



Photo by Debbie Sturdivant



ECUADOR & GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

With University of Washington Botanic Gardens

Led by Director Sarah Reichard

June 5-19, 2013



This program includes carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/ClimateSafe.

Ecuador is home to an amazing array of ecosystems, indigenous people, and the famous Galápagos Islands. This exciting garden tour gives you a taste of the rainforest with bird walks, canopy walks, and canoe rides along lush trails in the jungles of the Ecuadorian Amazon. Last but not certainly least, journey on a first class vessel through the Galápagos Islands, one of the most unique locations in the world.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the diverse ecosystem represented at Quito Botanical Garden.
- Hike the trails through the Amazon and swim in Lake Pilchicocha.
- Observe the diverse wildlife of the rainforest while on silent canoe rides.
- View the spectacular sunset and various vibrant species of birds from the observation decks while trekking the Liana Chica.
- Navigate the Galápagos Islands aboard the M/Y Galaven.
- Observe and interact with the sea turtles at the Charles Darwin Research Station.
- Learn about volcanic formations including lava bombs, spatter, and cinder cones.
- Get up close with with wildlife including friendly sea lions and giant tortoises.
- Witness the highly threatened and rare tree of the daisy family, *Scalesia pedunculata*, that grows at high elevations in old craters.

ITINERARY

JUNE 5 - QUITO

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel for overnight.

JUNE 6 - QUITO

This morning you will be given a behind the scenes tour of Quito Botanical Gardens. Stroll through the garden which features a brilliant orchidarium of approximately 1500 square meters. Following your time at the garden you will be taken to Quito's historic old town area for lunch and a walking tour. *Overnight at Hilton Colon. (BLD)*

JUNE 7 - AMAZON

Fly to Coca this morning; a 30 minute hike through the rainforest leads you to Lake Pilchicocha. Here, you are met by native workers to paddle you across the lake to Sacha Lodge, arriving around 15:30 or 16:00 pm. Swim in Lake Pilchicocha, which is a black water lake home to many species of animal. Bird observing from the mini tower offers guests an excellent opportunity to view several species of birds common around the lodge. Visit the butterfly house with your naturalist guide to view the many different, colorful butterflies. After dinner, accompany your naturalist guide on a night walk through the rainforest or take a canoe ride on the lake to view the black caimans with their glowing orange eyes. *Overnight at Sacha Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 8 - AMAZON

Begin walking on the trail Liana Chica and arrive at the canopy walk for spectacular view of the rainforest canopy and the many different species of vibrantly colored birds. Located within Sacha's private reserve, the bird walk gives guests the opportunity to get an up close and personal view of the rainforest canopy. After the canopy walk, take trail Liana Grande through terra firma and igapo forest habitats where native guides will explain the different species of medicinal plants that have been used in their culture for centuries. Liana Grande will turn into the trail Higuero, which will take you through pristine primary forest with huge Kapok and Fig trees towering above your head. After lunch, you may take a leisurely hike along the Rio Napo, or a little more challenging hike on the trail Leoncillo to try and spot the elusive Dusky Titi monkey. The trails will lead you back to the main boardwalk for your final hike and canoe ride back to the lodge. *Overnight at Sacha Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 9 - AMAZON

Leaving the lodge after breakfast, you begin your hike on trail Lagartococha. When you arrive at Lake Lagartococha, take a canoe ride through the swamp, home to anacondas, caimans, and capybaras. After the canoe ride, a walk on the other side of Lagartococha may give you the opportunity to spot capuchin or squirrel monkeys playfully jumping through the trees. Upon your return, head back to the lodge for a dip in the lake. After lunch, your native guide will teach you how to fish for the infamous razor-toothed piranha. Keep in mind that piranhas will never attack a person, and swimming at the same time is perfectly safe and fun! Around 3:30p.m. you will begin what many regard as the best trail at Sacha, a silent canoe ride through the flooded Amazonian forest. After your ride through the flooded forest, you will arrive at Sacha's 135-foot wooden tower built around an ancient Kapok tree. Get closeup views of vibrant birds through Sacha's powerful scopes. *Overnight at Sacha Lodge. (BLD)*

JUNE 10 - QUITO

Breakfast and a departure from the lodge at 7:30a.m. One last walk on the boardwalk to the river, and from there a two hour canoe ride back to Coca for your 35 minute flight back to Quito. Arrive at Quito at 12:30p.m. Transfer to Hilton Colon to freshen up and relax for the evening. *Overnight at Hilton Colon. (B)*

JUNE 11 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

This morning you will be escorted to the airport for your flight to the Galapagos Islands. Please note that there is a weight limit of 44 pounds on the internal flights and bags should be packed accordingly. Upon arrival in San Cristobal, you will be met by your naturalist guide and transferred to the boat. Your adventure begins with a visit to Galapaguera. *Overnight aboard M/Y Galaven. (BLD)*

JUNE 12 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

After lunch, you will head to South Plaza Island. This small island with steep cliffs was formed by rising lava and is no covered with Opuntia cacti. It is also home to one of the largest sea lion colonies as well as yellow

and red land iguanas. The most characteristic plant is the Sesuvium. During the rainy season its color is a greenish to yellowish tone and in the dry season a bright red. *Overnight aboard M/Y Galaven. (BLD)*

JUNE 13 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

This morning visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, which is home to turtles ranging from 3 inches to 4 feet long. Later visit Los Gemelos, or the Twin Craters, which are located opposite each other on both sides of the road leading from Puerto Ayora to Baltra. *Overnight aboard M/Y Galaven. (BLD)*

JUNE 14 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

This morning visit the Wall of Tears on Isabela. Later you will see the Sierra Negra volcano, considered the oldest of the volcanoes on Isabela. *Overnight aboard M/Y Galaven. (BLD)*

JUNE 15 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Moreno Point is located near Elizabeth Bay on the west coast of Isabela Island. Trek the trail at Urbina Bay, located at the east base of the Alcedo Volcano. The trail starts on the beach and runs through the sand substrates, pumice rock, and lava formations along the coast where the burrows of land iguanas can be found. *Overnight aboard M/Y Galaven. (BLD)*

JUNE 16 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Today you will visit Punta Espinoza, a narrow ledge of lava and sand that extends from the base of the volcano to the sea. Colonies of marine iguanas, Galapagos Penguins and Flightless Cormorant are usually seen, and although the island is nearly barren of flora, look for Brachycereus, Cacabus, Laguncularia, and Rhizophora. *Overnight aboard M/Y Galaven. (BLD)*

JUNE 17 - GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

Take an excursion to Playa Espumilla on the northern coast of Santiago Island, a critical nesting site for marine turtles. Explore Buccaneer Cove, an area of steep cliffs and dark beaches that is used as nesting grounds by several species of seabirds. The expedition continues to Bartolome Island, home to the famous Pinnacle Rock, consisting of an extinct volcano. A trail of stairs leads to the summit of the volcano, boasting one of the best views of the island. *Overnight aboard M/Y Galaven. (BLD)*

JUNE 18 - QUITO

This morning you will visit Daphne Island, located off the coast of Santa Cruz Island. The island is the location of a long term study of Darwin Finches. Later you will head to Baltra Island for disembarkment. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Quito with lunch served during your flight. Evening farewell dinner with folkloric music. *Overnight at Hilton Colon. (BD)*

JUNE 19 - FAREWELL!

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

PROGRAM PRICING

\$5,898

Cost does not include international airfare, estimated \$1,475 from Seattle.

Cost includes \$500 donation to UWBG.

Limited single supplement available for \$1,797.

THE FINE PRINT

Price is based on double occupancy for 16 participants. Includes internal airfare; excludes international airfare. Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges. A \$350 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking and no later than January 11, 2013. This deposit is refundable until January 11, 2013 excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than March 2, 2013. Cancellations received after this date are not refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information contact Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit www.travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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