

The Galapagos Islands

8 DAYS OF WONDER
& AMAZEMENT



For details or to reserve:

ncsu.orbridge.com

(919) 515-0508

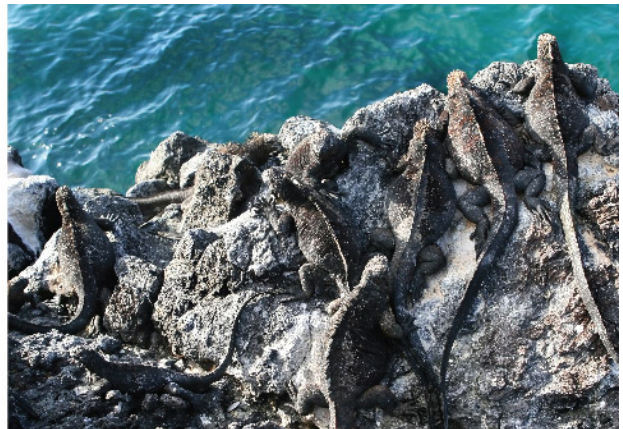
OCTOBER 11, 2022 – OCTOBER 18, 2022

PRE-TOUR: OCTOBER 08, 2022 — OCTOBER 11, 2022

POST-TOUR: OCTOBER 18, 2022 — OCTOBER 23, 2022

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS – WESTERN ITINERARY

Feel the thrill of encountering the flora and fauna that famously inspired Darwin—and in his footsteps, generations of nature lovers. Undiscovered by Europeans until the 16th century, the Galapagos Islands hold a central position in modern scientific and evolutionary history. In a place where human presence is relatively minimal, take the opportunity to observe and photograph these remarkable species up close—either sitting quietly to watch blue-footed boobies or snorkeling with inquisitive and playful sea lions.



Dear Friends,

Join fellow alumni and friends as we explore the Galapagos Islands. Designated the first UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978, the Galapagos Islands have been described as a “unique living museum and showcase of evolution,” and they are home to a fascinating array of wildlife inhabiting an unspoiled ecosystem, living in harmony with their human visitors.

This exciting journey features a day of guided touring in Quito plus an intimate cruise through the archipelago with up-close access to endemic species. Expert naturalists guide you through the wonders of this national park, whale sanctuary, and marine reserve.

Accommodations for this adventure are aboard the *Isabela II*, a 40-guest vessel with spacious cabins, local cuisine, and a staff dedicated to ensuring both your comfort and maximum enjoyment of this truly extraordinary destination and its diverse inhabitants. And sailing by small ship allows for flexibility in the itinerary to maximize wildlife viewing, as well as access to exclusive ports.

Stateroom availability is limited. With significant savings of up to \$800 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly, so be certain to reserve your spot today.

Reserve today online at ncsu.orbridge.com, by calling (800) 627-2586 or (919) 515-0508, or by emailing hart@ncsu.edu.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Hart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Kathy Hart
WolfTreks Travel Director
NC State Alumni Association

PS: Orbridge and NC State take your health and wellness seriously. Visit orbridge.com/wellness to learn about our enhanced COVID-19 protocols.

Please note: The information contained in this document is current as of 7/8/2021

Program Highlights:

- During a full day tour of Quito, marvel at the gold leaf interior of the Jesuit church of la Compañía—a fine example of the mix of European influences and indigenous art called the Baroque school of Quito; enjoy a lunch of Ecuadorian specialties; and view a unique collection of pre-Columbian art.
 - Observe with remarkable proximity the diversity of endemic species such as the Nazca and blue-footed boobies; giant tortoises; marine and land iguanas; the flightless Galapagos cormorant; and the famous Darwin's finches.
 - Discover the myriad of aquatic wildlife in the clear waters of the world's second largest marine reserve.
 - Snorkel with sea lions, colorful tropical fish, and sea turtles—or observe them through a glass bottom boat.
 - Explore secluded inlets and stroll sweeping white sand beaches such as Punta Espinoza, where flightless cormorants nest nearby and sea lions, Galapagos penguins, and turtles can be seen frolicking in a fine display of multi-species tolerance in the nearby lagoon.
 - Visit dramatic and historic places, including the Charles Darwin Research Station—the iconic site of Galapagos National Park research and conservation efforts—most notable for its captive breeding program for the Galapagos Giant Tortoise; and Sullivan Bay on Santiago Island, one of the first sites visited by Charles Darwin featuring a "lunar landscape" of lava fields.
 - **What's included:** 2 nights at the 5-star Casa Gangotena hotel in Quito prior to embarkation; 4 nights aboard the Isabela II with exploration by panga or glass-bottom boat, naturalist-led hikes and excursions, and evening lectures, 1 night at Hilton Colon – Quito after disembarkation; a welcome reception in Quito, 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 4 dinners (served with house wine), including a farewell dinner; all excursions and presentations; complimentary use of kayaks, paddle boards, shorty wetsuits, and snorkeling equipment; Galapagos National Park entrance fee and transit card; internal airfare (from Quito to the islands on day 3, and return to Quito on day 7); gratuities to local guides, hotel porters, and drivers in Quito and the Galapagos Islands; and airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times.
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Itinerary:

Day 1: En Route from U.S. / Arrive in Quito, Ecuador

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

After an evening arrival in Quito, transfer to your award-winning hotel for a comfortable night's sleep.

Overnight: Casa Gangotena – Quito

Day 2: Quito

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Head out for a full-day, guided tour of historic Old Town. A local expert will take you through the Quito neighborhood called San Roque, where you'll visit with local artisans, including shopkeepers, hat makers, and sweet confectioners. Explore the San Francisco Market—one of the oldest in the capital. There, learn about unique Ecuadorian fruits and vegetables, as well as local culinary traditions.

Continue your journey to the cobbled street of La Ronda, featuring balconies festooned with colorful flags. Stop by a chocolatier to learn how cacao beans are processed, and taste the finest chocolates of Ecuador!

Next, head north toward the political heart of the city. Following a brief narrative, stroll to the Jesuit church of la Compañía to admire its stunning gold-leaf interior. Relax and enjoy lunch that highlights the unique and diverse flavors of this culturally rich South American country.

In the afternoon, head to the Casa del Alabado Archaeological Museum, inside a restored 17th-century colonial mansion, to view its collection of pre-Columbian art. This evening, meet your traveling companions for a welcome reception and prepare for your upcoming adventure.

Overnight: Casa Gangotena – Quito (B,L,R)

Day 3: Quito / Flight to Baltra / Santa Cruz: Highlands / Puerto Ayora – Embarkation

Thursday, October 13, 2022

Arrive by plane to Baltra Airport and transfer to the Itabaca Channel to ferry across to Santa Cruz Island. After a short, scenic drive across Santa Cruz Island, arrive in the Highlands to enjoy lunch.

Later, visit the Charles Darwin Research Station and the Giant Tortoise Breeding Center to gain an understanding of the extensive conservation efforts that have gone into maintaining

and improving the environment and biodiversity in this remarkable archipelago. See the Galapagos giant tortoise up close on paths leading through arid-zone vegetation, and learn about the various stages of tortoise care and development including a visit to the baby tortoise house.

Take a late afternoon stroll along the main street of Puerto Ayora before embarking on *Isabela II*.

Join the captain this evening for a cocktail and briefing on the exciting activities to come.
Overnight: Isabela II (B,L,D)

Day 4: Bartolomé / Santiago: Sullivan Bay

Friday, October 14, 2022

One of today's highlights includes a panoramic view of the Galapagos from a special vantage point—an overlook atop Bartolomé Island. On a pristine day, more than 10 islands can be seen from this viewpoint. After the morning hike, examine the environment by snorkeling or by glass-bottom boat.

Return to the beach to board dinghies for a cruise around Pinnacle Rock, formed by an eroded tuff-stone cone—light limestone created by the accumulation of small volcanic elements. Pinnacle Rock is home for a small colony of the flightless Galapagos penguin, which shares the area with sea lions and other marine birds.

After lunch, explore Sullivan Bay on the east coast of Santiago Island featuring a white coral sand beach that's ideal for swimming. This location has some of the best snorkeling within the archipelago. See and feel the volcanic origin of Galapagos by traversing the walking trail across a lava field consisting of lava that flowed here in 1897, and the lava shapes are the enigmatic volcanic features.

Tonight after dinner look up and experience the enchantment of stargazing.
Overnight: Isabela II (B,L,D)

Day 5: Santa Cruz: Dragon Hill / Santiago: Salt Mine James Bay

Saturday, October 15, 2022

The island of Santa Cruz is the only one with six different vegetation zones. Pit craters, Scalesia forest, cacti and ferns are found here. After breakfast, set off on a walk, passing a lagoon frequented by shorebirds, ducks, and American flamingos. Continuing inland, the trail offers a beautiful view of the bay and the western islands of the archipelago, as well as the

chance of observing land iguanas.

After an engaging onboard lecture and lunch, visit James Bay with a wet landing on Santiago Island, where Charles Darwin spent six days exploring in 1835. He encountered finches, mockingbirds, lava lizards, yellow warblers, as well as Galapagos doves, hawks, and flamingos. Take note of the fascinating geological formations as you hike uphill for an incredible panoramic view of a crater filled with brackish water. The salt from this lagoon was mined in the 20th century, but the businesses didn't prosper.

After partaking in a sunset cocktail, enjoy dinner onboard. Later in the evening we may continue stargazing to maximize celestial opportunities.

Overnight: Isabela II (B,L,D)

Day 6: Isabela: Punta Vicente Roca / Fernandina: Punta Espinoza

Sunday, October 16, 2022

Explore the captivating coast of Isabela Island by dinghy, seeking out abundant wildlife including colonies of Galapagos fur seals, the nesting sites of Nazca boobies, flightless cormorants, penguins, and marine iguanas. Depending on conditions, there may be a chance to snorkel along the cliffs, hopefully in the company of green sea turtles. Back on board, navigate along the Bolivar Channel, where nutrient-rich upwellings provide fertile fishing grounds for cetaceans.

Then visit the island of Fernandina, the youngest island of the archipelago and arguably one of the most pristine ecosystems on the planet. Punta Espinoza boasts an amazing combination of barren landscapes and abundant wildlife, all dominated by the lofty volcano at the heart of the island. Highlights to spot include hawks, penguins, huge numbers of marine iguanas, and the famous flightless cormorant, with its beguiling blue eyes.

This evening, join fellow guests and crew for a festive farewell toast followed by dinner.

Overnight: Isabela II (B,L,D)

Day 7: Baltra – Disembarkation / Flight to Quito, Ecuador

Monday, October 17, 2022

Bid a fond adiós to the *Isabela II* crew this morning prior to departing Baltra for Quito, where you will spend your final night.

Overnight: Hilton Colon – Quito (NOTE: post-tour guests may overnight at an alternate hotel near the airport) (B,L-aloft)

Day 8: Quito / Depart for U.S.

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

After breakfast, guests departing during the suggested times will take a complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home. Guests continuing on the post-tour will depart Quito for flights to Cusco, Peru. (B)

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception

(Itinerary subject to change.)

Activity Level:

Moderate

Guests should be sure-footed on stairs and able to walk at least one mile on rocky, volcanic, and uneven ground. Some nature hikes will be on irregular and steep terrain. Guests should also be comfortable managing wet beach landings and boarding small vessels, both from shore and the deck of the *Isabela II*. Also keep in mind that you will experience varying altitudes to which you may not be accustomed.

Maximum elevation: 9,350 feet in Quito, Ecuador

What's Included:

- 2 nights at the 5-star Casa Gangotena hotel in Quito prior to embarkation
- 4 nights aboard the *Isabela II*, with exploration by panga or glass-bottom boat, naturalist-led hikes and excursions, and evening lectures
- 1 night at Hilton Colon – Quito (or similar) after disembarkation
- A welcome reception in Quito, 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 4 dinners (served with house wine), including a farewell dinner
- A city tour of Quito
- All excursions and presentations
- Complimentary use of kayaks, paddle boards, shorty wetsuits, and snorkeling equipment
- Galapagos National Park entrance fee and transit card

- Internal airfare (from Quito to the islands on day 3, and return to Quito on day 7)
 - Gratuities to local guides, hotel porters, and drivers in Quito and the Galapagos Islands
 - Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times
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Your Guide(s):

Expedition Leader



This departure will be accompanied by a premier Expedition Leader who has extensive local knowledge and experience as a cultural, historic, and naturalist interpreter. With their contribution of exceptional know-how and enthusiasm adding depth to your experience, enjoy the cultures and locations you explore with added confidence, understanding, and appreciation.

Program Accommodations:

Casa Gangotena – Quito



October 11 - October 12

The elegant, five-star Casa Gangotena is located across from Plaza San Francisco in the heart of Quito's Spanish Colonial Old Town. The hotel offers easy access to the rich culture, tradition, and charm of the city's historic center—a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1978.

Embrace the property's well-adorned interior, featuring Art Nouveau and Art Deco elements dating back to the mid-1920s. Antique furniture pieces, restored painted tin ceilings, and endless hallways lined with Egyptian marble are among the unique qualities of this sophisticated and divinely comfortable hotel. See why readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* have voted Casa Gangotena among South America's top 25 hotels and resorts.

During leisure time, stroll the gardens, enjoy tea on the patio, or relax on the rooftop terrace while admiring the spectacular sweeping views of Quito's historic district.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, flat-screen cable TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, phone, bathrobes and slippers, safe, and en suite bathroom with separate shower and bathtub plus L'Occitane sundries and hair dryer.

Portable oxygen tanks—to assist in preventing ill effects of altitude sickness—are available and may require an additional fee. Oxygen tanks should be requested in advance through Orbridge's Guest Services department for best availability or at the time of check-in.

Isabela II



October 13 - October 16

With a capacity of only 40 guests, the 183-foot *Isabela II* was designed to provide the ultimate in comfort and

adventure while cruising the Galapagos Islands. Her 21 staterooms provide spacious, fully air-conditioned accommodations with en suite facilities.

Guests can savor healthy, fresh, and delicious international and Ecuadorian cuisine at every meal. Enjoy her three public decks, dining room, lounge, library, hot tub, and fitness area. Relish the services of an enthusiastic crew who are committed to your comfort.

Sailing by small ship allows for flexibility in the itinerary to maximize wildlife viewing as well as access to exclusive ports. While on board, learn about the area's history, biology, and conservation from the ship's multilingual naturalists. Experience all the Galapagos Islands have to offer through a variety of perspectives—hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, or riding a panga or glass-bottom boat.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, safe, and en suite bathroom with hair dryer and sundries (biodegradable shampoo, conditioner, soap, and shower gel). Additional towels are provided for shore excursions.

Stateroom Categories

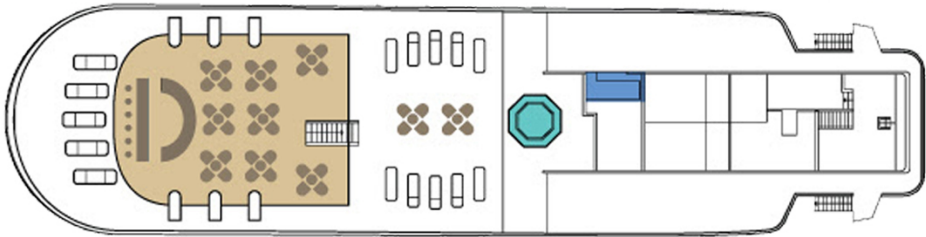
Standard: Features a full-size bed, window, private bathroom. (128 sq.ft.)

Classic Double: Features a full-size bed, view window, private bathroom, and day bed. (139 sq.ft.)

Classic Twin: Features two twin beds, view window, private bathroom. (139 sq.ft.)

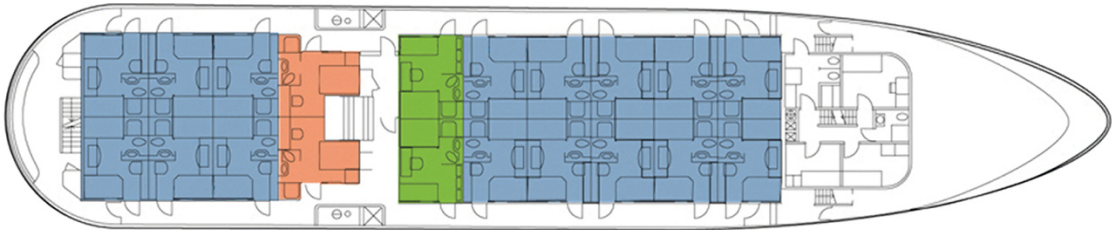
Master Suite: Features a queen bed, view window, private bathroom. (170 sq.ft.)

BOAT DECK



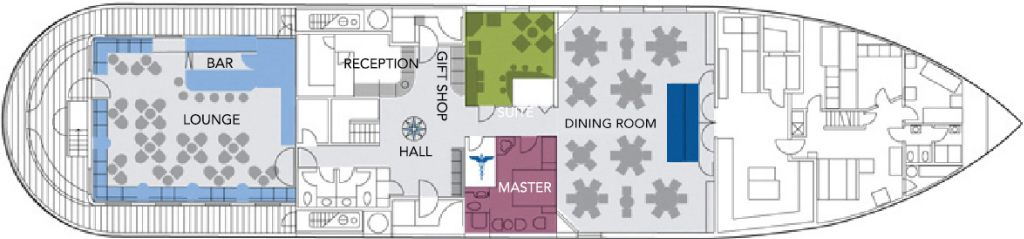
■ Al Fresco Bar ■ Hot Tub ■ Fitness Area

CABIN DECK



■ Standard ■ Classic Twin ■ Classic Double

MAIN DECK



■ Library ■ Master Suite

Highlights

- Onboard lecture program and services of a premier Expedition Leader and the ship's multilingual naturalist guides
- Observation area and sundeck, bar/lounge, elegant dining room, boutique, and an intimate library with a rich selection of reference books on the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador
- All onboard hand-crafted meals tastefully prepared with local flair
- Shaded sun deck with a hot tub and fitness room
- All of the equipment—and expertise—for kayaking, snorkeling, and paddleboarding

Hilton Colon – Quito



October 17

This five-star property is ideally situated just 10 minutes from Quito's historic center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1978. In addition, La Mariscal Craft Market—offering unique and beautiful handmade products from local artisans—is next to the hotel.

Hotel amenities include four dining options, as well as a business center, pool, and fitness room.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, writing desk and chair, HD LCD TV, Wi-Fi (additional fee), phone, coffee and tea maker, safe, and en suite bathroom with premium sundries and hair dryer.

(Accommodations subject to change.)

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What Guests Are Saying:

"The hotel accommodations were amazing. The hotel staff at both of the hotels were great. The crew of the *Isabela II* was great. *Isabela II* convinced us that trips on small ships are the only way to go. We couldn't believe the extraordinary value we received from Orbridge on this trip. The tour guides went over the top to explain what we were experiencing.

Orbridge is the best! You did everything you agreed to do, did it on time, provided great tour guides and services as we moved from point to point. We will travel with Orbridge again."

—Mike & Sally K., Missouri City, TX

"This trip was an exceptional experience! Not only were the locations we visited superb in every aspect but the ground support exceeded all expectations.

The yacht *Isabela II* was the perfect size for our group. The entire staff was professional. The naturalists were at the core of our experience. Their extensive knowledge of the unique flora, fauna and marine life of each island was generously shared with us.

This program provided us with access to unique locations on our planet that should be preserved as they are but are made available to those interested in understanding the delicate nature of our ecosystems. The program was well planned, the guides excellent, accommodations first class."

—Nancy & Greg S., Kihei, HI

"My overall experience was outstanding and I would definitely go on an Orbridge tour again with no hesitation.

The hotels were exceptional and the food everywhere was outstanding. Also, the coordination and logistics were flawless. There were no hiccups or misses for the entirety of the trip. Guides for both Galapagos & Machu Picchu were absolutely top shelf in terms of knowledge and experience."

—Dan F., Spokane, WA

"This was a superb itinerary and was spectacularly organized. We loved the program. Mashpi was terrific, as was the entire trip in the Galapagos - the ship and crew were wonderful - the sights and itinerary were great as well. We thoroughly enjoyed it! Our transfers to Lima, and the trip throughout Peru, including the Machu Picchu trip, were terrific. All of our guides were wonderful. We learned so much and really enjoyed the program immensely. Spectacular!

We would like to travel to many places, but we will come back to Orbridge in the future."

—Linda E., Hanover, NH

"This was an excellent program, the park guides were just amazing with their knowledge, experience, and precious personalities. We became a little family although we were only together for a few days. The Galapagos Islands are magical and mystical and a once in a lifetime thrill for us. We appreciate all that continues to be done to preserve this unique environment."

—Carla & Louis S., Austin, TX

"The Galapagos Islands trip was a bucket list, anniversary trip for me and truly was the trip of a lifetime. The program is polished, professional, educational, active, engaging, and incredibly well organized.

Our naturalists were tireless in their enthusiasm for each new day and experience. I'll never forget the twice daily snorkel opportunities, the scenery above and below the surface of the ocean and the great care each member of the crew or staff took with their respective jobs."

—Knox B., Greensboro, NC

"This was our third or fourth trip with Orbridge! We were very satisfied and will not hesitate to book with Orbridge again.

The program was very well designed, well managed, and, above all else, had arrangements to meet our needs and objectives of our travel plan.

We look forward to an opportunity to travel to the Galapagos Islands again with

Orbridge at a different time of year to see the vegetation and the wildlife at a dry part of the year."

—Dale & Kathleen E., Highland Heights, KY

"Scientific, historical and cultural experience was amazing. The hikes on the trip were amazing... the contact and interaction with wildlife was extraordinary as were the guides who led us.

The accommodations and service at the hotels and the *Isabela II* were excellent. The level of customer care is the best I have ever experienced.

From day one to entering security for the trip home, I was well cared for and served.
"

—Tim J., Worcester, MA

"The seamlessness of the arrangements was a great value for this tour. There were many pieces of the tour that Orbridge fit together well. All of the guides in Ecuador and Peru were approachable making it easy to ask questions and have conversations instead of just being talked to.

We couldn't imagine coordinating a trip of this caliber ourselves. The hotels were gems and the activities were perfectly paced. We never felt rushed or that an activity was a waste of time. The attention to detail and the knowledge of the guides exceeded our expectations. Every day was a new adventure to enjoy!"

—Shawn & Jeff H., Abington, PA

"Traveling with Orbridge was fantastic. They had everything covered. Even though we arrived very late in Quito, they were there with transport to the hotel and there were no glitches. I never had to think about how to do anything, and if we needed anything or had any questions, they were there with the answers."

—Mike & Barb P., Conifer, CO

"The guides on the *Isabela II* are very knowledgeable and well trained, so every excursion was well planned, exciting and informative. We were impressed and gratified that everyone we encountered on the ship and the islands were serious

about the preservation and protection of the environment and its animals and plants.”

–Jennifer & JB P., Los Gatos, CA

“My wife and I travel a lot, but this was our first organized trip since 1997. Orbridge did a great job in finding excellent guides, great hotels in central locations, and always had wonderful meals, with an awareness of dietary limitations.”

–Jon & Rebecca G., Hickory, NC

“It was spectacular at every level.

We loved the small boat - perfect size, the variety of opportunities available (each equally great, so at times hard to choose), the guides and staff who were so responsive and knowledgeable, and the logistics coordination - every detail was handled.

We were very pleasantly surprised at how many snorkeling opportunities were available.”

–Karen & Steven H., Columbus, OH

“Touring the Galápagos Islands while being on the *Isabela II* was such a highlight! The guides were so helpful and made it so special... they just took care of us! And, with Machu Picchu, our guide took such good care of us and we really enjoyed his guidance, knowledge and passion regarding all that he showed and told us.

Every part of the trip was outstanding! We did not have to worry about anything as it was all covered and planned for.

Orbridge did an amazing job with this trip! I can't wait to travel with your company again!”

–Sally B., Charlotte, NC

"Our tour guides and naturalists were awesome. All the water activities and wildlife expeditions were the best! One of the best vacations I have been on. Very well executed trip. It was like paradise!"

—Cheryl A., Plano, TX

"When we received the brochure, this opportunity resonated with us as a trip we had long hoped to make. This program made it easy to fulfill a dream.

We were very impressed with the efficiency of this program and staff. Everything was taken care of, everything was explained to us, and we always knew what to expect.

We gained so much knowledge and understanding from the naturalists, they were with us all the time, were so friendly and personable.

We would travel with Orbridge again in a heartbeat."

—Randy & Jan W., Brooklyn, MN

"All of the guides were excellent—all knowledgeable, friendly, and invariably patient.

This was an outstanding experience, one that I've waited for for a very long time. All of the wildlife amazed and pleased me. Thank goodness for this National Park."

—Dee & Tay F., Lexington, KY

"This was my second or third trip with Orbridge and I have been and remain to be extremely pleased with their service. I pay you my highest compliment!

Everything we did was amazing! There just are not enough words to express how pristine and unique and beautiful it was.

Life changing! A dream come true!"

—Audrey D., Evans, GA

Optional Pre-Tour:

MASHPI LODGE



The breathtaking surroundings of the Mashpi Rainforest Biodiversity Reserve look and feel like a dream—misty clouds, crashing waterfalls, and endemic species of wildlife found in the Ecuadorian Chocó, one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Take the unparalleled opportunity to visit both a cloud forest and a rainforest—each rich with a myriad of flora and fauna species in every layer from below the forest floor to above the canopy.

Spend your days exploring hidden paths, discovering colorful flora and fauna, and relaxing amidst the contemporary comforts of Mashpi Lodge, located within this private reserve consisting of roughly 70% lush primary forest in its 3,212 acres.

Itinerary:

Day +1: Arrive Quito, Ecuador

Saturday, October 8, 2022

Arrive at your hotel to relax and refresh before tomorrow's full day of activities.

Overnight: Casa Gangotena

Day +2: Mashpi Lodge / Mashpi Reserve

Sunday, October 9, 2022

After an early breakfast, depart via group transfer, journeying through the northwest corner of Quito's Metropolitan District. Embrace the sweeping landscape along the western flank of the Andes next to Mitad del Mundo (middle of the world), which marks the equatorial line. Along the way, stop to stretch your legs before continuing the final descent into the Mashpi Reserve. Observe the changes in vegetation with every significant drop in altitude, following the course of the Rio Blanco.

After 3.5 hours, arrive at Mashpi Lodge where the staff and your naturalist guides greet you and conduct a quick briefing.

Enjoy lunch, settle into your room, and perhaps take a brief rest. In the afternoon, you'll have the opportunity to begin one of the activities. Perhaps take a guided hike to one of several waterfalls or follow the Howler Monkey Trail to the Life Centre, which educates visitors about the butterfly's life cycle and other wildlife found in Mashpi. Here, relax in lounge chairs set on an expansive observation deck to spot wildlife, and later, visit the adjacent butterfly house.

As the evening sets in, take an optional guided night walk along the Luminous Trail in search of large and small (and some transparent!) creatures, including frogs, snakes, insects, and even tarantulas.

Overnight: Mashpi Lodge (B,L,D)

Day +3: Mashpi Lodge / Mashpi Forest Canopy Exploration

Monday, October 10, 2022

As morning breaks, listen for the bright songs from the menagerie of birds stirring around the lodge. A staggering 400 species of birds—including some 36 endemics—are estimated to inhabit the forest and flutter through the canopy.

Mashpi is also home to a plethora of plant species, from ferns and bromeliads to a vast variety of orchid species—many newly discovered, which biologists come from the world over to observe.

For those who would like to enjoy the beauty of dawn in the forest, early morning activities are organized before breakfast. Spot birds and visit a hummingbird garden (host to 32 hummingbird species) with breakfast al fresco. The birds will be active and calling, and the views are often the most spectacular.

After lunch, take an opportunity to view the Mashpi Forest canopy during a guided ride

aboard the *Dragonfly*—an aerial cable car that offers a unique and spectacular way to see an expanse of the reserve. Go for the entire two-hour ride, or opt to combine the *Dragonfly* experience with a guided nature or waterfall hike.

Located close to the lodge, the Sky Bike makes for another unique and exciting way to explore the forest canopy. Designed for two people to use at once, you can pedal between two points of the forest approximately 655 feet apart. Next, climb the Observation Tower to take in the reserve in its entirety, and watch the sun set behind the clouds.

This evening, join fellow travelers to hear a collection of lectures by a resident biologist or naturalist, perhaps including “Secret Wildlife of Mashpi: the Camera Trap Project,” “The Chocó: a Biological Hotspot” about the formation and diversity of the Chocó, or talks about current scientific research projects.

Overnight: Mashpi Lodge (B,L,D)

Day +4: Mashpi / Quito / Main Program Begins

Tuesday, October 11, 2022

After a leisurely breakfast, take a group transfer to Quito to join guests arriving for the main program. (B,L)

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

This pre-tour is not escorted by an Orbridge Expedition Leader, however, staff naturalists at Mashpi Lodge are available for assistance with activity planning. Space is limited, so it's recommended to reserve early for best availability.

(Itinerary subject to change.)

Activity Level:

Moderate

Guests should be able to physically tolerate vehicle motion on bumpy roads, as well as be sure-footed on stairs and able to walk at least one mile on rocky, uneven ground. Some nature hikes will be on irregular and steep terrain.

Accommodations:

Casa Gangotena – Quito



October 8

The elegant, five-star Casa Gangotena is located across from Plaza San Francisco in the heart of Quito's Spanish Colonial Old Town. The hotel offers easy access to the rich culture, tradition, and charm of the city's historic center—a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1978.

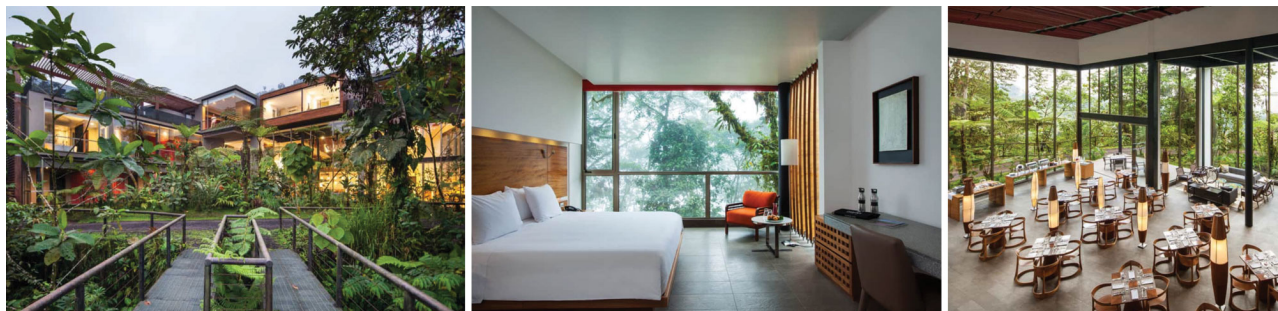
Embrace the property's well-adorned interior, featuring Art Nouveau and Art Deco elements dating back to the mid-1920s. Antique furniture pieces, restored painted tin ceilings, and endless hallways lined with Egyptian marble are among the unique qualities of this sophisticated and divinely comfortable hotel. See why readers of *Condé Nast Traveler* have voted Casa Gangotena among South America's top 25 hotels and resorts.

During leisure time, stroll the gardens, enjoy tea on the patio, or relax on the rooftop terrace while admiring the spectacular sweeping views of Quito's historic district.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, flat-screen cable TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, phone, bathrobes and slippers, safe, and en suite bathroom with separate shower and bathtub plus L'Occitane sundries and hair dryer.

Portable oxygen tanks—to assist in preventing ill effects of altitude sickness—are available and may require an additional fee. Oxygen tanks should be requested in advance through Orbridge's Guest Services department for best availability or at the time of check-in.

Mashpi Lodge



October 9 - October 10

Mashpi Lodge was created by Roque Sevilla, a passionate environmentalist and former mayor of the city of

Quito. The thoughtfully designed lodge is perched more than 3,000 feet above sea level within a private reserve between the rainforest and cloud forest. The area teems with rich biodiversity that provides endless opportunities for visitors.

This property has been recognized with nearly 20 prestigious awards since 2012, including *Condé Nast Traveler – Reader's Choice Awards – Top 20 Resorts in South America* and *World Travel Awards' Ecuador's Leading Green Hotel*. The spa at Mashpi Lodge has also been noted as *Latin America's Best Resort Spa* and as *Ecuador's Best Resort Spa* through votes cast by leading spa and wellness tourism professionals, as well as hundreds of thousands of spa consumers from across the globe.

Guests can relax in the serene atmosphere of this blissful hideaway, amidst the breathtaking views from the lodge's floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows. The lodge was designed with sustainable materials and features décor that combines warm earth tones, steel, stone, and glass.

Visit the open-air terraces for seemingly endless treetop views, see biologists conducting studies and experiments in the resident research lab open to guests, take advantage of the full-service spa (additional fees apply), relax at the outdoor hot tub and yoga deck, or enjoy the Expedition Room where you can view a selection of nature DVDs or peruse materials in its extensive library.

The property also features a boutique that offers souvenirs, gifts and travel essentials, such as rain hats, other rain gear, socks, and more.

Room Amenities: One king or two full beds, complimentary Wi-Fi, phone, safe, reusable water flask, fresh filtered water, bathrobes and slippers, and en suite bathroom with premium sundries and hair dryer. Dehumidifiers, which may help you adjust to the relatively high humidity found in the rain forest, are available upon request at check-in.

(Accommodations subject to change.)

What's Included:

- 1 night accommodations at Casa Gangotena in Quito and 2 nights accommodations at award-winning Mashpi Lodge
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches, and 2 dinners
- Entrance to Mashpi Reserve
- *Dragonfly* aerial tram experience
- Full guiding services, including interpretation on all activities and experiences within the reserve, and use of spotting scopes and binoculars
- Specialized lectures and field presentations on research conducted in the reserve by local experts
- Souvenir reusable stainless steel water flask for filtered water available throughout the pre-tour
- Use of rain gear (waterproof poncho, rubber boots) and walking sticks

- All transportation for excursions using vehicle transport in the reserve
- All gratuities and portage
- Group transfers from Quito Mariscal Sucre International Airport to Casa Gangotena during suggested arrival times, from Casa Gangotena to Mashpi Lodge, and return to Quito to join the main program

Optional Post-Tour:

MACHU PICCHU, CUSCO, AND THE SACRED VALLEY



Travel to the mist-shrouded mountain citadel of the Incas. So remote and inaccessible that it was left untouched by the Spanish conquistadors, Machu Picchu was unknown to the outside world until Hiram Bingham rediscovered it in 1911. During your time in the Peruvian highlands, you will have a chance to explore the famous city of Cusco and the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Visit the Pisac Market, ride the train through the Urubamba Valley, marvel at the massive stone stairs at Ollantaytambo, and break bread in the home of a local Peruvian family outside of Cusco.

Itinerary:

Day 8: Quito / Flight to Cusco, Peru via Lima / Sacred Valley

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

This morning, depart Quito to fly east over the Central Andes' peaks and plateaus to the ancient capital of Cusco.

After arrival, meet the guide and transfer to the Sacred Valley. Photo stops are included along the way.

In the afternoon, have a late, light lunch with great views of the Sacred Valley before stopping at the vibrant Pisac market. Admire exquisite and colorful Peruvian handicrafts for which this region is known, including blankets, ceramic bead necklaces, musical instruments, alpaca sweaters, hats, and more. Find a fruit and vegetable market at the main square where villagers from miles around visit, barter, and shop. Join this lively scene surrounded by the beauty of both the merchants' wares and the traditional clothing worn by locals.

Transfer to your hotel to refresh for tomorrow's exciting expedition to the heights of Peru—and into its past, when the largest empire in pre-Columbian America ruled the Andes and beyond.

Overnight: Sonesta Posadas del Inca – Yucay (L,D)

Day 9: Sacred Valley / Machu Picchu

Wednesday, October 19, 2022

After breakfast, make your way through the intimate cobblestone streets of Ollantaytambo, a "living" Inca town. Here, Inca descendants inhabit the largely unchanged homes of their ancestors and continue to maintain ancient customs and traditions. The massive fortress, perched among steep stone terraces carved into the hillside, is where the Inca won their greatest victory against the conquistadores.

Journey to the rail station to board the *Vistadome* train to Aguas Calientes, a town along the Urubamba River Valley that is a gateway to the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu.

Disembark the train for a bus ride up the mountain. Lunch will be at the Machu Picchu Sanctuary Lodge, followed by guided exploration of the ruins.

As it lies before you, learn about the archaeology and history of Intihuatana (the Sun Dial), the Sacred Plaza, and the Temple of the Sun, with plenty of time to wander, hike, and take pictures of the photogenic site.

Return to the village at the base of the mountain and then the hotel. Perhaps take a short stroll through the lush gardens at the hotel before dinner.

Overnight: Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 10: Machu Picchu / Sacred Valley / Cusco

Thursday, October 20, 2022

After an early breakfast, experience the wonder of a quiet morning at Machu Picchu,

imagining the sanctuary as it was centuries ago. Today, have a more in-depth look at this amazing place and its surroundings. Adventurers are welcome to hike the surrounding trails to other discoveries. Ascend to the Sun Gate, or, with advance reservations, hike more challenging paths, such as Huayna Picchu or Machu Picchu Mountain. Each option offers excellent views of the sanctuary and panoramic vistas. You may also choose to enjoy the sanctuary at your own pace.

Pause for lunch before returning to the Ollanta Station to begin the return to Cusco.

This evening, share impressions of your day while dining with your travel companions at a restaurant built with foundation stones of a colonial mansion.

Overnight: Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 11: Cusco / Saqsayhuaman / Kenko / Villa Tipon / Cusco

Friday, October 21, 2022

Immersive excursions in Cusco this morning include visits to the colorful San Pedro market and Qorikancha (Temple of the Sun). From here, continue to Saqsayhuaman and the Kenko archaeological sites.

Relax with lunch at a private home and hear an informative discussion about modern Peru. Relish the opportunity to witness a traditional Pachamama ceremony.

The rest of the afternoon is for you to enjoy at leisure.

This evening, dine at a local restaurant offering exquisite Peruvian cuisine and a festive atmosphere.

Overnight: Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 12: Cusco

Saturday, October 22, 2022

Today discover the culture, food, history, and people of the magical city of Cusco!

Planned for the morning are organized activities which may include visiting with a historian or stopping in at some of Cusco's intriguing museums. Perhaps visiting with local artisans such as an Andean musical instrument maker or hat maker is in store.

Did you know the instrument makers in Cusco are among the most skilled on the continent? This artful tradition goes back many generations. Instruments important to traditional

Andean music include the guitar, violin, charango, manolin, banduria (a 16 stringed guitar played for carnival), recintu (a variation of the guitar), harps, and even drums.

In the Peruvian highlands, hats have come to symbolize not just protection from the elements, but cultural identity, social class, age, and family professions. A red felt hat called a montera can be filled with flowers, fruit, and other adornments. These are worn by Quechua women throughout the Sacred Valley. When worn at an angle, it may also tell others she is a widow. Traditionally, brown or green hats made from sheep's wool indicate women of Andean heritage.

Dine at a local restaurant for lunch and delight in leisure time during the afternoon.

While out and about, explore Cusco's streets still flanked in places by Inca walls built with gigantic carved granite blocks. View the unique masonry up close to truly appreciate the astonishing perfection and mass of this true Inca marvel.

This evening, celebrate the rich rewards of your journey during a special farewell dinner.
Overnight: Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 13: Cusco / Flight to Lima / Depart for U.S.

Sunday, October 23, 2022

After a leisurely morning and our final Peruvian lunch at the hotel, head to the airport for the flight to Lima leaving late afternoon.

An Orbridge representative will meet guests in Lima to assist with connections to tonight's international flights. A dayroom will be provided at the Wyndham Costa del Sol Airport Hotel for rest and comfort.

International flights begin departing Lima later in the evening.

Day Room: Wyndham Costa del Sol Airport Hotel (B,L)

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Post-tour space is limited, so it's recommended to reserve early for best availability.

(Itinerary subject to change.)

Activity Level:

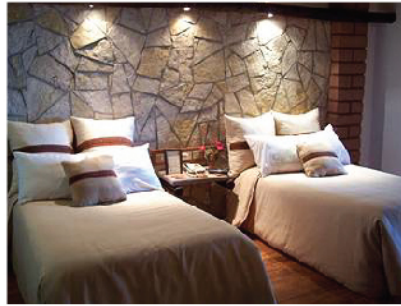
Moderate

Guests should be sure-footed on stairs of varying heights and able to walk at least two miles on rocky, uneven ground without assistance. Also, keep in mind you will experience varying altitudes to which you may not be accustomed.

Maximum elevation: 11,200 feet in Cusco

Accommodations:

Sonesta Posadas del Inca – Yucay



October 18

Located in the heart of the Sacred Valley of the Incas, this hotel is a former 18th-century, colonial-style monastery surrounded by beautiful gardens. Rooms offer the comfort of modern amenities and the charm of rustic decorative features.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, phone, safe, and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.

Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel

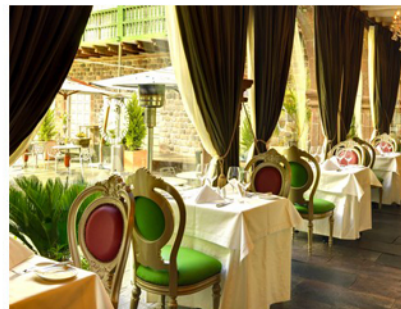


October 19

Only a short walk away from Machu Picchu Pueblo (Aguas Calientes) and the train station, but worlds apart from its hustle and bustle, the Inkaterra is nestled on 12 quiet acres of forest with nature trails, waterfalls, and the world's largest private collection of indigenous orchids. Relax in this lovely hotel's atmosphere of refinement and warm hospitality while exploring nature and encountering the wonders of the Inca civilization.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, complimentary Wi-Fi, and en suite bathroom with environmentally friendly sundries and hair dryer.

Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel

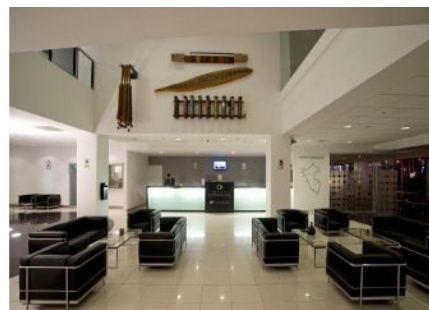
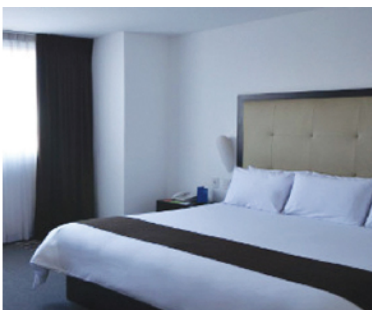


October 20 - October 22

This luxurious property is situated near Cusco's main square, only minutes away from colonial buildings, restaurants, and shops. Built in a 16th-century mansion, its decor, sculptures, and carvings accentuate the colonial period. Each room is well-appointed and elegantly decorated with traditional furniture and frescoes.

Room Amenities: System supplying an additional 30% oxygen—to assist in preventing ill effects from altitude sickness (request at check-in to have this feature turned on), individual climate control, LCD TV, iPod docking station, complimentary Wi-Fi, phone, safe, minibar, and en suite bathroom with organic sundries and hair dryer.

Wyndham Costa del Sol – Lima Airport



October 23

Travelers appreciate this property for its convenient location directly across from the Lima airport. The hotel offers modern amenities and conveniences, including a restaurant, spa (additional fees apply), fitness facilities, and complimentary wireless internet access.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, cable/satellite TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, phone, alarm clock/radio, safe, coffee and tea maker, minibar, and en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.

Deluxe Accommodations Package (availability limited)

While all accommodations at the listed properties are exceptional, guests seeking more spacious rooms and additional amenities may choose to purchase the Deluxe Accommodations Package, which includes the following upgrades:

- **Sonesta Posada del Inca:** Upgrade to larger Superior Suite, featuring a living area with

sofa and flat-screen TV.

- **Inkaterra Machu Picchu Pueblo Hotel:** Upgrade to larger Superior Deluxe Room, featuring a seating area with fireplace.
- **Aranwa Cusco Boutique Hotel – Cusco:** Upgrade to larger Superior Deluxe Room adjacent to the inner courtyard and features a bathroom with jacuzzi tub and heated floors.
- **Wyndham Costa del Sol:** Upgrade to larger Suite, featuring a Jacuzzi bathtub.

(Accommodations subject to change.)

What's Included:

- 5 nights premium accommodations and a private day room on departure day
- 5 breakfasts, 6 lunches, and 5 dinners
- Fully guided tours and field presentations from local experts
- All ground excursion transportation, including Vistadome train through the Urubamba Valley
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and wait staff for included meals
- Airport assistance for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



The Galapagos Islands – Western Itinerary

OCTOBER 11, 2022 — OCTOBER 18, 2022

PRE-TOUR: OCTOBER 08, 2022 — OCTOBER 11, 2022

POST-TOUR: OCTOBER 18, 2022 — OCTOBER 23, 2022

PROGRAM RATES*

Standard: \$4,995

Classic Double: \$5,795

Classic Twin: \$5,995

Master Suite: \$7,695

Single: \$8,495

PRE-TOUR RATE**

Double: \$1,695

Single: \$2,395

POST-TOUR RATE***

Double: \$3,895

Deluxe Double: \$4,295

Single: \$5,495

Deluxe Single: \$6,095

(Airfare from main program to post-tour is additional \$740 per person.)

Reserve by Credit Card:

Online: ncsu.orbridge.com

Phone: (919) 515-0508

Email: hart@ncsu.edu

Reserve by Check:

Made payable to **Orbridge, LLC**

Mail to: NC State Alumni Association

Box 7503, NC State University

Raleigh, NC 27695-7503

GUEST INFORMATION:

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

☐ Check ☐ ACH (Automated Clearing House) ☐ MasterCard/Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Name (as printed on card): _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CATEGORY SELECTION & DEPOSIT:

Category Preference: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

_____ guests joining pre-tour (\$500/person) +

_____ guests joining program (\$850/person) +

_____ guests joining post-tour (\$500/person) = **TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$** _____

Post-Tour Category (choose one): ☐ Double ☐ Deluxe ☐ Single

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com and the COVID-19 Acknowledgement at orbridge.com/wellness; and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Special group rate; limited offer. Rates are per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Internal airfare between the mainland and the Galapagos Islands on Days 3 and 7 is included. Airfare otherwise not included.*

***Pre-tour rate is per person based on double occupancy except where noted as Single, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare not included.*

****Post-tour rates are per person based on double occupancy, in U.S. dollars. Single availability limited. Airfare for internal flights will be charged additionally at \$740 per person.*

Terms and Conditions

THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021,
AND APPLY TO NEW RESERVATIONS RECEIVED BY ORBRIDGE ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2021.

Note: Travel credits and transfers are subject to the Terms and Conditions agreed upon at the time of the original reservation.

ORBRIDGE® TERMS AND CONDITIONS, RELEASE AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

This Agreement includes contractual terms and conditions and releases Orbridge, LLC from liability. Any payment to Orbridge, including but not limited to deposits or full payments, constitutes your acknowledgement of, and agreement to, this Terms and Conditions, Release and Binding Arbitration Agreement Orbridge set forth below and in subsequent tour documents.

Limitation of Responsibility. Orbridge LLC, its shareholders, directors, officers, employees and affiliates (collectively, "Orbridge"), does not own or operate any entity that provides goods or services for your trip including, for example, ownership or control over hotels or other lodging facilities, airline, vessel, bus, van or other transportation companies, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions or equipment used thereon, food service or entertainment providers, etc., even if they use the "Orbridge LLC" or "Orbridge" name. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Orbridge is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity, or of any other third party. Without limitation, Orbridge is not responsible for any injury, loss, or damage to person or property, death, delay or inconvenience (collectively, "losses") in connection with the provision of any goods or services occasioned by or resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God, acts of government, force majeure, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, or the threat thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, structural or other defective conditions in hotels or other lodging or vessel facilities, mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely, dangers associated with or bites from animals, pests or insects, marine life or vegetation of any sort, dangers incident to recreational activities such as scuba diving, snorkeling, paddle boarding, surfing, swimming, kayaking, sailing, canoeing, rafting, hiking, bicycling, rock climbing, etc., sanitation problems, food poisoning, lack of access to or quality of medical care, difficulty in evacuation in case of a medical or other emergency, illness, epidemics, pandemics or the threat thereof or for any other cause beyond the direct control of Orbridge. In addition, I release Orbridge from its own negligence and assume all risk thereof.

Rates. Program rates are based on minimum participation levels, current fares and costs (air, water, land, rail), tariffs and currency values. While Orbridge does everything possible to maintain the listed program rates, they are subject to change effective immediately upon posting unless otherwise specified by Orbridge. In the case of invoicing errors, we reserve the right to re-invoice with the correct pricing.

Reservations, Deposits and Final Payment. To secure your reservation, deposits are due upon placing a reservation as follows: (1) \$850 per person per program and \$500 per person per pre-tour and/or post-tour except for programs noted in (2) and (3); (2) \$2,500 per person for Antarctica Discovery and Trans-Siberian Railway and \$500 per person per pre-tour and/or post-tour; (3) a non-refundable \$1,500 per person is due for Tanzania Wildlife Safari's Rwanda pre-tour. Deposits are payable by check, automated clearing house ("ACH"), wire transfer or major credit card.

Final payment, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, optional excursion(s) fees and optional electives, is payable by check, ACH or wire transfer, and is due for: (1) all programs except Antarctica Discovery and Trans-Siberian Railway—no later than 90 days prior to the program's scheduled departure date; (2) Antarctica Discovery and Trans-Siberian Railway—no later than 150 days prior to the program's scheduled departure date.

If your reservation is made between the final payment due date and the program's scheduled departure date, the full cost of the program, plus any pre-tour and/or post-tour, optional excursion(s) fees and optional electives, is due at the time of registration, payable by check, ACH or wire transfer.

Final payments made by credit card for departures in 2021 are subject to a 2% transaction fee.

If final payment is not received by Orbridge by the final payment due date, Orbridge may, at any time and with or without notice, cancel your reservation in its sole discretion with no right of refund.

Reservation Cancellations and Refunds. All cancellations must be submitted to Orbridge in writing and will be processed as follows:

(a) For all programs except those noted in (b) and (c), if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge more than 90 calendar days prior to the program's scheduled departure date, all monies paid to Orbridge for the main program and for any pre-tour and/or post-tour will be refunded in full. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 90 and 60 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 25% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, and the balance will be refunded. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 59 and 30 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 50% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, and the balance will be refunded. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge within 29 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 100% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour.

(b) For Antarctica Discovery and Trans-Siberian Railway, if the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge more than 180 calendar days prior to the scheduled departure date, all monies paid to Orbridge for the main program and for any pre-tour and/or post-tour will be refunded in full. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 180 and 150 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 25% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, and the balance will be refunded. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge between 149 and 120 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 50% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour, and the balance will be refunded. If the cancellation notice is received by Orbridge within 119 days prior to the scheduled departure date, a 100% cancellation fee will be applied to the full cost of the program, including any pre-tour and/or post-tour.

(c) All payments made for Tanzania Wildlife Safari's Rwanda pre-tour are non-refundable at all times.

In addition to and not in lieu of the foregoing, a Cancellation Fee equal to 100% of the carrier charge applies to all non-refundable airfares due to your cancellation made at any time prior to the scheduled program departure date, as applicable. Refunds, if any, will be processed within 30 calendar days of our receipt of your written notice.

Travel Insurance. Orbridge strongly recommends that you purchase travel and cancellation insurance to protect your investment in the event of unexpected or unforeseen circumstances. In addition, we recommend that you consider obtaining a policy(ies) that will cover emergency medical evacuation insurance and cancel for any reason insurance. Travel and cancellation insurance policies and dates by which policies must be purchased vary by provider/insurer, maximum coverage (including cancel for any reason) is generally only available for purchase within 14 days of your reservation being confirmed. It is advised to determine your insurance needs and make necessary arrangements soon after reserving on tour. If you do not have, but are interested in purchasing, travel and cancellation insurance please contact us.

Program Cancellations or Postponements. All programs are subject to cancellation or postponement by Orbridge prior to the scheduled departure date for reasons such as, but not limited to, insufficient participation, or logistical problems that, in Orbridge's sole judgment, may impede program operations or represent conditions or events that may expose program guests and/or Orbridge to undue risk of harm, injury, damage or inconvenience. In the event of program cancellation or postponement by Orbridge, Orbridge may offer you alternative arrangements such as the option to join the same tour on a different date or a different tour. If the price of your alternative booking is lower than your original booking price, Orbridge will refund the difference within 30 days of the alternative program's departure date. If it is higher than your original booking price, Orbridge will invoice you the difference and you will be responsible therefor. Transferred guests are subject to the terms of the original tour. Except for force majeure, if a program is cancelled or postponed by Orbridge, Orbridge will refund all payments made within 30 calendar days of notice of program cancellation or postponement if an alternative arrangement is not offered.

Itineraries. Accommodations, the itinerary, travel directors or expedition leaders, lecturers, hosts, faculty or organization representative, and arranged excursions are subject to change or substitution at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond Orbridge's control. Reasonable efforts will be made to operate programs as planned, however adjustments, substitutions and changes may occur after the final itinerary has been issued. Orbridge may, in its sole discretion, withdraw a program or any part of it, make such alterations or substitutions to the itinerary or program inclusions as it deems necessary or desirable, and pass on to program participants any expenditures or additional costs caused by any such adjustments, or by delays or events beyond its reasonable control.

Not Included. Unless otherwise specifically noted in the itinerary, program prices do not include the following expenses, which if applicable are your sole responsibility to pay and satisfy: trip cancellation insurance and passenger travel protection plan; domestic, international, and internal airfares except as indicated in program inclusions; transfers and luggage handling fees except in connection with scheduled group flights; costs associated with obtaining passports or entry visas; airport departure taxes; airline ticketing fees; airport transfers when arriving/departing on other than scheduled group dates; excess baggage charges; any new value added taxes or other taxes added to program costs by applicable governmental authorities; gratuities to drivers, guides, or ship's crew not specified; meals and beverages other than those specified as being included in the itinerary; sightseeing not included in the itinerary; personal expenses such as laundry, communication charges and optional activities (which are subject to availability); ship, air, or transportation fuel surcharges, if applicable; any items not on the "included" list of the tour documents

Health and Fitness to Travel. Through your participation in your tour, you assume responsibility for your own health, safety, and welfare and acknowledge that Orbridge cannot absolutely guarantee your safety or health. Your physician can provide guidance on your personal health risk and precautions to take while traveling. Some programs include physically active elements. To enjoy these programs as intended, a minimum level of fitness is required and Orbridge will require all guests to follow local, state, national and/or World Health Organization health and safety mandates. Accordingly, you must be in good physical and mental condition to participate. You represent that you have no physical, mental or other condition, impairment or disability that may or will cause or create a risk of injury or other hazard to yourself or others in respect to any aspect of the program you have selected. Orbridge may, in its sole discretion, limit, restrict or prohibit participation in any aspect of any program any individual that it considers in its sole discretion to be impaired or unsuitable due to fitness level. In addition, Orbridge may, in its sole discretion and at the participant's sole expense, remove the guest from the program, or restrict the program-related activities of any individual whose physical or mental condition may or is likely to cause a hazard to himself/herself or others, or otherwise impair the enjoyment of other program participants. Any physical condition requiring special attention, diet, or treatment must be reported in writing to Orbridge at the time a program reservation is made. Should you have any questions or need any clarification about a specific program, please ask for details at the time of registration. Orbridge will try to accommodate your situation if possible.

Accessibility. Orbridge cannot guarantee that the transportation, lodging, and entertainment/sightseeing accommodations will be accessible to all persons regardless of their physical and mental condition. In addition, many of the activities involved in each program include walking or the like for some distance on uneven ground or pavement or moving water as well as the ability to walk up and down stairs without assistance. Should any individuals seeking to participate in a travel opportunity need special accommodations to ensure their enjoyment of the trip, kindly provide notice at the time the reservation is submitted, and we will see if your participation is feasible. Please understand that the Americans with Disabilities Act is inapplicable outside the United States.

At the time of reservation, Orbridge needs to be notified to determine if the special needs of an individual traveler can be met through special arrangements. It is possible that minor modifications to the services can be provided, but only if Orbridge is made specifically aware of anticipated needs. This notification should be made in writing no less than two weeks prior to the planned travel. Neither Orbridge nor any of the providers of transportation, lodging, or other services can provide special accommodations without this advance notice.

Where an individual with certain specific needs will be traveling with a group, it is necessary for other members of that person's group to be available to assist as necessary. Neither employees of Orbridge nor any suppliers of services can allow any of their employees to provide physical assistance to any guests.

Travel Advisories. The State Department and the Centers for Disease Control periodically issue statements and advisories about risks to travelers. These statements are country specific and contain important information. The State Department information can be found at www.travel.state.gov, and the CDC statements can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov>. Orbridge highly recommends everyone to review these sites.

Children. Orbridge welcomes the participation of children in most of its programs. However, in the event you do include your children or other minors for whom you serve as legal guardian ("Dependents") in your travel plans, you hereby agree that you are and shall be at all times solely responsible for their care, actions, safety and protection during the program and any pre-tour and/or post-tour. Should you have any questions whether a particular program or inclusion is possible or suitable for your Dependent(s), please contact us.

Baggage. Program rates include the price of one piece of policy-compliant baggage per person during the land, cruise or rail portion of the program only unless specified in the itinerary. Air carriers and motor coaches often impose significant other restrictions or limitations on the number of pieces, size and weight of luggage and may reject or impose additional fees on luggage exceeding such limitations or restrictions. All such fees are your sole cost and responsibility. In addition and regardless of location or transportation method, your baggage and personal effects are and shall at all times be at your sole risk throughout the entire program. Please check with your air carrier for other applicable baggage restrictions and limitations.

Travel Documents. All guests are responsible for possessing and maintaining necessary travel documents. These documents shall be valid under state and federal law and as required by foreign countries being visited. Orbridge is not responsible for invalid travel documents and repercussions thereof.

For U.S. citizens, valid passports are required for travel to foreign destinations and some countries require specific visas prior to entry. Please direct any questions in respect to visa requirements to Orbridge, which shall use commercially reasonable efforts to provide answers as a courtesy, provided that it shall remain your sole responsibility and obligation to obtain and verify that you have all required travel documents, including visas, necessary and appropriate for the program location(s) and sufficient blank pages in your passport for visas and immigration stamps. In addition, some countries require your passport to have an expiry date of not less than six months after your anticipated return to the United States. Orbridge disclaims all liability for any expenses or costs you may incur due to your prohibition or restriction from entering a country on the program itinerary or reentering the United States at the conclusion of the program. If travel documents fail to meet these requirements, boarding of aircraft or ship to any international destination may be denied and entry into such countries may be denied.

Photos and Videos. Orbridge may take photographs and/or video of its trips and participant grants Orbridge permission to do so and for it to use such for promotional or commercial use without payment of any compensation to participant. In addition, Orbridge may use, without compensation, any photographs or video taken by tour participants and submitted to Orbridge or to SmugMug without payment of any compensation. In submitting any such photographs or videos to Orbridge or SmugMug, participant warrants that he or she took the image and that the dissemination of same does not violate the copyright rights of any person.

Data Rights, Permissions. Data collected and/or derived by Orbridge resulting from your use of the Website is the sole and exclusive property of Orbridge and may be used in any manner consistent with its Privacy Policy located on Orbridge's website. By submitting to Orbridge a digital or hard copy form that includes your personal contact information, including without limitation, your email address and telephone number(s), you give Orbridge and any other entity identified on the form permission to use that information to contact you and as otherwise may be described on the form and/or in the Privacy Policy.

Other. Dates, program details and costs are based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, but are subject to change at any time. While we do not anticipate material revisions of the itinerary or its included features, we do reserve the right to substitute accommodations or modes of transportation and to make any changes in the itinerary Orbridge, in its sole discretion, deems necessary and in that case any additional expense or cost will be paid by the individual guest. Your baggage and personal effects are your sole responsibility at all times. It is prohibited by federal law and Orbridge policy to bring illegal drugs, firearms, or other contraband (including marijuana for medical or recreational purposes) on any program.

Orbridge may at any time and without notice modify these terms and conditions, and any modification so made will be effective for all reservations made from and after the posted Effective Date.

In the event any term in these terms and conditions is deemed unenforceable the unenforceable clause shall be interpreted to give effect to the parties' intentions to the greatest enforceable extent, and all other provisions hereof shall remain fully enforceable according to their terms.

Binding Arbitration. I agree that any dispute concerning, relating, or referring to this contract, the brochure, or any other literature concerning my trip, or the trip itself shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration in Seattle, Washington, either according to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association or pursuant to the Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures of the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, Inc. (JAMS). Such proceedings will be governed by substantive (but not procedural) Washington law. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable. By agreeing to these terms and conditions, both parties are waiving their right to a trial by jury. Any arbitration commenced against Orbridge must be on behalf of only the individual(s) to this Agreement and his or her immediate family members travelling with them, such as a spouse or child. Under no circumstances can participant be part of a class or other joint action.

Acceptance of Contract. ANY PAYMENT TO ORBRIDGE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DEPOSITS OR FULL PAYMENTS, CONSTITUTES YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF AND AGREEMENT TO THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS SET FORTH ABOVE AND IN MORE SPECIFIC TOUR DOCUMENTS.

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