

2023

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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DARWIN'S GALÁPAGOS

A Family Journey of Discovery aboard *Coral I*

June 13–22, 2023

With **Sahand Hormoz**, Assistant Professor of Systems Biology



HARVARD
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Above left: A walk through volcanic landscape
Cover: Giant Galápagos Tortoises

Discover the Galápagos as Darwin Did

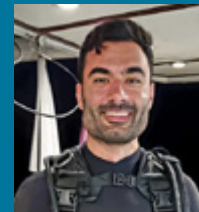
Enjoy an exclusive seven-night charter of the 18-cabin *Coral I*, a boutique expedition yacht exploring the Galápagos. Experience a fascinating educational exploration with your Harvard Study Leader, enriched by a youth coordinator and expert naturalist guides. Throughout the cruise, the youth coordinator(s) conduct fun-filled, interactive learning activities for children of all ages. Snorkel and kayak among playful and curious sea lions by day and stargaze from deck at night. Marvel at wildlife, such as giant tortoises, iguanas, penguins, blue-footed boobies, frigate birds, mockingbirds, and the finches that made Darwin famous. Visit San Cristobal, Española, Floreana, Santa Cruz, Genovesa, Rabida, and Bartolome islands, each with its endemic species that have evolved differently than on neighboring islands. Learn about the Galápagos Islands' giant tortoises with visits to the Highlands Tortoise Reserve, Charles Darwin Research Station, and the Fausto Llerena Breeding Center.

Activity Level 3: 

A LITTLE MORE TO IT

This is a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions may involve climbing in and out of zodiacs, wet landings on sandy beaches, up to one mile of walking at a time, navigating uneven and/or rocky terrain, and standing for up to two hours at museums or other sites. In some instances, elevators are unavailable, and stairs may not have handrails.

Study Leader



Sahand Hormoz is assistant professor of Systems Biology at Harvard Medical School. He obtained his PhD in Applied Physics from Harvard in 2011 and his postdoctoral studies were conducted jointly as a theoretical physicist at the Kavli Institute of Theoretical Physics (UCSB) and as an experimental biologist at Caltech. He is affiliated with the department of Data Science at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and with the Harvard Stem Cell Institute and Harvard Cancer Center, as well as the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard. His lab works on uncovering the dynamics of cell state transitions during development and in diseases such as cancer, and develops new computational frameworks to analyze the large data sets generated from the technologies the lab develops.

Dr. Hormoz is an avid mountaineer and has climbed in the Himalayas and the Andes ranges. He has traveled extensively in remote areas, from rainforests of Papua New Guinea to deserts of North Africa. He is also trained as a research scuba diver and has dove at various locations across the globe. On this program, he will talk about Darwin, Evolution, and the natural history of how the Galápagos islands formed.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS
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Lounging land iguana; Curious Blue-footed Boobies

Schedule by Day

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

HOME / QUITO, ECUADOR

Depart home and fly to Quito, Ecuador's capital city. Transfer to the hotel and gather for a welcome reception and dinner this evening.

WYNDHAM AIRPORT (RD)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

QUITO / GALÁPAGOS / EMBARK

Return to the airport for a flight to San Cristobal Island in the Galápagos. Proceed directly to the nearby pier to board *Coral I*. Stop at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, the Islands' capital city, to see the interpretive center and optionally ascend Frigatebird Hill for panoramic views.

CORAL I (BLD)

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND

Board zodiacs this morning to land at Cerro Brujo, an eroding volcanic cone composed of rough lava formations and a beautiful white sandy beach, an ideal spot for snorkeling with sea lions and sea turtles. Also visit a nearby lagoon famous for its wealth of migratory bird species. This afternoon, stop at Pitt Point to see the local sea lion colony, and possibly the only site where all three booby species of the Galápagos can be seen together.

CORAL I (BLD)

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

Call at one of the oldest islands in the Galápagos at Suarez Point to see some of the most iconic wildlife, including sea lions, marine iguanas, lava lizards, sally lightfoot crabs, and several recognizable species of birds, notably the waved albatross. Continue to Gardner Bay—popular with sea lions—for

a stroll along the beach to spot endemic species of Darwin's finches, or choose to snorkel among colorful reef fish, manta rays, and docile white-tipped reef sharks.

CORAL I (BLD)

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

FLOREANA ISLAND

Stop at Cormorant Point to see one of the islands' largest flamingo populations and an important nesting site for green pacific sea turtles, plus a first chance to spot Galápagos penguins. In the afternoon, visit the famous "post office" where travelers from around the world leave unstamped postcards, hoping fellow travelers will take some back to deliver to destinations near their own homes, a tradition that has survived for centuries.

CORAL I (BLD)

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

See the islands' famous giant tortoises up close today. Venture from the coast through the agricultural zone into the dense forested mountains of Santa Cruz Island to visit the Highlands Tortoise Reserve. Continue this afternoon to the Charles Darwin Research Station, home of the giant tortoise breeding program, and headquarters of the efforts to preserve the fragile Galápagos environment.

CORAL I (BLD)

MONDAY, JUNE 19

GENOVESA ISLAND

In an archipelago teeming with bird life, Genovesa Island is a standout. At Barranco this morning, ascend a stairway from the small dock to a rocky lava plain rich with seabirds, many of which are endemic to this island. Cruise into Darwin Bay this afternoon for a walk along a sandy beach and up a trail past unique flora for views over the tidal lagoon, one of the few places where visitors are guaranteed to see red-footed boobies.

CORAL I (BLD)

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

RABIDA / BARTOLOME ISLAND

Known for its dark-red sand beaches, Rabida Island is also notable for its large sea lion colonies and the diversity of its volcanic geology. Join a zodiac ride along the coastal cliffs to observe the particularly active marine life, then snorkel nearby among the curious creatures and miles of coral. Cross to Bartolome Island in the afternoon to ascend the stairs of Summit Trail for panoramas that include the iconic Pinnacle Rock. Observe the unique vegetation endemic to this island, and take another chance to snorkel among tropical fish, sea lions, and possibly penguins at the beach directly next to Pinnacle Rock.

CORAL I (BLD)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21

SANTA CRUZ / BALTRA ISLAND / DISEMBARK / QUITO

Stop on the north shore of Santa Cruz Island, accessible only by sea, at a mangrove-shrouded lagoon that's a favorite of sea turtles and manta rays. Get a last look at the larger birds of the islands, including pelicans, herons, and egrets, before crossing to Baltra Island to disembark and board a flight to Quito. Gather at the hotel this evening for a farewell reception and dinner.

WYNDHAM AIRPORT (BRD)

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

QUITO / HOME

After breakfast, transfer to Quito airport for flights home.

(B)

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Coral I

Thoughtfully designed to resemble a private yacht, the German-built *Coral I*, accommodating a maximum of just 36 passengers, creates a warm and intimate atmosphere on board. Every cabin features portholes or picture windows, handsome wood decoration, air-conditioning, a private bathroom, safe deposit box, telephone, and your choice of background music. There are four pairs of connecting cabins and four that can accommodate triples, ideal for a family adventure.

There is plenty of room to relax on board with three sundecks (some shaded), a Jacuzzi, dining room, and lounge. The restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting, and the lounge is a pleasant space for relaxation with plush seating, panoramic windows, a large TV, 24-hour self-serve coffee, tea, and snacks, and a bar area. Snorkeling equipment is provided, and wifi (intermittent) is accessible throughout the vessel.

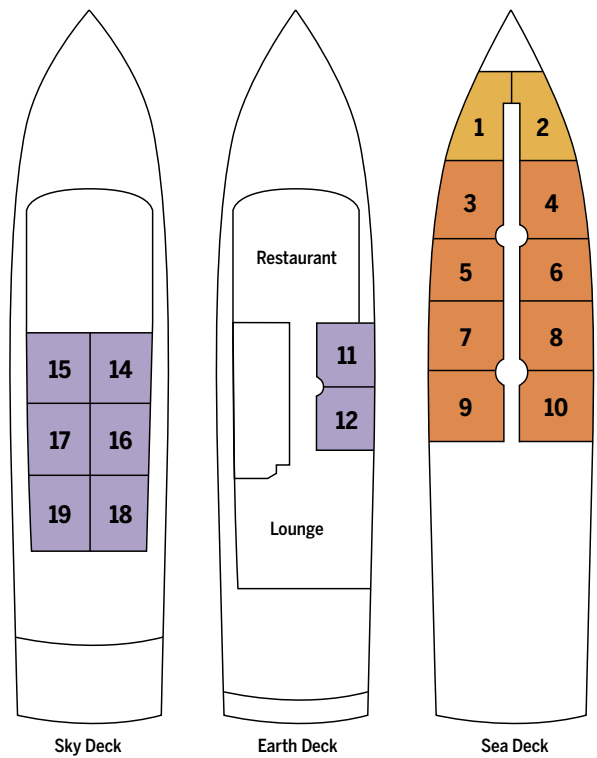


Rates per Person

CATEGORY	DOUBLE	SINGLE	THIRD PERSON IN TRIPLE
STANDARD CABIN 94 sq. ft., one porthole	\$7,990	\$11,990	–
STANDARD PLUS CABIN 118–129 sq. ft., two portholes	\$8,990	\$14,990	\$4,490
JUNIOR CABIN 118–129 sq. ft., one or two picture windows	\$11,990	–	\$5,990

First two passengers in triple pay the double rate. Children 12 and under receive a \$500 discount. This discount does not apply to the third person rate in a triple.

Rates do not include cost of on-tour flights Quito/Galápagos and Galápagos/Quito (\$520 per person as of publication).



PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including two hotel nights and seven nights aboard *Coral I* • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • Galápagos National Park fee of \$100 per person • Use of onboard snorkeling equipment and kayaks • Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, wait staff, guides, and drivers for all group activities • Entrance fees and port charges • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with welcome and farewell dinners • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager and youth coordinator throughout the program



AIR ARRANGEMENTS U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

BOOK ONLINE
TO REGISTER



Trip Registration is Easy

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Visit: alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/family-galapagos-2023

Step 2

Click the Blue “**Register Today**” button and fill out the online form with your contact information and payment details.

Step 3

Look for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

All bookings are conducted online only.

Find complete trip-specific terms and conditions on the trip web page (link above).



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