

## ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS 8 DAY CRUISE B | NATURAL PARADISE



### INTRODUCTION

Spend 8 days cruising amongst the spectacular Galapagos Islands to discover the beauty and magic of the archipelago and its vast array of captivating wildlife. Explore the islands of Santa Cruz, Isabela, Fernandina, Chinese Hat, Mosquera, Floreana, Espanola and San Cristobal. Shore landings allow you to walk along trails that lead you across rugged lava fields and coral beaches, through forests of mangroves and prickly pear. Vicente Roca Point offers a spectacular sea life including sea horses, sunfish and marine turtles. Mosquera is home to a large population of sea lions, Floreana to lagoons filled with flamingos and Espanola is the main breeding site for the waved albatross. This is an incredible voyage that will leave you in awe.

#### 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' 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 [4-day cruise](#).

#### TRIP CODE

ECTSNP8B-STD

#### DEPARTURE

Selected Tuesdays

#### DURATION

8 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands



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## ITINERARY

### 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 visit Eden Islet on Santa Cruz. Off the western coast of Santa Cruz Island, Eden Islet offers visitors a great chance to see a variety of Galapagos wildlife from the dinghy ride both on shore and under the wáter.



### DAY 2: Isabela & Fernandina Islands

The morning visit is to Vicente Roca Point. Comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (or sun fish). In the afternoon, crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at Espinosa Point, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, you will reach the island’s highlight: the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area also provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk.



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## DAY 3: Isabela Island

In the morning, you will visit Urbina Bay which is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954 causing the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place for snorkeling. In the afternoon you will visit Moreno Point located southwest of Elizabeth Bay. Here a dry landing onto what was once owing lava is possible. The lava has left craters in its wake which formed cristal tide pools. By looking into the pools, you can peer into another world as the marine life drifts by your window. In the brackish pools of this area, you may see pink flamingos, white-cheeked pintails, and common gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools, you may see white-tip reef sharks and some sea turtles.



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## DAY 4: Isabela Island

The morning will consist of a visit to the Sierra Negra Volcano which is the largest basaltic caldera in the Galapagos with a diameter of 6.2 miles (10 km). The site offers impressive views and the opportunity to observe up to seven species of finches and a rich display of vegetation. The north side of the caldera provides evidence of its most recent volcanic activity in 2005. In the afternoon you will visit The Wall of Tears (El Muro de las Lágrimas) which is 65 feet (25 meters) high and an important piece of the island history. A penal colony existed on Isabela from 1945-1959, and the prisoners were forced to build the wall, stone by stone, while in isolation from the rest of the world, and thousands died during the construction. Many claim to feel the heavy energy of this historical site, and locals claim to hear cries in the wind. Afterwards you will head to the Wetlands of Isabela Island which are located just outside of Puerto Villamil. The Wetlands consist of lagoons, swamps, and mangroves and are home to a variety of unique bird species such as common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintails, and gallinules. The Wetlands can be visited on foot via a path through the swamps. Next you will visit Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center of Isabela. It is located about one mile (1.5 km) from Puerto Villamil. In this breeding center, populations from South Isabela Sierra Negra Volcano, Cerro Azul, Cazuela, Cinco Cerros, Roca Union, San Pedro, Tables and Cerro Paloma have been bred in captivity. In total there are 330 juvenile and adult tortoises.

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### DAY 5: Chinese Hat & Mosquera Islet

In the morning, you will visit Chinese Hat islet. This small islet is located near the southeast coast of Santiago Island. Its name comes from the distinct shape of the islet's summit. This small islet is a great location to view many geological formations such as lava tubes and lava flows. Some of the lava flows were formed underwater and subsequently raised above sea level. The presence of coral heads on the lava flow indicates this phenomenon. In the afternoon you will visit Mosquera Islet. It is located between the islands of Baltra and North Seymour, this reef of rocks and coral (the result of an uprising) is only 160 meters across at its narrowest width. This island has one of the largest populations of sea lions and is home to many shorebirds. There have been occasional reports at this site of orcas feeding on sea lions.



### DAY 6: Floreana Island

In the morning, you will visit the famous Post Office Bay. You will land on a beach and head to a spot where 18th century whalers placed a wooden barrel used as an unofficial mail box. The custom continues to this day with Galapagos visitors. So, don't forget your postcards, and don't be surprised if the post card arrives to its destination before you even get home! Cormorant Point hosts a large flamingo lagoon where other birds such as common stilts and whitecheeked pintails can also be seen. The beaches on this island are distinct: The Green Beach is named so due to its green color, which comes from a high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand, and the Four Sand Beach is composed of white coral. Afterwards, you will visit Champion Islet, named after the whaler Andrew Champion, which is a small island located just offshore Floreana Island in the southern part of the Archipelago, considered as one of the most beautiful places on Galapagos for all snorkeling and diving fans and an excellent opportunity for dolphin watching.



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### DAY 7: Española Island

In the morning, you will visit Suarez Point. On the trail you will have the chance to spot blue-footed boobies, albatrosses, and Nazca boobies. This island is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses. You will also visit a beautiful site on the ocean front where there is a cliff that the large albatrosses use as a launching pad! You will have the chance to see the famous blowhole that spurts sea water into the air. The landscape is great for photography. The afternoon excursion takes you to the spectacular Gardner Bay. After landing, you can walk across a lovely white-sand beach amongst a busy sea lion colony or dive into the water to swim with sea lion pups. You may also see curious mockingbirds on the beach.



### DAY 8: San Cristobal Island

In the morning you will take an excursion to Lobos Island which means "Sea Lion Island." This appropriately named island is ripe with noisy, playful, jolly sea lions who will welcome you to their home with open, well, fins. This island also offers great snorkeling opportunities as well as the chance to see blue-footed and Nazca boobies. After this final visit, you will be transferred to the San Cristobal airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

#### Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

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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, contact us for more details.
<b>Notes</b>	Entrance park fees are subject to change without prior notice.
<b>Price Dependent upon</b>	Departure date, season & 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

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much back as possible to the communities we work in.

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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