

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - GALAPAGOS 8 DAY EASTERN ISLANDS | CORMORANT II




INTRODUCTION

The Galapagos islands evoke notions of wilderness, mystery and tropical biosphere of incredible wildlife opportunities. In 8 days you will explore this pristine and incredible archipelago on board the Cormorant II, one of the most modern vessels to enter the Galapagos. From rich history to an indescribable diverse array of natural wildlife, the Galapagos superimposes the idea of a remote paradise.

* Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations.

PLEASE NOTE: Pricing is subject to change and availability at the time of booking. [Contact us](#) for more information.

ITINERARY

TRIP CODE
ECRGC8A
DEPARTURE
Selected Saturdays
DURATION
8 Days
LOCATIONS
Galapagos Islands, Ecuador


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DAY 1: Arrival in Santa Cruz Island

Morning flight from either Quito or Guayaquil to Santa Cruz, Galapagos Island. After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by our representative 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 head for Bachas Beach. Located on the north shore of Santa Cruz, Las Bachas is a swimming beach. One of the few remnants of the U.S. World War II presence in the Galapagos, a floating pier, can be seen here. You may see flamingos, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black necked stilts, and whimbrels. Sea turtles also nest off the beach.



DAY 2: Genovesa Island

This morning, we'll visit El Barranco, also known as Prince Phillip's Steps. The steep, rocky path leads to a high cliff-face, offering a marvelous view. This site is home to palo santo vegetation and a variety of bird species, including red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, Galapagos swallows, and Galapagos doves. In the afternoon, we'll hike a half-mile trail (0.75km) through mangroves filled with land birds to a white sand coral beach. Here, we can spot Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls. Further down the path, we'll find tidal pools where sea lions swim playfully. The trail ends with a spectacular view off a cliff.



DAY 3: South Plaza & Santa Fe

In the morning, you will head to South Plaza Island. This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colourful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is Sesuvium. During the rainy season its colour is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season (end of June through January) a bright red. In the afternoon you will arrive at Santa Fe Island. Santa Fe (Barrington) is home to the small picturesque bay and anchorage on the island's northeast coast. The bay has two visitor trails, one leading to a scenic viewpoint atop a cliff, and the other spanning from a small beach to a tall prickly pear cactus forest.



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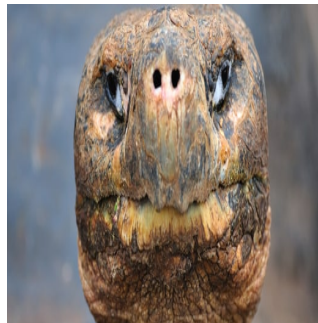
DAY 4: Pitt Point & Witch Hill


In the morning you will arrive at Pitt Point, situated on the north-eastern tip of the island, hosts frigatebirds, storm petrels, and all three types of booby birds: the Nazca, blue-footed and red-footed boobies. A steep trail goes up a cliff and through a ravine leading visitors to an area with an abundance of birds. This site is also great for snorkelling and scuba diving. Later in the afternoon you will arrive at 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 snorkelling.



DAY 5: Turtle Breeding Centre, Lobos Island & Kicker Rock

The David Rodriguez Breeding Centre is a new visitor site in the northeast part of San Cristobal Island and can now be reached in roughly one hour by road from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. In the Breeding Center, you will be able to admire the hatchling turtles from their birth until they are 120 days old when the grown turtles are taken to their natural habitat. Afterwards you may head for Lobos Island. The name of this island means "Sea Lion Island." This appropriately named island is ripe with noisy, frolicking, jolly sea lions who will welcome you to their home with open, well, fins. This island also offers great snorkelling opportunities as well as the chance to see blue-footed and Nazca boobies. In the afternoon you will visit Kicker Rock. This striking rock formation is located a couple hours off the western shore of San Cristobal. Jutting out of the water, the rocks stand vertically at hundreds of feet above the ocean divided by a small channel. Although there are no landing areas, kayaking and scuba diving allow visitors to spot a variety of marine life.



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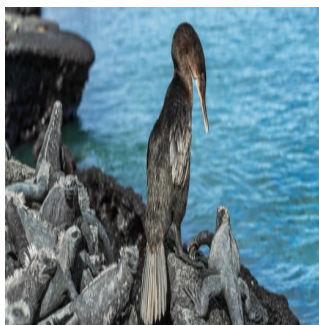
DAY 6: Suarez Point & Gardner Bay

In the morning you will visit Suarez point. This area is great for spotting blue-footed boobies, albatrosses and Nazca boobies. A beautiful site on the ocean front, the large waved albatrosses use the cliff as a launching pad. The famous attraction is the magnificent blowhole, spurting water high into the air. This site presents wonderful photograph opportunities. Gardner Bay, on the eastern side of the island, is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses. It has an ample white sandy beach with a myriad of sea lions, perfect for relaxing. Its rocky shores make this site a great place for diving and snorkelling.



DAY 7: Post Office Bay & Cormorant Point

In the morning, you will land on a beach and head to a spot where 18th century whalers placed a wooden barrel used as an unofficial mail box. The custom continues to this day with Galapagos visitors. So, don't forget your postcards, and don't be surprised if the post card arrives to its destination before you even get home! Afterward, Baroness Viewing Point is a fantastic place to absorb the environment of the Galapagos. Once inhabited by an indulgent baroness and her three lovers, the history of this island is intriguing. The legends about this baroness are associated with a fascinating murder mystery. There are easy trails in this area for exploring the flora and fauna of Floreana. In the afternoon, Cormorant Point hosts a large flamingo lagoon where other birds such as common stilts and white-cheeked pintails can also be seen. The beaches on this island are distinct: The Green Beach is named so due to its green colour, which comes from a high percentage of olivine crystals in the sand, and the Flour Sand Beach is composed of white coral. Afterwards, Champion Islet, named after the whaler Andrew Champion, is a small island located just offshore Floreana Island in the southern part of the Archipelago. Considered as one of the most beautiful places on Galapagos for all snorkeling and diving fans and an excellent opportunity for dolphin watching.



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DAY 8: Tortoise Breeding Centre & Departure

This morning you will make your way to see the twin Craters on Santa Cruz island. Los Gemelos, or the Twin Craters, are located opposite each other on both sides of the road leading from Puerto Ayora to Baltra. The name is only figurative; not real craters, these formations were created by the collapse of surface material in underground fissures and chambers. The view is breathtaking. In the afternoon you will be transferred to Baltra airport where you will board your departure flight.




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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation	Cabin on board ship
Inclusions	<p>INCLUSIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabin Accommodation on board ship All meals whilst on board Guiding and lectures by bilingual national park guide Airport transfers in Galapagos Captain’s welcome and farewell cocktail Soft drinks Use of snorkelling equipment, underwater camera and wetsuit VIP lounge at Galapagos airports for departure flight 2 glasses of house wine per meal <p>EXCLUSIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International flights Flights to/from Galapagos 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) Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable) Alcoholic drinks Travel and medical insurance Personal expenses Tips
Difficulty Rating	2 (light adventure)
Single Surcharge	A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.

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Notes	All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice. Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather conditions and government regulations. Please note a complimentary pre-cruise night accommodation in Quito or Guayaquil is only available when purchasing Roundtrip airfare from operator.
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.

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.

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](#)