Join the Houston Zoo Wildlife Conservation Program and Rice Alumni Travel Program on a very special trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

Dates: August 26 to September 4, 2016
10 Days / 9 Nights

Maximum number of travelers for this trip will be 20
Please refer to additional document for Deck Plan on Category room assignments

Program Fee:
- Iguana (Category 1): $5,995, based on double occupancy
- Booby (Category 2): $6,395, based on double occupancy
- Dolphin (Category 3): $6,795, based on double occupancy

Single Traveler Fee:
- Iguana (Category 1): $8,992.50, based on single occupancy
- Booby (Category 2): $9,592.50, based on single occupancy
- Dolphin (Category 3): $10,192.50, based on single occupancy

Child Rate:
Children 14 and under will receive a $500 discount. Children must be at least 7 years old to participate in this trip.

Triple Fee
$75 discount off of double rate (2 Iguana cabins (9&10) have potential for triple occupancy, but the max occupancy of the boat cannot exceed 20 persons total)

Deposit: $500, non-refundable deposit required at time of booking

Itinerary at a Glance:
Day 1: Arrive Quito, Ecuador / Otavalo
Day 2: Otavalo / Andean Villages
Day 3: Quito / San Cristobal, Galapagos Islands
Day 4: Genovesa: Prince Philip’s Steps & Bahia Darwin
Day 5: Bachus Beach & Cerro Dragon
Day 6: Isabela
Day 7: Fernandina / Isabela
Day 8: Rabida / Santa Cruz / Natural Habitat’s Wild Tortoise Camp
Day 9: Santa Cruz / Darwin Station or Tortuga Bay
Day 10: San Cristobal / Quito / Depart
Day 1: Quito, Ecuador / Otavalo
Upon arrival in Quito, our local representative meets you at the airport and accompanies you on the scenic drive to the mountain town of Otavalo, just over an hour away in the Andean Highlands. We check in to the Hacienda Cusin, built in 1602 as the centerpiece of a sprawling colonial sheep farm and estate. Today the restored colonial hacienda is one of Ecuador’s loveliest inns, surrounded by five acres of lushly landscaped gardens, ponds and cobblestone courtyards. Each guest room is individually furnished with antiques and regional Andean arts and crafts, and many have wood-burning fireplaces. Dinner is on your own this evening in the hacienda’s dining room.

In the heart of Ecuador’s Sierra at 8,500 feet, Hacienda Cusin welcomes guests seeking a gracious experience of a historic era, amid some of the country’s most dramatic Andean scenery. Situated on a lushly landscaped 5-acre estate, the restored colonial hacienda is just over an hour’s drive from Quito’s new international airport and a short distance from the market town of Otavalo. Built in 1602, Hacienda Cusin was purchased at auction from Philip III King of Spain by the prominent Luna family.

Day 2: Otavalo / Andean Villages
Our Ecuador adventure begins with an immersion in the striking landscape and indigenous culture of the Andean Highlands. Otavalo, best known for its 400-year-old market that is the longest continuously operating site of commerce in South America, lies at the hub of this region of lakes and volcanic peaks. Artisans from local villages produce the region's famed textiles, and we’ll have a chance to visit a place or two where we can witness handicrafts in the making and learn about the residents' traditional lifestyles. This evening, we gather for an orientation and welcome dinner as we prepare to depart for the Galapagos in the morning.
Day 3: Quito / San Cristobal, Galapagos Islands
Depart early this morning for the return drive to the Quito airport and our flight to the islands. We land at San Cristobal where we meet our Expedition Leaders who will accompany us to the pier where our Galapagos cruise begins. The M/Y Letty is our home for the next week, providing comfortable cabins and 360° views from the topside observation deck. After getting settled into our cabins, our guides provide an orientation to the ship and the adventures that lie ahead. Following lunch aboard and an initial safety drill, we set off for our first landing at Punta Carola and an easy hike to the top of Frigatebird Hill. We're rewarded with spectacular views of the coast, Kicker Rock, and the rooftops of the town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. Seabirds soar overhead, and we may see the namesake frigatebirds with their distinctive red chests. Soon it's time to head back to the ship for dinner, and as we cruise off into the sunset, already we can see why Herman Melville called these the "Enchanted Isles."

Day 4: Genovesa
Genovesa Island, also called Tower, is a collapsed shield volcano whose flooded caldera attracts vast numbers of pelagic seabirds that come here to breed and nest. Inside the submerged crater we are surrounded by thousands of great frigatebirds, red-footed boobies, swallow-tailed gulls, Galapagos storm petrels and yellow-crowned night herons that rend the air with a cacophony of squawks. We anchor at Darwin Bay, formed thousands of years ago after the collapse of the volcano's roof to form a huge caldera. Surrounded by vertical cliffs, the bay is an ideal breeding site for the more than two million land and sea birds that congregate on Genovesa. Following the trail up Prince Philip's Steps, we walk among colonies of great frigatebirds and red-footed and Nazca boobies to a lava field where storm petrels nest in underground chambers and lava tubes. After lunch we'll have the option to do some kayaking, followed by a landing late this afternoon at a coral beach to swim and snorkel with sea lions.
Day 5: Bachas Beach / Cerro Dragon
This morning we land at Las Bachas, a beautiful white sand beach on Santa Cruz. Snorkeling in the azure water reveals a kaleidoscope of fish, while the powdered coral sand is a favorite nesting site for green sea turtles, and pink flamingos often dot the saltwater lagoons. We continue this afternoon to Cerro Dragon ("Dragon Hill"), one of the best places in the islands to see large land iguanas.

Scientists have been working diligently to protect Santa Cruz's native land iguana population from invasive species, and it's not uncommon for travelers and researchers to cross paths on trails among the cacti and Palo Santo forest in the area. Great views are available from atop the small hill, where visitors may also see a variety of birds.

Day 6: Isabela
Isabela is the largest of the Galapagos islands, created where six volcanoes flowed together. This morning we explore Punta Vicente Roca, a small promontory on the island's northern side with two coves that lie on either side of the eroded remains of a tuff cone made of volcanic ash. We'll cruise around the point by panga (motorized raft), observing large numbers of blue-footed and Nazca boobies that nest on the sheer cliffs, while flightless cormorants are seen along the shoreline. Then we'll snorkel in one of the protected coves, laced with water-filled subterranean passages. Marine life is abundant, and we're sure to see green sea turtles swimming gracefully beneath the surface.

At Urbina Bay this afternoon, we step ashore on a white sand beach to witness one of the best examples of geological uplift in the Galapagos, a phenomenon that occurs when molten rock beneath the surface suddenly shifts. In 1954 the shoreline was uplifted, exposing 1.6 square miles of shoreline. The coastline was driven three-quarters of a mile farther out to sea, exposing coral and stranding marine organisms on what is now shore. Urbina is also home to a colony of some of the largest land iguanas in the islands and the iconic Galapagos tortoise.
Day 7: Fernandina / Isabela

Just opposite Isabela, Fernandina is the youngest and most active volcano in the Galapagos. The rippling pahoehoe lava at Punta Espinosa is a stark backdrop for the surprising variety of life that flourishes here: flightless cormorants nest on the rocks, Galapagos hawks soar overhead, sea lions sprawl on the beach, and huge colonies of marine iguanas bask in the sun. Bright orange Sally Lightfoot crabs pepper the black rocks at water’s edge, a vivid counterpoint to the aquamarine sea. A snorkeling excursion offers a good chance to see sea turtles and submerged marine iguanas feeding on algae. This afternoon we cruise across the Bolivar Channel back to Isabela, keep watch for whales and dolphins. Landing at Tagus Cove, we explore by panga, finding penguins, pelicans and graffiti dating to the 1800s when the names of ships were carved into the rock above a historic anchorage for pirates and whalers. An optional hike to Darwin’s Lagoon is a possibility, followed by another snorkeling opportunity, perhaps with a chance to frolic again with young sea lions.
Day 8: Rabida / Santa Cruz / Natural Habitat's Wild Tortoise Camp

Rabida is one of the most volcanically varied islands in the chain. The beaches here are deep maroon and the rock multicolored, products of lava eruptions from the multitude of spatter cones that pock the island. Marine iguanas and sea lions are often seen resting in the shade of caves, and Rabida’s saltwater lagoon is home to abundant birdlife, including pink flamingos. A short trail leads to the lagoon where we may see boobies, brown pelicans nesting in the bushes, and nine species of Darwin’s finches. Excellent snorkeling opportunities also await over the reefs that fringe the island.

This afternoon we continue to Santa Cruz, the highest island in the Galapagos chain. At Black Turtle Cove, a haven for marine life, we explore the mangrove ecosystem by panga and keep an eye out for black- and white-tipped reef sharks, sea turtles, and a variety of rays that are often spotted here. Afterward, those who choose to participate in our unique camping opportunity will disembark and transfer to the remote highlands of Santa Cruz to spend the night at Natural Habitat’s exclusive Wild Tortoise Camp. Our private campsite, with distant views of the ocean, is tucked among lush vegetation that attracts giant tortoises. A bus returns us in the morning to rejoin our boat for the day’s activities. Please note: At times, the camp may be closed due to poor weather conditions.

Day 9: Santa Cruz / Darwin Station or Tortuga Bay

Our exploration of Santa Cruz begins with a visit to the tortoise reserve at El Manzanillo, whose lush environs harbor numerous wild giant tortoises that roam freely year-round. Next we visit the Lava Java organic coffee farm, where we’ll meet the owners, learn about the growing process, and have a chance to sample some of the finished product. This afternoon we return to the coast and the town of Puerto Ayora, where you may choose between two activities: a visit to the world-famous Charles Darwin Research Station with free time in town, or a walk to a pristine beach at Tortuga Bay for swimming, snorkeling and relaxing.

At Darwin Station, which operates in tandem with Galapagos National Park, learn about the efforts of scientists, guides, rangers and park managers to preserve the UNESCO World Heritage Site that is the Galapagos. At the tortoise-rearing facility, see tiny babies bred to help increase the depleted tortoise population, a central part of the station’s conservation mission. To date, more than 5,000 tortoises have been returned to the wild in Galapagos through the program. After visiting the station, there’s still some time to walk around town. Those opting to visit Tortuga Bay will make an easy 3-mile walk (about an hour and 15 minutes one way, plus return) to a large, wild beach that is a sanctuary for the many iguanas, crabs and birds that dot the lava rocks. Snorkeling is permitted in a separate cove nearby where it is common to view schools of white-tipped reef sharks, sea turtles and colorful fish. Or, for those who wish, enjoy a full afternoon of free time in town to browse the shops and galleries before heading back to the boat to sail northward this evening.
Day 10: San Cristobal / Quito
This morning we return to San Cristobal, one of the oldest islands in the archipelago, and drop anchor at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the capital of the province of Galapagos. Here we'll disembark the Letty, then visit the National Park Interpretation Center for a concluding overview of the natural and human history of the islands. At last it's time to bid farewell to the islands and fly back to Quito's new international airport, where we meet departing flights or continue onward for those extending their travels to the Amazon rain forest or Machu Picchu.

The optimal way to travel the Galapagos is aboard our first-class, 20-passenger private chartered expedition yacht designed and built exclusively for Galapagos exploration. The M/Y Letty, built in 1990, is 83 feet long with a 24-foot beam. The small ship has just 10 cabins, ensuring the intimacy of small-group discovery—a Natural Habitat Adventures trademark. As we explore the islands, we have the added advantage of venturing out in even smaller groups: our team of two NHA Galapagos-certified naturalist guides leads subgroups of no more than 10 travelers as we snorkel and explore island trails. In our estimation, this is the only way to truly immerse yourself in the Galapagos and observe wildlife at close range.

The interior of our ship is furnished in polished teak wood. Picture windows surround the top two decks, offering panoramic views of sea, sky and islands. Enjoy ocean breezes from the topside sun deck lounge chairs, strategically positioned for observation. Snorkeling equipment, wet suits, sea kayaks (two double and one single) and beach towels are provided at no additional charge. Accommodations are located on three decks, each cabin featuring a large private bathroom and hot-and-cold freshwater showers. Cabins have either two twin lower beds or one double bed, a roomy closet, drawers, overhead storage, bottled water, hair dryer, toiletries and fresh towels. The Letty is also one of the few ships in the islands that can accommodate triples for families who wish to stay together.
Your Guide for the trip
Dr. Joseph Flanagan is the Chief Veterinarian of the Houston Zoo with over 32 years of zoo veterinary experience. Dr. Flanagan has been working in the Galapagos Islands since the early 1990’s assisting the Galapagos National Park and the Charles Darwin Research Station to preserve and restore biodiversity in this living laboratory. Dr. Flanagan has made over 2 dozen trips in support of tortoise and habitat conservation, as well as having led a number of tours to some of the most spectacular visitor sites in the archipelago.

Included
Accommodations, meals from breakfast on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 10, optional overnight at NHA’s Wild Tortoise Camp, drinking water, services of NHA’s professional Expedition Leaders, local guides and boat crew, some gratuities, airport transfers, use of wetsuits and snorkel gear on all scheduled departures, permit fees.

Not Included
Travel to and from Quito, R/T air Quito to Galapagos ($550 for adults, $350 for children under 12 – to be added to your invoice and subject to change through day of departure), most gratuities, alcohol, Galapagos tax and transit card (approximately $120 for adults, $70 for children under 12, collected in advance), items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), travel insurance, optional activities.

Physical Requirements: Easy to Moderate
The activities on this trip consist of island walks, swimming and snorkeling. Trails are often rough and uneven, over sharp lava fields and loose rocks and gravel. Walking over slippery rocks is sometimes necessary when coming ashore. Passengers must be able to walk two miles to participate in this trip, walk up and down stairs, and be able to get in and out of our motorized pangas (rigid inflatable rafts), which can be very unsteady in rough water. A few wet landings, where we disembark from the panga directly into the water and walk up onto the beach, are included. Snorkeling is a big component of this trip, with excursions offered nearly every day, sometimes twice a day. While no snorkeling experience is required, prior practice is recommended and travelers should be comfortable swimming in moderate currents, near shore and in deep water. Our Expedition Leaders will also offer guidance for those in need of additional snorkeling instruction. Travelers are not required to participate in every activity.

Information About This Trip
Perhaps nowhere else on Earth is a more appropriate destination for Natural Habitat guests than the Galapagos Islands. With rare and friendly wildlife found at every turn, the islands provide a wonderland for nature travelers, which our Expedition Leaders unveil in a warm and intimate manner. The key to the success of our Galapagos adventures is the small group size. The M/Y Letty accommodates just 20 guests and two Expedition Leaders. Once we step ashore, we break our group down into even smaller groups. Splitting the group also allows our guests to move at varied paces, although guests must be able to walk over uneven terrain up to two miles, as well as disembark the panga in sometimes-rough conditions. In addition to land excursions, we have the opportunity to snorkel almost every day while in the islands. Another important and exciting element of this trip is a unique opportunity (optional, but included) to stay in the highlands of Santa Cruz at our first-class private camp, with accommodations in walk-in safari-style tents and tree houses overlooking the Pacific. On this private land the famed Galapagos tortoises roam freely and often wander in close proximity to camp.
Please note: The itinerary provided is meant as a guideline, and is subject to change without notice. On rare occasions, it may be necessary to deviate from our regular itinerary for reasons beyond our control. In these instances we will provide the best available alternative.

**Payment Policy**

- **A non-refundable** deposit of $500 per person is due at time of booking.
- Final payments are due 90 days prior to departure, or May 28, 2016.

Cancellation dates and fees are as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Fee Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Within 90 days of departure (through May 27, 2016):</td>
<td>$500 non-refundable deposit</td>
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<tr>
<td>From 90 days to 45 days prior to departure (&lt;May 28, 2016 through July 12, 2016&gt;):</td>
<td>50% of program fee is non-refundable</td>
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<tr>
<td>From 44 days prior through departure (on or after July 13, 2016):</td>
<td>100% of program fee is non-refundable</td>
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**Viewing the Wildlife**

Since our programs specialize in viewing wildlife, every effort is made to plan programs where wildlife is known to exist. However, the animals we visit live wild and free and we cannot fully predict or control their migratory patterns (nor would we want to). In an attempt to locate wildlife that may have deviated from its normal pattern, or in the interest of traveler comfort or safety, we may be required to make reasonable changes in itineraries. If it is necessary to change hotels, boats, other facilities and/or program leaders, comparable accommodations will be substituted wherever possible. If such changes or fluctuations in exchange rates occur, additional costs may require the program fee to change with little or no notice.

**Terms and Conditions**

The Houston Zoo and Rice University Alumni Travel have partnered with NHA on this program. NHA, a division of Natural Habitat Inc., and our cooperating agents make every effort to select reliable suppliers and contractors to provide air and other transportation, hotels, guides, and other travel related services, but we do not assume responsibility, directly or indirectly, for any loss, damage, or injury to property or person in connection with such services. Each traveler agrees not to hold NHA, its owners, employees, agents or representatives liable, in the absence of their own gross negligence, for any loss or injury, expense, or damage which results directly or indirectly from any act or omission of any person or firm, which is to or does provide goods or services in connection with the trip or with any available option. No refunds will be made for any unused portion of your trip.

NHA and its cooperating agents shall not be liable for circumstances arising as a result of Acts of God; weather; detention; annoyance; delays and expenses arising from quarantine; strikes; theft; pilferage; force majeure; military, political or terrorist action; civil disturbances; government restrictions or regulations; failure of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled; discrepancies or changes in transit over which they have no control.

Participation in the program will require that travelers sign releases and covenants not to sue NHA or its participating agents in the absence of their own gross negligence. On advancement of a deposit, the traveler agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions set forth above.
RESERVATION FORM

Please reserve _______ place(s) on Classic Galápagos Islands. August 26 – September 4, 2016

Name:__________________________________________________ Date of Birth: ________________________
Name: ____________________________________________________ Date of Birth: ________________________

*Street Address: _______________________________________________________________________________
City: ____________ State: ______________ ZIP: __________________
Phone: ____________________________________________ E-mail: _______________________________

*PLEASE NOTE: Travelers not living at the same address must fill out separate reservation forms.

☐ Please call me to arrange air travel from my home city of: ____________________________.

Cabin Categories:

☒ Iguana (Category 1) $5,995, based on double occupancy
Please note: Twin beds only on Iguana deck.

☒ Booby (Category 2) $6,395, based on double occupancy
Please note: Double beds only on Booby deck.

☒ Dolphin (Category 3) $6,795, based on double occupancy

☐ Prefer twin beds ☐ Prefer double bed

Please Note: Cabin category choices are subject to availability. NHA will assign cabin number upon receiving booking.

Single Traveler Fee (Please limit single travelers to ONE):

☒ Iguana (Category 1) $8,992.50, based on single occupancy

☒ Booby (Category 2) $9,592.50, based on single occupancy

☒ Dolphin (Category 3) $10,192.50, based on single occupancy

Deposit Information:
The Galápagos Islands Deposit: $500 per person (non-refundable).

☐ Check enclosed, payable to Natural Habitat Adventures

☑ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Card

Account #: _____________________________ CVV #: ______ Exp Date: ____/____/____

Cardholder Name: ________________________________________________________________________

PLEASE NOTE: Your final payment will be charged to your credit card at 90 days prior to departure. Should you prefer to pay by check, you must indicate your preference below.

☐ I will pay my final payment by check. Please do not charge my credit card for final payment.

Accommodations

Twin/Double (please provide name of accompanying person if not shown above):

__________________________________________________________________________

Waiver of Liability

I understand that by signing below I am acting for myself and for everyone in my party in acknowledging that the Refund & Cancellation Policy, Wildlife Viewing, Terms & Conditions and Please Note sections on the NHA website (www.nathab.com) have been read and accepted. I also understand that I and everyone in my party will be required to sign a release of liability form prior to and/or during my trip. I give my permission for NHA to charge my final balance on my credit card at 90 days prior to departure, unless otherwise noted on this form. I also give my permission for NHA to use any image taken of me or anyone in my party by NHA or its affiliates for promotional purposes.

Signature ________________________________________________________________ Date _________________
Signature ________________________________________________________________ Date __________________

Note: Each participant must sign this waiver.

Please complete this form and mail or email to either Peter at the Houston Zoo or Dan at Rice University:
**Houston Zoo Contact:**
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