The Galapagos Islands
8 DAYS OF WONDER & AMAZEMENT

*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 up to $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 phone at (800) 633-7514 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Gig ’em,

Jennifer Bohac
Director of Travel Outreach and Engagement
The Association of Former Students

Marisa Liles
Director of Travel Operations and Customer Service
The Association of Former Students

Free Expedition Library
AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by June 7, 2019, 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.

Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Starting in 2019, we will annually plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an on-going initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts.
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)

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; complimentary use of kayaks, paddle boards, shorty wetsuits, and snorkeling equipment; Galapagos National Park entrance fee and transit card; internal air travel (from Quito to the islands on day 3, and return to Guayaquil on day 7); gratuities to local guides, drivers in Quito and Guayaquil, and hotel porters; and airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.

All hotel accommodations throughout subject to change.
(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, R=Reception)
Isabela II

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

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

- **Classic Twin**
  - 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 in the heart of 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 the Mashpi Rainforest Biodiversity Reserve look and feel like a dream—misty clouds, crashing waterfalls, and endemic species of wildlife found in the Ecuadorian Chocó, one of the most diverse ecosystems 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.

**What’s Included**

- One night accommodations at Casa Gangotena in Quito and two nights accommodations at award-winning Mashpi Lodge
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 2 dinners
- Entrance to Mashpi Reserve
- Dragonfly aerial tram experience
- Full guiding services including interpretation on all activities and experiences within the reserve, including use of spotting scopes and binoculars
- Specialized lectures and field presentations on research conducted in the reserve by local experts
- All transportation for excursions using vehicle transport in the reserve; and all gratuities and porterage
- Group transfers from Quito Mariscal Sucre International Airport to Casa Gangotena during suggested arrival times, from Casa Gangotena to Mashpi Lodge, and return to Quito to join the main program

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

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

**Day +2:** Mashpi Lodge / Mashpi Reserve (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
Highlights & Inclusions
• 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 22-29, 2020
Mashpi Lodge Pre-Tour: January 19-22, 2020
Machu Picchu Post-Tour: January 29 - February 3, 2020

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 (Title/Salutation): ____________________________
Email: ____________________________ Class Year: ___________
Home Phone: ____________________________ Alt. Phone: ___________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ____________ Zip: ____________
Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): ____________________________
Email: ____________________________ Class Year: ___________
Home Phone: ____________________________ Alt. Phone: ___________
Category Preference: 1st choice ____________________________ 2nd choice ____________________________

DEPOSIT:
# ____________ guests joining program ($850/person) +
# ____________ guests joining pre-tour ($500/person) +
# ____________ guests joining post-tour ($500/person) = TOTAL DEPOSIT: $ ____________

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:
Check Enclosed ____________ Online Check/ACH ____________ MasterCard/Visa ____________ American Express ____________ Discover ____________
Card #: ____________________________ Exp. Date: _______ CVV: ____________
Name (as printed on card): ____________________________
Billing Address (if different from above): ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ____________ Zip: ____________

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

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 brochure.

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, 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, 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.”

CANCELLATION 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 275 or more calendar days prior to the scheduled departure date, all deposits will be fully refunded; (b) 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 per program and $300 per person per program for extensions; (c) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 150 days prior to the scheduled departure date and the day before the final payment due date, the Cancellation Fee will be the full deposit per person per program including any extension; (d) if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge on the final payment due date or closer to 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.

The Galapagos Islands

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Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): ____________________________
Email: ____________________________ Class Year: ___________
Home Phone: ____________________________ Alt. Phone: ___________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ____________ Zip: ____________
Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): ____________________________
Email: ____________________________ Class Year: ___________
Home Phone: ____________________________ Alt. Phone: ___________
Category Preference: 1st choice ____________________________ 2nd choice ____________________________

DEPOSIT:
# ____________ guests joining program ($850/person) +
# ____________ guests joining pre-tour ($500/person) +
# ____________ guests joining post-tour ($500/person) = TOTAL DEPOSIT: $ ____________

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:
Check Enclosed ____________ Online Check/ACH ____________ MasterCard/Visa ____________ American Express ____________ Discover ____________
Card #: ____________________________ Exp. Date: _______ CVV: ____________
Name (as printed on card): ____________________________
Billing Address (if different from above): ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ____________ Zip: ____________

Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

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Fax: (979) 845-9263

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*Special group rate; limited offer. Rates are per person, based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Internal airfare between the mainland and the Galapagos Islands is included; airfare otherwise not included. Post-tour rate includes internal airfare between Lima and Cusco on days 9 & 13; airfare otherwise not included. Airfare from main program (Guayaquil to post-tour Lima), will be charged additionally at $740 per person. Machu Picchu Deluxe Category includes room upgrades at the following properties: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel, and Hotel Estelar Miraflores – Lima. Upgrade availability is limited. Picchu Deluxe Category includes room upgrades at the following properties: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel, and Hotel Estelar Miraflores – Lima. Upgrade availability is limited. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per room will be sent upon receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.

TXAM.GAL.20
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