



ANDANDO[®]
TOURS
Mainland Ecuador &
Galápagos Islands

M/C ALYA



**CENTRAL AND EASTERN
ISLANDS – 8 DAY / 7
NIGHT CRUISE**

MONDAY - MONDAY

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1

SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND: JACINTO GORDILLO BREEDING CENTER

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.

DAY 2

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.

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.

ISLANDS

- San Cristobal
- Española
- Santa Cruz
- North Seymour
- Genovesa
- Santiago
- Bartholome

SUMMARY

Explore the volcanic landscapes and fascinating wildlife of the Central and Eastern Islands on this 8-day Alya Galapagos luxury cruise. Witness iconic Lobos Island and the lava landscapes of Sullivan Bay, get up close to land iguanas on Santa Fe Islands, then spot red-footed boobies at Pitt Point. This Galapagos cruise itinerary also includes swimming and snorkeling in the idyllic waters of Gardner Bay.

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DAY 3

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.

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.

DAY 4

CARRION POINT (SANTA CRUZ) & NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND

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.

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.



DAY 5

GENOVESA ISLAND: DARWIN BAY & EL BARRANCO

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.

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.

DAY 6

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.

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.



DAY 7

SANTA CRUZ: DRAGON HILL & BLACK TURTLE COVE

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.

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.

DAY 8

SANTA CRUZ HIGHLANDS

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.

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