a high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand, and the "Four Sand Beach" composed of white coral.



DAY 9: Santa Cruz & Departure

In the morning you will head for Twin Craters on Santa Cruz Island. Los Gemelos, or the Twin Craters, are located opposite each other on both sides of the road leading from Puerto Ayora to Baltra. The name is only figurative; not real craters, these formations were created by the collapse of surface material in underground fissures and chambers. The view is breathtaking. In the afternoon you will be taken to Baltra Airport for your departure flight.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<p> All meals and excursions Transfers in the islands Bilingual National Park Guide Use of snorkellin equipment/wetsuit Use of underwater camera Free Airport Assistance* Hotel night in Quito or Guayaquil (the day before the cruise)* 2 Free transfers to Galapagos Flights* *Applies when purchasing airfare from Royal Galapagos </p> <p> Exclusions Roundtrip airfare to/from Galapagos Alcoholic drinks Galapagos National Park Fee (USD\$100 per person subject to change) Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD\$20 per person subject to change) Travel/Medical insurance Gratuities Personal Expenses </p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
Notes	Park entrance fees may be subject to change without prior notice.
Price Dependent upon	Seasonality & availability.

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SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly

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qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

La Selva has a strong environmental commitment. The lodge does not rely on air conditioning rather using natural ventilation, it uses waste water systems and all local produce and staff are employed. While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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