



INTRODUCTION

Discover the unique and outstanding flora and fauna in one of the most stunning places on Earth, the Galapagos Islands. With this journey you will step beyond the famous Charles Darwin's footsteps and discover some of the most beautiful beaches, snorkel in crystal blue waters and spot lots of tropical wildlife on land and in the beautiful oceans. You will visit the Fausto Llerena Center that currently houses 925 youth and 70 adult turtles, this centre has been the primary centre for the Galapagos Tortoise Breeding Project and you will get to learn all about these fascinating creatures first hand.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Saturday, Embark & Lobos Island

In the morning fly 90 minutes to San Cristóbal Island in the Galapagos, you will then board M/Y Grace where you will have lunch and a quick briefing. Lobos Island waits for you, it lives up to its name of 'Sea Lion Island' with its noisy population of frolicking and barking beasts. From Lobos you head to Kicker Rock, a spectacular rock formation that rises 152 meters (500 feet) out of the Pacific and takes the form of a sleeping lion. After this visit you will have time to shower and get ready for your welcome cocktail and formal briefing before dinner.

TRIP CODE

GATSBD8

DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays.

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands,
Ecuador



DAY 2: Sunday, Española Island

Today you will visit Punta Suarez and Gardener Bay on Española Island. The island, otherwise known as Hood Island is the southernmost island of the archipelago and is one of the most popular due to the breathtaking variation and number of fauna that inhabit the island. In the morning visit Punta Suarez where you will witness the largest variety of marine iguanas in the Galapagos, masked boobies and blue footed boobies nesting along the cliff's edge, as well as the famous waved albatross. In the afternoon visit Gardner Bay, a magnificent long white sandy beach where colonies of sea lions laze in the sun, sea turtles swim offshore, and inquisitive mockingbirds boldly investigate new arrivals.



DAY 3: Monday, Floreana Island

On Floreana Island at Post Office Bay, a late morning hike will bring you to the Asylum of Peace, the site of an artesian spring, one of the few year-round sources of fresh water in the Galapagos. In the afternoon you will visit Cormorant Point which offers two highly contrasting beaches; a green-olivine beach and an iron-red beach. Between the two beaches is a salt lagoon frequented by flamingos, pintails, stilts and other wading birds. In the late afternoon head to the tiny islet known as Champion, considered one of the top snorkelling sites in the Galapagos which offers prime underwater sea lion interactions.



DAY 4: Tuesday, Dragon Hill on Santa Cruz Island

After a dry landing at Dragon Hill on Santa Cruz Island, head up the beach to a trail that takes you to a hyper saline lagoon. This is a seasonal haunt for pink flamingos. Keep your eyes open for the famous Darwin's Finches and Land Iguanas in the bushes. There are black reefs and flowing lava on Dragon Hill where you will enjoy some excellent snorkelling. In the afternoon you can visit the Fausto Llerena Center which is the primary centre for the Galapagos Tortoise Breeding Project.



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DAY 5: Wednesday, Las Bachas & Chinese Hat

In the morning visit Las Bachas, a sandy white-coral beach that is a major egg-laying site for sea turtles. Ashore, marine iguanas mingle with flamingos and other wading birds in another of the many super saline lagoons found in the Galapagos. In the afternoon head north to Chinese Hat Islet, named for the resemblance to its shape of a traditional Chinese Coolie's hat. Your landing site is a tiny crescent shaped cove with sandy white beach cradled between black lava rocks and the crystal turquoise waters of the channel. Lots of wildlife can be spotted on the rocks.

DAY 6: Tuesday, Rabida & Sullivan Bay

Rabida Island, also commonly known by its English name of Jervis Island, is home to large populations of sea lions, pelicans, flamingos, as well as a thick forest of Palo Santo trees. In the late morning you will have a snorkelling trip along the rocks with sea lions and tropical fish. In the afternoon visit Sullivan Bay, one of the most outstanding volcanic sites in the Galapagos. Oyster catchers can be seen fishing for crabs and mollusks in the tide pools of Sullivan Bay. After exploring the lava flow, you have the opportunity for swimming and snorkelling with playful sea lions off two small coralline beaches.

DAY 7: Friday, Bartolome Island & North Seymour

In the morning you visit Bartolomé Island, famous for Pinnacle Rock, where you will see Galapagos Penguins and sea lions. You can hike a trail to Bartolome's summit where you will be rewarded with spectacular views of Pinnacle Rock and the beach, where the crystal blue waters of the bay cradle your yacht. In the afternoon visit North Seymour, a good nesting site for frigate birds and Blue-footed boobies. You might have to give way to a passing sea lion or marine iguana; you will see blue-footed booby nests beside the trail where mating pairs perform their courtship dance.

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DAY 8: Saturday, Mosquera Islet & Disembark

Today your Galapagos cruise comes to an end, but before you bid farewell to the M/Y Grace you will visit Mosquera Islet, located between North Seymour and Baltra. It is one of the smallest islands due to an uplift of sand, made up of coral reefs and rocks. It boasts one of the largest sea lion colonies in the Galapagos archipelago. There are occasional reports of Orca whales seen prying on the sea lion colony. Disembark to transfer to the airport for your return flight to the mainland.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin

Inclusions

Shipboard accommodation
 All meals whilst on board including snacks
 All shore excursions
 Guiding and lectures by Galapagos Naturalist Guide English-speaking Expedition team
 Use of snorkelling equipment and wetsuits
 Soft drinks, juice, coffee and tea throughout the cruise

Exclusions
 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)
 Travel insurance
 Gratuities for the crew
 Optional activities whilst on board
 Personal Expenses
 Bar consumption on board (All-inclusive packages available)

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request

Notes

Contact us for more details

Price Dependent upon

Season and availability

SUSTAINABILITY



GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - BEYOND DARWIN'S FOOTSTEPS (FROM BALTRA)

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 structured 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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