

# *Alya Catamaran*

## **Galapagos Cruise Expedition Itinerary A: 5 Days – 4 Nights**



The Alya is a superior first-class catamaran built in 2017 and designed to deliver a smooth, stylish, and environmentally conscious Galapagos experience. With Smart Voyager certification and space for just 16 guests, it offers an intimate atmosphere paired with modern comforts and excellent service. Its nine cabins—eight of them with private balconies—are spread across the main and upper decks, each equipped with private bathrooms, hot water, air conditioning, hairdryers, safes, and internal communication systems, ensuring both comfort and convenience throughout your stay.

Onboard, guests enjoy a range of inviting social areas, including a dining room with a coffee station, a lounge, a bar, and a small library. The upper deck offers an alfresco area for relaxed gatherings, while the spacious sundeck features a solarium with a Jacuzzi and sun loungers, the perfect spot for panoramic island views. With free use of snorkeling gear and kayaks, the Alya makes it easy to balance relaxation with active exploration in the islands.



Every detail of the Alya is crafted to enhance your Galapagos journey, from the attentive service of its eight crew members to the guidance of its bilingual naturalist. Daily excursions include hiking, wildlife observation, snorkeling, swimming, and kayaking, providing immersive encounters with the unique ecosystems of the archipelago. Whether savoring a freshly prepared meal, sipping cocktails on deck, or spotting sea lions and seabirds just offshore, the Alya offers a rewarding and memorable way to experience the Galapagos Islands.

## Accommodation



## Technical Features and Specifications

- Type: Superior First-class motor Catamaran
- Construction: Guayaquil 2017
- Length: 31.50 m
- Beam: 12.50 m
- Draft: 1.70 m
- Capacity: 16 passengers
- Crew: 8 members + 1 bilingual guide
- Cruising speed: 12 knots
- Engines: 2 Cumming Motors 350 HP
- Water capacity: 2,500 gallons
- Diesel capacity: 2,500 gallons
- Electric power: 110V and 220V



## ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

- Day 1 - Thursday:** Baltra Island: Airport // Black Turtle Cove
- Day 2 - Friday:** Genovesa Island: Darwin Bay – El Barranco
- Day 3 - Saturday:** Santiago Island: Sullivan Bay // Bartolome Island
- Day 4 - Sunday:** Santiago: Chinese Hat – Mosquera Islet
- Day 5 - Monday:** Santa Cruz Island: Charles Darwin Research Station // Baltra Island Airport

## ITINERARY MAP



## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### Day 1 - Thursday: Baltra Island: Airport // Black Turtle Cove



Your adventure begins with a flight from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra Island, the gateway to the Galápagos. After paying the national park entrance fee, which helps protect this natural wonder, you'll be greeted by the crew and transferred to the elegant Alya motor catamaran. Once settled into your cabin, enjoy lunch on board as the excitement of the journey sets in.

In the afternoon, you'll set out to explore Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz Island. This quiet mangrove-fringed inlet is a haven for wildlife, where green sea turtles surface for air and rays glide gracefully under the water. With luck, you may spot reef sharks cruising in the shallows, while the glassy water reflects the surrounding greenery. It's a peaceful and magical introduction to the enchanted islands.

**Meals included:** Lunch, Dinner

**Day 2 - Friday:** Genovesa Island: Darwin Bay – El Barranco



Today you'll discover Genovesa Island, famously known as "Bird Island" for the sheer abundance of feathered residents. After a wet landing at Darwin Bay, stroll along a sandy path through colonies of frigatebirds and red-footed boobies. On the beach, you'll witness fascinating interactions as frigates swoop to snatch fish from unsuspecting boobies—a lively spectacle of survival.

Later, hike up the lava trail at El Barranco (Prince Philip's Steps), where rugged cliffs are alive with nesting seabirds. Storm petrels dart in and out of the rocks, watched closely by the elusive short-eared owl. Red-footed and Nazca boobies also nest here, while fur seals lounge on the shoreline. The stark volcanic setting adds drama to this wild and pristine island.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Day 3 - Saturday:** Santiago Island: Sullivan Bay // Bartolome Island



This morning, step onto Santiago Island at Sullivan Bay, a living geology lesson. Walk across an otherworldly lava field created by eruptions in the late 1800s, where pahoehoe formations twist and ripple across the ground. Despite its starkness, life persists here in the form of tiny lava cacti. Afterwards, cool off with a swim or snorkel among playful sea lions.

In the afternoon, cross to Bartolomé Island, one of the most iconic spots in the Galápagos. Hike to the summit for breathtaking views of Pinnacle Rock and the surrounding volcanic landscape. Then, dive into the turquoise waters below, where you may snorkel alongside sea turtles, penguins darting like torpedoes, and even harmless whitetip reef sharks. The mix of lunar scenery and vibrant underwater life makes this day unforgettable.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Day 4 - Sunday:** Santiago: Chinese Hat – Mosquera Islet



Start your morning on Chinese Hat, a small islet shaped like its namesake. The trail winds past lava tubes and rugged formations, reminders of the islands' fiery origins. Along the way, you'll encounter a small colony of sea lions, marine iguanas basking on the rocks, and dramatic contrasts of black lava and white sand.

In the afternoon, visit Mosquera Islet, a long, narrow sandbar teeming with sea lions. This is one of the best spots to capture photos of these charismatic animals as they laze on the beach or splash in the waves. Stroll along the soft white sand, keeping an eye out for blue-footed boobies and brown pelicans gliding overhead. It's a relaxed finale to a day rich in contrasts.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Day 5 - Monday:** Santa Cruz Island: Charles Darwin Research Station // Baltra Island Airport



On your final morning, visit the world-renowned Charles Darwin Research Station in Puerto Ayora. Here you'll learn about conservation efforts and see giant tortoises at all stages of life—from tiny hatchlings to massive adults weighing hundreds of kilos. This was once home to the legendary “Lonesome George,” and today it continues to serve as a vital breeding center for these gentle giants.

After the visit, you'll be transferred to Baltra Airport for your flight back to the mainland. As you look out over the islands one last time, you'll carry with you memories of lava fields, turquoise bays, and wildlife encounters that make the Galápagos such an extraordinary place.

**Meals included:** Breakfast



### **Included in the price**

- All meals, as indicated in the itinerary
- All excursions
- Transfers in the islands
- Bilingual National Park guide
- Use of snorkeling equipment/wetsuit

### **Not included in the price**

- Flights between mainland Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands (Quito–Galapagos–Quito)
- Entrance fee to Galapagos National Park (USD 200 per person)
- Galapagos Immigration Control Card (USD 20 per person)
- Alcoholic and bottled drinks
- Tips & gratuities
- Personal expenses
- Travel/medical insurance (highly recommended)