



TRIP CODE

GCTSMAW

DEPARTURE

Saturdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands



INTRODUCTION

Sail on board the Mary Anne Yacht experiencing close encounters with the unique fauna of the GalÃipagos Islands.

Home to an abundance of wildlife such as flightless cormorants, boobies, frigatebirds, land and marine iguanas, turtles and the giant Galapagos tortoise, this is an experience you will never forget!

ITINERARY



DAY 1: Saturday, Embark & Charles Darwin Station

On arrival at Baltra airport you will be met by our representative before being transferred by bus to Puerto Ayora to make your first visit on the islands. We visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and the Fausto Llerena Breeding Centre where 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. Afterwards we head back to Puerto Ayora, where you will have some time to explore the town and shops before boarding the Mary Anne at around 5:00pm. Once on board, you will be welcomed by the crew and captain, have a short security drill and enjoy dinner and the briefing on the next day's activities. NOTE: Please note that the itinerary starts as soon as you arrive on the islands. We recommend that you wear clothes suitable for a visit to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island comfortable shoes, sun hat, trousers or shorts. You will be reunited with your luggage at around 5:00pm when you board the ship at Puerto Ayora (Santa Cruz Island).



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DAY 2: Sunday, Isla Floreana

AM Today is spent on Floreana, legendary homestead of infamous Baroness Eloise Von Wagner de Bousquet. After a wet landing onto the olivine beaches of Punta Cormorant where we hope to spot greater flamingos, we make our way to another special beach of the finest sand. This is a marine turtle nesting ground where sharks and rays also visit regularly. We end the excursion with a short panga ride to Corona del Diablo, Devil's Crown, a key snorkelling site. PM After lunch we visit Post Office Bay, where you can drop your postcards in the barrel as the whalers did centuries ago.





DAY 3: Monday, Isla Floreana

AM This morning we visit Floreana Island's Black Beach, to learn about the intriguing human history of the island and its first inhabitants. Floreana was the first island in the archipelago to be inhabited, since it has one of the very few fresh water sources. Here we visit this fresh water source known as Asilo de La Paz, as well as the caves that served as hideouts for pirates and where the first Galapequeño was born. According to the stories of Floreana, the infamous Baroness Eloise Wagner von Bousquet had many lovers who mysteriously began to disappear after settling on the island. PM After the visit to Floreana, we have an opportunity for a not so common yet well-loved activity in the archipelago, a full afternoon navigation in search of whales and dolphins. The waters of the Galapagos form the second largest marine reserve in the world and are rich in wildlife. The largest representatives of the underwater fauna are the different species of whales and dolphins found here. We will sail form Floreana to Isabela Island while looking for these fascinating creatures that are commonly seen in this area. The afternoon is completed by views of the impressive landscapes of Isabella and the Cerro Azul volcanoes.



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DAY 4: Tuesday, Punta Moreno & Elizabeth Bay

AM This morning sees us arriving at Isabela, the largest island in the Galapagos. After breakfast, we step ashore at Punta Moreno onto a superb pahoehoe lava flow surrounded by giant shield volcanoes, some still active. From here a short hike takes us to a lagoon where flamingos are usually present. PM After lunch we take a panga ride in and around Elizabeth Bay, a salt-water lagoon surrounded by the largest red mangroves of the Galapagos. Here, it is usual to see sea turtles swimming near the zodiac. Flightless cormorants and Galapagos penguins are also more abundant in this part of the archipelago.





DAY 5: Wednesday, Urbina Bay & Punta Espinosa

AM We disembark this morning at Urbina Bay onto a black sand beach, a nesting site for green sea turtles. We take a brief hike inland in search of land iguanas and giant tortoises (seasonal) that migrate to and from the highlands. At the beach we can admire the remains of a geological uplift that exposed coral heads and marine fossils. Depending on the sea conditions and the time, there may be the opportunity to snorkel in these waters. PM This afternoon we cross Bolivar Channel to Isla Fernandina, one of the world's most unspoilt sites, and disembark at Punta Espinosa. As we stroll along the shoreline, we may see flightless cormorants, Galapagos sea lions, Galapagos penguins, Galapagos hawks, sooty-coloured marine iguanas and bright redorange Sally-Lightfoot crabs.



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DAY 6: Thursday, Tagus Cove & Punta Vicente Roca

AM We make a dry landing near Tagus Cove, the historic pirate hideaway where names of countless ships are recorded for posterity on the cliff face. Here we hike through beautiful Galapagos landscapes to Darwin Lake, a saltwater crater lagoon surrounded by tuff stone. PM This afternoon we head to Punta Vicente Roca to take a panga ride around the beautiful coast line before taking to the water to enjoy one of the best snorkelling sites of the Galapagos. The underwater cliffs found here are filled with enough colours and life to amaze everyone looking at them for the first time.



DAY 7: Friday, Playa Espumilla & Puerto Egas

AM After three days exploring the fabulous western islands, we sail to central Santiago to disembark at Espumilla onto a golden-coloured sand, a green sea turtle nesting site. A forest trail takes us through some of the largest specimens of palo santo on the islands where we can observe yellow warblers, the unbelievably tame Galapagos flycatcher and the ever-intriguing Darwin's finches. PM At Puerto Egas we disembark on a dark sand volcanic beach with an interesting history of human settlement. Sleepy Galapagos fur seals lounge under arches of lava carved by the ocean and occasionally dip into the crystalline pools, also known as grottos. Here we walk along the shore and observe the abundant marine life.





DAY 8: Saturday, Seymour Norte & Disembark

We disembark at Seymour Norte for our final excursion, making a dry landing here. This is a small uplifted island, where you can walk right up to nesting colonies of the two species of frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies and swallow-tailed gulls. Depending on the season, you may even witness spectacular mating ritual displays. After this visit the ship sails to Baltra, where you will disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight to mainland Ecuador.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

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Accommodation	Standard cabin
Inclusions	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. 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

SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

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

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