

## 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.

Enjoy this 8 day cruise on board the Petrel and experience Galapagos islands as it best!

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1: Arrive Galapagos islands

Upon your arrival at the destination, a Petrel representative will be on hand to assist you as soon as you pass through immigration and baggage claim. Once you are ready, you will be escorted to the yacht, where you will be given a tour of your cabin. You will have some time to get settled in before the welcome briefing and lunch. North Seymour Island, a volcanic island in the Galapagos archipelago, is a natural wonder formed by uplifted submarine lava. The island is home to a vast colony of land iguanas, estimated at around 2,500, and boasts abundant populations of sea lions, blue-footed boobies, common noddies and frigatebirds. As you explore the island's coast, you will have the opportunity to spot land and marine iguanas and discover the largest colony of magnificent frigate birds in the archipelago.



#### TRIP CODE

ECTSP8D

#### DEPARTURE

Enquire for exact departure dates

#### DURATION

8 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands



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## DAY 2: Vicente Roca Point

Isabela, the largest of the Galapagos Islands at 120 km long, has a unique sea-horse shape and is one of the few islands with a permanent human settlement. It is home to around 2,200 people living on its southern part. Formed by six shield volcanoes that merged together, it has a violent volcanic history and remains the most active island in the archipelago, with the last eruption from Wolf Volcano in 2015. Isabela is also home to unique wildlife, including the largest population of wild tortoises, pink iguana, and various other species near each volcano. Vicente rock point offers visitors panoramic views of the island's unique geological formations and is a great spot for birdwatching, including species such as blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, gulls, storm petrels, and brown noddy terns. Water activities on the island are excellent, with opportunities for dinghy rides and snorkeling. A highlight is the feeding frenzy at the westernmost point of the island, where the Cromwell Current brings cold water and nutrients, attracting dolphins, sea lions, marine diving birds, whales, and even fur seals.



## DAY 3: Isabela Island

Tagus Cove is located on the upper west part of the island and was named after an English war ship that used to pass by in the 1800s. It was a popular spot for pirates and sailors who even left their names inscribed on volcanic rock. The area features various volcanic activity, including large volcanic rocks and petrified rain. On a hike, you can reach Darwin Lake, a tuff cone. South of Tagus Cove is Urbina Bay, an interesting site due to uplifts caused by volcanic and tectonic activity. The rising island brought coral and reefs to the surface, now visible but deteriorating due to exposure. The area offers chances to see giant tortoises, land iguanas, and flightless cormorants near the coast.



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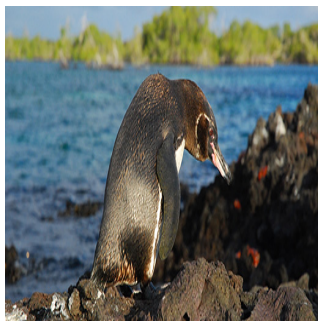


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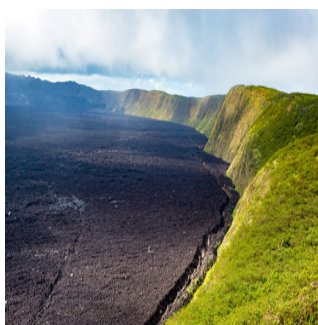
### DAY 4: Elizabeth bay

Elizabeth Bay is a visitor site on the southern part of Isabela Island, featuring a series of islets, a lagoon, and mangroves. The mangroves provide a great place to observe many birds and sea turtles can be seen resting and feeding in the lagoon. Moreno Point, located on the southwestern point of Isabela Island, offers striking black geological features and is home to endemic species found only in the barren lava flows. Visitors can hike, take a panga ride to see seabirds and geological features, and snorkel to view the vibrant underwater life.



### DAY 5: Sierra negra volcano & Tortoise breeding center

Located near the southern end of Isabela Island, Volcano Sierra Negro is one of the oldest volcanoes on the island. A hike through the area will reveal a variety of vegetation and geological zones formed by past eruptions. Depending on the season and weather conditions, it may even be possible to explore inside one of the calderas and discover petrified lava. The Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center, plays a crucial role in preserving the future of the Galapagos by breeding two species of giant tortoise to increase their population. Visitors to the center can also explore the beautiful gardens that showcase a diverse range of native plants.



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### DAY 6: Santa Cruz Island

Santa Cruz is home to a permanent population of 12,000 inhabitants and boasts the longest paved road in the archipelago. It is a popular tourist destination due to its infrastructure and amenities. The island is dedicated to conservation efforts, including the removal of invasive plants and animals to protect the delicate endemic ecosystem. Although there are no active volcanoes on Santa Cruz, the towering peaks and scars on the landscape serve as a reminder of its volcanic past. The Charles Darwin Research Station conducts various research projects and provides support to researchers, government institutions, and agencies, particularly the Galapagos National Park. The results of this research are shared through online publications, magazines, and scientific journals. The research center also works closely with the Galapagos public school system to educate the community about conservation efforts.



### DAY 7: South Plaza & Santa Fe island

South Plaza, though small, boasts an abundance of diverse flora and fauna. It is home to a large population of Sesuvium plants, such as the prickly pear cactus, which serve as an important source of food for land iguanas. The eradication of mice from the island has also contributed to the healthy growth of the land iguana population. 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 called 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.



### DAY 8: Depart San Cristobal island

Lobos Island, located an hour away from San Cristobal, is a tranquil islet known for its seasonal nesting blue-footed boobies and frigate birds. Sea lions and marine iguanas are also abundant on the island. It offers beautiful views, including the famous Kicker Rock in the distance. As your cruise comes to an end, we hope you enjoyed your journey in the Galapagos. We will now transfer you to your departure from San Cristobal Airport and wish you safe travels.



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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><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>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

## 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

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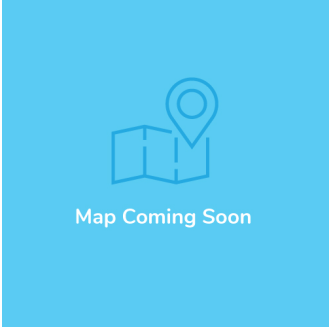
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local businesses all over South America.

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 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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