

HOVERING OVER THE EQUATOR, 600 miles from the coast of Ecuador, the Galápagos is a world within itself. Many of the creatures that inhabit these islands are found nowhere else on earth and have developed unique adaptations that distinguish themselves and help them survive in their environment. With no natural enemies present, the animals through this archipelago have virtually no fear of humans, making them remarkably tame, not to mention photogenic!

This expedition will be an educational eco-adventure perfect for anyone with an interest in nature and learning about this incredible world!

Photos by Reiner Munguia and Dain Van Schoyck

Meet your leader



David W. Steadman is the Curator of Ornithology at the Florida Museum of Natural History. He came to the University of Florida in 1995, after being Curator of Vertebrates at the New York State Museum for 10 years. He has a B.S. in Biology (Edinboro State College), M.S. in Zoology (University of Florida), and a Ph.D. in Geosciences (University of Arizona). Dave's primary research interests are the biogeography, evolution, paleontology, and community ecology of tropical birds. His studies have taken him to more than 40 countries, including 150 islands in the Pacific Ocean and Caribbean Sea. Dave is the author of 250 scientific publications, including the books *Galápagos: Discovery on Darwin's Islands* (Smithsonian Institution Press) and *Extinction and Biogeography of Tropical Pacific Birds* (University of Chicago Press).



ENROLL TODAY!

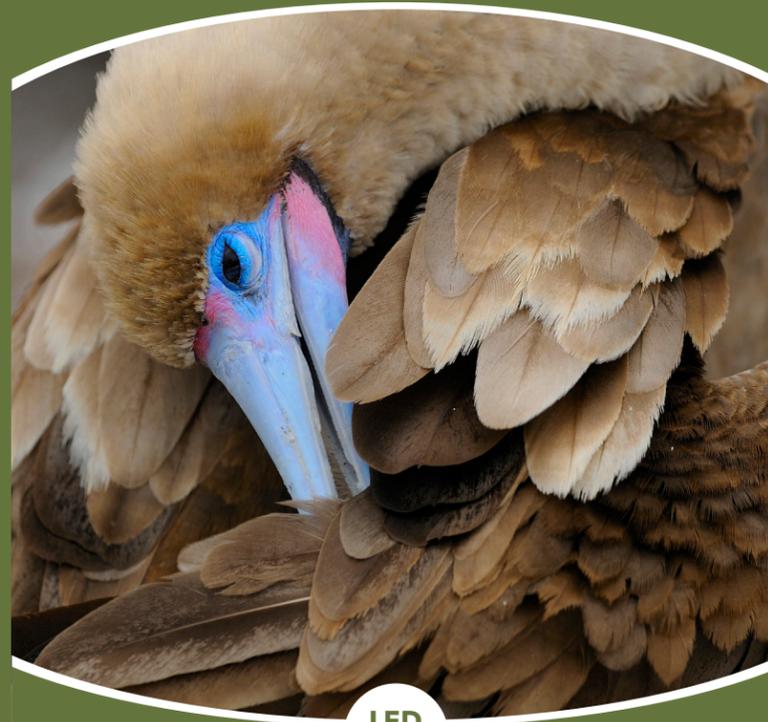
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EXPEDITION TO THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

with the
FLORIDA MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ABOARD M/Y ERIC OR LETTY

November 23-December 3, 2018



LED
BY

DAVID W. STEADMAN

Curator of Ornithology at the
Florida Museum of Natural History



2018 Itinerary

Itinerary may be subject to change.

QUITO NOV. 23

Upon arrival in Quito, you will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel downtown.

Overnight at Hotel Sheraton Quito.

QUITO NOV. 24

Meet for breakfast and orientation in the hotel restaurant at 7 am. After breakfast, travel north up the Avenue of the Volcanoes for a visit to Otavalo Market, Ecuador’s largest indigenous market. The Otavaleños are a trader community by tradition, and are known worldwide for their wonderful work on textiles and tapestries. During the tour, visit the handcraft (artisan) market and have real contact with the community while bargaining for their products. In addition, visit the nearest villages including Peguche and Ilumán, both ancient communities known for their textiles and tapestries. Continue on to Cotacachi, famous for its beautiful leather products. Enjoy lunch at a typical hacienda before returning to Quito. Transfer back to the Sheraton for dinner and time to prepare for your flight to the Galápagos Islands tomorrow morning.

Overnight at Hotel Sheraton Quito. (BLD)

GALÁPAGOS NOV. 25

This morning transfer to the airport for your flight to the Galápagos. (Please note that travelers are limited to 44 pounds of luggage per person. Anything over the 44-pound limit will be subject to additional fees.) Fly to Puerto Baquerizo Moreno on San Cristóbal Island, where you will be met at the airport and taken to the marina to board the Eric or Letty anchored in the bay. After a welcome briefing and safety drill, a buffet lunch is served onboard. In the afternoon, travel by bus to Cerro Tijeretas or “Frigatebird Hill,” one of two sites where you can see nesting colonies of both species of frigatebirds (Great and Magnificent), as well as lava lizards, the Medium Ground-Finch, and the Chatham Mockingbird. Walk along the trail to Punta Carola for scenic views. Return to the yacht for a briefing, followed by the captain’s welcome cocktail party and dinner.

Overnight aboard M/Y Eric or Letty. (BLD)

GALÁPAGOS NOV. 26

Spend the entire day on Genovesa Island, one of the most spectacular places in the Galápagos for bird species. Land at Prince Philip’s Steps, where Red-footed Boobies nest in palo santo trees, while Nazca Boobies nest near the trail, and storm petrels gather in large numbers in an open lava plain. With luck, you may spot the elusive Short-eared Owl. Return to the yacht for lunch on the sundeck. You may opt to paddle from one of the kayaks or stand-up paddleboards and explore the cliffs, look for the Red-billed Tropicbirds hiding in the crevices, or snorkel in deeper water from the Zodiac. Land at Darwin Bay, a coral sand beach where Swallow-tailed and Lava Gulls gather near the tide pools. Enter a forest of Optuntia cactus and mangroves where Great Frigatebird colonies nest, the males inflating their red throat pouches to attract females. Relax on the beach or swim with sea lions in these warmer northern waters. Return to the yacht for briefing and dinner and an evening full of stars.

Overnight aboard M/Y Eric or Letty. (BLD)

GALÁPAGOS NOV. 27

Spend the morning at Cerro Brujo, a breathtaking white coral beach on San Cristóbal Island, with expansive views and good bird watching. You may choose to take a peaceful walk along the beach, swim with sea lions, or take out the kayaks or stand-up paddleboards for a different perspective of the marine life. Enjoy a scenic Zodiac ride through a cave called The Cathedral before returning to the yacht for lunch. Go ashore this afternoon at Punta Pitt, a tuff formation that is home to a colony of sea lions and serves as a nesting site for many sea birds, including all three types of boobies—Blue-footed, Nazca, and Red-footed—plus both frigatebird species, Swallow-tailed Gulls, storm petrels, shearwaters, and Brown Pelicans. At Pitt Rock, snorkel with sea lions and colorful fish such as the king angelfish and surgeonfish. Return to the yacht for a briefing, followed by dinner.

Overnight aboard M/Y Eric or Letty. (BLD)

GALÁPAGOS NOV. 28

Disembark at Punta Suárez on Española Island, home to the greatest number of endemic species found in Galápagos. Sea lions bark noisily, curious Hood Mockingbirds peck at your shoelaces, and the Waved Albatross, found only on Española, performs its mating ritual. Colonies of Blue-footed Boobies engage in “sky pointing” to show off for potential mates. Easily spotted wildlife are the Nazca Boobies busily caring for their young, Red-billed Tropicbirds taking shelter under the cliffs, and Swallow-tailed Gulls, the only nocturnal gulls in the world. You’re also likely to see Darwin’s finches, Galápagos Doves, and Galápagos Hawks, as well as a unique subspecies of marine iguana. Follow the trail to the dramatic ocean blowhole and watch for colorful Sally Lightfoot crabs crawling along the shoreline. Return to the yacht for lunch on board. Later disembark at Gardner Bay, where large colonies of sea lions dot the seemingly endless white sand beach. Take a leisurely stroll or relax on the beach, watching for the Galápagos Hawk, Darwin’s finches or Española Mockingbird. Swim with playful sea lions right from the beach, or explore the bay and islets by kayak or stand-up paddleboard. Take a Zodiac ride to explore the caves covered with invertebrates. Admire the colorful array of underwater life at this excellent snorkeling site near Tortuga Rock. Return to the yacht for a briefing, followed by dinner.

Overnight aboard M/Y Eric or Letty. (BLD)

GALÁPAGOS NOV. 29

Step ashore at Punta Cormorant on Floreana Island, where the olive sand beach is alive with the sounds of sea lions, Lava Herons, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Blue-footed Boobies, and Galápagos Penguins. Follow a trail to a brackish lagoon, home to Bahama Ducks, Common Stilts, Galápagos Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers, and Greater Flamingos. Wind your way past a rich variety of plants including the morning glory, cut leaf daisies, mangroves (black, red, and white), palo verde, and scalesia. The trail leads to a beach where sea turtles lay their eggs and stingrays swim in the shallow water. After the walk, there is an opportunity to snorkel at Champion Islet, a shallow sunken crater colonized by a brilliant array of colorful fish and coral, white-tipped reef sharks, sea turtles, spotted eagle rays and sea stars. Lunch is served back on board on the sundeck, weather permitting. Floreana is one of the few populated islands in the archipelago, with a rich and intriguing human history. After lunch, visit one of the most famous sites in the Galápagos, Post Office Bay, where a post office barrel was erected in the late 18th century for use by English whaling vessels. Visitors are invited to leave a postcard and to pick up any mail destined for their home town. There is a chance to swim from the beach with sea lions. Late this afternoon, take a Zodiac ride near Baroness Point to look for sea turtles and rays. Return to the yacht for a briefing, followed by dinner.

Overnight aboard M/Y Eric or Letty. (BLD)

GALÁPAGOS NOV. 30

Disembark on Santa Cruz Island at Puerto Ayora, the social heart of the Galápagos, with a population of 24,000 people. Travel by bus to the highlands, passing through all seven vegetation zones found in the archipelago. Visit Rancho El Manzanillo, a privately owned hacienda where giant tortoises roam in their natural habitat. Stop at the lava tunnels at El Mirador, the largest in the archipelago, and visit Los Gemelos (The Twins), a pair of large craters. Return to the yacht for lunch on board and a briefing. This afternoon, visit Centro de Crianza Fausto Llerena (formerly Charles Darwin Research Station) and see the tortoise and land iguana corrals and the breeding center with new hatchlings and miniature tortoises that will be repatriated when grown. See the recently opened exhibit honoring Lonesome George; the last surviving tortoise from Pinta Island died in 2012 of natural causes and is a worldwide icon of conservation. Stop at a chocolate shop to learn how high quality “arriba cacao” is produced in Ecuador. Stroll through town to shop for souvenirs or stop at a museum or internet cafe—or if you prefer an active afternoon, you can arrange for kayaking at Punta Estrada or to go on a bicycle ride (additional charges apply). Return to the yacht for dinner, or if you wish, remain ashore for dinner on your own. Zodiac shuttles from the Eric and Letty to the main dock will be offered throughout the evening.

Overnight aboard M/Y Eric or Letty. (BLD)

GALÁPAGOS DEC. 01

This morning, depending on your vessel, you will either visit Las Bachas on the northern side of Santa Cruz to explore the long stretch of soft white sand and interior lagoons populated by Greater Flamingos. There is also a chance to snorkel here from the beach. Alternatively, take a Zodiac ride at Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove) through a series of coves and inlets surrounded by mangroves. See pairs of mating sea turtles, white-tipped reef sharks, and golden cow-nosed rays. Return to the yacht for lunch. Disembark at Bartolomé, a young island that is inhospitable to most plants and animals. Climb the long wooden staircase to the summit of a dormant volcano, pausing along the way to marvel at lava bombs, spatter, and cinder cones. The panoramic view from the top encompasses the entire island, including the distinctive eroded tuff cone known as Pinnacle Rock. The crystal clear water below beckons for snorkeling with schools of tropical fish, white-tipped reef sharks, and Galápagos Penguins. Take a Zodiac ride along the rocky shoreline. Return to the yacht for the evening briefing, followed by dinner.

Overnight aboard M/Y Eric or Letty. (BLD)

QUITO DEC. 02

This morning, disembark and visit the Interpretation Center on San Cristóbal for a summary of your recent experience in Galápagos natural history and to gain a more complete understanding of the natural and human history of the islands. Afterwards, head to the airport for the flight back to the mainland. Upon arrival in Quito, you will be transferred to your hotel near the airport. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner.

Overnight at Rincón de Puembo. (BLD)

DEPARTURE DEC. 03

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

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About your vessel



The boats M/Y Eric and Letty are identical yachts. The actual vessel will not be chosen until a later date and will be advised prior to departure. These sister yachts are stylish, sustainable and fun. They are refurbished annually, include kayaks and other adventure gear, and the Eric boasts solar panels.

LENGTH 83 feet	SPEED 8 knots	ACCOMMODATES up to 20 passengers
CABINS 10	CREW CAPACITY 9 + 2 naturalist guides	

CABIN DETAILS

Air conditioning, private bath (hot and cold water showers), soap/ shampoo dispensers, hair dryer, closet, drawers, intercom and separate climate controls.

More information

LAND COST:

\$6,600 per person (double occupancy)

Includes:

Accommodations (double occupancy), in-country transportation, internal flights, meals and activities as listed in the itinerary, local guides, and Galápagos National Park fee.

Not included:

International airfare, gratuities, or items of a personal nature.

ESTIMATED AIRFARE COST:

\$1,180 (round-trip from Gainesville, Florida; other departure cities available)

THE FINE PRINT:

A completed enrollment form and \$500 deposit are required to reserve your space on the trip. Payments are non-refundable after 95 days prior to departure.

Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information, contact Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel’s agency number is 15849.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS:

Participants able to walk a few hours a day unassisted will be able to fully enjoy the Galápagos. Some of the excursions require more physical activity than others, such as steep climbs or long walks in hot weather or on uneven rocky trails. However, most excursions require moderate activity and the walks are at a leisurely pace. Entering and exiting the Zodiacs requires that you be sure-footed.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you have questions about the trip, please contact Lisa Palmese-Graubard at Holbrook Travel at 800-451-7111 x339 or lisa@holbrooktravel.com. Visit holbrooktravel.com/flmnhgps18