

# *Alya Catamaran*

## **Galapagos Cruise Expedition Itinerary C: 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 - Saturday:** Arrive at Baltra airport // North Seymour Island

**Day 2 - Sunday:** South Plazas Island – Santa Fe Island

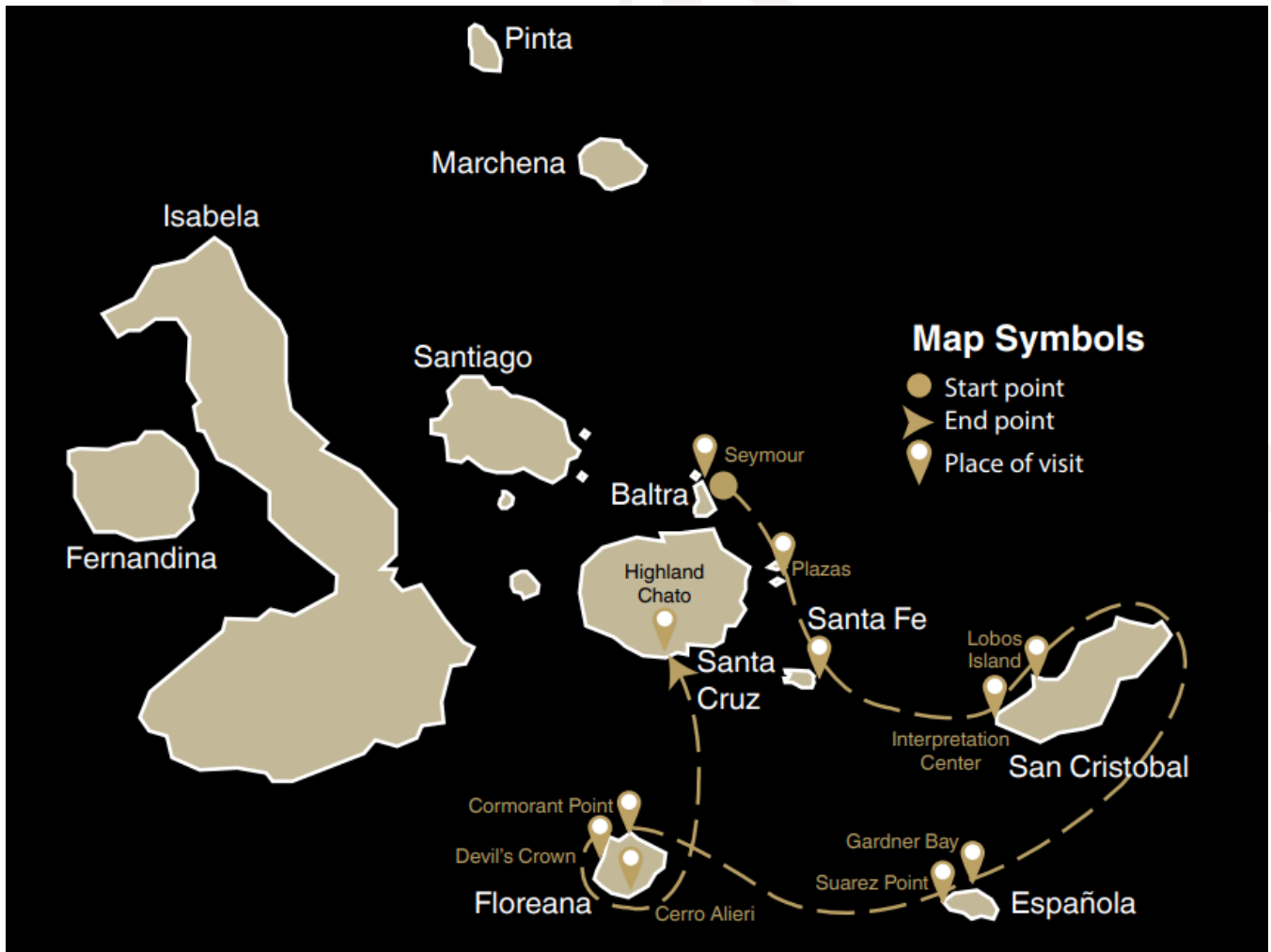
**Day 3 - Monday:** Interpretation Center // Kicker Rock // Lobos Island (San Cristobal Island)

**Day 4 - Tuesday:** Gardner Bay // Suarez Point (Española Island)

**Day 5 - Wednesday:** Cormorant Point // Devil's Crown // Alieri Hill (Floreana Island)

**Day 6 - Thursday:** Santa Cruz Island: Highlands. Transfer to Baltra airport

## ITINERARY MAP



## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

**Day 1 - Saturday:** Arrive at Baltra airport // North Seymour Island



Your Galápagos adventure begins with a flight from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra Island, the main gateway to this natural paradise. After paying the national park entrance fee, you'll be greeted by a crew member and escorted to your ship, the elegant Alya Catamaran. Settle into your cabin, enjoy lunch on board, and take in the excitement as your expedition begins.

In the afternoon, step ashore on North Seymour Island, famous for its thriving bird colonies and dramatic wildlife. A coastal walk reveals swallow-tailed gulls, sea lions, and cliff crabs, while inland you'll find blue-footed boobies nesting and magnificent frigatebirds inflating their red pouches to impress potential mates. Both marine and land iguanas inhabit this island, making it a wonderful introduction to the Galápagos' unique biodiversity.

**Meals included:** Lunch, Dinner

**Day 2 - Sunday:** South Plazas Island – Santa Fe Island



Start the day with a landing on South Plazas Island, a small but spectacular outcrop east of Santa Cruz. The rocky trails are lined with prickly-pear cactus forests where yellow-grey land iguanas rest in the shade. Sea lions sprawl along the shores, while tropicbirds and swallow-tailed gulls soar overhead. The island's vegetation, which shifts from bright green to vivid red depending on the season, adds an extra splash of color to this dramatic setting.

In the afternoon, sail to Santa Fe Island, a rugged landscape of palo santo trees and giant opuntia cactuses. This is the only home of the large yellow Santa Fe land iguana, while the surrounding cliffs host blue-footed boobies, Galápagos hawks, and pelicans. The turquoise bay is perfect for snorkeling – sea turtles glide gracefully, rays skim the sandy bottom, and playful sea lions will likely come to join you in the water.

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

**Day 3 - Monday:** Interpretation Center // Kicker Rock // Lobos Island (San Cristobal Island)



Your morning begins in Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the capital of the Galápagos Province, with a visit to the Interpretation Center. Through interactive exhibits and guided explanations, you'll learn about the islands' volcanic origins, unique ecosystems, and human history. Afterwards, the ship sails past Kicker Rock, a towering volcanic formation that rises 460 feet above the sea. Its sheer cliffs are home to nesting seabirds, while the surrounding waters often teem with marine life.

In the afternoon, land on Lobos Island, just off the coast of San Cristóbal. Here, you'll find colonies of blue-footed boobies and frigatebirds nesting along the shore, while sea lions lounge on the beach and swim in the calm bay. This is a fantastic spot for snorkeling, where you might encounter colorful reef fish, turtles, and the ever-curious sea lions zipping playfully past.

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

**Day 4 - Tuesday:** Gardner Bay // Suarez Point (Española Island)



Today you'll explore Española Island, the oldest and southernmost island in the Galápagos, renowned for its remarkable biodiversity. At Suárez Point, a trail winds across lava and boulder terrain to reveal a parade of birdlife. This is the world's only nesting site for the waved albatross (April–December), and you'll also see mockingbirds, hawks, swallow-tailed gulls, and vibrant red and green marine iguanas. Don't miss the famous blowhole, where waves shoot water up to 30 yards into the air.

In the afternoon, relax at Gardner Bay, one of the most beautiful beaches in the islands, with its powdery white sand and turquoise waters. Sea lions gather along the shore, and snorkelers can enjoy encounters with schools of tropical fish, harmless reef sharks, and graceful sea turtles. Keep your binoculars ready — Darwin's finches and Española mockingbirds are everywhere, adding a splash of sound and movement to this idyllic setting.

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

**Day 5 - Wednesday:** Cormorant Point // Devil's Crown // Alieri Hill (Floreana Island)



This morning, land at Cormorant Point on Floreana Island, long shrouded in tales of pirates and settlers. A short trail leads you to a lagoon frequented by flamingos, ducks, and oystercatchers, while another path takes you to a beach where sea turtles often nest. Offshore lies Devil's Crown, a submerged volcanic cone considered one of the best snorkeling sites in the Galápagos. Drift over coral gardens as reef sharks, rays, sea lions, and a rainbow of fish swim all around you.

In the afternoon, head inland to Alieri Hill, a lesser-known but fascinating site. This area, rich in native and endemic plant species, is home to several rare shrubs and trees, including some that are critically endangered. Depending on the season, the terrain may be muddy or rainy, so good footwear is a must. With its mix of unique vegetation and the chance to spot uncommon species, Alieri Hill offers a different perspective on Floreana's natural diversity.

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

**Day 6 - Thursday:** Santa Cruz Island: Highlands. Transfer to Baltra airport



On your final morning, explore the Highlands of Santa Cruz, a lush and verdant landscape that feels worlds apart from the rocky coasts. Travel through changing ecological zones until you reach one of two tortoise reserves — El Chato or Rancho Primicias. Both offer the chance to see Galápagos giant tortoises roaming freely in their natural environment, alongside herons, finches, and ruby red Vermilion flycatchers. You'll also have the chance to explore fascinating lava tunnels, reminders of the islands' volcanic origins.

After this memorable farewell, transfer back to Baltra Airport for your return flight to the mainland. As you take one last look at the “enchanted islands,” you'll carry with you the unforgettable sights of giant tortoises, vibrant bird colonies, and the magical marine world of the Galapagos.

**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)