

## Full Itineraries

# Galapagos Navigable Tour Aida Maria Yacht

## Introduction



The Aida Maria Yacht can accommodate 16 passengers and in a combination of style and economy for cruises on the Galapagos Islands. Each of its double cabins has a private bathroom, air conditioning, and a large external deck to enjoy the Galapagos sun. The Aida Maria yacht began operations in 1997 offering tours in the Galapagos Islands as a yacht for charters as well as for individual travelers. Its design is based on efficiency and comfort, with large social areas and 8 double cabins; it provides a lot of comfort for your Galapagos cruise. It has all the facilities, air conditioning, hot water and a desalination plant that produces its own water all day.

### Contacts:

 593 02 2285007 / 593 0962895682 / 593 0998033849

 info@ethnias.com

 <https://ethnias.com/>

 +593962895682 / +593998033849

 Ethnias Tour

 @ethnias\_touring

 Sebastian de Benalcazar N2-26 between Bolivar and Sucre, Quito - Ecuador

## ITINERARY A

### 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

#### Day 1 (Sunday)



#### A.M. BALTRA ISLAND

Fly from the Ecuadorian mainland to the islands on an early morning 90-minute flight. As you prepare to land in Baltra, look out the window. The landscape below will seem otherworldly – you'll truly be landing in a place like no other. The Galapagos Islands are completely unique and you're about to see why. Your bilingual naturalist guide will greet you at the airport and meet you after customs. During lunch he/she will introduce you to the islands, specifically the flora and fauna that you will encounter at our first destination

#### P.M. LAS BACHAS BEACH (WET LANDING)

On the sandy white beaches of Las Bachas you will get a close look at a sea turtle nesting area as well as a lake frequented by pink flamingos and other migratory birds. Afterwards, you'll cool off with a dip in the beautiful, blue Pacific Ocean. As this is the first evening together, the crew will invite everyone to a pre-dinner cocktail on the yacht before the welcome dinner. If the night is clear, as it usually is, the stars above will sparkle; look for the Southern Cross, the Big Dipper (turned up-side down!) and Orion.

#### Contacts:

 593 02 2285007 / 593 0962895682 / 593 0998033849

 info@ethnias.com

 <https://ethnias.com/>

 +593962895682 / +593998033849

 Ethnias Tour

 @ethnias\_touring

 Sebastian de Benalcazar N2-26 between Bolivar and Sucre, Quito – Ecuador



## Day 2 (Monday)



### GENOVESA ISLAND

#### A.M. DARWIN BAY (WET LANDING)

Early in the morning you'll have breakfast and then you'll disembark at Genovesa "Tower" Island, which is located in the northeastern part of the Galapagos (less than half a degree north of the equator).

At "Tower" Island you'll anchor at Darwin Bay, which is located on the southern part of the island, and is actually the caldera of an extinct, partially eroded volcano, with the surrounding cliffs forming the inner lining of the rim. While the origin of the name "Tower" is not known, one can imagine it had something to do with these towering cliffs. The tour will be a long, fairly-easy walk, but it is usually hot and dry here, so you may want to carry some water. After a wet landing on a coral beach the trail begins in an area where there are several swallow-tailed gulls. As you walk back from the beach, you'll see a variety of Opuntia cactus and mangroves Tower is an outpost for many sea birds (as Española is in the south). Interestingly, there are almost no land reptiles on Tower, only very small marine iguanas. This is attributed to the direction of the ocean currents, which wouldn't have carried the terrestrial animals here.

#### P.M. EL BARRANCO (DRY LANDING)

Visit El Barranco during the afternoon then return to the boat for dinner.

### Contacts:

 593 02 2285007 / 593 0962895682 / 593 0998033849

 info@ethnias tour.com

 <https://ethnias tour.com/>

 +593962895682 / +593998033849

 Ethnias Tour

 @ethnias touring

 Sebastian de Benalcazar N2-26 between Bolivar and Sucre, Quito - Ecuador



### Day 3 (Tuesday)



#### A.M. BARTOLOME

Bartolome Island, which at its highest point is 114 meters, is one of the most photographed vistas in the archipelago. This island is quite young and quite volcanic, therefore, it's relatively unpopulated; only a small handful of die-hard plant and animal species have survived long enough to call this lava-land home.

#### P.M. SULLIVAN BAY

After the visit to Bartolome Island you'll visit nearby Sullivan Bay. At the turn of the century a huge lava flow spilled right down to the sea and today you can stroll across this black volcanic expanse, admiring its time-frozen ripples, bubbles and ropes.

### Day 4 (Wednesday)



#### A.M. BLACK TURTLE COVE

Black Turtle Cove, is a red mangrove lagoon on Santa Cruz and is a nursery for many sharks and rays. It's also a great location to observe mating turtles around this time of year. You might see a large groups of resting White-Tip Reef Sharks, schools of Golden Rays and Spotted Eagle Rays, and a few juvenile Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks and Black-Tip Sharks. The water very calm so we often used paddles instead of the loud panga engines to move around the area.

#### **Contacts:**

☎ 593 02 2285007 / 593 0962895682 / 593 0998033849

✉ info@ethnias.com

🌐 <https://ethnias.com/>

📞 +593962895682 / +593998033849

📍 Ethnias Tour

📷 @ethnias\_touring

📍 Sebastian de Benalcazar N2-26 between Bolivar and Sucre, Quito - Ecuador



## P.M. DRAGON HILL

After this visit you'll navigate for a couple of hours to Cerro Dragon, where you'll make a dry landing on lava rocks. Cerro Dragon is a small bay on the west coast of Santa Cruz and got its name from the many land iguanas that live in the area. Land iguanas are endemic to the Galapagos Islands where they have found good mating and nesting areas.

## Day 5 (Thursday)



## SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

### A.M. CHARLES DARWIN STATION

Charles Darwin Station. After breakfast you'll sail to Santa Cruz Island, where you'll visit the world-famous Charles Darwin Station, a non-profit institution that dedicates itself to studying and protecting the flora and fauna of the Galapagos. This is one of the best places to see land tortoises, including Lonesome George museum.

Then you'll visit the station's Tortoise Rearing Center. Here you can find baby, hand-sized tortoises, between the ages of one and five, and marvel at how they achieve such large sizes as adults (500 lbs. or more!). Galapagos tortoises are believed to have a lifespan of over 100 years, so the young ones have a long life ahead of them as long as they receive the protection they need.

Aside from the Station headquarters, Santa Cruz Island is home to the largest town and economic center of the Galapagos, Puerto Ayora. In this portside town you can buy souvenirs (postcards, t-shirts, books, etc.) of the islands. Check out the unique Galapagos ceramic shop near the entrance of the Charles Darwin Station.

### P.M. HIGHLANDS OF SANTA CRUZ

After shopping in Puerto Ayora and lunch on the boat (guests may dine in town if they desire), you'll explore the highlands or "parte alta" of the island, which is a moisture-rich area with fertile volcanic soils. You'll learn about the vegetation and animal life of this zone, often strikingly different than that found at lower elevations and our best opportunity to find the famous giant tortoises in their natural habitat.

### Contacts:

 593 02 2285007 / 593 0962895682 / 593 0998033849

 [info@ethniasfour.com](mailto:info@ethniasfour.com)

 <https://ethniasfour.com/>

 +593962895682 / +593998033849

 Ethnias Tour

 @ethniasfouring

 Sebastian de Benalcazar N2-26 between Bolivar and Sucre, Quito - Ecuador



Darwin's Finches, Yellow Warblers, and other land birds will fly in and out of the moss-covered trees. From this high vantage point you'll be treated to beautiful views of the island .

In the late afternoon you'll return to town. For those who wish to check out the nightlife, this is your chance; the boat will be docked in port most of the night.

### **Day 6 (Friday)**



### FLOREANA ISLAND

When you wake up and look out your porthole on Day 6 you will see Floreana, one of the greenest islands in the archipelago. Ask your guide to tell you about its mysterious history laden with rumors a murderous baronesses, blackmail, and dubious disappearances.

#### A.M. POST OFFICE BAY

Your first stop is Post Office Bay, where the islands' original post office (really only a wooden barrel) was established in 1793. The current system still functions as it did three centuries ago: Visitors drop off unstamped letters and postcards AND pick-up whatever mail they can hand deliver themselves when they return home! (Try it, it actually works!).

#### P.M. CORMORANT POINT (ESPAÑOLA ISLAND)

Back on the yacht and after lunch you'll skirt the island's coast until you arrive at La Corona del Diablo (the Devil's Crown), an old volcanic crater that offers some of the most spectacular snorkeling in the Galapagos. This is a great spot for seeing the wide array of tropical fish, many endemic to the islands, including purple sea stars and spiky sea urchins. The crater's most thrilling undersea creatures, however, are the white-tipped sharks. As with most of the creatures in the Galapagos they are unperturbed by your presence, so you can swim in their company freely and fearlessly.

### **Contacts:**

 593 02 2285007 / 593 0962895682 / 593 0998033849

 [info@ethnias tour.com](mailto:info@ethnias tour.com)

 <https://ethnias tour.com/>

 +593962895682 / +593998033849

 Ethnias Tour

 @ethnias touring

 Sebastian de Benalcazar N2-26 between Bolivar and Sucre, Quito - Ecuador



### P.M. DEVIL'S CROWN (ESPAÑOLA ISLAND)

After returning to the boat you will visit Punta Cormorant, where you'll follow a footpath to a lagoon inhabited by flaming-pink flamingos. You will also pass by a white sand beach, a Sea Turtle nesting area and a great spot for watching sea birds and sea rays.

### Day 7 (Saturday)



### ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

#### A.M. SUAREZ POINT

Espanola is one of the most magical of all the islands. It is a place where the animals reign supreme and we humans are merely guests. As your dingy brings you to shore you'll see Sea Lion pups sunbathing with Marine Iguanas and Blue Footed Boobies nesting in between, and nearby may be a Galapagos Hawk. If it is Booby mating season watch the bonded pairs do the infamous Booby dance (if it's not mating season, ask your guide to demonstrate - after all it's their job to teach you about the local fauna!).

As you follow the footpath around the island, you will pass hundreds of Blue Footed Booby nesting sites including one colony of masked boobies.

There is a good chance you'll see the thief-like Frigate Bird (which has the habit of stealing other birds' food), as well as the stunning Red-Billed Tropicbird and the nocturnal Swallow-Tailed Gull. If it is the right time of the year (mid-April to December) you'll also encounter the giant Waved Albatross. Apart from a few pairs that breed on Isla de Plata, off the Ecuadorian mainland, all of the world's 12,000 Waved Albatross breed on Espanola Island. At the end of the breeding season, the entire population leaves the island and heads out to sea, where they spend years without touching land; four or five years may pass before the fledglings return to Espanola.

As you make your way around the island you'll pass by El Soplador, a giant blowhole that explodes to heights reaching 25 feet. In the nearby tide pools you can often find lounging sea lions enjoying the blowhole's misty spray.

### Contacts:

 593 02 2285007 / 593 0962895682 / 593 0998033849

 [info@ethnias tour.com](mailto:info@ethnias tour.com)

 <https://ethnias tour.com/>

 +593962895682 / +593998033849

 Ethnias Tour

 [@ethnias touring](https://twitter.com/ethnias touring)

 Sebastian de Benalcazar N2-26 between Bolivar and Sucre, Quito - Ecuador



#### P.M. GARDNER BAY

Following lunch on board the yacht, you'll visit Garner Bay, a great place for sunbathing, swimming and snorkeling. Lionfish, Flycatchers, and Galapagos Hawks will keep you company as you relax under the rays of the evening sun. Dinner on the yacht completes your day.

#### **Day 8 (Sunday)**



#### **SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND**

##### A.M. LOBOS ISLAND

On your last day of visiting the Galapagos you'll arrive early in the morning to San Cristobal, the capital of the Galapagos. The first site will be Isla Lobos, a very small islet made of volcanic rocks that gets its name from the colony of Sea Lions (Lobo de Mar in Spanish) that live there. Here you can observe the behavior and interaction of Sea Lions living in a small community. Before taking the flight back to the mainland you will have some time to visit the town on your own for last minute shopping or people watching in the Galapagos.

##### P.M. TRANSFER TO SAN CRISTOBAL AIRPORT

#### **Contacts:**

 593 02 2285007 / 593 0962895682 / 593 0998033849

 info@ethniastour.com

 <https://ethniastour.com/>

 +593962895682 / +593998033849

 Ethnias Tour

 @ethniastouring

 Sebastian de Benalcazar N2-26 between Bolivar and Sucre, Quito - Ecuador

