

SOUTH AMERICA - SANTA CRUZ EXPRESS



INTRODUCTION

The Galápagos Islands are probably the most famous wildlife-watching destination in the world. And no wonder – it's almost impossible to exaggerate the sheer spectacle of the place that provided inspiration for Charles Darwin's ground-breaking theory of natural selection.

This remote archipelago is a land of stark lava formations, cactus forests, lush green highlands, turquoise bays and quintessential tropical beaches. But, best of all, it is overflowing with wildlife at every turn. Within minutes – sometimes seconds – of landing on this dot in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, you can be face-to-face with more strangely fearless and curious animals than anywhere else on Earth...

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Monday: Transfer In - Highlands - Charles Darwin

Arriving to Baltra we will take a shuttle through Santa Cruz Island where we will reach the highlands of the Islands with its green vegetation where we will stop to visit a Ranch, here we will be able to see Giant Turtles in their natural habitat. Lunch at the ranch. Then we will head to the Charles Darwin Station. The center is a reservoir of information on habitats and local conservation, as well as other fascinating relevant statistics. The most striking attraction of this station is certainly the Tortoise Breeding Center, where it is possible to view tortoises of varied sizes and shapes. Travelers here can freely walk and get their photos clicked with the tortoises. Among other inhabitants at the center, you can see the land and marine iguanas and different species of birds. Accommodation in selected hotel.



TRIP CODE

ECTSSCRE

DEPARTURE

Weekly

DURATION

4 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands,
Ecuador



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DAY 2: Tuesday: Navigable Excursion to Seymour Island

Enjoy a navigable tour to North Seymour, a 1.9 km² island located northbound from Baltra. The main fauna species of this island are Land Iguanas, the Magnificent Frigate bird with their incredible scarlet regular pouch, blue-footed boobies and their particular courtship dance and sea lions surfing across the waves. Lunch on board. After lunch we will do snorkeling in Bachas where you will be able to discover tones of different fish species and also swim with sea lions. Return to your hotel.



DAY 3: Wednesday: Navigable Excursion to Plazas Island

South Plazas is situated on the east cost of Santa Cruz Island, it's formed from uplifted marine lava and is one of the smallest island on the archipelago. This Island despite its size has a lot of concentration of wildlife. We will disembark in a small dock frequently occupied by sea lions. After this we will continue through a small forest of prickly pear cacti with their yellow flowers where could be lots of land iguanas waiting for their fruits and flowers fall of to the ground, to get finally up to the cliff, where you can often see a shoal of the endemic yellow-tailed mullet. The cliff is an excellent to view swallow-tailed gulls, tropic bird, frigate birds, and pelicans, at the eastern end of the island bull sea lions congregate there to rest after losing their territory and recover energy and try to be again the beach master. Accommodation in selected hotel.



DAY 4: Thursday: Transfer Out

Transfer to the airport, our English assistant will be waiting you to take you to the airport. Arrival to the airport, check-in assistance and flight back.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

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Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transfer Airport – Hotel – Airport Accommodation in Santa Cruz in the selected hotel with breakfast. Meals noted (as per the program – depending at the meal it can be at the hotel, onboard or at local restaurant) Excursions mentioned in the itinerary Bilingual Naturalist Guide in all Excursions <p>NOT INCLUDED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airfare to/from Galapagos Entrance fee to the Galapagos National Park (US\$ 100 per person) Galapagos Migration Card (US\$ 20 per person) Optional excursions as supplement Drinks and not mentioned meals Tips (it is not mandatory) Extra expenses
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	FROM US\$945 - Subject to season and availability, contact us for more details.
Notes	Guaranteed departures every week Contact us for more details.
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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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 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

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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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