

FEBRUARY 1-8, 2022

with optional

MASHPI LODGE PRE-TOUR &
MACHU PICCHU POST-TOUR

The Galapagos Islands

8 DAYS OF WONDER
& AMAZEMENT

.....
**100%
REFUND
GUARANTEE**

See reservation
panel for details.
.....

** 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.” 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.

Aggies are well known for our unmatched passion and camaraderie, and there is nothing better than sharing your adventures with the Traveling Aggies.

Reserve today online at texas-am.orbridge.com, by phone at (866) 639-0079 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Gig 'em,


Jennifer Bohac

Jennifer Bohac '87, Ph.D.
Director of Travel
Outreach and Engagement
The Association of Former Students

Marisa Liles

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

As we embark on this new world of group travel, the health and well-being of our guests, our team, and the communities we visit remain our top priority. For a detailed listing of the enhanced safety measures and hygiene protocols specific to our tours, please visit orbridge.com/wellness.

 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an on-going initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.





Your 8-Day Itinerary *(Subject to change)*

Day 1: En Route / Arrive in 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: Highlands / Puerto Ayora – Embarkation (B,L,D)
Santa Cruz Highlands, Puerto Ayora, giant tortoises at Charles Darwin Research Station
Overnight: *Isabela II*

Day 4: Bartolomé / Santiago: Sullivan Bay (B,L,D)
Beach stroll, Pinnacle Rock
Overnight: *Isabela II*

Day 5: Santa Cruz: Dragon Hill / Santiago: Salt Mine James Bay (B,L,D)
Lagoon walk, avian wildlife viewing, snorkeling opportunity, crater hike
Overnight: *Isabela II*

Day 6: Isabela: Punta Vicente Roca / Fernandina: Punta Espinoza (B,L,D)
Panoramic island viewing, glass-bottom boat ride, white sand beach, sea turtle spotting, farewell dinner
Overnight: *Isabela II*

Day 7: Baltra – Disembarkation / Flight to Guayaquil, Ecuador (B,L)
Overnight: Wyndham Hotel – Guayaquil

Day 8: Guayaquil / Depart for U.S. (B)
(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, R=Reception)

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





Immerse

- 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 unique collection of pre-Columbian art.

Uncover

- Observe with remarkable proximity the diversity of endemic species such as the Nazca and blue-footed boobies; giant tortoises; marine and land iguanas; the flightless Galapagos cormorant; and the famous Darwin's finches.
- Discover the myriad of aquatic wildlife in the clear waters of the world's second largest marine reserve.

Marvel

- 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 Punta Espinoza, where a variety of animals frolic in a fine display of multi-species tolerance in the nearby lagoon.
- Visit dramatic and historic places, including the Charles Darwin Research Station—the iconic site of Galapagos National Park research and conservation efforts.

What's Included

- 3 nights hotel accommodations and 4 nights aboard the *Isabela II*
- A welcome reception in Quito, 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 4 dinners (served with house wine), 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 airfare (from Quito to the islands on day 3, and return to Guayaquil on day 7)
- Gratuities to local guides, hotel porters, and drivers in Quito, the Galapagos Islands, and Guayaquil
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



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.



Orbridge



Isabela II

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



Cabin deck



Main deck



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.

Hotel Accommodations (subject to change)

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 Joaquín de Olmedo International 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.



Optional Pre-Tour Mashpi Lodge



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.

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

What's Included

- 1 night accommodations at Casa Gangotena in Quito and 2 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 portage
- 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



Optional Post-Tour Machu Picchu



Travel to the mist-shrouded mountain citadel of the Incas. So remote and inaccessible that it was left untouched by the Spanish conquistadors, Machu Picchu was unknown to the outside world until Hiram Bingham rediscovered it in 1911.

Post-Tour Itinerary *(subject to change)*

Day 8: Guayaquil / Flight to Lima, Peru
Morning at leisure in Guayaquil, evening arrival to Lima
Overnight: Wyndham Costa del Sol – Lima Airport

Day 9: Lima / Flight to Cusco / Sacred Valley (B,L,D)
Morning flight to Cusco, lunch with sweeping view of the Sacred Valley, explore the colorful markets of Pisac
Overnight: Sonesta Posadas del Inca – Yucay

Day 10: Sacred Valley / Machu Picchu (B,L,D)
Stroll Ollantaytambo, scenic Vistadome train to Machu Picchu, guided tour of “The Lost City of the Incas”
Overnight: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

Day 11: Machu Picchu / Sacred Valley / Cusco (B,L,D)
Morning guided tour with time to hike at your own pace, Vistadome train to Cusco, afternoon at leisure
Overnight: Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel

Day 12: Cusco / Saqsayhuaman / Kenko / Villa Tipón (B,L,D)
Walk through Cusco, Qorikancha Sun Temple, special farewell dinner
Overnight: Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel

Day 13: Cusco / Flight to Lima / Depart for U.S. (B,L)
Morning flight to Lima, traditional Peruvian lunch, depart for U.S.
Day Room: Hotel Estelar Miraflores – Lima

Max elevation: 11,200 ft. in Cusco, Peru

What’s Included

- 5 nights premium accommodations including a private day room on departure day
- 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 4 dinners
- Round-trip internal airfare between Lima and Cusco
- Fully guided tours and field presentations from local experts
- All ground excursion transportation, including Vistadome train through the Urubamba Valley
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and waiters for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



The Galapagos Islands

FEBRUARY 1-8, 2022

Mashpi Lodge Pre-Tour: Jan. 29 - Feb. 1, 2022

Machu Picchu Post-Tour: February 8-13, 2022

Reserve by Credit Card:

Online: texas-am.orbridge.com

Phone: (866) 639-0079

Fax: (206) 452-5655

Reserve by Check:

Made payable to **Orbridge, LLC**

Mail to: Orbridge, P.O. Box 10339

Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your confirmation letter from the Traveling Aggies. For more information, contact Orbridge at (866) 639-0079 or you may call the Traveling Aggies at (979) 845-7514.

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: _____

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

Check ACH (Automated Clearing House) MasterCard/Visa American Express Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Name (as printed on card): _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CATEGORY SELECTION & DEPOSIT:

Category Preference: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

_____ guests joining pre-tour (\$500/person) +

_____ guests joining program (\$850/person) +

_____ guests joining post-tour (\$500/person) = **TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$** _____

Post-Tour Category (choose one): Double Deluxe Single

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com and the COVID-19 Acknowledgement at orbridge.com/wellness; and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reservations, Deposits and Final Payment. To secure your reservation, deposits are due upon placing a reservation as follows: \$850 per person per program and \$500 per person for any pre-tour and/or post-tour. Deposits are payable by check, ACH, wire transfer or major credit card. Final payment, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, optional excursion(s) fees and optional electives, is payable by check, ACH, wire transfer or major credit card, and is due no later than 90 days prior to the program's scheduled departure date. If your reservation is made between the final payment due date and the program's scheduled departure date, the full cost of the program, plus any pre-tour and/or post-tour, optional excursion(s) fees and optional electives, is due at the time of registration, payable by check, ACH, wire transfer or major credit card. 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. CST#2098750-40 WST#602828994

Reservation Cancellations and Refunds. All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge: (a) more than 90 calendar days prior to the program's scheduled departure date, all monies paid to Orbridge for the main program and for any pre-tour and/or post-tour will be refunded in full; (b) between 90 and 60 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 25% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, and the balance will be refunded; (c) between 59 and 30 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 50% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, and the balance will be refunded; (d) within 29 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 100% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour. 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, will be processed within 30 calendar days of our receipt of your written notice.

For complete Terms & Conditions, visit terms.orbridge.com | Copyright © 2021 Orbridge, LLC | www.orbridge.com | (866) 639-0079

Stateroom Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Standard	\$5,399	\$4,995
Classic Double	\$6,199	\$5,795
Classic Twin	\$6,399	\$5,995
Master Suite	\$7,999	\$7,695
Single (Standard)	\$8,899	\$8,495

Mashpi Lodge Pre-Tour*

Double \$1,695 | Single \$2,395

Machu Picchu Post-Tour*

(Airfare between main program and post-tour is an additional \$740 per person.)

Double \$3,895 | Deluxe \$4,295 | Single \$5,495

Deluxe package includes room upgrades at Sonesta Posada del Inca, Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel, and Wyndham Costa del Sol. Availability limited.

*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. For the post-tour, airfare for internal flights will be charged additionally at \$740 per person. **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 after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.





The Galapagos Islands

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Special Traveling Aggies Rate: **Save up to \$800**
per couple

What Guests Are Saying...

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

Every Traveling Aggies trip that I have taken, I have made a new Aggie friend.

~Henry Presnal '57

For hassle free and fun filled good times, travel with the Aggies.

~Bob & Jane Jezienski

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.

FREE Expedition Library
AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY
RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by
June 18, 2021

to receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition
Library we've assembled for this program.**

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Traveling Aggies
The Association of Former Students
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