



Alya 8-day Cruise "A"

(San Cristobal, Española, Santa Cruz, North Seymour, Genovesa, Santiago, Bartholomew, Santa Cruz)



Day 1: Monday

SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

In the morning: San Cristobal airport arrival

You will arrive at San Cristobal 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: Lobos Island

You will take 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.

Lobos Island, San Cristobal Island	
Possible Activities:	Short hike (less than 0,6 miles / 1 km), dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Sea lions, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies

Day 2: Tuesday

SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

In the morning: Witch Hill

Located on the northern coast, this eroded hill and its surroundings present one of the most picturesque beaches in the Galapagos with its white powdery sand and the abundance of animals. Wildlife includes sea turtles, rays, and various types of booby birds. The clear water provides an excellent opportunity for enjoying swimming and snorkeling.

Witch Hill, San Cristobal Island	
Possible Activities:	Hike, dinghy ride, snorkeling & kayaking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Beautiful rock formations, sea lions, shore birds, finches and mockingbirds; Snorkeling: nice tropical fish, anemones, sponges, coral

In the afternoon: Pitt Point

Pitt Point, situated on the north-eastern tip of the San Cristobal island, hosts frigate birds, 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.

Pitt Point, San Cristobal Island	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride, snorkeling, kayaking & hike (1.5 miles / 2.5 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Frigate birds, storm petrels, Nazca boobies, blue- and red-footed boobies

Day 3: Wednesday

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

In the morning: Suarez Point

On the trail to Suarez Point you will have the chance to spot 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 sea water into the air. The landscape is great for photography.

Suarez Point, Española Island	
Possible Activities:	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
Difficulty:	Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Hood mockingbirds, Nazca boobies, waved albatrosses (approximately from the last week of April until the last week of January), red-billed tropicbirds, lava lizards, Galapagos hawks, blowhole, amazing landscape and maybe blue-footed boobies.

In the afternoon: Gardner Bay, Gardner Islet & Osborn Islet

This 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.

Gardner Bay, Gardner Islet & Osborn Islet, Española Island	
Possible Activities:	Snorkeling, panga ride, short hike (0,6 miles / 1km) and Kayaking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Highlights & Animals:	White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds; snorkeling: colorful fish, sea lion nursery

Day 4: Thursday

SANTA CRUZ AND NORTH SEYMOUR ISLANDS

In the morning: Highlands

Accessible by bus from Puerto Ayora, the highlands of Santa Cruz are a deep green which contrast beautifully with the dry, lower part of the islands. The predominant vegetation in the highlands are Scalesia trees which create a lush green forest. The lava tunnels, over half a mile long, are underground and walking through them is a unique, surreal experience. At this place you'll have lunch.

Highlands, Santa Cruz Island	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Lava tunnels, Finches, wild tortoises, tortoise nesting site.

In the afternoon: North Seymour

In North Seymour you may see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies, and magnificent frigate birds 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.

North Seymour Island	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride & hiking (1.5 miles / 2.41 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Land & marine iguanas, frigate birds, blue-footed boobies, sea lions; snorkeling: rays, reef sharks, fish, garden eels.

Day 5: Friday

GENOVESA ISLAND

In the morning: Darwin Bay

Visit the white-sand coral beach of Darwin Bay which includes a half mile trail (0,75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls, which can easily 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.

Darwin Bay, Genovesa Island	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (0,9 miles / 1,5 Km), snorkeling, kayaking, and dinghy ride
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Wet Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, swallow-tail gulls, mangroves, coral pebble beach, snorkeling: rays, colorful reef fish, and hammerhead sharks occasionally

In the afternoon: El Barranco

El Barranco, also known as Prince Phillip's Steps, is a steep, rocky path that leads up a high cliff rock 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 owls, Galapagos storm petrels, and Galapagos doves.

El Barranco, Genovesa Island	
Possible Activities:	Hiking (0,9 miles / 2 Km)
Difficulty:	Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Red-footed boobies, short-eared owls, storm-petrels, Galapagos doves

Day 6: Saturday

SANTIAGO AND BARTHOLOMEW ISLANDS

In the morning: Sullivan Bay

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.

Sullivan Bay, Santiago Island	
Possible Activities:	Hiking
Difficulty:	Easy/Moderate
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Lava flows, small volcanoes

In the afternoon: Pinnacle Rock

You will head to Bartholomew Island where the famous Pinnacle Rock is found. 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 and swim with Galapagos penguins.

Pinnacle Rock, Bartholomew Island	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy ride, snorkeling & hiking (1.2 miles/ 2 km)
Difficulty:	Moderate/Difficult
Type of Landing:	Dry & Wet Landings
Highlights & Animals:	Pinnacle Rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus; snorkeling: penguins, reef sharks, rays, and great colorful fish.

Day 7: Sunday

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

In the morning: Dragon Hill

The visitors' site at Dragon Hill is located in northwestern Santa Cruz Island and consists of a 1,600 m long trail that runs through three different environments. The beach is very rocky. At high tide it's a nice place for snorkeling. At this visiting site you can find vegetation of the typical intertidal zone and dry zone.

Dragon Hill, Santa Cruz Island	
Possible Activities:	Panga ride & short hike
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Frigatebirds, herons, blue-footed boobies, rays, reef sharks

In the afternoon: Black Turtle Cove

Visit Black Turtle Cove in the northern part of Santa Cruz. 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.

Black Turtle Cove, Santa Cruz Island	
Possible Activities:	Dinghy Ride
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	No Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Baby hammerhead shark, rays, sea turtles, sea birds.

Day 8: Monday

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

In the morning: Fausto Llerena Breeding Center


You will visit "Fausto Llerena" Giant Tortoises Creeding 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.


Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, Santa Cruz Island	
Possible Activities:	Walking
Difficulty:	Easy
Type of Landing:	Dry Landing
Highlights & Animals:	Giant tortoises, finches, Galapagos rails

Afterwards: Baltra Airport Departure


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


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