PALACE TOURS
Travel Like Royalty

PALACE TOURS

Alya Luxury Galapagos Catamaran - Route A (Thursday - Monday)

5 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

BALTRA ISLAND / 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: BLACK TURTLE COVE Black Turtle Cove gets its name from the abundance of green see turtles, locally known as: “tortugas negras”. There is no landing here so you will be doing a boat tour on the dinghies, exploring shallow channels and small coves surrounded by beautiful mangrove forests. Reef sharks, sea turtles and several species rays inhabit this beautiful area which is considered an important mating area for turtles and a nursery for several species of sharks. Herons, pelicans and boobies are also common here as they prey in schools of anchovies.

Highlights: White-tipped and black-tipped reef sharks, green see turtles, rays, herons, blue-footed boobies, mangroves.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Catamaran Alya

DAY 2

GENOVESA ISLAND

AM: DARWIN BAY

Genovesa is a favorite island for birdwatchers as it is home for very large colonies of seabirds. From the minute you set foot at the beach you will be amazed by the noise of hundreds of boobies, gulls and frigatebirds flying over your heads, perched in the bushes or nesting on the sandy terrain. The trail is an ultimate wildlife experience as there are animals everywhere; sea lions and marine iguanas near the sea; night herons, lava & swallow tailed gulls, Darwin finches, Galapagos doves, mockingbirds and many more species inland. Snorkel: The bay offers several places to snorkel; from deep waters along the cliffs across the bay, to shallow waters by the beach. In either case, there are many fish to see and great chances of seeing sharks, rays and sea lions. Highlights: Nesting great frigatebirds, red footed & Nazca boobies, Galapagos sea lions, lava & swallowtailed gulls, yellow-crown night herons, Genovesa ground finch, Genovesa cactus finch, Galapagos mockingbirds.

Trail: 1,2 km / 0,7 mi

PM: EL BARRANCO

El Barranco is located in the southern part of Darwin Bay at Genovesa Island. The cliffs face the sea are made of very fragile fractured lava, making it the ideal place for storm petrel to build their colonies, which attracts an important population of short-eared owls preying of the nesting birds. Red footed and Nazca boobies are abundant along the trail. At the base of the cliffs you can see Galapagos fur seals resting in shaded areas, as well as several species of seabirds. Snorkel: You can snorkel along the cliffs where there are many fish and great chances of seeing sharks, rays and sea lions. Highlights: Nesting great frigatebirds, red footed & Nazca boobies, Galapagos sea lions, Galapagos fur seals, lava & swallow-tailed gulls, yellow-crown night herons, Genovesa ground finch, Genovesa cactus finch, Galapagos mockingbirds.

Trail: 1,2 km / 0,7 mi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Catamaran Alya

DAY 3

BARTOLOMÉ ISLAND / SANTIAGO ISLAND

AM: SULLIVAN BAY This hike is a journey into understanding the birth of these volcanic islands. You will walk in a very well preserved flow of Pahoehoe lava, which will give you endless opportunities to see the delicate textures of these type of lavas which only appear in a few places throughout the world. At first sight the barren landscape looks completely deprived of life, but look carefully for pioneer plants, lava lizards and small birds. By the shore, you can find penguins, pelicans and oystercatchers. Snorkel: You will have the option to swim or snorkel from a coral sand beach or from the dinghies. Getting underwater is like traveling to another world: if the land is almost lifeless, the sea is teaming with life, including large schools of fish, Galapagos penguins, reef sharks, turtles and rays. Highlights: Pahoehoe lava, Galapagos penguins, oystercatchers, Galapagos hawks.

Trail: 2,2 km / 1,4 mi

PM: BARTOLOME

Bartolome is one of the most iconic places in the Galapagos and one of the few where you can see penguins without going to the remote areas of western Isabela and Fernandina. You will get great views of Pinnacle Rock, located in the northern side of the island, right next to a beautiful peach-color sand beach. The hike to the top of the island is fantastic and will offer you incredible views of lunar landscapes with scattered volcanic cones. Many islands are visible from this outlook, as well as the bay of Sullivan and the Pinnacle rock. Snorkel: You will have the option to swim or snorkel from the beach. This area holds a well-deserved reputation of being one of the best snorkeling places in the Galapagos, not only because it’s clear and calm water, but also because of the presence of penguins, which are relatively easy to find while snorkeling, along with an incredible diversity of fish, colorful invertebrates, sea lions, turtles, rays and reef sharks. Highlights: Galapagos penguins, volcanic landscapes, Pinnacle rock, blue- footed boobies, herons, sea lions, sharks.

Trail: 1,5 km / 0,9 mi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Catamaran Alya

DAY 4

CHINESE HAT ISLET / MOSQUERA ISLAND

AM: CHINESE HAT

This small islet is formed by a volcanic cone with a perfect symmetrical shape. It is separated from Santiago by a narrow channel forming one of the most beautiful bays in the islands. Blue-turquoise water and coral sand beaches surrounded by dark lava rocks gives this area a real tropical character, which makes even more surprising finding penguins resting in the rocks. The trail goes along the shore, taking you through a small colony of sea lions. Snorkel: When you swim in this place you will get mesmerized by the incredible colors of the fish and the sleek silhouette of reef sharks and, it is not uncommon to see a penguin darting through the water chasing anchovies like a small torpedo. Highlights: Galapagos sea lions, Galapagos penguins, lava tubes, oystercatchers, Galapagos hawks.

Trail: 1,3 km / 0,8 mi

PM: MOSQUERA

Mosquera is mostly a barren sand bar with some rocky areas and scattered salt-resistant plants. You can walk along the beach and enjoy seeing playful sea lion pups surfing the waves and having a great time in the tide pools. Look for endemic lava gulls which are often seen flying over the beach in the search of food. Snorkel: If the waves are not too big you can snorkel at the northern tip of the island or at one of the small beaches in the sheltered side. Highlights: Galapagos sea lions, lava gulls, oystercatchers, shorebirds,

Trail: There is no trail, but you can walk along a sandy area of 0,6 km / 0,4mi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Lodging: Catamaran Alya

DAY 5

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

AM: CHARLES DARWIN STATION

The Charles Darwin Station is a nonprofit organization which has been working for decades together with the Galapagos National Park to preserve the biodiversity of these unique islands. During this visit you will DAY 5 learn about the projects that both institutions carry together to protect the native species and eradicate the invasive ones which are threatening the Galapagos environment. One of the most important and emblematic projects has been reproducing giant tortoises in captivity. The visit is mostly outdoors in a beautiful dry native forest with giant cactus and many other interesting native plants. It is also a fantastic place to find several endemic Darwin finches, as well as flycatchers and mockingbirds. Highlights: Galapagos giant tortoise & land iguanas breeding program, Darwin finches, Galapagos mockingbirds, Galapagos flycatchers, yellow warblers.

Trail: 2 km / 1,2 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.

How long is the flight from Ecuador to the Galapagos?

> It depends from where you depart. Flights to the Galapagos leave from Quito and Guayaquil. It takes about half an hour to get from Quito to Guayaquil and roughly one and a half hours from Guayaquil to the islands.

Are there any immunizations required/recommended?

> For the Galapagos Islands there are no required or recommended immunizations. If you, however, intend to spend more time in Ecuador, especially in the jungle, immunization is highly recommended. As this changes from time to time please check with your local health office (or the Institute for Tropical Diseases) a few weeks in advance of your trip.

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 are marine currents like the Galapagos?

> The Galapagos Islands waters have the Humboldt Current's influence that brings cold waters especially during the mist rainy season (cool weather) from July to December. The warm season is during the months of January to June. The southeast trade winds become weaker and the water from the Panama Basin remains warm. During this season there is more of a tropical climate with some occasional rains. "El Niño" current may cause a much greater flow of warm waters, making the surface warmer and rainfall increase.

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)

Can you snorkel in the Galapagos?

> Snorkeling equipment is available on-board and is an activity on all of our Galapagos Cruises. All water sports convey a certain risk. Passengers participating in these activities do so under their own responsibility.

Special Diets:

> Passengers with special dietary needs are asked to request the latest menu offered and in such cases that stated menu does not meet their needs to clearly convey their specific dietary needs. It is the responsibility of passengers with specific dietary needs to addressed additional requirements at least 30 days prior to the start of the cruise. Those general and specific needs not clearly conveyed cannot be met. Every reasonable effort will be made to cater to such requests within reason, subject to availability of products in Ecuador retains the right to refuse to cater such special needs.

What does the Alya catamaran Route A visit from Thursday to Monday?

> Route A starts at Baltra with a panga ride at Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz, then visits Genovesa (Darwin Bay), Sullivan Bay on Santiago and Bartolome, Chinese Hat and Mosquera, and ends with the Charles Darwin Station on Santa Cruz.

What are the facilities on the Alya catamaran for Route A?

> 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.

What cabins are offered on Alya Route A?

> 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 does the Alya Route A cruise fare cover?

> 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). Not included are the flight to and from Galapagos, the National Park entrance fee, the transit card, other beverages, tips, local taxes and travel insurance.

What is Chinese Hat and why is it included?

> Chinese Hat is a small islet formed by a perfectly symmetrical volcanic cone, separated from Santiago by a narrow channel with turquoise water and coral sand beaches. Penguins rest on the rocks, a trail passes a small sea lion colony, and snorkellers see colourful fish, reef sharks and sometimes penguins chasing anchovies.

What happens at Black Turtle Cove on the first afternoon?

> Black Turtle Cove on Santa Cruz is explored by dinghy with no landing. You glide through shallow mangrove channels that serve as a mating area for green sea turtles and a nursery for several shark species, with rays, herons, pelicans and boobies also common.

Why do birdwatchers value the Genovesa day on Route A?

> Genovesa holds very large seabird colonies. At Darwin Bay you walk among boobies, gulls and frigatebirds, with night herons, lava and swallow-tailed gulls, Darwin finches, doves and mockingbirds inland, and snorkelling spots range from deep cliffs to shallow water by the beach.

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

> A deposit of 20% of the cruise fare secures your cabin on the Alya Route A 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.

How do I ask a question or book the Alya Route A 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 A 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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