



Alumni Association

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

ROAMING**BUFFS**



ECUADOR & GALÁPAGOS

Ultimate Ecuador: Biodiversity in the Galápagos and the Amazon

with the University of Colorado Boulder Alumni Association

July 6 – 17, 2023



Dear Forever Buffs and Friends,

We invite you to join us for a one-of-a-kind expedition to South America to experience the biodiversity hotspots of Ecuador: the Amazon and the Galápagos Islands!

Our journey begins with a city tour in Quito, then continues at the secluded La Selva Amazon Ecolodge in the lush rainforests of Ecuador's Amazon region. This remote location brings us into the heart of the wild, with opportunities to explore the waterways by canoe and the treetops by observation tower. Then, we'll embark on our cruising adventure in the Galápagos Islands, where we'll see world-famous wildlife up-close and discover the conservation story of this fragile yet vital archipelago.

You won't want to miss this unforgettable journey. We expect our limited space will fill up quickly. Please make your reservation as soon as possible to guarantee your spot!

Sincerely,

Tricia Essenpreis

Roaming Buffs Travel Director

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER ALUMNI

Ultimate Ecuador: Biodiversity in the Galápagos and the Amazon | July 6 – 17, 2023

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) for _____ person/people on the tour listed below. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 125 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to Holbrook Travel, Inc. and mail deposit check to: Holbrook Travel, 3540 NW 13th Street, Gainesville, FL 32609. For more information please contact Holbrook Travel at 800-451-7111 or travel@holbrooktravel.com. For questions please call 303-492-2879 or visit <https://www.colorado.edu/alumni/roamingbuffs>.

Full Passport Name _____ DOB _____ Gender _____

E-mail _____

Badge Name _____ Class year _____

Full Passport Name _____ DOB _____ Gender _____

E-mail _____

Badge Name _____ Class year _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Ph. (_____) _____ Cell Ph. (_____) _____

Please book my/our air from _____. I/we request an air upgrade to _____.

☐ I will share a room with _____.

☐ I request a single room (limited availability).

Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for the above-referenced tour, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Method of Payment ☐ Check ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Holbrook Travel, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Holbrook Travel. Final payment is due 125 days prior to departure (check or credit card).



GALÁPAGOS SEA LION AND SALLY LIGHTFOOT CRAB

WHY ECUADOR? Ecuador's remarkable biodiversity is perfect for nature enthusiasts seeking a range of ecosystems and high levels of endemism, thanks to the convergence of the Andes mountains and Amazon rainforest near the Equator, as well as the unique geography of the Galápagos Islands.

Ecuador is one of the most biodiverse countries on earth, encompassing varied ecosystems across rainforest, highlands, and coast. This ultimate Ecuador expedition introduces you to two biodiversity hotspots for an in-depth appreciation of the many wonders of this equatorial nation. Begin in the Ecuadorian Amazon to observe rainforest flora and fauna, then head to the volcanic landscapes of the Galápagos Islands and explore the wonders that inspired Charles Darwin's theory of natural selection, an idea that changed the history of the world. Time in the bustling cities of Quito and Guayaquil rounds out the experience. Join your fellow Forever Buffs to discover the best of Ecuador!

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- Look for primates, tropical birds, and other wildlife as you travel by boat down the Napo River into the heart of the Ecuadorian Amazon.
- Learn about the Amazon's Indigenous peoples and their relationship with the forest during guided hikes.
- Follow in Charles Darwin's footsteps while cruising the Galápagos Islands and come face-to-face with Blue-footed Boobies, giant tortoises, and sea lions.
- Discover fascinating geological history as you explore the oldest islands in the Galápagos archipelago.
- Explore historical Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the best-preserved colonial city center in Latin America.

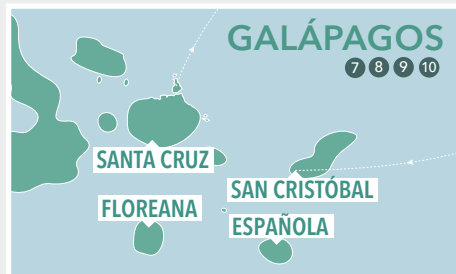


PARROTS AT CLAY LICK

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE TO STRENUOUS
Participants should be able to ascend or descend 80 stairs consecutively, plus walk for at least 4 hours over some steep slopes, uneven, and potentially slippery surfaces without difficulty. Physical activities typically last for 4 or more hours at a time.



MAPS NOT TO SCALE



JULY 6 - QUITO

Upon arrival in Quito you will be met and escorted to your hotel. Dinner is on your own this evening. *Overnight at Hilton Colón.*

JULY 7 - QUITO

This morning explore Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with one of the largest and best-preserved colonial centers in the Americas. Visit La Compañía Church, the Alabado Museum and its collection of pre-Columbian art, and the Basilica and Convent of San Francisco. After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy a visit to the Capilla del Hombre, a Latin American art museum. *Overnight at Hilton Colón. (BLD)*



JULY 8 - COCA

After breakfast, depart early this morning on a flight to Coca in the Ecuadorian Amazon. At Port Francisco de Orellana, board a motorized canoe for the two-hour ride down the Napo River to La Selva Amazon Ecolodge, which sits on the border of the famous Yasuní National Park. After getting settled, explore the Matapalo Trail, whose name comes from the Spanish for strangler fig (*Ficus* sp.), one of the many remarkable trees that you can find on this short walk. Mahogany trees over 400 years old can also be seen, and your guides will share their knowledge of the flora and fauna. *Overnight at La Selva Amazon Ecolodge. (BLD)*

JULY 9 - COCA

Begin the day with a walk to the 115-foot observation tower for an up-in-the-branches view of the forest canopy. Your naturalist and native guides will help you spot the colorful birds of the Amazon, and maybe even certain primates. On the way back from the tower, you have the option of taking the Tucaneta Trail, where your native guide can show you some of the medicinal plants still in use today, and your naturalist guide will provide you with interesting info on the ecology and natural history of the Amazon. There is also the option of visiting the beautiful lagoon of Mandi Cocha. An hour's hike takes you to the lagoon, where you can see an example of an igapó forest ecosystem. Different species of birds and even giant otters can be seen here. After lunch hike the Charapa Trail, which begins at the lodge and ends by the edge of



the lagoon. It is a great loop where different monkeys, birds, and other wildlife can be seen and a great place to witness an Amazonian sunset. With the help of a spotlight, your guides will take you around the lagoon via canoe looking for nocturnal wildlife. Return to the lodge for dinner this evening. *Overnight at La Selva Amazon Ecolodge. (BLD)*

JULY 10 - COCA

Make your way back to the Napo River and take a motorized canoe ride to the clay licks where hundreds of parrots and parakeets gather. Make sure to bring binoculars! Next, visit an Amazonian Kichua community center and learn more about the Indigenous community's daily way of life. After lunch, explore the beautiful Garzacocho Lagoon and Ceiba Trail, looking for birds like the unusual Hoatzin, colorful toucans, and majestic macaws, as well as squirrel, capuchin, and howler monkeys, and the world's smallest monkey, the pygmy marmoset. After dark, set out on a walk for the chance to enjoy the creatures and sounds of the Amazon at night. Sometimes we can see amazing things during this activity. Make sure you bring a flashlight for this fantastic experience. *Overnight at La Selva Amazon Ecolodge. (BLD)*

JULY 11 - QUITO

Depart from the lodge early in the morning after breakfast. Take the canoe (approximately two hours) back to Puerto Francisco de Orellana where you will take a 30-minute flight to Quito. Arrive at the hotel in the late afternoon, and have the rest of the day at leisure to prepare for the next day's flight to the Galápagos. Before dinner, enjoy a lecture on the geology of the Galápagos. *Overnight at Rincon de Puembo. (BLD)*

JULY 12 - GALÁPAGOS

This morning, transfer to the airport and fly to San Cristóbal Island. Upon arrival, you'll be picked up at the airport by our naturalist guides and taken to the pier to board the Coral. This afternoon, visit the Interpretation Center, which offers the perfect overview to the formation of Galápagos, its significance in the world, environmental threats to the islands, and conservation efforts. Then, go on a hike to Frigatebird Hill (Cerro Tijeretas) where we will have great looks at both species

of frigatebird, with the bonus of a beautiful view of the bay below. *Overnight aboard M/Y Coral II. (BLD)*

JULY 13 - GALÁPAGOS

This morning make a wet landing at Cerro Brujo on San Cristóbal. Walk among sea lions on the coral sand beach, snorkel from shore, or take a walk to a hidden lagoon to look for water birds. After lunch, explore Punta Pitt, the only place in the islands to see all three of the booby species in the same place. The Red-footed Boobies perch on small trees; the Nazca Boobies can be seen on the ground near the cliff's edge, and Blue-footed Boobies reside a little further inland. Frigatebirds will be all around and the views are breathtaking. *Overnight aboard M/Y Coral II. (BLD)*

JULY 14 - GALÁPAGOS

Today explore Española Island, the oldest extant island in the archipelago. Make a dry landing at Punta Suárez, then embark on a walk. (Please note that the terrain is rocky, which can make for difficult footing.) As you continue along, spot marine iguanas, sea lions, boobies, lizards, gulls, and the endemic Waved Albatross for which this island is famous. With luck, we can watch their complex courtship display. This afternoon, make a wet landing at Gardner Bay, one of the most stunning beaches in all of Galápagos. The white sandy beach is home to a colony of Galápagos sea lions, indifferent to the humans that walk among them. The endemic Española Mockingbird as well as various Darwin's finches may be seen here. We can also snorkel from the beach, in the shallows of the bay. *Overnight aboard M/Y Coral II. (BLD)*



JULY 15 - GALÁPAGOS

Today we will explore Floreana Island across diverse ecosystems and sand beaches. In the morning, make a wet landing at Cormorant Point's olivine beach and walk to a nearby lagoon to glimpse flamingos and other shorebirds. Continue through a forest of palo santo trees to arrive at a powdery white beach, a common nesting area for Pacific green sea turtles. Wade in the shallow water and look for diamond stingrays and whitetip reef sharks. Return to the olivine beach, and swim or snorkel among sea turtles, reef fish, and sea lions. A small colony of Galápagos Penguins resides at Floreana and can sometimes be seen

as well. Then, go snorkeling at one of the best snorkeling sites in the islands, Devil's Crown. As you swim among an impressive diversity of fish, you may even spot turtles, spotted eagle rays, parrotfish, or even hammerhead sharks! Then head to Champion Islet, the last remaining home of the island-endemic Floreana mockingbird which we may be lucky enough to see from our pangas. This afternoon, visit the famous Post Office Bay. Claimed to have been set up in 1793, this "post office" was used by whalers and fur-sealers leaving addressed letters in the barrel to be picked up by homeward bound colleagues. In the spirit of tradition, visitors today will often take letters and hand-deliver them in their home countries. *Overnight aboard M/Y Coral II. (BLD)*

JULY 16 - GUAYAQUIL

After an early breakfast, head to the central highlands of Santa Cruz Island in the hopes of seeing Galápagos giant tortoises in the wild. A short walk also offers the chance to see several species of Darwin's finches. Continue to Baltra for the return flight to Guayaquil. Lunch will be on your own; at Baltra airport, there are opportunities to get a sandwich and drink. After arriving in Guayaquil, explore the Malecón boardwalk before a farewell dinner this evening. *Should your return flight depart this evening, you will be transferred to the Guayaquil International Airport after dinner. Overnight at Hotel Oro Verde. (BD)*

JULY 17 - DEPART

Morning transfer to Guayaquil International Airport for the flight to the United States. *(B)*

PRICING: \$7,690 per person

Based on 10 participants. Single supplement is \$1,995 per person.

Price includes:

- Internal airfare (Roundtrip Quito-Coca, Mainland-Baltra)
- 11 nights' accommodations
- 30 meals (11 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 10 dinners)
- Non-alcoholic beverages with meals
- Sightseeing and activities as described, including entrance fees and Galápagos National Park fees
- Local guides in each region of program
- All tips and gratuities
- Private vehicle transportation throughout program
- Luggage handling, one bag per person
- Bottled water on the bus
- Carbon offset
- Departure tax

Price does not include: international airfare, trip cancellation insurance, gratuities for hotel housekeeping staff, drinks purchased on own, items of a personal nature.

Holbrook Travel can assist with making your flight arrangements upon request. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended (offered through the CU Boulder Alumni Association).

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price International airfare from your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; communications charges; and trip cancellation insurance. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

International Air Transportation Estimated airfare: **\$999 from Denver to Ecuador**. Holbrook Travel offers group airfare and ticketing. Group transfers between the airport and hotel are included in your program cost. A note about online airfare: Occasionally, you may be able to find airfares online that are listed at a lower cost. In general, individual fares lack the flexibility of group airfare and often require immediate purchase. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2 1/2 months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Holbrook Travel is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of your operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to: frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour "Land Only" is available. We recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, University of Colorado Boulder Alumni Association (CUBAA) and Holbrook Travel, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Cancellations, Changes and Refunds If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. All cancellations need to be submitted in writing to CUBAA. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 185 days or more before departure: \$500 charge; Cancel 185-125 days before departure: full deposit forfeited; Cancel 0-124 days before departure: no refund.** Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 185 days before departure. From 184 to 125 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a \$100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes to your reservation can be made within 125 days of departure. If due to unforeseen circumstances Holbrook Travel cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Health and Medical Issues We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate on a Holbrook Travel tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day). You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, CUBAA and Holbrook Travel assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Holbrook Travel has a no smoking policy on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

Required Information Upon reservation, you must provide your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender (for details, please visit tsa.gov). In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue. **A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on this tour. Your passport must have at least three blank visa pages to accommodate entry/exit stamps and your visa.**

Responsibility The liability of CUBAA as sponsor, and Holbrook Travel Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. CUBAA and Holbrook Travel, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. CUBAA and Holbrook Travel, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality and may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions. The services of any IATA and ATC carrier may be used in connection with these tours. The participant understands that if he/she books special low cost airfares with penalties, and cancels the reservation, he/she is responsible for any penalties incurred from the airline.



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