



Andean Highlands by Doreen Blake

# ECUADOR & GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS



Elida High School: Andean Highlands and Enchanting Islands

June 19–29, 2019

*From traditional Andean villages to the iconic wildlife and geology of the Galápagos, the many natural and cultural wonders of Ecuador provide an abundance of educational opportunities. Among its many highlights, this action-packed program includes opportunities for cultural exchange with indigenous villagers, visits to several important natural and historic sites on mainland Ecuador, and five nights amid one of the world's most unique and important biodiversity habitats — the Galápagos Islands.*

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Interact with indigenous communities to learn about their daily lives and how they integrate their traditions with modern culture.
- Explore the connections between ecosystems and wildlife while hiking and snorkeling in the Galápagos Islands.
- Examine natural and geological aspects of the Andean highlands as you explore Bellavista Cloud Forest.
- Learn about the traditions of the Otavaleños and see their vibrant handicrafts at the famous Otavalo Market.
- Hike and boat to some of the distinctive geological features of the Galápagos like Cerro Chato, Chinese Hat, and Dragon Hill.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert naturalist guides
- Accommodations
- Activities
- Entrance fees
- In-country transportation
- Meals & beverages
- Carbon offsetting

## EDUCATIONAL CONNECTIONS



- Biology
- Earth Science
- Environmental Studies
- Interdisciplinary Studies



Blue-footed Booby by Lisa Palmese-Graubard

## ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER

### JUNE 19 - QUITO

Upon arrival in Quito you will be met and escorted to your hotel with a short orientation to the program. *Overnight at Hotel Quito. (Please note no meals on this day due to flight schedule.)*

### JUNE 20 - QUITO

This morning have breakfast and a program orientation with your guide. Today explore Quito, the second highest capital in the world. It is a city surrounded by volcanoes, lying on the slopes of the Pichincha Volcano. Quito not only has the largest best preserved and least altered historic center in Latin America, but also one of the most beautiful. Visit the famous Middle of the World Monument and enjoy the once in a lifetime experience of being in both hemispheres at the same time. While visiting the equator, learn important facts, myths and legends about the geography of the earth as well as the history of the first group of scientists who had the hard mission to determine the Earth's shape in 1743. Following lunch, visit La Compañía Church, Alabado Museum (pre Columbian art), and San Francisco Church. Evening dinner on own. *Overnight at Hotel Quito. (BL) Dinner on own for Language Engagement.*

### JUNE 21 - QUITO

Depart early and travel north to the top of the Tandayapa Valley, near Mindo. Explore the Bellavista Cloud Forest, a private reserve of over 700 acres that contains one of the most diverse ecosystems in the country. Bellavista Reserve is a peaceful, beautiful nature sanctuary that home to hundreds of species of plants, birds, and other animals. You will have the opportunity to learn about the dedicated conservation efforts put forth by the people of the ecosystem in order to preserve the magical atmosphere of the cloud forest. Return to Quito this evening for some time to freshen up and prepare for your Galapagos adventure before dinner this evening. *Overnight at Hotel Quito. (BLD)*

### JUNE 22 - SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

This morning fly from mainland Ecuador to Baltra (2.5 hour flight). You will be picked up by a representative of FUNDAR Galapagos and make your way to their facilities. FUNDAR works within the Galapagos community on projects to reconcile the differences between the preservation of the environment and the development needs of the local people. They run a number of projects which seek to demonstrate that development and conservation are not mutually incompatible, and that having local support is essential. FUNDAR has a private reserve in the agricultural zone adjacent to the national park where they are working on habitat restoration, sustainable agriculture and management techniques. Upon arrival to the site you will enjoy an orientation to the service activities scheduled for today. Afterwards, hear a lecture on the biology of giant tortoises and begin field work monitoring and tagging giant tortoises in the Galapagos National Park. During your field

work you will be assisting with measuring, and attaching a chip to the shell which will be used for future scanning and monitoring. This project is for the purpose of establishing information about the health and populations of tortoises in their natural habitat. Afterwards group reflection on the monitoring done today. *Overnight at Villa Laguna. (BLD)*



SEA LION PUP  
Photo by Dain Van Schoyck

### JUNE 23 - PUERTO AYORA

This morning explore Tortuga bay for a snorkel opportunity. Explore Tortuga Bay, a favorite place for sea turtles (which gave the name to the beach), sea lions, Marine Iguanas, pelicans, flamingos and lava gulls which are endemic to the islands and are commonly found along the shore of most beaches. Later this afternoon visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, which works to provide environmental education to the islands' communities and schools as well as to visitors. Enjoy free time to visit the town and shop for souvenirs. *Overnight at Hotel Villa Laguna. (BL) Dinner on own for Language Engagement.*

### JUNE 24 - FLOREANA ISLAND

Transfer by speedboat to Floreana the sixth largest island in the archipelago. It has a colorful history, with varying accounts of how the island was settled and how its first residents (German immigrants) mysteriously disappeared. The only family remaining, from the original settlements are the Wittmer's, who continue to live on the island. After lunch, enjoy a walking excursion to La Loberia to view Galapagos sea lions on the beach and swimming and snorkeling nearby in Loberia Bay. Hike along almost 3000 feet of trail that goes through the Galapagos National Park where you can also see Marine Iguanas and Sea turtles. *Overnight at Lava Lodge. (BLD)*

### JUNE 25 - FLOREANA ISLAND

After breakfast, hike in the highlands of Floreana to Asilo de La Paz (Peace Haven) and Cerro Alieri. Cerro Alieri has over 48 different plant species, 56 of which are native and 33 endemic. In addition this is the site of a major conservation program for the critically endangered plant *Linum cratericola* which was believed extinct until it was re-encountered by scientists in 1997. Asilo de la Paz is a hill located in the agricultural zone of Floreana which has caves and a water

spring at the base. The spring provides water for the entire population of the island. Transfer from La Primavera down to Las Palmas, where the Island's first permanent inhabitant, Dr. Ritter, lived and is buried. From Las Palmas, we'll continue hiking towards the ocean with spectacular views of the Floreana shoreline. In the afternoon, be ready for kayaking and SUP. Perhaps we will view sea lions, green sea turtles, and tropical fish in the bay. *Overnight at Lava Lodge. (BLD)*

## JUNE 26 - FLOREANA ISLAND

This morning we will enjoy a great exploration of Floreana. Our transportation will take us in a short journey to the entrance of Cerro Allieri where we will start our 2 and a half hours walk by the old road to Post Office Bay. Along the way we will have the opportunity to spot Darwin's finches, flycatchers, and others. Once there we will visit the post office, the lava tunnel and will also have time for snorkeling. In the afternoon we will return to town by boat in time for dinner. *Overnight at Lava Lodge. (BLD)*

## JUNE 27- OTAVALO

Early this morning return to Santa Cruz Island via speed boat. Enjoy a transfer directly to the Baltra airport for flight to Quito. Upon arrival in Quito, we will transfer 1.5 hours to Otavalo and our stay in a traditional Ecuadorian Hacienda. *Overnight at Hacienda Las Palmeras. (BLD)*



## JUNE 28 & 29 - OTAVALO

This morning, we will visit the renown Otavalo Market. For hundreds of years, Otavalo has hosted one of the most important markets in the Andes, a weekly fiesta that celebrates the gods of commerce. The market tradition stretches back to pre-Incan times, when traders would emerge from the jungle on foot, ready to conduct business. The exquisite weavings and textile-making skills of Otavaleños (people of Otavalo) have been exploited by the Incas, the Spanish and, eventually, Ecuadorians. These days the market has morphed into a broader cultural crossroads offering a wide array of artisan products and one last opportunity to peer into Ecuadorian tradition and heritage. This afternoon we will transfer back to Quito for dinner before checking into the airport for our overnight flight home. *(BLD)*



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at [holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe](http://holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe)

## MEET YOUR LEADERS



### “Señor” Jeff Amspoker

Jeff teaches Spanish 1 and 2. He has been at Elida High School for an amazing 12 years. Jeff believes taking students out of the classroom and into the Spanish-speaking world is vital for their growth as students as well as humans.

By immersing students in the culture, language, and environment of a Spanish-speaking country, the content becomes real and it opens up a whole new dimension of learning. It is for these reasons that Jeff loves teaching and taking students on these trips, having hosted many global field courses over the years.

### Amy Amspoker, Advanced Biology/Zoology Teacher

I love the challenges and the rewards of teaching. I have a lofty goal of reaching every student with active learning techniques and flexible strategies. I am passionate about having my students be exposed to the natural world around them and to educate them on how to be better stewards of the Earth.

## LAND PROGRAM PRICING

based on Minimum of 14 Participants

**\$3,695** (Triple Occupancy)

**\$3,795** (Double Occupancy)

Price includes internal flights (Quito-Galápagos-Guayaquil).

International airfare, gratuities, and items of a personal nature are not included. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit [travelinsured.com](http://travelinsured.com). Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

## ESTIMATED AIR PRICING

**\$1,054**

round-trip international airfare from Detroit

## THE FINE PRINT

Rates are based on triple/double occupancy for participants. A \$200 per person deposit and enrollment form is due upon booking. This deposit is refundable until 180 days prior to departure excluding a \$100 cancellation fee. Final payments are due no later than 180 days prior to departure. Cancellations received less than 180 days prior to departure are non-refundable. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information call Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit [travelinsured.com](http://travelinsured.com). Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.



BELLAVISTA CLOUD FOREST  
Photo by Rein Ketelaars



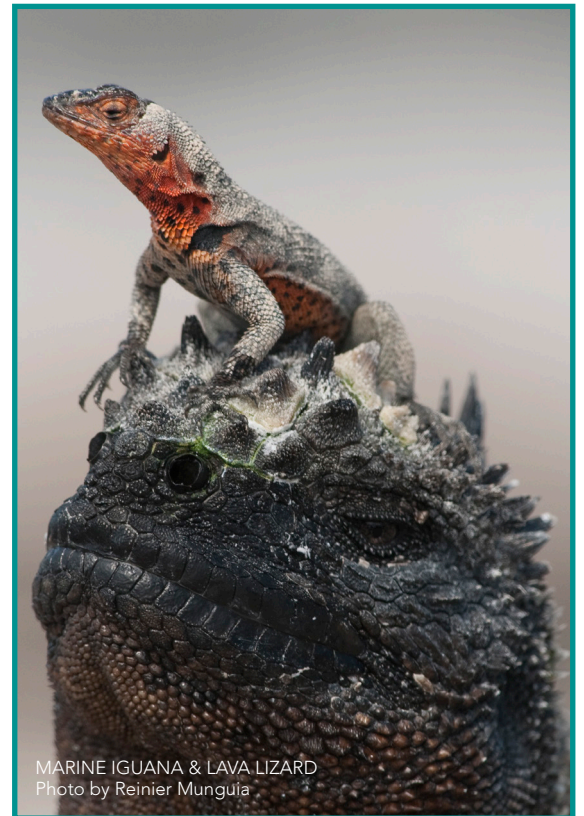
OTAVALO MARKET  
Photo by Dain Van Schoyck



SALLY LIGHTFOOT CRABS  
Photo by Dain Van Schoyck



VOLCANIC BEACH  
Photo by Laurie McLaughlin



MARINE IGUANA & LAVA LIZARD  
Photo by Reinier Munguia

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL**

Visit [holbrook.travellidabs-ec2019](http://holbrook.travellidabs-ec2019) or contact Sandy Doss  
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