

## ECUADOR - AIDA MARIA BUDGET 4 DAY CRUISE



### INTRODUCTION

The Aida Maria offers a great value economy cruise of the Galapagos for those on a tight budget. Each of the eight double cabins has a private bath and hot shower as well as air conditioning. The ship features a large sundeck with plenty of social areas.

Please note that the below itinerary is a guide and that itineraries vary depending on departure date. Your sales consultant will provide you with more details on the different itinerary options available and applicable departure dates.

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1: Thursday, Embark & Isla Santa Cruz

Upon arrival at Isla Baltra, meet your guide at the arrivals area at the airport to transfer to the port and embark upon the Aida Maria Yacht. Set sail and the first landing will be at Isla Santa Cruz. Spend some time in the town of Puerto Ayora and continue to the highlands, a fertile zone full of vegetation and with it comes the birdlife including Darwin's finches, yellow warblers and vermilion flycatchers. You can gain excellent views from the peak of the highlands.



#### TRIP CODE

GATSAM4

#### DEPARTURE

Enquire for exact departure dates

#### DURATION

4 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands,  
Ecuador



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### DAY 2: Friday, Isla Floreana

Make various stops on Isla Floreana, starting off at Punta Cormorant for a flamingo inhabited lagoon before Playa Carolina for a sea turtle nesting area. Embark back upon the yacht to arrive at La Corona del Diablo, Devil's Crown, an enclosed area for some of the best snorkelling in the Galapagos, observing white tipped sharks, purple sea stars, sea urchins and many a tropical fish. Continue to Post Office Bay, where ancient whalers placed a wooden barrel for use as a manual post office, a system that still functions to this day.



### DAY 3: Saturday, Isla Española

Today visits the southern island of Española, a fascinating island full of wildlife. Approach the island by dinghy, where you will see sea lions on the shore, together with blue footed boobies and marine iguanas. On dry land, take a path around the island passing hundreds of booby nesting sites, and you may see the frigate bird, red billed tropicbird, swallow tailed gull and season-dependent, the giant waved albatross. Almost the entire global population of albatross nest on Española. On the path, reach El Soplador, a giant blowhole that fires water over 20m in the air. Following lunch on board the yacht, visit Garner Bay, a great place for sunbathing, swimming and snorkelling. Lion fish, flycatchers, and Galapagos hawks frequent the bay.



### DAY 4: Sunday, Isla San Cristóbal & Disembark

On the final day of the cruise, make stops on Isla San Cristóbal in the morning before departure in the afternoon. Navigate around León Dormido, or Kicker Rock, a tuff volcanic cone that has been eroded to form the shape of a sleeping lion and is home to blue footed boobies and frigate birds. Continue to Isla Lobos to see the colony of sea lions. Disembark at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno to transfer to the airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

#### Accommodation

Cabin

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<b>Inclusions</b>	<p>Shipboard accommodation          All meals whilst on board          English-speaking naturalist guide          All shore excursions as mentioned in itinerary          Drinking water, coffee and tea</p> <p><b>Exclusions</b>          Return airfares from mainland Ecuador          Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (US100 per person subject to change)          Galapagos Transit Control Card (US20 per person subject to change)          Visa fees (if applicable)          Travel insurance          Beverages (other than coffee and tea)          Gratuities for the crew          Optional activities not mentioned in the itinerary</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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## 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 also internal programmes to help staff minimise their carbon footprint such as our staff

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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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