

Alya Catamaran

Galapagos Cruise Expedition Itinerary B: 6 Days – 5 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 - Monday: Santa Cruz Island: Highlands

Day 2 - Tuesday: Isabela Island: Moreno Point – Elizabeth Bay

Day 3 - Wednesday: Isabela Island: Urbina Bay // Fernandina Island: Espinoza Point

Day 4 - Thursday: Isabela Island: Tagus Cove – Vicente Roca Point

Day 5 - Friday: Santiago Island: Espumilla Beach – Puerto Egas

Day 6 - Saturday: Santa Cruz Island: Bachas Beach – Airport

ITINERARY MAP



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Monday: Santa Cruz Island: Highlands



Your journey begins with a flight from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra Island, the gateway to the Galápagos. After paying your national park entrance fee, you'll be greeted by the crew and transferred to your ship, the elegant Alya Catamaran. Take a moment to settle into your cabin and enjoy lunch on board before your first adventure.

In the afternoon, head into the lush highlands of Santa Cruz Island, a striking contrast to the arid lower coasts. As the bus climbs through shifting vegetation zones, you'll pass giant cacti and scalesia forests before reaching the twin "Los Gemelos" craters, dramatic sinkholes formed by volcanic activity. Along the way, look out for ruby red Vermilion flycatchers, finches, and the chance to taste locally grown organic Galápagos coffee from small highland farms.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 - Tuesday: Isabela Island: Moreno Point – Elizabeth Bay



This morning brings you to Isabela Island, the largest in the archipelago, formed by five mighty volcanoes and straddling the equator. Your first stop is Moreno Point, a young volcanic landscape where shimmering lagoons are scattered among the hardened lava fields. Here, flamingos, pintail ducks, and herons feed in the pools, while lava lizards scuttle across the rocks.

In the afternoon, explore the tranquil mangroves of Elizabeth Bay by panga. This is a paradise for wildlife lovers: penguins dart through the water, manta rays and sea turtles glide below, and you might even catch a glimpse of a whale shark surfacing offshore. Above, herons and seabirds nest in the dense mangrove canopy, making this a magical mix of land and sea life.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 - Wednesday: Isabela Island: Urbina Bay // Fernandina Island: Espinoza Point



Your day begins with a wet landing at Urbina Bay, where the coast was dramatically uplifted by volcanic activity in 1954, leaving behind exposed coral and shells. Today, the area is a hotspot for Galápagos land iguanas, giant tortoises (seasonally), and the rare mangrove finch. After a short hike, cool off with snorkeling among sea turtles, tropical fish, and playful sea lions.

In the afternoon, sail to Fernandina Island, the youngest and most pristine in the archipelago. At Espinoza Point, stark lava fields are dotted with pioneer plants and home to thousands of marine iguanas basking in the sun. Keep an eye out for flightless cormorants, Galápagos penguins, and sea lions scattered along the shore. This is also one of the best places to appreciate the raw, volcanic origins of the islands.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 - Thursday: Isabela Island: Tagus Cove – Vicente Roca Point



This morning, step ashore at Tagus Cove, once a favorite hideout for pirates and whalers. Historic graffiti carved into the rocks tells tales of those bygone days. Today, the cliffs are alive with blue-footed boobies, pelicans, and even Galápagos penguins. Hike through arid vegetation up to Darwin Lake, a saltwater crater with stunning views of the surrounding volcanic landscape.

Later, head to Vicente Roca Point, a dramatic bay formed by the remains of an ancient volcano. The cliffs shelter turquoise coves that are perfect for deep-water snorkeling. Look for penguins, flightless cormorants, and boobies perched along the rocks, while beneath the surface the nutrient-rich waters attract sea turtles, rays, and a dazzling array of marine life.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 - Friday: Santiago Island: Espumilla Beach – Puerto Egas



Begin your day on Espumilla Beach, where sea turtles nest along a pristine stretch of sand bordered by a small Palo Santo forest. Marine iguanas lounge on the shore, while snorkeling may reveal octopuses, reef fish, and moray eels. The combination of beach, forest, and wildlife makes this a wonderful spot to experience the island's diversity.

In the afternoon, make a wet landing at Puerto Egas, a striking black-sand beach once visited by Charles Darwin. A coastal walk reveals tide pools and lava formations rich with marine iguanas, Sally Lightfoot crabs, and seabirds. One of the highlights here is the colony of Galápagos fur seals resting in natural rock grottos, offering a rare chance to observe these elusive creatures up close.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 - Saturday: Santa Cruz Island: Bachas Beach – Airport



On your final morning, visit Las Bachas Beach on the northern coast of Santa Cruz. This long stretch of soft white sand is an important nesting site for sea turtles, and you may also see flamingos and penguins along the lagoon. Rusted remains of World War II barges tell another chapter of the islands' history, contrasting with the untouched beauty of the landscape.

After enjoying a last swim or snorkeling session in the crystal-clear waters, it's time to say goodbye. You'll be transferred to Baltra Airport for your flight back to the mainland, carrying with you unforgettable memories of giant tortoises, volcanic vistas, and close encounters with Galápagos wildlife.

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)