

## ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS LEGEND



### TRIP CODE

GATSGL8

### DEPARTURE

Mondays and Thursdays

### DURATION

8 Days

### LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands,  
Ecuador



## INTRODUCTION

Eight days cruising aboard the luxurious Galapagos Legend sees you discovering the beauty and magic of the Galapagos Islands, made famous by Charles Darwin. Spectacular volcanic scenery and an incredible and unique array of wildlife awaits as you cruise from island to island. Shore landings allow you to walk across the varied terrains, in amongst iguanas, boobies, the nesting sites of turtles, through mangrove forests and forests of cacti. This is a journey like no other.

## ITINERARY

## ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS LEGEND

### DAY 1: Embarkation & Bartolome Island

On arrival in the Galapagos, you will be met and transferred to the pier to board the M/V Galapagos Legend. The Galapagos Islands are located about 1000 kilometres (620 miles) off the Pacific coast of South America. The archipelago is comprised of 13 major islands and scores of islets that served as a living laboratory for Charles Darwin, the renowned evolution theorist. Long before Darwin arrived in the Galapagos, seafarers knew these isolated islands as home to some of the strangest and most wonderful wildlife imaginable, including birds that could swim but no longer fly, aquatic iguanas, dragon-like lizards left over from prehistoric times and the giant Galapagos tortoises for which the islands were named. Our afternoon visit to North Seymour island promises to be an exceptional experience. Here, we have the opportunity to witness the fascinating courtship rituals of the magnificent frigatebirds as they impress females by clicking, bill-clapping, shuddering, and flapping their wings while proudly displaying their bright red, inflated gular pouches. In addition, we will likely see blue-footed boobies courting by performing their charming "dance" and displaying their unique feet to potential mates. The island's diverse wildlife also includes sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls, and the sounds of the crashing surf. With the added bonus of distant views of the Daphne Islands, this promises to be a truly unforgettable visit.



#### TRIP CODE

GATSGL8

#### DEPARTURE

Mondays and Thursdays

#### DURATION

8 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands,  
Ecuador




## ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS LEGEND

### DAY 2: Bartolome island and Sullivan bay

In the morning, we'll explore an intriguing landscape that resembles the moon. This fascinating terrain is formed by a variety of volcanic parasitic cones, including lava bombs, spatter, and cinder cones. As we make our way up to the summit, we'll be treated to an impressive panoramic view of the surrounding islands, which includes the eroded tuff cone known as Pinnacle Rock. Along the way, we'll encounter a range of wildlife, such as marine iguanas, lava lizards, and blue-footed boobies. After the hike, we'll have some beach time, where we can take advantage of the opportunity to do some snorkeling. This is a prime spot to see the famous Galapagos Penguins, sea turtles, and white-tipped reef sharks, among a great variety of colorful fish. The crystal-clear water is perfect for observing the incredible marine life that thrives in this unique ecosystem. Despite the lack of vegetation due to its geographical location, we can still spot pioneer plants, such as the endemic *Tiquilia nesiotica* and *Chamaesyce* (known as sand mat or spurge in English), as well as lava cactus and *Scalesia* bushes. In the afternoon, we'll make a wet landing at a site located in the southeastern portion of Santiago Island, which is of significant geologic interest. This area is characterized by extensive relatively young pa-hoe-hoe lava flows that were formed during the last quarter of the 19th century. Amidst the lava flow, we can see older reddish-yellow-colored tuff cones that create a stark contrast against the dark, rough terrain. Mollugo plants with their yellow-to-orange whorled leaves usually grow out of the fissures in the lava. Walking on the solidified lava gives the impression of being on another planet. We can also find tree molds, which serve as evidence of the past presence of large plants that grew in small crevices before the flora of the island was burned down by past eruptions.



TRIP CODE
GATSGGL8
DEPARTURE
Mondays and Thursdays
DURATION
8 Days
LOCATIONS
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador


## ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS LEGEND

### DAY 3: Pitt Point & Cerro Brujo

This morning you will visit Pitt Point (San Cristobal Island). The trail includes a 90 meters long, olivine beach and a path that climbs to the top of a volcanic tuff, through several magnificent viewpoints. This is probably the only site where the three booby species of the Galapagos can be seen together, as well as, two species of frigate birds and a sea lion colony. It is also excellent for dinghy rides and snorkelling, where a good range of sea birds can be observed. In the afternoon you will head for Cerro Brujo. Cerro Brujo is an eroding tuff cone that at several locations is composed of AA lava formations and a beautiful white sandy beach, great for snorkeling and sunbathing. There is a lagoon visit where migratory bird species can be seen: Black-necked Stilts, Ruddy Turnstones, Whimbrels, other sandpiper species and White-cheeked Pintails. Cerro Brujo offers beautiful views of Kicker Rock, the southern part of San Cristobal and the adjacent coast.



#### TRIP CODE

GATSGL8

#### DEPARTURE

Mondays and Thursdays

#### DURATION

8 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands,  
Ecuador



### DAY 4: Cerro Colorado Tortoise Reserve & Tijeretas Hill

In the morning you will land at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Here you will visit the San Cristobal Giant Tortoise Breeding Centre to learn about the National Park's conservation programs. Enjoy a beautiful landscape on the way to the Reserve. You will also have the opportunity to visit the village's port, have a drink or shop for arts and crafts and other souvenirs. In the afternoon you will visit the Interpretation Centre, an excellent place to learn about islands' history in The Museum of Natural History which displays information about the volcanic origins of the islands, their remoteness from the continent, ocean currents, climate, the arrival of the different species and their colonization, among other points of interest. The human history is also showcased, chronologically narrating the most significant events related to the discovery and the island's colonization.



## ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS LEGEND

### DAY 5: Gardener Bay & Suarez Point

In the morning you will land at Gardener Bay (Espanola Island). There are no trails, so you stay along the shore where you can spot Galapagos hawks, American Oystercatchers, Galapagos Ground Doves, Hood mockingbirds, Yellow Warblers, lava lizards, marine iguanas, and three species of Darwin's finches: a subspecies of the Large Cactus Finch, which is similar to the large ground finch, the Small Ground Finch (*Geospiza fuliginosa*) and the Warbler Finch (*Certhidea Olivacea*), another endemic subspecies. Swimming and snorkelling offer a great variety of the Galapagos' marine wildlife: king angelfish, Creole fish, damsel fish, parrotfish, manta rays, and white-tipped reef sharks. In the afternoon you will head for Suarez Point. An island of geological interest, you will explore volcanic formations and riveting wildlife: large sea lion colonies and seabirds including the Española mockingbird, Nazca Boobies, and the spectacular Red-billed Tropicbird. You will also encounter marine iguanas, lava lizards, and the colorful Sally Lightfoot Crabs. A somewhat lengthy hike will bring you among Nazca and Blue-footed Boobies, right up to nesting grounds that sometimes overlap the trail. Other birding favourites include Galapagos Dove, Galapagos Hawk, Swallow-tailed Gulls and the world's largest colony of Waved Albatross, an unequivocal highlight during mating season (May-December). Admire the island's dramatic backdrop, featuring the famous "Soplador", a seaward blowhole that shoots up water up to 23 m (75 ft) in the air.



#### TRIP CODE

GATSG8

#### DEPARTURE

Mondays and Thursdays

#### DURATION

8 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands,  
Ecuador





## ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS LEGEND

### DAY 6: Post Office & Cormorant Point

In the morning you will land on the North side of Floreana Island. The bay was named because in 1793 Captain James Colnett installed a wooden barrel which served as an informal post office for sailors passing through, who would take letters with them back to their destinations. Today, visitors continue the tradition by placing unstamped postcards inside the barrel, hoping that some other traveller, going to the letter destination, will take it back for free. The chances are that the letter posted can take a long time to arrive at its destination. However, there have been cases where it has arrived before the sender. You may also encounter Darwin’s finches, Yellow Warbler and Lava Lizards. Great snorkelling opportunities with Green Pacific Sea Turtles. As well, the island is best known for its endemic vegetation: *Scalesia villosa*, *Lecocarpus Pinnatifidus*, and the Galapagos Milkwort. Snorkelers can practice on the main beach among playful sea lions. In the afternoon you will head for Cormorant Point. You will hike from the black mangrove beds to a brackish lagoon, which usually holds one of the largest flamingo populations in the Galapagos. This island features some endemic plants such as *Scalesia villosa*, white and black mangrove, and holy stick. The trail continues to a beautiful white sandy beach, one of the most important nesting sites of Green Pacific Sea Turtles. It is important to avoid walking in the water due to the Sting Rays that may be hiding in the sand, which can be dangerous if accidentally stepped on. From the beach, you can spot sea turtles, blue-footed boobies plunging into the water, and small reef sharks floating along the shoreline in the search for food. This coral-sand beach marks the end of your trail, and you head back to the olivine beach you landed on, to swim or snorkel amongst sea turtles, reef fish, sea lions and, on a good day, white-tipped reef sharks. A small colony of penguins resides on Floreana and can sometimes be observed as well.



TRIP CODE
GATSGL8
DEPARTURE
Mondays and Thursdays
DURATION
8 Days
LOCATIONS
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador


## ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS LEGEND

### DAY 7: Sunday: Dragon hill & Punta Bowditch

Our first stop of the day is Dragon Hill on Santa Cruz Island. After arriving at a small lava dock, we are immediately greeted by the incredible sight of marine iguanas blending seamlessly into the dark rock. As we walk past large prickly pear cacti, we make our way to a long, crescent-shaped beach with Dragon Hill visible in the distance. Along the way, we pass a shallow lake where flamingoes can often be seen feeding, and we spot various wading birds like stilts, turnstones, and sandpipers searching for food along the muddy edges. Continuing our walk inland, we encounter a dry, forested habitat where land iguanas nest and burrow. PM - In the afternoon, we visit Punta Bowditch on Santa Cruz Island. This secluded spot offers a sense of peaceful isolation as we explore the powdery beaches, snorkel in the turquoise waters around small islets, and hike alongside salt pools and dried white corals. As one of the first humans to visit this pristine location on the Legends South itinerary, we are left with an indescribable feeling of awe and wonder. Highlands Tortoise Reserve (Santa Cruz Island) Dry landing. In the mountains of Galapagos is possible to admire different kind of birds, such as: tree and ground finches, vermillion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets (usually standing on the tortoises' shell). The journey to the reserve offers great opportunities to see the contrasts that the island offers in reference to the variety of ecosystems. The road goes from the coast through the agricultural zone and straight up to the dense humid forests. Often, Galapagos Giant Tortoises are also seen on the way, wandering through pastures in the paddocks. This spot is a birdwatchers' haven, since almost every land bird present on the island lives or migrates here. Highlands Tortoise Reserve (Santa Cruz Island) In the central highlands of Santa Cruz Island we have our best opportunity to interact at close quarters with totally wild, Galapagos giant tortoises. A short walk among these huge, 600lb, reptiles will also offer the chance for more highland species, especially several species of the famed finches. PM -Ballena Bay / Eden Islet (Santa Cruz) Wet landing. The perfect spot to enjoy our water activities of snorkeling, kayaking or the glass-bottom boat. Expect to see lots of fish species including king angelfish, surgeonfish, parrotfish, damsels, rays and sharks. From the land portion of the visit there will be sea lions and basking marine iguanas with herons and turtles in the mangrove areas. We might even discover some antique ceramic relics left behind by previous settlements.



#### TRIP CODE

GATSGL8

#### DEPARTURE

Mondays and Thursdays

#### DURATION

8 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands,  
Ecuador



# ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS LEGEND

## DAY 8: Carrion Point & Disembark

In the morning, we'll visit the Highlands Tortoise Reserve on Santa Cruz Island. This mountainous region is home to a diverse array of bird species, including tree and ground finches, vermillion flycatchers, paint-billed crakes, yellow warblers, and cattle egrets, which can often be seen standing on the giant tortoises' shells. As we make our way to the reserve, we'll pass through various ecosystems, from the coastal region through the agricultural zone to the dense, humid forests. Along the way, we may spot Galapagos giant tortoises wandering through pastures in the paddocks. Birdwatchers will delight in the abundance of land birds that live or migrate to this area. The hike is rated easy. Afterwards, you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight to the mainland.



### TRIP CODE

GATSGL8

### DEPARTURE

Mondays and Thursdays

### DURATION

8 Days

### LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands,  
Ecuador



## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<p>Shipboard accommodation  All meals whilst on board including snacks  All shore excursions  Guiding and lectures by Galapagos Naturalist Guide  English-speaking Expedition team  Fuel surcharge  Welcome and farewell cocktails</p> <p><b>Exclusions</b>  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</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details



## ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS LEGEND

**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.
- 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.

#### TRIP CODE

GATSGL8

#### DEPARTURE

Mondays and Thursdays

#### DURATION

8 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands,  
Ecuador

