

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - GALAPAGOS ADVENTURE SOUTHERN & CENTRAL ISLANDS



INTRODUCTION

Explore the enchanted islands feeling at home on your own private yacht and explore the area in small groups of no more than ten guests per guide, which ensures intimate up-close wildlife encounters.

This comprehensive 8-day cruise explores the entire archipelago aboard these identical expeditions vessels where Chefs prepare locally sourced, gourmet-style menus with international and Ecuadorian dishes. You will experience this magical realm in the most authentic and educational way possible.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Embark & Cerro Tijeretas

Upon arrival to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, San Cristóbal, your guide will be waiting at the airport to escort you by bus to the main dock and then by zodiac to your yacht anchored in the bay. Travel by bus to Cerro Tijeretas or Frigatebird Hill, situated on the edge of town. This is one of two sites where you can spot nesting colonies of both species of frigatebirds. The trail leads to Punta Carola where there are beautiful vistas. Find lava lizards, the medium ground finch and Chatham mockingbird. Return to the yacht to set sail



TRIP CODE

GATSEFLA

DEPARTURE

Every Sunday

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands - Ecuador



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DAY 2: Punta Pitt & Cerro Brujo

Visit the northeast tip of San Cristóbal, Punta Pitt, a tuff formation that serves as a nesting site for many sea birds including all three types of boobies, blue footed, Nazca and red-footed boobies, both frigate species, swallow-tailed gulls, storm petrels and a colony of sea lions. Punta Pitt is considered to be a first class site for birds and on par with Isla Genovesa. A zodiac ride is offered as well as kayaking and snorkelling from the beach following the walk. Continue to Cerro Brujo, a breathtaking white coral beach, considered one of the most spectacular in the Galapagos and great for a peaceful walk with expansive views and good bird watching.



DAY 3: Isla Española

Disembark at Punta Suarez, Española, to witness the highest rate of endemic species in Galapagos. You will be greeted by sea lions as you land on the beach, and expect to see Hood mockingbirds, waved albatrosses, blue-footed boobies, Darwin's finches, Galapagos doves and Galapagos hawks. After a wet landing on Gardner Bay, walk along seemingly endless stretches of white sandy beach where you'll find large colonies of sea lions. You may find a Galapagos hawk, Darwin's finches or Hood mockingbird. Swim with sea lions right from the beach, explore the bay and islets by kayak or just relax on the beach.



DAY 4: Isla Floreana

Step ashore at Punta Cormorant, Floreana, one of the few populated islands in the Galapagos. Floreana presents a rich human history with mystery and intrigue. Set foot on a green-sand beach alive with the sounds of sea lions. Follow a trail to a brackish lagoon, home of the pintail ducks, common stilts, and the greater flamingos, the pinkest in the world. Sea turtles lay their eggs in the sand dunes and rays swim in the shallow water. After the walk, you will have the opportunity to snorkel at Corona del Diablo, Devil's Crown or Champion, a shallow sunken crater colonised by a brilliant array of colourful fish and coral. You will also visit Post Office Bay, one of the most famous sites in the Galapagos



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DAY 5: Highlands of Santa Cruz

Disembark in port and travel by bus to the highlands of Santa Cruz. The scenery gradually changes as you wind through all seven vegetation zones found in the Galapagos. Here, visit the tortoise reserve at Las Primicias, one of the private farms in the highlands to encounter giant tortoises in their natural habitat. Visit the Breeding Center, with new hatchlings and miniature tortoises not yet ready to be repatriated.



DAY 6: Bartolomé & Playa las Bachas

Land at Bartolomé, on moon-like terrain. This young Island is inhospitable to most plants and animals. After a dry landing, climb 30 minutes up stairs leading to the summit of a once active volcano. Along the way, pause to marvel at lava bombs, spatter cones and cinder cones. From the top of the wooden stairs, you can gaze out across the island for a panoramic view of the island and Pinnacle Rock, an eroded tuff cone. Crystal clear water is an invitation to snorkel from the beach with schools of tropical fish and Galapagos penguins. Continue to Playa Las Bachas, a long stretch of a soft white sand beach and interior lagoons where greater flamingos can be found. After a wet beach landing with sea lion colonies, the trail gives way to a primeval landscape of volcanic rubble including cracked lava formations and lava tubes. Spot marine iguanas and pairs of oystercatchers or you can choose to snorkel at a site that is frequented by Galapagos penguins.



DAY 7: Isla Plaza Sur

Plaza Sur is a small geological uplift with tall cliffs offering spectacular views. After a dry landing, the trails lead through prickly pear cactus or opuntia and sesuvium. Here you can find the Galapagos land iguana feeding on the cactus leaves. Also in the vicinity are swallow tailed gulls, shearwaters and red-billed tropicbirds who build their nests along the cliffs. Visit the largest colony of magnificent frigate birds found in the Galapagos. As you stroll along the beach, you will see marine iguanas and sea lions body surf the northern swells. After the walk there is a snorkelling opportunity offered in deep water.



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DAY 8: Interpretation Center & Disembark

Visit the Interpretation Center opened on San Cristóbal Island in 1999. Gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the islands. Afterwards, head to the airport for the flight back to the mainland.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on ship

Inclusions

Cabin accommodation
All meals and snacks
Non-alcoholic beverages & purified water
Captain's welcome and farewell cocktail
House wine and local beer with dinner
Guide services, shore excursions
Use of wet suits, snorkeling equipment and sea kayaks
Transfers in the Islands between the airport and dock

Exclusions

International Airfare
Airfare to Galapagos
Galapagos entrance fee (park tax)
Transit control card (TCT) fee
Alcoholic beverages
Tips to guides and crew
Purchases on board

Difficulty Rating

1 (easy)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request

Notes

Contact us for more details

Price Dependent upon

Season and Availability.

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

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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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