Chimu The Latin America and Polar Travel Specialists

SOUTH AMERICA - GALAPAGOS WESTERN ISLANDS CRUISE | ELITE



TRIP CODE

ECGGEWA

DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands

INTRODUCTION

Experience 8-days in the Galapagos Islands aboard the luxurious Elite. Enjoy daily land excursions and water activities like kayaking, snorkelling, paddle boarding, and panga rides. Discover diverse landscapes and rich wildlife across the Western Islands, including birds, sea lions, turtles, giant tortoises, and possibly whales or sharks. Highlights include visiting Sierra Negra volcano and a giant tortoise breeding centre supporting conservation efforts.

Explore more unforgettable adventures aboard the Elite with these exciting itineraries: 5-day Galapagos Northern Islands Cruise and 4-day Galapagos Southern Islands Cruise.

Combine your Galapagos cruise on the Elite with a stay at the premium La Selva Lodge in the Amazon for an exclusive saving. Contact us for more information and pricing!

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrive in San Cristobal & El Junco Lagoon



AM: Arrive at San Cristobal airport where you will be transferred to the vessel. PM: El Junco Lagoon Walk up the rocky path surrounded by rich vegetation and wildlife to the rim of the El Junco Lagoon, an impressive crater lake located in the highlands of San Cristobal island. Here you will enjoy superb panoramic views of the island, and you can often catch frigate birds diving and bathing in the crystal clear water below.

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DAY 2: North Seymour Island & Dragon Hill

AM: North Seymour North Seymour island is a small island named after Lord Hugh Seymour, a senior British Royal Navy officer. Walking amongst the low, bushy vegetation you will be able to observe a large variety of birds, including blue-footed boobies, swallow tailed gulls and a large population of frigate birds. Look out for the marvellous bright red chests of the male frigates used to attract a mate. PM: Santa Cruz Dragon Hill The name Dragon Hill refers to the large population of Galapagos land iguanas that have made their home here. As you walk along the rocky coastline and through the forests of cacti and Palo Santo trees, you will no doubt encounter a number of these incredible creatures that resemble miniature dragons. The high tide also makes this a fantastic place to snorkel as the coral attracts a plethora of colourful fish close to the shoreline.



DAY 3: Tintoreras and Sierra Negra

AM: Tintoreras & Sierra Negra Volcano Today you will visit 'Las Tintoreras', a group of small islets off the coast of Isabela Island, known for their striking dark lava formations that create a distinctive habitat for diverse wildlife. This makes it an excellent spot for water activities, dinghy rides and walking. Visitors often get the chance to see turtles, sharks, penguins, and sea lions up close. Next you will visit Sierra Negra Volcano, one of largest craters in the archipelago with a diameter of five kilometres. It offers mesmerizing views with great contrast in colours between lava fields, vegetation and fumaroles. Hiking to the top provides breathtaking views of the islands five other volcanoes, visible on a clear day. PM: Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center This afternoon enjoy a visit to Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding Center, where two species of giant tortoise are bred to increase the population of these incredible animals. This plays an essential role in protecting the future of the Galapagos. As you walk around the centre you can appreciate a wide variety of native plants in the beautiful gardens.



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DAY 4: Moreno Point & Urbina Bay

AM: Isabela - Moreno Point Punta Moreno is an excellent site for fans of geology and bird lovers. The ground is covered in rough lava, dried out after an eruption decades ago. The formations of the lava rock indicate how it flowed and dried and are very interesting for geologists. The lava flow cooled unevenly, and in places there are little ponds of brackish water popular with wading birds like flamingoes, herons and stilts. You may even get to see the occasional Pintail Duck in one of the pools! There is little in the way of vegetation, but some hardy pioneer plant species and cacti have begun the process of breaking the lava rocks down into something friendlier for plants and animals. There are small lizards and snakes to be found in and among the rocks. Along the coastline, tidal pools may trap some interesting sea life, and you may get to see some marine iguanas swimming and diving down to feed on underwater algae. Also snorkeling along the shoreline, lucky guests may spot some Galapagos Penguin, green sea turtles and white tip sharks. PM: Isabela - Urbina Bay Urbina Bay is located at the foot of the Alcedo Volcano and is the result of a major volcanic uplift that took place in 1954, resulting in 6km of coral reef being lifted out of the ocean. Walking along this new shore, you can observe the corals and remains of marine life that were stranded during this event. Now home to giant land iguanas and giant tortoises, it has fast become a great spot to see Galapagos hawks and flightless cormorants. Also a popular spot for snorkelling as turtles, rays and tropical fish frequent the coastline.



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DAY 5: Espinosa Point & Vicente Roca Point

AM: Espinosa Point, Fernandina Years after your trip, many of your favorite photos will have been taken here on Espinosa Point. Hundreds of marine iguanas bask in the sun near the landing point: sharp-eyed guests may even spot some swimming in the surf, ready to dive down and gnaw some algae off of the rocks offshore. Galapagos hawks soar overhead, looking for a meal, or stare, stony-eyed, at visitors from their perch in a tree. At the end of one of the trails, flightless cormorants – a species unique to the islands – make their nests and clumsily waddle around. In the gentle surf off the point, monstrously large sea turtles surface, gulp a mouthful of air, and sink again. Some visitors will spot the shy Galapagos snakes slithering between the cracked lava rocks. Tidal pools have been known to capture large stingrays, which then must await the next tide to escape to the sea again. Geology buffs will marvel at the lava formations which make up the rugged ground here. Unforgettable! PM: Vicente Roca Point, Isabela Vicente Roca Point, on the rocky coast of Isabela Island, is not a walking tour. The visitor site is the coastline itself: rocky and pounded by the surf. Pangas keep a safe distance from the treacherous waves, making their way along the coastline. Visitors can expect to see both varieties of sea lions native to the Galapagos: the Galapagos Sea Lion and the Fur Sea Lion. Also, lucky guests may see penguins along the rocky shore and any number of sea birds nesting along the cliffs and soaring overhead. The snorkeling is excellent here: the guides will pick the best spot depending on the conditions, and guests have the possibility of seeing sea lions, penguins and turtles in addition the usual parrot fish, surgeon fish, sergeant-majors and other stars of the pacific reefs.



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DAY 6: Rabida Island & Bartholomew Island

AM: Rabida Rabida island is most known for its dark red sand beach surrounded by a backdrop of cliffs and steep volcanic hills full of Palo Santo trees and endemic cacti. A panga ride around the shoreline gives the chance to spot blue-footed and nazca boobies and water activities such as snorkelling, kayaking or paddle boarding are ideal for seeing white tipped sharks and rays. On the beach you will find a large noisy colony of sea lions and the surrounding salt brush is home to a nesting colony of pelicans. Inland, bird watchers will delight in seeing mockingbirds, yellow warblers and Darwin finches - Rabida is the only site where all nine Darwin's finches are found.
PM: Bartholomew Island Bartholomew island is an islet located in Sullivan Bay and its most famous landmark is a huge volcanic cone named Pinnacle Rock. A walking trail leads up to a viewpoint at the summit of the island where you can enjoy spectacular views of Pinnacle Rock and the surrounding lava flows. The northern beach, a nesting site for green sea turtles, is perfect for snorkelling where sightings of spotted eagle rays, penguins and reef sharks are possible.



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DAY 7: Kicker Rock, Witch Hill & Tortoise Reserve

AM: San Cristobal - Kicker Rock & Witch Hill Kicker Rock, is an iconic feature of the Galapagos that has been formed over time by the erosion of the cone of an extinct volcano. In addition, on the rock formation itself, blue-footed boobies, frigatebirds and sea lions can often be seen perched on the ledges above which makes an excellent site to take great pictures while the vessel circumnavigate the rock formation. Witch Hill features an idyllic white sand beach which can be accessed by dinghy and is a superb vantage point for seeing Kicker Rock in the south of the island. The hill itself is an eroded tuff cone and the calm waters at the base of it offer a magnificent spot for snorkeling. Meanwhile, a walk along the beach or on one of the inland paths, provides opportunities to see a variety of shore birds, finches and mockingbirds. PM: Giant Tortoise Reserve The visit to the Giant Tortoise's Reserve is the longest hike on San Cristobal; the walk is about 5 km one way and may be quite hot. This is an excellent site for observing giant tortoises in their natural habitat. San Cristobal has a population of six thousand giant tortoises; in a good day, hundreds of them can be seen along with other endemic species, such as lava lizards, and mockingbirds. Snorkel is a great activity as you have opportunities to see sea turtles and tintoreras (white tipped reef sharks). The beach of this visitor site is a nesting area for sea turtles.



DAY 8: San Cristobal Interpretation Center & Depart

AM: San Cristobal Interpretation Center A short distance from the centre of San Cristobal is the San Cristobal Interpretation Center, which provides an overview of the fascinating history of the islands. The main areas of focus, which are addressed through a number of expositions are: natural history, human history and conservation for the future. You can also take one of the trails behind the center that lead to some great viewpoints of the ocean and volcanic rocks below. Depart from San Cristobal Airport.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin On Board Ship
Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Transfers in the Galapagos Airport reception and assistance Accommodation on board the yacht Guided expeditions according to the itinerary Top bilingual National Park guide (English/Spanish) Cruise Service Officer Activity daily briefing All meals and snacks Soft drinks and juices Captain's welcome and farewell cocktail Use of sea kayaks and paddle-boards Expedition gear Yoga mats Kettlebells and dumbbells Stargazing laser pointer One free beer or wine per guest per day **EXCLUSIONS** International & internal flights Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Travel insurance Personal expenses Tips and gratuities for guide and crew Beverages other than specified Local taxes Galapagos National Park Entrance fee (USD$200 per person, subject to change) Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD$20 per person, subject to change) Any items not mentioned as included Micro SD Card 4K
Difficulty Rating	2 (Light Adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge may apply and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	Prices are based on per person, twin share. Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. Kayaking and water based activities are subject to weather conditions.

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Price Dependent upon	Departure date, fuel surcharges, cabin category, currency fluctuations, seasonality and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY

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