

SOUTH AMERICA - SANTA CRUZ II



INTRODUCTION

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](#).

TRIP CODE

ECTSSC2W

DEPARTURE

Wednesdays

DURATION

5 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands - Ecuador

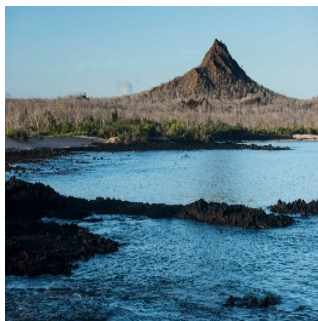


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SOUTH AMERICA - SANTA CRUZ II

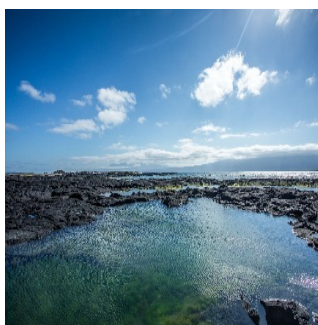
DAY 1: Arrive Galapagos and Dragon hill

Our day will commence with a flight to Baltra Island, followed by a transfer to the dock to board the M/V Santa Cruz II. Upon embarkation, we will receive a welcome briefing, engage in a boat drill, and enjoy a delightful lunch. Our first destination is Dragon Hill, located on the north shore of Santa Cruz. During our walk, we will pass by a brackish-water lagoon where we can spot various shorebirds, ducks, and flamingos. As we venture further inland, we will be treated to stunning views of the bay and the western islands of the archipelago, as well as the opportunity to observe Galapagos land iguanas.



DAY 2: Vicente rock and Espinoza point

Following breakfast, we will take a panga to explore the coastline while our naturalist guide provides an explanation of the fascinating geology of the area. This region is also a nesting site for the remarkable flightless cormorants. If weather conditions permit, we may have the opportunity to snorkel in the area near the cliffs, which is abundant in marine life and is seasonally visited by green sea turtles and oceanic sunfish (Mola mola). In the afternoon, we will dedicate our time to explore Fernandina, the youngest island in the archipelago. Being free of introduced mammals, this island boasts a unique environment with a very high density of marine iguanas, which coexist with sea lions, Sally light-foot crabs, hawks, penguins and the flightless cormorants.



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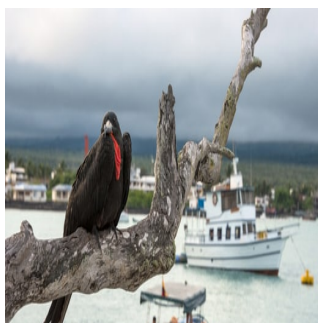
Galapagos Islands - Ecuador



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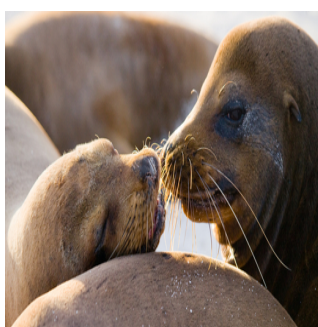
DAY 3: Charles Darwin Station and Highlands

In the morning, we will disembark with a dry landing and take a brief bus ride to visit the giant tortoise Breeding Centre at the Charles Darwin Research Station. This impressive facility is situated within a giant prickly-pear cactus forest, which is home to many land birds. The headquarters of scientific investigation, conservation and the National Park administration are also located here. After our visit, we will board our transport and head to the cooler highlands of Santa Cruz Island for lunch, which is an entirely different ecosystem. In the afternoon, there are several options available which can be discussed in advance with your Expedition Leader. These options include beach walks, kayaking, walks along the tortoise reserve, and more. At the end of the afternoon's activities, we will return to Puerto Ayora and embark on the Santa Cruz II.



DAY 4: Post Office Bay and Cormorant point

After enjoying breakfast, we can embark on a panga ride along the intricate network of channels on Floreana's north shore. From there, we proceed to Baroness Cove, which offers stunning views of the island. At Post Office Bay, we can visit the historic barrel that has served as a post office for over two centuries, where guests leave postcards for other vessels to hand-deliver to their destinations. This is followed by a snorkelling excursion along the beach, after which we return to the ship for lunch. In the afternoon, we will take the pangas and a glass-bottom boat to explore the spectacular marine life around Champion Islet - an extinct shield volcano known to be one of the best snorkelling spots in the archipelago. From there, we will head to Punta Cormorant. We'll make a wet landing on the olivine-crystal beach, followed by an easy walk to a brackish-water lagoon, where various bird species, including greater flamingos, pintail ducks, common stilts, herons, sandpipers, and others gather. We will continue our walk to a white-sand beach, where sea turtles may emerge from the sea at night to nest.



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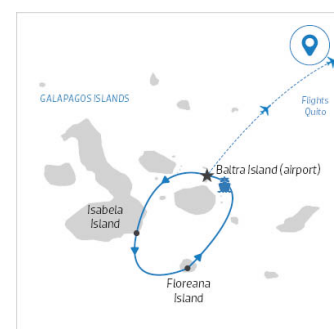
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DAY 5: Depart Galapagos

Upon arrival at Baltra Island, we will disembark from the M/V Santa Cruz II and proceed to transfer to the airport for our return flight to the mainland. From there, you may continue your onward journeys.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin
Inclusions	Private airport transfers Accommodation with full board Sightseeing with local English-speaking guide Snorkelling gear Exclusions Flights to/from embarkation & disembarkation cities Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD\$20 per person subject to change) Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (USD\$100 per person subject to change) Beverages Gratuities for tour guides/crew Any items not mentioned as included Wetsuits
Difficulty Rating	1 (easy)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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

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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.

Santa Cruz contributes to many sustainability initiatives in line with Galapagos National Park Policy. Water is desalinated on the vessel, each passenger is given a reusable water bottle, and water and fuel use are minimised to lower negative environmental impacts. While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain 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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