TRIP CODE

ECTSGM5

DEPARTURE

Selected Thursdays

DURATION

5 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

INTRODUCTION

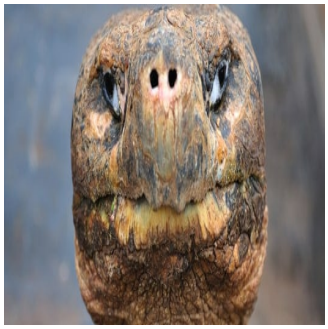
Set sail aboard the sleek and modern Grand Majestic and cruise for 5 days around the remote Galapagos Islands, located 1,000 kilometres off the coast of Ecuador. Shore landings allow you to walk along trails across coral beaches and lava fields, amongst sea lion colonies, frigatebirds, Galapagos penguins, blue-footed boobies, lava owls and a myriad of other fascinating wildlife. Snorkelling and swimming opportunities immerse you into the marine world where you can swim alongside turtles, rays and colourful reef fish. As you cruise between the islands of Santa Cruz, Genovesa, Rabida and San Cristobal, sit out on the spacious sun deck taking in the views, or relax in the outdoor Jacuzzi

Check out the 4 Day Southern Islands Cruise on Grand Majestic.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Santa Cruz Island

You will arrive at Baltra Island in the morning. 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, 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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DAY 2: 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.



DAY 3: Rabida & 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, Galápagos vermilion flycatchers, Galapagos hawks and brown pelicans. 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 tubes and lava flows. Possible Activities: Hike & snorkelling (1,9 miles / 3 km) Type of Landing: Wet landing Difficulty: Easy / Moderate



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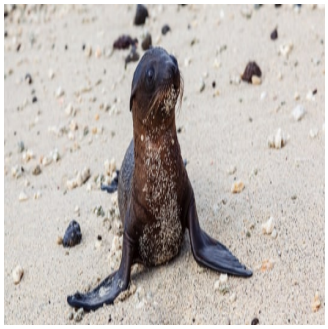
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DAY 4: San Cristobal Island

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.



DAY 5: 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.



INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship

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ECUADOR - NORTHERN AND EASTERN ISLANDS CRUISE | GRAND MAJESTIC

Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** All meals and excursions while onboard the ship 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)* Free transfer to Galapagos Flights one way* *Applies only when purchasing roundtrip Galapagos/mainland airfare from the cruise operator **EXCLUSIONS** Roundtrip airfare to/from the Galapagos Alcoholic drinks Galapagos National Park Entrance fee (US$200 per person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change) Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD$20 per person - Subject to change) Travel/Medical insurance Gratuities for staff and guides onboard Personal Expenses
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. * Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations.
Price Dependent upon	Seasonality, fuel surcharges, currency fluctuations and availability at time of booking.

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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.

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ECUADOR - NORTHERN AND EASTERN ISLANDS CRUISE | GRAND MAJESTIC

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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