

MITALUMNI

Travel Program

Exploring Galápagos A Family Adventure

August 7-16, 2026

Aboard *National Geographic Endeavour II*

Travel with Andrew Babbin,

Associate Professor of Chemical Oceanography and Marine Microbiology at MIT



SPECIAL OFFER: 5% GROUP SAVINGS



Dear MIT Alumni and Friends,

The collection of islands known as the Galápagos is, in the words of Charles Darwin, “a little world within itself.” Here, prehistoric-looking marine iguanas bask on stark volcanic landscapes, barking sea lions loll about on pristine white beaches and magnificent frigatebirds nest in the silvery palo santo trees. Finches flit between tree branches and schools of golden rays swim among the intricate roots of mangrove stands.

We invite you and your family to witness the iconic creatures and habitats of Galápagos for yourself on an incredible voyage aboard the *National Geographic Endeavour II*. This program is perfect for families. Equipped with kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, a fleet of Zodiacs and a custom-designed glass-bottom boat, this 52-cabin expedition ship is purpose-built to bring you unforgettable experiences. Paddle along rocky shores beside gliding sea turtles, snorkel with penguins and hike among dancing blue-footed boobies. There will also be plenty of chances to spot marine life—like leaping dolphins and rays—from the comfort of our ship.

During this trip, **MIT Professor Andrew Babbin** will share his expertise through presentations and informal commentary. Professor Babbin will focus talks on the special confluence of oceanography, climate, and life across the Galápagos, from the animals we can see with our eyes, the currents we can feel as we swim, and the microscopic organisms that shape the climate for all. Lindblad Expeditions, the tour operator for this program, has spent decades exploring Galápagos. Their naturalists have a deep knowledge of island species and habitats that allows them to make the most of nature’s opportunities—which means you will enjoy adventure-filled days and amazing wildlife sightings.

Contact National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions directly with all trip inquiries and to make a reservation. Their travel consultants are eager to take your call and answer your questions. **To reserve your space, email groups@expeditions.com, or call 833-985-1261.**

Sincerely,



Melissa Chapman Gresh,
MIT Alumni Travel Program
alum.mit.edu/travel

Special Offer

Save 5% when traveling with MIT Alumni Travel. See page 12 for more details.



Professor Andrew Babbin is a field-going oceanographer, biogeochemist and climate scientist. He joined the MIT faculty in 2017 in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences. His research exploring how microorganisms shape global climate has taken him across the world, sampling lakes in Antarctica, coral reefs in Cuba, anoxic waters in the Pacific and air in the Galápagos. He has recently established a new atmospheric chemistry sampling station in the Galápagos to quantify the emissions and variability of nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas,

across the tropical Pacific Ocean. He is a Mission Director of the new MIT Climate Project, focusing on how to restore the atmosphere and protect the land and oceans.

Cover photo: Playful sea lion. © Michael S. Nolan; Opposite: Galápagos giant tortoise. © Sven-Olof Lindblad. Ships Registry: Ecuador.

DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF GALÁPAGOS

A Wilderness Like No Other

Few wildernesses are more iconic than Galápagos—the lava-sculpted realm that once played host to Charles Darwin and his living laboratory. Home to a menagerie of wild and wonderful creatures with no instinctive fear of humans, the archipelago’s pristine seas and shores still look much as they did when the legendary naturalist arrived nearly 200 years ago. Penguins welcome visitors while wizened marine iguanas sunbathe on volcanic rocks and giant tortoises roam through misty meadows. Discover these wild wonders and much more on an immersive adventure refined over decades of voyaging to these magical isles.

Actively Explore Every Day

Galápagos itinerary features daily activities for every skill level, with each excursion designed to immerse you in the Enchanted Isles. Snorkel with acrobatic sea lions, go on a photo walk to capture up-close images of blue-footed boobies, or take a ride in a glass-bottom boat—you can explore your way, every day.

Discover the wonders hidden beneath Galápagos waves through our in-depth undersea program. The voyage features an undersea specialist who documents the marine environment, gathering footage for daily Recaps in the lounge so that all guests can glimpse the fascinating sea creatures and their oceanic habitats.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): A blue-footed booby sitting on nest and two chicks; Galápagos flamingo; great blue heron takes flight in front of San Cristóbal Island, Galápagos National Park.





GET A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON ICONIC WONDERS

A Perfectly Appointed Expedition Ship

Equipped with expansive decks and custom tools, *National Geographic Endeavour II* is geared for adventure. Guests have access to kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, a glass-bottom boat, and dedicated snorkeling gear, and nimble Zodiacs allow for exploration along the archipelago's hidden shores.



Superior amenities ensure discovery continues on board. Read up on Galápagos luminaries in the library before heading to the lounge for your nightly Recap. Or unwind in the fitness center or spa treatment room. You can also enjoy a taste of the archipelago at every meal through the pioneering farm-to-table food program

Travel with a Veteran Team

Every member of team—from naturalists to expedition leaders—is committed to ensuring you have an unforgettable experience. Many veteran guides are Galapagueños; in addition to sharing their extensive knowledge of island species and habitats, they offer an authentic connection to local culture.

A National Geographic certified photo instructor also joins the voyage to assist travelers with everything from camera and smartphone settings to composition. Every guest, at every skill level, can stand side by side with top photographers, pick up tips and return home with the photos of a lifetime.

Opposite page (clockwise from top): Guests ride a Zodiac from the National Geographic Endeavour II; a Galápagos penguin at rest; guests on the beach with sea lions in Galápagos. This page: Galápagos marine iguanas rest on some rocks.

THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS



ISABELA

Toast crossing the Equator at Volcán Ecuador, the northernmost of the island's six great shield volcanoes. Keep an eye out for whales and dolphins as you ply these rich waters, once the haunt of whalers and pirates.



SANTIAGO

Explore tide pools and search for fur seals in quiet grottos on this island where a coastal forest and spectacular geological formations are high points.



FERNANDINA

One of the most active oceanic volcanoes in the world, it's home to the strange flightless cormorant and the largest population of marine iguanas.



FLOREANA

Follow a trail along a rose-pink lagoon across Punta Cormorant. Visit Post Office Bay, founded by 18th-century whalers, on this mysterious island with an intriguing human history.

HISTORIC MILESTONE IN GALÁPAGOS

The new Hermandad Marine Reserve expands the current Galápagos Marine Reserve by almost 50 percent and extends northwest to the Costa Rican maritime border.





BARTOLOMÉ

Climb to the summit of this volcanic wonderland, then snorkel and swim from a golden beach.



GENOVESA

Sail to the remote northern realm of the Galápagos, a seabird paradise bathed in warm tropical waters.



NORTH SEYMOUR

Encounter nesting frigatebirds, plus land and marine iguanas, and enjoy a beautiful coastal walk.



SOUTH PLAZA

Sea lions greet you at South Plaza, an uplifted volcanic block carpeted in salt-loving succulents and teeming with wildlife.



SANTA CRUZ

Call at Puerto Ayora, the largest town and headquarters of both the Charles Darwin Research Station and Galápagos National Park. Head to the lush, green highlands to see giant tortoises roaming in the wild.



RÁBIDA

Snorkel along the rocky coastline among schools of tropical fish and curious sea lions, before landing on a brilliant red beach to look for both land and sea birds.



SAN CRISTÓBAL

Search for red-footed boobies and the endemic mockingbird and lava lizard—found only on this easternmost island. Explore Baquerizo Moreno, where sea lion colonies thrive in the middle of town.



ESPAÑOLA

Home to swallow-tailed gulls, Española mockingbirds, Nazca boobies and, seasonally, the world's only population of waved albatross.



Itinerary

Explore the legendary Galápagos Islands aboard this comfortable 52-cabin expedition ship, well equipped for active exploration and meaningful encounters with wildlife.



DAY 1: QUITO OR GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR

Arrive in Ecuador, either in Quito, Ecuador's capital city in the Andes (altitude of 9,350 ft), or in the coastal city of Guayaquil, for an included transfer to your convenient hotel for an overnight stay. Both cities are well-served by international carriers, and Galápagos flights start and end in Quito with a stop in Guayaquil. Guests in Guayaquil stay at the locally owned Hotel Oro Verde and have the choice of several hotels in Quito.

DAY 2: QUITO OR GUAYAQUIL/GALÁPAGOS

This morning, take a required flight to the Galápagos Islands (booked by National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions at an additional cost) and board *National Geographic Endeavour II*. After lunch, exploration begins of the islands and their diverse wildlife. (B,L,D)

DAYS 3-8: EXPLORING THE GALÁPAGOS

This expedition includes visits to Santa Cruz and a careful selection of other diverse islands. The itinerary offers an optimal balance of wildlife, landscapes, and experiences. All itineraries are subject to Galápagos National Park regulations. Here is a sample of islands you may visit during your expedition. (B,L,D Daily)

NORTH SEYMOUR

Follow coastal trails past playful Galápagos sea lions on this wildlife-rich central island. Continue inland through a silvery forest of endemic palo santo trees, where frigatebirds nest, blue-footed boobies dance, and prehistoric-looking land iguanas feeding on cacti.

RÁBIDA

Land on a red-sand beach on this volcanically varied island, where we explore inland. We may see flamingos feeding in a brackish lagoon and clownish brown

pelicans entertaining from their nests. Jump in the surrounding waters for a snorkel, or explore by kayak or paddleboard.

FERNANDINA

One of the most active oceanic volcanoes in the world, Fernandina is the youngest and most pristine island in Galápagos—and home to the strange flightless cormorant, Galápagos penguins, and the largest marine iguanas. On shore, we hike across impressive recent lava flows.



ISABELA

Cross the Equator at Volcán Ecuador, northernmost of Isabela's six great shield volcanoes. Keep an eye out for whales and dolphins, sea turtles, and the elusive ocean sunfish. Follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin and Herman Melville and look for wildlife along the wildly eroded volcanic shore.

SANTIAGO

Explore tide pools and look for fur seals sheltered in quiet grottos of black basalt. Swim, snorkel, kayak, and paddleboard along spectacular shorelines, and explore an enchanting coastal forest where Charles Darwin once walked.

SANTA CRUZ

Call at Puerto Ayora, the largest town and headquarters of both the Charles Darwin Research Station and Galápagos National Park. Head to the lush, green highlands to see giant tortoises roaming in the wild.

SAN CRISTÓBAL

Search for red-footed boobies and the endemic mockingbird and lava lizard—found only on this easternmost island. Explore Baquerizo Moreno, where sea lion colonies thrive in the middle of town.

DAY 9: GALÁPAGOS/DISEMBARK/QUITO OR GUAYAQUIL

Disembark this morning for a return flight to the mainland, to transfer to Hotel Oro Verde in Guayaquil, and have several options in Quito, including a convenient airport hotel. The afternoon and evening are at your leisure. You may be able to take advantage of overnight flights home. (B)

DAY 10: QUITO OR GUAYAQUIL

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and board flights home. (B)

OPTIONAL PRE-VOYAGE EXTENSION:

Tropical Andes & Colonial Quito • 6 Days • From \$3,200

Before your Galápagos adventure, discover the lesser-known wonders of mainland Ecuador on this six-day adventure in the Andes. Explore Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage site, from the comfort of historic Casa Gangotena on Plaza San Francisco. Then immerse yourself in the heart of the Ecuadorian Chocó, one of the world's top five biodiversity hotspots, at Mashpi Lodge.

National Geographic Endeavour II



This purpose-built expedition vessel sails the Galápagos year-round and embodies the style of travel refined from over more than 55 years of exploration here. Evoking the feel of both a sumptuous hotel and a scientific research vessel, she features an open-air observation deck, exceptional views and an impressive roster of exploration tools—all of which foster up-close and personal exploration.

Capacity

52 outside cabins and suites accommodating 96 guests.

Registry

Ecuador.

Overall Length

236 feet.

Public Areas

Forward lounge and bar for presentations and gatherings, restaurant, large library with Mac computer kiosks, open-air observation deck, underwater gear area and efficient Zodiac boarding platform, and open Bridge, where guests are welcome to learn about navigation from the captain and officers.



The casual dining room.

Meals

Served in single, unassigned seating in a sociable, informal atmosphere. Menu emphasizes Ecuadorian flair.



Category 4 cabin.

Accommodations

Cabins and suites face outside with large windows and feature twin beds that convert to a queen. With private facilities, climate control, nightstands, desk and storage. Seven sets of cabins with a connecting door and nine solo cabins.

Expedition Equipment

Zodiacs, glass-bottom boat, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, snorkel gear including wetsuits for adults and children, video microscope and underwater video camera.

Staff & Crew

Every staff member is committed to ensuring our guests have an unforgettable experience. Many of the veteran guides and naturalists are locally based in your destination and have worked with the company for decades. A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, professional photographer and certified photo instructor are on board, and with a low staff-to-guest ratio, you can hear different perspectives and gain new insights every day.

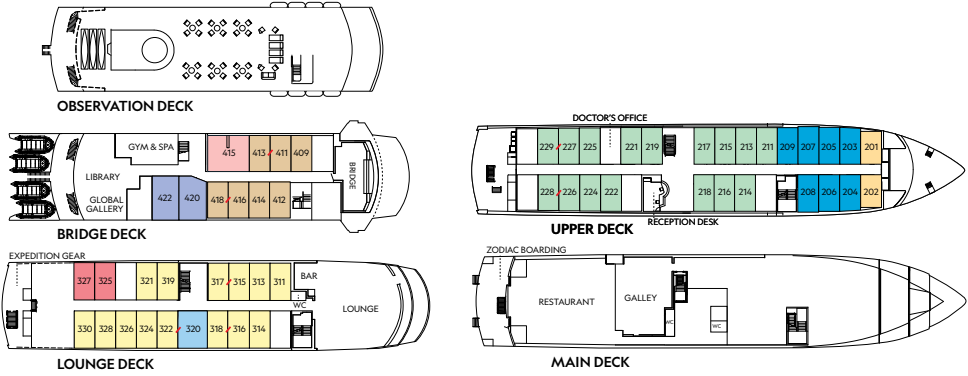
Special Features

National Geographic Global Explorers family program, snorkel instruction, Wi-Fi access, laundry service and Global Gallery.

Wellness

LEXspa and fitness center, exercise classes and wellness specialist.

Ship Deck Plan & Pricing



✓ Indicates adjoining cabins

Voyage Dates

August 7-16, 2026

Advance Payment Details

15% of the cabin fare, per person

With compliments, your bar tab and Wi-Fi are included.	
Costs are per person double occupancy unless otherwise noted.	5% Savings
Category 1 Upper Deck, Forward #201, 202	\$8,995 \$8,546
Category 2 Upper Deck #211, 213-219, 221, 222, 224-229	\$11,228 \$10,667
Category 3 Lounge Deck #311, 313-319, 321, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330	\$12,509 \$11,884
Category 4 Bridge Deck #409, 411-414, 416, 418	\$13,923 \$13,227
Suite A* Lounge Deck, mid-ship #320—with two windows, larger bath, armchair. Connecting door to #322.	\$16,751 \$15,914
Suite B* Bridge Deck, mid-ship #420, 422—with two floor-to-ceiling windows, larger bath, convertible sofa for a third person.	\$18,039 \$17,138
Suite C* Bridge Deck, mid-ship #415—with two large windows, larger bath, separate sitting area with convertible sofa for a third person and armchairs, largest cabin on ship.	\$18,984 \$18,035
Category 2 Solo Upper Deck #203-209	\$14,581 \$13,852
Category 3 Solo Lounge Deck #325, 327	\$16,247 \$15,435

***Suite Exclusives:** The Suite Exclusives package gives guests staying in eligible cabins access to an array of amenities designed to enhance your onboard experience, including priority booking for spa treatments, complimentary laundry and other exclusive perks.

Note: All cabins and suites feature the option of two singles or a queen bed, plus large window(s), desk, chair and closet.

Connecting cabins: #226/228, 227/229, 315/317, 316/318, 320/322, 411/413, 416/418

Triple Occupancy: #224, 225, 326, 328 with fold-down third berth, Suites B and C with convertible sofa bed.

Third person rates are one-half per person double occupancy rate.

Shared Accommodations: Shares can be arranged at the double occupancy rate in Categories 1 and 2.

INCLUSIVE PRICING

- All accommodations aboard ship
- Excursions and hotels, as indicated in the itinerary
- Airport transfers for all arrivals and departures
- All meals as indicated in the itinerary, both aboard and onshore. Meals and hors d'oeuvres are inspired by regional cuisine and locally sourced where possible
- 24-hour access to snacks, premium coffees and teas, non-alcoholic beverages and filtered water
- Beer, wine, cocktails and spirits. We are also pleased to offer a selection of super premium wines and liquors, available for purchase
- Selection of exploration tools curated to the Galápagos, including Zodiacs, a glass-bottom boat, stand-up paddleboards, kayaks, snorkeling equipment (including wetsuits, masks and fins) and other gear
- The guidance and company of our leading expedition staff
- Presentations by the expedition staff
- Complimentary reusable water bottle
- The services of the ship's physician
- 24-hour access to lounges, observation decks, library and other shared spaces
- Morning stretch classes and 24-hour access to the fitness center
- Assistance by the onboard photo instructor
- Special access permits, park and site entrance fees and port taxes
- Basic Wi-Fi, with the option to upgrade

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SPECIAL OFFERS

SPECIAL GROUP SAVINGS: Save 5% on the cabin fare (as indicated) when traveling with MIT Alumni Travel. Valid on this departure date of *Exploring Galápagos* for new bookings only, subject to availability, may not be combined with other offers, and is not applicable on airfare or extensions. Call for details.

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES: Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, \$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, not applicable on airfare or extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

BRINGING THE KIDS: Sharing an expedition with your kids or grandkids is a life-enhancing experience. Take \$500 off the double occupancy price for each person who is under 18 at the time of sailing. Not applicable on extensions or airfare.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Prices quoted in this brochure are per person based on double occupancy in USD. Prices quoted are valid at the time of printing, and are subject to change and availability at time of booking. Under normal conditions the total expedition price is guaranteed at the time advanced payment is made. However, our expedition pricing is determined far in advance of initial departure on the basis of then-existing projections of fuel and other costs. In the event of increases in those costs, including but not limited to increases in the price of fuel, currency fluctuations, increases in government taxes or levies, or increased security costs, we reserve the right to adjust the price of your expedition or add a surcharge to cover such unexpected increases. We will always provide an explanation of the reason for increase in costs.

COST INCLUDES: All amenities listed in inclusive pricing above. Unused services or items included in this program are non-refundable.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare, both international and internal; pre- and post-expedition extensions; additional hotel nights; meals not indicated; private transfers; travel protection plan; passport, visa and immigration fees; crew gratuities; items of a personal nature such as certain super premium wines and liquors laundry, spa treatments, enhanced and premium Wi-Fi plans and phone services.

AIRFARE: Airfare, both international and internal, is an additional cost. International and internal Ecuador tickets must be issued separately. Internal tickets must be booked by Lindblad Expeditions. Lindblad Expeditions will assist in making your international air arrangements for a \$50 per person service fee.

RESERVATIONS: To confirm your place, an advance payment of 15% of the cabin fare, per person is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or check. Receipt of advance payment indicates your acceptance of the terms and conditions.

FINAL PAYMENT: Due no later than 120 days prior to departure. Lindblad Expeditions reserves the right to cancel your reservation if payment has not been received by final payment due date.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN: Travel and medical insurance are available at an additional cost. Information will be sent to you upon registration.

ENTRY AND VISA REQUIREMENTS: Guests are advised to verify travel documents (passport/transit visa/entry visa) for the country(s) through which they are transiting and/or entering. Reliable and most current information regarding international travel can be found by contacting the consulate/embassy of the country(s) you are visiting or transiting through. We will not be responsible if you are denied entry or transit into a country if you are unable to provide valid documents as per the country's requirement.

RESPONSIBILITY AND OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS: Certain other provisions concerning, among other things, limitations of Lindblad Expeditions' and National Geographic Expeditions' (a division of National Geographic Partners, LLC) liability for loss of property, injury, illness, or death during the voyage will be provided to all guests on the ship's ticket sent prior to departure or upon request. By registering for a trip, the guest agrees to all such terms and conditions.

CANCELLATION FEE POLICY (PER PERSON)

120 or more days prior to expedition start: No penalty: Advance Payment will be credited toward your next expedition**

119-90 days prior to expedition start: 50% of trip cost***

89-0 days prior to expedition start: 100% of trip cost***

**Advance payments will be credited in the form of a Lindblad Expeditions Travel Certificate, valid for 12 months from the date of cancellation, and which may only be applied towards final payment on any future booking.

***Trip cost is total price paid including extensions, charter airfare and other additional services.

We strongly recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan.

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Reservation Form



Contact Information

To register, please contact:

Lindblad Expeditions
96 Morton Street
New York, NY 10014
Phone: 833-985-1261
Fax: 646-390-2050
Email: groups@expeditions.com

Exploring Galápagos A Family Adventure

August 7-16, 2026

ABOARD NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ENDEAVOUR II

Passenger Information

Please reserve _____ place(s).

Guest 1: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(Name as it appears on passport)

Guest 2: _____ Date of Birth: _____
(Name as it appears on passport)

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Business Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Accommodations: Double Single Twin share with a friend
 Share with roommate assigned by tour operator.

Please indicate choice of cabin category in order of preference:

1st choice: _____ 2nd choice: _____

Planned arrival/departure city: **Quito** **Guayaquil**

Please send detailed information about the **Tropical Andes & Colonial Quito** pre-voyage extension.

Advance Payment Information: 15% of the cabin fare per person.

If paying by check, please make payable to: **Lindblad Maritime Enterprises, Ltd.**
Enclosed is my advance payment of \$ _____

If paying by credit card, we will contact you to finalize your booking and collect payment information.

Note: Tour participants must fully review the tour operator's cancellation and refund policies, as the tour participant's financial commitments are directly with the tour operator, with all tour funds being paid to the operator. **The purchase of a comprehensive travel insurance policy is highly recommended.** The MIT Alumni Travel Program provides further information about the Travel Program and the relationship between the Alumni Association and the tour operator online at: <http://alum.mit.edu/travel/about>


Exploring Galápagos A Family Adventure

EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel with Andrew Babbín, Associate Professor of Chemical Oceanography and Marine Microbiology at MIT.
- Share the joy and wonder of travel with your kids and grandkids as you have up-close encounters with Galápagos wildlife, like giant tortoises and blue-footed boobies.
- Experience the waters of the Galápagos by kayak, glass-bottom boat, Zodiac or paddleboard.
- Travel with our expert team of local naturalists and a photo instructor.
- Snorkel amid shimmering fish, sea turtles, penguins and playful sea lions.
- With the National Geographic Global Explorers program, kids and teens can learn about and engage with the region through immersive, hands-on activities.

LINDBLAD EXPEDITIONS: PIONEERING RESPONSIBLE EXPLORATION

From our consistent quest to improve our practices to offsetting 100% of our carbon emissions, supporting conservation, science, and education initiatives around the planet, and investing in the communities in the places we explore, we are guided by our commitment to explore responsibly.

 Printed on 10% recycled content paper with soy-based inks.
We recommend that you pass this along for others to enjoy or recycle.



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