Galápagos
NATURE AS YOU’VE NEVER EXPERIENCED IT
In 1835 young Charles Darwin set foot in the Galápagos Islands. There he saw plants and animals that were similar to, but different from those on the mainland, and, indeed, from island to island. The fresh lava flows told him that these islands were formed in the recent past. These observations led him directly to his theory of evolution. Now you can walk in Darwin’s footsteps and be inspired, just as he was.

The Galápagos Islands comprise a fairly simple ecosystem that can easily be understood in a week-long visit. It is possible to see much of the geologic evidence for the formation of the islands, and to understand how continental drift shapes the physical and biological world.

A visit to the Galápagos is an opportunity to journey back to the roots of biology - to observe living organisms in their natural environment, going about their lives. For the nature lover, it is an opportunity to experience the natural world in an intimate and personal way.

The Galápagos is one of those special places on earth where one can truly come into harmony with the natural world.
In the Galápagos we will live aboard a chartered yacht for a week and cruise through the islands. Each day will include natural history walks at the various visitor sites, and opportunities to snorkel with playful sea lions, sea turtles, penguins, marine iguanas, and exotic fish. In addition, the trip includes a day on the mainland with a tour of Quito, Ecuador's capital in the Andes, and a visit to the equator.

**WHO MAY PARTICIPATE:**
The trip is open to all alumni and family on a first-come first-served basis. Group size is limited to 14 participants.

**COST AND DATES:**
$5991 – Double occupancy in upper & lower berths
July 20 – 31, 2018

**WHAT IS COVERED:**
Round-trip airfare from Atlanta, Galápagos tour, hotels, meals, cancellation insurance, Galápagos National Park entry fee, tour of colonial Quito and Equator, tour of Cotopaxi Volcano National Park

**NOT INCLUDED:**
Soft drinks and alcohol, gratuities

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**
Dr. Robert Rothman
robert.rothman@rit.edu
Dr. Rothman is a professor in the Thomas H. Gosnell School of Life Sciences in the College of Science, where he teaches courses on Genetics, Genetic Engineering, Vertebrate Evolution, and the Evolution/Creation Controversy.

In 1989 he had the opportunity to visit the Galápagos Islands as a tourist and knew that he had to return. Since that first visit, Dr. Rothman has brought students to the islands for an annual field course. He recently completed his 25th visit to the Galápagos. Currently Dr. Rothman is nearing completion of a book about Galapagos reptiles.
The **M/Y Aida Maria** has eight very comfortable double cabins located on three decks, four on the main deck, two on the upper deck, and two on the sun deck. Each cabin has upper and lower beds (some lower beds are double size) and private bathrooms with hot showers.

**GALÁPAGOS ITINERARY**

- **Day 1**: Quito to Baltra Island
  - Las Bachas, Santa Cruz
- **Day 2**: Genovesa Island
- **Day 3**: Bartolomé Island
  - Santiago Island
- **Day 4**: Daphne Major Island
  - Santa Cruz Island
  - Black Turtle Cove
  - Cerro Dragon
- **Day 5**: Santa Cruz Island
  - Highlands
  - Charles Darwin Research Station
- **Day 6**: Floreana Island
- **Day 7**: Española Island
- **Day 8**: San Cristóbal Island to Quito

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**Yacht Aida Maria**

www.aidamariatravel.com

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