

## ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS 5 DAY CRUISE D | CORAL I & II



### INTRODUCTION

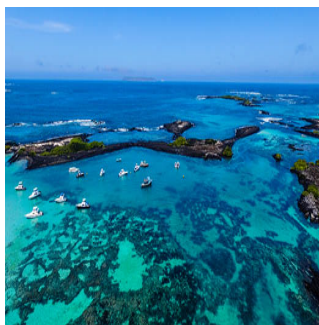
Set along the equator, some 600 miles off the South American coast of Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands are a crown jewel of the natural world.

A visit to this enchanted archipelago lives up to dreams of a sheltered place far removed from the usual worries of the world. The skies are almost always sunny, and the sea breezes create that perfect air temperature that instantly relaxes the body. The ocean is an ever inviting turquoise blue, matched by long sandy beaches of crystal white, pink, black and looking-glass green. There are crystal coves and sheltered mangrove lagoons, as well as towering cliffs and caves...

### ITINERARY

DAY 1: San Cristobal airport and San Cristobal

Take a flight from Quito or Guayaquil to San Cristobal. The flight from Quito to the Galapagos is approximately 2 ½ hours and from Guayaquil approximately 1 ½ hours. Arriving in the Galapagos, passengers are met at the airport by our naturalist guides and driven ten minutes by bus to the pier to board the M/Y Coral I or M/Y Coral II. PM - Interpretation Centre & Tijeretas Hill (San Cristobal Island) Dry landing. The interpretation center is full of interesting information and offers the perfect overview to the formation of Galapagos, its significance in the world, threats and conservation efforts. Followed by a hike to Frigatebird Hill (Cerro Tijeretas) we will have great looks at both species of frigatebird, with the bonus of a beautiful view of the bay below.



#### TRIP CODE

ECTSC5CD

#### DEPARTURE

Selected Wednesdays

#### DURATION

5 Days

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## DAY 2: Cerro Brujo and Punta Pitt

AM - Cerro Brujo (San Cristobal Island) Wet landing. From our pangas, as we head to shore, we are first humbled by the immensity of the stunning cliffs of "Sorcerer's Hill". We can enjoy simply sharing the beach with sea lions, snorkelling from shore or take a walk to a hidden lagoon where we might spot black-necked stilts, ruddy turnstones, whimbrels and white-cheeked pintails. PM - Punta Pitt & Islet (San Cristobal Island) Wet landing. Sea lions will greet us as we land on the beach and prepare for our climb to a high point on the steep eroded tuff cone. This is the only place in the islands where we will enjoy the chance to see all three of the booby species in the same place. The red-foots will be perched on the Cordia lutea and small trees, the Nazca's on the ground near the cliff edge while the blue-foots will be a little further inland. Frigatebirds will be all around and the views are breathtaking.



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## DAY 3: Suarez Point

AM - Punta Suarez (Española Island) Dry landing. One of the highlight visits of the trip. Punta Suarez seems to have everything - a naturalists paradise. A slew of marine iguanas and sea lions greet us at the landing site from where our walk continues with close encounters of boobies, endemic lizards, gulls and even a dramatic blowhole. The oldest extant island in the archipelago it is our only opportunity to commune with the endemic waved albatross during their breeding season between April and December. With luck, we can watch their complex courtship display. PM - Gardner Bay, Osborn or Gardner Islets (Espanola Island) Wet landing. One of the most stunning beaches in all of Galapagos. The long, white, sandy beach, lapped by turquoise waters is home to a colony of Galapagos sea lions, indifferent to the humans that walk amongst them. The Hood mockingbirds, endemic to this particular island, will be eager to inspect the visitors and satisfy their innate curiosity. Darwinís finches may also join the throng including the reclusive warbler finch. We can also snorkel here from the beach, in the shallows of the bay.



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### DAY 4: Champion Islet / Devil's Crown

AM - Punta Cormoran/ Devil's Crown/Champion (Floreana Island) Wet landing. On arriving, the you will notice that olivine, a volcanic crystal, has proffered a subtle green hue on the dark beach. Your walk takes you past island-endemic Scalesia plants to a large, shallow, lagoon often inhabited by a variable number of shockingly pink greater flamingos. You continue through a forest of palo santo trees to arrive at a powdery white beach, a nesting area of green turtles. As you paddle barefoot in the shallow water you will spot diamond stingrays and white-tipped reef sharks. This coral-sand beach marks the end of your trail, and you head back to the olivine beach you landed on, to swim or snorkel amongst sea turtles, reef fish, sea lions and, on a good day, white-tipped reef sharks. A small colony of penguins resides on Floreana and can sometimes be observed as well. One of the favorite snorkelling sites in the islands. Devil's Crown, an eroded volcanic cone, is home to an abundance of fish and marine animals. You will swim with big schools of yellow-tailed surgeonfish, salemas and creole fish and with luck, you may spot turtles, spotted eagle rays, parrotfish, and even hammerhead sharks! The jagged ãcrowní is a roosting area for boobies, noddies, tropicbirds, and frigates. A truly magical place to snorkel. We would expect to see here green turtles, harmless white-tipped reef sharks, an impressive diversity and abundance of fish as well as some playful sea lions often approaching very close, itching to show off their prowess in the water. Champion Islet also happens to be the last remaining home of the island-endemic Floreana mockingbird which we may be lucky enough to see from our pangas. PM - Post Office (Floreana Island) Wet landing. A very short walk from the beach leads us to the famous Post Office Barrel. Claimed to have been the first set up in 1793 by Captain James Colnett it remains the oldest functioning epost officeí in the Pacific. The system was that whalers and fur-sealers would leave addressed letters in the barrel to be picked up by homeward bound colleagues. In the spirit of maintaining tradition visitors, today will often take letters and hand-deliver them in their home countries.



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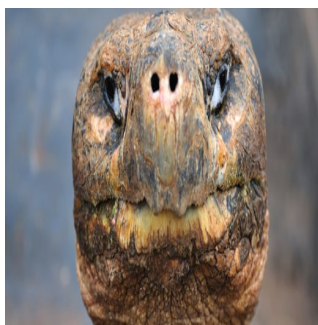
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## DAY 5: Highlands (Santa Cruz Island)

AM - Highlands Tortoise Reserve (Santa Cruz Island) Dry landing. In the central highlands of Santa Cruz Island, we have our best opportunity to interact at close quarters with totally wild, Galapagos giant tortoises. A short walk among these huge, 600lb, reptiles will also offer the chance for more highland species, especially several species of the famed finches. After the visit you will be taken to the airport for your return flight to Guayaquil or Quito.



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## INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

<b>Accommodation</b>	Standard
<b>Inclusions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shipboard accommodation</li> <li>All meals whilst on board including snacks</li> <li>All shore excursions</li> <li>Guiding and lectures by Galapagos Naturalist Guide</li> <li>English-speaking Expedition team</li> <li>Fuel surcharge</li> <li>Welcome and farewell cocktails</li> </ul> <p><b>Exclusions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Return airfares from mainland Ecuador</li> <li>Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (US\$100 per person subject to change)</li> <li>Galapagos Transit Control Card (US\$20 per person subject to change)</li> <li>Visa Fees (if applicable)</li> <li>Travel insurance</li> <li>Gratuities for the crew</li> <li>Optional activities whilst on board</li> </ul>
<b>Difficulty Rating</b>	2 (light adventure)
<b>Single Surcharge</b>	Available upon request
<b>Notes</b>	Contact us for more details
<b>Price Dependent upon</b>	Season and availability

## SUSTAINABILITY

Chimu Adventures undertakes a number of sustainability measures within its operations including:

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- 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 structures 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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