

ECUADOR - GRAND MAJESTIC - 8 DAY CRUISE A



INTRODUCTION

Cruise the Galapagos in style aboard the new Grand Majestic, a sleek mega-yacht. Explore the islands of San Cristobal, Floreana, Española, Santa Cruz, Genovesa and Rabida on this comprehensive 8-day itinerary, with opportunities to hike, swim, snorkel, kayak and explore by dinghy. See the frigatebirds at El Junco Lagoon and the flamingos at Cormorant Point; visit historic Post Office Bay and snorkel at Devil's Crown - one of the best snorkelling sites in the Galapagos. Incredible scenery and a myriad of wildlife awaits - from blue-footed boobies to Galapagos penguins, waved albatrosses, tropicbirds, lava lizards, sea lions and Darwin's finches. This is a wildlife paradise.

The Grand Majestic Experience

The Grand Majestic is an elegant mega-yacht, built in 2018 that offers luxury and quality service as you explore the unique and magnificent archipelago of the Galapagos. A certified bilingual naturalist guide, captain and experienced crew accompany each voyage, all dedicated to providing the highest quality service. The yacht accommodates up to 16 passengers in seven staterooms and one master suite that features his and hers bathrooms. All cabins are equipped with private bathrooms, hot water and air-conditioning. Enjoy the spectacular landscapes and wildlife onboard elegantly sporty yacht that happens to be the fastest in the Islands. The Grand Majestic offers excellent four, five, and eight-day itineraries, led by a certified bilingual naturalist guide and a dedicated crew.

The Grand Majestic also offers a [4 day cruise](#), [5 day cruise](#) and [8 day cruise](#).

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ECTSGM8A

DEPARTURE

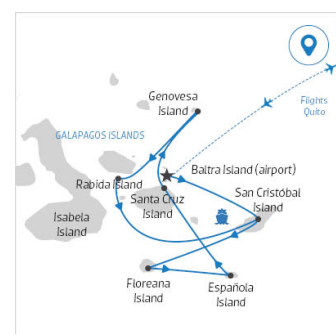
Selected Mondays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

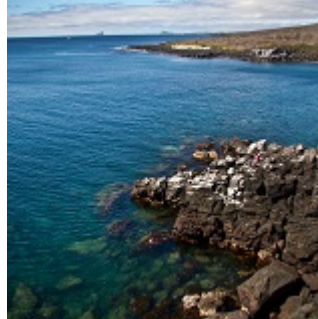
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands



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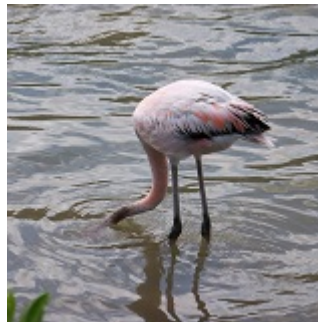
DAY 1: San Cristobal Island

In the morning, you will arrive at San Cristobal Island. After going through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by a Grand Majestic staff member and transferred to the yacht. You will be shown to your cabin where you will have some time to settle in before lunch and a welcome briefing. In the afternoon, your first visit takes you to El Junco Lagoon. Located in the highlands 19 kilometres from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, El Junco is located in the caldera of an extinct volcano. Rainwater feeds the lagoon. There are many farms and ranches in this area of San Cristobal Island, and sometime cows can be found near the lagoon.



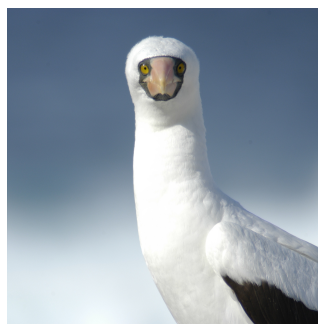
DAY 2: Floreana Island

In the morning, you will visit the famous Post Office Bay. You will land on a beach and head to a spot where 18th century whalers placed a wooden barrel used as an unofficial mail box. The custom continues to this day with Galapagos visitors. So, don't forget your postcards, and don't be surprised if the post card arrives to its destination before you even get home! Your afternoon visit is to Cormorant Point. Here you will enjoy a hike to a salt-water lagoon which is home to flamingos. You will also have a chance to snorkel around Devil's Crown which is the rocky remains of an offshore volcano sticking out of the water. This is a great location to spot a wide range of marine creatures.



DAY 3: Española Island

In the morning, you will visit Suarez Point. On the trail you will have the chance to see blue-footed boobies, albatrosses, and Nazca boobies. This island is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses. You will also visit a beautiful site on the ocean front where there is a cliff that the large albatrosses use as a launching pad! You will have the chance to see the famous blowhole that spurts sea water into the air. The landscape is great for photography. The afternoon excursion takes you to the spectacular Gardner Bay. After landing, you can walk across a lovely white-sand beach amongst a busy sea lion colony or dive into the water to swim with sea lion pups. You may also see curious mockingbirds on the beach.



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DAY 4: Santa Cruz Island

In the morning, you will visit the Twin Craters located opposite to each other on both sides of the road leading from Puerto Ayora to Baltra. The name is only figurative; not real craters, these formations were created by the collapse of surface material in underground fissures and chambers. The view is breathtaking. In the afternoon, you will visit "Fausto Llerena" Giant Tortoises Breeding Centre in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, where giant tortoises are bred in captivity; this is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long adults. Subspecies of the giant tortoises interact with one another, and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years-old and strong enough to survive on their own.



DAY 5: Genovesa Island

In the morning, you will visit El Barranco which is also known as Prince Phillip's Steps. It is a steep, rocky path that leads up to a high cliff rock face. A marvellous view can be appreciated from here. This site is also home to a palo santo forest as well as red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, Galapagos swallows, and Galapagos doves. In the afternoon, you will visit the white-sand coral beach of Darwin Bay which heads a half mile trail (0,75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls can be spotted here. Further down the path we find tidal pools where sea lions swim playfully. At the end is a spectacular view of a cliff.



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DAY 6: Rabida and Chinese Hat

In the morning, you will visit Rabida Island (or Jervis) which is one of the most colourful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago as well as a great snorkeling site. We will start on Rabida's famous maroon/red sand beach, and after an easy hike, you will arrive to a stunning lookout to enjoy the amazing landscapes. The island is a birdwatcher's delight. Some species are abundant such as a few varieties of finches, Galapagos vermilion flycatchers, Galapagos hawks and brown pelicans. In the afternoon, you will visit Chinese Hat Islet. This small islet is located near the southeast coast of Santiago Island. Its name comes from the distinct shape of the islet's summit. This small islet is a great location to view many geological formations such as lava tunnels and lava flows. Some of the lava flows were formed underwater and subsequently raised above sea level. The presence of coral heads on the lava flow indicates this phenomenon.



DAY 7: San Cristobal Island

In the morning, you will visit Witch Hill. Located on the northern coast, this eroded hill and its surroundings present one of the most picturesque beaches in the Galapagos with its white powdery sand and the abundance of animals. Wildlife includes sea turtles, rays, and various types of booby birds. The clear water provides an excellent opportunity for enjoying swimming and snorkeling. In the afternoon you will take part in an excursion to Lobos Island which means "Sea Lion Island." This appropriately named island is ripe with noisy, playful, jolly sea lions who will welcome you to their home with open, well, fins. This island also offers great snorkeling opportunities as well as the chance to see blue-footed and Nazca boobies.



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DAY 8: San Cristobal Island

In the morning, you will visit the Interpretation Centre. This site is part of an environment project. The tour of this centre will explore the natural history of the islands including human interaction and conservation efforts. The Museum of Natural History explains the volcanic origin of the archipelago, ocean currents, climate, and the arrival of endemic species. The Human History exhibit chronologically describes significant events such as discovery and colonization of the islands. After visiting the Interpretation Centre, you will be transferred to the San Cristobal airport to catch your flight to Guayaquil or Quito on mainland Ecuador.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

Inclusions

All meals and excursions
 Transfers in the islands
 Bilingual National Park Guide
 Use of snorkelling equipment/wetsuit
 Use of underwater camera
 Free Airport Assistance*
 Hotel night in Quito or Guayaquil (the day before the cruise)*
 2 Free transfers to Galapagos Flights*
 *Applies when purchasing airfare from Royal Galapagos

Exclusions

Roundtrip airfare to/from Galapagos
 Alcoholic drinks
 Galapagos National Park Fee (USD\$100 per person subject to change)
 Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD\$20 per person subject to change)
 Travel/Medical insurance
 Gratuities
 Personal Expenses

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request, contact us for more details.

Notes

Entrance park fees are subject to change without prior notice.

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.

As a Gold Corporate member of the Galapagos Conservation Trust, Royal Galapagos supports ongoing conservation efforts and projects in the Galapagos Islands.

The Galapagos Conservation Trust (GCT) is a British not-for-profit organization that focus on the sustainability and conservation of the Galapagos Islands. Launched in 1995 at the Royal Society, GCT supports, develops and promotes projects that achieve measurable conservation, sustainable living, and protection of this unique ecosystem.

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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