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*Make your trip
an adventure*

ALYA CATAMARAN
GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CRUISE
6 DAYS – 5 NIGHTS

Enjoy your Galapagos vacation on board this first-class, Smart-Voyager-certified catamaran: the Alya. While cruising on this well-designed yacht, you can enjoy full days of exploration and adventure in the living laboratory of this legendary archipelago.

This new catamaran has 9 comfortable cabins (8 of them with private balconies), with 4 cabins on the upper deck and 5 on the main deck. All the beds are double or twin. Private facilities in each cabin include a private bathroom with cold/hot water, air conditioning, a hairdryer, a telephone for internal communication on board, a safety deposit box and a loudspeaker for ship announcements.



The Alya motor catamaran offers a dining area, a lounge, bar, a small library, and a spacious sundeck with a fantastic area for enjoying Galapagos landscapes. The catamaran's activities include hiking and wildlife watching on daily land excursions led by a bilingual guide, as well as snorkeling, swimming, and kayaking. The yacht provides free snorkeling gear (mask, snorkels, and fins) and kayaks to complete your adventure in the islands.

The experienced and professional staff and crew will be your hosts during your journey on board the Alya motor catamaran, where they will make your stay an unforgettable experience. The kitchen staff is always ready to help you and provide you with delicious food, while the ship's bartender will serve you delicious cocktails, and the cooperative guides will introduce you to the amazing sights of this legendary archipelago.

Technical Specifications

- Type: Superior First-class motor Catamaran

- Construction: Guayaquil 2017
- Length: 31.50 m
- Beam: 12.50 m
- Draft: 1.70 m
- Capacity: 16 passengers
- Crew: 8 members + 1 bilingual guide
- Cruising speed: 12 knots
- Engines: 2 Cumming Motors 350 HP
- Water capacity: 2,500 gallons
- Diesel capacity: 2,500 gallons
- Electric power: 110V and 220V

Accommodations:

This new catamaran has 9 comfortable cabins, 8 of them with private balconies, 4 cabins on the upper deck and 5 on the main deck. All the beds can be double or twin. Private facilities in each cabin include a private bathroom with cold/hot water, air conditioning, a hairdryer, a telephone for internal communication on board, a safety deposit box and a loudspeaker.

Facilities:

Social areas include a library, DVD service, a dining room, a bar where a variety of drinks are served, and a sundeck with its own bar. Snorkeling and kayaking equipment are included on your cruise.

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**ITINERARY AT A GLANCE**

Day 1 - Monday:	Santa Cruz Island: Highlands - Twin Craters
Day 2 - Tuesday:	Isabela Island: Moreno Point – Elizabeth Bay
Day 3 - Wednesday:	Isabela Island: Urbina Bay // Fernandina Island: Espinoza Point
Day 4 - Thursday:	Isabela Island: Tagus Cove – Vicente Roca Point
Day 5 - Friday:	Santiago Island: Espumilla Beach – Puerto Egas
Day 6 - Saturday:	Santa Cruz Island: Bachas Beach - Airport

DETAILED ITINERARY**Day 1 - Monday: Santa Cruz Island: Highlands - Twin Craters**

AM: In the morning, you will fly from Quito or Guayaquil (on the Ecuadorian mainland) to Baltra Island, in the heart of the Galapagos archipelago and the main point of entrance to this natural paradise. Upon your arrival at the **Baltra Island airport**, you will need to pay the national park entry fee, which goes to protecting both the Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve. A member of the Surtrek team will then welcome you and accompany you to your ship, the Alya motor catamaran.

PM: This afternoon we will visit the **Highlands of Santa Cruz Island**, where the lush landscape is a welcome contrast to the arid scenery of the smaller, lower islands. On the way, we will cross through different vegetation zones – from the dry lower region full of cactuses to the scalesia woods in the Highlands. There one can find two small agricultural communities that grow the famous organic Galapagos coffee. Later, while in the Santa Cruz Highlands, we will visit **the twin “Los Gemelos” craters**, which will be explained by your naturalist guide. These craters are surrounded by scalesia forest, where also live Ruby tyrants and small and large Tree finches.

Meals included: Lunch, Dinner

Day 2 - Tuesday: Isabela Island: Moreno Point – Elizabeth Bay

AM: This morning will take us to the largest landmass in the Galapagos archipelago: **Isabela Island**. With a surface of 1,770 sq. miles (4,588 sq. km.), the island constitutes more than the half of the land area of the entire Galapagos archipelago – which is why it has the most visitor points in the islands. Five volcanoes are found on Isabela, including the archipelago's highest: Wolf Volcano, reaching 1,707 m (5,600 ft.). In addition, Isabela is the only island in the Galapagos that is actually crossed by the Equator. On Isabela, we will explore **Moreno Point**, a young volcanic landscape with numerous fresh-water pools and lagoons. You will be able to see flamingos, Bahama ducks and other birds here.

PM: This afternoon, we will head to the mangrove area of **Elizabeth Bay**, on Isabela Island, and visit the small islands offshore. You are likely to see dwarf penguins as well as schools of manta rays, turtles and other giants of the ocean – possibly even surfacing whale sharks. The mangrove woods are also home to various species of seabirds and herons.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 - Wednesday: Isabela Island: Urbina Bay // Fernandina Island: Espinoza Point



AM: After breakfast, we will make a wet landing in **Urbina Bay**. Coral reefs are visible here as a result of an especially violent eruption of the Alcedo Volcano in 1954, when large sections of Isabela Island's coast were suddenly raised about four meters. These reefs are now covered with poison apple and muyuyo trees. You can also observe land iguanas and the rare Mangrove finch up close here. From January to June, land turtles occasionally visit the bay, descending from their higher mountain living environments. After a short walk inland, we will have some time for snorkeling, giving you yet another chance to swim with sea turtles, sea lions, and countless tropical fish.

PM: Fernandina Island is not only the westernmost island but also the youngest and most pristine island in the Galapagos. Huge fields of lava were created here by the La Cumbre Volcano's 2005 eruption, which was followed on April 11, 2009, when the volcano flared up again, forming a cloud of ash and steam as hot lava flowed down the slopes of the volcano into the ocean. Nonetheless, an abundance of wildlife calls this island home, including the famous Flightless cormorants, penguins, pelicans, marine iguanas and sea lions. You can also find mangroves on Fernandina Island, in addition to a great diversity of wildlife – such as orcas and whale sharks (which can sometimes be seen while snorkeling and when they surface). This afternoon, we will make a dry landing on **Espinoza Point**, one of Fernandina Island's visitor points. It is filled with fascinating scenery, such as cactuses growing on the surface of lava. One gets a sense of how life fought to begin when seeing these plants emerging from crevices in this barren landscape. Within this unique scenery, you will encounter numerous animals – the highlights being sea lions, Galapagos penguins, Flightless cormorants (especially in the spring and summer), and one of the largest iguana colonies in the

Galapagos Islands. In fact, on this small strip of land that constitutes Espinoza Point, you can find literally thousands of marine iguanas, which gather in large groups.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4 - Thursday: Isabela Island: Tagus Cove – Vicente Roca Point



AM: After a dry landing, we will visit Isabela Island's notorious **Tagus Cove**, which was historically used as an anchoring place for pirates, buccaneers, and whalers. Still existing here is some graffiti that is believed to have been left by 19th-century pirates ...a curious reminder of an intriguing past. Perched on the ledges of the cliffs around this deep blue bay, you can observe a large number of Blue-footed boobies, as well as marine iguanas, brown pelicans, brown noddly terns, swallow-tailed gulls and tiny Galapagos penguins (members of the only penguin species in the world to extend its range into the northern hemisphere along the equator). A steep trail also passes through an area of dry vegetation and volcanic landscapes with scalesia woods and cactuses.

PM: Located at the "mouth" of the head of the seahorse that forms the northern part of Isabela Island is **Vicente Roca Point**, an interesting rock formation. Here, the remnants of an ancient volcano form two turquoise coves, with a bay that's well-protected from the ocean swells. With a bit of luck, you can see Galapagos penguins, while Masked- and Blue-footed boobies, as well as pelicans, sit perched along the point and its sheer cliffs, while flightless cormorants inhabit the shoreline. The upwelling of currents of cool water in

this part of the Galapagos gives rise to an abundance of marine life, which makes Vicente Roca Point a great area for deep-water snorkeling.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 - Friday: Santiago Island: Espumilla Beach – Puerto Egas



AM: In the morning we will land on the fourth largest island in the Galapagos: **Santiago Island**, also known as “James Island” or “San Salvador Island.” The old rusted machines and run-down buildings of former salt mine workers are still apparent on the island, though the last attempts to populate Santiago Island were given up on forty years ago. On Santiago, we will visit Santiago Island’s **Espumilla Beach**, where marine iguanas relax and sea turtles nest. While snorkeling, you might come upon octopuses, morays and many types of tropical fish. There is also a Palo Santo forest close to this beach.

PM: This afternoon we will make a wet landing on Santiago’s **Puerto Egas beach**. Its black volcanic sand was visited by Darwin in 1835 and still maintaining an abundance of marine iguanas. After a short walk of about 2 km along the coast, we will reach the rugged lava coastline of James Bay. The unique, truly striking layered terrain of Santiago’s shores is home to a variety of resident and migrant birds, including the bizarre Yellow-crowned night heron and an astounding array of marine wildlife – including lobsters, starfish and marine iguanas grazing on algae beds alongside Sally Lightfoot Crabs. Colonies of endemic fur seals swimming in cool water pools formed by volcanic rocks are another highlight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6 - Saturday: Santa Cruz Island: Bachas Beach // Airport

AM: This morning, we will arrive on the northern coast of **Santa Cruz Island**, where we will visit the long and sandy **Las Bachas Beach**, one of the most important nesting beaches for sea turtles. Here you can also find flamingos, Black-winged stilts, sea lions, herons, marine iguanas, and — with a little bit of luck — tiny Galapagos penguins. In addition, this beach is one of the main nesting sites of sea turtles in the Galapagos. A female can lay eggs 3 or 4 times with an average of 70 eggs each, but they then spend 3 to 5 years without breeding. At this paradisiacal site, we will also find the remains of barges that sank long ago; these were once the property of the United States Navy when they operated an airbase on Baltra Island during World War II. In fact, the beach got its name because the English word “barges” was hard to pronounce for the local people – hence “Bachas” Beach. You will also have the opportunity to swim on this soft white sand beach or explore the fascinating underwater by snorkeling.

Later, we will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to the mainland. Enjoy the last view of the “enchanted islands,” a unique paradise with fascinating natural highlights.

Meals included: **Breakfast**

Included in the price

- A cruise on board the Alya motor catamaran
- Accommodations in a double cabin with private facilities
- All meals as indicated in the itinerary
- All transfers in the Galapagos Islands
- Services of an English/Spanish-speaking naturalist guide on daily excursions and during briefings
- Use of snorkeling equipment
- Free purified drinking water.

Not included in the price

- Flights to/from the Galapagos Islands
- Entrance fee to the Galapagos National Park (\$100 USD per adult)
- Transit control card (\$20 USD per person)
- Bottled soft drinks and alcoholic beverages
- Single cabin supplements
- Tips and gratuities
- Personal items
- Travel/medical insurance