

# Alia 8 Day Itinerary "B"

(Santa Cruz - Isabela - Fernandina - Santiago - Rabida - South Plaza - San Cristobal)

## Day 1 (Monday) SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Morning flight from Quito or Guayaquil to Baltra, Galapagos Islands.

You will arrive at Baltra Island in the morning. After passing through immigration and baggage claim, you will be met by the Alya 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 afternoon, you will visit **Fausto Llerena Breeding 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	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Walking
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Giant Land Tortoises

## Day 2 (Tuesday) ISABELA ISLAND

In the morning you will visit **Moreno Point** located southwest of Elizabeth Bay. Here a dry landing onto what was once a lava flow is possible. The lava has left craters in its wake which formed crystal tide pools. By looking into the pools, you can peer into another world as the marine life drifts by your window. In the brackish pools of this area, you may see pink flamingos, white-cheeked pintails, and common gallinules. If you look carefully into the pools, you may see white-tip reef sharks and some sea turtles.

Moreno Point	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, panga ride & hike (1.2 miles / 2km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate / difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry landing
<b>Highlights:</b>	Flamingos, gallinules, pintail ducks, turtles, white-tip reef sharks.

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**Elizabeth Bay** is located on the east coast of Isabela Island. The bay contains many islets, which can be visited by dinghy. Penguins and blue-footed boobies can be spotted on the rocky islets. With an abundance of marine life and clear water, the area is perfect for snorkeling and viewing schools of colorful fish, sea lions, and perhaps even sharks.

Elizabeth Bay	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Two-hour dinghy ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	No landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Mangrove forest (unique in Galapagos), sea turtles, penguins, rays, herons, sea lions.

## Day 3 (Wednesday) ISABELA & FERNANDINA ISLANDS

In the afternoon, you will go to **Urbina Bay** which is located at the base of Alcedo Volcano on the west coast between Tagus Cove and Elizabeth Bay. This area experienced a major uplift in 1954 causing the land to rise over 16 feet. The coast expanded half a mile out leaving marine life stranded on the new shore. This area is also a great place for snorkeling.

Urbina Bay	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, dinghy ride & hike, 2 trails: short (0.6mi/1 km), long (1.9mi/3km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy /moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Land iguanas (the biggest in the Galapagos), hawks, coral reef, giant tortoises; snorkeling: turtles, rays, tropical fish

In the afternoon, crossing the Bolivar Channel that divides Isabela and Fernandina Islands, you will land at **Espinosa Point**, and after walking past a colony of marine iguanas and a group of sea lions, reach the island's highlight: the flightless cormorant nesting site. This area provides a great opportunity to see the Galapagos hawk.

Espinosa Point	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hike of approximately (1.2 miles / 2 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry and slippery at low tide
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Flightless cormorant, marine iguanas, 'a'ā lava, sea lions, penguins, active volcano "La Cumbre".

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## Day 4 (Thursday) ISABELA ISLAND

In the morning, you will visit **Tagus Cove** on Isabela Island which is located across from Fernandina Island, near the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. This spot has been frequented by ships since the 1800s, using the area as an anchorage site. Trails winding by Lake Darwin up to a ridge display wonderful views. Punta Tortuga, just north of Tagus Cove, is another lovely beach surrounded by mangroves.

Tagus Cove	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Long hike, snorkeling, panga ride
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate / Difficult
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Penguins, flightless cormorants, Darwin Volcano & Lake

In the afternoon, visit is at **Vicente Roca Point**. Comprised of two separate coves, this site is a large bay with spectacular sea life. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola mola (or sun fish).

Vicente Roca Point	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, dinghy ride & hike, 2 trails: short (0.6mi/1 km), long (1.9mi/3km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy /moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	No landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Penguins, blue-footed boobies, terns, Nazca boobies, two types of sea lions. sea turtles, rays and puffer fish.

## Day 5 (Friday) SANTIAGO ISLAND

In the morning, visit is to **Espumilla Beach** where marine iguanas lounge and the Sally Lightfoot crabs attract the hunting herons performing the dance of predator and prey right before your eyes. Snorkeling is highly recommended as you could and yourself face to face with an octopus, moray eel, shark and a variety of other species of tropical fish.

Buccaneer Cove / Espumilla Beach	
<b>Activities:</b>	Snorkeling and swimming
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of landing:</b>	Wet landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Snorkeling

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In the afternoon, you will go to **Egas Port**, also known as James Bay, on Santiago Island which is home to the curious Galapagos hawks and quick-footed Galapagos lava lizards. The trail leads to the coastline with gorgeous tide pools and grottos full of fauna. Here the Galapagos fur sea lions bathe in the sun. This is also a great snorkeling site.

Egas Port	
<b>Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, hiking (1.2 miles/2 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy / moderate
<b>Type of landing:</b>	Wet landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Fur sea lions, Galapagos sea lions, tidal pools and grottos, Galapagos hawks, oyster catchers, marine iguanas, finches; snorkeling: reef sharks, turtles, rays, nice underwater formations.

## Day 6 (Saturday) RABIDA AN SANTIAGO ISLANDS

In the morning, you will visit **Rabida Island** (or Jervis) which is one of the most colorful and volcanically varied islands in the archipelago as well as a great snorkeling site. You will start on Rabida's famous maroon sandy beach, and after an easy hike, you will arrive at a stunning lookout to enjoy the amazing landscapes. The island is a birdwatcher's delight. Some of the rarest species are in abundance such as nine varieties of finches, large-billed flycatchers, Galapagos hawks, and brown pelicans.

Rabida Island	
<b>Activities:</b>	Snorkeling, dinghy ride, and short hike (0.6 miles / 1 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy / moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	White-cheeked pintail ducks, colorful fish, sea lions, brackish water lagoon, penguins, Galapagos hawk

In the afternoon, you will visit **Chinese Hat Islet**. This small islet is located near the southeast coast of Santiago Island. Its name comes from the distinct shape of the islet's summit. This small islet is a great location to view many geological formations such as lava tubes and lava flows. Some of the lava ows were formed underwater and subsequently raised above sea level. The presence of coral heads on the lava ow indicates this phenomenon.

Chinese Hat	
<b>Activities:</b>	Hike (1,9 miles / 3 km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy / moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Lava formations, great site for snorkeling with an abundance of marine species, marine iguanas, sea lions

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## Day 7 (Sunday) SANTA CRUZ AND SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND

The morning visit, **Bachas Beach**, is located on the north shore of Santa Cruz which is a swimming beach. One of the few remnants of the U.S. World War II presence in the Galapagos, a floating pier, can be seen here. You may see flamingos, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black-necked stilts, and whimbrels. Sea turtles also nest on the beach.

Bachas Beach	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hiking
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Wet landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	World War II remnants, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hermit crabs, black-necked stilts, whimbrels, sea turtles.

In the afternoon, you will head to **South Plaza Island**. This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is now covered by Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as colorful yellow and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is the Sesuvium. During the rainy season its color is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season (end of June through January) a bright red.

South Plaza Island	
<b>Possible Activities:</b>	Hike (1.5 miles / 2 ½ km)
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Moderate
<b>Type of landing:</b>	Dry landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Land iguanas, sea lion colony, Audubon's shearwaters, swallow-tailed gulls, Nazca boobies, amazing landscape with cliffs

## Day 8 (Monday) SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

This visit takes you to **El Junco Lagoon**. Located in the highlands 19 kilometers from Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, El Junco is located in the caldera of an extinct volcano. Rainwater feeds the lagoon. There are many farms and ranches in this area of San Cristobal Island, and sometime cows can be found near the lagoon.

El Junco	
<b>Activities:</b>	Hike around the lagoon
<b>Difficulty:</b>	Easy/moderate
<b>Type of Landing:</b>	Dry landing
<b>Highlights &amp; Animals:</b>	Beautiful lagoon lining the crater of the extinct volcano, frigates, occasionally some species of local water birds

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