

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin presents

GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS & ECUADOR



September 9-19, 2011

You are invited to join Charlie Luthin on this 11-day program to cruise through the impressive and varied volcanic landscape of the Galápagos Archipelago, aboard the very comfortable M/Y Coral II. In addition to spending some time in Puerto Ayora, the main population center of the islands, you will also explore the spectacular highlands of Ecuador where you'll experience the diversity of the cloud forest and learn about its inhabitants, including the seemingly omnipresent, and always fascinating, hummingbirds.

LAND COST:	\$3977 (19 traveling)
(plus airfare*)	\$4047 (15-18 traveling)
	\$4197 (12-15 traveling)

In double occupancy, cost is all inclusive, except international airfare (*\$1000 est. from Madison), departure tax and gratuities. Also includes \$250 tax-deductible donation to NRF and \$50 for local conservation efforts.

Program may incur unforeseen fuel surcharges.

- Discover the magical biodiversity and biogeography of this world famous archipelago
- Learn about conservation initiatives and research programs at the Charles Darwin Research Station
- Get up close and personal with Blue-footed Boobies, Galápagos tortoises, and marine iguanas
- Observe and discuss the effects of development on the islands
- Snorkel with sea lions and other marine wildlife
- Visit Ecuador's cloud forest and learn about valuable forest restoration efforts
- Enjoy watching scores of hummingbirds zipping around the feeders
- Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore one of the world's most inspiring ecosystems!

A \$750 per person non-refundable deposit is necessary to confirm your space. All deposits should be received no later than March 9, 2011. Final payments are due on June 6, 2011. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call 800-243-3174. Holbrook's agency number is 15849 or see link at www.holbrooktravel.com/NRF.



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800-451-7111

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GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS & ECUADOR

Sept 9 **Quito** **Hotel Sheraton Quito**
Upon arrival in Quito this evening you will be met and escorted to the Sheraton Hotel not far from the airport. Dinner on plane.

Sept 10 **Cloud Forest** **Bellavista Lodge**
After breakfast this morning depart for the cloud forest and Bellavista Cloud Forest Reserve. En route we stop to visit the Pahuma Orchid Sanctuary for walk through the gardens and trails. On arrival at Bellavista in time for lunch, we will enjoy the speed and agility of hummers around the feeders. Of the 450 species of birds in the region, 18 of them are hummingbirds! During lunch we'll learn about local conservation efforts from Paul Greenfield, a well known environmentalist. Afternoon hike in the reserve. (BLD)

Sept 11 **Quito** **Hotel Sheraton Quito**
This morning we enjoy a hike in the Mindo-Nambillo Forest which stretches out over 19,200 hectares between elevations that range from 1180 to 4780 meters. Continue to the community of Yunguilla to observe their sustainable economic activities. Over the last few years the approximately 300 residents have organized themselves to work together toward this goal of sustainability. We return to Quito for overnight. (BLD)

Sept 12 **Galápagos** **Hotel Silberstein**
This morning we are escorted to the airport for our flight to the Galápagos Islands. Upon arrival we will be met by our local guide who will travel with us through the highlands to Puerto Ayora. Check in at the hotel and then we visit the Charles Darwin Research Station. This important facility exists to provide knowledge and support to ensure the conservation of the environment and biodiversity of the Galápagos Archipelago through scientific research programs. Explore the tortoise breeding facility and learn about their efforts. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. Please note there is a 44 pound weight limit for checked luggage on the Galápagos flights so please pack accordingly. (BLD)

Sept 13 **Galápagos** **Hotel Silberstein**
Today we depart for the highlands to visit the FUNDAR project. FUNDAR Galápagos plans and executes projects for the creation of a new paradigm that integrates conservation and responsible development. They run a number of projects that seek to demonstrate that development and conservation are not mutually incompatible and that having local support is essential. FUNDAR has a private reserve in the Agricultural Zone adjacent to the National Park where they are working on habitat restoration, sustainable agriculture and management techniques. After lunch on site, we head back down toward the town of Puerto Ayora, with a stop at the recycling center to learn from director, Ulf Hardtner, about this cutting edge project. (BLD)

Sept 14 **Galápagos** **M/Y Coral II**
This morning will be at leisure to explore the town on our own until time to board the Coral II this afternoon. After our safety

briefing we set sail for Dragon Hill, a nesting site for reintroduced land iguanas. Snorkeling equipment and wetsuits are included. (BLD)

Sept 15 **Galápagos** **M/Y Coral II**
This morning we visit Rábida Island. This is often considered the geographic center of Galápagos because it has the most diversified volcanic rocks in all of the Islands. Here a short trail leads to a saltwater lagoon, where we find small colonies of flamingos feeding. Brown pelicans nest in the mangroves at the far side of the lagoon and nine species of Darwin's finches are found on this island. In the afternoon we visit Santiago Island and Puerto Egas. Most of the landscape is tuffstone layers and lava flows and the surrounding area is prime for observing several species of herons hunting and marine iguanas grazing on algae beds. We also hope to see the local colony of Fur Seals. (BLD)

Sept 16 **Galápagos** **M/Y Coral II**
This morning we visit Fernandina Island. After a dry landing at Espinoza Point, we find Galápagos' largest colony of Marine Iguanas mingling with Sally-light Foot Crabs. This is also home for Flightless Cormorants, Galápagos Penguins, Galápagos Hawks, and sea lions. Among the flora and volcanic formations, observers will note *brachycereus* cactus, "pa-hoe-hoe" lava, and other unusual lava formations. Numerous mangrove beds extend into the sea, depicting a healthy and thriving ecosystem. In the afternoon we visit Isabela Island and Vicente Roca Point. While there you will enjoy high cliffs with tuffstone, ash, and other lava formations, caves and plenty of nesting sites for Brown Noddies and Blue Footed Boobies. (BLD)

Sept 17 **Galápagos** **M/Y Coral II**
This morning is Bartolomé Island. After a hike to the summit we have an impressive view of the surrounding islands, including the eroded tuff cone of Pinnacle Rock. In the afternoon visit Santa Cruz Island and Black Turtle Cove located near Las Bachas beach in the north of Santa Cruz Island. We'll have a "panga" ride through the mangroves, during which the outboard motor of the small boat is turned off. This allows for the close observation of Sea Turtles, White Tipped Reef Sharks, Spotted Eagle Rays, and Yellow Rays. (BLD)

Sept 18 **Quito** **Hotel Sheraton Quito**
This morning disembark at Puerto Ayora and visit a local school to learn about their life in the islands. Depart for the airport, stopping at Los Gemelos, the twin lava "craters." Drive to the Ithaca Channel and take the ferry to Baltra Island to catch the flight to Quito. Lunch provided during your flight. This evening enjoy farewell dinner at the hotel. (BLD)

Sept 19 **Departure**
Early departure for the airport and the flight home.