



### TRIP CODE

ECGSA6E

#### **DEPARTURE**

Departs Select Saturdays

#### DURATION

6 Days

#### LOCATIONS

Galapagos Islands, Ecuador, South America



# **INTRODUCTION**

Explore the eastern Galapagos islands on this 6 day itinerary. On board the luxury Alya catamaran you will experience some of the most incredible sights of the Galapagos. On Santa Fe you will find shores home to up to 1000 sea lions, at Suarez Point you may witness the mating dance of the unique blue-footed boobies. Each island of the Galapagos offers an entirely unique experience from the last. This is a truly remarkable place.

# The Alya Experience

The Alya is designed to get the most out of your experience. Launched in 2017, this superior first-class motor catamaran offers comfort and luxury. This is the wonderful vessel to cruise the Galapagos. The ship offers 9 comfortable cabins, all tastefully decorated and featuring private facilities. The catamaran sails with a crew of 8 plus a bilingual, certified naturalist quide ensuring you get the most out of your time onboard the Alya and in the Galapagos. You have the opportunity to explore the Galapagos archipelago with activities such as hiking, snorkelling and kayaking. The cruise can provide you with a comfortable retreat after adventure-packed days of exploration. While sailing the pristine waters you can relax onboard and enjoy the panoramic views from the comfort of the ship.

The Alya also offers an alternate 6 day cruise itinerary and a <u>5 day cruise</u>.

## **ITINERARY**



### DAY 1: Arrival and North Seymour

Arrive in the Galapagos via a flight from Quito/Guayaguil. At Baltra airport, our representative will warmly welcome you and escort you to the Alya Catamaran. Take a moment to relax and enjoy a refreshing welcome drink as our friendly crew introduces themselves. Afterward, embark on an exciting visit to North Seymour Island. This captivating island showcases the uplifting of volcanic marine lava and holds an intriguing history. Learn about Captain Alan Hancock's mission to relocate malnourished land iguanas from Baltra Island to North Seymour, resulting in the preservation of this unique species. As we explore, marvel at the lush vegetation and witness the fascinating nesting habits of the Real Frigates of the Galapagos.



#### DAY 2: South Plaza and Santa Fe

Kickstart your day with a visit to South Plazas, a pair of enchanting small islands formed by natural uplift. Discover the unique charm of the smaller land iguanas that nest during the warm season. As we hike along the extraordinary cliff, observe the mesmerizing sea birds that call this place home. On the southern side of the Plazas, delight in the company of approximately 1000 playful sea lions (Zalophus Wollebaeki). In the afternoon, venture to Santa Fe, a central island with captivating turquoise waters protected by natural rock barriers. Witness colonies of seals basking in the sun while majestic hawks soar above. This island is also home to one of the two species of land iguanas found in the Galapagos. Immerse yourself in the beauty of this unique ecosystem, where crabs, nocturnal herons, marine iguanas, cucuves, and land doves gracefully coexist. Don't miss the opportunity to swim and snorkel in the bay, encountering marine tortoises, rays, sea lions, and a dazzling array of tropical fish.



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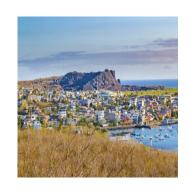
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#### DAY 3: Interpretation Centre and Lobos Islands

Start your day with a visit to the Interpretation Centre, a modern architectural marvel located in the main port of San Cristobal. Delve into the natural wonders of the Galapagos as you learn about the islands' volcanic formation, species evolution, human settlement history, and complex management systems. In the afternoon, arrive at Lobos Islands. Take a leisurely stroll, swim, and snorkel amidst the playful company of seals, frigates, marine iguanas, lava lizards, and the small endemic Galapagos snake.



### DAY 4: Gardner Bay and Suarez Point

Marvel at the fascinating sea lion population as you arrive at Gardner Bay. These charismatic creatures are a highlight of the Galapagos, capturing the attention of visitors with their curiosity and playfulness. Relax on the beach and witness these remarkable animals basking in the sun. During a snorkeling session, share the waters with sea lions, sea turtles, a diverse range of tropical fish, and marine iguanas. In the afternoon, head to Suarez Point, an awe-inspiring location renowned for its vibrant blue-footed boobies. Be captivated by their unique "greeting" ritual and witness their enchanting mating dance. Marvel at the albatrosses, majestic birds weighing up to four kilograms, as they nest on Espanola Island. Keep an eye out for other remarkable wildlife, including marine iguanas, zayapas, masked boobies, finches, Espanola cucuves, and unique seagulls. Traverse the lava rock terrain and explore lava tubes while embracing the stunning landscapes this island has to offer. Please note that albatrosses are not visible between January and March during their non-breeding season. Encounter vibrant red mangroves in this captivating environment.



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#### DAY 5: Cormorant Point and Cerro Alieri

Arrive at Cormorant Point, located on the western side of Floreana Island, renowned for its striking dark green beach adorned with abundant olivine crystals. Delight in the presence of marine invertebrates, sea lions, sea iguanas, frigates, and pelicans as you explore this captivating location. Next, embark on an unforgettable panga ride around Devil's Crown, a satellite islet of Floreana Island. Marvel at the distinctive group of rocks that form a crown-like shape due to constant erosion. Experience unparalleled snorkeling opportunities in the shallow waters surrounding the crown, boasting excellent visibility and a multitude of diverse fish and captivating marine creatures. Return to the vessel for a welldeserved lunch. In the afternoon, journey to Cerro Alieri, a haven of shrubs and vegetation unique to the Galapagos Islands. Discover the critically endangered plant species that thrive in this botanical paradise.



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### DAY 6: Santa Cruz Highlands and Departure

Embark on an extraordinary expedition to the highlands of Santa Cruz, where you'll have the rare opportunity to witness giant tortoises wandering freely in their natural habitat. This captivating spectacle is a true marvel of nature and a highlight for any visitor to the Galapagos. Conclude your unforgettable journey as we transfer you to the airport for your departure flight from the Galapagos. Take with you cherished memories of this extraordinary adventure in the enchanted archipelago.



## **INCLUSIONS & DETAILS**

Accommodation

Cabin On Board A Catamaran Yacht



### **INCLUSIONS**

Accommodation in selected cabin

Transfers in the Galapagos and airport assistance

All meals during the cruise

Water coffee and tea & soft drinks All excursions as per the itinerary\* English-Speaking Naturalist guide

Snorkelling equipment

Kayak & Paddle board equipment

#### **Inclusions EXCLUSIONS**

Return airfares from mainland Ecuador

Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee (US\$200 per

person from Aug 2024 - Subject to change)

Galapagos Transit Control Card (US\$20 per person -

Subject to change) Wet suit rental Alcoholic drinks Personal expenses

Gratuities for crew/quides Services not specified

#### **Difficulty Rating** 2 (Light Adventure)

Notes

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

All entrance fees are subject to change without prior notice.

Please note kayak & paddle board activities are subject

to weather conditions.

Prices are based on per person, twin share\* (unless

otherwise stated).

Prices are correct at time of publishing but are subject to

change at any time.

\*Itinerary is subject to change depending on weather

conditions and government regulations.

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

# **SUSTAINABILITY**

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