

Vassar Travel Program

Educational Excursions for Alums, Family, & Friends

JULY 6-13, 2024

with Special Faculty Host

Jill Schneiderman

The Galapagos Islands

8 DAYS OF WONDER
& AMAZEMENT

**BOOK WITH
CONFIDENCE**

30-day refund
guarantee

** Think biology class - with deck chairs **



Vassar Travel Program

Educational Excursions for Alums, Family, & Friends

Dear Vassar alums and friends,

Please join me and my wife, geologist Meg Stewart, along with fellow alumnae/i 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." These islands are home to a fascinating array of organisms that inhabit a well-preserved ecosystem.

Of course, mention of the Galapagos Islands raises thoughts of Charles Darwin and his paradigm shifting book, *The Origin of Species* which articulates the theory of evolution through natural selection. Though most people associate Darwin with biology, we geologists consider him to be one of our own! Darwin wrote extensively about volcanic processes, formation of coral reefs, and mechanism of South American earthquakes. While Orbridge naturalists will guide us through the marvels of the biological world, I will serve as your guide to the spectacular geological wonders of the islands. As part of our excursion I will offer two lectures focused on the geologic setting of the islands and also examine the history of science as it relates to Darwinian theories. Also, I will provide an accessible geologic field guide to enhance your experience of the context in which these organisms have thrived over the course of "deep time." I love field work and hope to foster inquiry and enhance your appreciation of the earth system through on-the-ground inquiry.

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, so be certain to reserve your spot today.


Please reserve online at vassar.orbridge.com, by calling (866) 639-0079 or by returning the enclosed reservation form.

I look forward to our journey together.

Sincerely,



Jill Schneiderman
Professor of Earth Science

 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. 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.

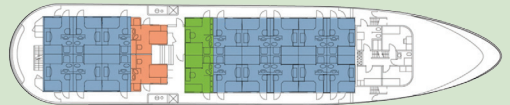


Orbridge



Isabela II

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



Cabin deck



Main deck



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.



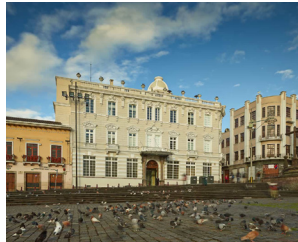
Premium Suite

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.



Optional Pre-Tour Mashpi Lodge



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

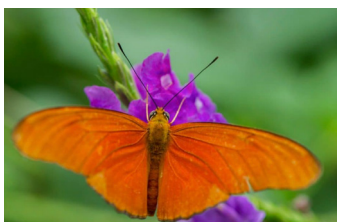
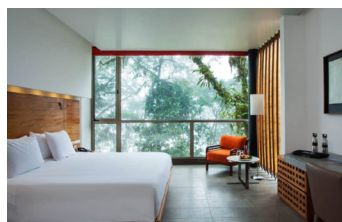
Day +2: Mashpi Lodge / Mashpi Reserve (B,L,D)
Morning drive to Mashpi, forest activities, night walk
Overnight: Mashpi Lodge

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 portage
- 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



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.

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)

Morning tour of local artisans or museums, afternoon at leisure, 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 portage
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and waiters for included meals
- Airport assistance for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



The Galapagos Islands

JULY 6-13, 2024

Mashpi Lodge Pre-Tour: July 3-6, 2024

Machu Picchu Post-Tour: July 13-18, 2024

Reserve by Credit Card:

Online: vassar.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

Stateroom Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Standard	\$5,999	\$5,495
Classic Double	\$7,099	\$6,595
Classic Twin	\$7,499	\$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 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: _____

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

Check ACH (Automated Clearing House) MasterCard/Visa American Express Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CWV: _____

Name (as printed on card): _____

Billing Address (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 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 and 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.

For complete Terms & Conditions, visit terms.orbridge.com | Copyright © 2023 Orbridge, LLC | orbridge.com | (866) 639-0079

*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 Islands

JULY 6-13, 2024

Special Alumnae/i Rate: Save more than \$1,000
per couple

FREE Expedition Library
AN EXCLUSIVE EARLY
RESERVATION BONUS

Reserve your space by
January 26, 2024

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

Special Faculty Host: Jill Schneiderman

Jill Schneiderman has been a member of the Vassar faculty since 1994. She is Professor of Earth Science and a multidisciplinary scholar in the Science, Technology, Society program at the College. Prior to joining the faculty she served as Geological Society of America Science Fellow advising the leader of the U.S. Senate on environmental issues.

A former Fulbright scholar at the University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago, her most recent research has focused on microplastics along coasts. An experienced field scientist, excursions have taken her to far-flung places such as Pakistan and Vietnam among others. She is most at home on the water whether sailing, kayaking or snorkeling.



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Vassar Travel Program
Vassar College Box 14
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Poughkeepsie, NY 12604

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