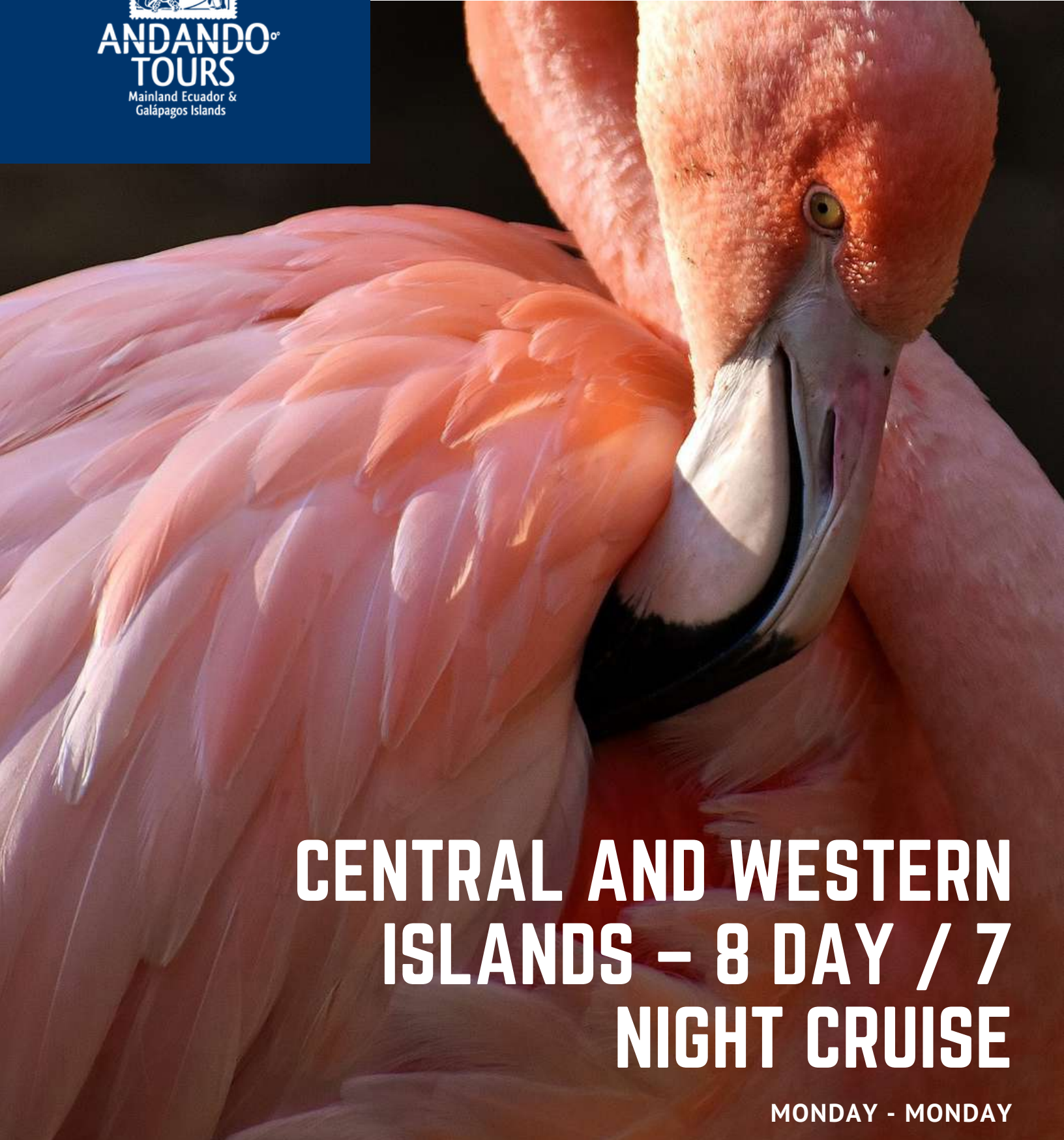




ANDANDO[®]
TOURS
Mainland Ecuador &
Galápagos Islands

M/C ALYA



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

MONDAY - MONDAY

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: FAUSTO LLERENA BREEDING CENTER

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.

DAY 2

ISABELA ISLAND: MORENO POINT & ELIZABETH BAY

In the morning you will visit **Moreno Point** located southwest of Elizabeth Bay. Here a dry landing onto what was once owing 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, whitecheeked pintails, and common gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools, you may see white-tip reef sharks and some sea turtles.

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.

ISLANDS

- Santa Cruz
- Isabela
- Fernandina
- Santiago
- Rabida
- Chinese Hat
- South Plaza
- San Cristobal

SUMMARY

Venture to the spectacular Central and Western Islands on this 8-day Alya Galapagos luxury cruise itinerary. Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, then visit the wetlands on Isabela to get up close to the pink flamingos. Snorkel alongside sea turtles and rays in beautiful Urbina Bay, witness marine iguanas basking on the lava rocks at Espinoza Point.

CONTACT US

- **PBX:** +59323237330
- **Toll Free Line:** +1 833 2632636E
- **Email:**
contact@andandotours.com
- **Website:**
www.visitgalapagos.travel



DAY 3

URBINA BAY (ISABELA) AND ESPINOZA POINT (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.

In the afternoon, crossing the **Bolivar Channel** that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at **Espinoza 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.

DAY 4

ISABELA ISLAND: TAGUS COVE & VICENTE ROCA POINT

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.

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).



DAY 5

SANTIAGO ISLAND: ESPUMILLA BEACH & EGAS PORT

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.

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 quickfooted 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.

DAY 6

RABIDA AND CHINESE HAT

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.

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 ows were formed underwater and subsequently raised above sea level. The presence of coral heads on the lava ow indicates this phenomenon.



DAY 7

BACHAS BEACH (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.

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.

DAY 8

SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND: INTERPRETATION CENTER

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.

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