Galápagos Expedition

July 13 to 23, 2016
“This was a magical trip for our family. From the kids to their parents and grandparents - everyone had a fantastic time. Bravo!
—Kathy Berra, ’67, Galápagos Expedition, 2015

The Galápagos Islands offer enormous diversity. Nowhere else on earth in such a small area can one find more than one-third of the world’s fish and plant species. Chartered exclusively by Stanford, our expedition ship, La Pinta, is the perfect size for navigating these nutrient-rich waters and known as one of the finest vessels currently cruising among the Galápagos Islands. Explore the Galápagos with Professor Bill Durham, stand in awe before the iconic giant tortoises and captivating blue-footed boobies, and snorkel amid Galápagos sea lions and sea turtles. Begin with two nights in the charming Ecuadorian capital city of Quito, with its beautiful colonial architecture, fabulous food and gracious inhabitants.
Faculty Leader

Professor William Durham, ’71, past chair of the department of anthropological sciences at Stanford is an innovative teacher and administrator whose primary interests are ecology and evolution, the interactions of genetic and cultural change in human populations, and the challenges to conservation and community development in the tropics, especially the Galápagos and the Amazon. Bill travels to Galápagos nearly every year with students and alumni, and has conducted fieldwork throughout Central and South America and Africa. Professor Durham believes that educational travel is one of the most enriching experiences one can have.

- Joined the Stanford University faculty in 1977
- Currently the Bing Professor in Human Biology and the Yang and Yamazaki University Fellow
- Recipient of the Bing Fellow Award and a MacArthur Prize fellowship

“Bill Durham is a superb teacher and so enthusiastic about the Galápagos and evolution.”

—Susan Schofield, ’66, Galápagos Field Seminar 2012

Itinerary

Wednesday, July 13

DEPART U.S. / QUITO, ECUADOR
Depart from home on flights bound for Ecuador. Upon our late-evening arrival in Quito, transfer to our hotel.
CASA GANGOTENA HOTEL

Friday, July 14

QUITO
Take a walking tour of colonial Quito and learn about the history of the conquistadores. Tour Independence Plaza, the Presidential Palace and the Monastery of San Francisco, one of the most impressive religious buildings in the New World. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure and attend a festive welcome reception and dinner this evening at our hotel. CASA GANGOTENA HOTEL (B,L,D)

Friday, July 15

QUITO / BALTRA ISLAND / EMBARK / NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND
Early this morning transfer to the Quito airport to board our flight to the Galápagos Islands. Upon arrival on Baltra Island, transfer to our ship. Enjoy lunch onboard, followed by an afternoon excursion to North Seymour Island. Walk along the coast and through the interior of the island, observing colonies of blue-footed boobies, frigate
birds, swallow-tailed gulls, sea lions and marine iguanas. This evening, enjoy a welcome cocktail reception aboard our ship. **LA PINTA** (B,L,D)

**Saturday, July 16**

**ISABELA ISLAND / FERNANDINA ISLAND**

Enjoy a coastal exploration of Isabela Island by Zodiac while learning about the dramatic geology of the area with its remains of lava flows and tuff stone layers. This is the nesting place for flightless cormorants, the only existing marine birds in the world other than penguins that have evolved from flying birds to diving birds. Wildlife here also includes sea lions, Galápagos fur seals, Galápagos penguins, blue-footed and Nazca boobies and noddy terns. The afternoon brings us to the youngest island in the chain, Fernandina. Enjoy a walk atop the jagged lava terrain. With no introduced mammals, Fernandina has a very unique environment with the world’s highest density of marine iguanas, sharing their space with sea lions, sally-light foot crabs, hawks, penguins and flightless cormorants. **LA PINTA** (B,L,D)

**Sunday, July 17**

**ISABELA ISLAND**

Early risers will enjoy cruising in front of the famous Ecuador Volcano, which rises out of the water with one-half of the volcano completely collapsed and resting underwater. Disembark at Urbina Bay, located at the foot of volcanoes. On the northwest side of Isabela Island, visit secluded Tagus Cove, used in past centuries as a favorite anchor for pirates and whalers. Hike to the Darwin Crater, now filled with salt water, and enjoy spectacular views. **LA PINTA** (B,L,D)

**Monday, July 18**

**RABIDA ISLAND / SANTA CRUZ ISLAND**

Disembark on Rabida Island onto a red-colored beach, made so by the unusually high content of iron in the volcanic material. Stroll along the beach of this small island and observe a large colony of sea lions, marine iguanas, mockingbirds, yellow warblers and several species of Darwin’s finches. Very close to the beach, hidden behind a strip of green saltbush, is a salt pond where migrating greater flamingos gather. This is a great place to snorkel from the beach due to the unique combination of underwater species and submarine landscapes. The north shore of Santa Cruz is the locale of Cerro Dragón (Dragon Hill). Enjoy a walk here that includes a brackish-water lagoon frequented by lagoon birds, including stilts, pintail ducks, sandpipers, sanderlings and other waterfowl. **LA PINTA** (B,L,D)

**Tuesday, July 19**

**SANTA CRUZ ISLAND**

After breakfast, disembark to visit the giant tortoises that live in the highlands of Santa Cruz Island, stop at a **scalesia** (giant daisy) forest and marvel at the twin pit craters, Los Gemelos. Enjoy a barbeque lunch at the Finch Bay Eco Hotel. This afternoon visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and hear a special presentation by the facility’s director. Tour the giant tortoise pens, walk in an impressive giant prickly pear cactus forest and view some of the many land birds living on the island. Take a stroll along the main street of Puerto Ayora before embarking our ship. **LA PINTA** (B,L,D)

**Wednesday, July 20**

**FLOREANA ISLAND**

After breakfast, disembark at Point Cormorant for a walk to see the flamingos that inhabit a brackish-water lagoon. Enjoy an opportunity to observe ducks, stilts, sandpipers and other bird species. Return to the beach for a swim or snorkel, or take out a kayak from the beach. After lunch, snorkel around Champion Islet or enjoy a ride in our ship’s glass-bottom boat. Late this afternoon, visit Post Office Bay. Be sure to bring postcards to place in the historic barrel that served as an informal “post office” for passing ships, and learn about the human side of the islands, its early inhabitants and the adventures of pirates and whalers. **LA PINTA** (B,L,D)
Thursday, July 21

SANTA FE ISLAND / SOUTH PLAZA ISLAND
Walk on a sandy white beach on Santa Fe Island that’s home to many sea lion harems. Bulls vie for the right of “beach master,” while smaller males masking as females make stealthy mating moves. Galápagos hawks are often easily observed, perched atop salt bushes. In the channel between North and South Plaza Islands, where the turquoise waters of the channel contrast brilliantly with the white sand and black lava of the shoreline, board Zodiacs and head for South Plaza Island. On the beach where we land, note how the rocks have grown thick with green seaweed in places, speckled with bright orange sally-lightfoot crabs. Further up the shore view a carpet of scarlet sesuvium succulents that serves as groundcover for a grove of luminescent green prickly pear cactus. Yellow-gray land iguanas sit beneath the cacti, waiting patiently for the pears to drop. Tonight enjoy our captain’s farewell reception, followed by dinner onboard. LA PINTA (B,L,D)

Friday, July 22

SAN CRISTÓBAL ISLAND / QUITO
After breakfast, disembark our ship and transfer to the airport for our flight back to Quito. Upon arrival, check in for flights back to the U.S., arriving on Saturday, July 23. (B)

What to Expect

Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We consider this program to be moderately strenuous with a full schedule of excursions, lectures and special events. Most of our touring onshore is on sand, dirt or gravel paths, with some rocky or boulder-strewn terrain. Walks range from short, relaxing strolls to more vigorous hikes, and most days include at least one opportunity to swim or snorkel in the Galápagos Islands’ rich marine environment. Options that should appeal to most travelers’ levels of interest will be presented each evening by our expert guides onboard ship. Members of our Expedition will also have ample opportunity to take in the beautiful scenery from the comfort of our ship. Three days of this program are spent on the mainland in Quito, Ecuador, at an elevation of 9,200 feet. Walking tours here take place on historic city streets, which are, in some cases, uneven or cobblestoned; these tours typically last two to three hours. Stairs may not have handrails, and elevators are limited or unavailable. Participants should feel comfortable walking on a rocking surface aboard ship. We welcome travelers 10 years of age and older on this program.
Information

Dates
July 13 to 23, 2016 (11 days)

Size
This program is limited to 45 participants.

Cost*
$9,595 per person, double occupancy
$10,595 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person.

Included
• 2 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
• 7 nights of deluxe ship accommodations aboard La Pinta
• 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches and 8 dinners
• Welcome and farewell receptions
• Bottled water on excursions
• Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities
• All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary
• Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
• Port fees and embarkation taxes
• Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
• Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
• Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Not Included
• International and U.S. domestic airfare
• Passport and visa fees
• Ecuador departure tax
• Immunization costs
• Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
• Independent and private transfers
• Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
• Excess-baggage charges
• Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

Air Arrangements
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United Airlines from San Francisco to Quito, Ecuador, via Houston is approximately $1,375 as of August 2015 and is
subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent with trip confirmation.

Terms and Conditions

Deposit and Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?galapagos2016 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations and Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the member’s price. Families and trip companions may travel on one membership. Call (650) 725-0692 or visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership for more information or to purchase a membership.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we cannot assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in August 2015 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
Contact Information

Visit us online to reserve space:  

Questions? Call us at (650) 725-1093 or email us at travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

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