

ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS 8 DAY CRUISE B | GRAND MAJESTIC



INTRODUCTION

Encounter the remarkable wildlife for which the Galapagos Islands are so renowned, as you cruise aboard the Grand Majestic mega-yacht. Explore the islands of San Cristobal, North Seymour, Bartholomew, Santiago, Fernandina, Isabela, Santa Cruz and Santiago, relaxing on the yacht's spacious sun deck or in the outdoor Jacuzzi as you cruise from one spectacular island to the next. Each day brings new experiences and more incredible wildlife as you explore on foot, by kayak and dinghy, with plenty of opportunities for swimming and snorkelling amongst the marine life. Take in the spectacular views of Darwin Lake from Tagus Cove, walk across lava fields, see the famous Pinnacle Rock and learn the history of Buccaneer Cove - just a few of the highlights on this 8-day Galapagos cruise.

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](#).

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TRIP CODE
ECTSGM8B
DEPARTURE
Selected Mondays
DURATION
8 Days
LOCATIONS
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands

You will arrive at San Cristobal Island in the morning. After passing 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 we will visit the David Rodriguez Breeding Centre - "La Galapaguera", in Cerro Colorado, is a new visitor site in the southeast part of San Cristobal Island and can now be reached in roughly one hour by road from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. On the trees and shrubs surrounding the site, you may see land birds like warblers, finches and mockingbirds. Giant tortoises can be observed on the trails. They live there wild but in a protected area to ensure their survival by sealing them off from introduced predators like pigs and goats.



In the morning North Seymour you may see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies, and magnificent frigate birds which are abundant on this island. North Seymour was formed by a series of submarine lava flows containing layers of sediment that were uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is characterized by its arid vegetation zone. In the afternoon visit Black Turtle Cove in the northern part of Santa Cruz. This inlet is surrounded by mangroves and is only accessible by dinghy. The shallow cove is a haven for young marine life. Black-tip and white-tip reef sharks, sea turtles, and a variety of rays are often spotted here.



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DEPARTURE

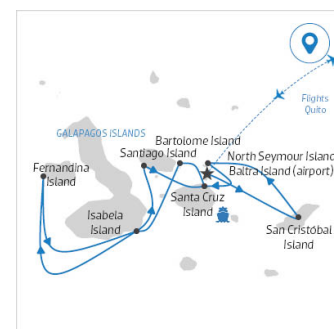
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DAY 3: Bartholomew Island

In the morning you will head to Bartholomew Island where the famous Pinnacle Rock is found. Bartholomew consists of an extinct volcano with a variety of red, orange, black and even green volcanic formations. We will take a trail of stairs to the summit of the volcano (about 30 or 40 minutes) where you will enjoy one of the best views of the islands! You will also visit a small, beautiful beach surrounded by the only vegetation found on this barren island. The beach is perfect for snorkeling where you may even see and swim with Galapagos penguins. In the afternoon we will move onto Egas Port, also known as James Bay, on Santiago Island is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to the coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos fur seals bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkeling site.



DAY 4: Isabela Island

In the morning, you will visit Tagus Cove on Isabela Island which is located across from Fernandina Island, near the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. This spot has been frequented by ships since the 1800s, using the area as an anchorage site. Trails winding by Lake Darwin up to a ridge display wonderful views. In the afternoon we visit Urbina Bay located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954 causing the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place for snorkeling.



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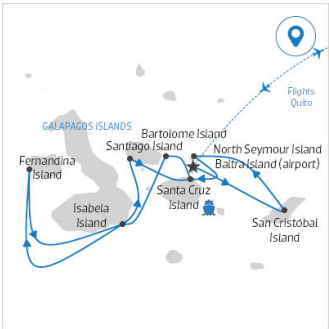
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DAY 5: Fernandina & Isabela Islands

Crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at Espinoza Point, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, you will reach the island’s highlight: the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area also provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk. In the afternoon we’ll visit Vicente Roca Point comprised of two separate coves, Vicente Roca Point is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (or sun fish) while you snorkel.



DAY 6: Santiago Island

In the morning we’ll visit Espumilla Beach marine iguanas lounge and the Sally Lightfoot crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey right before your eyes. Snorkeling is highly recommended as you could come face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark and a variety of other species of tropical fish. In the afternoon you will visit Sullivan Bay located on the southeast part of Santiago. This place is interesting for its geology because the area is covered by lava flows. This place has elevations in the form of small volcanoes formed by the lava flows.



DAY 7: Santa Cruz Island

In the morning we’ll visit Bachas Beach is located on the north shore of Santa Cruz and is a beach for swimming. One of the few remnants of the U.S. World War II presence in the Galapagos, a floating pier, can be seen here. You may see flamingos, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black-necked stilts, and whimbrels. Sea turtles also nest on the beach. 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.



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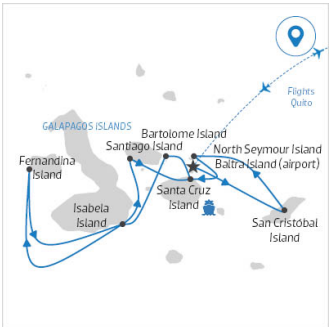
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DAY 8: San Cristobal Island

In the morning we'll visit the striking rock formation known as Kicker Rock. Located a couple hours off the western shore of San Cristobal. Jutting out of the water, the rocks stand vertically at hundreds of feet above the ocean divided by a small channel. Although there are no landing areas, kayaking and snorkeling allow visitors to spot a variety of marine life. After this final visit, you will be transferred to the San Cristobal airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.



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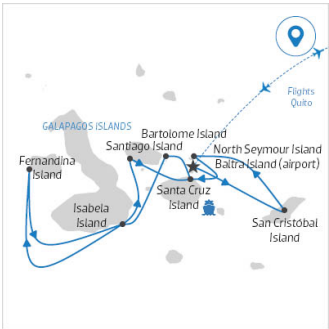
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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	<p> All meals and excursions Transfers in the islands Bilingual National Park Guide Use of snorkellin 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 </p> <p> 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 </p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	Available upon request, contact us for more details.
Notes	All entrance 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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