

# The Galapagos Islands

**A visit to the spectacular Galapagos Islands** is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. So it is worthwhile ensuring that you are booking with a reliable company with knowledgeable guides who will help you get the very best out of the experience.

**We can help book Galapagos cruises** for our Spanish students and volunteers at some of the best prices in Quito through reputable and responsible agencies.

**We recommend Galapagos tours based on our experience** with a variety of yachts and cruise/tour operators, in an effort to promote companies that offer the best value and the best overall experience while operating with integrity and respect for the environment. Because of the popularity of the islands, it is recommended to book these trips well in advance, although during the low season it is also possible to pick up reasonable last-minute offers (*but be advised that these are never huge reductions in price*).



**Prices for an 8-day trip** range from about \$1000 on up to over \$2000 depending on the level of luxury you desire. Generally, a safe and comfortable boat (tourist superior) costs between \$1100 and \$1300 for 8 days. 4 and 5 -day cruises are also available for a couple of hundred dollars less, but bear in mind that you spend about a day and a half getting there and back. In addition to the cost of the cruise, you need to figure about \$450 for airfare (slightly less during low season) and \$110 for park admission.

**There are also options for land-based tours.** We recommend these as they tend to put more money directly into the community than the boat tours, benefitting the local population more. In addition they are preferable for those who do not like the idea of spending a week on a boat. We have teamed up with a local operator to offer a week of Spanish classes with accommodation and excursions, based in Santa Cruz.

**There are numerous operators** that organize tours on the Galapagos in many different vessels. Nevertheless we recommend the following four vessels: **Sulidae, Aida Maria, Valkiria** and **Vision I.** Further on, you can find extra information about their tours.

## Galápagos Island Information

### San Cristóbal

This is the first island in the Galapagos Archipelago Charles Darwin visited during his voyage on the Beagle. This island hosts frigate birds, sea lions, giant tortoises, blue- and red-footed boobies, tropicbirds, marine iguanas, dolphins and swallow-tailed gulls. The largest freshwater lake in the archipelago, Laguna El Junco, is located on San Cristóbal. The capital of the province of Galápagos, Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, lies at the southern tip of the island.

### Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz hosts the largest human population in the archipelago, the town of Puerto Ayora. The Charles Darwin Research Station and the headquarters of the Galápagos National Park Service are located here. The GNPS and CDRS operate a tortoise breeding center here, where young tortoises are hatched, reared, and prepared to be reintroduced to their natural habitat. The Highlands of Santa Cruz are famous for the lava tunnels. Black Turtle Cove is a site surrounded by mangroves, which sea turtles, rays and small sharks sometimes use as a mating area.

### Isabela

The island's seahorse shape is the product of the merging of six large volcanoes into a single land mass. On this island, Galápagos penguins, flightless cormorants, marine iguanas, pelicans and Sally Lightfoot crabs abound. At the skirts and calderas of the volcanoes of Isabela, land iguanas and Galápagos tortoises can be observed, as well as Darwin finches, Galápagos hawks, Galápagos doves and very interesting lowland vegetation. The third-largest human settlement of the archipelago, Puerto Villamil, is located at the southeastern tip of the island.

### Santiago

The island is also known as San Salvador, after the first island discovered by Columbus in the Caribbean Sea. Marine iguanas, sea lions, fur seals, land and sea turtles, flamingos, dolphins and sharks are found here. Darwin finches and Galápagos hawks are usually seen, as well as a colony of fur seals. At Sullivan Bay, a recent (around 100 years ago) pahoehoe lava flow can be observed.



### Genovesa

This island is formed by the remaining edge of a large caldera that is submerged. At Darwin Bay frigatebirds and swallow-tailed gulls, the only nocturnal species of gull in the World, can be seen. Red-footed boobies, noddy terns, lava gulls, tropic birds, doves, storm petrels and Darwin finches are also in sight. There is a large Palo Santo forest.

### Floreana

It is one of the islands with the most interesting human history, and one of the earliest to be inhabited. Flamingos and green sea turtles nest on this island. The patapegada or Galápagos petrel, is found here. At Post Office Bay, since the 18th century whalers kept a wooden barrel that served as post office so that mail could be picked up and delivered to their destinations. At the "Devil's Crown", an underwater volcanic cone and coral formations are found.

### Española

Española is the oldest island at around 3.5 million years, and the southernmost in the group. Due to its remote location, Española has a large number of endemic species. It has its own species of lava lizard, mockingbird, and tortoise. Española's marine iguanas exhibit a distinctive red coloration change during the breeding season. Española is the only place where the waved albatross nests. Española's steep cliffs serve as the perfect runways for these birds, which take off for their ocean feeding grounds near the mainland of Ecuador and Peru.

### Baltra

Also known as South Seymour, Baltra is a small flat island located near the centre of the Galápagos. It was created by geological uplift. The island is very arid, and vegetation consists of salt bushes, prickly pear cacti and palo santo trees.

### North Seymour

This island is home to a large population of blue-footed boobies and swallow-tailed gulls. It hosts one of the largest populations of frigate birds. It was formed from geological uplift.





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### Included

Housing, the food onboard of the vessel, visits according to the itinerary and the guides and transfers on the Galapagos

### Not Included

- Galapagos entrance fee: 100 USD.
- Transit control card INGALA per Person: 10 USD.
- Flight Ticket
- Drinks, tips, departure taxes, personal expenses, gifts

**NOTE:** Itineraries and boats might be changed due to force majeure, weather conditions, and park authorities regulations, in case of complaints they will be redirected to each boat's legal representative in the Galapagos islands.

### Vessel Information

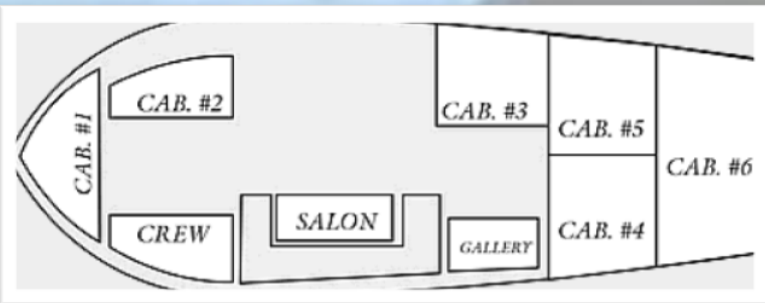
With our motor sail boat "Sulidae" we offer cruises including land excursions to the different islands. You have the opportunity to sail for 8 days. The tours begin on Thursday.

The wooden yacht-cascade, "Gaff ketch began his career in 1901 as a maritime vessel built in Denmark.

Of course since then, has been lovingly restored and modernized to include the power of the engine and modern security and characteristics updated facilities comfortable. Being aboard Sulidae is to be transported back in time, has the look and feel of a pirate ship.

### Sulidae Dimensions:

- 19m length / 4.8m breadth
- Engines: 280 H.P. Caterpillar diesel engine
- Electricity: 110/220 A.C. and 24 D.C.
- Capacity: 12 passengers



**For more information please visit**  
[www.galapagossulidae.com](http://www.galapagossulidae.com)



## Itinerary 8 days tour

- SUNDAY:** **San Cristobal**  
AM: San Cristobal Airport  
PM: Isla Lobos
- MONDAY:** AM: Santa Fe  
PM: Plazas
- TUESDAY:** **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Charles Darwin Station  
PM: El Chato Highlands Santa Cruz
- WEDNESDAY:** **Isabela**  
AM: Puerto Villamil: Humedales, muro de las lágrimas  
PM: Centro de crianza Arnaldo Tupiza
- THURSDAY:** **Isabela**  
AM: Punta Moreno  
PM: Bahía Elizabeth
- FRIDAY:** AM: Isabela: Caleta Tagus  
PM: Fernandina: Punta Espinoza, Punta Vicente Roca
- SATURDAY:** **Santiago**  
AM: Puerto Egas  
PM: Rabida
- SUNDAY:** AM: Seymour Norte  
PM: Baltra



## Itinerary 5 days tour

- SUNDAY:** AM: Baltra  
PM: Bachas
- MONDAY:** **Genovesa**  
AM: Darwin Bay  
PM: The Barranco
- TUESDAY:** AM: Bartolome  
PM: Sullivan Bay /Chinese Hat
- WEDNESDAY:** AM: Daphne / Black Turtle Cove  
PM: Cerro Dragón
- THURSDAY:** **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Charles Darwin Station  
PM: Baltra



## Itinerary 4 Days Tour

- THURSDAY:** AM: Baltra  
PM: Highlands of Santa Cruz
- FRIDAY:** **Floreana**  
AM: Post Office bay / Mirador de la Baronesa  
PM: Punta Cormoran / Devil's Crown
- SATURDAY:** **Española**  
AM: Punta Suarez  
PM: Bahía Gardner / Islote Gardner / Islote Osborn.
- SUNDAY:** **San Cristóbal**  
AM: León Dormido / Centro de Interpretación  
PM: San Cristobal Airport

## Prices:

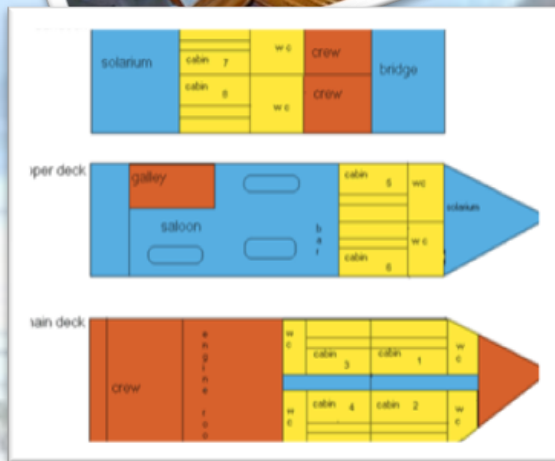
- 4 Days from \$ 950,- to \$ 1200,-
- 5 Days from \$ 1200,- to \$ 1700,-
- 8 Days from \$ 1700,- to \$ 2100,-

\*Price varies with the season





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### Included

All meals, accommodation on board, visits to the islands according to the itinerary, English speaking guide, transfers in Galapagos.

### Not Included

- Galapagos entrance fee: 100 USD.
- Transit control card INGALA per Person: 10 USD.
- Flight Ticket 421 USD
- Drinks, tips, departure taxes, personal expenses

**NOTE:** Itineraries and boats might be changed due to force majeure, weather conditions, and park authorities regulations, in case of complaints they will be redirected to each boat's legal representative in the Galapagos islands.

### Vessel Information

Its design is based in efficiency and comfort with ample social areas and 8 cabins 2 in main deck, 2 in upper deck and 2 in solarium providing optimum comfort for your experience exploring the galapagos. She takes 16 guests in double cabins with private facilities, A/C and hot water and desalinator having unlimited water.

### Aida Maria Dimensions:

- 21m length / 5 m breadth
- Engines: 9 knots / 2 CAT 125 hp each
- Electricity: 2 yanmar generator 110 v
- Fuel Capacity: 1500 gallons/diesel
- Fresh Water Capacity
- Capacity: 16 Passengers



**For more information please visit**  
[www.aidamariatravel.com](http://www.aidamariatravel.com)

# Alternative routes of Aida Maria



## Itinerary 6 Days Tour

- THURSDAY:** AM: Baltra  
PM: Highlands of Santa Cruz
- FRIDAY:** AM: Post Office bay / Mirador de la Baronesa  
PM: Punta Cormoran / Devil's Crown
- SATURDAY:** AM: **Española**  
AM: Punta Suarez  
PM: Bahía Gardner / Islote Gardner / Islote Osborn.
- SUNDAY:** AM: **San Cristóbal**  
AM: León Dormido / Centro de Interpretación  
PM: Isla Lobos
- MONDAY** AM: Isla Santa Fé  
PM: Plazas
- TUESDAY** AM: **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Charles Darwin Station  
PM: Baltra Airport



## Itinerary 6 Days Tour

- TUESDAY:** AM: **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Charles Darwin Station  
PM: El Chato Highlands Santa Cruz
- WEDNESDAY:** AM: **Isabela**  
AM: Puerto Villamil: Humedales, muro de las lágrimas  
PM: Centro de crianza Arnaldo Tupiza
- THURSDAY:** AM: **Isabela**  
AM: Punta Moreno  
PM: Bahía Elizabeth
- FRIDAY:** AM: Isabela: Caleta Tagus  
PM: Fernandina: Punta Espinoza, Punta Vicente Roca
- SATURDAY:** AM: **Santiago**  
AM: Puerto Egas  
PM: Rabida
- SUNDAY:** AM: Seymour Norte  
PM: Baltra

# Alternative routes of Aida Maria

## Itinerary 15 days tour

- SUNDAY:** AM: Baltra  
PM: Bachas
- MONDAY:** **Genovesa**  
AM: Darwin Bay  
PM: The Barranco
- TUESDAY:** AM: Bartolome  
PM: Sullivan Bay /Chinese Hat
- WEDNESDAY:** AM: Daphne / Black Turtle Cove  
PM: Cerro Dragón
- THURSDAY:** **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Charles Darwin Station  
PM: Highlands of Santa Cruz
- FRIDAY** **Floreana**  
AM: Post Office bay / Mirador de la Baronesa  
PM: Punta Cormoran / Devil´s Crown
- SATURDAY** **Española**  
AM: Punta Suarez  
PM: Bahia Gardner / Islote Gardner / Islote Osborn.
- SUNDAY:** **San Cristóbal**  
AM: León Dormido / Centro de Interpretación  
PM: Isla Lobos
- MONDAY:** AM: Santa Fe  
PM: Plazas
- TUESDAY:** **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Charles Darwin Station  
PM: El Chato Highlands Santa Cruz
- WEDNESDAY:** **Isabela**  
AM: Puerto Villamil: Humedales, muro de las lágrimas  
PM: Centro de crianza Arnaldo Tupiza



- THURSDAY:** **Isabela**  
AM: Punta Moreno  
PM: Bahía Elizabeth
- FRIDAY:** AM: Isabela: Caleta Tagus  
PM: Fernandina: Punta Espinoza, Punta Vicente Roca
- SATURDAY:** **Santiago**  
AM: Puerto Egas  
PM: Rabida
- SUNDAY:** AM: Seymour Norte  
PM: Baltra



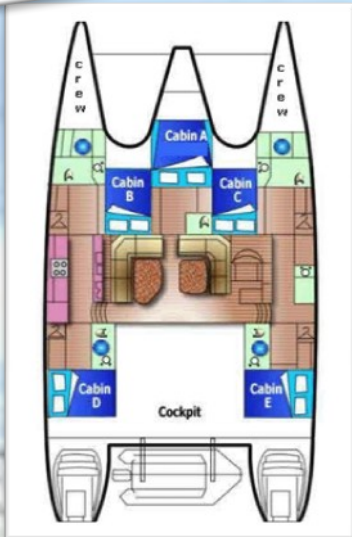
## Itinerary 5 days tour

- SUNDAY:** AM: Baltra  
PM: Bachas
- MONDAY:** **Genovesa**  
AM: Darwin Bay  
PM: The Barranco
- TUESDAY:** AM: Bartolome  
PM: Sullivan Bay /Chinese Hat
- WEDNESDAY:** AM: Daphne / Black Turtle Cove  
PM: Cerro Dragón
- THURSDAY:** **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Charles Darwin Station  
PM: Highlands of Santa Cruz
- FRIDAY** **Floreana**  
AM: Post Office bay / Mirador de la Baronesa  
PM: Punta Cormoran / Devil´s Crown
- SATURDAY** **Española**  
AM: Punta Suarez  
PM: Bahia Gardner / Islote Gardner / Islote Osborn.
- SUNDAY:** **San Cristóbal**  
AM: León Dormido / Centro de Interpretación  
PM: Isla Lobos





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## Included

- All the adventure Activities equipment
- All meals on board
- Purified Water & Tee & Coffee
- Welcome cocktail & Bye-Bye cocktail
- Snorkeling equipment
- Airport assistance - Galapagos Islands
- Transfers between boat and airport
- Wetsuit

## Not Included

- Gratuities
- Cancellation/medical or insurance
- Alcolic Drinks
- Galapagos National Park entrance fee
- International Airport Departure tax
- Airfare from mainland Ecuador

**NOTE:** Itineraries and boats might be changed due to force majeure, weather conditions, and park authorities regulations, in case of complaints they will be redirected to each boats legal representative in the Galapagos islands.

## Vessel Information

The S/C Valkiria is a charming catamaran sailboat, built for cruising around the Galapagos in style. This beautiful yacht is the perfect choice for stylish trip in the Galapagos. Whichever activities your personal itinerary includes, snorkeling, diving, hiking, kayaking, sailing or just relaxing.

## Sulidae Dimensions:

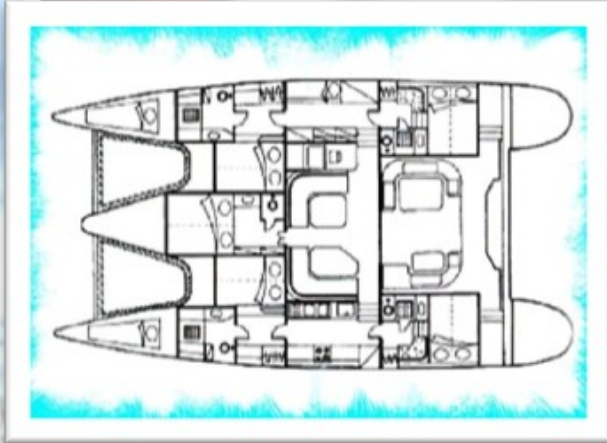
- 15.8m length / 8.5m breadth
- Speed: 11 knots
- Engine: Two 75HP Detroit Yanmar turbo
- Accommodation: 4 Large double cabins, 2 Large single cabins
- Capacity: 12 passengers

**For more information please visit**  
**[www.valkiriacatamaran.com](http://www.valkiriacatamaran.com)**





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### Included

- Accommodation in double cabins with private facilities
- All meals
- English-speaking naturalist guide
- Transfers in Galapagos

### Not Included

- National Park Tax US\$100,00
- INGALA Tax US\$10.00
- Flights Quito - Galapagos - Quito
- Drinks, tips or extras

**NOTE:** Itineraries and boats might be changed due to force majeure, weather conditions, and park authorities regulations, in case of complaints they will be redirected to each boat's legal representative in the Galapagos islands.

### Vessel Information

#### Vision I Dimensions:

- 14.6m length / 7.6m breadth
- Speed: 10 knots
- Accommodation: 8 Passengers in 4 double cabins with upper and lower berths 2 all cabins with private Bathroom
- Capacity: 18 passengers



For more information please visit  
[www.galapagosvision.com.ec](http://www.galapagosvision.com.ec)



## Itinerary 8 days tour Option I

- DAY 1:** **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Baltra Airport  
PM: Charles Darwin Station
- DAY 2:** **Isabela**  
AM: Diving (Optional)  
PM: Flamingo Lagoon
- DAY 3:** **Isabela**  
AM: Sierra Negra Volcano Tour  
PM: Bay Tour
- DAY 4:** **Isabela**  
AM: Los Tunules  
PM: Concha Perla
- DAY 5:** **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Return to Santa Cruz  
PM: Tortuga Bay or Las Grietas
- DAY 6:** **Floreana**  
AM: Post Office Bay  
PM: Punta Cormorant
- DAY 7:** **Isla Plazas**  
AM: Isla Plazas  
PM: Isla Plazas
- DAY 8:** **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Departure to Quito



## Itinerary 8 days tour Option II

- DAY 1:** **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Baltra Airport  
PM: Charles Darwin Station
- DAY 2:** **Isabela**  
AM: Scuba Diving  
PM: Free Time
- DAY 3:** **Isabela**  
AM: Academy Bay Tour  
PM: Flamingo Lagoon
- DAY 4:** **Isabela**  
AM: Sierra Negra & Volcano Tour  
PM: Bay Tour
- DAY 5:** **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Return to Santa Cruz  
PM: Tortuga Bay or Las Grietas
- DAY 6:** **Floreana**  
AM: Post Office Bay  
PM: Punta Cormorant
- DAY 7:** **Bartolome, Plazas or Seymour**  
AM: Post Office Bay  
PM: Punta Cormorant
- DAY 8:** **Santa Cruz**  
AM: Departure to Quito

## Included:

- Flight ticket Quito-Galapagos-Quito
- Tours
- Lunch on Tours
- All meals on Isabela
- Snorkel equipment on Tours
- Hotel
- Entrance of Galapagos National Park
- Transport at the Galapagos
- INGALA Card
- 20 Hours of online Spanish classes
- Scuba diving equipment (Only for option II)



## Prices: Option I

- One person \$ 1721,-
- Two persons \$ 1660,- pp.

## Option II

- One person \$ 1963,-
- Two persons \$ 1886,- pp.