Explore the Galapagos Islands and Mainland Ecuador

A Natural History and Photographic Adventure

14 Oct - 23 Oct, 2011

Join UNLV Continuing Education, Dr. Margaret N. (Peg) Rees and artist Sharon K. Schafer as we travel to Quito, the capital of Ecuador and the first city to be declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. While in Quito, you can choose to either explore Old Colonial Quito City or visit the sacred waterfalls and medicinal plants at San Jorge Botanical Reserve. Spend two evenings at San Jorge Eco Lodge/Quito, a traditional 18th century Hacienda just 17 minutes from the Quito airport, yet a world apart.

Then depart on an incredible 5 day/4 night cruise of the Galapagos Islands on board our privately chartered 16 person yacht. The yacht’s small size will allow you a very intimate and more personal exploration of the islands. Each day you will have amazing opportunities to experience and photograph the regions abundant wildlife up close.

The Galapagos Islands are a small, rocky archipelago 500 miles off the coast of Ecuador. Isolated from the mainland for millions of years the islands are home to an abundance of unique wildlife. The areas’ remoteness has resulted in a wilderness where animals have remained unafraid of humans. You will have the opportunity to cruise to pristine islands and walk among colonies of animals and birds unfazed by your presence. Observe magnificent Galapagos marine iguana, experience up-close encounters with nesting flightless cormorants, watch the magnificent frigate bird in courtship display and snorkel amid tropical fish, sea turtles, and playful sea lions.

Upon your return to Quito, you will spend two days at the San Jorge de Tandayapa Hummingbird Sanctuary in the Ecuador cloud forest.

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October 14 - 23, 2011
9 Nights/10 Days

Day One_Oct 14
Airport transfer from Quito Airport to
San Jorge Eco-Lodge, overnight lodging San
Jorge/Quito

Day Two_Oct 15
Choose from one tour activity (requires 4 per-
son minimum to operate either tour)

#1 Old Colonial Quito City ½ Day Tour
We will explore the Capital of Ecuador, considered part of the Cultural Patrimony of Humanity by UNESCO. During your visit you will learn about the colonial art in the churches, history, archaeology and folklore in the museums. Your private guide will provide complete information of the baroque colonial art. Visit the most im-
portant areas: Plaza de la Independencia, Plaza San Francisco, Plaza Santo Domingo, La Merced, La Compania, Penecillo. Lunch at typical restaurant in Quito.

#2 Sacred Waterfalls & Medicinal Plants at San Jorge Botanical Reserve.
We will trek to the Highland Tropical Rainforest, visiting up to 5 sacred waterfalls. Here, we will learn about some of the 250 varieties of native medicinal plants in the region, still being used at their raw states. San Jorge is currently writing a book on The Medicinal Plants of the Andes. At the same time, you will take in the fabu-
lous panoramic views of Quito, its lush valleys and majestic mountains and the volcano peaks of Cayambe,
Antizana, Paschooa, Pululahua, Pichincha, and Illalo. We can observe 11 mountains from various points of San Jorge Botanical Reserve. Picnic lunch at the waterfalls.

Evening Photography Session lead by Sharon Schafer, at San Jorge/Quito Conference Room.
Overnight San Jorge/Quito, includes 3 meals.

Day Three_Oct 16
AM transfer to Quito Airport for your flight to
the Galapagos Islands (airfare included) includes breakfast

Days Three to Seven
Oct 16 - 20
Galapagos Island Cruise aboard The Eden Yacht,
First Class Vessel, 4 Nights/5 Days, 16 person
capacity, includes (8) double cabins with
private bath/hot shower, 3 meals per day,
naturalist guide for daily excursions to the
islands, including airport transfers to yacht. (Cabins consist of: 4 lower deck cabins with 2 lower berth beds, 2 cabins on main deck – one matrimonial bed & one upper & lower berths, 2 cabins on sundeck both with upper and lower berths).
Geology will be discussed by Dr. Margaret (Peg) Rees.

**Day Seven_Oct 20**
Return flight to Quito Airport; transfer to San Jorge, overnight San Jorge Eco-Lodge/Quito, includes dinner

**Day Eight_Oct 21**
San Jorge de Tandayapa Hummingbird Sanctuary (Cloud Forest) Hiking Naturalist Expedition. Beautiful birds, panoramic views, hiking, wild surroundings, tropical plants/flowers, and exotic wildlife within our tropical world famous Cloud Forest. Lunch at our open aire Hummingbird Restaurant overlooking feeders with spectacular views and great photo options. Includes Night Walk in the Cloud Forest. Overnight San Jorge/Tandayapa, includes 3 meals

**Day Nine_Oct 22**
Early AM Birding Tour at San Jorge de Tandayapa Hummingbird Sanctuary. Afternoon Bird Sketching Class & Photo Tour lead by Sharon Schafer. Late afternoon transfer to San Jorge/Quito. Farewell dinner at San Jorge/Quito with Folkloric Ballet Show - join in dancing afterwards. Overnight San Jorge/Quito, includes 3 meals.

**Day Ten_Oct 23**
AM transfer to Quito Airport, includes breakfast

Itinerary subject to change due to climate, conditions, or unforeseeable circumstances

Included: Round trip airport transfers, lodging, meals as shown, bilingual guides, tours, transportation, reserve entrance fees, Galapagos Cruise & airfare.

Excludes: International flight, travel insurance, extra meals, soda/bar, optional Quito museum entrance fees, personal expenses, and tips.

Travel Insurance:  http://www.CSATravelPro.com?Aff=20080614
We recommend that passengers/students purchase a comprehensive travel insurance policy to protect themselves from any potential loss before and during your trip. Insurance is optional and recommended to protect against losses due to trip cancellation and interruption, travel and baggage delay, emergency assistance, medical expenses and evacuation.