# Cameron Park Zoo January, 2010 ECUADOR & GALAPAGOS ISLAND 10-Day San Cristobal and Isabela Islands Program



# DAY 1 - MONDAY, JANUARY 18 - U.S. - QUITO

Following your arrival in Quito, Ecuador, a representative will meet and escort you to your overnight accommodations at **La Rabida**.

# DAY 2 – TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 - QUITO / SAN CRISTOBAL GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

In the morning you board the scheduled flight from Quito to San Cristobal Island in the Galapagos archipelago. Here you are met and transferred to the Pimampiro Hotel (or similar). After lunch, on the seafront, you hike to Frigate Bird Hill for your first opportunity to snorkel amongst the abundant marine life in Darwin Bay. Your dinner and accommodations for the next three nights are at the **Pimampiro Hotel**. B/L/D

# DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20 - SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

In the morning you depart for the San Cristobal Island highlands. Your first stop will be at the Junco Laguna. This crater of an extinct volcano is the only source of fresh water on the island. You then drive to the Jatun Sacha Foundation, where volunteers will explain some of the programs that have been implemented to eliminate some of the exotic species of plants and animals that have been introduced to the Galapagos islands by humans. You will also have an opportunity to plant an endemic species of tree before driving on to the Galapaguera. This propagation center protects several sub-species of Galapagos tortoises in a semi natural environment and you will be introduced to them and to this important conservation program by their care takers. Following a delicious lunch at a local *finca* you will hike to pristine Puerto Chino Beach. This is a good place to find several of the island's shore birds, including Blue-footed Booby and the Magnificent Frigate Bird. You will be able to swim, body surf, sun bathe and explore before returning to your accommodations for dinner and to overnight. B/L/D

# DAY 4 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 21 - SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

Today will be dedicated to marine biology and snorkeling! Following breakfast you depart, by speedboat, for the Lobos Islands where you'll snorkel in clear water surrounded by sea lions, marine iguanas and lots of colorful reef fishes. Your next stop will be at Kicker Rock, a volcanic rock 148 meters above sea level. Here you'll snorkel in the channel and around the back of the rock searching for inoffensive reef sharks, rays and, if lucky, hammerheads! Afterwards you'll navigate to Puerto Grande, a white sandy beach surrounded by mangroves. In addition to Sally Lightfoot and Hermit crabs, several species of birds may be seen here and the beach is a nesting site for marine turtles. In the afternoon there will be time to swim, explore and relax before returning to port for dinner. B/L/D

# DAY 5 - FRIDAY, JANUARY 22 - SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND / ISABELA ISLAND

After breakfast, you transfer to the airport and board the scheduled flight to Isabela. Although the largest in the archipelago, only 2,200 people live on this enchanted island, which contains more than 60% of the endemic Galapagos' flora and fauna. Isabela is also the only island in the Galapagos located directly on the equator. Amongst Isabela's attractions are five active volcanoes, the most extensive wetlands in the archipelago (recognized as a RAMSAR site), and a beautiful, three kilometer long, beach. You will also enjoy the option of trekking with giant tortoises, swimming with white tip sharks, snorkeling with marine turtles and kayaking amongst

flamingos...all in the surroundings of a quiet, relaxed community, where stress is virtually unknown. After some time to settle into your rooms at your beach front hotel your experience here begins with a relaxing walk, down the 1.2 km boardwalk, to the Giant Tortoise Breeding Centre where the endangered giant tortoise population of the Galapagos Islands is presently recovering. On the way you will pass three lagoons where you will likely see Flamingos! Once at the Centre you join a guided tour to several large areas where turtles of different ages are being raised before being released into the wild. High quality interpretative materials will be available. You will have the option of either walking to the Centre and back via the boardwalk or being taken to the Centre by car and walking back along the boardwalk, enjoying the sunset on your way. Your accommodations for the next four nights are at the **Casa Marita**. B/L

### DAY 6 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 23 - ISABELA ISLAND

The highlight of today's activities will be a visit to Sierra Negra. Located in the Isabela highlands this is the world's second largest volcanic crater. You begin the day by visiting El Cura and then drive to El Mango, which commands a spectacular view of the southern part of Isabela. You then drive to the crater, noting a marked change in the vegetation zones as you climb upwards, as well as the Guayaba forest which burned during the 2005 eruption. No doubt you will also notice the large trees that stand out in the agricultural landscape. These are Ceibos that were introduced by Antonio Gil in 1897 when he first colonizing this part of the island. 'Volcán Chico' (little volcano) is located at the eastern rim of the crater where it is much drier. Here you will see several volcanic features which were produced by two recent eruptions: windblown materials on the main crater rim, massive lava flows below in the main crater resulting from the 2005 eruption, and complex lava flows and small cones related to the 1979 eruption. On a clear day you will have a spectacular view of central and northern Isabela, as well as Fernandina, Pinzón and Santa Cruz islands. B/L

# DAY 7 - SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 - ISABELA ISLAND

Following breakfast you begin your marine experience with a visit to the white tip shark canal and tour around the island of Tintoreras, where you will be able to observe the biodiversity of the Galapagos Islands in micro-chasm. There is a small channel on this tiny island where white tipped sharks rest during the daytime and sea lions often play around them. Eagle rays also frequent this channel. Although quite small in size, this island hosts a large variety of wildlife. Seals and sea lions as well as rays, turtles, penguins, sharks, marine iguanas and numerous birds all occur here. Other natural features you will be able to observe are pumice stones, the result of the eruption of Alcedo, the highest volcano on the island and a species of white lichen which grows directly on the bare volcanic rock. Following a relaxing snorkel in the bay you will depart, by vehicle, for the 'Humedales (wetlands) trail'. This area was designated as a RAMSAR site of international importance in 2002. The road ends at the Muro de las Lagrimas (Wall of Tears), which was raised in the late 1940's by the inmates of a prison colony, built on the site of a World War II US military base. The road initially follows Villamil beach, passing by the cemetery which offers a glimpse into the history of the island's settlement. After wandering along this outstanding system of trails and pathways, which leads through mangroves (all four species are found here) and marine iguana colonies, you enjoy a picnic catered by the women of the village before returning, by way of the beach, to your hotel. B/L

# DAY 8 - MONDAY, JANUARY 25 - ISABELA ISLAND

After breakfast you visit Roca Unión, a small island full of life, where you will be able to snorkel amongst schools of brightly colored fish, sea lions and boobies. Turtle Cove, a secret spot, once used by fisherman, is now considered one of the island's major attractions. Here you will be able to snorkel through a maze of small islands, arches and tunnels in the company of fish, sea turtles and the occasional white tipped shark or ray. You will have another opportunity to snorkel with sea turtles at Finados and watch sea turtles, manta rays and dolphins from your boat against a background of varied coastal beaches and rocky shores where sea turtles nest. In the afternoon you may explore on your own, relax in a hammock or catch up on your journal. B/L

# DAY 9 – TUESDAY, JANUARY 26 - ISEBELA ISLAND / BALTRA / PUERTO AYORA, SANTA CRUZ

In the morning you transfer to the Isebella airport and board the scheduled flight to Baltra. Here you are met and transferred to the Charles Darwin Research Station where scientists from around the world are working on

biological research and conservation projects. One of these is the tortoise-rearing project, where a breeding facility is working to restore the badly depleted giant tortoise populations of several of the islands. After checking into your accommodations at the **Silbertein Hotel** you should have time to stroll through the town of Puerto Ayora, purchase souvenirs, mail postcards and take in some of the local color of this island community. B

# DAY 10 – WEDNESDAY JANUARY 27 - QUITO

In the morning you transfer to the airport and board the scheduled flight to Baltra. Here you bid a fond farewell to the Galapagos and board the scheduled flight to Quito. B

# **COSTS:** (per person, double occupancy):

6-9 participants: \$2855 per person, double occupancy Single Supplement: \$525

# Please note: the above costs are based on 2009 rates and subject to change for 2010

# Included in the above quote:

- All accommodations as listed in the above itinerary.
- Meet & greet service and airport transfers to your accommodations.
- Services of an English-speaking Galapagos National Park certified naturalist guide.
- Airfare Quito / San Cristobal / Baltra / Quito (currently US \$417 per person but subject to change).
- Airfare San Cristobal / Isabela Baltra (currently US \$270 per person but subject to change)
- Guided tours, excursions and activities as described in this itinerary.
- Charles Darwin Research Station entrance fee
- Meals as indicated in this itinerary. B (breakfast), L (Lunch), D (Dinner).
- Snorkeling equipment.

# Not included:

- Galapagos National Park entrance fee (US \$100 per person cash on arrival in the islands)
- Transit card fee (US \$10 per person cash on arrival in the islands)
- Departure tax from the airport in Villamil / Isabela Island (currently US \$15 per person-subject but to change)
- Tips and gratuities.
- Optional activities and / or services other than those described in this itinerary.
- Personal expenses.
- Extra beverages and alcoholic drinks.



# **REGISTRATION & EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION**

#### Cameron Park Zoo 10 -Day Wildlife Expedition to the Galapagos Islands\_Departure Date\_ January 18, 2010 \_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_\_as ( ) deposit ( ) full payment ( ) final payment for a total of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_persons on the travel program indicated above. A filled out copy of this registration form and a \$575.00 per person deposit is required to reserve space on this expedition. The total cost for this 10-day expedition, beginning with your arrival in Quito, Ecuador, is \$2855 per person based on double occupancy. Please call World Discovery Safaris at 205-972-8733if you would like our help in making your international air reservation to and from Quito. Please note: the cost of this travel program is based on 6-9 full fare participants and may be increased for a smaller group. Taxes and fuel surcharges which are not cover by our contract with the airlines are subject to change and may result in additional charges. Although we make every effort to find suitable roommates for each participant, the single supplement will be charged for any single for whom no suitable roommate is available.

#### Accommodations Requested:

- ( ) Double based on two persons sharing a room and cabin ( ) Smoking ( ) Non-Smoking. Name of roommate if known\_
- ( ) Single ( if /when available) based on one person occupying a room (adds \$525 to the program cost)

NAMES: (Please Print)-NAME AS ON YOUR PASSPORT (Provide a photocopy of the picture page from your passport.)

1	AgeNickname	Sex
2	Age Nickname	Sex
Address:	City:State:	Zip:
Phones: (Home)	(Office) E-mail	
Signature:	Today's Date:	

**WHAT IS INCLUDED**: Services of World Discovery Safaris, all accommodations and meals, as per this itinerary, top-quality, English speaking, naturalist/ guide service in Ecuador and in the Galapagos Islands, all land and air transportation and hotel taxes as imposed by government agencies, while in Ecuador.

**NOT INCLUDED**: Costs of obtaining passports & visas (visas for U.S. passport holders to enter Ecuador are **not** currently required), excess baggage charges, Galapagos National Park entrance and tourist card fees, Departure tax from the Villamil airport (currently US \$15), Ecuador departure tax (currently \$25.00) traveler's insurance and items of a personal nature, such as souvenirs, excursions and services that are not included in the itinerary, tips to the boat captain & crew, lodge staff and naturalist guides, drinks that are not included with meals, laundry, faxes, e-mails, and telephone calls are **NOT** included.

**CANCELLATION**: A cancellation fee of \$500 will apply once the deposit has been made. All cancellations must be submitted in writing. Cancellations received in our office ninety (90) days or less prior to your departure date are subject to additional cancellation fees based on penalties passed on to us by the boat charter company, airlines, in-bound operators, rail company, hotels and/or other vendors.

Make check payable and mail to World Discovery Safaris 2830 Acton PL Birmingham, AL 35243 205-972-8733

Please Read and Complete Other Side

TERMS AND CONDITIONS - World Discovery Safaris along with our representatives, agree to work for you in the making of reservations and/or other arrangements with travel service providers on the following terms: We do not own, manage, control or operate any of the travel services with whom we make your travel arrangements. We are an agent for certain travel service providers, including inbound operators and air carriers. We make your travel arrangements with them in accordance with their terms and conditions. Should you have any questions concerning these, please contact either the travel service provider or World Discovery Safaris. All coupons, exchange orders, receipts, contracts and tickets issued by us or a travel service provider are subject to the applicable tariffs as well as any terms or conditions imposed by the travel services provider. We are not responsible for events of force majeure, such as disease, terrorist acts, political instability, acts of war, adverse weather & climatic conditions, earthquakes, or for inadequate travel documents. Any and all controversies, clams or disputes of any nature arising before, on and after the date of this agreement and claims brought by or against the client, this travel agency, or a third party, shall be settled by a single arbitrator in Birmingham, Alabama in accordance with the rules of the American Arbitration Association. You acknowledge that this agreement involves interstate commerce. Our sole knowledge and expertise on which you may rely is in the making of travel arrangements. In the case of all travel arrangements the contract in use by the provider of such transportation or lodging, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and such travel supplier. World Discovery Safaris reserve the right to cancel or withdraw the trip prior to departure and to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the group if their actions impose upon or disturb other members of the group. The right is also reserved to amend the itinerary should it be found necessary for the benefit of the members of the group or for other reasons. By accepting these travel arrangements you confirm that you have read this agreement and understand that it is the sum total of our agreement with you and supersedes all prior arrangements or understandings. This agreement cannot be changed except in writing and signed by Richard Mills, President, World Discovery Safaris.

AIRLINES SCHEDULES AND LAND ARRANGEMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. YOU WILL BE NOTIFIED IF AND AS THESE OCCUR

**HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS**: To enjoy your travels to the fullest, you should be in good physical and mental health. Any physical or mental condition requiring special attention or treatment must be reported in writing, to World Discovery Safaris when the reservation is made. World Discovery Safaris reserve the right to refuse or revoke travel to anyone who is, in their sole judgment, is in such physical or mental condition as to be incapable of group travel or who may require care and attention beyond that which World Discovery Safaris can provide.

Passenger Name:				
Person to contact in case of emergency:				
Relationship (please identify as spouse,	initia, parent, neighbor, etc):	and for the second		
Address: Street	1720	City	State/Zip	
Their Phone #: Home	Office	$\mathcal{D}$	E-Mail	
List any disability or special health care	needs that may affect your ability t	to fully participate in this tra	avel program:	
	WORLD DIS	SCOVERY SAFAR	[S	
List any allorging including food allorgi				
List any allergies, including food allergi				
List the names of any medications you a	re currently taking:			
Health Insurance Company:		Policy #		
Travel Insurance Company:		Policy #		
By my signature below I certify that I ha				s" paragraphs incl
this document. I also certify that I have I	been offered travel insurance.			

I. I hereby release World Discovery Safaris, their staff and tour escorts from liability in case of accident or illness while I am participating in this travel program and do further agree to absolve from all responsibility World Discovery Safaris and their staff from all loss, damage or expense which I may incur by reason of any such accident or illness.

II. I shall be responsible for all uninsured medical expertness

III. I hereby authorize necessary hospitalization and/or treatment while I am participating in this trip. (Please note: many health insurance plans do not provide coverage outside of the U.S.)

IV. I will will not (circle one) cover myself for this travel program against unforeseen circumstances with the purchase of traveler's insurance.

V. I understand that weather and other unforeseen conditions may necessitate changes in the activities and scheduled activities of this program.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_Your Signature: \_\_

# WE RECOMMEND TRAVELER INSURANCE World Discovery Safaris is a member of the Better Business Bureau of Central Alabama