

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS - ALYA | 5 DAY WESTERN ISLANDS



INTRODUCTION

GREAT CHIMU SALE EXCLUSIVE: Book and Save up to 33%* off on select departures.

Experience the exotic paradise that is the Galapagos on board the MC Alya. On board your luxury catamaran you will cruise through the Western islands of the Galapagos on an incredible journey that combines superior service quality with the immense beauty of the Galapagos. No island is same as the last, with vastly different landscapes and unique species. The Galapagos is enchanting, mysterious and offers its unique share of adventure.


The Alya Experience

The Alya is designed to get the most out of your experience. Launched in 2017, this superior first-class motor catamaran offers comfort and luxury. This is the wonderful vessel to cruise the Galapagos. The ship offers 9 comfortable cabins, all tastefully decorated and featuring private facilities. The catamaran sails with a crew of 8 plus a bilingual, certified naturalist guide ensuring you get the most out of your time onboard the Alya and in the Galapagos. You have the opportunity to explore the Galapagos archipelago with activities such as hiking, snorkelling and kayaking. The cruise can provide you with a comfortable retreat after adventure-packed days of exploration. While sailing the pristine waters you can relax onboard and enjoy the panoramic views from the comfort of the ship.

The Alya also offers a [western 6 day cruise](#) and a [eastern 6 day cruise](#).

ITINERARY

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| TRIP CODE |
| ECGSA5 |
| DEPARTURE |
| Departs select Thursdays |
| DURATION |
| 5 Days |
| LOCATIONS |
| Galapagos Islands: Baltra, Genovesa, Santiago and Santa Cruz Islands |



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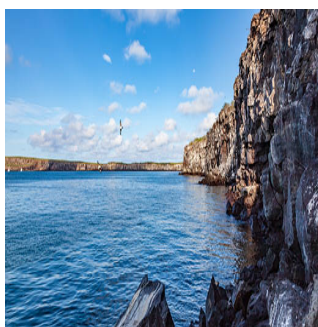
DAY 1: Baltra Airport and Black Turtle Cove

Begin your adventure with a morning flight from either Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra Island in the Galapagos. After a delicious lunch, we'll kick off our exploration by visiting Black Turtle Cove, a hidden gem nestled in the northern region of Santa Cruz. This tranquil bay, accessible only by dinghy, is surrounded by stunning mangroves. Keep your eyes peeled for enchanting marine creatures such as black-tip reef sharks, marine turtles, and variety of rays that often grace these waters.



DAY 2: Darwin Bay and Barranco

Embark on a wet landing excursion at Darwin Bay, an island in the Galapagos' northern region. As we step onto the shore, we'll be greeted by a fascinating mangrove swamp, home to a vibrant colony of frigates, marine iguanas, red-footed boobies, and mask boobies. Witness the spectacle of the great terrestrial finch, seagulls, herons, and cactus finch. After our land excursion, take a refreshing swim in the crystal-clear bay waters. In the afternoon, we'll make our way to Barranco, also known as Prince Phillip's stairs. This thrilling adventure takes us along the Barranco path, offering captivating encounters with tropical birds, petrels, common frigates, red-footed boobies, mask boobies, doves, and finches.



DAY 3: Sullivan Bay and Bartolome Island

In the morning you will arrive at Sullivan Bay. Virtually uneroded lava flows cover an extensive area of this island. Lava pahoe-hoe (basaltic lava that has a smooth, billowy, undulating or ropy surface), hornitos, and mollugo (a lava colonizer) can be seen. In the afternoon you will make your way to Bartolome Island. We will follow a path to the top (114m) where we can see pioneering plants such as tiquilia, chamaesyce, and scalesia. The island has been formed by cones, lava pipes where lava once flowed. Following the wet landing at the beach, we will follow a path through mangrove swamps and sand dune vegetation, to the south beach. At the north beach, guests can enjoy swimming and snorkelling. From the top of Bartolome, we will be able to see the islands of Santiago, Rabida, and Isabela. You will also have the unique opportunity to see penguins at Pinnacle rock.



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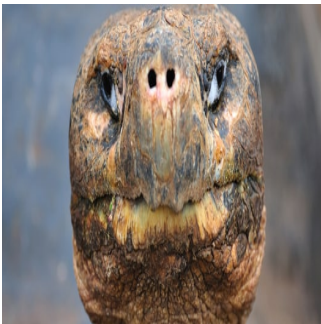
DAY 4: Chinese Hat Island and Mosquera

In the morning you will arrive at Chinese Hat Island. A small islet located near the south-east coast of Santiago. It's shaped like a Chinese hat when seen from afar. It is an island consisting of a cone type "Splatter" (lava ejected as drops which fall close to where they came from, which form an inclined cone) that forms the summit and many lava tubes that go down to the coast. In the afternoon you will make your way to Mosquera. This islet is located between Baltra Island and North Seymour. Here, we find the biggest sea lion colony; it is also possible to observe several species of birds. Enjoy the white sand beach.



DAY 5: Charles Darwin Station and Departure

After breakfast, we will visit Charles Darwin Station which is located in the main port on Santa Cruz Island; we will take a private bus to the entrance of the breeding center where we will see tortoises and land iguanas in captivity. This center is the main breeding site on the islands. Animals that were in danger of extinction on the various islands are maintained in captivity. Thanks to the dedicated work of several institutions, some species are being saved. Here lived Lonesome George, the famous last survivor of the giant tortoise species found on Pinta Island. Afterward, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight from the Galapagos.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Accommodation | Standard |
|----------------------|----------|

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Inclusions | Cabin accommodation on board vessel All meals whilst on board Guiding and lectures by experienced naturalist guides Transfers in the islands Use of snorkelling gear (mask, tubes and fins) Kayaks Drinks including water, coffee and tea. Exclusions Roundtrip airfare to/from the Galapagos Galapagos National Park entrance fee (US\$100pp subject to change) Galapagos Transit Control Card (US\$20pp subject to change) Travel Insurance Personal expenses Gratuities for staff and crew |
| Difficulty Rating | 2 (light adventure) |
| Single Surcharge | Available upon request, contact us for more details |
| Notes | Please note park entrance fees may be subject to change without prior notice. |
| Price Dependent upon | Departure date, seasonality and availability. |

SUSTAINABILITY

Being environmentally accountable is a crucial part of our organisation. Chimu is currently striving towards using less paper, taking several initiatives to do so and tracking our progress along the way. Our goal: A paperless organisation. For this reason, all information given to you will be sent electronically. We encourage those who choose to travel with us to support our aspirations and actions and ask that you reconsider printing out documentation. To view these documents, you can download them to your iPad or portable computer before and during your trip.

Chimu is passionate and dedicated to sustainability measures and understands the crucial part sustainability plays within the tourism industry.

We use local guides and office staff to both maximise local employment opportunities and minimise carbon footprint. Local guides also ensure you benefit from the intimate knowledge, passion and culture of the country you're visiting. Our guides are all highly qualified (most with university degrees) or equip with many years of experience and are paid above the standard wage. Whether it be our knowledgeable local guides, locally produced meals or the transport on tour, we do not use imported goods when local products are available. We aim to minimise our impact on the environment and give as much back as possible to the communities we work in.

Alya cruise contributes to a number of sustainability initiatives in line with Galapagos park policy and their own unique contribution philosophy. Plastic is eliminated

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throughout the Galapagos, naturalist guides provide in depth education and respect for ecosystems when undertaking tours, and suppliers are chose from locally-owned organisations and operators to ensure economic sustainability within the region. While visiting the many national parks, heritage sites, museums and landmarks our travellers are encouraged to explore whilst remaining culturally aware and sensitive. We further encourage you to buy appropriate souvenirs and discourage the buying of anything wrongfully made or taken from the environment i.e. shells and endangered species products. Information on how you can be environmentally conscious, and travel responsibly will be made available in our Travellers Guides and provided during your travels by guides and staff.

For more information on our sustainability policies, including how we are striving towards being a paperless organisation, click [HERE](#)

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