

ECUADOR - MC PETREL



INTRODUCTION

Imagine yourself walking amongst prehistoric-looking marine iguanas, albatross nesting colonies, lumbering giant tortoises, baby sea turtles hatching or flamingos. Swim and snorkel with playful sea lions, speedy penguins, sea turtles and a myriad of spectacularly colourful fish. Get on board the MC Petrel and experience Galapagos Islands as its best!

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive Galapagos islands

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be greeted by a Petrel representative who will guide you through immigration and baggage claim. Once you are settled, you will be transferred to the yacht where you will be shown to your cabin. Take some time to get settled before the welcome briefing and lunch. Santa Cruz Island is a popular tourist destination in the Galapagos with a population of 12,000 people. It boasts the longest paved road in the archipelago and has a variety of infrastructure and amenities to offer visitors. Conservation efforts are a top priority on the island, with a focus on eliminating non-native plants and animals that threaten the delicate endemic ecosystem. Additionally, the island's past volcanic activity is evident in its towering peaks and scarred landscape, making it a unique destination for those interested in geology and natural history.



TRIP CODE

ECTSP5D

DEPARTURE

Enquire for exact departure dates

DURATION

5 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands



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DAY 2: Sullivan bay

Santiago Island is one of the most visited islands in the Galapagos. It was originally named after England's King James the second and was a good source of salt, water and food for whalers and buccaneers passing by. The island was also a home to land iguanas, but they are now extinct. Bartolome and Sullivan Bay are satellite islands of Santiago. Bartolome is home to the famous Pinnacle Rock and is known for its beautiful volcanic landscapes. Pinnacle Rock is a volcano cone formed by magma and is a popular spot for photography and swimming. The island is also home to a small population of green sea turtles and Galapagos penguins. Sullivan Bay is a great place to see the Galapagos fur seals and enjoy the unique volcanic landscapes.



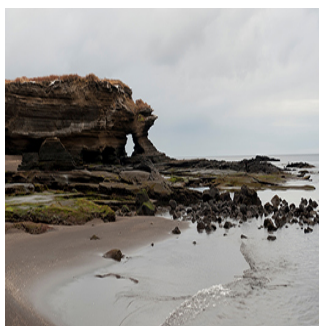
DAY 3: Genovesa island

Genovesa Island, also known as "Bird Island," boasts a wide variety of avian species and is home to the only marine iguana on the island. One of the most striking features of the island is the large population of red-footed boobies that can be observed in large numbers. Darwin Bay, formed by the eruption of a shield volcano, is a prime location to spot these birds. Visitors can also hike up to Prince Phillip's Steps, also known as El Barranco, for a breathtaking view and the chance to spot nesting red-footed boobies in the Palo Santo forest.



DAY 4: Santiago island

Egas Port, also known as James Bay, offers a variety of wildlife experiences. Visitors can spot quick-footed lava lizards, Galapagos fur seals in the grottos and tide pools, and enjoy excellent snorkeling. Buccaneer Cove, once a refuge for British pirates, offers breathtaking underwater formations and a diverse array of fish. Espumilla Beach is a must-see for its marine iguanas and the fascinating dance of predator and prey between Sally-Lightfoot crabs and herons. Snorkeling here is highly recommended with the chance to encounter octopuses, moray eels, sharks, and a variety of tropical fish.



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DAY 5: Depart Santa Cruz island

Explore the secluded mangrove maze of Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz Island, where the use of motors is prohibited to preserve the diverse wildlife. Observe the potential sightings of sharks, sea turtles, herons and Golden Rays gliding through the water, but note that swimming and snorkeling are not allowed in the area. As your Galapagos cruise draws to a close, we hope you have enjoyed your time with us and that you will take away lasting memories of this unique and special place. Our staff will assist you with your transfer to Baltra Airport for your flight back to mainland Ecuador.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<p>Shipboard accommodation All meals whilst on board including snacks All shore excursions Guiding and lectures by Galapagos Naturalist Guide Use of snorkelling gear and wetsuits Use of Kayaks Champagne reception Welcome courtesy</p> <p>Exclusions Return airfares from mainland Ecuador Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (US\$100 per person subject to change) Galapagos Transit Control Card (US\$20 per person subject to change) Visa fees (if applicable) Gratuities for guide/crew Personal expenses such as laundry, on board communication (telephone calls, faxes, email) Optional activities whilst on board</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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.
- 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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