

ECUADOR - GALAPAGOS ISLAND HOPPING 4 DAY



INTRODUCTION

The Galapagos Islands are unique and enchanting - few places on Earth allow for such close proximity to animals in the wild. Each island is the peak of an underwater volcano and the home of many endemic species found nowhere else in the world.

Our Galapagos Island Hopping Tours are a great alternative to a live-aboard cruise. Explore the archipelago's wildlife and natural wonders by day, sleeping in boutique island hotels at night. This allows non-seagoing travellers the chance to enjoy the highlights of the Galapagos Islands without compromising their comfort and need to be on firm land. Speed boats or public transportation takes you from island to island and at the end of the day you stay in lovely hotels on the islands.

Snorkel with rays, sea lions and iguanas and experience the breath-taking beauty of the Galapagos Islands from the top of the Sierra Negra volcano. Enjoy the highlights of the four inhabited islands of the Galapagos (San Cristóbal, Isabela, Floreana and Santa Cruz) - amazing destinations, great activities and accommodation on the islands: the perfect combination!

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Arrival in Baltra, Puerto Ayora

Upon arrival at Baltra's airport, a naturalist guide will be waiting to transfer you to Puerto Ayora. On the way, the guide will make a stop in the highlands where you will have the chance to visit the giant land tortoises and enjoy lunch with breathtaking views. Once you arrive at the hotel and settle in, you will head out in the afternoon to Tortuga Bay. A 45-minute walk through a cactus trail will lead you to the first beach, Playa Brava, where you will spot a variety of marine iguanas, birds and pelicans. After exploring Playa Brava, you will continue with an additional 15-minute walk to reach Playa Mansa. This second beach is a natural lagoon which is a popular spot for blue-footed boobies and pelicans, and a great place to swim and relax on the beach. Finally, you will walk back to the hotel for dinner and a well-deserved rest. *Note: In order to fully execute this itinerary, it's essential to book an early flight that arrives no later than 10am at Baltra.



TRIP CODE

ECTSGIH4

DURATION

4 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands



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DAY 2: First island excursion

The tour will begin when the guide picks you up in the hotel lobby after breakfast and takes you to the dock. Each day, you will only make one trip to one of these four islands: Bartolome, North Seymour, Santa Fe, or South Plaza. Availability will determine which island is selected. There will be lunch served on the little yacht. You'll head back to the hotel in the afternoon for dinner and lodging.

Bartolome Island: One of the most popular islands in the Galapagos due to its stunning landscape. Visitors can hike to the top of Bartolome for panoramic views of the surrounding bays and volcanic cones. The island's beach is also a great spot for swimming and snorkeling.

North Seymour Island: Home to a variety of unique wildlife species, including frigatebirds, boobies, and Galapagos sharks. Visitors can hike along the island's trails and enjoy views of the sea lions and marine iguanas that also call North Seymour home.

Santa Fe Island: One of the oldest in the Galapagos, with volcanic rocks that date back about 4 million years. Visitors can hike through the island's brush and stands of prickly pear cactus to see a variety of wildlife, including sea lions and land iguanas.

South Plaza Island: A small island with a unique landscape and diverse wildlife population. Visitors can walk through the island's rocky terrain and observe colonies of sea lions, land iguanas, and a variety of bird species such as red-billed tropicbirds and swallow-tailed gulls.



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DAY 3: Second island excursion

The tour will begin when the guide picks you up in the hotel lobby after breakfast and takes you to the dock. Each day, you will only make one trip to one of these four islands: Bartolome, North Seymour, Santa Fe, or South Plaza. Availability will determine which island is selected. There will be lunch served on the little yacht. You'll head back to the hotel in the afternoon for dinner and lodging.

Bartolome Island: One of the most popular islands in the Galapagos due to its stunning landscape. Visitors can hike to the top of Bartolome for panoramic views of the surrounding bays and volcanic cones. The island's beach is also a great spot for swimming and snorkeling.

North Seymour Island: Home to a variety of unique wildlife species, including frigatebirds, boobies, and Galapagos sharks. Visitors can hike along the island's trails and enjoy views of the sea lions and marine iguanas that also call North Seymour home.

Santa Fe Island: One of the oldest in the Galapagos, with volcanic rocks that date back about 4 million years. Visitors can hike through the island's brush and stands of prickly pear cactus to see a variety of wildlife, including sea lions and land iguanas.

South Plaza Island: A small island with a unique landscape and diverse wildlife population. Visitors can walk through the island's rocky terrain and observe colonies of sea lions, land iguanas, and a variety of bird species such as red-billed tropicbirds and swallow-tailed gulls.



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DAY 4: Departure day

At the start of the day, you will head to the Charles Darwin Station to witness a variety of species of Giant Tortoises up close. Your guide will also provide valuable insights into the ongoing conservation efforts being undertaken to preserve these magnificent creatures, as well as the environment of the Galapagos archipelago as a whole. After the visit to the station, you will take the route to the airport which takes around one hour. At the airport, you will catch your flight back to Quito or Guayaquil, marking the end of an unforgettable journey through the unique and diverse ecosystem of the Galapagos Islands.



***Note:** To execute this itinerary, it is important to book a late flight that departs after 11am from Baltra.

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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Hotels
Inclusions	<p>Accommodation in double/twin rooms All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner). First day: lunch and dinner. Last day: breakfast Transportation Bilingual naturalist guide (English, Spanish) Scheduled Visits Snorkeling equipment All Transfers in Galápagos Shared Sailing tours</p> <p>Exclusions Air Ticket Galapagos National Park Entrance fee (US\$200 per person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change) INGALA Migration Control Card (USD20 per person subject to change) Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages Tips</p>
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement applies, please contact us for more information.
Notes	<p>* Please note it is important to choose a late flight that departs after 11am from Baltra on the final day of your trip. We can assist with arranging flights if required*</p> <p>Price is based on low season and twin share Contact us for more details</p>
Price Dependent upon	Seasonality and availability

SUSTAINABILITY

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

- 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.

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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 structured 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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