

# Alia 8 Day Itinerary "A"

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

## Day 1 (Monday) SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

Morning flight from Quito or Guayaquil to San Cristobal, Galapagos Islands.

You will arrive at San Cristobal Island in the morning. After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by the Alia staff 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 morning, you will visit the **Interpretation Center**. This site is part of an environment project. The tour of this center will explore the natural history of the islands including human interaction and conservation efforts. The Museum of Natural History explains the volcanic origin of the archipelago, ocean currents, climate, and the arrival of endemic species. The Human History exhibit chronologically describes significant events such as discovery and colonization of the islands.

Interpretation Center	
<b>Activities:</b>	Museum visit
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Great exhibits about the archipelago's natural history

## Day 2 (Tuesday) SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND: WITCH HILL & PITT POINT

In the morning, you will visit **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	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hike, dinghy ride, snorkeling & kayaking
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy walk along the beach
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Beautiful rock formations, sea lions, shore birds, finches and mockingbirds; Snorkeling: nice tropical fish, anemones, sponges, coral

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In the afternoon, you will end up visiting the **Pitt Point**, situated on the north-eastern tip of the island, hosts frigatebirds, 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	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hiking (1.5 miles / 2 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate/Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Frigatebirds, storm petrels, Nazca boobies, blue- and red-footed boobies

## Day 3 (Wednesday) ESPAÑOLA ISLAND: SUAREZ POINT & GARDNER BAY

In the morning, you will visit **Suarez Point**. On the trail you will have the chance to see 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 water into the air. The landscape is great for photography.

Suarez Point	
<b>Activities:</b>	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Hood mockingbirds, Nazca boobies, waved albatrosses (from the last week of april until the last week of january), red-billed tropicbirds, lava lizards, Galapagos hawks, blue-footed boobies, blowhole, amazing landscape

In the afternoon, 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	
<b>Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, panga ride & short hike (0,6 miles / 1km) Kayaking
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	White sandy beach, sea lions, mockingbirds; snorkeling: colorful fish, sea lion nursery

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## Day 4 (Thursday) SANTA CRUZ & NORTH SEYMOUR ISLANDS

In the morning, you will head to **Carrión Point**, located in northeastern Santa Cruz. We will navigate around this point which will provide you opportunities to see various sea birds nesting on the rock cliffs. Carrion Point creates a sheltered lagoon with beautiful, turquoise water. During this visit you can snorkel and see a variety of fish, rays and perhaps the harmless white-tip reef sharks.

Carrión Point	
<b>Activities:</b>	Snorkeling
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	None
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Fish, rays, white-tip reef sharks

In **North Seymour** you will be able to see Galapagos sea lions, blue-footed boobies, and magnificent frigatebirds 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	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride & hiking (1.5 miles / 2.41 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate / Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Land & marine iguanas, frigatebirds, blue-footed boobies, sea lions; snorkeling: rays, reef sharks, fish, garden eels.

## Day 5 (Friday) GENOVESA ISLAND

In the morning, you will visit the white-sand coral beach of **Darwin Bay** which heads a half mile trail (0,75km) that winds through mangroves filled with land birds. Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls can 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	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hiking (0,9 miles / 1,5 Km), snorkeling, kayaking, and dinghy ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Nazca boobies, red-footed boobies, swallow-tail gulls, mangroves, coral pebble beach, snorkeling: rays, colourful reef fish, and hammerhead sharks occasionally

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In the afternoon, you will visit **El Barranco** which is also known as Prince Phillip's Steps. It is a steep, rocky path that leads up to a high cliff-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 lava owls, Galapagos swallows, and Galapagos doves.

El Barranco	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hiking (0,9 miles / 2 Km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry, difficult landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Red-footed boobies, short-eared lava owls, storm-petrels, Galapagos doves

## Day 6 (Saturday) SANTIAGO & BARTHOLOMEW ISLANDS

In the morning, 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	
<b>Activities:</b>	Hiking
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy / moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Lava flows, small volcanoes

In the afternoon, you will head to **Bartholomew Island**, home of the famous Pinnacle Rock. 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 Galapagos penguins.

Bartholomew Island	
<b>Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride, snorkeling & hiking (1.2 miles/ 2 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate/difficult. Walk up to the top of volcano 374 feet (114 meters), 375 wooden steps
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry and wet landings
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Pinnacle Rock, panoramic view, moonlike landscape, penguins, pioneer plants, lava cactus; snorkeling: penguins, reef sharks, rays, and great colorful fish.

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## Day 7 (Sunday) SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

In the morning, you will visit **Dragon Hill** on Santa Cruz. The visitors' site at Dragon Hill is located on the northwestern part of Santa Cruz Island and consists of a trail that runs through three different environments although it is only slightly less than a mile long (1,600 meters). The beach is very rocky. At high tide it's a nice place for snorkeling. At this visiting site you can find vegetation typical of the intertidal and dry zones.

Dragon Hil	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride and short hike
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Fragatebirds, herons, blue-footed boobies, rays, reef sharks

In the afternoon you will visit **Black Turtle Cove** on the northern part of Santa Cruz Island. 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	
<b>Activities:</b>	Dinghy ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of landing:</b>	No landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Baby hammerhead shark, rays, sea turtles, sea birds

## Day 8 (Tuesday) SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Your morning excursion takes you from Puerto Ayora to the green **highlands of Santa Cruz** for a visit to El Chato reserve. The area is divided in two: Caseta and Chato. The trail begins at Santa Rosa (13.7 miles / 22 km) from Puerto Ayora, with the Caseta route being the most challenging. The reserve allows visitors to observe giant tortoises in the wild during the dry season and is also a good place to spot short-eared owls, Darwin's finches, yellow warblers, Galapagos rails and paint-billed crakes.

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Santa Cruz Highlands	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hiking (2 1/2 km / 1,5 miles)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate (long)
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Finches, wild tortoises, tortoise nesting site.

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