



Alya 8 Day Itinerary "A"

(San Cristobal - Española - Santa Cruz - North Seymour - Genovesa - Santiago - Bartholomew)

Day 1 (Monday) San Cristobal Island

Morning flight from Quito or Guayaquil to San Cristobal, Galapagos Islands.

You will arrive at San Cristobal Island in the morning. After going through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by a Alya 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 visit the **Breeding Center Jacinto Gordillo "La Galapaguera"**. It is a new visitor site in the southeast part of San Cristobal Island and can now be reached in roughly one hour by road from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. On the trees and shrubs surrounding the site, you may see land birds like warblers, finches and mockingbirds. Giant tortoises can be observed on the trails. They live there wild but in a protected area to ensure their survival by sealing them off from introduced predators like pigs and goats.

Breeding Center Jacinto Gordillo (La Galapaguera)	
Activities:	Short hike (0,6 mi / 1 Km)
Difficulty:	Easy /moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant tortoises, finches, warblers, mockingbirds



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Day 2 (Tuesday)

San Cristobal Island: Lobos Island & Pitt Point

In the morning you will be involved in an excursion to **Lobos Island** which means "Sea Lion Island." This appropriately named island is ripe with noisy, playful, jolly sea lions who will welcome you to their home with open, well, fins. This island also offers great snorkeling opportunities as well as the chance to see blue-footed and Nazca boobies.

Lobos Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Short hike (less than 0,6 miles / 1km), dinghy ride
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy /moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Sea lions, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies

In the afternoon, you will end up visiting the **Pitt Point**, situated on the north-eastern tip of the island, hosts frigatebirds, storm petrels, and all three types of booby birds: the Nazca, blue-footed and red-footed boobies. A steep trail goes up a cliff and through a ravine leading visitors to an area with an abundance of birds.

Pitt Point	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking (1.5 miles / 2 km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Moderate/Difficult
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Frigatebirds, storm petrels, Nazca boobies, blue- and red-footed boobies



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Day 3 (Wednesday)

Española Island: Suarez Point & Gardner bay

In the morning, you will visit **Suarez Point**. On the trail you will have the chance to see blue-footed boobies, albatrosses, and Nazca boobies. This island is the breeding site of nearly all of the world's 12,000 pairs of waved albatrosses. You will also visit a beautiful site on the ocean front where there is a cliff that the large albatrosses use as a launching pad! You will have the chance to see the famous blowhole that spurts water into the air. The landscape is great for photography.

Suarez Point	
Activities:	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
Difficulty:	Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Hood mockingbirds, Nazca boobies, waved albatrosses (from the last week of april until the last week of january), red-billed tropicbirds, lava lizards, Galapagos hawks, blue-footed boobies, blowhole, amazing landscape

In the afternoon, excursion takes you to the spectacular **Gardner Bay**. After landing, you can walk across a lovely white-sand beach amongst a busy sea lion colony or dive into the water to swim with sea lion pups. You may also see curious mockingbirds on the beach.

Gardner Bay	
Activities:	Snorkeling, panga ride & short hike (0,6 miles / 1km) Kayaking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds; snorkeling: colorful fish, sea lion nursery



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Day 4 (Thursday)

Santa Cruz & North Seymour Islands

In the morning, you will head to ***Carrión Point***, located in northeastern Santa Cruz. We will navigate around this point which will provide you opportunities to see various sea birds nesting on the rock cliffs. Carrion Point creates a sheltered lagoon with beautiful, turquoise water. During this visit you can snorkel and see a variety of fish, rays and perhaps the harmless white-tip reef sharks.

Carrión Point	
Activities:	Snorkeling
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	None
Highlights & Animals:	Fish, rays, white-tip reef sharks

In ***North Seymour*** you will be able to see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies, and magnificent frigatebirds 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.

North Seymour	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride & hiking (1.5 miles / 2.41 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate / Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land & marine iguanas, frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, sea lions; snorkeling: rays, reef sharks, fish, garden eels.



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Day 5 (Friday) Genovesa Island

In the morning, you will visit the white-sand coral beach of **Darwin Bay** which heads a half mile trail (0,75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls can be spotted here. Further down the path we'll find tidal pools where sea lions swim playfully. At the end is a spectacular view of a cliff.

Darwin Bay	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (0,9 miles / 1,5 Km), snorkeling, kayaking, and dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, swallow-tail gulls, mangroves, coral pebble beach, snorkeling: rays, colourful reef fish, and hammerhead sharks occasionally

In the afternoon, you will visit **El Barranco** which is also known as Prince Phillip's Steps. It is a steep, rocky path that leads up to a high cliff-face. A marvelous view can be appreciated from here. This site is also home to palo santo vegetation as well as red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, Galapagos swallows, and Galapagos doves.

El Barranco	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (0,9 miles / 2 Km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry, difficult landing
Highlights & Animals:	Red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, storm-petrels, Galapagos doves



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Day 6 (Saturday)

Santiago & Bartolome Islands

In the morning, you will visit **Sullivan Bay** located on the southeast part of Santiago. This place is interesting for its geology because the area is covered by lava flows. This place has elevations in the form of small volcanoes formed by the lava flows.

Sullivan Bay	
Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Lava flows, small volcanoes

In the afternoon, you will head to **Bartholomew Island**, home of the famous Pinnacle Rock. Bartholomew consists of an extinct 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 snorkeling where you may even see Galapagos penguins.

Bartholomew Island	
Activities:	Dinghy ride, snorkeling & hiking (1.2 miles/ 2 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate/difficult. Walk up to the top of volcano 374 feet (114 meters), 375 wooden steps
Type of Landing:	Dry and wet landings
Highlights & Animals:	Pinnacle Rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus; snorkeling: penguins, reef sharks, rays, and great colorful fish.



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Day 7 (Sunday)

Dragon Hill & Santa Cruz Island

In the morning, you will visit **Dragon Hill** on Santa Cruz. The visitors' site at Dragon Hill is located on the northwestern part of Santa Cruz Island and consists of a trail that runs through three different environments although it is only slightly less than a mile long (1,600 meters). The beach is very rocky. At high tide it's a nice place for snorkeling. At this visiting site you can find vegetation typical of the intertidal and dry zones.

Dragon Hill	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Dinghy ride and short hike
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Frigatebirds, herons, blue-footed boobies, rays, reef sharks

In the afternoon you will visit **Black Turtle Cove** on the northern part of Santa Cruz Island. This inlet is surrounded by mangroves and is only accessible by dinghy. The shallow cove is a haven for young marine life. Black-tip and white-tip reef sharks, sea turtles, and a variety of rays are often spotted here.

Black Turtle Cove	
<i>Activities:</i>	Dinghy ride
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of landing:</i>	No landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Baby hammerhead shark, rays, sea turtles, sea birds



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Day 8 (Monday)

Santa Cruz Island

Your morning excursion takes you from Puerto Ayora to the green *highlands of Santa Cruz* for a visit to El Chato reserve. The area is divided in two: Caseta and Chato. The trail begins at Santa Rosa (13.7 miles / 22 km) from Puerto Ayora, with the Caseta route being the most challenging. The reserve allows visitors to observe giant tortoises in the wild during the dry season and is also a good place to spot short-eared owls, Darwin's finches, yellow warblers, Galapagos rails and paint-billed crakes.

Santa Cruz Highlands	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking (2 1/2 km / 1,5 miles)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Moderate (long)
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Finches, wild tortoises, tortoise nesting site.

After this final visit, you will be transferred to the Baltra airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.



Alya 8 Day Itinerary "B"

(Santa Cruz - Isabela - Fernandina - Santiago - Rabida - South Plaza - San Cristobal)

Day 1 (Monday) Santa Cruz Island

Morning flight from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra, Galapagos Islands.

You will arrive at Baltra Island in the morning. After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by a Alya 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 visit ***Fausto Llerena Breeding Center*** in Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, where giant tortoises are bred in captivity; this is home to tortoises ranging from 3-inches (new hatchlings) to 4-feet long adults. Subspecies of the giant tortoises interact with one another, and many of the older tortoises are accustomed to humans stretching out their heads for a photo opportunity. The babies are kept until they are about four years-old and strong enough to survive on their own.

Fausto Llerena Breeding Center	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Short hike (0,6 mi / 1 Km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy /moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Giant tortoises, finches, warblers, mockingbirds



Alya 8 Day Itinerary "B"

(Santa Cruz - Isabela - Fernandina - Santiago - Rabida - South Plaza - San Cristobal)

Day 2 (Tuesday)

Isabela Island

In the morning you will visit **Moreno Point** 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. By looking into the pools, you can peer into another world as the marine life drifts by your window. In the brackish pools of this area, you may see pink amingos, white-cheeked pintails, and common gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools, you may see white-tip reef sharks and some sea turtles.

Moreno Point	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Short hike (less than 0,6 miles / 1km), dinghy ride
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy /moderate
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights:</i>	Sea lions, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies

Elizabeth Bay is located on the east coast of Isabela Island. The bay contains many islets, which can be visited by dinghy. Penguins and blue-footed boobies can be spotted on the rocky islets. With an abundance of marine life and clear water, the area is perfect for snorkeling and viewing schools of colorful fish, sea lions, and perhaps even sharks.

Elizabeth Bay	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Hiking (1.5 miles / 2 km)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Moderate/Difficult
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Wet landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Frigatebirds, storm petrels, Nazca boobies, blue- and red-footed boobies



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Day 3 (Wednesday) Isabela and Fernandina Island

In the afternoon, you will go to **Urbina Bay** which 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 snorkeling.

Urbina Bay	
Possible Activities:	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
Difficulty:	Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Hood mockingbirds, Nazca boobies, waved albatrosses (from the last week of april until the last week of january), red-billed tropicbirds, lava lizards, Galapagos hawks, blue-footed boobies, blowhole, amazing landscape

In the afternoon, crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at **Espinosa Point**, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, reach the island's highlight: the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk.

Espinosa Point	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, panga ride & short hike (0,6 miles / 1km) Kayaking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds; snorkeling: colorful fish, sea lion nursery



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Day 4 (Thursday)

Isabela Island

In the morning, 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. Punta Tortuga, just north of Tagus Cove, is another lovely beach surrounded by mangroves.

Tagus Cove	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	None
Highlights & Animals:	Fish, rays, white-tip reef sharks

In the afternoon, visit is at **Vicente Roca Point**. Comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (or sun fish).

Vicente Roca Point	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride & hiking (1.5 miles / 2.41 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate / Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land & marine iguanas, frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, sea lions; snorkeling: rays, reef sharks, fish, garden eels.



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Day 5 (Friday) Santiago Island

In the morning, visit is to **Espumilla Beach** where marine iguanas lounge and the Sally Lightfoot crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey right before your eyes. Snorkeling is highly recommended as you could and yourself face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark and a variety of other species of tropical fish.

Buccaneer Cove / Espumilla Beach	
Activities:	Hiking (0,9 miles / 1,5 Km), snorkeling, kayaking, and dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of landing:	Wet landing
Highlights & Animals:	Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, swallow-tail gulls, mangroves, coral pebble beach, snorkeling: rays, colourful reef fish, and hammerhead sharks occasionally

In the afternoon, you will go to **Egas Port**, also known as James Bay, on Santiago Island which is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to the coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos fur sea lions bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkeling site.

Egas Port	
Activities:	Hiking (0,9 miles / 2 Km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of landing:	Dry, difficult landing
Highlights & Animals:	Red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, storm-petrels, Galapagos doves



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Day 6 (Saturday)

Rabida and Santiago Island

In the morning, you will visit **Rabida Island** (or Jervis) which is one of the most colorful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago as well as a great snorkeling site. You will start on Rabida's famous maroon sandy beach, and after an easy hike, you will arrive at a stunning lookout to enjoy the amazing landscapes. The island is a birdwatcher's delight. Some of the rarest species are in abundance such as nine varieties of finches, large-billed flycatchers, Galapagos hawks, and brown pelicans.

Rabida Island	
Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Easy / moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry landing
Highlights & Animals:	Lava flows, small volcanoes

In the afternoon, you will visit **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 small islet is a great location to view many geological formations such as lava tubes and lava flows. Some of the lava flows were formed underwater and subsequently raised above sea level. The presence of coral heads on the lava flow indicates this phenomenon.

Chinese Hat	
Activities:	Dinghy ride, snorkeling & hiking (1.2 miles/ 2 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate/difficult. Walk up to the top of volcano 374 feet (114 meters), 375 wooden steps
Type of Landing:	Dry and wet landings
Highlights & Animals:	Pinnacle Rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus; snorkeling: penguins, reef sharks, rays, and great colorful fish.



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Day 7 (Sunday)

Santa Cruz and South Plaza Island

The morning visit, **Bachas Beach**, is located on the north shore of Santa Cruz which is a swimming beach. One of the few remnants of the U.S. World War II presence in the Galapagos, a floating pier, can be seen here. You may see flamingos, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black-necked stilts, and whimbrels. Sea turtles also nest on the beach.

Bachas Beach	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Dinghy ride and short hike
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Frigatebirds, herons, blue-footed boobies, rays, reef sharks

In the afternoon, you will head to **South Plaza Island**. This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colorful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is the Sesuvium. During the rainy season its color is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season (end of June through January) a bright red.

South Plaza Island	
<i>Possible Activities:</i>	Dinghy ride
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Easy
<i>Type of landing:</i>	No landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Baby hammerhead shark, rays, sea turtles, sea birds



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Alya 8 Day Itinerary "B"

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Day 8 (Monday) San Cristobal Island

In the morning, you will visit the *Interpretation Center*. This site is part of an environment project. The tour of this center will explore the natural history of the islands including human interaction and conservation efforts. The Museum of Natural History explains the volcanic origin of the archipelago, ocean currents, climate, and the arrival of endemic species. The Human History exhibit chronologically describes significant events such as discovery and colonization of the islands.

Interpretation Center	
<i>Activities:</i>	Hiking (2 1/2 km / 1,5 miles)
<i>Difficulty:</i>	Moderate (long)
<i>Type of Landing:</i>	Dry landing
<i>Highlights & Animals:</i>	Finches, wild tortoises, tortoise nesting site.

After this final visit, you will be transferred to the San Cristobal airport in time for your flight back to the mainland.