

PALACE TOURS

Alya Luxury Galapagos Catamaran - Route B (Monday-Saturday)

6 Nights • Luxury Experience

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Overview

The beautiful Alya luxury catamaran offers year-round small-ship cruises in the Galapagos Islands. Social areas are tastefully decorated with inspiration taken from the Galapagos Islands, to truly immerse yourself in the stunning surroundings. The large indoor lounge and fully-stocked bar is the perfect place to catch-up with new friends after a day of adventuring, or why not enjoy a drink while relaxing in the jacuzzi located on the sundeck, which also has comfortable loungers. The onboard chef will prepare a variety of delicious fare of local and international cuisine. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet style and dinner is table service with a choice of thoughtfully created dishes. Special dietary requirements can be catered to with advance notice.

The Alya catamaran has 9 comfortable cabins featuring modern amenities and comforts in your home away from home. All staterooms feature ocean views, private en-suite bathrooms, luxury toiletries, safety deposit box and charging ports. Most cabins also have a private balcony for added relaxation.

The Alya offers a choice of 4 different itineraries exploring the best areas of the Galapagos Islands. Days are filled with exploration, getting up close with the curious Galapagos wildlife including penguins, turtles, sea lions and a variety of extraordinary birds. Activities include hiking to stunning viewpoints, snorkeling, panga rides, kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding.

DAY BY DAY

Your Itinerary



DAY 1

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

AM: BALTRA AIRPORT

Departure to the Galapagos Islands, arrival at Baltra airport, where our naturalist guide of the National Park will be waiting for you.

PM: HIGHLANDS

Either if you do this visit starting from Baltra or from Puerto Ayora, a bus will take you to the highlands stopping along the way at one of the reserves to visit the lush highland forests where you will look for Galapagos Giant tortoises in their natural environment. This is the best place in the Galapagos to see these gentle giants (reaching over 300 kg / 600 pounds!) casually grazing and resting in freshwater ponds. This is also home for a great diversity of birds rarely found at the lowlands, including finches (tree, woodpecker and vegetarian finches), flycatchers and several species of water birds. You will visit a lava tunnel (depend on the itinerary) and learn how these extraordinary formations where created by ancient volcanic eruptions. Highlights: Giant tortoises, Darwin finches, barn owls, white-cheeked pintails, Galapagos flycatchers, Lava tunnels.

Trail: 1-1,5 km / 0,6-0,9 mi

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Catamaran Alya

DAY 2

ISABELA ISLAND



AM: MORENO POINT

Moreno Point is a magical place with extensive lava fields which look lifeless at first sight. Once inland, scattered brackish lagoons form oasis of life where you can find flamingoes, gallinules, ducks and herons. Along the shore we will look for penguins, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, blue-footed boobies, sea lions, oystercatchers and other shore birds. Snorkel: We will snorkel to see sea turtles, cormorants and many species of fish. Look carefully in the long seaweeds and you might find a sea horse. Highlights: American flamingoes, ducks, gallinules, penguins, cormorants, marine iguanas, sea lions, Galapagos mockingbirds, Darwin finches.

Trail: 1,6 km / 1 mi

PM: ELIZABETH BAY

Elizabeth Bay is a beautiful sheltered bay surrounded by large mangroves and barren lava fields. There is no trail here so you will take a dinghy tour to explore many channels, pools and coves teeming with life. This is one of the best locations in the islands to see Galapagos penguins, but don't expect to see thousands of them, as the entire population of the islands is only about 3.000 of them. Flightless cormorants also nest in the area and blue-footed boobies and pelicans often fish in these shallow and rich waters. Rays and sea turtles are also very abundant.

Highlights: Galapagos hawks, sea turtles, rays, Galapagos penguins, flightless cormorants, herons.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Catamaran Alya



DAY 3

ISABELA ISLAND

AM: URBINA BAY

This place is known for the dramatic uplifting that happened here during the 1950's. A large portion of the coast was pushed up, exposing many hectares of previously submerged land. Look carefully along the trail and you will find small shells and corals, a proof that the area was underwater more than sixty years ago. The trail will give the opportunity to see land iguanas and, during certain seasons, giant tortoises. Galapagos hawks nest in the area and are often seen flying or perched on the trees. Snorkel: You can snorkel from the beach to see sea turtles, cormorants and penguins. Fish are also abundant in the area. Highlights: Galapagos hawks, land iguanas, Galapagos hawks, Galapagos mockingbirds, Darwin finches, flycatchers.

Trail: Short trail: 1,2 km / 0,7 mi. Long Trail: 3,0 km / 1,8 mi

PM: ESPINOZA POINT

Located at the base of an imposing volcano (the most active in the Galapagos islands) this site is one of the jewels of the Galapagos National Park. As soon as you disembark you will be surrounded by hundreds of marine iguanas, as this is the largest colony for the species. Sea lions bask in the beaches while their pups play in tide pools. Along the shore you will see flightless cormorants, which are restricted to the western areas of the archipelago. Surrounded by cold plankton-rich waters, Punta Espinosa is home for an array of species, including herons, pelicans, oystercatchers, sea turtles, shorebird and many more. Look up in the mangroves as Galapagos hawks often perch to look for their prey. Snorkel: The nutrient-rich waters around Punta Espinosa attracts great numbers and diversity of fish and sea turtles. Seaweeds are also abundant, making this place the best for seeing marine iguanas feeding underwater. Following a cormorant underwater as it chases fish through the reef is one on the most amazing snorkel experiences you may have on your trip.

Highlights: Galapagos hawks, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, penguins, sea turtles, sea lions, herons, oystercatchers, shorebirds, sally light-foot crabs.

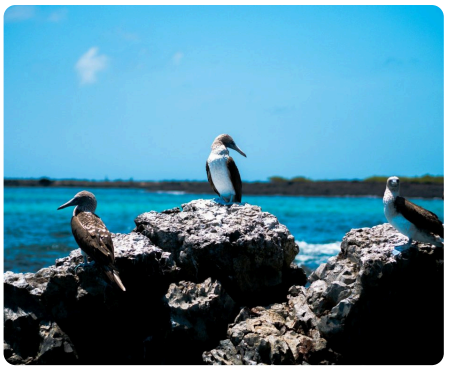
Trail: 1,6 km / 1 mi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Catamaran Alya

DAY 4

ISABELA ISLAND



AM: TAGUS COVE

Tagus cove is one of the places Charles Darwin visited during his exploration of the Galapagos islands. A trail will take you through a dry Palo Santo forests where you can see Darwin finches and mockingbirds. You will get great views of Darwin's lake and the large volcanos of northern Isabela. A boat tour along the shore will give you chances to see penguins, cormorants, marine iguanas and a very unique species: the Galapagos martin, a small endemic bird which is one of the most endangered species on the island. Snorkel: The nutrient-rich waters around Tagus Cove attracts a lot of sea turtles and a great diversity of fish, but also penguins, who feast on large schools of anchovies. It is common to see cormorants underwater as they chase fish through the reef.

Highlights: Galapagos hawks, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, herons, penguins, sea turtles, sea stars.

Trail: 2,6 km / 1,6 mi

PM: VICENTE ROCA POINT

Surrounded by some of the tallest cliffs in the Galapagos, Vicente Roca point is a great location to observe spectacular landscapes and interesting volcanic features. There is no trail here but you will take a dinghy tour along the shore to get a closer view of pelicans, flightless cormorants, sea turtles, boobies, Galapagos fur seal and marine iguanas. The area is also known to be a good location for whales and dolphins. Snorkel: Snorkel in the cove to look for sea turtles, penguins, sea lions, cormorants, rays and many different species of fish. Look for fan corals, sponges and other invertebrates growing on the walls.

Highlights: Marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, penguins, sea turtles, fur seals, Nazca & blue-footed boobies

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Catamaran Alya



DAY 5

SANTIAGO ISLAND

AM: ESPUMILLA BEACH

Espumilla is a beautiful 1km (0,6 mi) long beach with rusty-brown sand, located in the northern coast of Santiago. It is surrounded by large mangrove trees and a very interesting native dry forest, which is home to Galapagos hawks but also a great diversity of finches, mockingbirds and doves. Don't forget to check the salt pan, as during the rainy season there could be flamingoes and ducks.

Highlights: Bobbies, oystercatchers, herons, Galapagos mockingbirds, Darwin finches, Galapagos hawks.

Trail: 2,3 km / 1,4 mi (plus and extra loop 1 km - 0,6 mi)

PM: EGAS PORT

Despite its name, there is no "port" at Puerto Egas, but you might see a few remains of the last attempts to colonize the island during the 60's. The trail goes along the coastline which is rich in wildlife, with marine iguanas basking in the sun everywhere, Galapagos sea lions, herons, oystercatchers and many shorebirds. At the end of the trail an area called "the grottos" is home for a small colony of the endemic Galapagos fur seal, much more difficult to see at close range than its cousin. As recently as 2019, land iguanas where re-introduced to the area, so look around for these impressive reptiles which where extinct from Santiago for over a century. Snorkel: You can snorkel from the beach and explore an area of rocky bottoms which is excellent for fish, turtles and reef sharks. Often, sea lions are also present and are happy to interact with divers.

Highlights: Galapagos sea lions, Galapagos fur seals, oystercatchers, marine & land iguanas, Galapagos hawks, herons, shorebirds, Darwin finches, Galapagos doves.

Trail: 2,3 km / 1,4 mi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Catamaran Alya

DAY 6

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND



AM: BACHAS

Bachas gets its name from the remains of two large barges (mispronounced by locals as “bachas”) left by the Americans during WWII. At low tide you can still see the iron skeletons of the barges buried in the white sand. From November till May, this place is also one of the most important sea turtle nesting grounds in the entire Galapagos islands. There are also several small saltwater lagoons where we often see flamingoes, herons and other aquatic birds. Snorkel: After the walk, you will have the option to swim or snorkel from the beach. The area is rich in some of the most common fish species of the Galapagos, but you can also find white-tipped reef sharks and rays.

Highlights: American flamingoes, white cheeked pintails, sandpipers, lava gulls, blue footed boobies.

Trail: 1,6 km / 1 mi Then, transfer to the airport to take your flight back to continental Ecuador.

Meals: Breakfast

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Terms & Conditions

Payment Policy*:

- At the time of booking a deposit of 20% of the total tour price
- The remaining balance is due a minimum of 65 calendar days prior to departure date

To issue final confirmation Palace tours requires 60 days prior to departure (or at time of reservation for last minute bookings) the following information for all passengers:

- Complete passenger names
- Passport numbers (& passport copy in case of children)
- Nationality
- Date of birth
- Marital Status
- Dietary or medical restrictions

Failure to provide the above information on time may result in delays and possibly passengers missing the tour completely. Palace tours will not accept responsibility or provide refunds if the above information is not provided in its entirety and on time.

Cancellation Policy*

All cancellations must be done in writing. If a cancellation is received more than 125 days prior to tour departure date a Cancellation fee of 10% of the total price will be retained as cancellation fee.

If a cancellation is received between 124 days and 65 days prior to tour departure date, 20% of the total price will be forfeited.

In the case of a cancellation received less than 65 days prior to the boat departure the full amount will be retained.

*Specific Payment and Cancellation/Reschedule policies for Christmas and New Years´ Eve cruise dates

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

When is the best time to visit Galapagos?

> Galapagos is a place that can be visited at any time. There are two season, and the warmest is between December and May. It is the time of year when the sky is always clear, and the sun shines strongly. If you love to dive in amazing places, the best time to visit Galapagos is from June to November. During this season the weather is a little cooler, but it gives you the chance to enjoy the best from Galapagos' famous marine reserve.

What should we bring?

> Since the islands are situated very near the Equator, we recommend that you bring lightweight clothing and of course, don't forget your swimsuits, sun lotion, and good footwear.

Are single or triple suites available?

> Most of our cruises will assign double cabins to all passengers unless you want to pay the single supplement if traveling alone. Triple cabins can also be arranged on request, depending on availability and the vessel you choose

What is the time zone of the Galapagos Islands?

> The Galapagos Islands are 6 hours behind GMT (equivalent to USA Central Standard Time)

Does the equatorial line cross the Galapagos Islands?

> The equatorial line does pass through the Galapagos, just north of Isla Santiago. Please refer to our Itinerary page to see which itinerary passes through the equatorial line.

What is the water temperature in the Islands?

> Average water temperatures in Galapagos:
> January - June: 70°F - 80°F (20°C - 26°C)
> July - December: 65°F - 75°F (18°C- 23°C)

What is the route of the Alya catamaran Route B from Monday to Saturday?

> Route B explores the western islands. After arriving at Baltra you visit the Santa Cruz highlands, then Moreno Point on Isabela, Urbina Bay and Fernandina, Tagus Cove on Isabela, Espumilla Beach and Egas Port on Santiago, and finally Bachas beach on Santa Cruz before the airport transfer.

What is the Alya catamaran like for Route B?

> The Alya is a luxury catamaran with 9 cabins and social areas decorated with inspiration from the Galapagos. Guests relax in a large indoor lounge or on the sundeck, which has a jacuzzi and comfortable loungers. Activities include hiking, snorkelling, panga rides, kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding.

Which cabins can I book on Alya Route B?

> Cabins are offered as King Size, Twin or Matrimonial. All 9 staterooms have ocean views, a private en-suite bathroom, luxury toiletries, a safety deposit box and charging ports, and most also have a private balcony. The fare for each cabin type is shown with the departure on this page.

What is included in the Alya Route B cruise fare?

> The fare includes airport assistance and transfers in Galapagos, your cabin, all meals on board, a bilingual naturalist guide, all visits and excursions in the itinerary, snorkel gear, kayaks, paddle boards, wetsuits, beach towels, purified water, coffee, tea and soft drinks. Some gear is subject to restrictions, so ask us for details.

What costs are not included in the Alya Route B cruise?

> Not included are the flight to and from Galapagos, the Galapagos National Park entrance fee, the Galapagos transit card, beverages beyond water, coffee, tea and soft drinks, tips, local taxes, travel insurance and any meals or services not listed as included.

Can special diets be catered for on Alya Route B?

> The onboard chef prepares local and international cuisine. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet style and dinner is table service with a choice of dishes. Special dietary requirements can be catered for with advance notice, so tell us about them when you book.

Where do I fly to for the Alya Route B cruise?

> The cruise starts and ends at Baltra airport in Galapagos, where a National Park naturalist guide meets you on arrival and transfers are included. You need to book a flight from mainland Ecuador to Baltra and back, which is not part of the cruise fare; we can advise on timing.

Why is Tagus Cove a highlight of Alya Route B?

> Tagus Cove is one of the places Charles Darwin visited. A trail through dry Palo Santo forest gives views of Darwin's Lake and the large volcanoes of northern Isabela, and a boat ride along the shore can reveal penguins, cormorants, marine iguanas and the endangered Galapagos martin. The nutrient-rich water is good for snorkelling with turtles and penguins.

What can I see at Moreno Point on Isabela?

> Moreno Point has vast lava fields with brackish lagoons where flamingos, gallinules, ducks and herons gather. Along the shore you look for penguins, marine iguanas, flightless cormorants, blue-footed boobies and sea lions. The trail is about 1.6 km and snorkelling may reveal sea turtles and even a sea horse.

Is there snorkelling on the Alya Route B cruise?

> Yes, most days include a snorkel option, for example at Moreno Point, Urbina Bay, Tagus Cove and Bachas beach. Snorkel gear and wetsuits are included in the fare (restrictions apply), and in the western islands you may swim with penguins, sea turtles and cormorants.

What is Espumilla Beach on Santiago?

> Espumilla is a 1 km beach of rusty-brown sand on the north coast of Santiago, backed by mangroves and native dry forest with Galapagos hawks, finches, mockingbirds and doves. In the rainy season the salt pan may attract flamingos and ducks. The afternoon continues at Egas Port on the same island.

What deposit is needed to reserve the Alya Route B cruise and when is the balance due?

> A deposit of 20% of the cruise fare secures your cabin on the Alya Route B cruise. The remaining balance is due 65 days before departure. Galapagos flights, park entrance fee and transit card are separate from the cruise fare, so plan for those costs as well.

Are there child rates on the Alya Route B cruise?

> Yes, the Alya Route B cruise has two child bands based on the child's age on the day of departure: under 5, and from 5 up to 12. Children must share a cabin with adults and the child fare for each band is shown with the departure. Ask us before booking if you are travelling with very young children, as some landings and hikes are rocky.

How do I ask a question or book the Alya Route B cruise?

> You can email travel@palacetours.com, call 786-408-0610, or message us on WhatsApp at https://wa.me/17864080610, where a travel specialist or our AI assistant will reply. When departures for the Alya Route B cruise are listed on this page they can be booked directly from the departure list, and the exact fare for each departure is shown there. If no date suits you yet, send us your preferred travel month and cabin type and we will check availability for you.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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