

SOUTH AMERICA - MARY ANNE



TRIP CODE

GCTSMAE

DEPARTURE

Saturdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands,
Ecuador



INTRODUCTION

Explore the Galapagos Islands on board this elegant sailing vessel combining an informal atmosphere and unique on board activities such as sailing lessons, nautical knots contest, navigation by the stars and cooking classes.

This eight-day itinerary will take you through the highlights of the eastern side of the Galapagos Islands, introducing you to the rich and varied wildlife both land and marine, and to the incredible scenery of the islands made famous by Charles Darwin.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Saturday, Embark & Black Turtle Cove

On arrival at Baltra airport you will be met and transferred to the Mary Anne Yacht for boarding and check in followed by lunch. PM After lunch we sail to Black Turtle Cove, a large mangrove lagoon on the north coast of Isla Santa Cruz. Pelicans and herons roost on the branches, while marine dwellers such as green sea turtles and golden rays may cruise alongside the panga as it makes its way through the mangroves.



NO IMAGE
AVAILABLE

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DAY 2: Sunday, Isla Genovesa

AM This morning, we travel to Isla Genovesa and reach Darwin Bay, a unique site lined with red mangroves and soft-haired prickly pear cacti where red-footed boobies and great frigatebirds perch tamely. PM In the afternoon we head to Prince Philip Steps, where we make a dry landing and climb the edge of a cliff where frigatebirds, Nazca boobies and red-footed boobies nest. We will be trying to seek out the impressive red-billed tropicbird amidst Galapagos storm petrels.



DAY 3: Monday, Isla Bartolomé & Sullivan Bay


AM After a dry landing at Bartolomé we climb up the wooden steps to reach the summit of this spatter cone for a breathtaking panorama of the islands' well photographed Pinnacle Rock, along with views of neighbouring Santiago and many other central islands in the distance. PM In the afternoon we head across to Sullivan Bay on Santiago for a dry landing. Here we walk over a recent lava flow, including very fresh pahoe-hoe lava formations, lava bubbles containing crystallised minerals, and pioneer plants. Along the shoreline, we may find Galapagos penguins and herons hunting small fish.



DAY 4: Tuesday, Rábida & Cerro Dragón

AM A wet landing on Rábida's deep-red beaches enables us to explore the red island's fascinating interior and saltwater lagoon. Darwin's finches, Galapagos mockingbirds, and yellow warblers feed off the vegetation and at the right time of the year, brown pelicans can be seen nesting on salt bushes that fringe the beach. PM After lunch we head across to Cerro Dragón on Santa Cruz's north-west shore and make a dry landing. We visit a saltwater lagoon, home to greater flamingos, black-necked stilts, and white-cheeked pintails. Further inland we find a fantastic land iguana nesting site.




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DAY 5: Wednesday, Santa Cruz Highlands

AM We will spend today visiting Santa Cruz Island’s most famous highlights. We will have a dry landing in the dock of Puerto Ayora before boarding our vehicle and heading to the Islands highlands. This area, in contrast to the coastal region, has lush vegetation and forest, due to the humidity that gathers in the higher zones. We will visit one of the ranches in the area, where it is possible to see giant tortoises in their natural habitat. As these animals migrate from the coastal area to the highlands and back, the chosen ranch will depend on the presence of the tortoises, as they roam freely and change their locations. Galapagos hawks and barn owls can be seen here and the surrounding forests are filled with birds such as the vermilion flycatcher and the yellow warbler. PM We will enjoy lunch at the ranch before heading back to Puerto Ayora for our second visit of the day, the Charles Darwin Research Station and the Fausto Llerena Breeding Centre. Here, we will see tortoises from different islands. The animals are found in large semi natural pens for their protection, but also to ensure an easy view for the tourists. The pens are divided according to four different stages: eggs, neonates, juveniles (held here until they are mature enough to be "repatriated"), and adults. After this visit, we will have some time to explore the town of Puerto Ayora and its many souvenir shops, before boarding the Mary Anne for dinner and the evening briefing.



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DAY 6: Thursday, Plaza Sur & Santa Fé

AM This morning sees us making a dry landing on one of the oldest docks of the archipelago, colourful Plaza Sur. Plaza Sur is home to vibrant green prickly pear cacti, deep red sesuvium and coppery-orange land iguanas. Impressive seaward cliffs provide habitat for a variety of coastal birds. This is also a great place to observe the adult and pup sea lions swimming along the shores. PM After a wet landing onto a white beach on Santa Fe where sea lions are usually resting, we look for the endemic species of land iguana, larger and yellower than land iguanas on other islands. The largest prickly pear cacti in the Galapagos are also found here.



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DAY 7: Friday, Isla Española


AM We arrive at Punta Suárez and make a dry landing. Here there is a spectacular walk that takes us past the nesting sites of blue-footed and Nazca boobies, and you may be lucky enough to witness the fascinating breeding rituals (April to December) of the waved albatross. Lined with neon-coloured marine iguanas (January), and lazy Galapagos sea lions, the track takes us to an amazing viewpoint of the famous blowhole. PM We will spend the afternoon on fantastic Española Island, starting with Gardner Bay (wet landing), an outstanding beach with sea lions, marine iguanas, and the intrepid Española mockingbird.



DAY 8: Saturday, Twin Craters & Disembark

AM This is our last day on the Galapagos Islands. After breakfast we will disembark in Puerto Ayora to transfer to Baltra Airport, making a short stop to visit the Twin Craters en route. The Gemelos (twins) are two deep craters located to the side of the road that leads to Puerto Ayora from the other side of the island. It is thought that these huge holes were created in a volcanic explosion or by magma chambers underneath the island's surface. This is also a good place to see the Galapagos hawk and the barn owl. The surrounding forests are filled with birds including the vermilion flycatcher and the yellow warbler. The vegetation of the highlands contrasts greatly with the arid coastal zones. After this visit we head to Baltra airport for the flight back to mainland Ecuador.




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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard cabin
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	Programmed visits to the islands with a certified English-speaking naturalist guide On board accommodations Snorkel gear (mask, snorkel and fins) Kayaks Water, tea, coffee and all meals on board.
Inclusions	NOT INCLUDED Air ticket Transfer to and from the airport in mainland Ecuador Galapagos National Park entrance fee Transit control card Wet suit rental fee Alcoholic and bottled beverages on board Crew and guide tips.
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request
Notes	Contact us for more details
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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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 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

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bicycle. Currently almost half of our office based staff commute to work via bicycle.

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