UNC General Alumni Association Presents:

The Galapagos Islands – Western Itinerary

JUNE 22, 2021 – JUNE 29, 2021

From $4,995* (with optional Mashpi Lodge pre-tour: $1,595* and optional Machu Picchu post-tour: from $3,695* + $740 internal airfare)

Feel the thrill of encountering the flora and fauna that famously inspired Darwin—and in his footsteps, generations of nature lovers. Undiscovered by Europeans until the 16th century, the Galapagos Islands hold a central position in modern scientific and evolutionary history. In a place where human presence is relatively minimal, take the opportunity to observe and photograph these remarkable species up close—either sitting quietly to watch blue-footed boobies or snorkeling with inquisitive and playful sea lions.

Your Itinerary

Day 1: En Route from U.S. / Arrive in Quito, Ecuador
Day 2: Quito
Day 3: Quito / Flight to Baltra / Santa Cruz: Highlands / Puerto Ayora – Embarkation
Day 4: Bartolomé / Santiago: Sullivan Bay
Day 5: Santa Cruz: Dragon Hill / Santiago: Salt Mine James Bay
Day 6: Isabela: Punta Vicente Roca / Fernandina: Punta Espinoza
Day 7: Baltra – Disembarkation / Flight to Guayaquil, Ecuador
Day 8: Guayaquil / Depart for U.S.

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 unique collection of pre-Columbian art.
- 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.
- 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 flightless cormorants nest nearby and sea lions, Galapagos penguins, and turtles can be seen frolicking 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—most notable for its captive breeding program for the Galapagos Giant Tortoise; and Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island, one of the first sites visited by Charles Darwin featuring a "lunar landscape" of lava fields.
- What's included: 2 nights at the 5-star Casa Gangotena hotel in Quito prior to embarkation; 4 nights aboard the Isabela II, with exploration by panga or glass-bottom boat, naturalist-led hikes and excursions, and evening lectures; 1 night at Wyndham Guayaquil after disembarkation; 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; and airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.

*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 on Days 3 and 7 is included. Airfare otherwise not included.

All program details, dates, and pricing are subject to change.
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JUNE 22, 2021 — JUNE 29, 2021
PRE-TOUR: JUNE 19, 2021 — JUNE 22, 2021
POST-TOUR: JUNE 29, 2021 — JULY 04, 2021

PROGRAM RATES*
Standard: $4,995
Classic Double: $5,695
Classic Twin: $5,995
Master Suite: $7,395
Single: $7,995

PRE-TOUR RATE**
Double: $1,595
Single: $2,295

POST-TOUR RATE***
Standard: $3,695
Deluxe: $3,995
Single (Standard): $4,995
(Airfare from main program to post-tour is additional $740 per person.)

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**Pre-tour rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare not included.

***Post-tour rates are per person based on double occupancy, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Post-tour rate includes internal airfare between Lima and Cusco on Days 9 and 13; airfare otherwise not included. Airfare from main program (Guayaquil) to post-tour (Lima) will be charged additionally at $740 per person.