

ExplorE

The Galapagos Islands

with the **NORTH MUSEUM**
OF NATURAL HISTORY
& SCIENCE

and **AAA**
Central Penn

**aboard “Galapagos ExplorE II”
March 19 – 29, 2010**



The North Museum's invitation to you...

What better place to bear witness to the extraordinary diversity of life on Earth than the Galapagos Islands? Exotic reptiles, blue-footed boobies, penguins, cormorants, whales, sea lions – who could ask for more?

Join me as we ramble to a place that time forgot. I, for one, will bring my sketchbook to make note of every beak, bird, and bug. Our tour will include many experts, but the best way of knowing is to see for yourself and share your discoveries with your fellow North Museum Ramblers. Come and experience close encounters with some of the most unusual animals on the planet. I look forward to spending time with you, creating memorable authentic adventures and gaining a new appreciation for the natural world.

Bon voyage!

Margie Marino, Executive Director
North Museum of Natural History & Science
400 College Avenue, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

General Tours
World Traveler
OUR 62ND YEAR

Wednesday, March 24 - San Cristobal Island

After a morning landing on San Cristobal Island there is free time to visit the Galapagos Interpretation Center, stroll around town or take one of optional tours offered that day. In the afternoon, farther up the coast of San Cristobal Island and facing the rugged cliffs of the outcrop Leon Dormido (also known as Kicker's Rock,) you visit Cerro Brujo. Here is a long white sand beach, perfect for a swim or stroll on the beach. This is home to a sea lion colony; pelicans, shorebirds and boobies are frequent visitors. (B, L, D)

Thursday, March 25 - Española Island

A morning stop is made at Punta Suárez on Española Island. Here you can see a variety of birds including the Galapagos Hawk, Blue-footed Booby, Swallow-tailed Gulls, and is the only place in the world where the Waved Albatross nests. In the highlands of Santa Cruz are two important things to observe. One is the Saclesia forest whose trees are members of the sunflower family. The other is Los Gemelos, or the Twins, two forest-draped craters. You can also walk through the lava tubes with head lamps. In the afternoon you visit Bahia Gardner, also on Española Island, which is home to one of the most magnificent beaches in all of the Galapagos. (B, L, D)

Friday, March 26 - Santa Cruz Island / Rabida Island

This morning you visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and Puerto Ayora on Santa Cruz Island. In the afternoon you visit Rabida Island, a very small island covered by dry and coastal vegetation with a central volcano. Rabida contains the largest variety of lava types, red being the dominant color. Red sands and teal waters characterize the island with a large sea lion colony and occasional sightings of flamingos. A short walk to the trail's top and you can take fabulous photos of the clear waters and volcanic peaks. (B, L, D)

Saturday, March 27 - Santa Cruz Island / Quito

The first stop of the day is Bachas Beach on Santa Cruz Island, a white sand beach where you can see sea turtles, whimbrels, herons, pelicans, Sally Lightfoot crabs and other species. Later this morning, you bid goodbye to the guides and crew of the "Galapagos Explorer II" at Baltra Island and transfer to the airport for an afternoon flight to Quito. Follow your AAA Travel escort for the transfer to your hotel to enjoy an included dinner at the Café Quito. Your escort coordinates tomorrow's arrangements for the hotel departure, city tour, included meal, airport transfer and flights. Overnight accommodations are at the deluxe Swissotel, Quito. (B, D)

Sunday, March 28 - Quito / Return to USA

Today in Quito features a guided tour of this modern high elevation Andean city with lovely 16th century Colonial architecture and an included meal. Your flight departs in late evening on an overnight route to the USA. (B, Meal)

Monday, March 29 - Arrival in USA / Transfer to Lancaster

Your overnight flight arrives in the USA in the morning, connecting to a morning flight to Baltimore. Charter transfer from BWI to the North Museum of Natural History & Science in Lancaster. Welcome Home, Ramblers!



"Galapagos Explorer II" is one of the finest expedition ships in the Galapagos archipelago today. With a crew of 70 for just 100 passengers, this ship is 289 feet long and has 5 decks. Each of the 50 cabins is "outside" with ocean views and air-conditioned, has twin beds or one queen bed, a seating area with sofa, large closets and bathroom, hairdryer, in-room safe, TV, refrigerator and telephone; electricity is 110. The "Classic" stateroom has either portholes or a picture window; the "Deluxe" stateroom has large picture windows. This deluxe-rated ship also features a library, lecture and naturalist rooms, restaurant, lounge bar, pool, Jacuzzi, observatory deck (excellent for night-time star gazing), solarium, medical assistance, massage suite, and satellite communication.

Why Choose This North Museum Ramble?

- Peak season travel in March provides the best conditions for wildlife viewing and photography, plus the warmest water temperatures for snorkeling
- Top quality expedition leaders/enrichment educators on board "Galapagos Explorer II"
- Comfort and facilities of an expedition ship the size of the deluxe "Galapagos Explorer II"
- Park for free and board your motorcoach in Lancaster
- Opportunity to travel with fellow North Museum members and other interesting central Pennsylvanians
- North Museum Executive Director Margie Marino as your host

Trip Price Includes All These Features:

- ♦ Private charter round trip transfers between Lancaster and Baltimore-Washington International Airport
- ♦ Regularly scheduled round trip flights between BWI and Quito, Ecuador, and between Quito and Baltra in the Galapagos Islands
- ♦ Accommodations for a total of 2 nights in center city Quito at the deluxe class "Swissotel;" hotel taxes and service charges
- ♦ Accommodations for 7 nights on board "Galapagos Explorer II" expedition ship in selected stateroom category
- ♦ Galapagos Islands expedition cruise for 8 days departing from and returning to Baltra Island, with access to the islands via small landing craft; see itinerary for outline of daily touring locations
- ♦ Guided touring throughout the Galapagos Islands with professional English-speaking expedition leaders/enrichment educators on board the ship and ashore; all admission fees for sightseeing as per itinerary
- ♦ Breakfast each morning in Quito, plus all meals on board the ship beginning with Dinner on day of boarding ship (Day 2) through Breakfast on day of departing ship (Day 9), plus Farewell Dinner and an additional meal in Quito, for a total of 9 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches and 8 Dinners = 24 meals
- ♦ Gratuities to motorcoach drivers and baggage porters in U.S. and Ecuador
- ♦ Current flight ticket taxes and fuel surcharges, U.S. government taxes, Galapagos National Park fee, Galapagos Transit Control Card fee (all subject to change; increases are the responsibility of the traveler)
- ♦ Hosted by Margie Marino, Executive Director of the North Museum of Natural History & Science, Lancaster, PA
- ♦ Escorted throughout by professional tour manager/representative of AAA Travel – AAA Central Penn
- ♦ Pre-Ramble orientation and travel information meeting
- ♦ Professional travel management services of AAA Travel – AAA Central Penn

Not Included: Passport fees, gratuities to ship personnel, any additional meals, admissions, services, or fees not specifically noted as included

Rate, Per person, sharing a double occupancy hotel room/ship stateroom:

| | <u>North Museum Member</u> | <u>Non-member</u> |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|
| "Classic" outside/ocean-view stateroom (port-holes or windows) | \$6,449 | \$6,699 |
| "Deluxe" outside/ocean-view stateroom (picture windows) | \$7,169 | \$7,419 |

Rate, Single occupancy of hotel room/ship stateroom:

| | <u>North Museum Member</u> | <u>Non-member</u> |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|
| "Classic" outside/ocean-view stateroom (port-holes or windows) | \$8,729 | \$8,979 |
| "Deluxe" outside/ocean-view stateroom (picture windows) | \$10,029 | \$10,279 |

AAA Members may deduct \$115 per person AAA member benefit discount from the above rates.

Note: Reservation availability is limited in each stateroom category and subject to confirmation upon receipt of traveler's deposit.

North Museum Membership

Become a North Museum member to get the discounted rates and early registration benefits. Members receive free admission to the North Museum for a year, our quarterly newsletter with information on future Rambles, other great benefits, and the satisfaction of supporting science education for all ages. A family membership costs just \$ 62. To join, please call Amanda Eckinger at (717) 291-4037.

General Information

Documents

Original, signed passport valid for 6 months beyond stay, and with at least one blank Visa page for Visa stamp(s).

Payment

A deposit of \$500 per person will confirm your reservation. The balance is due to AAA by December 7, 2009.

Cancellation Penalties:

| | |
|--|--|
| Deposit date to day of departure | \$25 per person and any additional suppliers fees, plus: |
| From November 18 to December 18, 2009 | 15% of total fare per person, plus any additional suppliers fees |
| From December 19, 2009 to January 17, 2010 | 35% of total fare per person, plus any additional suppliers fees |
| From January 18 to February 16, 2010 | 50% of total fare per person, plus any additional suppliers fees |
| After February 16, 2010 | NON-REFUNDABLE |

Insurance

Pre-existing medical conditions may be waived with proper coverage if travel insurance is purchased within 21 days of initial deposit. Other conditions apply; ask your agent. AAA recommends Travel Guard.

Air

Air schedules are determined by the tour company. Since air arrangements are handled by the tour company, seat assignments cannot be confirmed until 30 days prior to departure. Specific seat requests cannot be guaranteed and are subject to availability. Airlines reserve the right to change schedules.

Climate

The itinerary and activities of this trip require the traveler to be in good physical condition, able to walk reasonable distances, able to walk in water and on uneven surfaces. March's usual day-time temperatures: Galapagos in the 80's, mostly sunny with mix of short showers; Quito in the 60's, a high altitude city at 9350 feet.

Baggage

One suitcase per person is allowed. You may also bring a small carry-on bag.

Miscellaneous

For personal comfort, group participants who require assistance are advised to have a travelling companion who is capable of and totally responsible for providing the needed assistance.

CONSUMER DISCLOSURE NOTICE - PART OF CONTRACT OF SERVICE

PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE. IT CONSTITUTES PART OF YOUR CONTRACT FOR TRAVEL-RELATED SERVICES.

AAA TRAVEL is acting as a mere agent for SUPPLIERS in selling travel-related services, or in accepting reservations or bookings for services that are not directly supplied by this travel agency (such as air and ground transportation, hotel accommodations, meals, tours, cruises, etc.). This agency, therefore, shall not be responsible for breach of contract or any intentional or careless actions or omissions on part of such suppliers, which result in any loss, damage, delay or injury to you or your travel companions or group members. Unless the term "guaranteed" is specifically stated in writing on your tickets, invoice, or reservation itinerary, we do not guarantee any of such suppliers' rates, bookings, reservations, connections, scheduling, or handling of personal effects. Travel agent shall not be responsible for any injuries, damages, or losses cause to any traveler in connection with terrorist activities, social or labor unrest, climatic conditions, abnormal conditions or developments, or any other actions, omissions, or conditions outside the travel agent's control. Traveler assumes complete and full responsibility for, and hereby releases the agent from any duty of, check-in and verifying any and all passport, visa, vaccination, or other entry requirements of each destination, and all safety or security conditions at such, destinations, during the length of the proposed travel. For information concerning possible dangers at international destinations, contact the Travel Advisory Section of the U.S. State Department. For medical information, call the Public Health Service. By embarking upon his/her travel, the traveler voluntarily assumes all risks involved in such travel, whether expected or unexpected. Traveler is hereby warned of such risks, and is advised to obtain appropriate insurance coverage against them. Traveler's retention of tickets, reservations, or bookings after issuance shall constitute a consent of a the move, and an agreement on his/her part to convey the contents hereto to his/her travel companions or group members.

GRP5510 7/09

Questions about this special North Museum Ramble?

Please contact:

Craig Haberle, AAA Travel – AAA Central Penn or James Alton, North Museum of Natural History & Science
(717) 629-8998; e-mail: chaberle@aaacp.com (717) 358-4712; e-mail: james.alton@fandm.edu



Visit us at AAA.com Travel With Someone You Trust©



"GALAPAGOS RAMBLE"
March 19 – 29, 2010



Please return form promptly to:
"Discoveries by AAA" - AAA Travel/AAA Central Penn
P.O. Box 1354, Harrisburg, PA 17105-1354
or fax to 717-657-3547

Registration Questions? Call Craig Haberle
@ AAA Travel: 717-629-8998
or email to chaberle@aaacp.com

Please print clearly and use one form for each registrant with a different address or payment/billing arrangement.

Registration information MUST list legal name as shown on Valid Passport:

1: Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____ Birth Date? _____ U.S. Citizen? Yes/No
rooming with
2: Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____ Birth Date? _____ U.S. Citizen? Yes/No

Address: _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Daytime telephone number: (____) _____ E-mail address: _____

Name as you prefer it to appear on passenger list:

Passenger # 1: _____ Passenger # 2: _____

Passport Numbers, city of issuance and expiration date:

Passenger # 1 _____ Passenger # 2: _____

North Museum Members ? Yes; No. AAA Membership numbers: _____

Ship Stateroom Category Preferred (confirmation based on availability); rates are shown on Ramble brochure:
____ "Classic" outside/ocean-view stateroom or _____ "Deluxe" outside/ocean-view stateroom

Bed Configuration: Two twin beds _____ or One queen bed _____

Accommodations: Rooming with (if on a separate registration form): _____
____ Single Occupancy. ____ Double Occupancy. ____ Single, willing to share hotel room/stateroom.

Special Occasion being celebrated on this trip (advise occasion and date) _____

Physical Disabilities/Food Restrictions and/or Health Conditions: _____

Do you require wheelchair assistance at airports? Yes/No. Other assistance required? _____

Please keep in mind there will be considerable walking involved on this trip. For personal comfort, group participants who require assistance are advised to have a traveling companion who is capable of and totally responsible for providing assistance throughout this trip.

Note: To the best of my knowledge, I am in good health and suffering from no physical condition which might be detrimental to my own safety, comfort and convenience, and that of the other participants during this tour. If any participant named on this application has a specific physical condition, disability, allergy, or dietary requirement that may require special attention or treatment, such details MUST be reported on this application. I have read, understand and agree to conditions set forth in the tour information, plus the Consumer Disclosure Notice, especially those paragraphs relating to payments, cancellations, refunds and responsibilities of AAA Travel, North Museum, General Tours as tour operator and/or agents for the participants.

> Signatures: # 1: _____ # 2 _____

In Case of Emergency during the tour, please contact:

Name _____ Relationship _____

Daytime Telephone (____) _____ Evening Telephone (____) _____

Deposit and Payment Arrangements:

Member and Non-member rates for this North Museum Ramble are shown on the brochure.

Trip Payments: \$ 500 per person deposit due with registration form. Balance due to AAA by December 7, 2009

____ Check enclosed (payable to AAA Travel) or ____ Charge to credit card, information provided below:

Visa/MasterCard (circle one) Account # _____ Expiration Date _____

Cardholder name as shown on card _____ > Signature _____