NEW YEAR’S GALÁPAGOS
Aboard Origin
December 26, 2020–January 4, 2021
With Jim Costa, Associate of Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology’s Department of Entomology
Ring in the New Year on a comprehensive itinerary to the most spectacular outer islands of the Galápagos aboard the 20-passenger premium-class yacht, the 142-foot *Origin*. The *Origin* can reach places inaccessible to larger ships due to her size. Among the astounding geology of these volcanic islands, discover giant Galápagos tortoises, flocks of frigate birds and blue-footed boobies, Darwin’s finches and Galápagos penguins, and colonies of marine iguanas along with other fascinating sea life. Venture out in a kayak or meander along stretches of secluded beaches, swim with playful sea lions, snorkel among penguins and sea turtles. Get up close to the shore life on Zodiac rides through mangroves and along the cliffs. Watch for dolphins riding the bow wave, whale sightings, and rays. Accompanying you will be Dr. James Costa as well as expert local naturalist guides, helping to make this once-in-a-lifetime journey all the more compelling.

Activity Level 3: ⛹️‍♂️‍♂️‍♂️‍♂️‍♂️

A LITTLE MORE TO IT

My walking shoes are laced up tight and I’m ready to keep up with my traveling companions. I look forward to getting to know them on the drives and/or flights we’ll take between cities. I enjoy getting around in Zodiac rafts and 4x4 vehicles for short durations. A little mental and physical stimulation will do me good!

TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
LAND & RAIL

VILLAGE LIFE IN DORDOGE
MAY 14–22, 2020
SUSAN SULEIMAN

NATIVE AMERICAN VOICES
MAY 31–JUN 8, 2020
PHILIP DELORIA

LANDSCAPES OF PEACE:
THE LEGACY OF WORLD WAR I
IN BELGIUM & FRANCE:
ROLLING VINEYARDS &
FARM TO TABLE CUISINE
JUN 15–23, 2020
NICHOLAS BURNS

THE HOLY LAND:
ISRAEL & PALESTINE
SEP 6–16, 2020
PETE MACHINIST

MYSTICAL INDIA
OCT 11–27, 2020

DISCOVER ETHIOPIA
OCT 11–28, 2020
DAVID FOSTER

KUMANO KODO:
THE SACRED SITES &
PILGRIMAGE ROUTES OF THE
KII MOUNTAINS OF JAPAN
NOV 6–14, 2020

CROSSROADS OF CULTURES:
CANARY ISLANDS, MOROCCO,
& IBERIA ON SEA SPIRIT
APR 17–30, 2020
SUSAN G. MILLER

THE PEARLS OF THE PO:
FROM VENICE TO PARMA
ON LA VENEZIA
MAY 9–17, 2020

CRUISING ALASKA’S GLACIERS
& THE INSIDE PASSAGE
ON LE SOLEAL
JUL 29–AUG 5, 2020
HARVEY FINEBERG & MARY WILSON

CELTIC CLASSICS ON THE
IRISH SEA ON SEA CLOUD II
AUG 8–16, 2020
CATHERINE MCKENNA

TRADE ROUTES OF COASTAL IBERIA
ON LE JACQUES CARTIER
OCT 3–11, 2020
ALLEN CALLAHAN

ADRIATIC ODYSSEY:
VENICE TO CATANIA
ON SEA CLOUD II
OCT 4–12, 2020
LINO FERTILE

ISLAND LIFE:
GREEK ISLANDS
ON LE BOUGAINVILLE
OCT 8–16, 2020
JAMES SALZMAN

SICILY BY SAIL:
CATANIA TO NAPLES
ON SEA CLOUD II
OCT 11–19, 2020
DIANA SORENSEN

RIVERS & LAKES

GREAT JOURNEY THROUGH
EUROPE: THE RHINE RIVER
AND SWITZERLAND
JUL 17–27, 2020
CHRISTIE MCDONALD

ICONIC CHRISTMAS MARKETS:
VIENNA TO NUREMBERG
ON AMAVIOLA
DEC 6–14, 2020
SUE SCHOPF

QUINTESSENTIAL PERU:
LAKE TITICACA, MACHU PICCHU &
UPPER AMAZON ON DELFIN II
SEP 7–18, 2020
WERNER SOLLORS

FAMILY ADVENTURES:

GREECE FAMILY ODYSSEY:
THE PELOPONNESE ON
RUNNING ON WAVES
JUN 18–27, 2020
JAMES SIMPSON

JAPAN FAMILY ADVENTURE
(TOKYO, KYOTO & HIROSHIMA)
JUN 27–JUL 8, 2020
TED GILMAN

TANZANIA FAMILY SAFARI
DEC 26, 2020–JAN 4, 2021
HOPI HOEKSTRA

EGYPT & THE NILE (A FAMILY
ADVENTURE) ON
SANCTUARY NILE ADVENTURER
DEC 26, 2020–JAN 4, 2021

Above: Passengers aboard zodiac
Cover: Galápagos sea turtle
Back cover: Galápagos marine iguana
Schedule by Day
(B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26
U.S. / Guayaquil
Depart the U.S. on a flight to Guayaquil, Ecuador and transfer to the hotel upon arrival. Hilton Colón Guayaquil (meals aloft)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27
Guayaquil / San Cristobal
Fly to San Cristobal, in the Galápagos where Charles Darwin first set foot in September of 1835. Twelve large islands and many smaller ones, all volcanic in origin, combine to form an ecological niche renowned for its unique and fearless wildlife. Upon arrival, board the new luxury yacht the Origin, your floating home for the next eight days. After lunch travel by bus to the highlands to see giant land tortoises in their natural habitat. A hike along the trails here is an excellent way to do some bird-watching and wildlife-viewing. This evening joint fellow HAA yacht mates for the Captain’s welcome cocktail party and dinner as mates for the Captain's welcome cocktail party and dinner as we set sail for Genovesa Island. Origin (B, L, D)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28
Genovesa (Tower) Island / Prince Philip's Steps / Darwin Bay
Arrive at the incredible bird island of Genovesa. The morning starts with a Zodiac ride along the cliffs. Disembark for a steep climb up Prince Philip’s steps, named after the Duke of Edinburgh’s visit in 1964. Once at the top of the stairs, the land is flat, allowing for a stimulating walk of about a mile to the other side of this small island. Observe large colonies of masked boobies, frigate birds, and Storm Petrels. Those not wishing to disembark can enjoy a dinghy ride along the cliffs (depending on weather conditions). Land at the beach for an easy stroll to observe hundreds of birds, including frigate birds, red-footed, and Nazca boobies. Enjoy swimming and snorkeling at this beautiful natural harbor. Origin (B, L, D)

TUESDAY DECEMBER 29
Las Bachas and Cerro Dragón
This morning visit a white sand beach on Santa Cruz Island ideal for swimming. Locals named it Las Bachas, a pronunciation of “barges,” for the U.S. military ships that were beached and abandoned here after WWII. Today, the island is an important nesting ground for the east Pacific green sea turtle, while its brackish lagoons are the feeding grounds for various wading birds, including flamingos. In the afternoon sail to Cerro Dragón, home to the colorful and impressive Galápagos land iguana. Our visit includes a salt-water lagoon, where you may catch a glimpse of the elusive flamingo. Origin (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30
Punta Vicente Roca and Urbina Bay
This morning visit Punta Vicente Roca on a Zodiac ride offering an incredible view of the tuff walls, where we can enter the wave-sculpted cave. There is an excellent chance to snorkel here and find penguins and sea turtles that frequent this area. During lunch, sail through the Bolivar Channel. Then take a seat on deck to view the dramatic scenery and watch for whales and dolphins riding the bow wave, and occasionally the Mola-Mola, an odd-looking giant sunfish. Disembark at Urbina Bay on Isabela Island, where four miles of coastal seabed were exposed due to a dramatic uplift during a volcanic eruption in 1954. See the remnants of coral skeletons, some of them waist-high, and keep an eye out for the very large and colorful Galapagos land iguanas, as well as marine iguanas, Darwin’s finches, brown pelicans, flightless cormorants, and the occasional giant tortoise. Origin (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31
Punta Espinosa and Tagus Cove
This morning’s stop is at Punta Espinosa on Fernandina, the youngest and most pristine Island in Galapagos, with no introduced animals. Recent lava flows formed by an active volcano stretch their way around the coast. Observe sea lion harems with resident bulls carefully guarding their territory, and hundreds of marine Iguanas, the largest colony in Galapagos, basking in the sun along the rugged shoreline. Out on the point, the Flightless Cormorants build their nests close to shore since they lost their ability to fly. There is a chance to snorkel here with large sea turtles that frequent this area before returning to the Origin for lunch. In the afternoon visit Tagus Cove, located across from Fernandina Island near the Bolivar Channel dividing the two islands. Here you may be able to swim with the penguins. An uphill hike takes you to the dramatic viewpoint at the rim of the beautifully symmetrical crater which so disappointed Darwin when he found its water “salty as brine.” This evening welcome in the New Year aboard the ship. Origin (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
Port Egas and Rabida Island
Visit the dark, red sand beach at Port Egas. This is a good area for spotting herons and for enjoying the sight of marine iguanas grazing upon algae beds at low tide. A stroll along this beach allows for the observation of a large sea lion colony, marine iguanas, and Galapagos Finches. A salt-water lagoon provides occasional sights of flamingos. This small island is also a breeding ground for pelicans and provides opportunities for excellent snorkeling from
the beach. This afternoon, there is a Zodiac excursion at Caleta Tortuga Negra (Black Turtle Cove) through a series of coves and inlets surrounded by mangroves. Have the opportunity to view pairs of mating sea turtles, white-tipped reef sharks and golden cow-nosed rays. Origin (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2
Highlands of Santa Cruz and Charles Darwin Research Station

The Charles Darwin Research Station in Puerto Ayora is staffed with international scientists conducting biological research and conservation projects. Here, view the giant tortoise pens located within an impressive giant prickly-pear cactus forest that is also home to many land birds. These are the headquarters of scientific investigation, conservation, and the National Park administration. Then, stroll along the main street of Puerto Ayora before traveling to the highlands of Santa Cruz Island to view the giant tortoises roaming in their natural habitat. The lush vegetation on this island includes the scalesia forest and birds such as the vermillion flycatcher, tree finches, and the elusive woodpecker finch. Additionally, go underground to explore dormant lava tubes. Origin (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3
San Cristobal / Guayaquil

Our journey concludes this morning as we depart to the pier. Before our flight to Guayaquil, travel to Cerro Tijeretas, where you will find nesting colonies of both species of frigate birds; Great and Magnificent, lava lizards, finches and the San Cristobal mockingbird. Upon arrival, we’ll check into our hotel to rest and freshen up. Later, we gather for a festive farewell dinner, and some passengers may transfer to the airport for flights back to the U.S. late this evening.

Hilton Colon Guayaquil (B, D)

PLEASE NOTE: depending on your return flight schedule, you may depart for flights back to the U.S. late evening on January 3 or early morning or early afternoon on January 4.

MONDAY, JANUARY 4
Guayaquil / U.S.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your international flights back to the U.S. or continue to Lima for a post-trip extension to see Machu Picchu. (B)

IMPORTANT NOTE: The itinerary and program are subject change without prior notice, due mainly to adjustments in the policies and regulations of the Galápagos National Park.

Optional Post-Trip Extension:

JANUARY 4-10, 2021
MACHU PICCHU

Discover the breathtaking Lost City of the Inca, Machu Picchu. Fly Guayaquil to Lima and onward to Cusco, the capital city of the Inca Empire. From Cusco, transfer to the Urubamba Valley. Take a dramatic train ride to Machu Picchu. On the return spend two nights in Cusco. This seven-day post-tour extension includes deluxe and first-class accommodations, all excursions entrance fees; train ticket; five breakfasts, three lunches, and two dinners; air transportation from Lima to Cusco and back; airport taxes; airport-to-hotel transfers; and the services of a Peruvian guide. Accommodations include the Wyndham Costa del Sol in Lima, the Sol y Luna Lodge & Spa in the Urubamba Valley, Machu Picchu Pueblo hotel in Machu Picchu and the JW Marriott El Convento Cusco Hotel in Cusco. Airfare from Guayaquil to Lima is not included. Additional information and itinerary will be sent to confirmed travelers.
Origin

Launched in 2016, the 142-foot Origin offers a premium class and eco-friendly vessel with locally sourced food, high level of comfort and service and some of the best guides in the Galápagos. It features four decks with multiple common and social areas, staterooms, a concierge, library, computer station, Jacuzzi, al fresco barbecue, sun deck with loungers, gym and open bar for passengers to enjoy. The ship features ten deluxe double stateroom cabins (140 square feet) all located on the main deck with large panoramic windows for ocean views and a private bathroom. Each cabin has two twin beds which can be converted into one king bed, two cabins have interconnecting doors, and two cabins can accommodate triples. Cabin amenities include an ample sectional closet, seating area, fine linens and towels, bathrobes, hair dryer, biodegradable soap and shampoo, climate controls, satellite TV/DVD, iPod docking station and safe deposit box. The ship provides passengers with snorkel gear and wetsuits and has one single and five double kayaks aboard.

Land/Cruise Rates (per person)

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Sample Coach Airfare

Boston/Guayaquil/Boston $850

(Not included, price as of January 2020, quoted separately and subject to change)

Extension Rates (per person)

Machu Picchu Optional Post-Trip Extension
January 4–10, 2021

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Sample Coach Airfare

Guayaquil/Lima $378

(Not included, price as of January 2020, quoted separately and subject to change)

AIR ARRANGEMENTS PLEASE NOTE: International airfare is not included in the program cost. Internal airfare is included in the cost of the main program (Guayaquil/Galápagos/Guayaquil), provided that any increases in the in-tour airfare after the initial pricing of this program is not included. Neither Harvard Alumni Travels nor the tour operator accepts the liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable airline ticket. The air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned.

What to Expect

This program has been exclusively designed for Harvard Alumni Association, family, and friends to explore the Galápagos Islands and learn about the island’s natural history. This is a moderately active program. In the Galápagos, walks are approximately one to two miles long (sometimes over uneven and rocky terrain) at a leisurely pace suitable for wildlife observation. There will be wet landings on many islands. Dinghy rides along the coast and shorter walks are available for participants as an alternative to longer and more challenging walks. There are opportunities for swimming, snorkeling and sea kayaking (snorkeling equipment, wet suits, and kayaks are available aboard the Origin at no charge). The Galápagos Islands are at sea level and temperatures range between the 70s and 90s F on the islands. Travel is by regular scheduled commercial airlines, motor coach, air-conditioned ship, and inflatable “Zodiac-style” dinghies.

The Post-Trip Machu Picchu optional extension is a moderately active program. Throughout Andean cities, temperatures range from 30°–40° F at night to 60°–75° F during the day, and we’ll spend several days at elevations from 7,600 to 11,200 feet. The Machu Picchu extension has been designed to allow for an easier acclimatization when we travel to the Andean highlands by overnighting in the Urubamba Valley at approximately 8,000 feet. We continue to Machu Picchu at 7,600 feet, leaving Cusco for the end when you have had a chance to get acclimatized. There are significant stair and step climbing at the ruins. Lima, the capital city of Peru, is at sea level.

TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
TOUR COST INCLUSIONS: Seven nights’ accommodations aboard the Origin • Two nights’ accommodations at the Hilton Guayaquil • Internal air (Guayaquil / Galápagos / Guayaquil) • Professional tour director throughout program • English speaking guides on land and ship naturalist guides • Galápagos entrance fees and taxes • Meals as set forth in itinerary (all meals aboard the Origin) • Open bar aboard the Origin excluding premium brands • Wine and/or beer with meals aboard excluding premium brands • Gin

CHANGES IN ITINERARY: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Harvard Alumni Association and the tour operator. We reserve the right to change a program’s dates, staff (including study leader), itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve your space on this program, a $2,000 deposit is required per person plus $200 per person for the Machu Picchu optional post-trip extension. Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or email: haatravels@harvard.edu. To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of $2,000 per person, plus $200 per person for the Machu Picchu optional post-trip extension.

Please call with any questions: 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

Registration Form

NEW YEAR’S GALÁPAGOS Aboard Origin

December 26, 2020 to January 4, 2021

To register, fill out this form and return to Harvard Alumni Travels with your deposit of $2,000 per person, plus $200 per person for the Machu Picchu optional post-trip extension.

Please return this form by mail to: Harvard Alumni Travels 124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138 Or by FAX: 617-496-4011

Please call with any questions: 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

How did you hear about this trip?


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TOUR COST INCLUSIONS:

General Information

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