



# *Galapagos Cruise*

Galapagos Motor Catamaran Athala - 5 Days Cruise  
Friday to Tuesday



## **Characteristics:**

M/C Athala was built in 2007 and with its unparalleled stability you are guaranteed a calm and relaxing cruise. The M/C Athala can accommodate 16 passengers in 8 comfortable double cabins (4 on the main deck and 4 on the upper deck). All cabins provide a beautiful view on the sea. Furthermore all of them are equipped with a private bathroom with hot/cold water, air condition, wardrobe and cupboard. The M/C Athala also offers you a hot tub, a comfortable dining room, a bar and lounge, a library, TV, DVD- player, radio and a sun deck with deck chairs to sleep and relax in the sun.

## **Technical facts and specifications:**

Type	First class
Length:	90 ft – 30 m
Beam:	36.08 ft – 11 m
Speed:	12 knots
Capacity:	16 passengers
Crew:	10 plus 1 multilingual naturalist guide
Beds:	8 double cabins each with private bathroom





## Itinerary:

### Friday: Flight to Galápagos / Baltra – Island Santa Cruz / Highlands

In the morning you will fly to the Galapagos Island Baltra. After paying the National Park Entrance Fee, a crew member will accompany you to your cruise ship or yacht which anchors at the harbour of Island Santa Cruz. Transfer from the airport to Itabaca Channel which you have to cross by ferry. After arrival there, you will pass through the highlands of Santa Cruz from north to south. On your way, you will cross the different vegetation zones of this fascinating island. Those vary from lower dry zones with many cactuses to scalesia- woods in the humid highland. There you can observe the Galapagos giant tortoises in their natural habitat and you will explore one of the enormously complex lava tunnels, which are approximately 2 km long. Then you will drive back to Puerto Ayora where you will spend your night in a hotel. -/L/D

### Saturday: North Seymour Island – Island Bartolomé

After a dry landing, you will have a short walk along the coast of the northernmost island of Seymour. Guests will encounter swallow tailed gulls, sea lions and cliff crabs. This site is also known for being a major nesting colony of blue footed boobies, and the largest colony of the magnificent frigate bird, a species different to the great frigate bird.

You can also spot both endemic species of iguanas, the marine iguanas and land iguanas. You will enjoy this relaxing hike around the nesting sites.

Arriving at Bartolomé you will ascend a lookout point from where you can admire the spectacular panorama of the Sullivan Bay and the famous needle shaped rock, the so called Pinnacle Rock. The beaches at the foot of the Pinnacle Rock boast some fine snorkeling spots from which you can discover the marvelous underwater world with a good chance to encounter penguins or the softly gliding turtles.

**B/L/D**



### **Sunday: Fernandina Island / Espinosa Point – Isabela Island / Vicente Roca Point**

In the morning you will visit Fernandina Island which is not only the westernmost but also the youngest and most pristine Island found in Galapagos. The last eruption of the volcano La Cumbre in 2005 created huge interesting fields of lava. Punta Espinoza, one of Fernandina's visit points, is situated within a fascinating lava scenery with Lava-Cactuses and on the surface of the lava growing mangroves. Beside this unique scenery you will come in contact with numerous animals here. The highlights are sea lions, penguins, the flightless cormorant (especially in spring and summer) and one of the biggest iguana colonies of Galápagos. Do not miss a snorkeling trip during which you have the possibility to explore the beautiful underwater world.

This afternoon will lead you to the largest island of the archipelago, Island Isabela. With a surface of 4588 sq.km the isle engages more than the half of the land area of whole Galápagos. Located at the 'mouth' of the head of the sea horse, which forms the northern part of the Isabela, is Punta Vicente Roca, an interesting rock formation. Here the remnants of an ancient volcano form two turquoise coves with a bay well protected from the ocean swells. With good luck you can observe penguins in the deep blue sea. Masked and blue-footed boobies and pelicans sit perched along the point and the sheer cliffs, while flightless cormorants inhabit the shoreline. **B/L/D**

### **Monday: Santiago Island / Egas Port – Rábida Island**

Today you will land at Santiago Island, also known as James, or San Salvador Island, which is the fourth largest island in the archipelago. The influences of the former salt mine workers and their imported animals are still alive on the island. The last tries to populate Santiago Island were given up forty years ago. Visit the dark sand beach with a lot of marine iguanas at Egas Port after a wet landing. After a short walk of about 2 km along the coast you will reach the cliffy lava coast with natural pools where sea lions take a bath and herons and other sea birds are as well local. Additionally you can encounter a small group of sea bears. The surrounding area is good for spotting and observing colonies of sea lions, red sally light-foot crabs, lava iguanas, Galápagos buzzards and lava herons.

After lunch on board you will make an excursion to the small volcano island Rábida with its dark red



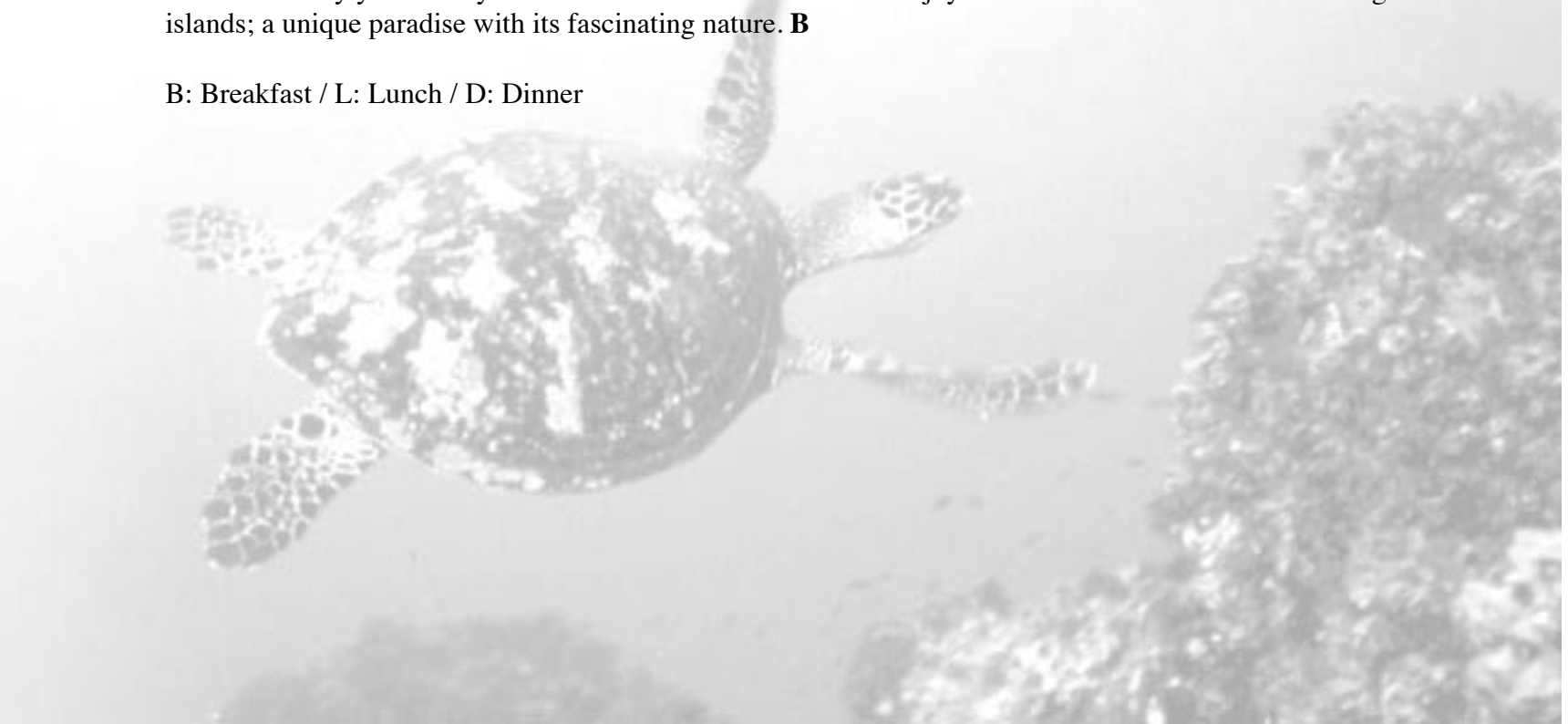
beach. A small path there leads you to the little lagoon, which is often visited by flamingos. On your way to this lagoon you will pass nesting pelicans and other sea birds. The beach of Rábida Island is considered as one of the most beautiful places to go snorkeling. Because of a huge richness of fishes you can also observe a lot of sea lions there. **B/L/D**

**Tuesday: Island San Cristóbal / Lobos Island – flight back to mainland**

Your aim for today is Island San Cristóbal. Here you will visit Lobos Island, which is located in front of San Cristobal Island. It is a seasonal nesting location for the blue footed booby and frigate birds. You also should enjoy swimming and snorkelling with sea lions in this calm bay.

Around midday you will fly back to the mainland of Ecuador. Enjoy the last view back to the enchanting islands; a unique paradise with its fascinating nature. **B**

B: Breakfast / L: Lunch / D: Dinner





**Prices per person 2009:**

Double cabin per person: USD 2,489.-  
Charter: USD 32,950.-

Single supplement: 70 %  
Discount for children under 12 years: 50 %

Fuel surcharge per person: USD 170. -

**Included in the price:**

All transfers in Galapagos, cruise on board of the MOTOR CATAMARAN ATHALA in double accommodation with all facilities, naturalist guide, purified water free to drink.

**Not included in the price:**

flights mainland to/from Galápagos (e.g. Quito – Galapagos – Quito USD 414. - per person), entrance fee to Galapagos National Park USD 100.-, migration card USD 10.- per person, beverages, tips, personal items, insurance.

**NB:** Itinerary is subject to change without previous notice, due to weather conditions, operational matters, National Park Authorities advise, or Captain's decision for passengers security.