VANDERBILT Alumni Association

MAY 11-18, 2024

With Dan Morgan, PhD,
Associate Dean – College of Arts & Science
Principal Senior Lecturer – Earth &
Environmental Sciences, Vanderbilt University

The Galapagos Islands

8 DAYS OF WONDER & AMAZEEMNT

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE
30-day refund guarantee

*Think biology class – with deck chairs*
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join fellow alumni 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.

Stateroom availability is limited. With significant savings of more than $1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly, so be certain to reserve your spot today.

Please reserve by contacting the Vanderbilt Travel Office by calling 615.322.3673.

With best wishes,

Cary DeWitt Allyn
Director, Vanderbilt Travel Program

The Vanderbilt Travel Program strives to engage Vanderbilt alumni, parents and friends of all ages, keeping them connected with each other and Vanderbilt. Each carefully designed trip offers unparalleled learning opportunities for an exclusive “beyond the classroom experience.”
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)
Giant tortoises in Santa Cruz Highlands, Puerto Ayora
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 4: Santiago: Puerto Egas / Chinese Hat Islet (B,L,D)
Snorkeling or kayaking, beach walk
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 5: Genovesa: Prince Philip’s Steps / Darwin Bay (B,L,D)
Bird colony spotting, snorkeling or kayaking, island walk
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 6: Santa Fe / South Plaza (B,L,D)
Panoramic island viewing, glass-bottom boat ride, white sand beach, wildlife spotting, farewell dinner
Overnight: Isabela II

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

Day 8: Quito / 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 wet 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, red- and blue-footed boobies; giant tortoises; Santa Fe land 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.

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 coral beaches, such as Darwin Bay. See tidal pools and pass by colonies of various bird species.
•Visit the lush highlands of Santa Cruz Island, the perfect habitat to see the Galapagos Giant Tortoise. Journey to Puerto Egas on Santiago Island—an ideal location to see the Galapagos fur seal.

What’s Included
•3 nights hotel accommodations and 4 nights aboard the Isabela II
•A welcome reception in Quito, plus 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 airfare (from Quito to the islands on day 3, and return to Quito on day 7)
•Gratuities to local guides, hotel porters, and drivers in Quito
•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.
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.

- **Premium 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 five-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 QUITO AIRPORT HOTEL**

Conveniently located near the Mariscal Sucre International Airport, the Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel offers comfortable and convenient accommodations for the last night of the program.
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, and 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
What’s Included
• 5 nights premium accommodations and a group day room on departure day
• 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 5 dinners
• Fully guided tours and field presentations from local experts
• All ground excursion transportation, including Vistadome train through the Urubamba Valley
• Luggage porterage
• Gratuities to guides, drivers, and waiters for included meals
• Airport assistance for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times

Post-Tour Itinerary (subject to change)

Day 7: Depart Main Program from Quito to Lima, Peru
   Depart Quito and arrive in Lima, Peru for an overnight
   Overnight: Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport

Day 8: Arrive Cusco, Peru / Sacred Valley (L,D)
   After arrival, lunch with sweeping views of the Sacred Valley
   Overnight: Sonesta Posadas del Inca – Yucay

Day 9: 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 10: Machu Picchu / Sacred Valley / Cusco (B,L,D)
   Morning guided tour with time to hike at your own pace, Vistadome train ride to Ollanta, return to Cusco
   Overnight: Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel

Day 11: Cusco / Saqsayhuaman / Kenko / Villa Tipón / Cusco (B,L,D)
   San Pedro Market, Qorikancha (Temple of the Sun), Saqsayhuaman and Kenko archaeological sites, private home lunch at Villa Tipon with Pachamama experience
   Overnight: Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel

Day 12: Cusco (B,L,D)
   Full day to explore Cusco, visit local artisans or museums, evening farewell dinner
   Overnight: Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel
   Max elevation: 11,200 ft. in Cusco, Peru

   Morning at leisure, flight to Lima, evening flights depart for U.S.
   Group Day Room: Hospitality Suite at the Wyndham Costa del Sol Lima Airport (or similar accommodations)

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.
**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. Refunds, if any, will be processed within 30 days of our receipt of your written notice.**

**Notice of cancellation must be submitted to Orbridge in writing during the Grace Period. The date of receipt will be used for the effective date.**

If final payment is not received by Orbridge by the final payment due date, Orbridge may cancel your reservation in its sole discretion with no right of refund. CST#2098750-40 WST#602828994

**Reservation Grace Period. Reservations made 121+ days prior to the departure date may be cancelled within 30 days from the reservation date ("Grace Period") for a full refund. Notice of cancellation must be received in writing during the Grace Period. The date of receipt will be used for the effective date.**

**Reservation Cancellations and Refunds. Notice of cancellation must be submitted to Orbridge in writing. The date of receipt will be used for the effective date. If the cancellation notice is received after the Grace Period (if applicable); (a) 91+ days prior to the departure date, all monies paid will be refunded less an administrative fee of $350 per person for the main program and $200 per person for a pre/post-tour; (b) 90-76 days prior to the departure date, a 25% cancellation fee for the full cost of the program and the balance will be refunded; (c) 75-61 days prior to the departure date, a 50% cancellation fee for the full cost of the program and the balance will be refunded; (d) 60-46 days prior to the departure date, a 75% cancellation fee for the full cost of the program and the balance will be refunded; (e) within 45 days prior to the departure date, a 100% cancellation fee for the full cost of the program. A 100% cancellation fee applies to all non-refundable airfare. Refunds, if any, will be processed within 30 days of our receipt of your written notice.**

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**FREE Expedition Library**
AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by August 25, 2023
to receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition Library we’ve assembled for this program.**

Vanderbilt alumni on Orbridge’s The Galapagos Islands 2019 travel program.

**Faculty host - Dan Morgan, PhD**
Associate Dean – College of Arts & Science
Principal Senior Lecturer – Earth & Environmental Sciences, Vanderbilt University

Dr. Morgan is a geologist who studies the processes that create landscapes on Earth’s surface and how landscapes evolve as environmental conditions change. Most of his research is in glacial geology where he studies the landscapes that glaciers create to learn about the timing and extent of past ice ages. For over twenty years, Dr. Morgan has studied the long-term glacial history of Antarctica, including seven field seasons on the continent. Like the Galapagos, there are no land predators on Antarctica and animals have evolved in distinct ways to adapt to the unique environment.