



Galapagos Cruise

Galapagos Motor Catamaran Athala - 5 Days Cruise
Tuesday to Saturday



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:

Tuesday: Flight to Galápagos - Island San Cristóbal / La Galapaguera

In the morning you will fly to the Galapagos Island San Cristobal from which you will start your cruise. After paying the National Park Entrance Fee, a crew member will accompany you to your cruise ship or yacht which anchors at Baquerizo Moreno harbour. After arrival on board, check- in and explanations in general, lunch will be served. Afterwards you will start with your first excursion.

Make a dry landing at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno village and go through the highlands of San Cristobal. Here you will visit San Cristobal breeding centre, called “La Galapaguera”, where you will have the possibility to get to know more about the Giant tortoises breeding efforts of the National Park; especially of the endemic species: *Geochelone elephantopus Chatamensis*. -/L/D

Wednesday: Floreana Island / Post Office Bay – Cormorant Point – Devils Crown

Floreana Island is perceived as one of the most exotic Island of the archipelago.

In the morning you will visit the famous Post Office Bay which keeps the legendary post barrel that whalers historically used to post their mail in. Nowadays you can leave a letter and hope that it will make its destination via another tourist. At Cormorant Point you land on a green olivine sand beach. Following a 100 m long path you will soon reach a lagoon with flamingoes, white-checked pintail ducks and other shorebirds.

In the afternoon you will reach Devils Crown (Corona del Diablo), a broken volcanic cone, which is one of the most beautiful places to go snorkeling on Galápagos Island. You can dive or swim between riff sharks, star fishes, marine turtles, sea lions and many tropical ornamental fishes. B/L/D



Thursday: Española Island / Gardener Bay – Suarez Point

Española is the southernmost and oldest island of the Galápagos archipelago. Because of its isolated position you can explore a lot of endemic wildlife. Gardener Bay is on the eastern shore with turquoise shot coloured water and a magnificent beach. Around the small islets nearby, snorkelers will find lots of fish and sometimes turtles and sharks. The bay is also frequented by a transient colony of sea lions which like to swim with you. Birds, like the endemic Hood-Mockingbird and different species of Darwin finches, are omnipresent.

After lunch on board you will have an excursion to Point Suarez which is one of the most outstanding wildlife areas of the archipelago, with a long list of species found along its cliffs and sand or pebble beaches. In addition to five species of nesting seabirds there are the curious and bold Española Island mockingbirds, Galapagos doves and Galapagos hawks. Several types of reptiles, including the marine iguana and the oversized lava lizard, are unique to this island. When heavy swells are running, Point Suarez is also the site of a spectacular blowhole, with thundering spray shooting 30 yards into the air. The walkabout on a stony path is about 2km (duration about 3 hours). **B/L/D**

Friday: Island Santa Cruz / Charles Station – South Plaza Island

Today you anchor at the harbour of Puerto Ayora on Island Santa Cruz. Beside its rank as homestay for sea lions and pelicans, the marina is a popular starting point for round-the-world-yachtsman. The island itself has come to be both touristic and scientific center of the archipelago. The Charles Darwin Research Station and the Galapagos National Park offices are based on Santa Cruz Island. The station encompasses an information centre, a museum, a library and a tortoise breeding station. Here you will have an opportunity to visit some of the best scientists of the Galápagos. Park rangers and park managers among others, who make huge efforts to preserve this Unesco World Heritage Site, conduct the conservation of the islands. In the tortoise breeding and rearing centre you can encounter tortoises of different subspecies, which are prepared for reintroduction to their natural habitats. The most popular inhabitant of this Station is probably Lonesome George. He is the only survivor of his specific turtle species. In the past all approaches to find a partner for him failed. But in July 2008 the scientists found a carved nest



with nine eggs from a female tortoise. Three of them could be saved and now accordingly to strict instructions they are incubated synthetically.

In the afternoon you will explore South Plaza Island, the more southernly island of the both Plaza Island, located in the east of Island Santa Cruz. On this island so full of life you will encounter colonies of sea lions and land iguanas. On the steep banks it is possible to see a great number of birds such as nesting tropic birds and fork-tailed seagulls. But most of all, enjoying the beautiful view from atop the steep banks or strolling along the base of the cliff is an extremely pleasurable experience. The Opuntia cactus and red coral bushes grow here and the vegetation changes colour according to the seasons of the year.

B/L/D

Saturday: North Seymour Island – Baltra / flight back to mainland

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.

Afterwards you will be escorted to the airport of Baltra island and from there you will fly back to Ecuador mainland. **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.