

## ECUADOR - MC PETREL



### INTRODUCTION

#### BOOK AND SAVE: Up to 20%\* off select departures

Dotting the Pacific 960km off the Ecuador coast, this archipelago of 19 volcanic islands is noted for its fearless wildlife, a natural response to the lack of large predators. While human involvement is an increasing threat, the blue-footed booby still performs its mating dance right under your nose and sea lions do figure eights as you snorkel past. Explore the Galapagos Islands as its best on board the MC Petrel!

### ITINERARY

#### TRIP CODE

ECTSP6D

#### DEPARTURE

Enquire for exact departure dates

#### DURATION

6 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands



## ECUADOR - MC PETREL

### DAY 1: Arrive Galapagos Islands

Upon arrival at Baltra airport, our staff will greet you and take you directly to the boat. After a brief orientation by the guide, you will prepare to visit Los Gemelos (The Twin Craters). Wear comfortable clothes and sturdy shoes for the hike, and bring along cameras or walking sticks if desired. Santa Cruz is a popular tourist destination with a population of 12,000 and the longest paved road in the archipelago. Conservation efforts focus on removing invasive plants and animals that harm native and endemic species. The island has a volcanic past, but no current activity. The Twin Craters, also known as "Los Gemelos," are two collapsed magma chambers from a previous volcano, visible on a short hike through a Scalesia forest. After visiting the craters, you will be transferred to the yacht, and then shown to your cabin for a welcome briefing.



### DAY 2: South Plaza & Santa Fe

South Plaza, though small, boasts an abundance of diverse flora and fauna. The island is home to a large population of Sesuvium plants, such as the prickly pear cactus, which provide a vital food source for the land iguana. Thanks to the successful eradication of mice from the island, the population of land iguanas has been able to thrive. Santa Fe Island is home to the unique Santa Fe land iguana and is the only place to find Opuntia cactus. Giant tortoises were once native to the island, but were driven to extinction by pirates and buccaneers hunting them for food. The island is also known as Barrington Island, named after British Admiral Samuel Barrington. Visitors can spot large numbers of sea lions on the landing beach and may also see Galapagos hawks.



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## DAY 3: San Cristobal island

San Cristobal Island, the fifth-largest in the Galapagos and located farthest East, was where Darwin first landed in 1835 and where the first permanent settlements were established. Today, the capital of the Galapagos province, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, is located on the island and houses various government offices, the Ecuadorian Navy, and an airport with daily flights to the mainland of Ecuador. Conservation efforts on the island focus on controlling invasive species such as blackberry, guayaba and insects like the blackfly. Lobos Island, a tranquil islet located an hour away from San Cristobal, is known for its seasonal nesting blue-footed boobies and frigate birds. The island is also home to an abundance of sea lions and marine iguanas and offers beautiful views, including the famous Kicker Rock.



## DAY 4: Gardner bay & Suarez point

Espanola Island is the southernmost and oldest in the Galapagos, home to an abundance of unique endemic species. Visitors can explore the island's distinct landscapes and photograph its unique bird species. Gardner Bay is a must-see destination on the island, known for its white sandy beach, friendly sea lions, and sea turtle nesting. Visitors can also spot various types of finches, including the Espanola Mockingbird. At Suarez Point, visitors can see Waved Albatross, marine iguanas, and other unique bird species.



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### DAY 5: Floreana Island

Floreana Island is known for its rich human history. The first Galapagos resident was an Irishman who lived on the island from 1807 to 1809. The island also houses the first post office within the Galapagos, created by whalers in the 1700s. The island was later colonized by Ecuadorians, but remains isolated to this day. The island is also surrounded by mystery, with various disappearances occurring in the 1930s due to tension between settlers. Today, the small population of Floreana lives off the land, with homegrown farms and water from rain-filled ponds during the rainy season. Cormorant Point is a visitor site that offers a chance to see flamingos wading through brackish lagoons and two beaches, one green from olivine crystals and the other a powdery white from pulverized coral. Devil's Crown offers great snorkeling opportunities, with a variety of colorful fish, sharks, rays, sea turtles, and sea lions among the coral reefs. Post Office Bay is a human-influenced site, where visitors can leave addressed messages on postcards in a barrel to be sent by future visitors. Baroness Lookout Point offers a beautiful landscape and a historic view, named after the Austrian Baroness who was the subject of many mysterious disappearances on the island.



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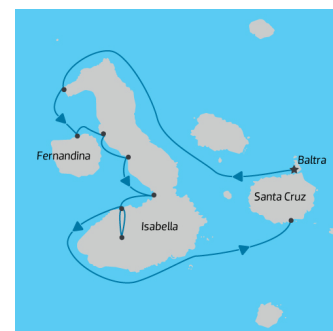
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### DAY 6: Charles Darwin station& Departure

The Charles Darwin Research Station is a hub of scientific activity in the Galapagos, conducting a wide range of research projects and providing support to other researchers and governmental agencies, including the Galapagos National Park. The Station's findings are regularly published in online, print, and scientific journals. Additionally, the Station plays a key role in educating the local community, through partnerships with public schools in the Galapagos. The Station is also home to a longstanding Giant Tortoise restoration program, which includes the care and breeding of eggs, hatchlings, and adult tortoises. As your Galapagos Cruise comes to a close, we hope you've had a fantastic experience. We will now transfer you to Baltra Airport for your flight back to mainland Ecuador.



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### INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

<b>Accommodation</b>	Standard
<b>Inclusions</b>	<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><b>Exclusions</b>            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>
<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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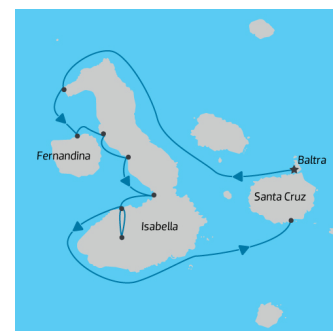
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### SUSTAINABILITY

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

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carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure’s internal processes are also structures 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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