

ECUADOR - WESTERN ISLANDS CRUISE | CALIPSO



INTRODUCTION

This 5-day experience on board the recently refurbished M/Y Calipso is an amazing way to experience the Galapagos. A unique combination of both naturalist and luxury experiences, visiting the pristine waters of the Galapagos has never felt better. Whether its diving with sea lions, visiting the solidified lava flows of Isabela Island or taking a scenic walk on the beautiful beaches of the Santiago Islands, the M/Y Calipso offers a diverse and memorable experience.

Check out the other itineraries onboard Calipso: [4 Day Southern Islands Cruise](#), [8 Day Cruise](#)

ITINERARY

DAY 1: Thursday, Arrival San Cristobal ISLAND & Witch Hil

You will arrive at San Cristobal Island in the 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 you will set sights on 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.



TRIP CODE

ECGGC5D

DEPARTURE

Selected Thursdays

DURATION

5 Days

LOCATIONS

Ecuador, Galapagos Islands, South America



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DAY 2: Friday, Bartholomew & Puerto Egas

This morning you will head to Bartholomew 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.



DAY 3: Saturday, Fernandina & Isabela Islands

Crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides 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.



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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. Moreno 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.



DAY 5: Monday, North Seymour Island & Departure

In North Seymour you may see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies, 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. After this final visit, you will be transferred to the Baltra airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

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Inclusions	INCLUSIONS All meals onboard the ship Transfers in the islands Twice daily excursions accompanied by 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)* 1 Free transfer to Galapagos Flights* *Applies when purchasing airfare through ship operator.
	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 Visas and other related 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.

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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 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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