

MAY 7-14, 2024

with optional

MASHPI LODGE PRE-TOUR & MACHU PICCHU POST-TOUR

Galagagos Tslands

8 DAYS OF WONDER & AMAZEMENT

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

30-day refund guarantee

* Think biology class - with deck chairs *





Dear Friends,

Join fellow NC State 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 up to \$1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly. Be certain to reserve your spot today.

Reserve today online at ncsu.orbridge.com, by calling (919) 515-0508, or by emailing hart@ncsu.edu.

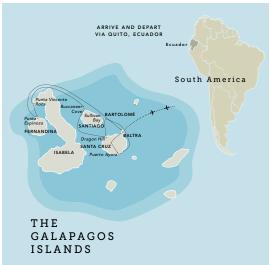
Sincerely,

Kathy Hart WolfTreks Travel Director

NC State Alumni Association

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)
Santa Cruz Highlands, Puerto Ayora, giant
tortoises at Charles Darwin Research Station
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 4: Bartolomé / Santiago: Sullivan
Bay (B,L,D)
Beach walk, Pinnacle Rock, snorkel opportunity
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 5: Santa Cruz: Dragon Hill /
Santiago: Buccaneer Cove
Bay (B,L,D)
Lagoon walk, avian wildlife viewing,
snorkel opportunity
Overnight: Isabela II

Day 6: Isabela: Punta Vicente Roca /
Fernandina: Punta Espinoza (B,L,D)
Panoramic island viewing, glass-bottom
boat ride, white sand beach, sea turtle
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 and blue-footed boobies; giant tortoises; marine and land iguanas; the flightless Galapagos cormorant; 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 sand beaches such as Punta Espinoza, where a variety of animals frolick in a fine display of multi-species tolerance in the nearby lagoon.
- Visit dramatic and historic places, including the Charles Darwin Research Station.

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.



Orbridge



Isabela II

The 40-guest capacity of *Isabela II* provides 21 staterooms with spacious, comfortable accommodations and en suite facilities.



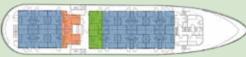
Standard

Full-size bed, window, private bathroom with shower. 128 sq. ft.



Classic Double

Full-size bed, view window, daybed, private bathroom with shower. 139 sq. ft.



Cabin deck



Main deck



Classic Twin

Two twin beds, view window, 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.



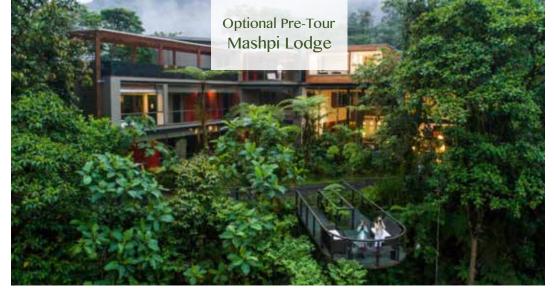


WYNDHAM QUITO AIRPORT HOTEL

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 awardwinning 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











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.

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

Day 13: Cusco / Flight to Lima / Depart for U.S. (B,L)

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)

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



The Galapagos Islands

MAY 7-14, 2024

Mashpi Lodge Pre-Tour: May 4-7, 2024 Machu Picchu Post-Tour: May 14-19, 2024

Reserve by Credit Card:

Online: ncsu.orbridge.com Phone: (919) 515-0508 Email: hart@ncsu.edu

Reserve by Check:

Made payable to Orbridge, LLC Mail to: NC State Alumni Association Box 7503, NC State University Raleigh, NC 27695-7503

Stateroom Category Standard Rate Special Rate* Standard \$5,999 \$5,495 Classic Double \$7,099 \$6,595 \$7,499 Classic Twin \$6.995 Premium Suite \$9,299 \$8.795 Single (Standard) \$10.399 \$9.895

Mashpi Lodge Pre-Tour* Double \$1,895 | Single \$2,695

Machu Picchu Post-Tour*

(Airfare between main program and post-tour is an additional \$899 per person.)

Double \$3,995 | Double Deluxe \$4,495

Single \$5,895 | Single Deluxe \$6,495

Deluxe package includes room upgrades at Sonesta Posada del Inca, Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel, and Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel. Availability limited.

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): Email:		Class Year:		
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Billing Addr	ress (if different from above):			
City:			State: Zip):
CATEGORY	SELECTION & DEPOSIT:			
Category Preference: 1st choice			2nd choice	
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Reservations, Deposits and Final Payment. To secure your reservation, deposits are due upon placing a reservation as follows: \$8 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





The Galapagos Island

FREE Expedition Library AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY RESERVATION BONUS

Special Alumni Rate: Save up to \$1,000

Library we've assembled for this program.** to receive the FREE Orbridge Expedition

Reserve your space by August 25, 2023

J.S. POSTAGE PRSRT STD

What Guests Are Saying...

organized. We loved the program. We would like This was a superb itinerary and was spectacularly to travel to many places and we will travel with Orbridge in the future.

~Linda E., Hanover, NH

were the locations we visited superb in every aspect but the ground support exceeded all expectations. This trip was an exceptional experience! Not only

our ecosystems. The program was well planned, the interested in understanding the delicate nature of locations on our planet that should be preserved This program provided us with access to unique guides excellent, accommodations first class. as they are but are made available to those

~Nancy & Greg S., Kihei, HI



PAID PERMIT NO. 825 SAN DIEGO, CA