# **GALAPAGOS ISLANDS** - WESTERN ISLANDS CRUISE A | ARCHIPEL I



**TRIP CODE**

ECACT5DA

**DEPARTURE**

Selected Thursdays

**DURATION**

5 Days

**LOCATIONS**

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

## INTRODUCTION

Explore the incredible sights of the Galapagos Islands on this 5 day cruise. The Galapagos is teeming with experiences and sights unlike anywhere else in the world. You be left in awe of the sheer diversity of wildlife and natural sights that encompasses this small archipelago. Keep an eye out for a range of endemic animals such as Giant Tortoises and Blue Footed Boobies. Wildlife here is not scared of humans due to the strict regulations in the National Park region and will generally stay still while you take some happy snaps.

Check out the 8 Day West & South Islands Cruise Itinerary onboard the Archipel I

## ITINERARY

DAY 1: Baltra Airport & Interpretation center

Upon your arrival at Baltra Airport, you will be met by a representative who will transfer you to your accommodation. Please note that you will have to pay your Galapagos National Park entrance fee and have your luggage inspected before proceeding. In the afternoon, you will visit the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, where you will have the opportunity to see the tortoises of Española Island up close. This breeding center is dedicated to the conservation of giant tortoises and plays an important role in the preservation of the species. Your tour will end in the tortoise exhibit corral, where you can take photographs with the tortoises. These tortoises are accustomed to humans, so it is an excellent spot for some great pictures!



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DAY 2: Moreno point and Urbina bay

After breakfast, you will head out to Moreno Point, located on the southwestern coast of Isabela Island. This unique site offers a striking contrast between the fresh, promising greens of pioneer vegetation and the dead, pitch-black lava flow that once reached the ocean. Your naturalist guide will lead you on a hike through this rugged terrain, where you can observe the various species that have adapted to this harsh environment, such as marine iguanas, lava lizards, and Sally Lightfoot crabs. In the afternoon, you will visit Urbina Bay, which is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the western coast of Isabela Island. This coastal plain is exceptional, attracting prehistoric giants in the wild, such as the largest land iguanas. Your naturalist guide will lead you on a hike through the unique vegetation, where you can spot these impressive creatures in their natural habitat. You may also see Galapagos tortoises, Darwin's finches, and other species that call this area home.



DAY 3: Espinoza point and Vicente rock

After breakfast, you will head out to Espinoza Point, located on Fernandina Island, which is one of the most pristine and untouched islands in the Galapagos archipelago. Here, you will find some of the most bizarre animal species, products of natural selection. Among them is the flightless cormorant, which after thousands of years isolated here lost the ability to fly and turned its wings into fins. You will also be able to observe marine iguanas, Galapagos penguins, and Galapagos hawks. This is a unique opportunity to witness the natural beauty and diversity of the Galapagos Islands. In the afternoon, you will visit Vicente Roca Point, located on the northwest coast of Isabela Island. This site is known for its stunning geological formations and unique wildlife. You will enter a dark cave below a spectacular arch, accompanied by the roaring echoes of the waves. The calmer waters inside are well-protected and are a great place for snorkeling amongst various species of sharks, penguins, seahorses and the giant mola-mola. You may also see blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, and fur seals along the shore.



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DAY 4: Egas port and Rabida

This morning you will visit Puerto Egas, located on the western coast of Santiago Island. This site is historical, and a favorite for wildlife lovers in the Galapagos. It's even considered the best place in the archipelago to observe Galapagos fur seals. Your naturalist guide will lead you on a walk through the coastal trails, where you can observe a variety of species such as marine iguanas, Sally Lightfoot crabs, Galapagos hawks, and the elusive Galapagos fur seals. You can also enjoy a refreshing swim in the natural pools formed by the volcanic rocks. In the afternoon, you will visit Rabida Island, known for its remarkable red beach. Upon landing, you will usually be greeted by a large bachelor colony of Galapagos sea lions. Your naturalist guide will lead you on a hike through the red sand beach, where you can observe the unique flora and fauna of the island, such as brown pelicans, Galapagos hawks, and Darwin's finches. You can also snorkel along the rocky cliffs and spot various species of fish, rays, and sea turtles.



DAY 5: Black turtle cove and departure

Today is your last day in the Galapagos Islands, and you will start with a visit to Black Turtle Cove. After breakfast, you will board a dinghy and explore this peaceful lagoon, surrounded by mangrove forests. The calm waters make it a perfect place to observe sea turtles, rays, and sharks. Your naturalist guide will explain the importance of the mangrove ecosystem and its role in preserving the biodiversity of the islands. After, you will disembark at Baltra airport, where you will say goodbye to the crew of your cruise ship before checking in for your flight back to the mainland.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

| | |
|---|---|
| **Accommodation** | Cabin onboard a ship |

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# GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - WESTERN ISLANDS CRUISE A | ARCHIPEL I

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|---|---|
| **Inclusions** | Accommodation onboard the Archipel I<br>Transfers in the Galapagos and airport assistance<br>All meals whilst on-board including snacks<br>All shore excursions<br>Guiding and lectures by Galapagos Naturalist Guide<br>Snorkelling equipment (mask, snorkel & fins)<br>Use of kayaks<br>**Exclusions**<br>International flights<br>Return airfares from mainland Ecuador<br>Visa & reciprocity fees (if applicable)<br>Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (US$ 200 per person subject to change)<br>Galapagos Transit Control Card (US$ 20 per person subject to change)<br>Travel insurance<br>Beverages other than tea & coffee<br>Personal expenses such as laundry & onboard communication<br>Gratuities for the crew |
| **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.<br>Please note kayaking and water based activities are subject to weather conditions.<br>Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated).<br>Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time.<br><br>*Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations. |
| **Price Dependent upon** | Departure date, currency fluctuation, seasonality & 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

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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.

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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