Galápagos Expedition & CLOUD FOREST EXPLORATION

July 8 to 19, 2017

a program of the stanford alumni association
The Galápagos Archipelago may be considered the jewel in the crown of Ecuador, but this small country boasts many other treasures as well. Its capital city, Quito, has one of the best-preserved historic centers in the Americas and is a melting pot of South American cultures. Three hours north of Quito is the Mashpi Cloud Forest—a tremendously biodiverse ecosystem teeming with mammal, reptile, amphibian and bird species. Our lodge there is an architectural wonder, with floor-to-ceiling glass windows everywhere! Roughly 500 miles off Ecuador’s coast sit the Galápagos Islands, where animals far outnumber people and are observable from just a few feet away. Our small expedition ship, La Pinta, is the perfect vessel for exploring their world. Join us to discover the mainland of this fascinating country and its world-renowned chain of islands!

BRET S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**STAY** in a restored historic mansion that is steps away from Quito’s World Heritage-designated city center.

**EXPLORE** the Mashpi Cloud Forest, hiking a vast network of trails and riding a canopy-top “sky bike” for stunning views.

**CRUISE** the Galápagos Islands aboard our small expedition ship, La Pinta—perfect for hugging the coastlines.

**SEE** blue-footed boobies, giant tortoises, marine iguanas and harems of sea lions up close while hiking on the volcanic Galápagos Islands.
DMITRI PETROV is a professor of biology at Stanford. Born in Russia, he received his MSc in physics and molecular biology from Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (MFTI) in 1989 and his PhD in evolutionary biology from Harvard University in 1997. After doing a stint as a junior fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows, he came to Stanford in 2000. Dmitri’s research is focused on the genetics of adaptive evolutionary change in a range of organisms, from yeast to flies to humans. On our trip Dmitri plans to discuss Charles Darwin, the voyage of the HMS Beagle, and the importance of the Galápagos in the development of the modern theory of evolutionary, molecular and developmental biology based on Darwin’s insights, with a particular focus on the work of British evolutionary biologists Peter and Rosemary Grant.

Stanford Faculty Leader

“This trip was exceptional in every way.”

JOHN ARRILLAGA, ’92, MBA ’98, GALÁPAGOS EXPEDITION, 2014

SIGN UP ONLINE: alumni.stanford.edu/trip?galapagos2017
OR BY PHONE: (650) 725-1093
SATURDAY, JULY 8
U.S. / QUITO, ECUADOR
Depart from home on flights bound for Ecuador. Upon our late-evening arrival in Quito, transfer to our hotel, overlooking the Plaza San Francisco and not far from the city center, named a World Heritage site. CASA GANGOTENA

SUNDAY, JULY 9
QUITO
Take a walking tour of colonial Quito and learn about the history of the conquistadores. Tour Independence Plaza, the Presidential Palace and the Monastery of San Francisco, one of the most impressive religious buildings in the New World. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure and attend a festive welcome reception and dinner this evening at our hotel. CASA GANGOTENA (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JULY 10
QUITO / BALTRA ISLAND / SANTA CRUZ ISLAND / EMBARK LA PINTA
This morning transfer to the airport for our flight to the Galápagos Islands. After arrival on Baltra Island, transit the Itabaca Channel by ferry to the north shore of Santa Cruz Island. Drive to the highlands and visit El Chato Reserve, one of the best places in the archipelago to see giant tortoises in their natural habitat. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before embarking La Pinta late this afternoon. LA PINTA (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JULY 11
SANTA CRUZ ISLAND
Disembark at Whale Bay on Santa Cruz Island and hike a trail once used by former settlers of the island. Look for several species of boobies, as well as finches and other land birds. Enjoy snorkeling this afternoon off Sombrero Chino Islet and spot fish, sea turtles and reef sharks swimming in the islet's protected cove. Walking the beach trail, keep an eye out for lava lizards. LA PINTA (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12
BARTOLOMÉ ISLAND / SANTIAGO ISLAND
After breakfast this morning, climb the wooden staircase to the top of Bartolomé Island to view a Galápagos icon, Pinnacle Rock. Take a glass-bottomed boat ride, walk on the beach or snorkel with the sea lions that call this island home. Disembark on Santiago Island after lunch and walk a trail of lava to see and feel underfoot the volcanic origin of the islands. Spot birds, marine iguanas and perhaps catch sight of a whale spout in the waters offshore. LA PINTA (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JULY 13
GENOVESA (TOWER) ISLAND
Land at Darwin Bay on Genovesa Island, where thousands of marine and land birds nest. Take a guided hike along the cliffs to watch birds diving from above, paddle a sea kayak or snorkel for an underwater look at the island's marine life. After lunch disembark at Prince Philip's Steps for a rigorous afternoon hike. Enjoy spectacular views from the wide expanse of land at the top of the island, where we can observe Nazca boobies, frigate birds and storm petrels. Celebrate our time spent exploring the Galápagos Islands at a farewell reception and dinner aboard ship this evening. LA PINTA (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JULY 14
BALTRA ISLAND / QUITO
Following breakfast, disembark at Baltra Island and transfer to the airport for our flight back to Quito. Upon arrival, transfer to our hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure. CASA GANGOTENA (B)
SATURDAY, JULY 15
QUITO / MASHPI CLOUD FOREST
Depart Quito this morning and travel north, passing the Equator Monument and the actual equator (0 degrees latitude). After visiting the archaeological site of Tulipe, continue to the Mashpi Rain Forest Biodiversity Reserve, which covers an area of approximately 3,200 acres. Stop at a hummingbird viewpoint on the way to our lodge. Check in to our lodge, where we spend the next three nights, and choose from a variety of activities this afternoon before dinner. MASHPI LODGE (B,L,D)

SUNDAY & MONDAY, JULY 16 & 17
MASHPI CLOUD FOREST
Before breakfast, rise early to view birds and wildlife with our guides. Enjoy many choices of activities at the lodge, including a canopy-top “sky bike” ride and a climb to the top of an observation tower with our expert naturalists, faculty and fellow travelers. After dinner, join guides for a night walk in the surrounding forest. MASHPI LODGE (B,L,D– BOTH DAYS)

TUESDAY, JULY 18
MASHPI CLOUD FOREST / QUITO
Before breakfast, enjoy some early bird watching from one of the lodge’s leks (male species gathering areas) and embark on our last hike before returning to our lodge for lunch. Then depart by coach for our return to Quito, arriving in the late afternoon. Transfer to the airport for late-night flights home. (B,L)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19
QUITO / U.S.
Arrive back in the U.S. aboard flights from Quito.

About Casa Gangotena
The three-story Casa Gangotena, a newly restored historic mansion overlooking Plaza San Francisco in Quito, is a showcase of style, combining contemporary design, antique embellishments, fine furnishings and comfort. Beautifully and eclectically appointed, the hotel invites its guests to explore and to relax, whether in its dining room, on the glassed-in patio, in a garden redolent with the perfume of native flowers, in its wood-paneled library or atop the hotel on its third-floor terrace with panoramic views.
About Mashpi Lodge

The sophisticated and strikingly contemporary, yet intimate, Mashpi Lodge is the ideal base for exploring the world of the Mashpi Rain Forest Biodiversity Reserve. Located on a high plateau, the lodge is a hideaway in the clouds accessible only to its guests. Mashpi Lodge is designed to enhance your enjoyment of the surrounding natural beauty, featuring uninterrupted views of the distant mountains on one side and the nearby forest on the other, compliments of the lodge’s floor-to-ceiling glass windows.

About La Pinta

With an intimate ambience, La Pinta is the perfect vessel for exploring the Galápagos Islands. The ship features yacht-like amenities, including a large lounge, outdoor bar, hot tub, library and relaxing sun deck for watching the passing scenery.
Information

**D A T E S**
July 8 to 19, 2017 (12 days)

**S I Z E**
This program can accommodate 36 participants. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

**C O S T**
$9,995 per person, double occupancy
$12,395 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $300 per person

**I N C L U D E D**
- 6 nights of deluxe hotel and lodge accommodations
- 4-night cruise aboard La Pinta
- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 8 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities
- All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Round-trip flights between Quito and the Galápagos Islands
- Port fees and embarkation taxes
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

**N O T I N C L U D E D**
- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

**A I R A R R A N G E M E N T S**
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United Airlines between San Francisco and Quito, Ecuador, is approximately $950 as of July 2016 and is subject to change without notice.

**W H A T T O E X P E C T**
Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We consider this program to be moderately strenuous with a full schedule of excursions, lectures and special events. During the cruise portion of the itinerary, most of our touring onshore is on sand, dirt or gravel paths and includes some rocky or boulder-strewn terrain. Walks range from short, relaxing strolls to more vigorous hikes, and most days include at least one opportunity to swim or snorkel in the Galápagos Islands’ rich marine environment. Various excursion options will be presented each evening by our expert guides onboard ship. Members of our Expedition will also have ample opportunity to take in the beautiful scenery from the comfort of our ship’s decks. Four days of this program are spent at high elevations on the Ecuadorian mainland: in Quito at an elevation of 9,200 feet and in the highlands at elevations of up to 5,000 feet. Walking tours in Quito include strolls along historic city streets, which are, in some cases, uneven or cobble-stoned; these tours typically last two to three hours. Stairs may not have handrails, and elevators are not always available. Hiking in the cloud forest takes place on nature trails, which can be rocky, muddy or steep. Participants should feel comfortable walking on a rocking surface aboard ship. We welcome travelers 10 years of age and older on this program.

**Deposit & Final Payment**
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space on this program. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?galapagos2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

**Cancellations & Refunds**
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

**Insurance**
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information offering such insurance will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written communication of your participation on the trip.

**Eligibility**
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a guest paid for by a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

**Responsibility**
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in July 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

**Terms & Conditions**
“Very well-organized; a great variety of experiences, both intellectual and physical; lovely and interesting fellow travelers; knowledgeable and attentive staff; luxurious accommodations; wonderful meals.”

BEVERLY SIMMONS, ’71, MA ’73, DMA ’76, GALÁPAGOS EXPEDITION, 2014