The Galapagos Islands
8 DAYS OF WONDER & AMAZEMENT

*Think biology class – with deck chairs*

MARCH 4-11, 2020

with Professor of Marine Sciences Emeritus
Jim Carlton
Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends:

Join fellow alumni and Williams Professor of Marine Sciences Emeritus Jim Carlton 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,” and 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 up to $800 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly, so be certain to reserve your spot today.

Reserve today online at williams.orbridge.com, by phone at (866) 639-0079 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

Sincerely,

Leila Derstine
Coordinator, Alumni Travel Study
Williams College
(413) 597-4011

Free Expedition Library
AN EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by July 12, 2019 to receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition Library we’ve assembled for this program.

This exclusive gift is to thank you for joining us early. Guests who reserve after the specified date may purchase libraries. Call for details.

Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Starting in 2019, we will annually plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an on-going initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts.
Discover the Galapagos
intriguing islands of limitless natural wonders

Feel the thrill of encountering the flora and fauna that famously inspired Darwin—and in his footsteps, generations of nature lovers.

This archipelago, from which Darwin conceived his theory of evolution by natural selection, is one of the richest marine ecosystems in the world.

With fascinating wildlife that exists from the ocean floor to the skies above the sea, discover for yourself the captivating diversity that inhabits these remarkable islands.
THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Your 8-Day Itinerary (Subject to change)

Day 1: En Route / Arrive 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 – Embarkation (B,L,D)
Giant tortoises in Santa Cruz Highlands, Puerto Ayora
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 4: Floreana (B,L,D)
Historic Post Office Barrel, snorkeling or kayaking, Punta Cormorant beach stroll, green sea turtle nests
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 5: Española (B,L,D)
Punta Suárez hike, Gardner Bay, sea lion colony, glass-bottom boat ride
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 6: San Cristóbal (B,L,D)
Hiking and wildlife viewing at Punta Pitt, panga ride along the shores of Cerro Brujo, snorkeling or kayaking, farewell dinner
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 7: San Cristóbal – Disembarkation / Flight to Guayaquil (B,L aloft)
Overnight: Wyndham Hotel – Guayaquil

Day 8: Guayaquil / Depart for U.S. (B)

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 curated collection of pre-Columbian art.

• Observe with remarkable proximity the diversity of endemic species like the Nazca, red- and blue-footed boobies; giant tortoises; marine 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.

• 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 Gardner Bay, where sea lions lounge and Española mockingbirds sing.

• Visit dramatic and historic places, including the lush highlands of Santa Cruz Island, the perfect habitat to see the Galapagos Giant Tortoise, and Cerro Brujo, one of the first sites visited by Charles Darwin.

• What’s included: A welcome reception in Quito, 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 air travel (from Quito to the islands on day 3, and return to Guayaquil on day 7); gratuities to local guides, drivers in Quito and Guayaquil, and hotel porters; and airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.

All hotel accommodations throughout subject to change.

(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 beach landings and boarding small vessels, both from shore and the deck of Isabela II. Maximum elevation: 9,350 feet in Quito, Ecuador
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.

- **Master Suite**
  - Queen bed, view window, wardrobe, private bathroom with shower.
  - 170 sq. ft.

CASAR GANGOTENA – QUITO

Before embarkation, stay at 5-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 HOTEL – GUAYAQUIL

Conveniently located just 3 miles from José Joaquin de Olmedo airport, this property offers deluxe accommodations for the last night of the program. Nearby are museums, gardens, shopping, and restaurants of the Malecón 2000, the boardwalk overlooking the Guayas River.

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.
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.

**What’s Included**

- One night accommodations at Casa Gangotena in Quito and two 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, including 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

**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
**Highlights & Inclusions**

- Seek out temples and ancient sites dotting the Sacred Valley and Cusco, each a vestige of pre-Columbian history that offers an in-depth understanding of the Incan empire.

- Visit Ollantaytambo, where Inca descendants continue to inhabit the largely unchanged homes of their ancestors.

- Experience the magic of a sunset on the “top of the world,” a traditional Peruvian lunch hosted by a local family, and an Andean Shamanic healing ceremony.

- **What’s included:**
  - 5 nights choice accommodations including a private Day Room in Lima on Day 13;
  - meals including 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 4 dinners;
  - flights between Lima and Cusco on Days 9 and 13;
  - fully guided tours and field presentations from local experts;
  - all ground excursion transportation, including Vistadome train through the Urubamba Valley;
  - gratuities to guides, drivers, and waiters for included meals;
  - and airport transfers, including porterage, for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.

Max elevation: 11,200 ft. in Cusco, Peru

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**Post-Tour Itinerary** *(subject to change)*

**Day 8:** Guayaquil / Flight to Lima, Peru  
Morning at leisure in Guayaquil, evening arrival to Lima  
Overnight: Wyndham Costa del Sol – Lima Airport

**Day 9:** Lima / Flight to Cusco / Sacred Valley (B,L,D)  
Morning flight to Cusco, lunch with sweeping view of the Sacred Valley, explore the colorful markets of Pisac  
Overnight: Sonesta Posadas del Inca – Yucay

**Day 10:** 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 11:** Machu Picchu / Sacred Valley / Cusco (B,L,D)  
Morning guided tour with time to hike at your own pace, Vistadome train to Cusco, afternoon at leisure  
Overnight: Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel

**Day 12:** Cusco / Saqsayhuaman / Kenko / Villa Tipón (B,L,D)  
Walk through Cusco, Qorikancha Sun Temple, special farewell dinner  
Overnight: Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel

**Day 13:** Cusco / Flight to Lima / Depart for U.S. (B,L)  
Morning flight to Lima, traditional Peruvian lunch, depart for U.S.  
Day Room: Hotel Estelar Miraflores – Lima

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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.
When you reserve by July 12, 2019**

MARCH 4-11, 2020

Special Alumni Rate: **Save up to $800 per couple**

**Williams Study Leader: Marine Sciences Professor Jim Carlton**

Williams College Professor of Marine Sciences Emeritus **James T. Carlton** is a world-renowned marine ecologist whose research focuses on global bioinvasions and extinctions in modern times, including the poleward expansion of marine species due to climate change. He is a Pew Fellow for Marine Conservation and a AAAS Fellow, and the only scientist to receive the US Government’s Interagency Recognition Award for his national and international work to reduce the impacts of exotic species invasions in the sea. On nine occasions he has given expert testimony before Congress. Jim co-chaired the National Academy of Sciences Marine Biodiversity Committee, which produced *Understanding Marine Biodiversity: A Research Agenda for the Nation*. In 2013 he received the Fellows Medal of the California Academy of Sciences, and the Smithsonian has designated Jim an “Ocean Hero.” Jim is leading the studies on the ocean-scale ecological consequences of the 2011 Japanese tsunami, with his group’s research featured on the cover of *Science* in September 2017.