Join Dr. Margaret N. (Peg) Rees and artist Sharon K. Schafer as we travel to Quito, Ecuador, and the Galapagos Islands. You will spend two evenings in Old Town Quito, the first city to be declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Explore Quito’s history, art, and architecture with an included cultural tour of the city.

After Quito, we will depart on an incredible eleven-day Galapagos experience on board our privately chartered first-class, 16-person catamaran, the Archipell I. The yacht’s small size will allow you a very intimate, comfortable, and personal exploration of the islands.

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. You will 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, and blue footed boobies in their courtship display, and snorkel amid tropical fish, sea turtles, sea lions, and penguins.

The Galapagos Islands and Quito adventure is for active travelers. Quito is located at 9,100 feet above sea level. When exploring the Galapagos Islands, you should be able to comfortably climb in and out of small rubber rafts.

For more information please contact:
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702-895-5224
REGISTRATION

Course Code: 141EX1241

Trip Leaders:
Margaret N. (Peg) Rees, Vice Provost Educational Outreach, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Sharon K. Schafer, Skydance Studio, Boulder City, Nevada

Prices and Policies:

Register by August 15, 2013 for a $350 early bird discount!

Register by Aug. 15: $7,489 (Per person, double occupancy)
Register after Aug. 15: $7,839 (Per person, double occupancy)

Deposit: A $2,700 deposit will hold your spot until Nov. 29, 2013 when balance in full is due.

Cancellation Policy: Refund less $1,200 before Sept. 25. Refund less $2,500 between Sept. 15 - Nov. 29. No refund after Nov. 29, 2013. (Trip interruption/cancellation insurance is recommended)

Fee includes: 2 hotel nights with breakfast at Patio Andaluz or similar quality in Old Town Quito; half-day tour of Quito; transfer to airport on day 3; round trip airfare from Quito to Galapagos; transfers in Galapagos, Galapagos National Park fee and transit card; 11-day cruise aboard the 16-passenger Archipell I with accommodations in double cabin (6 twin & 2 double bed cabins) with private bath, large window and private air conditioning system in each cabin, snorkeling equipment; all excursions during cruise itinerary; visit with research scientist at the Charles Darwin Research Center; $100,000 in emergency evacuation insurance; and trip health insurance.

Not included: International airfare from Las Vegas to Quito; visa and passport fees; airport departure taxes; pre-cruise or post-cruise meals; wet suit rental; alcoholic beverages and soft drinks; gratuities to the staff and crew; trip interruption and cancellation insurance.

Register by calling 702-895-3394 or online by visiting http://continuingeducation.unlv.edu
12 Nights / 13 Days

Please Note: Itinerary subject to change due to weather conditions or unforeseeable circumstances.

Day 1: Quito, Ecuador
Arrive Quito. Transfer to hotel
Overnight Hotel Patio Andaluz.

Day 2: Quito / City Tour
Explore Quito’s history, art, and architecture on our half-day tour of Quito, the first city to be declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.
Overnight Hotel Patio Andaluz.

Day 3: Depart Quito, Arrive Galapagos, North Seymour
We transfer early to the airport for our flight to the Galapagos Islands. Upon arrival in Santa Cruz, we transfer to our catamaran, the Archipell I, to begin our exploration of the Galapagos Islands. In the afternoon we visit North Seymour, the home of the Galapagos’s largest colony of magnificent frigate birds. Expect to see sea lions, marine iguanas, swallow-tailed gulls, magnificent frigate birds and blue-footed boobies. This island is one of the most exciting islands photographically. Bird life abounds, and close to the trail you will find many nesting pairs. Galapagos land iguanas live near trails and marine iguanas are common along the shoreline.

Day 4: Genovesa Island (Darwin Bay - El Barranco)
We land at Genovesa Island, an old collapsed volcanic caldera, to observe the massive colonies of frigate birds, boobies and other seabirds. Our first landing is at Darwin Bay, a beautiful bay that provides fantastic snorkeling opportunities.

In the afternoon, we explore “El Barranco,” also known as Prince Phillip’s Steps, on the southern tip of the island. This site is a major breeding ground for red footed boobies. Masked boobies can also be observed here, as well as various species of finches and the Galapagos Mockingbird.
Day 5: Bartolome Island & Santiago Island
(Pinnacle Rock - Sullivan Bay)
Today we visit Bartolome Island for a hike to the summit with impressive views of the eroded tuff cone of Pinnacle Rock. Enjoy time relaxing on the beach, snorkeling and viewing Galapagos penguins, sea turtles as well as a great variety of colorful fish. After which we continue on to Sullivan Bay area on Santiago Island. This stunningly beautiful area is covered by vast Pahoehoe lava flow, and the bay is ideal for snorkeling.

Day 6: Santa Cruz Island
(Charles Darwin Station - Highlands)
The small town of Puerto Ayora is the economic center of the archipelago. Here you will have a short time to stroll along the streets, visit the local stores, and explore the harbor before we visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, a tortoise research, breeding and rearing center. There we have a specially arranged behind-the-scenes tour of the facility by one of the research center’s scientists.

After visiting the Charles Darwin Research Station, we will take a bus to the highlands. The lush greenery of the Santa Cruz Highlands is a welcome contrast with the arid scenery of the smaller, lower islands. Here we will see giant tortoises in the wild and explore the regions lava tubes.

Day 7: Floreana Island
(Cormorant Point - Champion Island - Post Office Bay – Baronesa)
Our visit to Punta Cormorant offers two contrasting beaches. Arriving on shore we will encounter a green sand beach. From here you will follow the trail leading to a lagoon where pink flamingoes and other shore birds can be seen in the distance making their home. This is also a good spot for seeing large-billed flycatchers, small-ground finch, medium-ground finch or cactus finch.

Post Office Bay is the location of a wooden barrel, placed there in the 18th century by the crew of a whaling ship. It has been used since this time by mariners and tourists as a post office. The idea is to carry letters or postcards to their destination by hand. Apart from being the Post Office Barrel, this site was the landing area for some of the first colonists. We will continue to the north of the island and ascend to an elevated slope to enjoy a beautiful vista at the Baroness Lookout.

Day 8: Espanola Island
(Gardner Bay - Suarez Point)
Gardner Bay on Española Island offers the chance to enjoy a wonderful white sandy beach. It is home to one of the archipelago’s largest sea lion colonies and is also a nesting site for sea turtles. Throughout the morning there are opportunities for swimming, and snorkeling.

Punta Suarez is a rocky area that sustains one of the most impressive and varied colonies of sea birds in the Galapagos. Along its southern shore, high cliffs rise up from the sea affording the visitor spectacular
views of soaring birds and of a blow hole where water spouts up to 50-75 feet into the air depending to the intensity of the surf.

**Day 9: San Cristobal Island**  
*(Pitt Point - Cerro Brujo)*

Punta Pitt, located on the eastern tip of San Cristóbal Island, is composed of volcanic bluff substrate. This is the only site in the Galapagos where one may have the opportunity to see all three species of boobies and both species of frigate birds.

Cerro Brujo’s gorgeous beach is home to many sea lions and it’s also the place Charles Darwin first landed in the Archipelago. Located on the north coast of San Cristóbal Island, this eroding tuff cone offers a fantastic landscape, as well as wonderful swimming, snorkeling, and panga rides.

**Day 10: San Cristobal Island**  
*(Lobos Island - Galapaguera)*

Lobos Island is only a short boat ride away from San Cristobal Island. This superb island is also named “Sea Lion Island.” The island’s large sea lion colony takes advantage of the soft sandy beaches and volcanic rocks that scatter the shore. Lobos also offers plenty of other wildlife and a short walking trail will lead you past birds such as blue footed boobies and frigate birds. Numerous marine iguanas can be found sunning themselves on the volcanic rocks. The snorkeling here is lots of fun as you will find yourself sharing the waters with plenty of sea lions as well as turtles and tropical fish.

Located in the highest part of San Cristóbal Island, La Galapaguera is a sanctuary for giant tortoises where we will observe this giant animal in its natural habitat. Here we will visit the Galapaguera Interpretation Center and enjoy exhibits on natural history, human history, and conservation.
Day 11: Plaza Sur and Santa Fe Island
Santa Fe is located towards the eastern part of the Galapagos Islands approximately midway between Santa Cruz and San Cristobal. Scientists believe that Santa Fe is the oldest of islands in the Archipelago. Santa Fe is home to a number of endemic species like the Galapagos hawk, Galapagos snake, Galapagos mockingbird, and one of the two species of land iguanas. There are great possibilities of snorkeling with playful sea lions and tropical fish.

Plaza Sur (South Plaza) Island is located at the east of Santa Cruz Island. Despite its small size, some of the most interesting and outstanding species of the Galapagos are found here. South Plaza has one of the largest populations of land iguanas in the Galapagos. These yellow-brown land iguanas feed on the fruit and pads of the prickly pear cactus. Swallow-tailed gulls nesting in the rugged cliffs are seen along with other sea birds such as Audubon shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, frigate birds, and brown pelicans.

Day 12: Floreana Island
(Asilo de la Paz and Lobería)
At the base of Asilo de la Paz, a 450m hill located in the agricultural zone of Floreana, we will find pirate caves and fresh water springs. The springs provides water for the entire population of the island, about 100 people. The caves were home to pirate Patrick Watkins, who lived there around the 1700s.

After lunch on the boat we land on La Lobería, a small beach along the bay coast. The region is home to marine iguanas and green sea turtles, as well as a sea lion colony. Swimming and snorkeling here will be a delightful way to end a wonderful day.

Day 13: Santa Cruz Island
Depart from Baltra Airport to Quito
After breakfast, depart to the Baltra Airport for our flight back to the mainland.