

SOUTH AMERICA - SANTA CRUZ II



INTRODUCTION

On this journey, we invite you to discover the glorious white beach of Las Bachas, Santiago Island (Buccaneer Cove and Puerto Egas), R  ibida, Bartolom  , and the sunken crater of Genovesa. We finish in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the capital of the Gal  pagos Province.

The Santa Cruz II Experience

Santa Cruz II is explicitly designed to run in remote areas, enabling you to discover the beautiful and isolated Galapagos Islands. Due to its modern engine technology, the consumption of fuel is reduced, and onboard water desalination and treatment plants protect the waters around the Galapagos. This consequently protect the delicate and unique ecosystem that makes the destination so worthwhile.

Sleek and modern, The Santa Cruz II is ready to send you on an epic exploration of the Galapagos Islands in contemporary style. Perfect for groups of any size, it's numerous and large social spaces will give you the ability to enjoy peaceful moments: by yourself or in groups, as you wish. Galapagos land and aquatic activities abound in the form of hiking, kayaking, paddle boarding, snorkelling, coastal explorations, and even a glass-bottom boat (for those looking to witness the underwater world of the Galapagos Islands without getting wet)! Exceptional service and exquisite gastronomy await to complement the fascinating journey you're destined to experience during your Galapagos vacation aboard the Santa Cruz II, be it with family, friends, or on your own!

Cabins on the Santa Cruz II Galapagos Cruise have been designed to offer its guests the perfect space to relax, rest, and unwind after an unforgettable day of exploration. Modern and comfortable layouts will make your time onboard an incredibly enjoyable experience.

Santa Cruz II also offers a [7 day cruise](#) and [5 day cruise](#).

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DEPARTURE

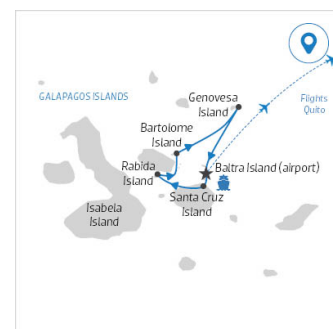
Mondays

DURATION

5 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands - Ecuador



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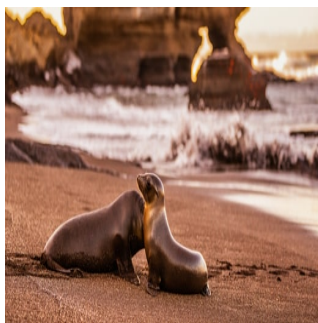
DAY 1: Arrive Galapagos - Santa Cruz island

Today, you will travel by air to the Galapagos Islands and land at Baltra in the morning. From there, you will make your way to the dock and embark on the Santa Cruz vessel. You will be warmly welcomed and given an introductory briefing, boat drill, and lunch. Our first destination will be Las Bachas, a stunning visitor site situated on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island. This location boasts a picturesque white beach and a couple of brackish lagoons, which serve as feeding grounds for a variety of wading birds, including stilts and flamingos. Visitors may also enjoy swimming at this beach. Afterward, we will be treated to a welcome cocktail, receive the expedition plan for the following day, and enjoy dinner.



DAY 2: Buccaneer Cove and Puerto Egas

Following breakfast, we will embark on an exploration of the stunning coastline along the impressive cliffs of Buccaneer Cove. During our journey, we will learn about the area's distant and recent history, while being treated to the sight of numerous marine birds, sea lions, and inter-tidal organisms. Visitors will have the opportunity to marvel at the fantastic natural formations such as the "Elephant Rock," "The Bishop," and an awe-inspiring natural cave. This site is perfect for both snorkeling and panga ride. Our next stop is Puerto Egas, where we will disembark at the beach and have the opportunity to swim or snorkel in the company of marine turtles amid the rocky shoreline. We will then proceed to our walk, where visitors can witness both land and marine birds amid a landscape of tuff-stone layers and lava flows. During low tide, marine iguanas graze upon the algae beds, and visitors can also observe a colony of fur-sea lions. Non-snorkelers can enjoy a longer walk.



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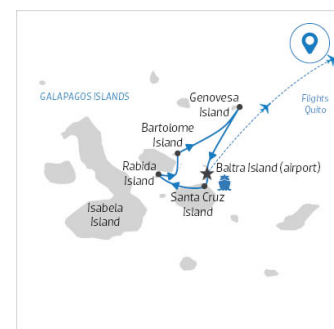
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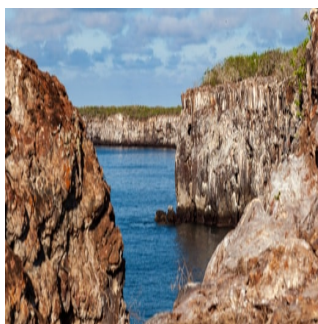
DAY 3: Rábida and Bartolome Island

On this day, visitors will have the option of either embarking on a fascinating panga ride along the shores or disembarking on Rábida Island's red-coloured beach, which is caused by the high concentration of iron in the volcanic material. During our walk, we will have the opportunity to get up close to a large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers, and several species of Darwin's finches. Additionally, a salt pond located near the beach is a prime location for observing migrating greater flamingos during certain times of the year. The beach offers excellent snorkeling opportunities for both beginners and experienced snorkelers, thanks to the unique combination of underwater species and submarine landscapes. Non-snorkelers can choose between a glass bottom boat ride or a panga ride. During the navigation to our next island, we may even spot dolphins! Our day begins with a wet landing on the golden beach of the famous island dominated by the imposing Pinnacle Rock. Visitors can enjoy great snorkeling and swimming from the beach, as well as the option to ride the glass bottom boat. After returning to the ship, we will split into two groups. The first group will embark on a hike to the summit of the diminutive island, which offers fantastic views of the archipelago. This moderately steep climb is aided by a wooden staircase, resting platforms, and handrails, and the view from the top is well worth the effort. The second group will explore the rugged and volcanic shoreline via panga ride. The groups will then swap over.



DAY 4: Genovesa and Darwin Bay

We will start the day with a challenging but rewarding climb up some stairs (90 feet) to reach a flat rocky plateau. As we walk along, we will have the opportunity to observe large colonies of Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, great frigate birds, and storm petrels. For those who prefer not to disembark, a longer panga ride along the cliffs is available (depending on weather conditions). In the afternoon, we will arrive at a beautiful beach where we can enjoy swimming and/or snorkeling. After our aquatic activities, we will take an easy stroll to observe hundreds of birds, including mainly frigate birds, red-footed and Nazca boobies, gulls, herons, finches, and mockingbirds.



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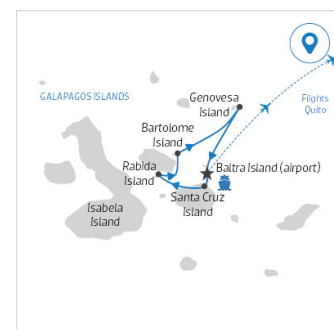
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DAY 5: Tortoise Reserve and Departure

Our final morning in the Galapagos begins on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island. After breakfast, your luggage will be taken to the airport while we visit the Tortoise Reserve. A dry landing at a passenger's wharf and a bus ride to the higher region of the island will provide us with the last highlight of the cruise: observing giant tortoises in their natural habitat. The windward slopes of the island are home to two species of giant tortoises. These lush highlands include dense forests of Galapagos daisies, orchids, and bromeliads, as well as several endemic land birds. After this visit, we will transfer directly to Baltra airport, saying our final farewell to the Galapagos.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	<p>All accommodation and meals on board Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide Transfers from airport Other meals where stated Snorkelling gear Exclusions Flights to/from embarkation and disembarkation cities Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel Insurance Beverages Personal Expenses Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD\$20 per person subject to change) Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (USD\$100 per person subject to change) Gratuities for crew/guides Any items not mentioned as included Wetsuits</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
Notes	All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.
Price Dependent upon	Departure date, season and availability.

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.

The Santa Cruz II follows a number of sustainability initiatives in line with general Galapagos National Park Policy. Fuel consumption is minimised, reusable water bottles are given to all passengers, waste water treatment and minimised consumption help reduce environmental impact when cruising the pristinine. 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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