ECUADOR - WESTERN ISLANDS CRUISE | INTEGRITY



TRIP CODE
ECIG8DW
DEPARTURE
Selected Saturdays
DURATION
8 Days
LOCATIONS
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

INTRODUCTION

Take an 8-day Galapagos Islands Cruise onboard the small ship expedition vessel, Integrity. You will sail the Western Islands and see a range of flora and fauna. From the Santa Cruz Highlands, home to giant tortoises who roam free in the wild to Cormorant Point, with green sands and the historic site of Post Office Bay

Embark on an exhilarating journey through the Galapagos Islands, starting with an encounter with giant tortoises in their lush natural habitat at the Santa Cruz Highlands. Marvel at the unique flora and fauna, including Darwin's finches and the elusive vermilion flycatcher. Delve into conservation efforts at the Charles Darwin Research Station before boarding your luxurious yacht for a week-long island exploration.

Experience the diverse landscapes and rich biodiversity of the Galapagos archipelago. From the olivine sands of Punta Cormorant to snorkelling adventures with playful sea lions at Champion Island, each day offers new discoveries. Explore historical sites at Post Office Bay and investigate the intriguing geological formations of Punta Moreno. Encounter marine life in the mangrove lagoons of Elizabeth Bay and witness the dramatic landscapes of Fernandina's Punta Espinosa.

Uncover the secrets of Tagus Cove's pirate history and immerse yourself in nature at Puerto Egas. Kayak through Buccaneer Cove and stroll along the red-sand beaches of Espumilla. Conclude your voyage at North Seymour, home to magnificent frigatebirds and Blue-Footed Boobies, before a serene farewell at Bachas Beach and Caleta Tortuga Negra. Enjoy a final breakfast onboard before bidding farewell to the Galapagos Islands at Baltra Island.

Check out some of the other itinearies onboard Integrity including: 7 Day Western Islands Cruise, 8 Day Eastern Islands Cruise and 6 Day Eastern Islands Cruise

ITINERARY

Copyright Chimu Adventures. All rights reserved 2024. Chimu Adventures PTY LTD

ECUADOR - WESTERN ISLANDS CRUISE | INTEGRITY

DAY 1: Highlands & Charles Darwin Research Station

Today, you arrive in the Galapagos Islands, where we'll facilitate a transfer from the airport in Baltra to the Santa Cruz Highlands. Here, you'll have a unique opportunity to witness the islands' most renowned reptile, the giant tortoises, in their natural habitat. It's a rare privilege to observe these endangered species freely roaming amidst the lush surroundings. The area boasts a diverse vegetation, including the endemic Scalesia Forest, home to an array of avian species such as Darwin's finches, notably the famed Woodpecker Finch. Keep an eye out for the elusive vermilion flycatcher, whose scarlet plumage contrasts beautifully with the emerald green forest. In the afternoon, our itinerary takes us to the Charles Darwin Research Station and Galápagos National Park headquarters. Here, you'll gain firsthand insight into the conservation and research endeavors undertaken in the islands. Witness several subspecies of adult tortoises and numerous hatchlings, and learn about the vital repatriation programs aimed at preserving various tortoise and iguana subspecies from extinction. Later in the afternoon, we'll board our yacht, INTEGRITY, for dinner and embark on our island cruise. You'll reside aboard the yacht, maximizing exploration time within the confines of park regulations. Each night, we'll set sail to our next destination, ensuring a seamless and immersive island-hopping experience.



TRIP CODE

ECIG8DW

DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

Copyright Chimu Adventures. All rights reserved 2024. Chimu Adventures PTY LTD

DAY 2: Cormorant Point & Post Office Bay

Today, your journey begins with a visit to Punta Cormorant and Champion Island. Upon landing on a green, olivine sand beach adjacent to a sprawling lagoon, you'll likely spot feeding flamingos and other water birds. A brief hike through diverse plant communities leads to Flour Beach, a nesting ground for sea turtles and a playground for small rays in the surf. Next, snorkeling awaits at Champion Island, where curious sea lions abound, and if luck is on our side, we may catch a glimpse of the rare Floreana Mockingbird. In the afternoon, our exploration continues at Post Office Bay, Asilo de la Paz, and Black Beach. Our first stop is the iconic wooden barrel, serving as a mariner's "post office" since the 18th century, offering you the chance to participate in the timeless tradition of the "postmaster." We then venture into the Floreana Highlands to encounter a collection of tortoises and delve into the island's captivating human history at Wittmer Caves and one of the Galapagos' few freshwater springs. The day concludes with a leisurely walk on Black Beach followed by a barbecue onboard INTEGRITY.



DAY 3: Punta Moreno & Elizabeth Bay

Today's adventure begins at Punta Moreno. As you step onto the young lava flow at the base of Cerro Azul, you'll pass by cacti and other pioneering plants. This dynamic landscape is punctuated by numerous "oases" of brackish lagoons teeming with a diverse array of life, including flamingos, Paint-Billed Crakes, White-Cheeked Pintails, and Common Gallinules. In the afternoon, we'll explore Elizabeth Bay. Glide silently in our skiffs through the narrow channels of this mangrove lagoon, where a wealth of marine life awaits. Keep your eyes peeled for rays, Flightless Cormorants, penguins, pelicans, Lava herons, sea turtles, sea lions, Blue-Footed Boobies, and an abundance of fish and other species that thrive in this vital ecosystem.



TRIP CODE

ECIG8DW

DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

Copyright Chimu Adventures. All rights reserved 2024. Chimu Adventures PTY LTD

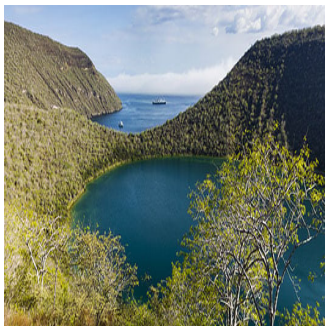
DAY 4: Urbina Bay & Espinosa Point

Today's exploration commences at Urbina Bay on Isabela Island. This site holds a remarkable tale of nature's power. In 1954, volcanic upheaval uplifted a 6-kilometer stretch of coastline by 5 meters in a matter of hours, leaving coral heads and marine life stranded over a kilometer from the new shore. As you traverse among the skeletal coral garden, now inhabited by lizards and mockingbirds, keep an eye out for the large, colorful land iguanas that call Urbina Bay home. Depending on the season, you might even encounter Alcedo Tortoises descending from the highlands to nest in the warm sands of Urbina Bay. In the afternoon, our journey leads us to Punta Espinosa on Fernandina Island, the most pristine and youngest island in the Galapagos archipelago. Fernandina is characterized by its intense volcanic activity, with eruptions occurring frequently, including the latest in 2008. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted by an abundance of small, dark marine iguanas and vibrant Sally Lightfoot Crabs. As you walk across the younger pahoehoe lava flow, past pioneering plants, you'll be treated to sightings of Flightless Cormorants, pelicans, and numerous lounging sea lions along the sandy shore.



DAY 5: Tagus Cove & Vicente Roca Point

This morning you will visit Tagus Cove, a historic site frequented by pirates and whalers in the 19th century. Their legacy is etched into the cliffs of this sunken caldera, a tradition that endures today. A short, steep hike leads past Darwin Lake, nestled within a tuff cone. This spot is ideal for birdwatching, offering sightings of Ground and Tree Finches, Galapagos Hawks, Yellow Warblers, Large-Billed Flycatchers and even sometimes the Woodpecker Finch. Land iguanas are occasionally spotted, adding to the allure. A dinghy ride or kayak along the cliffs provides views of geological features and birdlife, including penguins. In the afternoon, we head to Punta Vicente Roca, known for its impressive geological formations. Nesting birds such as Blue-Footed and Nazca Boobies, gulls, Storm Petrels, and Brown Noddy Terns, while sea turtles gather in the calm waters. Snorkelers can observe colorful fish, penguins, sea lions, sea anemones, small jellyfish and other marine creatures.



TRIP CODE

ECIG8DW

DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

Copyright Chimu Adventures. All rights reserved 2024. Chimu Adventures PTY LTD

DAY 6: Puerto Egas & Espumilla Beach

Today's exploration begins at Puerto Egas. Two separate trails offer diverse experiences: the first follows the coastline to the fur seal grottoes, a sanctuary for the elusive Galapagos Fur Seal. Here, amidst crags and swimming inlets, you'll encounter American Oystercatchers, marine iguanas, and ubiquitous sea lions. The second, less-traveled trail leads inland to a lagoon at the Salt Mine Volcano, home to flamingos and various bird species. In the afternoon, we visit Espumilla Beach and Buccaneer Cove. Espumilla boasts a red-sand beach and serves as a nesting site for sea turtles. An inland trail meanders past a small lagoon and into the arid zone, offering glimpses of Galapagos Hawks and other land birds against a picturesque backdrop. Meanwhile, snorkeling or kayaking at Buccaneer Cove may yield sightings of sea lions, fur seals, sea turtles, rays, sharks, pelagic fishes, and fascinating underwater geological formations.



DAY 7: North Seymour & Bachas Beach

In the morning you will explore North Seymour, renowned for its flat terrain. The inland trail leads to the largest colony of Magnificent Frigatebirds in the Galapagos, alongside Blue-Footed Boobies and occasionally bush-climbing land iguanas. Along the coast, ample opportunities arise to observe sea lions and marine iguanas. Snorkelers can savor their final underwater experience in the channel between North Seymour and Mosquera, known for its captivating marine life. In the afternoon, we visit Bachas Beach and Caleta Tortuga Negra. Enjoy a tranquil morning at Bachas' pristine white sand beach, where two small lagoons occasionally host flamingos. The name "Bachas" stems from the remains of a barge that ran aground decades ago, leaving only a few rusty spines visible today. A silent skiff ride takes us to Caleta Tortuga Negra, a mangrove lagoon where sea turtles feed and mate in the calm waters. Here, encounters with sharks, rays, egrets, and Lava Herons are common. Caleta Tortuga Negra serves as a shark nursery, offering glimpses of very small sharks in the shallows. Conclude the day with a serene sunset aboard INTEGRITY.



TRIP CODE

ECIG8DW

DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

Copyright Chimu Adventures. All rights reserved 2024. Chimu Adventures PTY LTD

ECUADOR - WESTERN ISLANDS CRUISE | INTEGRITY

DAY 8: Disembarkation

This morning, we'll enjoy breakfast on board before disembarking at Baltra Island.



TRIP CODE

ECIG8DW

DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board a ship
Inclusions	**INCLUSIONS** Accommodation in chosen cabin onboard the Integrirty All Galapagos airport transfers to/from group flights All meals, complimentary soft drinks, house wine & beer, coffee, tea, and juice Laundry service available Unlimited internet Complimentary use of wetsuits, masks, fins & snorkels Complimentary use of eight 2-person sea-kayaks, where permitted by the National Park **EXCLUSIONS** Return airfares from mainland Ecuador (Group Flights: Cost: $555 USD per person, please contact us for more details) Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (US$200 per person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change) Galapagos Transit Control Card (US$20 per person - Subject to change) Mandatory travel insurance Premium wine and other spirits are available for purchase aboard ($10-$15 USD per glass) Gratuities for naturalist guides and yacht crew. Gratuities are always at the guest's discretion; however, the recommended amounts are $75-$115 USD per guest for the naturalist guide and $150-$225 USD per guest for the yacht crew. Any extra personal expenses Pre or post cruise arrangements Passport or visa fees
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)

Copyright Chimu Adventures. All rights reserved 2024. Chimu Adventures PTY LTD

ECUADOR - WESTERN ISLANDS CRUISE | INTEGRITY

Single Surcharge	No single supplement for single staterooms (limit 2 per voyage). 95% single supplement for single use of double-occupancy staterooms. No single supplement is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.
Notes	All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. Please note water activities are subject to weather conditions. Prices are based on per person, twin share* (unless otherwise stated). Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to change at any time. * Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations. All guests must arrive in Ecuador at least one day prior to facilitate flight connections. The Government of Ecuador requires all foreign visitors to the Galapagos to have coverage for medical expenses during their stay, Additionally, all INTEGRITY guests must have emergency medical evacuation coverage of at least $100,000 USD per person.
Price Dependent upon	Seasonality, fuel surcharges, currency fluctuations and availability at time of booking.

SUSTAINABILITY

TRIP CODE

ECIG8DW

DEPARTURE

Selected Saturdays

DURATION

8 Days

LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America

Copyright Chimu Adventures. All rights reserved 2024. Chimu Adventures PTY LTD