The Galapagos Islands

8 DAYS OF WONDER & AMAZEMENT

MARCH 16-23, 2024

with Study Leader
Meg Lowman ’76

RESERVE RISK FREE
See reservation panel for details.

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

Join fellow Ephs and Study Leader Meg Lowman ’76 - National Geographic Explorer and the Executive Director of TREE Foundation - 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.

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

Sincerely,

Leila Derstine
Director of Alumni Engagement Programs
Williams College
alumni-travel@williams.edu

Please review the Williams College participation agreement information here: https://bit.ly/WilliamsAlumTravel-Agreement

Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.
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
Post-Tour Itinerary (subject to change)

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

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

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

What’s Included

• 5 nights premium accommodations and a private 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

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.
The Galapagos Islands

MARCH 16-23, 2024
Mashpi Lodge Pre-Tour: March 13-16, 2024
Machu Picchu Post-Tour: March 23-28, 2024

Reserve by Credit Card:
Online: williams.orbridge.com
Phone: (866) 639-0079
Fax: (206) 452-5655

Reserve by Check:
Made payable to Orbridge, LLC
Mail to: Orbridge, P.O. Box 1376
Poulsbo, WA 98370

GUEST INFORMATION:
Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): ______________________________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________ Class Year: _________________________
Home Phone: ____________________ Alt. Phone: __________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: _________ Zip: _____________________________

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): ______________________________________________________
Email: ____________________________________________ Class Year: _________________________
Home Phone: ____________________ Alt. Phone: __________________________
Address: ___________________________________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: _________ Zip: _____________________________

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:
☐ Check ☐ ACH (Automated Clearing House) ☐ MasterCard/Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover
Card #: __________________________ Exp. Date: __________ CVV: __________

Name (as printed on card): ______________________________________________________________
BillinAddress (if different from above): _____________________________________________________
City: __________________________ State: _________ Zip: _____________________________

CATEGORY SELECTION & DEPOSIT:
Category Preference: 1st choice __________________________________ 2nd choice ______________________
# _______ guests joining pre-tour ($500/person) =
# _______ guests joining program ($850/person) =
# _______ guests joining post-tour ($500/person) = TOTAL DEPOSIT: $________

Post-Tour Category (choose one): ☐ Double ☐ Deluxe ☐ Single

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com and the COVID-19
Acknowledgement at orbridge.com/wellness; and I/we agree that Orbridge LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above
and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: __________________________________________ Date: ______________________

Reservations, Deposits & Final Payment. To secure your reservation, deposits are due upon placing a reservation as follows: $850 per
person per program and $500 per person for any pre/post-tour. Orbridge accepts payment by check, ACH, wire or major credit card. Final
payment is due 90 days prior to the departure date. Reservations made after the final payment due date are due at the time of registration. 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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*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 between the mainland and the Galapagos Islands is included; airfare otherwise not included. For the post-tour, airfare for internal flights will be charged additionally at $899 (subject to change) per person. **A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per room will be
sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.
Williams Study Leader: Meg Lowman ’76

Accompanying this travel-study is Meg Lowman (Williams Class of 1976), National Geographic Explorer & Executive Director of TREE Foundation. Nicknamed “Einstein of the treetops” by Wall Street Journal, Meg pioneered the science of canopy ecology. Over 30 years ago, she first climbed tropical trees using ropes and a slingshot, and built the world’s first walkways, leading to the discovery that half of our terrestrial biodiversity lives in the canopy.

She has explored biodiversity and championed forest conservation across Costa Rica, Colombia, Belize, Panama, Peru, Malaysia, Cameroon, India, Australia and many other countries as the world’s first “arbornaut” (treetop explorer). Her international network and passion for science have led her into leadership roles around the world to solve environmental challenges and serve as a role model to women and minorities in science. Meg has authored 150+ peer-reviewed scientific publications and 10 books, and she has been recognized as a Fulbright Specialist Scholar in both India and Ethiopia; a Williams College Bicentennial Medalist; and most recently, as the 2023 recipient of The Explorers Club’s highest honor: The Explorers Medal.