

SOUTH AMERICA - GALAVEN EXPEDITION



INTRODUCTION

Enjoy your Galapagos adventure with Style on board the Galaven expedition yacht. The Galaven is an 88 ft. expedition vessel for 20 passengers accommodated in 11 double cabins, all with private bathrooms, air-conditioning and ocean views. It offers spacious outdoor seating areas with sun chairs, a large interior dining room and a library equipped with a TV & DVD player for daily briefing and presentations. Bilingual Galapagos National Park guides accompany you to all visitor sites.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Tuesday, Embark & Galapaguera de Cerro Colorado

Upon arrival at San Cristóbal Airport, meet your guide to transfer to the port and embark upon the Galaven Expedition Yacht. On the northeast of the island, visit Galapaguera de Cerro Colorado, an enclosed, yet natural habitat for the protection of giant tortoises. You may also see warblers, finches and mockingbirds.



TRIP CODE

GATSGE8

DEPARTURE

Enquire for exact departure dates

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands,
Ecuador



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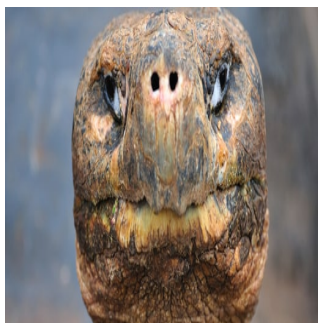
DAY 2: Wednesday, Isla Santa Fé & Isla Plaza Sur

Isla Santa Fé is home to the small picturesque bay on the island's northeast coast. The bay has two visitor trails, one leading to a scenic viewpoint atop a cliff, and the other spanning from a small beach to a tall prickly pear cactus forest. In the morning, you will head to Isla Plaza Sur. This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colourful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is Sesuvium. During the rainy season its colour is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season, end of June through January, a bright red.



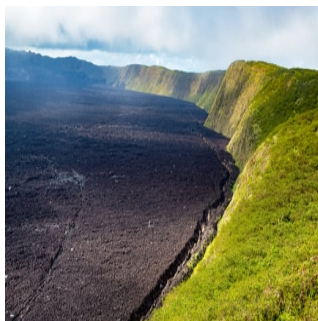
DAY 3: Thursday, Isla Santa Cruz

The Charles Darwin Research Station is home to turtles ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long. Subspecies of turtles interact with one another and many of the older turtles are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years old and strong enough to survive on their own. Los Gemelos, or the Twin Craters, are located opposite each other on both sides of the road leading from Puerto Ayora to Baltra. The name is only figurative; not real craters, these formations were created by the collapse of surface material in underground fissures and chambers. The view is breathtaking.



DAY 4: Friday, Sierra Negra & Puerto Villamil

The Sierra Negra Volcano boasts the largest basaltic caldera in Galapagos at 9 x 10 km. The site offers impressive views and the opportunity to observe up to seven species of finch and a rich display of vegetation. The north side of the caldera provides evidence of its most recent volcanic activity in 2005. The wetlands of Isla Isabela are located just outside of Puerto Villamil. The wetlands consist of lagoons, swamps, and mangroves and are home to a variety of unique bird species such as common stilts, whimbrels, white-cheeked pintails, and gallinules. The wetlands can be visited on foot via a path that winds through the swamps.



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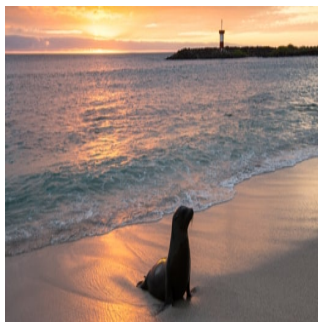
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DAY 5: Saturday, Punta Moreno & Urbina Bay

Punta Moreno is located near Elizabeth Bay on the west coast of Isla Isabela. The plethora of birds seen during a dinghy ride along the striking rocky shores or a hike along path through lava rock leading to tide pools and mangroves create a birdwatcher's delight. In the tide pools, green sea turtles or white-tip sharks can be spotted. Urbina Bay is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954 causing the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place for snorkelling.



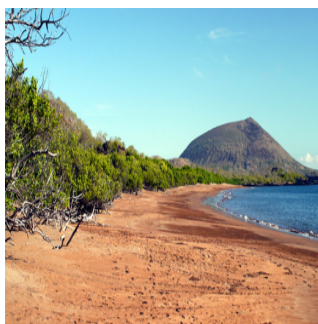
DAY 6: Sunday, Punta Espinoza & Punta Vicente Roca

No foreign species have ever invaded Isla Fernandina, and therefore it is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems. The volcano, La Cumbre, dominates the land space with lava fields reaching the ocean. The island's highlight features the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk. Located on the northwestern coast of the island and comprised of two separate coves, Punta Vicente Roca is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange, yet fascinating, Mola mola (sunfish) may be spotted here. This bay is great for diving and snorkelling.



DAY 7: Monday, Playa Espumilla & Isla Bartolomé

Playa Espumilla is a popular place for marine iguanas and Sally-lightfoot crabs. The crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey. With an abundance of marine life including octopi, moray eels, and sharks, snorkelling is highly recommended. Isla Bartolomé is home of the famous Pinnacle Rock. Bartolomé consists of an extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, black and even green volcanic formations. A trail of stairs leads to the summit of the volcano, boasting one of the best views of the islands. The beach is perfect for snorkelling and possible sightings of the Galapagos penguin.



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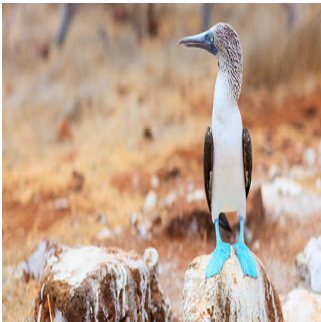
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DAY 8: Tuesday, Isla Seymour Norte

Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies and magnificent frigatebirds are abundant on Isla Seymour Norte. The island was formed by a series of submarine lava containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterised by its arid vegetation zone. Transfer to Baltra Airport for your flight back to the mainland.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin
Inclusions	All meals throughout cruise Transfers in the islands All excursions Bilingual National Park Guide Use of snorkeling equipment Fuel surcharge Free airport assistance* Free transfers*
Difficulty Rating	1 (easy)
Single Surcharge	40% Single Surcharge
Notes	Discount for groups of 6+ pax: 10% Discount for children under 12 years: 20% Christmas and New Year supplement: 20%
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 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.

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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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