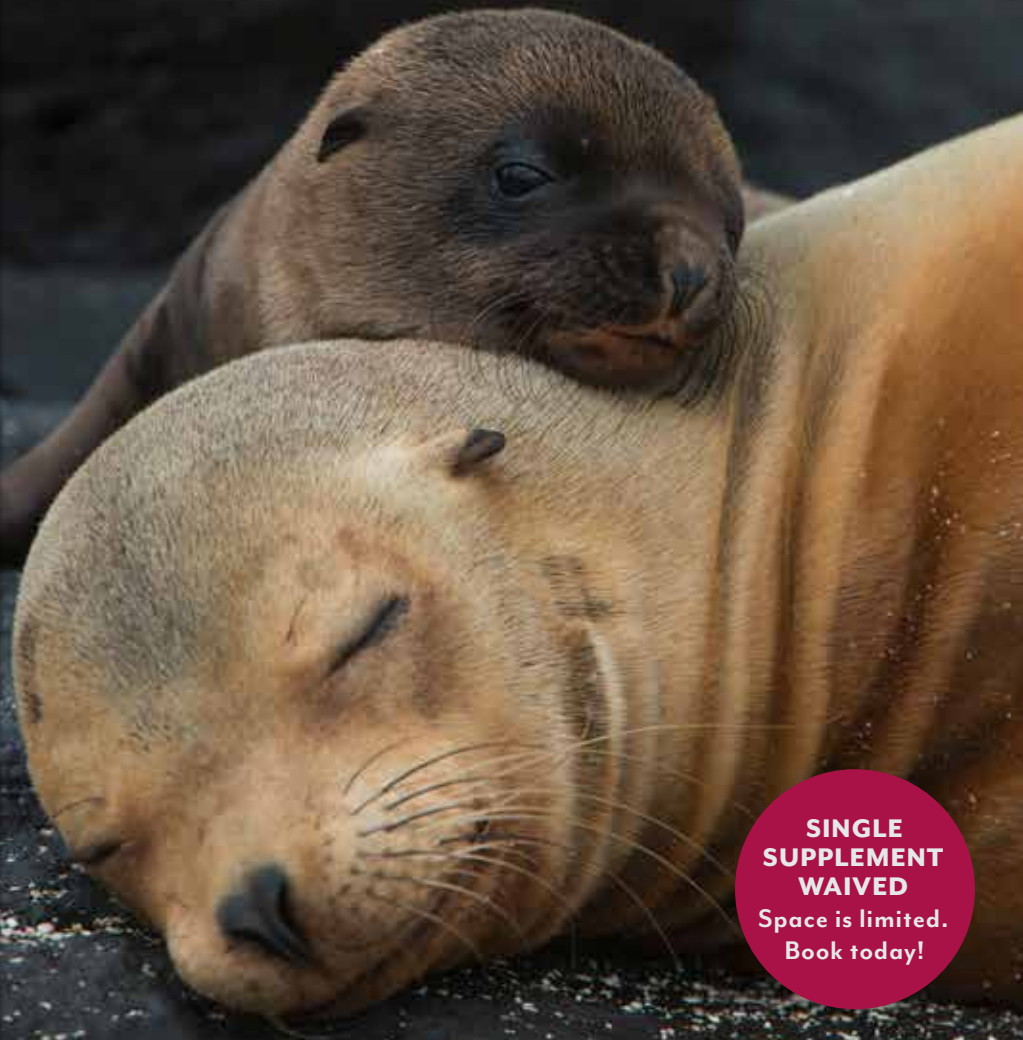




USC Alumni
Association
Trojan Travel

November 8 to 17, 2024

Galápagos Expedition



**SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT
WAIVED**
Space is limited.
Book today!

Galápagos Expedition

Immerse yourself in the unique ecosystems that inspired Charles Darwin on this unequaled 10-day Galápagos journey, a singular experience with a bounty of wildlife. Encounter the natural splendor of eight islands, including San Cristóbal, Genovesa, North Seymour, Santiago, Fernandina, Isabela, Santa Cruz and Española Islands.

Each day offers an abundance of the intriguing fauna and flora found on the relatively untouched Galápagos Islands. Enjoy included shore excursions, from guided Zodiac cruises to hiking and snorkeling with the expedition team. Climb Prince Philip's Steps to marvel at sprawling vistas on Genovesa Island, search for spectacular birds on North Seymour Island and discover Santiago Island's beautiful Sullivan Bay. Explore Mangle Point, a nesting site for flightless cormorants; walk with giant tortoises in the lush Santa Cruz highlands and swim alongside playful sea lions near Española Island. Visit a remarkable breeding center dedicated to the preservation of the endangered Galápagos giant tortoise.

Natural history is alive in this kaleidoscopic archipelago, where mystical landscapes and rare land animals reveal the secrets of evolution!

Front cover: *Sea Lion mother and cub*

This page: *Blue-footed boobies*



Flightless cormorant searching for food underwater



Dear USC Alumni and Friends:

Join us for this extraordinary voyage and share in the wonder of Charles Darwin's revolutionary observations of this remarkable world unto itself. Experience the astounding biodiversity of the UNESCO-inscribed Galápagos archipelago, preserved much as it was when Spanish colonists arrived in 1535. Home to unique reptiles, birds, plants and aquatic life, Darwin's "living laboratory of evolution" continues to inspire the thrill of original discovery in every visitor.

These legendary islands, each with its own ecosystem, teem with endemic flora and fauna, including the flightless cormorant and the marine iguana, without the threat of large land-based predators. The wildlife is uniquely receptive to up-close human company. Only here can you almost touch spiny-backed iguanas and snorkel alongside playful sea lions.

Cruise aboard the exclusively chartered deluxe, all-suite **SILVER ORIGIN**. This exquisite ship was designed specifically to navigate the hard-to-reach Galápagos archipelago and features a team of expert Ecuadorian guides, Zodiacs and unparalleled luxury. Certified onboard naturalists share their insights during excursions into this extraordinary biome.

All island excursions and activities are included, creating an immersive Galápagos cruise experience. This carefully designed itinerary features the emblematic species and landscapes that define the Galápagos Islands' fragile ecosystem. Complement your cruise with the exclusive Quito Pre-Program Option or the Post-Program Option, combining the fabled Machu Picchu, the Inca citadel of Cuzco, and the breathtaking Sacred Valley. Reserve now while space is still available.

We anticipate much excitement and demand for this very special cruise. More details about this voyage and our other programs can be found at TrojanTravel.usc.edu

Fight On!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda J. Ball". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized.

Linda J. Ball '83
Associate Director, Trojan Travel
(213) 821-6005

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088
or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve**



PROTECTING GIANT TORTOISES

The famous giant tortoises of Galápagos, with their slow pace and long lifespan, fascinate us. The Galápagos Islands themselves were named for these gentle giants; early Spanish explorers called the tortoises *galápagos*, which meant saddle, because of the shape of their shells.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Galápagos giant tortoises were subject to overexploitation as food by sailors and pirates. Today, their main threats are invasive species, habitat loss, the illegal wildlife trade and poaching. In addition, tortoise eggs and hatchlings are often preyed upon by rats, pigs and voracious ants. On several islands in the Galápagos, conservation centers have been established with the goal of enhancing the survival rate of hatchlings in the wild, thus increasing the islands' tortoise population.

In these sanctuaries, resident tortoises and their hatchlings live in semi-natural habitats. While adults can roam throughout the reserve, free to wallow in mud pools, baby tortoises usually live in protected breeding enclosures. Once juveniles are large enough to survive, typically at around five years old, they are re-introduced into the wild.

Visitors can learn about the history and biology of the giant tortoises as well as the conservation efforts and challenges faced in protecting them.





THE INCOMPARABLE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

An astonishing vision of life without humans, the Galápagos Islands represent a truly unique environment. Located six hundred miles off the coast of Ecuador, the archipelago's isolation, combined with the nutrient-rich waters of the Humboldt Current, have created one of the world's richest marine ecosystems. Darwin's "living laboratory," the Galápagos Islands spurred the naturalist's paradigm-shifting work, *On the Origin of the Species*. Published in 1859, his speculations on natural selection in the role of "aboriginal creations, found nowhere else," inspired one of the most revolutionary scientific theories in history. One of the first and most treasured UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the Galápagos sustains an astounding number of endemic species, which continue to thrive with the absence of natural predators.



Green sea turtle



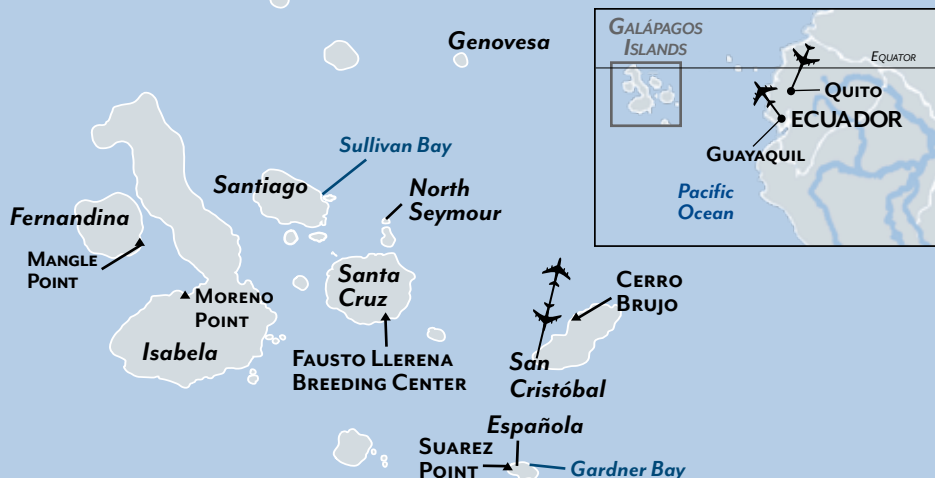
Galápagos cactus finch



Sally Lightfoot crab

INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).



10-DAY/9-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City/ Quito, Ecuador

Day 1

Depart home city and fly to Quito. Upon arrival, transfer to the JW MARRIOTT QUITO hotel.

Quito/San Cristóbal, Galápagos Islands/Embark

Day 2

Fly to San Cristóbal to embark the SILVER ORIGIN. San Cristóbal, one of the oldest islands in the archipelago, emerged from the sea

have a choice of excursions today. You could ride aboard a panga (an inflatable Zodiac) to shore and ascend Prince Phillip's Steps to take in impressive views at the top. Expect to see colonies of Nazca boobies, frigate birds and storm petrels during your walk. Or discover the horseshoe-shaped Darwin Bay, where a beautiful white-sand beach makes a cozy playground for snoozing sea lions and scampering Sally Lightfoot crabs. You may see frigate birds,

British Royal Navy officer. Embark on a guided nature hike across the rocky landscape, marveling at myriad blue-footed boobies, magnificent frigate birds and land iguanas, camouflaged against the arid scrub. Back on board, settle in for lunch while cruising to Sullivan Bay, located on Santiago Island. Get a glimpse into the island's storied geologic history while strolling by surreal rock formations and *pahoehoe* lava flows, slow-moving lava with low viscosity and a billowy surface. Sullivan Bay is also known for its expansive coral-sand beach and clear waters, where sea turtles and tropical fish flourish. (B,L,D)

Fernandina Island/ Isabela Island

Day 5

Young Fernandina Island is one of the world's most volcanically active spots and, since the island is free of introduced species, it is also one of Earth's most pristine island ecosystems. Here there's a high density of marine iguanas, sea lions, Sally Lightfoot crabs, hawks and penguins. It is also one of the few places in the Galápagos to spy the flightless cormorant, an unusual bird who forgot how to fly. Explore the waters here on a Zodiac ride, while padding a kayak, or with a mask and snorkel! Continue to spectacular Isabela Island. Isabela's first visitors were pirates and whalers, who used the island to restock supplies and even hide



Land iguana

approximately 2.4 million years ago. After boarding, settle in your stateroom; then gather for a Captain's Welcome Reception at the end of the day. (B,L,R,D)

Genovesa Island

Day 3

Anchor in sight of Genovesa Island, home to numerous bird colonies. Here, nutrient-rich, cold waters are ringed by high, protective cliffs, perfect for nesting birds. You will

red-footed boobies, herons, finches and mockingbirds, which are abundant on the island. Continue your adventure by snorkeling or swimming, sharing the bay with green sea turtles, sharks, rays and schools of colorful fish. (B,L,D)

North Seymour Island/ Santiago Island

Day 4

North Seymour Island was named after Lord Hugh Seymour, a



treasure. On a panga ride, marvel at the distinctive rocky shoreline and mangrove forests filled with nesting pelicans and herons. (B,L,D)

Santa Cruz Island Day 6

On Santa Cruz Island, travel from the arid, sunny coast to the mist-shrouded highlands. Spend the morning at a unique coffee farm built on land in the giant tortoise's natural migration path. Learn about sustainable living and coffee growing, indulge in a delicious coffee tasting, and keep company with free-roaming giant tortoises in this unforgettable experience! After a delicious lunch on board, visit the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center, which works to preserve and increase the giant tortoise population in the Galápagos Islands by protecting eggs and young hatchlings until the tortoises can be released into the wild. Or get a taste of local (human!) life with a visit to the coastal town of Puerto Ayora,

exploring shops, galleries and eateries at your leisure. And since this is still the Galápagos, you may even spot pelicans and sea lions during your outing! (B,L,D)

Española Island Day 7

Española Island, the southernmost island of the archipelago, is the breeding site of the unique waved albatross. You might witness these special birds launching themselves into the air currents from the high cliffs. Visit Gardner Bay, a sprawling stretch of pristine white sand, and Suarez Point, where you can choose a short nature walk or an adventure hike. Either way, you're sure to encounter amazing wildlife! (B,L,D)

San Cristóbal Island Day 8

San Cristóbal is a birdwatcher's dream. It's the only place in the Galápagos where all three species of boobies — red-footed, blue-footed and Nazca — live

together in harmony. In addition, the calm waters around the island support an amazing array of wildlife, such as sea turtles, rays, sea lions and tropical fish. Explore this morning on a Zodiac ride or in the water with a mask and snorkel. After a delicious lunch on board, continue to secluded Cerro Brujo, an eroded tuff cone that is also known as Witch Hill. The area teems with wildlife, and visitors may catch sight of great blue herons, egrets and finches. Enjoy the Captain's Farewell Reception at the end of the day and raise a glass to your epic Galápagos adventure! (B,L,R,D)

San Cristóbal Island/ Disembark/Guayaquil/ Return to Home City Days 9 and Day 10

Disembark the ship on San Cristóbal and fly to Guayaquil. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure before an overnight flight back to your home city. Arrive home the next day. (B)





SILVER ORIGIN With state-of-the-art technology designed for the Galápagos Islands, the SILVER ORIGIN is the most elegant, sustainable ship to explore this unique ecosystem. Discover the wonder of these islands in luxury with onboard amenities not found anywhere else. Immerse yourself in the rare flora and fauna of the Galápagos with the interactive Basecamp hub of discovery. In addition to the included Zodiac excursions and marine activities, enjoy gourmet farm-to-table Ecuadorian recipes made with the freshest local ingredients, accompanied by regional wines in the ship's restaurant and grill. Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages, 24-hour in-suite service and unlimited Wi-Fi access are also available throughout the cruise.



2024 DEPARTURE DATE: November 8 to 17 (Embarkation: November 9)

| Category | LAND/CRUISE RATES <small>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</small> | Early Booking Rate through October 9, 2024 | Rates after October 9, 2024 |
|------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Classic Veranda Suite | Floor to ceiling sliding doors with veranda and sitting area. <i>Deck 5, midship to forward.</i> | \$13,995 | \$15,550 |
| Superior Veranda Suite | Private veranda with horizon balcony and sitting area. <i>Deck 6, midship to forward.</i> | \$14,995 | \$16,660 |
| Deluxe Veranda Suite | Private veranda with horizon balcony and sitting area. <i>Deck 6, aft.</i> | \$15,895 | \$17,660 |
| Medallion Suite | Private veranda with horizon balcony and sitting area. <i>Deck 6, forward.</i> | \$19,295 | \$21,440 |
| Silver Suite | Large veranda with patio furniture, floor-to-ceiling glass doors and living room with sitting area. <i>Deck 5, forward.</i> | \$22,495 | \$24,995 |
| Royal Suite | Large veranda with patio furniture, floor-to-ceiling glass doors and living room with sitting area. <i>Deck 5, aft.</i> | \$25,595 | \$28,440 |
| Grand Suite | Large veranda with patio furniture, floor-to-ceiling glass doors and living room with sitting area and separate dining area. <i>Deck 5, aft.</i> | \$29,095 | \$32,330 |
| Owner Suite | Large veranda with patio furniture and floor to ceiling glass doors, living room with sitting area and separate dining area. <i>Deck 6, aft.</i> | \$33,895 | \$37,660 |

BONUS SAVINGS! Pay in full at the time of booking to receive additional savings. Bookings made inside 121 days prior to departure are not eligible for this discount. Please call for details.

Single Supplement waived for solo travelers wishing to reserve in all categories! This offer is limited capacity controlled. Once capacity is filled single price goes to 200% of the per person double price and are subject to availability.

Port taxes are an additional \$130 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment. This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

To secure your spot, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve

Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions, and surcharges at any time.
Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/



PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

Quito

November 6 to 8, 2024 (Tour Begins: November 6)

Explore the UNESCO treasures, rich indigenous traditions and contemporary verve of Quito, South America's most beguiling capital city. Walk the streets of the Old Town, where Spanish colonial grandeur and pre-Columbian rituals coalesce in a panoply of Baroque cathedrals, ornate palaces and lively plazas. Uncover Quito's artistic soul along La Ronda, one of the city's oldest streets, and visit a local chocolatier. Experience the Middle of the World and stand with one foot in each hemisphere. Accommodations are for three nights in the five-star JW MARRIOTT HOTEL QUITO.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: **\$875**

Price per person, based on single occupancy: **\$1,095**



POST-PROGRAM OPTION

Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley

November 16 to 22, 2024 (Tour Ends: November 22)

Explore Peru's UNESCO-inscribed archaeological treasures on this tour featuring Machu Picchu, Cuzco, the Sacred Valley and Lima. Journey by train to the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, cradled by the soaring Andes Mountains. In the historic Inca capital of Cuzco, see the stone fortress of Sacsayhuamán and architecture that provides a mix of pre-Columbian and colonial influences. Admire the spectacular sites of the Sacred Valley, including the fortress of Ollantaytambo, which stands as a lasting testimony to the Inca Empire. Cap off the journey in Lima with a tour of its historic center. Enjoy deluxe accommodations in Urubamba, Machu Picchu, Cuzco and Lima.

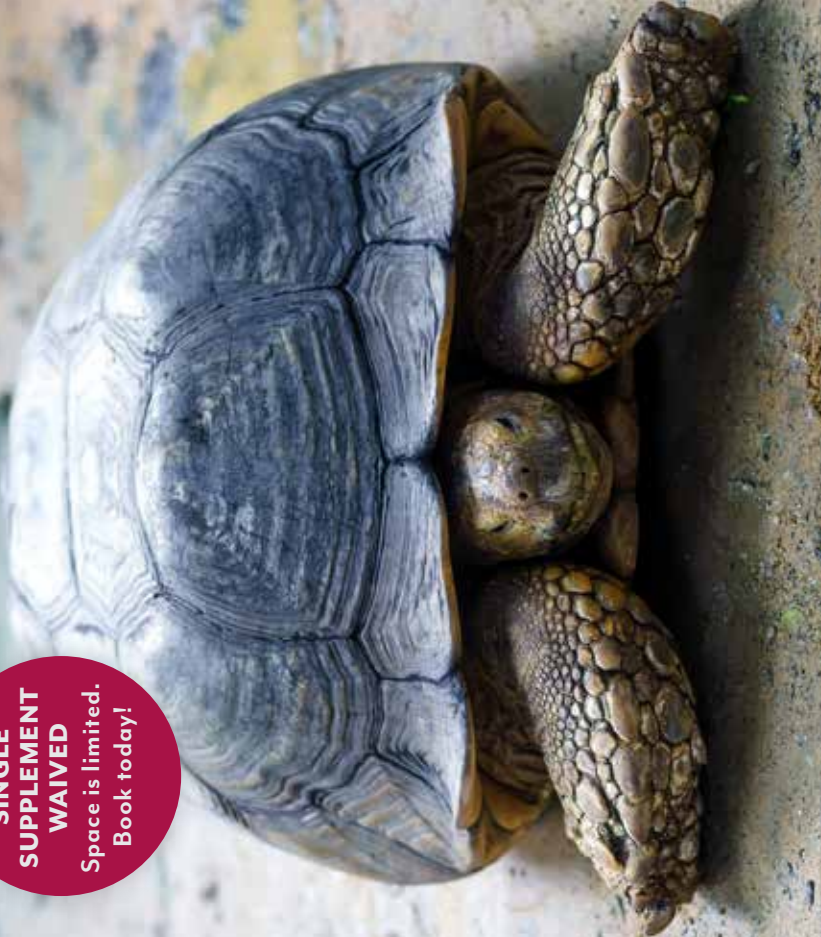
Price per person, based on double occupancy: **\$3,685**

Price per person, based on single occupancy: **\$4,675**

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

SPECIAL SAVINGS – Extended Booking up to \$7,530 per couple.
Additional savings if you pay in full at time of booking! Call for details.

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Book today!



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