

ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS SAFARI CAMP



INTRODUCTION

See Galapagos from within. Galapagos Safari Camp, a luxury tented camp nestled in the wild highlands of Santa Cruz Island offers an authentic inland experience with stunning views over the Pacific Ocean and the National Park. Make the most of the Galapagos with the classic safari camp, seeing some of the most popular features of the Galapagos including unique wildlife and spectacular scenery. This itinerary is a combination of land activities and boat excursions that take you to the beautiful neighbouring islands. This unforgettable journey is filled with opportunities for adventure and relaxation.

The Galapagos Safari Camp Experience

Galapagos Safari Camp is designed to offer you breathtaking views and memorable encounters with wildlife. This is a one-of-a-kind experience, offering African-styled tented accommodation. Nestled in the wild highlands of Santa Cruz Island, the property presents stunning views of both the Pacific Ocean and National Park which can be seen from the infamous 'Viewpoint' Terrace. The property comprises of 9 private tents and three-bedroom suites and is complete with an infinity pool overlooking the beautiful surrounding landscape. The accommodation itself is unobtrusive in its architecture, designed with discreet luxury to manifest a warm, welcoming atmosphere mixed with exclusivity. Located closely to a tortoise reserve, it is common to see plenty of wildlife when participating in activities around the property. Truly captivating, your senses will be awakened from the first moment you walk into the Safari Camp.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE
GATSGSC4
DEPARTURE
Daily
DURATION
5 Days
LOCATIONS
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

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DAY 1: Santa Cruz highlands and the giant tortoise

Welcome to the Galapagos! After leaving the airport lounge you will meet your bilingual naturalist guide who will be with you for the duration of your stay with us. The first stop is Los Gemelos (The Twin Craters); two colossal, volcanic sinkholes. On a gentle hike around the rim, your guide will point out the birds of the endemic Scalesia forest such as Galapagos doves and Darwin's finches. From Los Gemelos you continue to a reserve for giant tortoises. Your tour of the reserve will follow a gentle circuit trail where you get within meters of these iconic Galapagos creatures. Keep a look out too for short-eared owls, as they are occasionally spotted in the trees. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. The tortoise reserve also contains a network of underground lava tubes, formed centuries ago when lava flows cooled at the edges but kept flowing in the middle, leaving cave-like tunnels in their wake. To fully appreciate the uniqueness of the Galapagos Islands, and its wildlife, it's important to first understand the archipelago's geology and volcanic history.



DAY 2: Explore neighboring islands - Days 2 & 3

For the next two days (Day 2 and Day 3) you will enjoy day cruises by motor boat to one of the neighbouring, uninhabited islands close to our island of Santa Cruz: North Seymour, Bartolomé, Plazas or Santa Fe. Each of the islands' tours include a guided walk and a guided snorkel in the Galapagos Marine Reserve. Lunch is served onboard the boat (food is not permitted in the National Park). These boat navigations are often a good opportunity to chat with your guide and to learn more about these extraordinary islands and the creatures that inhabit them. Alternatively, guests often use this time to quietly reflect on their Safari by jotting down their thoughts or elaborating on sketches. As author John C. Maxwell wrote, "It's not necessarily experience that is valuable; it's the insight people gain because of their experience." Note that these boat tours can either be fully private (chartered boat and private guide) or semi-private (with shared boat and shared guide, or shared boat and private guide). At the end of each day, you return to Galapagos Safari Camp in time for an evening stroll or a dip in the pool, followed by a sunset cocktail and dinner.



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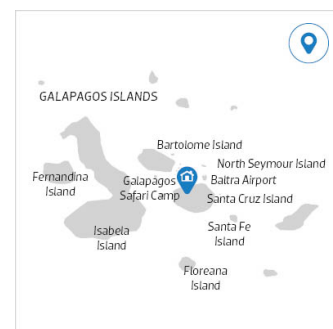
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DAY 4: Experience the east

Your Safari will begin at Cerro Mesa, a private reserve on the eastern side of Santa Cruz Island that is rich in endemic flora and bird life, including the elusive vermillion flycatcher and seven unique subspecies of finch. Explore the various trails with your guide, ending the circuit at a viewpoint where, on a clear day, you can survey the lush landscape of Santa Cruz as well as nearby islands. Afterwards, you will make your way to Garrapatero Beach, either by car or by bicycle. In contrast to the thick, green vegetation of the highlands, the coastal terrain is made up of black lava, white sands, turquoise waters and dense mangroves. The picturesque, white-sanded beach of Garrapatero is an ideal spot for a picnic and secluded swimming, set far away from the cruise ship crowds and visiting sites. Kayaking can also be arranged here and is a fun way to explore the coastline and its wildlife. Set behind the beach is a small lagoon where flamingoes are occasionally spotted. On your way back to Camp you can visit a working farm in the highlands that produces sugar cane liqueur and Galapagos coffee. The owner is a colourful character; he will teach you about the different methods used to refine sugar cane, including the use of a mule-driven press.



DAY 5: Sunrise walk and departure

Enjoy the serene nature and peace of the Camp this morning. Relax, walk, swim or enjoy the sunrise from our viewpoint before departure to the airport and your next destination.



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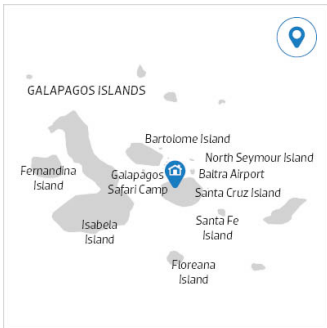
INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Luxury Tent

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Inclusions	All accommodation All meals English speaking guide Wet suits and snorkelling equipment A chartered fishing experience 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 Personal expenses Laundry service Gratuities
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
Notes	All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. This is a Tailor-Made itinerary which can be customised to create your own unique journey. Contact us to discuss your travel plans.
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

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Galapagos Safari Camp has a reforestation program and cacao plantation pioneer promoting sustainable conservation. Galapagos Safari Camp works closely with the Charles Darwin Research Station, the Galapagos National Park, and Conservation International in the reforestation of local species of trees, such as scalesia, guayabillo, and palo santo. The hotel is the only self-sufficient rainwater collector which is treated for use in the lodge. While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore remain culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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