

YACHT ANGELITO I.

The authentic Galapagos cruise ship with a unique story!

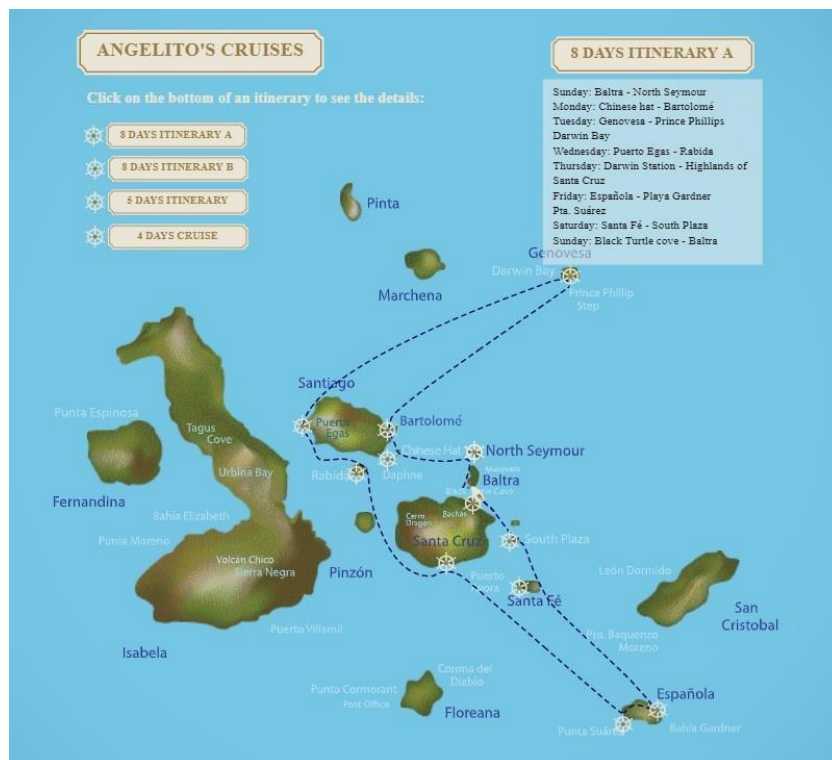
ITINERARIES

DAY-BY-DAY DESCRIPTIONS



ITINERARY A, 8 days Sunday-Sunday

1. Sunday: Baltra - North Seymour
2. Monday: Chinese Hat – Bartolomé
3. Tuesday: Genovesa Darwin Bay - Prince Philip's Steps
4. Wednesday: Puerto Egas - Rabida
5. Thursday: Darwin Station - Highlands of Santa Cruz
6. Friday: Española Playa Gardner – Punta Suarez
7. Saturday: Santa Fe - South Plaza
8. Sunday: Black Turtle Cove - Baltra



First, some essential facts:

Your cruise journey starts at the airport of Quito or Guayaquil to take a flight. Galapagos is 1000 km from the continent, and visitors can only access it by plane.

To protect the island, you must pass through the special luggage control before going to the airline counter. You also must buy a visa, called TCT Card or INGALA, for 20* U\$ in cash at the special counter at the departure airport. These procedures and the airline check-in need 2 ½ hours; we recommend not going to the airport later.

The flight from Quito to the Galapagos lasts 2.5 hours, with a stopover in Guayaquil. We base the yacht's operation on flying the same day as the cruise starts at Baltra and back on the last day, also from Baltra. Of course, flying out before or remaining in Galapagos longer is possible.

Please, do not buy your ticket before ensuring that the arrival matches the cruise departure if you fly on the same Sunday as the cruise's start. We recommend buying them with Angelito's representatives to be on time and help us have an organized cruise start.

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When arriving in Galapagos, the visitors must first pay the entrance fee of 100* U\$ for the National Park. Then, after picking the luggage up, Angelito's guide will be waiting for you at the exit of the arrival hall. We take a bus to the harbor of Baltra, where the Angelito anchors. The cruise can begin!

After the accommodation in your cabin and the lunch on board, we start our first visit!

(*prices are subject to change without previous notification)



1. Sunday: Baltra – North Seymour

Baltra is a small island, the only Galapagos Island not included in the National Park's area. The Americans built Baltra's airport in 1941-1948, using it as their air force base in the Pacific during the Second World War. The airport and harbor are now Ecuadorian military territory. Unfortunately, both of the military presences have left their traces.

Even if we always speak about Baltra, the airport's official name is South Seymour, and its air code is GPS. With an essential reduction of energy consumption for lighting and ventilation, rainwater recovery, waste recycling, and more, the new building of 2013 has been promoted as the first ecological airport worldwide.

North Seymour: A beautiful place to start our tour through the Galapagos, just north of Baltra. It is a flat, uplifted island in the rain shadow of the island of Santa Cruz, so the vegetation is typical of a dry, Arid Zone.

The waves sometimes make the dry landing on a small peer tricky. A dry landing means moving from the yacht to the zodiac and onto the island while staying with dry feet.

The loop trail leads from a small peer along the rocky coast and is full of surprises: sea lions, swallow-tailed gulls, sally lightfoot crabs, and marine iguanas, and we walk through the nesting area of blue-footed boobies and frigatebirds.

2. Monday: Chinese Hat – Bartolome

Sombrero Chino: Only a 200-meter wide channel separates this small island from the big Santiago Island. The shape of the volcanic island looks like a Chinese hat. The scenery is very charming.

The wet landing is on a small, white coral beach with many sea lions. Wet landing means you will get your feet and lower parts of your legs wet while exiting the zodiac.

The smooth and short trail leads along the coast with very fragile lava. There are a lot of small lavatubes and tiny but very attractive vegetation. Pillow lava is to see on the turning point of the trail.

First snorkeling activity of this week! Fantastic and recommendable, even if you never did it before. We include snorkel equipment in our cruise prices. If you need a wetsuit, you can rent it on board.

Bartolome: With the Pinnacle Rock, a classic beauty and the most photographed Galapagos scenery! The dry landing is on a jetty, and then the summit trail leads to Bartolome's highest point on a wooden footbridge and steps to protect the fragile environment. The view from the top across Bartolome, Santiago with Sullivan Bay, and the surrounding islands is superb! All the secondary cones, lava flows, and lava tubes mimic a moon landscape.

In the later afternoon, we enjoy a panga ride to look out for the Galapagos penguins; they live and nest in the lava tubes of the rocky shore.

3. Tuesday: Genovesa Darwin Bay - Prince Philip's Steps

The bird island Genovesa is low and flat, the most northern and isolated to visit by cruise ships, and one more of the highlights of our itinerary. The longer navigation is during the night, crossing the equator!

Darwin Bay: The wet landing is on the small white beach of coral sand. The trail follows the shore vegetation of red mangrove, saltbush, and the unique prickly pear cactus that here often grows like a hanging cactus with soft hairy

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spines. Under the shore vegetation nest, the swallow-tailed gulls, the red-footed boobies, and magnificent frigate birds do it in the bushes and trees. A few Nazca boobies do nest on the ground.

The trail leads along small tidepools up to the cliff with a spectacular view over the caldera. Thousands of Galapagos fiddler crabs are in the sandy ground by low tide.

The snorkeling in the blue water of this bay is delicious!

Prince Philip's Steps: The dry landing is at the cliff, and Prince Philip's Steps are the only possibility to climb the steep basaltic cliff.

Then, the easy trail leads first through a small nesting colony of masked boobies and then crosses a low, dense forest of palo santo trees where red-footed boobies have nests. Arriving on the island's edge, thousands of small petrels fly around! These little birds have their nests in the crevices and tubes of the fragile lava. They are the favorite food of the short-eared owl. We keep oureyes open to find the hunter; not easy; the owls are well camouflaged! On both sides of the trail are big Nazca booby nesting-colonies.

We end the excursion with a panga ride at the foot of the cliffs.

4. Wednesday: Puerto Egas – Rabida

Puerto Egas, Santiago Island: The landmark of Puerto Egas is the large tuff formations of cliffs with relief structures. The wet landing is on a black beach. Here, it is an excellent place to discover shore life. The hike with the intertidal life during the constantly changing tide levels shows an unusual, unique fauna. Often, we can observe lava herons fishing in the isolated tidal pools.

During the walk, we can see Galapagos sea lions, sally lightfoot crabs, and marine iguanas. Depending on the season, many migrant shorebirds live on these rich coasts during wintertime. On the turning point of the trail is the Fur Seal Grotto, where the Galapagos fur seals have found an ideal living space in the crevices and caves of the rocky lava coast.

Rabida: Incredibly unique is the red sand of the beach, contrasting with the saltbush vegetation and the silvery palo santo trees on the slopes. The source of the peculiar red color is the lava that contains a high proportion of ferric oxide. Before the last El Niño, the beach of Rabida had one of the most significant Galapagos sea lion colonies; now, reduced to a small remaining population, they are still recuperating.

There is a small lagoon behind the zone of saltbush vegetation, depending on the season, with flamingos and white-cheeked pintail ducks.

This beautiful beach is another special snorkeling place.

5. Thursday: Darwin Station - Highlands of Santa Cruz Island Santa Cruz

Puerto Ayora is a small charming town, the largest in the Galapagos, and the head of tourism, and offers several hotels, bars, restaurants, a hospital, banks, and many small shops. The airport Baltra is in the north, linked by a road to cross the island.

The Galapagos National Park's offices and the Charles Darwin Research Station are in Puerto Ayora.

We visit the Station early in the morning to learn about the significant scientific effort to protect the National Park Galapagos. Especially the raising programs of the different subspecies of Giant tortoises are well documented.

The Van Straiten Exhibition Hall offers exciting documentation about the Galapagos Islands, illustrated by photos and diagrams.

The vegetation on the walk to the Station and back is exuberant green, and Darwin's finches are easy to spot.

Our passengers on an eight-day cruise have some time to visit the town. After being only on inhabited islands, a short moment of free time offers the opportunity to walk around, drink a coffee, or buy a souvenir. The meeting to go back on board for lunch is at 11:30 at the harbor.



For passengers who booked the shortened option, **ITINERARY A5**, the cruise services end after this visit: we escort them to the Itabaca Channel, from where they go to Baltra to catch the flight back to Ecuador's Mainland.

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If we have passengers starting our four-day cruise with **ITINERARY A4**, they usually arrive from the mainland on one of the first flights in the morning, and the meeting for them also is at 11:30 am at the harbor of Puerto Ayora.

Highland Santa Cruz: The drive up to the highlands takes approximately a half-hour. In this short time, we can observe the changes between the different vegetation zones, from the Arid zone to the Transition zone and up to the Scalesia zone, which is also agricultural. Here, the problems of introduced animals and plants are noticeable. On the road's highest point, the National Park area starts again.

In the highlands, we visit the Rancho Primicias to enjoy the Galapagos tortoises living here in liberty; these are easy to view on this small farm, refreshing in the water pools or snoring in the shadow.

6. Friday: Española Playa Gardner – Punta Suarez

Española belongs to the oldest islands of the Galapagos. Because of its geographic isolation, many endemic species are to find the island, making our visit especially attractive. Española is the only place worldwide where the endemic waved albatrosses come for breeding from April to December.

Playa Gardner: We have a wet landing on a splendid, long, white beach of coral sand. For this visit, you do not need shoes. There is no trail, and the open beach offers the opportunity to observe finches and mockingbirds in the saltbush vegetation, as Galapagos sea lions sleeping in the sun.

It is an excellent place for swimming and snorkeling from the beach!

Punta Suarez: Loop trail with a smooth, dry landing on a jetty. The walk on stony, rocky ground is longer and more challenging.

Even at the first steps of the trail, the colorful Española marine iguana and Galapagos sea lions welcome us. Everywhere the curious Española mockingbird approaches the visitors. The path leads through the nesting colonies of blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, and waved albatrosses. Also, the big Española lava lizards are to find everywhere.

The low cliff of the whole south coast is an ideal nesting place for the endemic Galapagos albatross; here, it is the only place in the world where, from April to December, we can see these big, beautiful birds. Then, another resting spot close to a cliff with an incredible landscape offers the observation of all the different marine birds flying along the coast. An albatross during his ungainly landing or the spectacular take-off from the cliff to start its elegant flight are fantastic events to witness.

Our next stop is at the blowhole: the waves push the seawater through a fissure in the cliff, depending on the strongness and tide level, till 80 feet/24m high in the air!

7. Saturday: Santa Fe - South Plaza

Santa Fe: Santa Fe has a large colony of sea lions living in this beautiful bay. After the wet landing on the beach, the trail leads through the dry vegetation of the Arid zone to a beautiful cliff with notably high prickly pear cacti, then back to a second beach.

Only very attentive visitors may detect the endemic land iguanas of Santa Fe because their camouflage is perfect, and their territories are pretty significant!

Those who want can end the morning with snorkeling at this new special place!

South Plaza: It is a small uplifted island with a cliff of 25 meters altitude on the island's southern side. The flat, rocky northern coast has a big colony of Galapagos sea lions and, on the East-point, lives a colony of bachelor sea lions. The loop is easy, with a dry landing on a jetty.

The prickly pear cactus trees and the vital colony of land iguanas are beautiful. Depending on the season, the sesuvium ground vegetation changes its color from intense green in the rainy season to orange and purple in the dry season.

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8. Sunday: Black Turtle Cove - Baltra

Black Turtle Cove: Before breakfast, we leave the boat to enjoy a beautiful panga ride into the big, protected mangrove cove. In the far away, small corners, we turn the motor off to row noiselessly and observe the marine turtles: many of them are in this cove during their mating and nesting season from December to February! But even out of season, we always find some turtles staying back in the mangroves. So early in the morning, there is high activity, and we observe golden rays, spotted eagle rays, white-tipped reef sharks, and young Galapagos sharks.

Unfortunately, after breakfast on board, it is time to say goodbye to the staff and leave the Angelito. We disembark at the harbor of Baltra.

Baltra: With the bus, drive to the airport for a morning flight back to the continent. Our guide takes care until the last minute!

Meantime, the Angelito is thoroughly cleaned and prepared to be ready for the next group, which arrives on the same flights as the leaving group flies out!



➡ The ship's captain, tour operator, or third-party providers reserve the right to change or cancel any part of the itinerary or services without notice due to unforeseen circumstances, such as changes in National Park regulations or other governmental decisions, weather, natural disasters, health emergencies, social and political conditions or instability, inability to obtain fuel or food, or other situations beyond the control of the companies, or any other *force majeure*.
