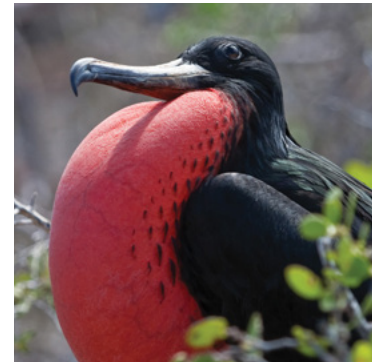


CINCINNATI ZOO & BOTANICAL GARDEN

GALAPAGOS

JULY 2-9, 2025



GALAPAGOS with Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

The Galápagos is one of the most scintillating yet intensely personal places to see wildlife on Earth, due to encounters in close proximity to wildlife that has no fear of humans. Located at the intersection of seven currents, these tiny islands off the coast of Ecuador are home to friendly flamingos, marine iguanas - the only reptiles that can swim; giant tortoises, penguins and Blue-footed Boobies.

Guided by expert naturalists, explore the unique volcanic landscapes on hikes and nature walks highlighted by close encounters with amazing wildlife; swim and snorkel with colorful fish, rays and playful sea lions and as you discover the wild wonders of the Galápagos.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

- *Optional Pre-tour Extensions to Lima and Sacred Valley / Machu Picchu*
- Independent Arrivals to Quito, 2 nights
- Fly to Galapagos Islands and embark *MY Beluga*, 5 nights
- Departures

HIGHLIGHTS

- Get up close to the islands' exotic residents on interpretive hikes and walks: Iguanas, Darwin finches, flamingos and giant tortoises.
- Enjoy up-close photographic opportunities as you observe the mating rituals of magnificent frigatebirds and blue-footed boobies, swim with sea turtles, and stroll along beaches covered with Galapagos sea lions.
- Explore the rich, undersea world as you swim, snorkel and paddle amongst schools of colorful tropical fish, sea lions, sea turtles, spotted eagle rays, reef sharks, marine iguanas and even penguins.

YOUR HOST

Dan Marsh, Director of Education

Dan Marsh is a seasoned field researcher, bird trainer, zoo keeper, environmental educator, and performer.



His career has taken him to Asia, Africa, Central and South America. Born in Japan, Dan's wanderlust is innate, and he has traveled extensively for pleasure. Despite his travels, he remains connected to his southern roots, proud of his heritage from a line of Kentucky preachers, teachers, and tobacco farmers.

Dan's work focuses on celebrating wildlife conservation successes, and promoting a positive outlook for the future. An avid traveler and wildlife watcher, Dan only needs three things for an adventure: a credit card, his passport, and his binoculars.





DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 - JULY 2, 2025 ARRIVAL IN QUITO Independent arrivals in Quito. (Optional Machu Picchu Pre-Trip Extension arrivals from Lima to Quito)

Transfer from the airport and check in at your hotel. **Casona la Ronda**

DAY 2 - JULY 3 QUITO Breakfast in the hotel. This morning, explore Quito, Ecuador's vibrant capital, renowned for its rich history, colonial architecture, and stunning Andean backdrop. Wander through the historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage site, visiting landmarks like Independence Plaza and the ornate churches of Basilica del Voto Nacional and La Compañía de Jesús. Then, head to the Equatorial Monument just outside the city, where you can stand with one foot in each hemisphere at the iconic spot marking the equator. Lunch and afternoon at leisure. Gather this evening for a welcome dinner in a local restaurant. **Casona la Ronda (B,D)**

DAY 3 - JULY 4 FLY TO SAN CRISTÓBAL ISLAND / BOARD BELUGA Please note: The activities today will be contingent upon flight arrival time.

Early departure from Quito, to fly 600 miles to Galapagos via Guayaquil (2-3 hour flight on Avianca Airlines).

Arrival in San Cristóbal Island (Chatham). As the easternmost and one of the oldest islands in the Galapagos, San Cristóbal provides an intriguing glimpse into the ancient volcanic activity that shaped these islands. the easternmost island of Galapagos and also one of the oldest.

Explore El Junco Lagoon, the only freshwater reservoir in the Galapagos. Located at an altitude of 700 meters in the island's highlands, this stunning lagoon has formed over centuries from rainwater collected in an ancient caldera. The panoramic views



from El Junco are breathtaking, offering a lush, misty landscape often shrouded in clouds, making it a serene and otherworldly experience.

In Galapaguera, observe giant tortoises in their native habitat, an opportunity to see these iconic creatures up close, roaming freely amid the island's natural vegetation. Learn about local conservation and how the sanctuary plays a crucial role in protecting and preserving the tortoise population.

At the end of the afternoon, we embark *MY Beluga* for our five-night expedition and settle into our cabins as she begins navigating to Española Island. Begin with a welcome orientation and briefing then enjoy our first dinner aboard, featuring fresh ingredients and local flavors. ***MY Beluga (B,L,D)***

DAY 4 - JULY 5 ESPAÑOLA ISLAND Española (Hood) Island is the southernmost and one of the oldest islands in the Galapagos, offers an day of breathtaking landscapes, pristine beaches, and encounters with some of the Galapagos' most unique and endemic species.



Stroll Gardner Bay, a beautiful white sand beach inhabited by sea lion colonies, ideal for swimming and snorkeling. Snorkel around Isote Gardner and Osborn islets, where you'll encounter tropical fish, reef sharks, and turtles in crystal-clear waters. Explore the wildlife-rich Punta Suárez, home to the unique Española mockingbird, Galapagos Hawks, blue-footed and Nasca boobies, Española lava lizards, and brightly colored marine iguanas. Witness the impressive blowhole that shoots seawater 20 meters into the air and observe the nesting site of the waved albatross, found only on Española. *MY Beluga (B,L,D)*

DAY 5 - JULY 6 FLOREANA ISLAND Today's adventure on Floreana Island, known for its colorful history of buccaneers, whalers, and early colonists, includes wildlife encounters, beautiful landscapes, and Floreana's storied past.

At Punta Cormorant, we find two contrasting beaches—one with green-tinted sand due to olivine crystals and the other a white sand beach—and an inland lagoon often frequented by pink flamingos.

Snorkel at Devil's Crown, a partially submerged volcanic crater that forms a jagged crown-like ring. This underwater paradise teems with marine life, including vibrant fish, sea turtles, and occasional reef sharks.

At Post Office Bay, participate in a quirky tradition dating back to the 18th century: Drop off or pick up postcards at the iconic wooden mail barrel, just as sailors once did, and explore the remnants of a historic Norwegian fishing village. *MY Beluga (B,L,D)*

DAY 6 - JULY 7 SANTA CRUZ ISLAND / SANTIAGO ISLAND Today's visit to Santa Cruz and James Islands offers a blend of unique wildlife, dramatic landscapes, fascinating geological features, and inspiring conservation success stories.

Begin your day on Santa Cruz Island exploring Dragon Hill, located on the northern coast of Santa Cruz. Named for the land iguanas that thrive here, this area is a conservation success story, with the iguana population recovering from near extinction. Walk through a landscape of arid forests and along a small salt-water lagoon often frequented by flamingos, ducks, and other shorebirds, providing excellent bird-watching opportunities.

After lunch, we explore James (Santiago) Island's Sullivan Bay, renowned for its striking geological landscape. The area is home to a 100-year-old lava flow field with impressive pahoehoe formations and lava bubbles that showcase the island's volcanic origins. This site offers a unique opportunity to walk on ancient lava flows, providing a glimpse into the volcanic activity that shaped the Galapagos. *MY Beluga (B,L,D)*

DAY 7 - JULY 8 GENOVESA ISLAND Genovesa (Tower) Island, is a remote, horseshoe-shaped volcanic island in the northern Galapagos, renowned for its unique geological features, including a natural harbor formed by a submerged caldera. Nicknamed "Bird Island," it is a paradise for birdwatchers, boasting steep cliffs and mangrove forests that are home to thousands of frigatebirds, red-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, lava gulls, tropicbirds, storm petrels, and Darwin's finches.



Begin with a wet landing at Darwin Bay, where the white sand beaches and clear blue waters set the scene for up-close encounters with seabirds, playful sea lions, and marine iguanas. Snorkeling in the bay reveals vibrant coral reefs teeming with marine life, including sea lions, rays, colorful fish, and occasionally, hammerhead sharks.

In the afternoon, choose a dry landing at Prince Philip's Steps (El Barranco) and a rugged hike up a steep, rocky path to a plateau where birdwatching opportunities abound. The dramatic landscape of lava fields is a prime habitat for red-footed and Nazca boobies, as well as the elusive short-eared owl hunting in daylight.

Alternatively, a dinghy ride along the cliffs to observe fur seals and various seabirds up close is a more leisurely option. *MY Beluga (B,L,D)*

DAY 8 - JULY 9 SANTA CRUZ ISLAND / FLY TO QUITO / DEPARTURE Our final discovery is Turtle Cove (Caleta Tortuga) on the northern coast of Santa Cruz Island, a tranquil mangrove lagoon accessible only by dinghy, creating a secluded sanctuary. The red mangroves' intricate roots filter the water, forming a rich habitat for diverse marine life. Glide through the serene waters, to spot green sea turtles, golden and spotted eagle rays, and small reef sharks weaving among the roots. Schools of colorful fish swim below, while herons and pelicans hunt from the mangroves above; a thriving ecosystem shaped by this unique environment.

Disembark the ship and transfer to Baltra for our return flight to Quito, and onward return flight connections. *B*

CATEGORY 1 DOUBLE

Lower Deck, 2 Lower Beds, Porthole
(2 Cabins) \$8,684

CATEGORY 1 SINGLE

Lower Deck, 1 Double Bed, Porthole
(2 Cabins) \$11,428

CATEGORY 2 DOUBLE

Main Deck, 2 Lower Beds, Picture Window
(2 Cabins) \$8,984

CATEGORY 3 DOUBLE

Upper Deck, 2 Lower Beds, Picture Window
(1 Cabin) \$9,284

INCLUDED:

- ✓ Arrival Transfer in Quito
- ✓ Transportation throughout the expedition
- ✓ Accommodations in Quito and aboard *Beluga*
- ✓ All meals as described in the itinerary
- ✓ Roundtrip airfare Quito – Galapagos, baggage limited to one checked suitcase of 23 kg (50 lbs) and one carry-on 10 kg (22 lbs), plus a small personal item.
- ✓ Galapagos National Park Entrance Fee
- ✓ Galapagos Transit Control Card
- ✓ All visits in Quito and on Galapagos Islands as described in the itinerary
- ✓ Private Guide in Quito and aboard *Beluga*
- ✓ Kayaks, snorkel equipment, 2mm shorty wetsuit
- ✓ Tips and Gratuities in Quito

EXCLUDED:

- Round-trip international airfare
- Excess domestic air baggage fees
- Travel Insurance
- Soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and any other extras not specifically mentioned
- Ship Gratuities to Naturalist Guide, Chef and Crew suggested at USD \$160 per person (to be divided between the crew), and USD \$40 per person for the guide. Total \$200 per person

GALAPAGOS ISLANDS HIGHLIGHTS

ON LAND Land iguanas, marine iguanas, lava lizards, sea lions, giant tortoises, sea lions

MARINE LIFE Variety of fish, sea turtles, eels, rays, invertebrates, possible hammerhead sharks, sea urchins, possible sea horses

BIRDS Waved albatross, Nazca/ blue footed boobies, swallowtailed gulls, Galapagos hawk, hood mockingbirds

FLORA Salt bush, algodoncillo, jerusalem thorn, castela, lantana, mangroves, lava cactus, palo santo, manzanillo, yellow cordia, opuntia cactus

ACTIVITIES Walking, hiking, snorkeling, swimming, kayaking (certain sites), relaxing



MY *Beluga*

Cruise the Galapagos with style, speed and comfort aboard the intimate, 8-cabin, Superior First-Class Motor Yacht *Beluga*.

While aboard, enjoy the ever-changing, breathtaking views from the panoramic windows in the salon, or out on the expansive deck spaces, as you relax and dine with Cincinnati Zoo members.

ABOARD *BELUGA*

- All excursions led by high level naturalist guide
- Visit two sites each day (morning & afternoon)
- Take part in two nature walks on most days
- Snorkeling excursions
- Opportunities to kayak at certain sites
- Relax aboard the yacht, while surrounded by Galapagos landscapes and marine life
- All meals and snacks
- Naturalist Guide briefing each evening after dinner

Technical Specifications: Fully air conditioned, spacious and comfortable, flat screen TV and DVD system in salon.

Mechanical Equipment: Twin Scania Diesel Electronic engines 450 HP each, 3 Perkins generators for 110v and 220v, 2 reverse osmosis water makers, auto pilot system, sewage treatment plant.

Safety Equipment: VHF DSC & HF DSC radios, EPIRB, SART, satellite tracking device, 2 GPS's, AIS vessel tracking, 2 radars, depth sounder, flares, basic first aid kits, 2 tenders with outboards, fin keels for extra stability, flotation rings, life rafts with surplus capacity for all passengers and crew.

Guest Accommodation: 8 double cabins each with private bath (H/C water showers) and 110v (220v available in salon), security safes in each cabin.

Crew: All crew are fully trained and certified. Captain, multilingual naturalist guide, cook, 2 engineers, barman and 4 sailors.

Type: Motor Vessel, steel hull.

Category: Premium First Class

Capacity: 16 passengers

Length: 110 ft

Beam: 23 ft

Speed: 12 knots cruising

Cruising range: 1200 nautical miles

Certified: Smart Voyager, for adhering to conservation standards, SOLAS certified

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION: MACHU PICCHU & SACRED VALLEY

Perched high among the mighty peaks of the Andes, shrouded in mystery, the massive stone walls of the “lost city” of Machu Picchu stand guard over an imposing mountain range which has nurtured over 20,000 years of civilization. Discover the beautiful colonial architecture of Cusco and traverse the lovely Sacred Valley, learning about contemporary cultures and ancient communities in archeological sites, bustling markets and with local families.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

- 2 Additional Nights Lima Tour Available
- Arrivals, Lima, Peru; Wyndham Costa del Sol Airport Hotel, 1 night
- Fly to Cusco/ Sacred Valley, Sonesta Posadas del Inca Yucay, 2 nights
- Cusco, Aranwa Boutique Hotel, 2 nights
- Departures from Lima

DETAILED ITINERARY

JUNE 27 ARRIVAL IN LIMA, PERU

Wyndham Costa del Sol Airport Hotel

JUNE 28 FLY TO CUSCO / SACRED VALLEY Fly to Cusco this morning and meet your guide to begin exploring the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Visit the Moray archaeological site, known as the “greenhouse of the Incas,” and see the Maras Salt Mines, still in use after 500 years. Check in at your hotel for an evening at leisure. *Sonesta Posadas del Inca Yucay (B,L)*

JUNE 29 SACRED VALLEY / SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY Head to Willoq, an Andean village in the Patacancha Valley, where Inca descendants maintain traditional ways. Meet local leaders, visit the school, learn about back-strap weaving, and enjoy a community lunch. For over 30 years, our sustainable tourism partnership with Willoq has supported local traditions, healthcare, and education. This afternoon, explore the Ollantaytambo archaeological site and stroll through the ancient town, unchanged since the 1500s. *Sonesta Posadas del Inca Yucay (B,L)*

JUNE 30 MACHU PICCHU / CUSCO Board the Vistadome train to Aguas Calientes, then ascend to Machu Picchu. After lunch, explore Machu Picchu’s key features on a guided visit: the Intihuatana, Sacred Plaza, and Temple of the Sun, uncovering the mysteries of this ancient site. In the late afternoon, transfer to Cusco. *Aranwa Boutique Hotel (B,L)*

JULY 1 CUSCO Explore Cusco, the former Inca capital, visiting the vibrant San Pedro Market, the Qorikancha Sun Temple, and the impressive Sacsayhuaman complex. Discover the ceremonial site of Q’eqo before heading to Villa Tipón for a farewell lunch. Conclude your visit with a traditional Andean ceremony led by a shaman. Evening at leisure. *Aranwa Boutique Hotel (B,L)*

JULY 2 CUSCO/LIMA/QUITO Early morning flight to Lima, where you’ll be assisted with your connection to Quito to join the main Galapagos tour. *(B)*



MACHU PICCHU EXTENSION JUNE 27–JULY 2

\$3,997 per person double occupancy

\$4,542 single rate

INCLUDED:

- ✓ 5 nights accommodations in hotels as described in the itinerary, or similar
- ✓ 3 flights: Roundtrip Lima – Cusco; Lima - Quito
- ✓ Expertly guided local sightseeing with English-speaking guides
- ✓ Transportation and entrance fees for all transfers and included visits as described in the itinerary
- ✓ Porterage in airports, on/off motorcoach
- ✓ Meals as indicated in the itinerary: 5 Breakfasts; 4 Lunches
- ✓ Potable water while on excursions
- ✓ Gratuities to all drivers and local guide in Cusco/Sacred Valley/ Machu Picchu

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare to Lima / from Quito; passport fees, excess baggage fees; Travel insurance; Porterage inside hotels; Personal items and expenses; Alcoholic beverages and sodas; Any other items not specifically mentioned as included; Government fee / tax increases unknown at the time of publication

Physical Activity and Health Considerations Travel to Cusco, the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu is at high elevation: Cusco: 11,152 feet; Sacred Valley; 9200 feet; Machu Picchu; 8,000 feet. Activities include walking and standing for up to 3 hours at a time; drives up to 2.5 hours on paved roads; travel by train to/from Aguas Calientes; riding a public shuttle bus on steep, winding roads between Aguas Calientes / Machu Picchu. To lessen the impact of high elevation, plan to eat your main meal at mid-day, stay hydrated and limit alcohol intake while in this area.



DISCOVER LIMA JUNE 25–27

Lima tour, Gourmet food tour, Pachacamac archaeological site; Larco Herrera Museum

\$994 per person double occupancy

\$1,194 single rate



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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REGISTER ONLINE:

www.conservancytravel.org/CZ25GAG

