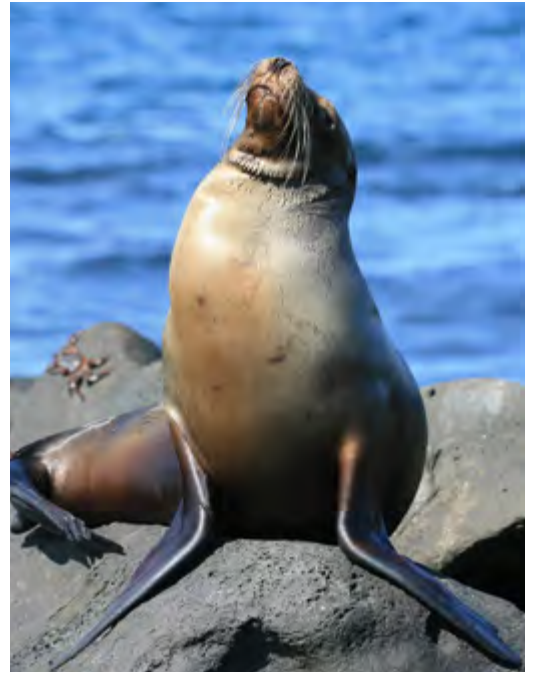


GALAPAGOS

APRIL 7-15, 2023







Day 1 - April 7 ARRIVAL; QUITO AREA

Your students will be challenged to take charge of their experience over the next 9 days in the Galapagos, encouraged to engage in active learning and personal growth, and to have open minds to make the most of this incredible opportunity.

¡Bienvenidos! Welcome to Quito and the experiential learning adventure of a lifetime. You will be picked up at the airport and transferred to your hotel in Quito. Share a delicious dinner as your guide sets the tone for students owning their experience with active and engaged learning, and preparing for our adventure to The Galapagos!

Important Themes:

- Your guides will introduce the Story Approach and the teaching themes that will cohesively link together the incredible wealth of information you will learn on the trip.
- Your group will be introduced to the Expedition Mentality, our nuanced strategy for creating the strongest possible group culture.
- Our first nightly circle will reinforce the Expedition Mentality and set the tone for the best possible experiential learning trip.

Overnight: Quito Area

Day 2 - April 8 EXPLORING OUR SEAS; ISABELA ISLAND

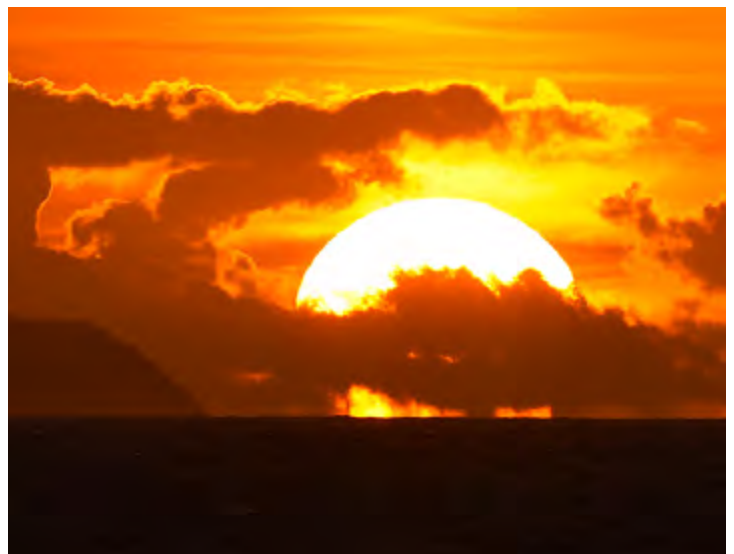
We get a fascinating start to our week-long Galapagos expedition by exploring the undersea life of these enchanted islands. After an early breakfast, we head to the airport to fly 2.5 hours to the Island of Baltra. After going through Galapagos arrival procedures, meet your Galapagos Naturalist Guide and then cross the Itabaca channel from Baltra to the northern side of Santa Cruz Island where our private bus is waiting to take us to the southern part of the island where we have lunch and take our

speed boat to Isabela. Mid-afternoon, we take our speedboat to Puerto Villamil, which is a small and bohemian fishing village of about 3,000 people and is located right on a beautiful white coral beach. This is a very peaceful place to rest and enjoy the solitude of this magic town, here you can feel free to walk anywhere but specially along the beach to enjoy the sunset. Our accommodation is Hotel San Vicente, Coral Blanco or similar. (B,L,D)

Important Themes:

- How geographic settings and separations set the stage for unique traits
- How were the Galapagos formed differently than most other islands?
- Unique marine species and how they have adapted

Overnight: Isabela Island





Day 3 - April 9 SIERRA NEGRA AND CHICO VOLCANO, ISABELA ISLAND

Today we hike along the rim of the second largest crater in the world! This morning, we wake up early to head up to the Volcán Sierra Negra and Volcán Chico, hiking the rim of the second largest crater in the world. Hike out over recent lava flows that host emerging flora and bird life. We take an incredible hike to the Volcan Chico to get a closer look at the almost artistic looking lava formations and the “pioneer plants” that have only

barely begun to colonize this relatively young lava. Experience first-hand the incredible microclimates and different life zones of the island as we move from misty cloud forest to arid lava moonscape. After a picnic lunch, we make our way back down the volcano and return to our accommodations. Tonight you can enjoy dinner on your own as you stroll around the village. (B,L)

Important Themes:

- What are pioneer species? Endemic species? Native species? Introduced species?
- How life finds a way, even in the most seemingly inhospitable of environments
- The seven vegetation zones of Sierra Negra Volcano and their influences

Overnight: Isabela Island

Day 4 - April 10 LAVA TUNNELS AND THE WALL OF TEARS; ISABELA ISLAND

We explore the island today by flipper and bike, to understand both the ecology and history of this unique place. After breakfast we will be transported by boat to visit one of the best snorkeling spots Isabela has to offer. Enjoy world-class snorkeling through a maze of lava bridges and tunnels set in crystal clear turquoise water. This area offers a condensed combination of many defining features of the Galapagos – the crystal clear waters, unique lava formations, native birds perched on the rocks, and of course abundant marine life, include some possible megafauna sightings!



We will enjoy a box lunch on the boat and then return to our hotel to trade in our flippers for bicycles. We enjoy a leisurely-bike ride along the coast to the Wall of Tears to learn about its haunting history. This is one of the best ways to see the Muro de Las Lagrimas and learn about the local history and the arid zone ecology of Isabela. Tortoises can be spotted along the way. Cruise back along the scenic beach at sunset. We will have dinner at a local restaurant before retiring to our hotel. (B,L,D)

Important Themes:

- Connecting humanity, history and nature – putting what we’ve learned in a more social context
- Reflecting on what it means to still have a place like this in the world where the wildlife is so protected: What would it take to salvage it in other parts of the world?
- How marine current and trade winds influence climate

Overnight: Isabela Island

Day 5 - April 11 FLOREANA ISLAND

This morning we are heading to Floreana Island, locally called the “Mystery Island” This island is rich in human history. Ecuador took possession of the Galapagos here in 1832 and this was the first island to get colonized by Ecuadorian people. Our speedboat ride takes about an hour and twenty minutes to reach Puerto Velasco Ibarra, a small settlement of fishermen and farmers. Here we will visit and have lunch at the famous German Wittmer’s house family hotel, this family arrived in the 1930s. This morning after checking in, we have time to snorkel from Black Beach and enjoy sea turtles, different fishes and sometime sea lions, if time allow, we can also walk to the Loberia. This afternoon, we will go to the highlands to see places where this pioneer people lived in very natural conditions. We will also see the “Galapaguera” where the National Park keeps giant tortoises’ part of an important captive breeding program. Our accommodation is Hotel Wittmer located on Black Beach. (B,L,D)

Important Themes:

- How human settlements affected this small island over time
- Why is it important to monitor tortoises and other animals?
- How do we explain species distribution, based on our findings?

Overnight: Floreana Island

Day 6 - April 12 LIFE ON FLOREANA

Today we explore Floreana: the biological and cultural history of this unique place. This morning, we head up into the highlands of Floreana. We visit habitat home to many of “Darwin’s Finches” and see adaptive radiation in action. We also have a chance to get up close with a number of Giant Tortoises, and observe their unique traits. In the highlands, we visit the site of the “first” human settlement on Floreana and learn about the dramatic story of these people. In the afternoon, we head down and visit



the farm of our host Claudio, the owner of the hotel at which we are staying. Learn from Claudio about how he aims to grow sustainably on Floreana. Enjoy beach time in the late afternoon. (B,L)

Important Themes:

- Land use rights: conflicts and claims
- Challenges to agriculture and food production in the Galapagos- what are really the most sustainable options?
- Eco-tourism and economic alternatives to resource exploitation

Overnight: Floreana Island





**Day 7 - April 13 CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION;
SANTA CRUZ ISLAND**

Today we learn about some of the most iconic species of these enchanted islands and the ongoing research that aims to protect them. Today we say goodbye to our new friends and head to Santa Cruz. After lunch, we visit to the famous Charles Darwin Station to meet local researchers and learn about their work in preserving important species and habitats in the Galapagos. Our accommodation is Hotel La Laguna, Pelican Bay or similar (B.L)

Important Themes:

- Conservation programs: challenges and strategies for species and habitat protection
- Methods of field research
- Emblematic and Umbrella species: their importance in conservation

Overnight: Santa Cruz Island

Day 8 - APRIL 14 SEA KAYAKING, TORTUGA BAY

Today we explore the coast by kayak, and focus on ecosystem connections and ecosystem services. After breakfast we set out for a sea kayaking expedition- keep your eyes open for black tipped sharks in the crystal clear waters below. In the afternoon we head to secluded Tortuga Bay for incredible snorkeling—it is a sandy bottom where we are likely to see garden eels, pelagic species, and a variety of invertebrates. Other likely sightings include hammerhead sharks, black tip reef shark, white tip reef shark, sea lions, barracudas, turtles, reef fishes, sting rays, eagle rays, mobile rays, and Galapagos eel. We then hike back on a sandy trail to meet our bus and head back to our hotel.

Important Themes:

- Marine niches and adaptations
- Habitat diversity in Galapagos: from marine, to lowlands, and highlands



GALAPAGOS ISLANDS WITH FENWICK HIGH SCHOOL

APRIL 7-15, 2023

\$5,399 per person

\$850 deposit on or before January 10, 2023

\$4,549 Final payment March 1, 2023

REGISTER ONLINE

conservancytravel.org/fenwick-galapagos

INCLUSIONS:

- ✓ Round-trip airfare from Chicago to Ecuador
- ✓ Domestic flights from mainland to islands
- ✓ Eight nights hotel accommodations in Standard category rooms.
- ✓ All meals as detailed in the itinerary
- ✓ Expert Galapagos National Park Ranger as guide
Private land transportation throughout the program
Speedboats between islands
- ✓ Excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- ✓ Potable water provided to refill your personal water bottle; soft drinks, water, juice, tea & coffee at included meals
- ✓ Gratuities for hotel staff, to guides and driver

EXCLUSIONS:

- Transfers to/from Chicago airport
- Services not detailed in the itinerary
- Excursions not detailed in the itinerary
- Personal expenses such as passport fees, laundry, internet and phone calls, beverages not detailed as included with meals or on transportation, camera fees, etc.

- Human interactions with marine systems: protection, extraction, exploitation

Overnight: Santa Cruz Island

Day 9 - April 15 BACK TO QUITO

Flight back to Quito where you will have time to rest, discuss, and reflect on what you've learned and experienced. After breakfast we begin our trip back to the mainland. This evening we reflect on our incredible Galapagos experience (or PM flight home, pending flight schedule)

Important Themes:

- Tying it all together: human and non-human life co-existing; how life finds a way
- The power we have to do good for our delicate planet
- The importance of conservation and education
- What will your story look like and how will it translate to your life back at home?

Overnight: Quito Area/Airplane



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Register online at conservancytravel.org/fenwick-galapagos