

SOUTH AMERICA - SIGNATURE GALAPAGOS EXPRESS



INTRODUCTION

Join this 8 day, superior experience of Quito and the Galapagos Islands. The cruise offers all the creature comforts of superior accommodation onboard the MC Seaman Journey, a luxurious sixteen passenger catamaran, and three nights accommodation in Quito at the boutique five star Illa Experience hotel.

You will enjoy a few days sightseeing Quito from the hotel, which is centrally located in the city's old town, before boarding your cruise and experiencing the spectacular scenery, natural wonders and incredible flora and fauna of the Galapagos Islands. There, you will observe Galapagos tortoises in their habitat, snorkel the white coral beach of Cerro Brulo, observe sea lions and sharks at Espanola Island and spot blue-footed boobies and albatrosses at Suarez Point.

Every day of this express South American tour is an adventure as you encounter the fascinating and colourful creatures who call these islands their home.

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[How our signature tours work - Pick your Signature tour & add extensions to make it yours!](#)

This superior itinerary includes accommodation onboard the Seaman Journey - a luxurious 16 passenger catamaran and three nights in Quito staying the Illa Experience hotel, a boutique 5 star hotel located in the city's old town, this hotel is the perfect base to explore the best sights and attractions the city has to offer.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE

ECSJGALB

DEPARTURE

15/07/2022, 29/07/2022,
12/08/2022, 26/08/2022,
09/09/2022, 23/09/2022,
07/10/2022, 21/10/2022,
04/11/2022, 18/11/2022,
02/12/2022, 16/12/2022

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Quito, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands



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DAY 1: Arrive in Quito

Welcome to Quito, Ecuador, a City declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1978. You will be transferred from the airport to your hotel which sits nestled in the Andean foothills, 2,850 metres above sea level. The city is known for its stunning colonial architecture, artwork and amazing snow-capped mountain backdrop.



DAY 2: Quito

You will tour the bustling streets, charming squares and majestic churches of Quito city and its old town before venturing into the city's surrounds. There, we will head 25km north and visit the Equatorial Monument. It marks the exact middle of the World, Latitude 0°, where you can stand with one foot on each side of the hemisphere. The surrounding volcanic scenery is stunning and you can choose to visit either the Ethnographic Museum or the Intinan Museum, both located near the site of the monument. (B,L)



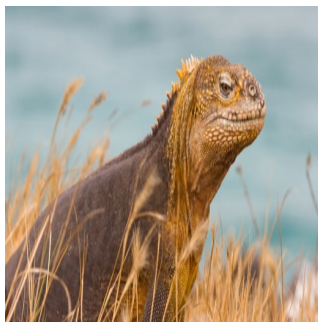
DAY 3: Cotopaxi National Park Excursion

Today you will head south from Quito to visit Cotopaxi National Park. Cotopaxi is the highest active volcano in the world. Despite the altitude, the park is home to numerous birds and varied plant life. Weather permitting, there are spectacular views from the north face of the mountain. The surrounding scenery includes volcanoes like Pasochoa, Ruminahui and Sincholagua. You will also have the opportunity to visit a local indigenous market. (B)



DAY 4: Fly to Galapagos Islands

Fly from Quito to the Galapagos. On arrival you will meet your naturalist guides who will collect your luggage and escort you by bus to the harbour to board the MC Galapagos Seaman Journey. In the afternoon you will visit the San Cristobal Interpretation Centre to learn about the history of the islands, local conservation efforts and the natural history. (B,L,D)



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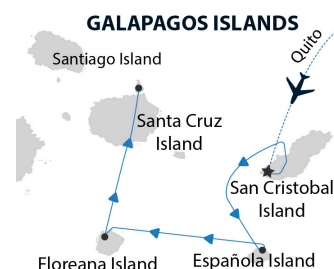
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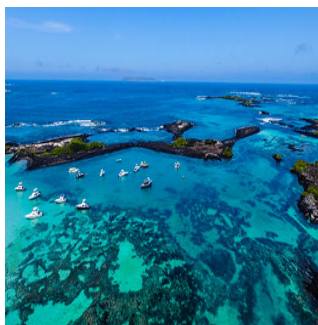
Quito, Ecuador, Galapagos Islands



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DAY 5: San Cristobal

Today begins with a trip to Galapaguera, a breeding station and sanctuary for the giant Galapagos tortoise. The species is under threat and this centre provides a safe place to observe them in their natural habitat. This afternoon, head to the beautiful white coral sand beach of Cerro Brujo where there is the chance to swim and snorkel with sea lions and Galapagos turtles. Spot other local species like the blue-footed boobies, frigate birds and the San Cristobal lava lizard. (B,L,D)



DAY 6: Espanola Island

This morning we head to the isolated southern island of Espanola. Brimming with native species like the Espanola mockingbird, lava lizard and waved albatross. Gardner Bay is a prime location for swimming, snorkelling and relaxing. You may also see sea lions, sharks and sea turtles in the clear waters. This afternoon's excursion takes you to Suarez Point. Watch the blue-footed and Nazca boobies dance and the large albatrosses launch off the cliff. There's a blowhole which can create spurts of 30-50 metre high. (B,L,D)



DAY 7: Floreana Island

One of the most impressive flamingo lagoons is located at Cormorant Point on Floreana Island. There you will see flamingos and various other shorebird species and there are two beaches to visit, Green Beach and Flour Sand Beach. Here green sea turtles come to nest and you can also see rays in the water. You will have the chance to take a walk and go snorkelling. Spend the afternoon relaxing at Post Office Bay, which is a post office like no other. Today tourists leave letters and post cards here and you can sift through them to find any that might be close to your home. The idea is to take one and deliver them by hand. (B,L,D)



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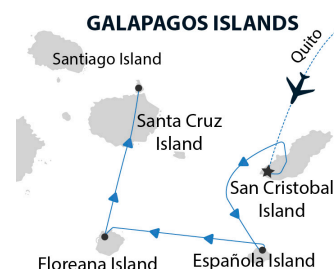
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DAY 8: Turtles Trail and Fly to Quito

Spend your final morning learning about the protection and conservation efforts of the islands at Turtle Trails. After, you will head to Baltra Airport to fly back to Quito or Guayaquil. (B)



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on board

Inclusions

INCLUDED:

- 3 nights in Quito / Illa Experience hotel Luxury room
- \$100 USD on board credit
- Round trip flight to/from Galapagos
- Galapagos National Park Entrance fee USD 100, 00 p/p
- Galápagos Ingala card USD 20,00 p/p
- Transfers in Galapagos
- Accommodation on board in double cabin
- All meals during the cruise
- Naturalist Bilingual Guide level III
- All visits and excursions according to the itinerary
- Snorkel Gear (mask, tube and fins)
- Kayaks
- Unlimited purified water, coffee and tea

Mainland services

- English speaking guide + private transportation
- Tours and airport transfers as listed on the program
- Hotel accommodations as listed on the program subject to availability
- Meals as listed B: breakfast. L: lunch and D: dinner.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Negative PCR test for Covid-19 (taken 96 hours before the departure)
- Local Taxes
- Travel Insurance
- Personal expenses and tips
- Alcoholic drinks
- Items not specified
- Additional visits
- Additional meals

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request

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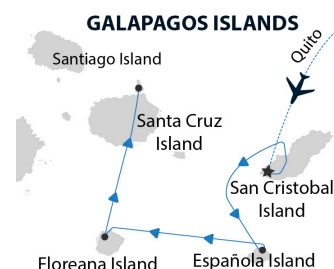
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Notes	Not Available
Price Dependent upon	Season and availability

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 carbon offsets for company vehicles and most staff travel. Chimu Adventure's internal processes are also structured 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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