

## ECUADOR - BEYOND DARWIN'S FOOTSTEPS (FROM SAN CRISTOBAL)



### TRIP CODE

ECQUBDSC

### DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

### DURATION

8 Days

### LOCATIONS

Ecuador



## INTRODUCTION

A Galapagos cruise is the ultimate foray into the natural world. This eight-day cruise aboard the MY Grace will take you and just 17 other passengers on a journey through volcanic scenes and turquoise ocean to kingdoms where wildlife reigns supreme. Starting on the island of San Cristobal, Darwin's first port of call in 1835, before sailing to Hood, Floreana (with its history of pirates, whalers and convicts), Santa Cruz, Jervis, Bartolome, North Seymour and Baltra. Sailing on a small vessel such as this transports you to the lesser visited pockets of the archipelago where it is just you and the elements. Expect unrivalled marine and bird life and other worldly scenery.

## ITINERARY


DAY 1: M/Y Grace

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### DAY 2: Highlands, Puerto Ayora & Darwin Station

Catch an early morning flight to the Galapagos via Quito/Guayaquil. Landing on Baltra island you will be met by your expert guide who will be holding a sign with your name on it. You will then visit Los Gemelos (the twins). These two large sinkholes craters were formed by collapsed lava tubes. A highlight of any trip to the archipelago is a visit to the Santa Cruz Highlands, where the sparse, dry coastal vegetation transitions to lush wet fields and forests overgrown with moss and lichens. Our afternoon destination is the Wild Tortoise Reserve where we will have chances to track and view these friendly ancient creatures in their natural setting. This extends to the adjacent pasturelands, where farmers give tortoise safe quarter in exchange for allowing paying visitors to see them. We will then board your home while in Galapagos, the M/Y Grace. In the late afternoon, we can visit Puerto Ayora, home to both the Galapagos National Park Service Headquarters and Charles Darwin Research Station, the center of the great restorative efforts taking place in the park, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding & Rearing Program run by the research station, which began by rescuing the remaining 14 tortoises on the island of Española in 1970.




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### DAY 3: Highlands, Puerto Ayora & Darwin Station

Catch an early morning flight to the Galapagos via Quito/Guayaquil. Landing on Baltra island you will be met by your expert guide who will be holding a sign with your name on it. You will then visit Los Gemelos (the twins). These two large sinkholes craters were formed by collapsed lava tubes. A highlight of any trip to the archipelago is a visit to the Santa Cruz Highlands, where the sparse, dry coastal vegetation transitions to lush wet fields and forests overgrown with moss and lichens. Our afternoon destination is the Wild Tortoise Reserve where we will have chances to track and view these friendly ancient creatures in their natural setting. This extends to the adjacent pasturelands, where farmers give tortoise safe quarter in exchange for allowing paying visitors to see them. We will then board your home while in Galapagos, the M/Y Grace. In the late afternoon, we can visit Puerto Ayora, home to both the Galapagos National Park Service Headquarters and Charles Darwin Research Station, the center of the great restorative efforts taking place in the park, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding & Rearing Program run by the research station, which began by rescuing the remaining 14 tortoises on the island of Española in 1970.




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### DAY 4: Highlands, Puerto Ayora & Darwin Station

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### DAY 5: Highlands, Puerto Ayora & Darwin Station

Catch an early morning flight to the Galapagos via Quito/Guayaquil. Landing on Baltra island you will be met by your expert guide who will be holding a sign with your name on it. You will then visit Los Gemelos (the twins). These two large sinkholes craters were formed by collapsed lava tubes. A highlight of any trip to the archipelago is a visit to the Santa Cruz Highlands, where the sparse, dry coastal vegetation transitions to lush wet fields and forests overgrown with moss and lichens. Our afternoon destination is the Wild Tortoise Reserve where we will have chances to track and view these friendly ancient creatures in their natural setting. This extends to the adjacent pasturelands, where farmers give tortoise safe quarter in exchange for allowing paying visitors to see them. We will then board your home while in Galapagos, the M/Y Grace. In the late afternoon, we can visit Puerto Ayora, home to both the Galapagos National Park Service Headquarters and Charles Darwin Research Station, the center of the great restorative efforts taking place in the park, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding & Rearing Program run by the research station, which began by rescuing the remaining 14 tortoises on the island of Española in 1970.



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### DAY 6: Highlands, Puerto Ayora & Darwin Station

Catch an early morning flight to the Galapagos via Quito/Guayaquil. Landing on Baltra island you will be met by your expert guide who will be holding a sign with your name on it. You will then visit Los Gemelos (the twins). These two large sinkholes craters were formed by collapsed lava tubes. A highlight of any trip to the archipelago is a visit to the Santa Cruz Highlands, where the sparse, dry coastal vegetation transitions to lush wet fields and forests overgrown with moss and lichens. Our afternoon destination is the Wild Tortoise Reserve where we will have chances to track and view these friendly ancient creatures in their natural setting. This extends to the adjacent pasturelands, where farmers give tortoise safe quarter in exchange for allowing paying visitors to see them. We will then board your home while in Galapagos, the M/Y Grace. In the late afternoon, we can visit Puerto Ayora, home to both the Galapagos National Park Service Headquarters and Charles Darwin Research Station, the center of the great restorative efforts taking place in the park, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding & Rearing Program run by the research station, which began by rescuing the remaining 14 tortoises on the island of Española in 1970.



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### DAY 7: Highlands, Puerto Ayora & Darwin Station

Catch an early morning flight to the Galapagos via Quito/Guayaquil. Landing on Baltra island you will be met by your expert guide who will be holding a sign with your name on it. You will then visit Los Gemelos (the twins). These two large sinkholes craters were formed by collapsed lava tubes. A highlight of any trip to the archipelago is a visit to the Santa Cruz Highlands, where the sparse, dry coastal vegetation transitions to lush wet fields and forests overgrown with moss and lichens. Our afternoon destination is the Wild Tortoise Reserve where we will have chances to track and view these friendly ancient creatures in their natural setting. This extends to the adjacent pasturelands, where farmers give tortoise safe quarter in exchange for allowing paying visitors to see them. We will then board your home while in Galapagos, the M/Y Grace. In the late afternoon, we can visit Puerto Ayora, home to both the Galapagos National Park Service Headquarters and Charles Darwin Research Station, the center of the great restorative efforts taking place in the park, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding & Rearing Program run by the research station, which began by rescuing the remaining 14 tortoises on the island of Española in 1970.




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## DAY 8: Highlands, Puerto Ayora & Darwin Station

Catch an early morning flight to the Galapagos via Quito/Guayaquil. Landing on Baltra island you will be met by your expert guide who will be holding a sign with your name on it. You will then visit Los Gemelos (the twins). These two large sinkholes craters were formed by collapsed lava tubes. A highlight of any trip to the archipelago is a visit to the Santa Cruz Highlands, where the sparse, dry coastal vegetation transitions to lush wet fields and forests overgrown with moss and lichens. Our afternoon destination is the Wild Tortoise Reserve where we will have chances to track and view these friendly ancient creatures in their natural setting. This extends to the adjacent pasturelands, where farmers give tortoise safe quarter in exchange for allowing paying visitors to see them. We will then board your home while in Galapagos, the M/Y Grace. In the late afternoon, we can visit Puerto Ayora, home to both the Galapagos National Park Service Headquarters and Charles Darwin Research Station, the center of the great restorative efforts taking place in the park, and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here we visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding & Rearing Program run by the research station, which began by rescuing the remaining 14 tortoises on the island of Española in 1970.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Standard
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<b>Inclusions</b>	Shipboard accommodation All meals whilst on board including snacks All shore excursions Guiding and lectures by Galapagos Naturalist Guide English-speaking Expedition team Use of snorkelling equipment and wetsuits Soft drinks, juice, coffee and tea throughout the cruise <b>Exclusions</b> Return airfares from mainland Ecuador Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (US\$100 per person subject to change) Galapagos Transit Control Card (US\$20 per person subject to change) Visa Fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Gratuities for the crew Optional activities whilst on board Personal Expenses Bar consumption on board (All-inclusive packages available)
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	2 (light adventure)
<b>Single Surcharge</b>	Available upon request
<b>Notes</b>	Contact us for more details
<b>Price Dependent upon</b>	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

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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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