



There are seventy-nine days left until we rendezvous in Ecuador for our Galapagos Expedition. On April 24, 2009, all participants will meet and stay at the Hilton Colon Guayaquil in anticipation of our flight to the Galapagos the next morning. The Expedition Committee is delighted to provide the following information, along with an attached memo from Professor Irby Lovette. We will be sending out a Galapagos Expedition Briefing Book in the middle of March including final details and boarding documents. Should you have any questions, please contact Daniela Burton at the Sailing Office. burtond@nyyc.org.

Essential Galapagos Information

Lindblad Expedition leader PAULA TAGLE:

Our expedition leader is Ms. Paula Tagle. Paula grew up in Guayaquil. She studied geology in both Guayaquil and Brussels, where she received her Masters Degree. In 1994 Paula began working in the Galapagos National Park and at other nature destinations in Baja California and Central America. She is an Expedition Leader for Lindblad in these locations. In 2000 US Sailing certified Paula to skipper centerboard and keel boats up to 40 feet. She is also a journalist writing a column about the Galapagos for the prominent Ecuador newspaper "El Universo". Paula's travels with Lindblad include many of the waters NYYC members visit, including Alaska, the Pacific Northwest, Central America, Antarctica, the East Coast of the USA, Western Europe, and Svalbard, Norway.

Additional information about our Expedition Leader and her experienced staff will be included in our briefing book. Since this is a charter voyage, the staffing will not be the same as on the regular expeditions to the Galapagos. Lindblad selected our group based upon Loretta Bruno's expectations.

NYYC Expedition Specialist Cornell Professor Irby Lovette:

Irby Lovette teaches Cornell's introductory evolutionary biology courses and leads annual undergraduate field courses in Kenya, Panama, and elsewhere. Irby's field studies included 6 months in residence on tiny Daphne Island in Galapagos studying the biologically famous Darwin's Finches with the Professors Grant of Princeton University. Irby will accompany us ashore, on the ship during meals and provide wonderful lectures related to our itinerary. His Galapagos Essential Reading and Equipment List is attached.

Communications

The ship is equipped with satellite communications for Internet access, telephone and fax. Email access via the satellite Internet is available 24 hours a day through the purchase of pre-paid Internet access debit cards on board. Once purchased, the debit cards can be used to access the Internet on your personal laptop using the cable in your cabin, on your personal laptop at select wireless access points onboard, or at the Internet Kiosks located next to Reception. Additional information will be provided in the Contact Information sheet which will be included in your final documents.

Please read **Irby Lovette's Feb 2nd memo "Essential Galapagos Equipment & Reading"** attached to this message. In addition to suggested reading, it contains practical advice about binoculars and cameras for Galapagos. One excellent field guide published by Princeton is recommended. Other reading suggestions include background information, history, and a science book written by the Grants of Princeton University.

Please note there is a good **Galapagos lending library aboard NG Endeavour**.

Sports Equipment

Hiking boots/shoes: We will hike on jagged black lava rock fields that retain the sun's heat. Warm weather hiking boots or shoes are recommended.

Hiking sticks: Wooden hiking sticks are available to use aboard ship. Lightweight collapsible walking stick/s are easier to use and manage over and around the boulders on many trails.

Scuba Diving:

Optional scuba diving can be arranged in advance from an independent contractor recommended by Lindblad National Geographic Endeavour. Galapagos scuba diving conditions are intermediate to advanced, with cold water up wellings, strong currents and underwater visibility at times limited.

Please advise us if you are interested and we will contact Lindblad's recommended outside contractor to put together a group if possible. For wildlife conservation in Galapagos National Park, all activities including scuba diving are in designated locations and on specified days organized by park permit holders.

Snorkeling:

You can borrow all snorkeling equipment from the ship. However very seriously consider bringing your own mask, snorkel, lightweight lycra dive skin, and possibly your own short or long wet suit.

Clothing and dress code

Lindblad's web site has Galapagos clothing and equipment suggestions at

Galapagos What to Pack: <http://www.expeditions.com/images/PDFDestinations/Galapagos.pdf>

Our expedition **dress code is sports clothes and casual attire**. Suggested casual attire for dinner is collared shirt, no coat or tie for men and corresponding attire for women.

Shipboard information

Lindblad supplies 100% natural biodegradable shampoo, body wash and body lotion, as well as a hair dryer in each cabin. If you choose to bring your own shampoo and/or conditioner, it is recommended that you bring biodegradable products.

The Expedition Committee will be updating you by email as questions arise. We are looking forward to a unique, educational and exciting expedition and appreciate everyone's patience, understanding and enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

Lauretta J. Bruno

Sent on behalf of Lauretta Bruno by:

Daniela Burton

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