Ohio University Alumni Association

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY: Wonders of the Galápagos Islands

aboard the Exploration Vessel SANTA CRUZ II

January 29 to February 6, 2018
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Join us for this incredible, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience firsthand what Charles Darwin keenly observed of the Galápagos Islands: “The natural history of this archipelago is very remarkable ... the greater number of its inhabitants, both vegetable and animal, being found nowhere else.” Today, the natural biodiversity of this UNESCO World Heritage-designated archipelago is still intact, much as it was when first encountered by a galleon that drifted off course and happened upon its shores in 1535. Home to the amazing exotic birds, plants and animals that inspired Darwin, this “living laboratory of evolution” continues to offer the excitement of original discovery to every visitor.

Cruise aboard the recently refitted first-class exploration vessel SANTA CRUZ II, designed specifically to navigate remote archipelagos such as these. The ship is fully equipped to make your Galápagos experience complete, from complimentary snorkeling gear to a fleet of Zodiacs and a glass-bottom boat. Certified onboard naturalists lead excursions and share their knowledge to enhance your understanding and enjoyment of this captivating and mysterious natural realm.

These islands, each with its own ecosystem, are teeming with vibrant flora, fascinating fauna and species unknown anywhere else in the world, like the flightless cormorant and the marine iguana. With few natural predators on the islands, the abundant wildlife is nearly fearless and innocently receptive to up-close human company, unlike any other place on our planet! Here, you can almost touch spiny-backed iguanas and snorkel alongside playful seals and tropical penguins.

On mainland Ecuador, explore picturesque Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for magnificent colonial churches with opulent gold interiors; walk through the historic Old Town; and straddle the Equator with one foot in either hemisphere.

To complement your Galápagos Islands cruise, we are pleased to offer an exclusive Pre-Tour Option to Mashpi, a protected reserve of rainforest and cloud forest abundant with wildlife found nowhere else on Earth, and a Post-Tour Option to experience the marvels of the UNESCO World Heritage site of the legendary “lost city” of Machu Picchu and the breathtaking Sacred Valley.

This once-in-a-lifetime travel program through the “Islands of the Tortoises” is an exceptional value and always a fast sellout, so reserve your place now as space is limited and Early Booking Savings are only available through June 9, 2017!

Sincerely,

Your Ohio University Alumni Travel Team
The enigma of the
Galápagos Islands

“The Archipelago is a little world within itself...”
— Charles Darwin, The Voyage of the Beagle

Amazingly, this remote volcanic archipelago, consisting of islands and islets located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, inspired one of the most revolutionary theories in the history of science. Formed millions of years ago by volcanic eruptions, the Galápagos Islands’ dramatic landscapes now make safe homes for the quirky finches and primeval iguanas that inspired Charles Darwin’s theory of natural selection and evolution, which he presented in On The Origin of Species in 1859.

Scientists theorize that some Galápagos species were transported by birds or deposited by whalers and buccaneers. Others, like the Humboldt penguin, Chilean dolphin and South American sea lion, probably arrived by way of the Humboldt Current, a cold stream of ocean water flowing from the southern coast of Chile. This current makes the Galápagos the world’s only tropical region to support such species.

Darwin noted that life in the Galápagos Islands is comprised of mostly “aboriginal creations, found nowhere else,” which led him to hypothesize that the islands’ species survived by evolving over time independently from their continental cousins. Because natural predators failed to survive—possibly due to the lack of fresh water, which deterred even permanent human settlement until the 20th century—a bevy of birds and animals were able to thrive and adapt in a manner not possible in other habitats. This also explains why Galápagos species never developed a fear of humans and allow the near contact that makes your own personal experience on the islands so thrilling and unique.

U.S./Quito, Ecuador

Monday, Day 1
Fly to Quito, the highest capital city in the world at 9350 feet, and transfer to the Hilton Colón Hotel. Surrounded by snowcapped peaks, yet only miles from the Equator, Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is known for its magnificent Spanish colonial architecture and lively street life.

Quito
Tuesday, Day 2
Quaint family-owned shops and open-air markets are steps away from gleaming skyscrapers and ornate Spanish Baroque-style cathedrals favored by the Conquistadors. This morning, the panoramic tour through the heart of Quito features a visit to the noble, 16th-century church, Iglesia de San Francisco, the Moorish-influenced Catedral Metropolitana and Iglesia de La Compañía de Jesus, renowned for its lavish interiors decorated with an estimated seven tons of gold leaf. Visit Casa del Alabado, a private museum of pre-Columbian art housed in a colonial mansion built in the 17th century, which displays 500 of the 5000 archaeological pieces owned by the museum.

Photo this page: Watch marine iguanas, found only in the Galápagos Islands, basking in the afternoon sun.
Photo above: While snorkeling in the azure waters, look for panamic cushion sea stars and green sea turtles.
Cover photo: Look for the unique and amazing naturally colored blue-footed booby and the agile Sally Lightfoot crab along the rocky shores of the Galápagos Islands.
**Quito**

**Wednesday, Day 3**

This morning, visit the Equator and stand with one foot in each hemisphere in the “middle of the world,” where an 18th-century multinational expedition located zero degrees latitude and established an accurate measurement of the earth’s size for the first time. Step inside the hundred-foot-tall monument to this endeavor for spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and tour the Ethnographic Museum, illustrating the diversity of Ecuador’s indigenous peoples.

The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore Quito at your own pace.

**Quito/Baltra, Galápagos Islands/ Santa Cruz**

**Thursday, Day 4**

Fly to the small Galápagos island of Baltra and embark the SANTA CRUZ II in time for lunch. Attend your first briefing by the ship’s English-speaking Ecuadorian naturalists while cruising to Santa Cruz Island.

Pristine white beaches, prickly pear cacti, vibrantly colored flamingos and prehistoric-looking iguanas make Santa Cruz Island an essential stop during a cruise around the archipelago.

Aboard Zodias, explore the shores of beautiful mangrove-lined islets and seek out charming blue- and red-footed boobies, brown pelicans and magnificent frigatebirds, whose males puff up their bright red chests to impress potential mates. Make a dry landing in a small lagoon favored by elegant pink flamingos, and ascend Dragon Hill for spectacular views of the western islands and the chance to observe land iguanas.

Attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception this evening.

Please note that the itinerary and cruise pattern are dependent on weather, sea conditions and Galápagos National Park Service regulations.

**Isabela/Fernandina**

**Friday, Day 5**

Cruise through the Bolivar Channel, showcasing stunning views of the volcanic peaks of Isabela and Fernandina. Spend the morning at seahorse-shaped Isabela Island, one of the younger Galápagos islands, formed by six shield volcanoes. On the island’s arid shore you may encounter the largest land iguanas in the Galápagos as well as giant tortoises and flightless cormorants.

Take photographs of a lifetime during up-close encounters with Galápagos wildlife.

The distinctive conical shape and steep slopes of the Galápagos Islands are a result of five million years of repeated volcanic activity that caused this chain of islands to emerge from the very bottom of the ocean floor.
Watch for the magnificent frigatebird, one of the many different species of birds living on the Galápagos Islands, doing its unique mating “dance.”

You may snorkel in the waters off Punta Vicente Roca or search the northern shores for blue-footed boobies, Darwin’s finches and penguins that inhabit the area. Dominated by the sweeping slopes of La Cumbre Volcano, the moon-like landscapes of Fernandina Island are the most pristine and untouched of all the Galápagos Islands, home to the famous flightless cormorant, sea lions, marine iguanas, pelicans and penguins. Explore how recent volcanic activity has reshaped the island’s topography, creating an ever-changing environment for the thriving species found only in the Galápagos.

Santa Cruz
Saturday, Day 6
Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn more about efforts to protect the island’s rare giant tortoises. Transfer to Santa Cruz’s cool, lush highlands for lunch amid mist-covered forests. This afternoon, choose from a variety of leisure activities. Swim in the clear blue waters of secluded Tortuga Bay, home to black turtles, colorful reef fish, marine iguanas and lava gulls. Walk through the island’s trails or simply stroll along the sparkling white sandy beaches, the perfect avenues to experience Santa Cruz.

Post Office Bay, Floreana/Champion Islet/Cormorant Point
Sunday, Day 7
Floreana was one of the first islands in the archipelago to be settled by European whalers and buccaneers. At Post Office Bay, peruse the mail in the wooden barrel “post office,” established by whalers to transport letters home on passing ships. Discover a piece of mail to hand-deliver to its final destination, or leave a message to be delivered by a future visitor. Snorkel or cruise via Zodiac in the clear waters surrounding pristine Champion Islet, encountering sea horses, sea turtles, sea lions, coral hawkfish and other aquatic wonders. Scan the skies and shorelines for possible sightings of the endemic Floreana mockingbird, common to the islands when Darwin visited, but critically endangered today. Walk along the brackish lagoons and mangroves near Cormorant Point, famous for the flamingos and pelicans that congregate here.

Attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception this evening.

Baltra/Guayaquil, Ecuador
Monday, Day 8
Dock at Baltra to disembark the ship and board your late-morning flight to Guayaquil. Enjoy a day room in the Hilton Colon Hotel. Depart late this evening for the U.S., or continue on the Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option.

U.S.
Tuesday, Day 9
Arrive in the U.S.

Surveying the Ecuadorian Rainforest
Pre-Tour Option
Discover life “among the treetops” in the most unspoiled ecosystem on the planet, the Mashpi Rainforest Biodiversity Reserve, encompassing 3200 acres of protected rainforest in the majestic Andes Mountains. Learn about this rich ecosystem during discussions with native guides and look for multi-hued toucans, tree-nesting kinkajous, electric-blue butterflies and hundreds of species of orchids during naturalist-led day and night trail walks and while gliding through the understory of the forest on canopy aerial gondolas. Accommodations for one night are in the first-class Hilton Colon Hotel in Quito and two nights in the deluxe Mashpi Ecuador Lodge, located in the heart of the reserve.

The Pre-Tour Option is at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
The intimacy and personal service of a small cruise ship experience are the distinguishing characteristics of travel aboard the first-class exploration vessel SANTA CRUZ II. It is designed specifically to navigate the narrow channels, shallow bays and environmentally sensitive waters of remote archipelagos and provides the most comprehensive access possible to the region’s marine and wildlife treasures. Refurbished in 2015, the air-conditioned SANTA CRUZ II features only 50 Suites and Cabins, and it offers modern amenities and facilities.

A team of onboard Ecuadorian naturalists will share their in-depth insight and knowledge about the Galápagos Islands’ distinctive ecosystem during daily excursions and natural history lectures. The ship provides a glass-bottom boat to observe marine life, Zodiacs for island landings and excursions, complimentary snorkeling equipment and a nighttime stargazing program.

All accommodations are ocean-view, air-conditioned and tastefully appointed with a private bathroom with shower, a safe and a hair dryer. Cabins (163 to 192 square feet) feature one double bed convertible to two twin beds, and three Suites (325 square feet) feature one fixed double bed.

All meals, featuring international and Ecuadorian specialties, are served in single seatings in the inviting Beagle Restaurant or alfresco when conditions permit. Complimentary wine and beer are served with dinner.

The ship’s public facilities include two lounges, natural history library with Internet access, bar, gift shop, observation deck, two hot tubs, fitness center and an infirmary with a full-time physician.

With a ratio of one crew member for every 1.8 guests, the SANTA CRUZ II’s staff provides professional, attentive service. The ship maintains the highest international safety and environmental standards.
Included Features

**In Quito, Ecuador**
- Three nights in the superior first-class [Hilton Colon Hotel](#).
- Full American breakfast each morning.
- Welcome Reception.
- Tour of Quito’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated historic colonial district.
- Visit to Casa del Alabado, a private museum of pre-Columbian art.
- Excursion to the Equator including a visit to the fascinating Ethnographic Museum.

**On board the expedition vessel SANTA CRUZ II**
- Four-night cruise of Ecuador’s Galápagos Islands round trip Baltra Island, with calls at the Galápagos’ most beautiful islands: Santa Cruz, Isabela, Fernandina and Floreana.
- Ocean-view, air-conditioned accommodations with private bathroom facilities.
- Three meals each day, featuring international and Ecuadorian cuisine.
- Complimentary wine and beer are served with dinner.
- Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
- Multilingual naturalists will share their in-depth insights and specialized expertise while on board, on shore and underwater about the Galápagos’ distinctive ecosystem and wildlife.
- Two island excursions each day by Zodiac landing craft, sea conditions and weather permitting, focusing on the unique wildlife, natural history and conservation efforts in the Galápagos.
- Snorkeling equipment for further exploration of the Galápagos’ diverse marine life.

**In Guayaquil, Ecuador**
- Day room in the deluxe [Hilton Colon Hotel](#) before return flight to the U.S.

**Enhanced Travel Services**
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced naturalists and local guides.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary bottled water in your Suite or Cabin aboard ship and on excursions.
- Galápagos National Park fee.
- Hospitality desk in the hotel in Quito and aboard ship.
- The services of experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the travel program.
- Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.
- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.

*Small Zodiacs allow for landings on remote island beaches for up-close encounters with the miraculous array of wildlife found ashore, such as this red-footed booby.*
Plaza de Armas is the magnificent center of historic Cuzco, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option

Delight in this extraordinary opportunity to experience Machu Picchu, the majestic “lost city of the Incas;” the lush Sacred Valley; and the colonial and Inca traditions of Cuzco.

Perched on an awe-inspiring mountain range in the Peruvian Andes, Machu Picchu was obscured from humankind for 400 years until Yale Professor Hiram Bingham literally stumbled upon it in 1911. A century of extensive research and study still has not revealed the secrets of its purpose, its residents or its abandonment; nevertheless, this UNESCO World Heritage site has been carefully excavated and preserved.

Admire the spectacular archaeological sites of the beautiful Sacred Valley, where ancient engineering marvels, such as the fortress of Ollantaytambo, stand as lasting testimony to the powerful and far-reaching Inca Empire. Here, village craftsmen employ age-old techniques to weave intricate tapestries and sculpt colorful pottery.

In the historic Inca capital of Cuzco, a UNESCO World Heritage site, see the Inca stone fortress of Sacsayhuamán and grand Baroque- and Renaissance-style churches that provide a fascinating mix of pre-Columbian and colonial influences.

Day 1  Guayaquil, Ecuador/Fly to Lima, Peru
Day 2  Lima/Cuzco/Sacred Valley
Day 3  Sacred Valley/Scenic train ride to Machu Picchu
Day 4  Machu Picchu/Transfer to Cuzco
Day 5  Cuzco
Day 6  Cuzco/Lima
Day 7  Lima/Depart for the U.S.

The Post-Tour Option is at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Plaza de Armas is the magnificent center of historic Cuzco, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
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<th>Cabin Category</th>
<th>LAND/Cruise Tariff excluding taxes*</th>
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<td>Standard cabin with one window. Horizon Deck, forward.</td>
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<tr>
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Singles are available in category 5 at $11195* and in category 3 at $12595* on or before June 9, 2017. Add $1000 for reservations made after June 9, 2017.

*Taxes are an additional $195 per person and are subject to change.

Airfare Quito/Galápagos/Guayaquil (internal program air) is $600 per person additional and subject to change.

‡SANTA CRUZ II has been specially contracted for this tour, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from Gohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.

### WONDERS OF THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS RESERVATION FORM

**Send to:** Ohio University Alumni Association  
52 University Terrace  
Athens, OH 45701  
Tel: (740) 593-4300

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)</th>
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<th>Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s)</th>
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Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Ecuadorian Rainforest Pre-Tour Option and/or $200 per person Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

- Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $ as deposit.
- Make checks payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
- I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $ to:  
  - Visa  - MasterCard

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Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by October 26, 2017.

Please make my/our reservation(s) in Cabin Category:

- 1st Choice ______. 2nd Choice ______
- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one double bed).
- Single accommodations.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):

- Ecuadorian Rainforest Pre-Tour Option
  - Double at $2095 per person.
  - Single at $3795 per person.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

- Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option
  - Double at $3595 per person.
  - Single at $4495 per person.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

- I/We want you to book my/our air from [fill in departure city] to Quito, Ecuador, with return from Guayaquil, Ecuador, at additional cost to be advised.‡

- (Economy Class)
- (Upgraded Economy)
- (Business Class)
- (First Class)

‡Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements.
CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip must be in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by June 9, 2017. The participants who cancel their participation will be responsible for all costs already incurred. Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time, subject to a $200 ($50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee and any cost increases. Gohagan is not required to offer trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your trip for any reason including without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization or other Warnings or Advisories, Gohagan is not liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes.

RESPONSIBILITY: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company, its subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which is or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vehicle, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizing companies,ánd subcontractors, transportation providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act by, through, on behalf of, or at the direction of, any such contractor, subcontractor, or agent.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force major, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, strikes, complaints or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor actions, operations or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, ill health, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. Any and all transfers, air, sea or land, are subject to replacement as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the requirements and operations and/or itinerary changes may be made at the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

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AIRFARE: Airfare is subject to change and availability and, depending on the fare basis, likely is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket contract is a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.

LUGGAGE: Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without notice.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical accessibility and the ability to get in and out of vehicles. In addition, that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, for a participant who is a wheelchair user). Gohagan must be notified when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds in and out of vehicles. The participant must not be a problem to hotel staff due to behavior or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for his/herself or others.

In the event a “discontinued” reservation must be cancelled, no “replacement” reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A “replacements” reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

The islands were named “galeápagos,” meaning tortoise, based on Spanish sailors’ descriptions of their inhabitants in the 16th century.

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In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force major, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, strikes, complaints or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor actions, operations or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, ill health, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely. If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. Any and all transfers, air, sea or land, are subject to replacement as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the requirements and operations and/or itinerary changes may be made at the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

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DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by June 9, 2017. In the event a “discontinued” reservation must be cancelled, no “replacement” reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A “replacements” reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.