DARWIN’S GALAPAGOS ISLANDS AND THE FLORA & FAUNA OF ECUADOR

FEBRUARY 27TH TO MARCH 11TH, 2014
$4,995 LAND COST ONLY
(INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL AIRFARE ESTIMATED AT $1,500)

CARPE DIEM! BOOK BY OCT. 1 TO RECEIVE A $100 DISCOUNT!
REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR THIS ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY IS DEC. 15

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Botanic Gardens Conservation International in conjunction with Knowmad Adventures is proud to announce an incredible group trip “Darwin’s Galapagos Islands & Flora and Fauna of Ecuador.” This thirteen-day trip will highlight the incredible landscapes and diverse ecosystems of mainland Ecuador and includes a luxurious 6-day small ship cruise around Darwin’s Galapagos Islands which are full of fascinating endemic species and beautiful volcanic landscapes. Join Director Emeritus Peter Olin along with excellent local guides on this once-in-a-lifetime adventure, and have unique cultural interactions, explore the cloud forest’s plants, orchids and over 132 hummingbird species, visit a rose plantation, and much more!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TRIP
• Cruise the Galapagos Islands aboard a luxury class yacht with less than 100 passengers
• Enjoy naturalist-led excursions to discover myriad endemic species and unique landscapes
• See the sites and gardens of Quito; Ecuador’s capital and a UNESCO World Heritage site for colonial architecture
• Visit the Pahuma Orchid reserve, home to an astonishing variety of orchids, other flora, and bird species
• Stay in a private reserve in Mindo, home to 400 bird species and countless endemic butterfly species
• Enjoy lavish meals at historic haciendas (ranch properties)
• Tour a massive rose plantation
• Browse and shop in the largest indigenous market in all Latin America
• Walk near a volcanic crater with abundant bromeliads and plant life
• Do it in style! This luxurious adventure highlights carefully selected accommodations in a variety of settings
• Trip escorted by Arboretum Director Emeritus Peter Olin and Knowmad co-Founder Jordan Harvey
• $300 tax-deductible donation to the Arboretum & BGCI included
• Travel in a small group of less than 25

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JORDAN HARVEY AT KNOWMAD ADVENTURES
jordan@knowmadadventures.com • 1 877 616 8747 • www.KnowmadAdventures.com
DAY 1-2  Quito, Ecuador

DAY 3-4  Mindo & Bellavista Cloudforest Reserve

DAY 5-6  Otavalo

DAY 7-12  Galapagos Islands Cruise

DAY 13  Arrive Home
KNOWMAD ADVENTURES, INC. | PO Box 50572, Minneapolis, MN 55405 | travel@knowmadadventures.com | 1 877 616 8747 | www.KnowmadAdventures.com

FEB 27 Depart Minneapolis, Minnesota or your hometown
A recommended flight will be supplied closer to travel time. Upon arriving most likely in the evening, the group will be met and transferred to your accommodations situated in the historic district of Quito. We will also visit Parque La Carolina’s beautiful botanic garden.

- No meals – Patio Andaluz or similar

FEB 28 Quito
Step back in time walking through picturesque neighborhoods of quaint cobble-stoned streets lined with colorful colonial houses en route to the historic town center where our first stop is La Basílica, a fascinating architectural building. Continuing on we pass The Seven Crosses Street, an important Inca route from times past that was transformed with the arrival of the Spaniards and Christianity. From here we arrive to the cities central Independence Plaza lined with the oldest cathedrals in South America and the sacred heart of the city: La Catedral de Quito. Here we see the Presidential Palace, the Metropolitan Cultural Center, a museum home to a great oil paint collection, and more.

Enjoy lunch on this historic plaza before visiting the Metropolitan Park, an over 1,000 acre area surrounded by a variety of trees and gigantic art works, and home to the Ashintaco Gorge where it’s possible to see over 70 species of birds and that are nesting, some of which are in danger of extinction.

- B, L, D – Patio Andaluz or similar

MAR 1 Quito – Mindo
Driving north from Quito we will pass through “The Middle of the World” where the equatorial line divides the hemispheres. Passing by small towns and villages, we descend the Pichincha Volcano and enter dense cloud forest. Visiting the 1,500 acre Pahuma Orchid Reserve we will walk amongst epiphytes, bromeliads, orchids, mosses and ferns. We will also watch for birds (Ecuador contains more hummingbirds than any other place on earth) as well as vast other species. On this walk we will also see spectacular waterfalls.

After Pahuma, we continue on to Mindo Cloud Forest with it’s over 400 species of birds, abundant endemic butterfly species, and lush vegetation. Enjoy the evening in a comfortable lodge nestled in the cloud forest (average daytime temps in high 70s and cooler evenings).

- B, L, D – Bellavista Lodge or similar

MAR 2 Bellavista
Walking from our lodge in the early twilight we will hike to a waterfall hidden in the forest on an ornithology focused exploration, also learning more about the vegetation of the cloud forest. Enjoy a hearty lunch back at the lodge and a relaxing afternoon, or choose from a range of easy to more challenging hikes.

- B, L, D – Bellavista Lodge or similar

MAR 3 Bellavista – Otavalo
Enjoy another opportunity to walk in the cloud forest early in the morning before departing the lodge and descending into the valley of Guayllabamba, where cherimoya (custard apple) and avocados grow and the road opens to Andean Highlands. Here we will stop at La Compañía Hacienda constructed at the turn of the 20th century. Enjoy a typical hearty highland breakfast before strolling the grounds of the hacienda. We tour a neighboring flower plantation and learn how the roses are cultivated and selected for exportation around the world.

From here we drive a bit farther north and arrive to Otavalo, home to the biggest and most important indigenous markets in all Latin America, a true feast for the eyes and ears. After enjoying the market we will have a delicious lunch full of regional dishes in at Hacienda Pinsaqui.
Built in 1790, its storied past includes a stay of revolutionary leader and liberator Simon Bolivar, one of the most important figures in South American history.

After lunch, visit Peguche town known for its textiles and handicrafts where we learn ancient techniques from local artisans. From here we continue on to our Hacienda accommodations with beautiful grounds and gardens.

- B, L, D – Hacienda Cusin or similar

MAR 4 Otavalo – Quito
We visit Cuicocha Lake which is a volcanic crater with a diameter of over 2 miles with a lake filling its center. This beautiful crater and area contains unique plant life including a variety of medicinal plants which we will see while walking along a gentle trail on the crater’s rim. In the afternoon we will return to Quito, enjoy a special farewell mainland Ecuador dinner, and enjoy a good night’s rest.

- B, L, D – Patio Andaluz or similar

MAR 5 Quito – Galapagos
Following breakfast we transfer to the airport in accordance with our flight to the Galapagos Islands, approximately 4 hours west into the Pacific where we will board the MV Santa Cruz for a 6-day cruise through the Galapagos Islands. During this cruise we will enjoy naturalist-led walks amongst a variety of islands as we discover the unique animal and plant life that helped inspire Darwin’s Theory of Evolution.

MV SANTA CRUZ
With a capacity of 90 guests in 43 cabins, the MV Santa Cruz is large enough to provide a calm ride and a range of amenities, yet small enough for an intimate feel and minimal environmental impact. Some ship highlights are air-conditioning throughout, a glass-bottom boat available for excursions, some of the islands best naturalist guides, and gourmet cuisine. All excursions, meals, and lectures while cruising are included in your trip cost. For more ship details please see ship specifications page.

Itinerary – The following snapshot is a sample itinerary. The Galapagos National Park authorities continuously revise each ship’s itineraries according to their preservation initiatives. Each island is home to exciting species and attractions, the MV Santa Cruz is one of the Galapagos’ flagship vessels, and whatever the itinerary you are sure to have an incredible experience in this naturalists’ paradise. Also, we will explore the islands in groups of less than 8, and there is some flexibility in choosing your excursions and the physical challenge of them. For those who do not enjoy snorkeling or water activities, there will always be great alternatives.

Afternoon – North Seymour Island
This is a great introductory site to the islands and their wildlife, full of bird colonies of blue footed boobies, two species of frigate birds, swallow tailed gulls, as well as sea lions and marine iguanas.

- B, L, D – MV Santa Cruz

MAR 6 Galapagos
Morning – Punta Vicente Roca – Isabela Island
After breakfast, we explore the coast by panga (local word for small zodiac), while our naturalist guide explains the dramatic geology of the area, nesting place for a Galápagos highlight: flightless cormorants. Depending on weather conditions, we can snorkel along the cliffs of this area rich in marine life, seasonally-visited by green sea turtles and oceanic sun fish (Mola mola).

Afternoon – Espinoza Point -Fernandina Island
The afternoon is dedicated to exploring the youngest island of the archipelago, Fernandina,
which, having no introduced mammals, boasts a very unique environment with a very high density of marine iguanas, who share their space with sea lions, Sally light-foot crabs, hawks, penguins and the flightless cormorants.

- B, L, D – MV Santa Cruz

MAR 7 Galapagos
Morning - Tagus Cove - Isabela Island
After breakfast, we land at this cove on the northwest of Isabela. It provided a favourite anchorage for pirates and whalers over the centuries. An uphill hike takes guests to the rim of a crater, Darwin Lake, filled with salt water and to a dramatic viewpoint. After our walk, we take a panga ride to spot local wildlife, with the possibility of swimming or snorkelling.

Afternoon – Urbina Bay – Isabela Island
After lunch we disembark at Urbina Bay, the fascinating result of an uplifting of the ocean in 1954. Here we can admire corals, shells and many other calcareous organisms exposed above water. First we enjoy a snorkel from the beach, with the chance of swimming with flightless cormorants and penguins. This area is also home to a large and very colourful Galápagos land iguanas, and occasionally giant tortoises. We return back on board for our expedition plan for Saturday and dinner.

- B, L, D – MV Santa Cruz

MAR 8 Galapagos
Morning - Puerto Ayora and the Charles Darwin Research Station - Santa Cruz Island
Disembark for our visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station’s giant tortoise Breeding Centre within an impressive giant prickly-pear cactus forest home to many land birds. These are the headquarters of scientific investigation, conservation and the National Park administration. Following our visit, we board our transport to enjoy lunch in the cooler highlands of Santa Cruz Island, a completely different ecosystem.

Afternoon - Santa Cruz Island
We have several options available for the afternoon, which can be discussed in advance with your Expedition Leader. At the end of the afternoon’s activities, we return to Puerto Ayora and embark on the Santa Cruz.

- B, L, D – MV Santa Cruz

MAR 9 Galapagos
Morning - Post Office Bay and Baroness Cove - Floreana Island
A short walk leads us to the historic barrel where postcards are traditionally left for guests from other vessels to hand-deliver to their destinations. Near Post Office Bay, we explore the north shore of Floreana along narrow channels teeming with life. Another short walk takes us to Baroness Cove where all will be revealed about the fascinating “murder mystery” on Floreana. Swimming and snorkeling off the beach is a good option. We then head back on board for lunch.

Afternoon - Champion Islet and Cormorant Point - Floreana Island
Following lunch and a siesta, we take to the pangas and glass-bottom boat to explore the underwater wonders around Champion Islet, an extinct shield volcano, regarded as one of the best snorkeling spots in the archipelago. From there, it’s on to Cormorant Point, beginning with a landing on the olivine-crystal beach for an easy walk that includes a brackish water lagoon where bird species such as greater flamingos, pintail ducks, common stilts, herons, sandpipers, and others gather. We continue our walk over to a white-sand beach, where sea turtles emerge from the sea at night to nest (from December to May).

- B, L, D – MV Santa Cruz
MAR 10

Galapagos – Quito – Onward Home Post Office Bay and Baroness Cove - Floreana Island

We disembark at Baltra Island in order to transfer to the airport to take the flight back to the mainland. After arriving to the mainland we will fly onward home on an evening overnight flight.

- B, snack

MAR 11

Home

Arrival home.

IMPORTANT NOTE

- Please remember that the exact route and programme may vary according to weather and ocean conditions and the wildlife we encounter.

- Itineraries and programme are subject to change without previous notice due mainly to readjustment of the National Park policies and regulations, weather conditions, seasonal changes or safety reasons.

- Dry landing: guests step from the dinghy onto rocks or a dock.

- Wet landing: as the dinghy edges onto a sandy beach, guests step into knee-deep water and wade ashore.

NOTES ON THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

SOME GENERAL INFO

Great things come in little packages. This very popular saying is one of the best ways to describe what the Galapagos Islands has to offer. A group of tiny volcanic islands that sit just off the equator, the Galapagos has for centuries, captured the interest of people from all over the globe. Important from a scientific viewpoint, as these islands were instrumental in Darwin’s Theory of Evolution, the Galapagos today, is a nature wonderland.

Located 1,000 km off the coast of Ecuador, these islands let you get up close and personal with nature. The Galapagos is indeed a must visit destination if you are interested in a wildlife vacation. An archipelago of 19 islands of varying size and a number of islets, these islands are the perfect place to see nature at its very best. Here, the animals roam around free and unafraid, due to the lack of any natural predators, giving you plenty opportunity to capture them with your camera.

Over five million years old, the Galapagos today is one of the perfect places to see nature in action. Often referred to as the ‘laboratory of evolution,’ these islands are now playing a tremendous role in helping us to understand our planet much better.

VISITING THE GALAPAGOS IN MARCH

There is never a bad time to visit the Galapagos. December through May has slightly warmer than average temperatures (78 F daytime average highs) and it generally drizzles a bit at some point in the day, however it is also the sunniest time of year with rain clouds moving on quickly. The water is warmer during this time of year making swimming and snorkeling more comfortable, however there aren’t quite as many fish as other times of year. December through May is the breeding season for land birds, so it’s a great time to see unusual mating rituals. Also, if you are a turtle lover this is the time to be here as it’s when you can watch sea turtles nesting on the beach and in March through May you can often see land tortoises searching for mates. Sea lions also mate in this season and males can be seen sparring. The other benefits of this season are much calmer seas and blooming flowers making the islands their most colorful.

ACCOMMODATION HIGHLIGHTS

*These are the preferred accommodations but are subject to change based on availability at time of trip confirmation.

PATIO ANDALUZ: QUITO, ECUADOR MAINLAND
**ACCOMMODATION HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED**

**BELLA VISTA LODGE: CLOUD FOREST, ECUADOR MAINLAND**

**HACIENDA CUSIN: OTAVALO, ECUADOR MAINLAND**

**MV SANTA CRUZ: GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, ECUADOR**

The 90-guest M/V Santa Cruz has a fun, informal and relaxed atmosphere and is ready to give its passengers an experience of the Galápagos Islands they’ll never forget!

**SHIP FACILITIES:**
- Bar-Lounge, Dining room
- Gift shop
- Coffee station (coffee, tea and water 24 hours-a-day)
- Satellite telephone
- Intermittent and low-bandwidth internet service
- PA system
- Snorkelling equipment
- Hair dryer, speakers for iPod/MP3 Players and safe deposit box in each cabin
- Hot Tub
- Reading Room and Natural History Library
- Air conditioned throughout
- Wet suits for hire
- Glass-bottom boat
The MV Santa Cruz has three decks, from Master Suites to Standard Cabins, offering a wide range of accommodation. The main deck standard cabin, the upper deck twin standard, and the boat deck twin standard double are detailed below. For pricing and availability of boat deck superior, suite, and master suite please inquire.

**MAIN DECK STANDARD CABIN**
Included in itinerary price.

**UPPER DECK TWIN STANDARD**
Add $155 per person

**BOAT DECK STANDARD DOUBLE**
Add $435 per person
COST DETAILS

$4,995* Land cost per traveler, double occupancy, main deck standard cabin.

Upper deck twin standard: add $155 per person
Boat deck twin standard double: add $435 per person

For pricing and availability of boat deck superior, suite, and master suite please inquire.

$1,900 Single supplement. May be more depending on cruise cabin category. High single supplement due to singles paying a 50% surcharge on cruise rate. We are happy to pair you with an excellent roommate for the trip to avoid this cost!

$1,500** Estimated airfare costs. It is estimated international air on Delta will be around $1,000, and Galapagos air at $500.

*Note: As currency exchanges and fluctuations vary, this is an approximate cost, which Knowmad Adventures reserves the right to adjust. Tour price based on minimum 14 travelers. Knowmad reserves the right to adjust this price in order to accommodate fewer registrants should there be less than 14. Trip size is capped at 25.

**Knowmad Adventures will arrange your airfare within Peru and you will be invoiced based on the price at the time of booking (estimated $500 USD). They will also assist you in arranging your international airfare on the suggested flights, but are not responsible if available flights exceed the price estimate, or you may purchase independently. Please contact Knowmad or Peter Olin prior to purchasing international airfare however to be sure your arrival and departure schedule comply with the trip.

WHAT YOUR TRIP COST INCLUDES

Pre-trip services: Trip Information Packet (contains a pack list & details about regions, weather, electricity, etc.) and personalized pre-departure support
6 nights deluxe and boutique hotel accommodations
6 day Galapagos cruise aboard MV Santa Cruise
Professional English-speaking guides throughout
12 breakfasts, 11 lunches and 11 dinners
Local excursions as indicated
Airport transfers as indicated
Backcountry field arrangements as necessary
Ground transportation and support vehicles
Additional guides and porters as needed
Escorted by Director Emeritus Peter Olin and Knowmad co-Founder Jordan Harvey
A $300 tax-deductible donation to the Arboreum
Entrance fees and permits other than those specified below
Taxes and surcharges while on the tour

WHAT YOUR TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International and domestic airfare (see estimates for airfare cost guidance)
Visa, passport, departure/arrival and excess baggage fees
Galapagos National Park Protected Area Entrance Fee ($100 per person)
INGALA Migration Control Card ($10 per person)
Trip insurance (trip insurance including cancellation coverage strongly recommended)
Activities listed as optional and/or denoted with asterisk
Meals not indicated in the itinerary
Tips to local guides, staff, and cruise ship crew
Personal items
Alcoholic beverages, some non-alcoholic beverages on cruise

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

DUE UPON RESERVATION $1,000 deposit per traveler
75 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE Remaining Balance

Knowmad Adventures accepts checks, money orders & Visa, Discover & Mastercard credit cards (a 4% surcharge applies to payments made by credit card).

PLEASE REFER TO REGISTRATION FORM FOR TERMS & CONDITIONS
READY FOR THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME?

Signing up is easy. Call us at 1-877-616-8747 and reserve your spot. Or simply fill out this Registration Form and mail to Knowmad Adventures at PO Box 50572, Minneapolis, Mn 55405 or fax to 1-612-293-3935. We’ll then send you a Liability Release and Payment Form with instructions for the deposit. We thank you and look forward to traveling together.

REGISTRATION FORM

If you’re more than 2 travelers, download additional forms at www.KnowmadAdventures.com/contact.html. Please print clearly in blue or black pen.

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TRAVELER ONE

NAME (as it appears on passport)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY    STATE    ZIP

PHONE    EMAIL

GENDER:

º male

º female

BIRTHDAY (mm/dd/yyyy)

CITIZENSHIP

PASSPORT NO.    EXPIRATION DATE

OCCUPATION

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

ALLERGIES

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

EMERGENCY CONTACT    PHONE

I will share accommodations with

We prefer:

º 2 twin beds

º 1 bed

I am a single traveler:

º yes

º no

If available, assign me a roommate:

º yes

º no

TRAVELER TWO

NAME (as it appears on passport)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY    STATE    ZIP

PHONE    EMAIL

GENDER:

º male

º female

BIRTHDAY (mm/dd/yyyy)

CITIZENSHIP

PASSPORT NO.    EXPIRATION DATE

OCCUPATION

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

ALLERGIES

DIETARY RESTRICTIONS

EMERGENCY CONTACT    PHONE