The Galapagos Islands

8 DAYS OF WONDER & AMAZEMENT

JANUARY 23-30, 2019

with optional MASHPI LODGE PRE-TOUR & MACHU PICCHU POST-TOUR

*Think biology class – with deck chairs*
Howdy, Ags!

Join former students and friends as we explore the Galapagos Islands. Designated the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978, the Galapagos Islands have been described as a “unique living museum and showcase of evolution,” and they are home to a fascinating array of wildlife inhabiting an unspoiled ecosystem, living in harmony with their human visitors.

This exciting journey features a day of guided touring in Quito plus an intimate cruise through the archipelago with up-close access to endemic species. Expert naturalists guide you through the wonders of this national park, whale sanctuary, and marine reserve.

Accommodations for this adventure are aboard the *Isabela II*, a 40-guest vessel with spacious cabins, local cuisine, and a staff dedicated to ensuring both your comfort and maximum enjoyment of this truly extraordinary destination and its diverse inhabitants. And sailing by small ship allows for flexibility in the itinerary to maximize wildlife viewing, as well as access to exclusive ports.

Stateroom availability is limited. With significant savings of more than $800 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly, so be certain to reserve your spot today and share this brochure with family and friends who may be interested in traveling with you.

Reserve today online at texas-am.orbridge.com, by calling (800) 633-7514 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Gig ‘em,

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel Programs — Outreach and Engagement

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**Free Expedition Library**

**AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS**

Reserve your space by June 1, 2018, to receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition Library we’ve assembled for this program.

*This exclusive gift is to thank you for joining us early. Guests who reserve after the specified date may purchase libraries. Call for details.*
Discover the Galapagos
intriguing islands of limitless natural wonders

Feel the thrill of encountering the flora and fauna that famously inspired Darwin—and in his footsteps, generations of nature lovers.

This archipelago, from which Darwin conceived his theory of evolution by natural selection, is one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world.

With fascinating wildlife that exists from the ocean floor to the skies above the sea, discover for yourself the captivating diversity that inhabits these remarkable islands.
Your 8-Day Itinerary (Subject to change)

Day 1: En Route / Arrive Quito, Ecuador
Overnight: Casa Gangotena – Quito

Day 2: Quito (B,L,R)
Guided walking tour of Old Town, market shopping, Jesuit church of La Compañía, Casa del Alabado Archaeological Museum
Overnight: Casa Gangotena – Quito

Day 3: Quito / Flight to Baltra / Santa Cruz – Embarkation (B,L,D)
Giant tortoises in Santa Cruz Highlands, Puerto Ayora
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 4: Floreana (B,L,D)
Historic Post Office Barrel, snorkeling or kayaking, Punta Cormorant beach stroll, green sea turtle nests
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 5: Española (B,L,D)
Punta Suárez hike, Gardner Bay, sea lion colony, glass-bottom boat ride
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 6: San Cristóbal (B,L,D)
Hiking and wildlife viewing at Punta Pitt, panga ride along the shores of Cerro Brujo, snorkeling or kayaking, farewell dinner
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 7: San Cristóbal – Disembarkation / Flight to Guayaquil (B,L aloft)
Overnight: Wyndham Hotel – Guayaquil

Day 8: Guayaquil / Depart for U.S. (B)

Activity Level: Guests should be sure-footed on stairs and able to walk at least one mile on rocky, volcanic, and uneven ground, as some nature hikes will be on irregular and steep terrain. Guests should also be comfortable managing beach landings and boarding small vessels, both from shore and the deck of Isabela II. Maximum elevation: 9,350 feet in Quito, Ecuador

Program Highlights

• During a full day tour of Quito, marvel at the gold leaf interior of the Jesuit Church of La Compañía—a fine example of the mix of European influences and indigenous art called the Baroque school of Quito; enjoy a lunch of Ecuadorian specialties; and view a curated collection of Pre-Columbian art.

• Observe with remarkable proximity the diversity of endemic species like the Nazca, red- and blue-footed boobies; giant tortoises; marine iguanas; and the famous “Darwin’s finches.”

• Discover the myriad of aquatic wildlife in the clear waters of the world’s second largest marine reserve.

• Snorkel with sea lions, colorful tropical fish, and sea turtles—or observe them through a glass bottom boat.

• Explore secluded inlets and stroll sweeping white sand beaches such as Gardner Bay, where sea lions lounge and Española mockingbirds sing.

• Visit dramatic and historic places, including the lush highlands of Santa Cruz Island, the perfect habitat to see the Galapagos Giant Tortoise, and Cerro Brujo, one of the first sites visited by Charles Darwin.

• What’s included: A welcome reception in Quito, 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 4 dinners including a farewell dinner; all excursions and presentations; flights between Quito, the Galapagos Islands, and Guayaquil on Days 3 and 7; gratuities to local guides, drivers in Quito and Guayaquil, and porterage at hotels; and airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.

(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Isabela II

The 40-guest capacity of Isabela II provides 21 staterooms with spacious, comfortable accommodations and en suite facilities.

- **Standard**
  - Full-size bed, view window, private bathroom with shower.
  - 128 sq. ft.

- **Two twin beds, view window, private bathroom with shower. 139 sq. ft.**

- **Classic Double**
  - Full-size bed, view window, daybed, private bathroom with shower.
  - 139 sq. ft.

- **Master Suite**
  - Queen bed, view window, wardrobe, private bathroom with shower.
  - 170 sq. ft.

**CASA GANGOTENA – QUITO**

Before embarkation, stay at 5-star Casa Gangotena. Located across from Plaza San Francisco and just a few blocks from Quito's Spanish Colonial Old Town, the hotel offers easy access to the rich culture, tradition and charm of the city's historic center.

**WYNDHAM HOTEL – GUAYAQUIL**

Conveniently located just 3 miles from José Joaquin de Olmedo airport, this property offers deluxe accommodations for the last night of the program. Nearby are museums, gardens, shopping, and restaurants of the Malecón 2000, the boardwalk overlooking the Guayas River.

**Your Expedition Leader**

Viewing the Galapagos Islands alongside an Orbridge Expedition Leader is a special experience. While observing wildlife, they will offer expert descriptions of methods of survival and behaviors. Together on panga rides, nature walks, and aboard the Isabela II, you will gain understanding of the endangered species who inhabit the waters and land of the archipelago.
The breathtaking surroundings of Mashpi Forest look and feel like a dream—misty clouds, crashing waterfalls, and varieties of wildlife found nowhere else in the world. Take the unparalleled opportunity to visit both a cloud forest and a rainforest—each rich with a myriad of flora and fauna species, in every layer—from below the forest floor to above the canopy.

**Pre-Tour Itinerary (subject to change)**

**Day +1:** En Route / Arrive Quito, Ecuador  
Overnight: Casa Gangotena

**Day +2:** Mashpi Lodge / Mashpi Forest (B,L,D)  
Morning drive to Mashpi, forest activities, night walk  
Overnight: Mashpi Lodge

**Day +3:** Mashpi Lodge / Mashpi Forest (B,L,D)  
Leisure time, forest exploration, lectures  
Overnight: Mashpi Lodge

**Day +4:** Mashpi / Quito / Main Program (B,L)  
Late morning group transfer to Quito to join the main program

**What’s Included**

- One night accommodations at Casa Gangotena in Quito and two nights accommodations at Mashpi Lodge
- Three breakfasts, three lunches, and two dinners
- Admission to Mashpi Forest
- Dragonfly cable car ride
- Guided night walk
- Specialized lectures
- Waterproof poncho and rubber boots
- All gratuities and porterage
- Complimentary group transfer from Quito to Mashpi during the suggested arrival times, and returning to Quito to join the main program
• Seek out temples and ancient sites dotting the Sacred Valley and Cusco, each a vestige of pre-Columbian history that offers an in-depth understanding of the Incan empire.

• Visit Ollantaytambo, where Inca descendants continue to inhabit the largely unchanged homes of their ancestors.

• Experience the magic of a sunset on the “top of the world,” a traditional Peruvian lunch hosted by a local family, and an Andean Shamanic healing ceremony.

What’s included:
• 5 nights choice accommodations including a private Day Room in Lima on Day 13; meals including 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 4 dinners; flights between Lima and Cusco on Days 9 and 13; fully guided tours and field presentations from local experts; all ground excursion transportation, including Vistadome train through the Urubamba Valley; gratuities to guides, drivers, and waiters for included meals; and airport transfers, including porterage, for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.

Max elevation: 11,200 ft. in Cusco, Peru
The Galapagos Islands

JANUARY 23-30, 2019
Mashpi Lodge Pre-Tour: January 20-23, 2019
Machu Picchu Post-Tour: Jan. 30 - Feb. 4, 2019

- Option 1: Reserve online now at texas-am.orbridge.com or call (800) 633-7514.
- Option 2: Secure your reservation with a deposit charged to the credit card below, or with an enclosed check payable to: Orbridge, LLC.

GUEST INFORMATION:
Guest #1 Name: __________________________ Class Year: __________________________
Email: __________________________
Home Phone: __________________________ Alt. Phone: __________________________
Address: __________________________
City: __________________________ State: __________________________ Zip: __________________________
Guest #2 Name: __________________________ Class Year: __________________________
Email: __________________________
Home Phone: __________________________ Alt. Phone: __________________________
Category Preference: 1st choice __________________________ 2nd choice __________________________

DEPOSIT:
# _______ guests joining program ($850/person) + __________________________
# _______ guests joining pre-tour ($500/person) + __________________________
TOTAL DEPOSIT: __________________________

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:
Check Enclosed __________________________ Online Check/ACH __________________________
MasterCard/Visa __________________________ American Express __________________________
Discover __________________________
Card #: __________________________ Exp. Date: __________________________ CVV: __________________________

Email: __________________________
Guest #2 Name: __________________________
Home Phone: __________________________ Alt. Phone: __________________________
Category Preference: 1st choice __________________________ 2nd choice __________________________

Mail or fax reservation form and deposit to:
Traveling Aggies, The Association of Former Students
505 George Bush Drive, College Station, TX 77840
Fax: (979) 845-9263

No funds donated to The Association of Former Students or to Texas A&M University have been used in the production or mailing of this travel brochure; all such costs are covered by the tour supplier.

Registration, Deposits and Final Payment. To confirm and secure your reservation, a deposit of $850 per person per program, a deposit for any extension(s), and any non-refundable advanced payments, payable by check, online check/ACH, money order, wire transfer of same day U.S. funds, or major credit card, is due at the time of registration. Final payment, including any extension(s) and optional(s), is payable by check, online check/ACH, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds and due no later than 90 days prior to the scheduled program departure date. If your reservation is made between the final payment due date and the date the program starts, the entire cost of the program, including any extension(s) and optional(s), is due at the time of registration by check, money order, or wire transfer of same day U.S. funds. Final payments made by credit card are subject to a 2% transaction fee. If final payment is not received by Orbridge by the final payment due date, Orbridge may, at any time and with or without notice, cancel your reservation in its sole discretion with no right of refund. All payments we receive from you are herein defined as “Payments.”

Cancellations and Refunds. All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be subject to a cancellation fee (“Cancellation Fee”) as follows: (a) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 274 and 151 days prior to the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be $500 per person; (b) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 150 days prior to the scheduled departure date and the final payment due date, the Cancellation Fee will be $1,000 per person; (c) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 149 and 30 days prior to the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be $2,000 per person; (d) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 29 and 0 days prior to the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be $2,500 per person; (e) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge after the scheduled departure date, the Cancellation Fee will be the full program price. In addition to and not in lieu of the foregoing, a Cancellation Fee equal to 100% of the carrier charge applies to all non-refundable airfares due to your cancellation made at any time prior to the scheduled program departure date, as applicable. Refunds, if any, of any Payments in excess of the aggregate Cancellation Fee shall be processed within 30 calendar days of our receipt of your written notice.

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What Guests Are Saying...

**Traveling with the Aggies is the only way to travel internationally. As soon as you meet your group, you are instant friends and are never alone in a foreign country.**

~Cathy Ward

**We will forever cherish our amazing memory of trips taken with the Traveling Aggies, as well as wonderful new friendships we have made! Now, whenever we travel on ‘non-Aggie’ trips, we realize nothing can compare!**

~Randy ‘74 and Gail Parker

**Traveling Aggie trips are always “special” whether in large groups or small and we look forward to our next one soon**

~Will ‘71 and Carolyn ‘81 Dierksen