Galápagos Expedition

A CRUISE AMONG THE ENCHANTED ISLES

July 8 to 17, 2020

a program of the stanford alumni association
One of Travel/Study’s goals has always been to look at the world as a “virtual classroom,” where lessons in history, culture, nature and science can be absorbed in the best way: firsthand. We believe that travel to Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands provides an incredible learning experience, both in the “classroom” during shipboard lectures, and out in the field, for an educational vacation you will never forget. We crafted this itinerary especially for our Stanford travelers and have chartered the well-appointed and comfortable La Pinta as the ideal expedition ship for nimble exploration. Our adventure is launched with two days in Quito before flying to the Galápagos Islands. Stanford faculty leader, Professor Bill Durham, will share his knowledge of the Galápagos from his many years of conducting research and leading Stanford students there on sophomore field seminars.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**STAY** in a restored historic mansion that’s located in the heart of Quito’s World Heritage-designated city center.

**LEARN** firsthand from faculty leader Bill Durham, who has conducted research on the islands for decades, and continues to lead students there today.

**CRUISE** the Galápagos Islands aboard La Pinta—built especially for hugging the coastlines and sailing into coves.

**SEE** blue-footed boobies, giant tortoises, marine iguanas and harems of sea lions up close while hiking on the volcanic Galápagos Islands.
Professor William Durham, '71, past Director of Human Biology and past Chair of Anthropology at Stanford is an innovative researcher and teacher 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 in Galápagos, Costa Rica, and the Amazon. Bill travels to the Galápagos nearly every year with students and alumni, and has conducted fieldwork throughout Central and South America. Professor Durham believes that educational travel is one of the most enriching experiences one can have. On this program, Professor Durham will discuss what has made the Galapagos Islands so uniquely productive of new and unusual species. He’ll take us through a look at many of the amazing adaptations of Galapagos organisms, and will talk about what Darwin found convincing in Galapagos—convincing enough to lead him to discover evolution.

- Currently the Bing Professor in Human Biology, Bass University Fellow in Undergraduate Education, Yang and Yamazaki University Fellow, and senior fellow at the Woods Institute for the Environment—all Stanford University
- Recipient of the Bing Fellow Award and a MacArthur Prize fellowship
- BA, biological sciences, 1971, Stanford University
- MS, zoology, 1973, and PhD, ecology and evolutionary biology, 1977, University of Michigan
Itinerary

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8
U.S. / QUITO, ECUADOR
Travel from home to Quito on international flights and transfer to our hotel. CASA GANGOTENA (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JULY 9
QUITO
After breakfast and an orientation, set out on foot from our hotel for a walking tour of Quito’s old town. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant followed by a city tour by bus. This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner at our hotel’s highly acclaimed restaurant. CASA GANGOTENA (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JULY 10
QUITO / BALTRA ISLAND / NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND
Transfer to the airport after breakfast for our flight to Baltra Island in the Galápagos Islands. Transfer to our ship upon arrival and enjoy lunch onboard. This afternoon set out for our first excursion to North Seymour Island. Walk along the coast and venture to the interior of the island to observe bird and sea lion colonies, as well as land iguanas. Enjoy dinner onboard. LA PINTA (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JULY 11
ISABELA ISLAND / FERANDINA ISLAND
Begin the day with an excursion by panga (small boat) around Isabela Island. Our naturalists will discuss the dramatic geology of the area, pointing out lava flows and tuff stone layers. Weather permitting, snorkel offshore along the cliffs in an area where green sea turtles are frequently seen. This afternoon visit the youngest island in the archipelago, Fernandina, and look for Galápagos hawks, the top predator in the Galápagos, as well as penguins and flightless cormorants. LA PINTA (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JULY 12
ISABELA ISLAND
Our exploration today is devoted to Isabela Island. This morning visit Urbina Bay, on the western side of the island. Snorkeling will provide us with close-up views of corals, shells and fish. Take a walk on the island to see land iguanas and perhaps giant tortoises. As the ship repositions through Bolivar Channel during lunch, we may have the opportunity to spot whales. This afternoon land at Tagus Cove and hear stories about the pirates and whalers that have dropped anchor here over the centuries. Enjoy a kayak or snorkel excursion, then take a hike up Darwin Crater for excellent views. LA PINTA (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JULY 13
RABIDA ISLAND / SANTA CRUZ ISLAND
This morning disembark at Rabida Island’s red sand beach.
and take a walk to discover marine iguanas and many bird species. Snorkel from the beach or ride on the glass-bottom boat to observe sea life. This afternoon explore the north shore of Santa Cruz Island and disembark at Cerro Dragon (Dragon Hill). Walk around the brackish water lagoon to catch a glimpse of flamingos and other lagoon birds. Continue on a meandering inland trail and observe land wildlife.

**LA PINTA** *(B,L,D)*

**TUESDAY, JULY 14**
**SANTA CRUZ ISLAND**
This morning disembark on Santa Cruz Island and visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and hear about the Rearing in Captivity program dedicated to giant tortoises and see the efforts and results of Galápagos biology fieldwork. Enjoy free time to stroll the streets of Puerto Ayora before traveling to the highlands to observe giant tortoises roaming in the wild. Look for the emblematic Darwin's finches and the endemic Scalesia trees that thrive in this area before returning to our ship. **LA PINTA** *(B,L,D)*

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15**
**FLOREANA ISLAND**
Land at Post Office Bay after breakfast this morning—our postcards in hand! Visit the historic barrel that has served as a post office in the archipelago for over two centuries. Learn about the colorful history of the area, as well as the story of how mail is taken from the barrel and delivered all over the world. Enjoy a panga ride, paddle a kayak or swim from the beach, or take a hike up to Baroness Viewpoint for stunning views. This afternoon snorkel or ride the glass-bottom boat along the coast of Champion Islet. Disembark at Punta Cormorant to look for a variety of bird species, then hike to a white sand beach where sea turtles nest. Enjoy a special dinner aboard the ship to celebrate our journey this evening. **LA PINTA** *(B,L,D)*

**THURSDAY, JULY 16**
**BALTRA ISLAND / DISEMBARK / QUITO / U.S.**
After breakfast, disembark our ship on Baltra Island and fly to Quito. Check in to optional dayrooms at our hotel, and connect with flights to the U.S., arriving back home the next day. **WYNDAM AIRPORT HOTEL QUITO—DAY ROOMS (7/18: B)**

**FRIDAY, JULY 17**
**QUITO / U.S.**
Arrive back in the U.S. aboard flights from Quito.

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**About Casa Gangotena**

The three-story Casa Gangotena, a newly restored historic mansion overlooking Quito’s Plaza San Francisco, is a showcase of style, combining contemporary design, antique embellishments, fine furnishings and comfort. Beautifully and eclectically appointed, the hotel invites its guests to explore and to relax, whether in its dining room, on the glassed-in patio, in a garden redolent with the perfume of native flowers, in its wood-paneled library or atop the hotel on its panoramic third-floor terrace.
About La Pinta

With an intimate ambience, La Pinta is the perfect vessel for exploring the Galápagos Islands. The ship features yacht-like amenities, including a large lounge, outdoor bar, hot tub, library and relaxing sun deck for watching the passing scenery.

About Mashpi Lodge

The sophisticated and strikingly contemporary, yet intimate, Mashpi Lodge is the ideal base for exploring the world of the Mashpi Rain Forest Biodiversity Reserve. Located on a high plateau, the lodge is a hideaway in the clouds accessible only to its guests. Mashpi Lodge is an architectural wonder designed to enhance our enjoyment of the surrounding natural beauty, featuring uninterrupted views of the distant mountains on one side and the nearby forest on the other, compliments of the lodge’s floor-to-ceiling glass windows.

Optional Post-trip Extension

JULY 16 TO 19 (4 ADDITIONAL DAYS)
MASHPI LODGE

Explore the Mashpi Cloud Forest, a tremendously biodiverse ecosystem teeming with mammal, reptile, amphibian and bird species. Embark on daily excursions including a hike to a nearby waterfall, take an after-dark forest walk to study nocturnal creatures, or touring the treetops via sky-bike.

Details and pricing for the extension will be sent to confirmed participants.
Dates
July 8 to 17, 2020 (10 days)

Size
This program can accommodate 45 participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

Cost*
$9,995 per person, double occupancy
$10,595 per person, single occupancy
*Stanford Alumni Association nonmembers add $300 per person

Included
6 nights of deluxe hotel and lodge accommodations  •  4-night cruise aboard La Pinta  •  10 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 8 dinners  •  Welcome and farewell receptions  •  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  •  Round-trip flight between Quito and the Galápagos Islands  •  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  •  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
You are responsible for booking and purchasing airfare to the start location of the program and from the end location of the program. These air purchases are NOT included in the program cost. To assist you in making these independent arrangements, we will send you information with your confirmation materials on when to arrive and depart.

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. During the cruise portion of the itinerary, most of our touring onshore is on sand, dirt or gravel paths and includes 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. Various excursion options will be presented each evening by our expert guides onboard ship. Members of our island expedition will also have ample opportunity to take in the beautiful scenery from the comfort of our ship’s decks. Participants should feel comfortable walking on a rocking surface aboard ship. Four days of this program are spent at high elevations on the Ecuadorian mainland: in Quito at an elevation of 9,200 feet and in the highlands at elevations of up to 5,000 feet. Walking tours in Quito include strolls along 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 not always available. We welcome travelers 10 years of age and older on this program.
“This was a once in a lifetime trip—professional personnel, stunning environment, with interesting and easily comprehended educational material.”

BETSEY HERDMAN, GALÁPAGOS FIELD SEMINAR, 2018