



2024

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE

DARWIN'S GALÁPAGOS

A Family Journey of Discovery aboard *Coral I*
June 11–20, 2024



HARVARD
Alumni Travels



Above left: A walk through volcanic landscape
Cover: Giant Galápagos Tortoises

Discover the Galápagos as Darwin Did

Enjoy an exclusive seven-night charter of the 18-cabin *Coral I*, a boutique expedition yacht exploring the Galápagos. Experience a fascinating educational exploration with your Harvard Study Leader, enriched by a youth coordinator and expert naturalist guides. Throughout the cruise, the youth coordinator will conduct fun-filled, interactive learning activities for children of all ages. Snorkel and kayak among playful and curious sea lions by day and stargaze from deck at night. Marvel at wildlife, such as giant tortoises, iguanas, penguins, blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, mockingbirds, and the finches that made Darwin famous. Visit San Cristobal, Española, Floreana, Santa Cruz, Genovesa, Rabida, and Bartolome islands, each with its endemic species that have evolved differently from species on neighboring islands. Learn about the Galápagos Islands' giant tortoises with visits to the Highlands Tortoise Reserve, Charles Darwin Research Station, and the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center.

Activity Level 3: 

A LITTLE MORE TO IT

This a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions may involve climbing in and out of zodiacs, wet landings on sandy beaches, up to one mile of walking at a time, navigating uneven and/or rocky terrain, and standing for up to two hours at museums or other sites. In some instances, elevators are unavailable, and stairs may not have handrails.

Study Leader

At the time this brochure was published online, we had not yet confirmed the faculty study leader for the program. We intend, however, that you will be joined by a Harvard lecturer who will enhance your travel experience. You will discover that our lecturers are not only first-rate scholars and teachers but also friendly traveling companions, eager to share their insights through conversation as well as in scheduled presentations.





A curious marine iguana; Courting Blue-footed Boobies

Schedule by Day

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

HOME / QUITO, ECUADOR

Depart home and fly to Quito, Ecuador's capital city. Transfer to the hotel and gather for a welcome reception and dinner this evening. WYNDHAM AIRPORT (RD)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

QUITO / GALÁPAGOS / EMBARK

Return to the airport for a flight to San Cristobal Island in the Galápagos. Proceed directly to the nearby pier to board *Coral I*. Stop at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the Islands' capital city, to see the interpretive center and optionally ascend Frigatebird Hill for panoramic views. CORAL I (BLD)

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

Board zodiacs this morning to land at Cerro Brujo, an eroding volcanic cone composed of rough lava formations and a beautiful white sandy beach, an ideal spot for snorkeling with sea lions and sea turtles. Also visit a nearby lagoon famous for its wealth of migratory bird species. This afternoon, stop at Pitt Point to see the local sea lion colony, and possibly the only site where all three booby species of the Galápagos can be seen together. CORAL I (BLD)

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

Call at one of the oldest islands in the Galápagos at Suarez Point to see some of the most iconic wildlife, including sea lions, marine iguanas, lava lizards, Sally Lightfoot crabs, and several recognizable species of birds, notably the waved albatross. Continue to Gardner Bay—popular with sea lions—for a stroll along the beach to spot endemic species of Darwin's finches, or choose to snorkel among colorful reef fish, sea turtles, and docile white-tipped reef sharks. CORAL I (BLD)

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

FLOREANA ISLAND

Stop at Cormorant Point to see one of the island's largest flamingo populations and an important nesting site for green pacific sea turtles, plus a first chance to spot Galápagos penguins. In the afternoon, visit the famous "post office" where travelers from around the world leave unstamped postcards, hoping fellow travelers will take some back to deliver to destinations near their own homes, a tradition that has survived for centuries. There will also be an opportunity to swim, snorkel, or kayak from the beach. CORAL I (BLD)

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

See the island's famous giant tortoises up close today. Venture from the coast through the agricultural zone into the dense forested mountains of Santa Cruz Island to visit the Highlands Tortoise Reserve. Continue this afternoon to the Charles Darwin Research Station, home of the giant tortoise breeding program, and headquarters of the efforts to preserve the fragile Galápagos environment. CORAL I (BLD)

MONDAY, JUNE 17

GENOVESA ISLAND

In an archipelago teeming with bird life, Genovesa Island is a standout. At Barranco this morning, ascend a stairway from the small dock to a rocky lava plain rich with seabirds, many of which are endemic to this island, including nesting colonies of Nazca and red-footed boobies. With luck, a rare short-eared owl may appear. Cruise into Darwin Bay this afternoon for a walk along a sandy beach and up a trail past unique flora for views over the tidal lagoon, one of the few places where visitors are guaranteed to see red-footed boobies. CORAL I (BLD)

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

RABIDA / BARTOLOME ISLAND

Known for its dark-red sand beaches, Rabida Island is also notable for its large sea lion colonies and the diversity of its geology. Ride zodiacs along the coastal cliffs to observe the particularly active marine life, then snorkel nearby among the curious creatures and miles of coral. Cross to Bartolome Island in the afternoon to ascend the stairs of Summit Trail for panoramas that include the iconic Pinnacle Rock. Observe the unique vegetation endemic to this island, and take another chance to snorkel among large schools of tropical fish, sea lions, Galápagos sharks, and possibly penguins in the water around Pinnacle Rock. CORAL I (BLD)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

SANTA CRUZ / BALTRA ISLAND / DISEMBARK / QUITO

Disembark the ship and enjoy a final zodiac ride along the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, through a mangrove-shrouded lagoon, for a last look at the larger birds of the islands, including pelicans, herons, and egrets. Transfer to Baltra Island to board a flight to Quito. Gather at the hotel this evening for a farewell reception and dinner. WYNDHAM AIRPORT (BLRD)

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

QUITO / HOME

After breakfast, transfer to Quito airport for flights home. (B)

MONDAY–TUESDAY, JUNE 10–11

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION IN QUITO

Arrive early to enjoy a guided tour of Old Town Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which is one of the most intact examples of colonial Spanish architecture in the region. Also straddle the Northern and Southern hemispheres at the Middle of the World Monument, directly on the equator.

Further information will be sent to confirmed participants

REGISTER

alumni.harvard.edu/travel

CALL US

800-422-1636

EMAIL US

haatravels@harvard.edu

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

alumni.harvard.edu/

Coral I

Thoughtfully designed to resemble a private yacht, the German-built *Coral I*, accommodating a maximum of just 36 passengers, creates a warm and intimate atmosphere on board. Every cabin features portholes or picture windows, handsome wood decoration, air-conditioning, a private bathroom, safe deposit box, telephone, and your choice of background music. There are four pairs of connecting cabins, ideal for a family adventure.

There is plenty of room to relax on board with three sundecks (some shaded), a Jacuzzi, dining room, and lounge. The restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting, and the lounge is a pleasant space for relaxation with plush seating, panoramic windows, a large TV, 24-hour self-serve coffee, tea, and snacks, and a bar area. Snorkeling equipment is provided, and wifi (intermittent) is accessible throughout the vessel.

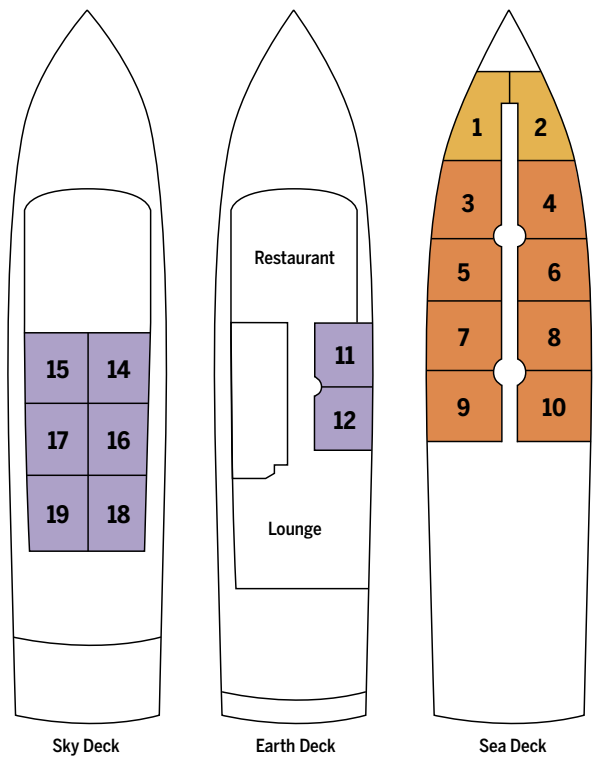


Rates per Person

CATEGORY	DOUBLE	SINGLE
STANDARD CABIN 94 sq. ft., one porthole	\$7,990	\$11,990
STANDARD PLUS CABIN 118-129 sq. ft., two portholes	\$8,990	\$14,990
JUNIOR CABIN 118-129 sq. ft., one or two picture windows	\$11,990	–

Children 12 and under receive a \$500 discount.

Rates do not include cost of on-tour flights Quito/Galápagos and Galápagos/Quito (~\$520 per person as of publication).



PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including two hotel nights and seven nights aboard *Coral I* • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • Galápagos National Park fee of \$100 per person • Use of onboard snorkeling equipment and kayaks • Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, wait staff, guides, and drivers for all group activities • Entrance fees and port charges • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with welcome and farewell dinners • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager and youth coordinator throughout the program



AIR ARRANGEMENTS U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

**BOOK ONLINE
TO REGISTER**



Trip Registration is Easy

Step 1

Visit: alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/galapagos-2024

Step 2

Click the Blue “**Register Today**” button and fill out the online form with your contact information and payment details.

Step 3

Look for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

All bookings are conducted online only.

Find complete trip-specific terms and conditions on the trip web page (link above).



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