

**Ecuador** - 8 Day Cruise | Calipso

Trip Code

ECGGC8D

Departure



## Introduction

Enjoy an 8-day journey through the **Galapagos Islands** on board the M/Y Calipso. Enjoy a unique adventure that blends comfort and expedition experiences. A great way to witness the marvels of the Galapagos, the M/Y Calipso will take you to pristine beaches of Santiago Island, to the incredible highlights of the nesting sights of the unique **flightless cormorant** and the home of **giant tortoises** on Santa Cruz. The Galapagos archipelago is a paradise for wildlife lovers.

Check out the other itineraries onboard Calipso: [5 Day Western Islands Cruise](#), [4 Day Southern Islands Cruise](#)

## Itinerary

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Departure

Selected Thursdays

Duration

8 Days

Locations

~~Arrive at San Cristobal Island in the~~  
~~Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America~~

~~morning. After passing through immigration~~

and baggage claim, you will be met by a

Calipso staff member 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 we will approach 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 an

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.



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Departing Friday, Bartholomew and Santiago

Islands

Duration

8 Days

Location

This morning you will head to Bartholomew

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

island, where the famous Pinnacle Rock is

found. Bartholomew consists of an inactive

volcano with a variety of red, orange, black

and even green volcanic formations. We will

take a trail of stairs to the summit of the

volcano (about 30 or 40 minutes) where you

will enjoy one of the best views of the

islands! You will also visit a small, beautiful

beach surrounded by the only vegetation

found on this barren island. The beach is

perfect for snorkelling where you may even

see and swim with Galapagos penguins.

Following this, you will be on your way to

Chinese Hat Islet. This small islet is located

near the southeast coast of Santiago Island.

Its name comes from the distinct shape of

the islet's summit. This is a great location to

view many geological formations such as

lava tunnels and lava flows. Some of the

lava flows were formed underwater and

subsequently raised above sea level.

Embark on an afternoon exploration of the

captivating Puerto Egas, also known as

James Bay. This remarkable location is not

only home to the inquisitive Galapagos

hawks and agile Galapagos lava lizards, but

it also features a stunning coastline adorned

with picturesque tide pools and enchanting

grottos teeming with diverse fauna. As you

wander along the trail, keep an eye out for

the Galapagos fur sea lions basking in the

warm sun, adding to the natural beauty of

the area. For those seeking underwater

adventures, Puerto Egas also offers an

excellent snorkeling opportunity, immersing

you in the mesmerizing marine world that

surrounds the Galapagos Islands.



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Departure

Selected Thursday, 11 October 2024

Duration

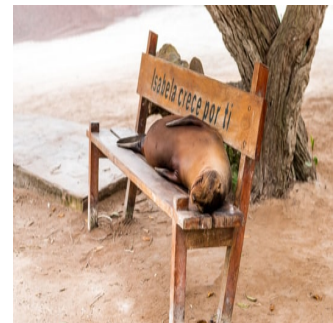
8 Days

Crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at Espinoza Point, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, you will reach the island's highlight: the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area also provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk. In the afternoon, you will visit Tagus Cove on Isabela Island which is located across from Fernandina Island, near the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. This spot has been frequented by ships since the 1800s, using the area as an anchorage site. Trails winding by Lake Darwin up to a ridge display wonderful views.



## DAY 4: Sunday, Isabela Island

Urbina Bay is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954 causing the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out, leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place for snorkelling. Later, you will visit Mareno Point. Mareno Point is located southwest of Elizabeth Bay. Here a dry landing onto what was once flowing lava is possible. The lava has left craters in its wake which formed crystal tide pools. In the brackish pools of this area, you may see pink flamingos, white-cheeked pintails, and common gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools, you may see white-tip reef sharks and some sea turtles.



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Departure

Selected Thursday, 16  
May 31 Monday, North Seymour and South

Plaza Islands

8 Days

Location Seymour you may see Galapagos  
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America

Seasons, Guano, and  
magnificent frigate birds which are  
abundant on this island. North Seymour was  
formed by a series of submarine lava flows  
containing layers of sediment that were  
uplifted by tectonic activity. The island is  
characterized by its arid vegetation zone.

Later in the day experience South Plaza  
Islands, 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 the  
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.



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Departure

Selected Thursdays  
Day 01 Tuesday, Floreana Island

Duration

8 Days  
You will land on a beach and head to a spot

Locations  
where 18th century whalers placed a  
Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America  
wooden barrel used as an unofficial mail

box, Post Office Bay. 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!

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, enjoy the sights

of Cormorant Point, a point that hosts a

large flamingo lagoon. It is here that other

birds such as common stilts and white-

cheeked pintails can also be see. The

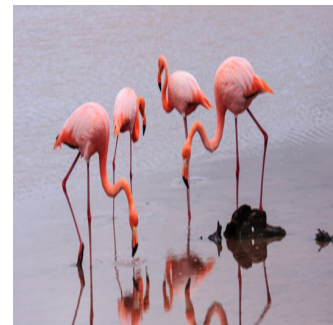
beaches on this island are distinct: The

Green Beach is named so due to its green

colour, which comes from a high percentage

of olivine crystals in the sand, and the Four

Sand Beach is composed of white coral.



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Direct Santa Fe and Santa Cruz Islands

Duration

8 Days

Locations

Santa Fe Island (Barrington) is home to the small picturesque bay and anchorage on the Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America Island's northern 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 cactus forest. Later that day, you will visit "Fausto Llerena", Giant Tortoises Breeding Center in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, where giant tortoises are bred in captivity; this is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long adults. Subspecies of the giant tortoises interact with one another, and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years-old and strong enough to survive on their own.



DAY 8: Thursday, San Cristobal Island & Departure

You will visit Gianni Arismendy Interpretation center, part of an environmental project. The tour of this center will explore the natural history of the islands including human interaction and conservation efforts. The Museum of Natural History explains the volcanic origin of the archipelago, ocean currents, climate, and the arrival of endemic species. The Human History exhibit chronologically describes significant events such as discovery and colonization of the islands. After this final visit, you will be transferred to the San Cristobal airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.



### Inclusions & Details

Accommodation Cabin on board ship

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Locations

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America



## INCLUSIONS

All meals onboard the ship

Transfers in the islands

Excursions with a bilingual National Park Guide

Use of snorkelling equipment/wetsuit

Use of underwater camera

Free Airport Assistance\*

Hotel night in Quito or Guayaquil (the day before the cruise)\*

2 Free transfers to Galapagos Flights\*

\*Applies only when purchasing airfare through the ship operator

Inclusions

## EXCLUSIONS

Roundtrip airfare to/from Galapagos

Alcoholic drinks

Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (US\$200 per person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change)

Galapagos Transit Control Card (USD\$20 per person - Subject to change)

Travel/Medical insurance

Gratuities

Personal Expenses

Difficulty Rating

2 (Light adventure)

Single Surcharge

A single supplement surcharge applies and is subject to availability. Please contact us for more information.

Notes

All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

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

Price Dependent upon Seasonality, fuel surcharges, currency fluctuations and availability at time of booking.

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.
- 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



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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.

Duration

8 Days

Locations

