

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - GALAXY | 8 DAY EASTERN ISLANDS



INTRODUCTION


Many theories exist regarding the unique nature of the flora and fauna on the Galapagos Islands. A popularly held belief is that the original species that evolved into the unique Galapagos variety found their way to the islands on flotation rafts of vegetation that were carried to the island via wind and sea currents! Join us on this amazing 8 day itinerary and discover the many secrets of the Galapagos Islands.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Baltra and Mosquera

Following an arrival flight from either Quito or Guayaquil you will arrive at Baltra Airport. Here you will be met by our representative who will transfer you to your vessel. Once on board, you will have a welcome drink and lunch. In the afternoon you will travel to Mosquera Islet. This islet is located between Baltra Island and North Seymour. Here, we find the biggest sea lion colony; it is also possible to observe several species of birds. Enjoy walking across pristine white sand beaches or hiking throughout the island. Dinner in the evening.



TRIP CODE
ECGSG8D
DEPARTURE
Select Saturdays
DURATION
8 Days
LOCATIONS
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DAY 2: Sullivan Bay and Barolome Island

In the morning you will have a wet landing at Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island. The island is composed of an extensive area of lava flows which have shaped much of the island. The unique lava flows provide the opportunity to spot tuff cones and miniature spatter cones, the imprints of tree branches once in the molten rock of the island. In the afternoon you will make your way to Bartolome Island where you will have a dry landing. We will follow a path to the top (114m) where we can see pioneering plants such as tiquilia, chamaesyce, and scalesia. The island has been formed by cones, lava pipes where lava once flowed. Following the wet landing at the beach, we will follow a path through mangrove swamps and sand dune vegetation, to the south beach. At the north beach, guests can enjoy swimming and snorkelling. From the top of Bartolome, we will be able to see the islands of Santiago, Rabida, and Isabela. You may also have the chance to spot endemic Galapagos Penguins around Pinnacle Rock, one of the most famous landmarks in the Galapagos, an immense spearheaded obelisk rising from the water, reminiscent of a sharks tooth.



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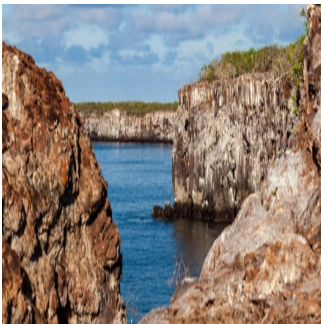
LOCATIONS

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DAY 3: Barranco and Darwin Bay

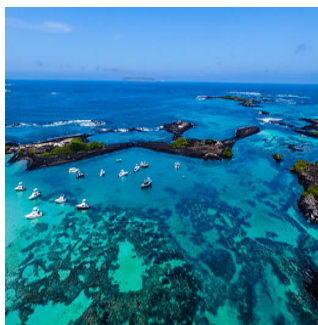
In the morning you will have a dry landing at Barranco. Also known as Prince Felipe's stairs. Here, we will have a walk for the Barranco path. In our journey we will observe tropical birds, petrels, common frigate, red-foot boobies, mask boobies, dove, and finches. Following you will return to the vessel for lunch. In the afternoon you will have a wet landing at Darwin Bay. Genovesa is a small island in the north of the Galapagos. Our unloading in Darwin Bay will be wet. Near the beach is a mangrove swamp where we will find a colony of frigates, marine iguanas, red-footed boobies and mask boobies, the great terrestrial finch, seagulls, herons, and cactus finch. Activities on the island include photography, swimming, snorkelling and hiking.



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DAY 4: San Cristobal and Lobos Island

In the morning you will have breakfast. Located on San Cristobal island, the interpretation centre will allow you to learn about the volcanic formation of the islands, the evolution of the species and the history of human settlement within the Galapagos. In the afternoon you will visit the Lobos Island. Here, we can walk, swim and snorkel among the seals, frigates, marine iguanas, lava lizards, and the small endemic Galapagos snake. Activities here include panga riding, swimming and snorkelling.



DAY 5: Gardner Bay and Suarez Point

In the morning you will have a wet landing at Gardner bay. Here you will undertake activities including snorkelling, swimming and short walks through the island. You will have the unique opportunity to observe a sea lion colony. The sea lion is one of the animals in Galapagos which gets the total attention of the visitors in the Galapagos: they are curious and playful, but at times may be aggressive. Many of the sea lions in Gardner Bay are often found on the beaches, soaking in the sun. In the afternoon you will have a dry landing at Suarez Point. There is no colour more amazing and outstanding in this tropical desert island, than that of the blue-foot boobies. These birds have an impressive form of "greeting" and it is a real thrill to see their mating dance. The blue-footed booby can be seen on several of the islands as nesting grounds and feed are located in several coastal locations. The albatross, an aristocratic bird weighing up to four kilograms, can be observed here. One of the largest birds of the islands, approximately 12,000 couples nest on Espanola Island and a smaller number nest on Silver Island, near mainland Ecuador. This species is considered endemic to this island; during our walk, we will observe these fantastic birds while taking in the beautiful landscapes offered by this island. *Please note: Albatross will not be seen between January and March (non-breeding season).



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DAY 6: Post Office Bay and Cormorant Point


In the morning you will have a wet landing at Post office Bay. The bay is located on the north side of Floreana Island. Captain James Colnett installed an empty barrel to be used as a post office for the whaling fleets that stopped at the Galapagos Islands. A common tradition is to leave postcards to your friends or loved ones here, in the hope that other travellers, travelling to that location may deliver the mail for you or for you to do the same. In the afternoon you will have a wet landing at Cormorant Point. his point is located at west of Floreana Island and it is famous for its dark green beach (due to the great quantity of olivine crystals).You can see many marine invertebrates, as well as sea lions, sea iguanas, the frigates and pelicans. Here you may also undertake some snorkelling or short trekking.



DAY 7: Santa Fe and South Plaza Islands

In the morning you will have a wet landing at Santa Fe. With 24 km2 and 60 m of height above sea level, this central island is a unique place to visit. It has an incredible bay of turquoise water, protected by a natural barrier of rocks. You will see colonies of seals as hawks fly overhead. This island is home to one of the two species of land iguanas found in the Galapagos. Their main food source is the leaves and fruit of the large, thick cactus found here. Whilst here you may undertake hiking, swimming and snorkelling. Following you will have lunch on board. South Plazas are two small islands, created by an uplifting of the land. The land iguanas are smaller here; they nest during the warm season. The hike goes along an extraordinary cliff where sea birds nest. There are approximately 1000 sea lions (Zalophus Wollebaeki) located on the south side of the Plazas.




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DAY 8: Charles Darwin Station and Departure

In the early morning you will have breakfast and prepare your luggage for the airport before a final departure to the Charles Darwin Research Station. Located in the main port on Santa Cruz Island; we will take a private bus to the entrance of the breeding center where we will see tortoises and land iguanas in captivity. This center is the main breeding site on the islands. Animals that were in danger of extinction on the various islands are maintained in captivity. Thanks to the dedicated work of several institutions, some species are being saved. Here lived Lonesome George, the famous last survivor of the giant tortoise species found on Pinta Island. Following this visit you will be transferred to the airport for you onward flight. **Please Note: This itinerary is subject to change without notice; due to seasonal changes, weather conditions or Galapagos National Park regulations.*



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
Inclusions	<div>Cabin accommodation on board vessel</div> <div>All meals whilst on board</div> <div>Guiding and lectures by experienced naturalist guides</div> <div>Transfers in the islands</div> <div>Use of snorkelling gear (mask, tubes and fins)</div> <div>Kayaks</div> <div>Drinks including water, coffee and tea.</div> <div>Exclusions</div> <div>Roundtrip airfare to/from the Galapagos</div> <div>Galapagos National Park entrance fee (US\$100pp subject to change)</div> <div>Galapagos Transit Control Card (US\$20pp subject to change)</div> <div>Travel Insurance</div> <div>Personal expenses</div> <div>Gratuities for staff and crew</div>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
Notes	Please Note park entrance fees may be subject to change without prior notice.

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Price Dependent upon Departure date, seasonality and availability.

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.

Galaxy cruise contributes to a number of sustainability initiatives in line with Galapagos park policy and their own unique contribution philosophy. Plastic is eliminated throughout the Galapagos, naturalist guides provide in depth education and respect for ecosystems when undertaking tours, and suppliers are chosen from locally-owned organisations and operators to ensure economic sustainability within the region. While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining 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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