

## ECUADOR - NATURAL PARADISE



### INTRODUCTION

This wonderful introduction to the Galapagos archipelago sees you cruising between the islands of Santa Cruz, Genovesa and Santiago, where you will be greeted by spectacular volcanic scenery and an incredible array of wildlife. Encounter the majestic giant Galapagos tortoises in the highlands of Santa Cruz, see tidal pools filled with sea lions, snorkel with turtles and rays and learn the history of Bachas Beach and Buccaneer Cove, as you look out for frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, Galapagos hawks and Darwin's finches.

#### The Natural Paradise Experience

The aptly named ship, Natural Paradise, truly compliments the unique landscapes of the Galapagos. With over 1000km of coastline, the Galapagos offers a spectacular array of wildlife encounters by foot, by sea and from the comfort of the ship. These action-packed express tours throughout the Galapagos Islands are best experienced with the intimacy of a small group, expert naturalist guide and attentive crew found onboard the Natural Paradise.

One of the most modern cruises in Galapagos's waters, Natural Paradise catamaran provides combination of luxury holiday and intimate feeling due to its limited capacity. Modern interior and spacious cabins with balconies will take care of your on-board comfort whereas sundecks give you the opportunity to admire spectacular sunrises, sunsets and overall natural beauty of the Galapagos. To help you discover the archipelago's underwater world, snorkelling gear, underwater camera and wetsuit are provided for your use.

Natural Paradise also offers a [8 day cruise](#) and [8 day cruise](#) and [5 day cruise](#)

### ITINERARY

#### TRIP CODE

ECTSNP4

#### DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

#### DURATION

4 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Ecuador



## ECUADOR - NATURAL PARADISE

### DAY 1: Santa Cruz Island

Morning flight from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra, Galapagos Islands. You will arrive at Baltra Island in the morning. After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by a Natural Paradise staff member and transferred to the yacht. You will be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing. In the afternoon you will head to the highlands. Accessible by bus from Puerto Ayora, the highlands of Santa Cruz are a deep green which contrast beautifully with the dry, lower part of the islands. The predominant vegetation in the highlands are Scalesia trees which create a lush green forest. The lava tunnels, over half a mile long, are underground and walking through them is a unique, surreal experience. Then, you will visit Fausto Llerena Breeding Center in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, where giant tortoises are bred in captivity; this is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long when adults. Subspecies of the giant tortoises interact with one another, and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years-old and are strong enough to survive on their own.



### DAY 2: Genovesa Island

In the morning, you will visit El Barranco which is also known as Prince Phillip's Steps. It is a steep, rocky path that leads up a high cliff rock face. A marvelous view can be appreciated from here. This site is also home to Palo Santo vegetation as well as red-footed boobies, short-eared owls, Galápagos storm petrels, and Galapagos doves. In the afternoon, you will visit the white-sand coral beach of Darwin Bay which includes a half mile trail (0,75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls, which can easily be spotted here. Further down the path we'll find tidal pools where sea lions swim playfully. At the end is a spectacular view of a Cliff.



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### DAY 3: Santiago Island

The morning visit is to Espumilla Beach where marine iguanas lounge and the Sally Lightfoot crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey right before your eyes. Snorkeling is highly recommended as you could come face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark and a variety of other species of tropical fish. In the afternoon, you will go to Egas Port, also known as James Bay, on Santiago Island which is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to the coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos furseals bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkeling site.



### DAY 4: Santa Cruz Island

Morning's visit is to Bachas Beach, which is located on the north shore of Santa Cruz which is a beach for swimming. One of the few remnants of the U.S. World War II presence in the Galapagos, a floating pier, can be seen here. You may see flamingos, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black-necked stilts, and whimbrels. Sea turtles also nest on the beach. After this final visit, you will be transferred to the Baltra airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

#### Accommodation

Standard

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<b>Inclusions</b>	All meals and excursions Transfers in the islands Bilingual National Park Guide Use of snorkelling 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
	<b>Exclusions</b> 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
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	2 (light adventure)
<b>Single Surcharge</b>	Available upon request
<b>Notes</b>	Contact us for more details
<b>Price Dependent upon</b>	Season and 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 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.

## ECUADOR - NATURAL PARADISE

Royal Galapagos supports a number of sustainability initiatives within the Galapagos. Royal and its associated vessels like the Natural paradise support the Galapagos Conservation Trust, which of sustainability and conservation within the Galapagos. While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining 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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