

## GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - OCEAN SPRAY 8 DAY CRUISE A



### INTRODUCTION

The new Mega-Catamaran Ocean Spray offers the best performance and comfort in Galapagos Cruising. The elegant design includes a huge sundeck, Jacuzzi and spacious cabins each with private balcony.

Her speed, comfort, top guides and itinerary will make Ocean Spray perfect for your luxury Galapagos cruise. Kayaks are also available for use.

### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1: Saturday, Embark & Sombrero Chino

Upon arrival at Baltra Airport, the guide will meet you to transfer to the Ocean Spray. Settle in to your cabin before an afternoon visit to Sombrero Chino, Chinese Hat, so-called for its distinctive shape. The islet is home to a colony of sea lions on the white coral sand beach. Here you can see American oystercatchers, Galapagos penguins swimming along the shores, and Sally- lightfoot crabs in bright contrast to the dark volcanic rock.



#### TRIP CODE

GATSOS8A

#### DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

#### DURATION

8 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Galapagos



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**DAY 2: Sunday, Punta Vicente Roca & Punta Espinosa**

Comprised of two separate coves, Punta Vicente Roca is a large bay with incredible sea life including seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating mola-mola (or pacific sunfish). The next visit is a privileged one to the heavily restricted island of Fernandina. It is one of the world's most pristine island ecosystems with no foreign species having ever invaded. La Cumbre volcano dominates the landscape with lava fields reaching the ocean. Land at Punta Espinosa for a walkway past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions for the highlight of a flightless cormorant nesting site.



**DAY 3: Monday, Tagus Cove & Urbina Bay**

Upon embarking upon a 2km hike at Tagus Cove, observe the intriguing graffiti from pirate's dating back to 1836. Hike through lava formations and take in stunning views of the surrounding slopes and volcanoes on the way to Darwin Lake. In the afternoon, land at Urbina Bay, formed by uplift from the sea where terrestrial coral reef is visible. Expect to see stingrays and sea turtles swimming near the surface of the water, along with the flightless cormorant, pelicans, and marine iguanas. You will gain excellent views of Volcán Alcedo, with the possibility to see land iguanas and giant tortoises in the wild.



**DAY 4: Tuesday, Elizabeth Bay & Punta Moreno**

Take a traditional 'panga' ride or dinghy, passing red mangroves up to Elizabeth Bay, a secluded area without landing sites. Expect to see sea turtles and rays, as well as brown pelicans, penguins and blue-footed boobies. You may even spot humpback whales! In the afternoon visit Punta Moreno, located south west of Elizabeth Bay. Here, a dry landing onto what was once flowing lava is possible. The lava has left craters which have formed crystal tide pools where you may see pink flamingos, white-cheeked pintails, and common gallinules.



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### DAY 5: Wednesday, Isla Santa Cruz

Visit the Charles Darwin Station Breeding Center, home to tortoises from four inches to four feet long. The successful conservation efforts see the tortoises reared until large enough to survive in the wild. In the afternoon, visit the Santa Cruz Highlands. Take a walkway, observing the rich flora and fauna with an impressive hilly backdrop. In the highlands you can observe the giant tortoise in the wild, as well as mockingbirds, bahama ducklings, white-cheeked pintail ducks and Darwin's finches. Explore the underground lava tubes that are more than 1km long.



### DAY 6: Thursday, Isla Plaza Sur & Santa Fé

In the morning, head to Isla Plaza Sur, a small island with steep cliffs 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 afternoon visit is to Isla Santa Fé, also known as Barrington. Arrive at the picturesque bay to take a trail to a scenic viewpoint atop a cliff. The other trail takes you from a small beach to a tall prickly cactus forest.



### DAY 7: Friday, Isla Española

Venture to the southernmost island of the Galapagos archipelago, Española. Beginning at Punta Suarez, make way on a trail, sighting blue-footed boobies, albatrosses and Nazca boobies. Arrive at a beautiful ocean-front cliff that the albatross uses as a launch pad. Visit the blowhole that spurts water over 20m into the air. In the afternoon, make your way to Gardner Bay and Osborn Islet. Land on a beautiful white sand beach amongst a colony of sea lions, where you can snorkel with the pups in the water. Continue to the albatross nesting site, where almost the entire population of 12,000 waved albatross can be found.



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DAY 8: Saturday, Isla San Cristóbal & Disembark

Make your way to the Interpretation Center focused on the interaction of humans with nature. The Galapaguera de Cerro Colorado is an area of land reserved for the repopulation of the giant tortoise, and cut off from potential predators. You may also see finches, warblers and mockingbirds. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight to mainland Ecuador.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Accommodation</b>        | Cabin  |
| <b>Inclusions</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All shore excursions</li> <li>All meals throughout the cruise</li> <li>Regular soft drinks and juices</li> <li>Champagne reception</li> <li>Use of Kayaks</li> <li>Snorkelling gear and wetsuits</li> <li>Galapagos National Park certified guide</li> </ul> <p><b>Exclusions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tips for crew/guide</li> <li>Alcoholic beverages</li> <li>Plastic bottled beverages</li> <li>Personal expenses</li> <li>Roundtrip airfare to Galapagos*</li> <li>Galapagos National Park Fee (USD\$100 per person subject to change)</li> <li>Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD\$20 per person subject to change)</li> </ul> |
| <b>Difficulty Rating</b>    | 2 (light adventure)  |
| <b>Single Surcharge</b>     | Available upon request   |
| <b>Notes</b>                | Contact us for more details  |
| <b>Price Dependent upon</b> | 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 structures 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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