Modern Global Communities Senior Experience

**Galapagos 2016**

Chaperones: Mr. Kozuch and Ms. Rosen

Dates: Saturday, 3/5 – Monday, 3/14

Please go home and discuss this opportunity with your parents/guardians. This trip is open for rising global seniors only. We will open up the trip to seniors who are not in the program, if space is available.

PLAN AHEAD: Babysit, mow lawns, scoop ice cream, plan a car wash – find ways to subsidize the trip this summer.

SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH GELF – Global Education Leadership Fund *(http://www.newton.k12.ma.us/Domain/1055)*

Potential Itinerary from SharkSky Tours (*sharksky.com*):

One night in Quito, Ecuador on 3/5 and off to San Cristobal on 3/6. Leave from Baltra on 3/13 and overnight in Quito. Depart for home on 3/14.

8 DAY TOUR

Day 1: SAN CRISTOBAL Met at the airport for transfer to your hotel. Lunch and then visit of the Loberia beach and Cliff: this is not a long hike but a bit difficult as you have to walk on lava rocks for a part of it. But it is really worth it as on the way we can spot huge marine iguanas, and near the Cliff swallow tailed gulls, blue footed and Nazca boobies, and frigate birds. Back to the beach for a snorkel session: usually there we can spot turtles and all sorts of tropical fish, and of course the funny sea lions! Meals included: -/L/D Difficulty: MEDIUM

Day 2: SAN CRISTOBAL Kicker Rock aka Leon Dormido: a great snorkel site very famous because we can spot there rays, reef sharks, and if we’re lucky, hammerhead sharks! Back on board we will reach a nearby beach, we’ll have lunch on board and then time to relax before we navigate back to port around 2PM. The rest of the afternoon free until dinner.  Meals included: B/L/D Difficulty: MEDIUM (snorkeling in open wáter)

Day 3: FLOREANA

AM: Breakfast at 6AM, at 06:30 we meet at the pier and at 7AM we depart for Floreana. The ride last 2:30hours . At arrival, we will snorkel at Loberia beach and then visit the highlands, a place called “Peace Asylum” wherethe first colonists of the islands settled. The guide will tell you about the history of the colonists. We will also spot Galapagos giant tortoises on the way. Lunch will be served in the small village of Velasco Ibarra. Afterwards we will continue to Isabela island – 1h30 ride. Isabela is a beautiful island with its port located near a clear bay and a long White Sandy beach. At arrial the bus will pick us up and we will reach the flamingo lagoon to spot these beautiful animals at sunset.

Meals included: B/L/D Difficulty: EASY

Day 4: Isabela: Options: by land or by sea Volcanoes or Cabo Rosa (with a supplement, look at the Price section) (best season December –May) Isabela is the biggest island but only a really small part of it can be visited, the rest is entirely protected by the National Park and visits are fordidden.

Option 1 - VOLCANO HIKE: Early in the morning we will reach by bus the highlands: we will begin a trekking (6 hours!) to the Sierra Negra and Chico volcano. Sierra Negra has the second largest active cráter in the world: 10km round. We will continue to Chico volcano, which is a cone of Sierra Negra. We will walk through moon-like sceneries and have great views of nearby Fernandina island and the north of the island. This gives us an idea of how the islands looked at their creation. Lunch will be served in a local farm which is also a tortoise reserve. We will be back around 3h30 PM and we will end the day with a nice swim and snorkel at Concha de Perla lagoon.

Difficulty: MEDIUM

Option 2 - CABO ROSA TUNNELS: If still you’re ok for a boat ride (2 hours), you can take the excursión to Cabo Rosa tunnels. This is an amazing place where the volcano activity created lava tunnels going under and over the sea level. We can spot the penguins, blue footed boobies..and we will have great snorkeling too! Back to port around 2PM, late lunch and then meet the other group around 3h30PM and swim/snorkel at Concha de Perla lagoon.

Meals included: B/L/D Difficulty: EASY

Day5: ISABELA-SANTACRUZ In the morning we will visit the Tintoreras Islet near to the port: there we can spot small Galapagos penguins, sea lions, marine iguanas, and sea lions. There we will have a short hike and snorkel. Afterwards we will continue on to Santa Cruz (2 hours). At arrival, transfer to the hotel and lunch. Then we will walk to the Tortuga Bay beach to enjoy a last swim into the Galapagos waters and spot a huge iguana colony. The walk to Tortuga Bay is 3km each way, passing through a giant endemic cactus forest.



Meals included: B/L/D Difficulty: EASY

Day 6: UNINHABITED ISLAND To complete the tour, you will visit some completly uninhabited islands such as Bartolomé, Seymour, Plazas or Santa Fe. Each one has its own character and species (Seymour –Plazas-Santa Fe you have endemic species of land iguanas, Bartolome you have penguins and amazing views). Note that you will be traveling with other people/guide than you were on the tour, as those day tours have strict restrictions and just a few boats have the permit to there therefore we have to work with them. The tour consist in reaching the Itabaca channel by bus ( except for Santa Fe which is south), and then board a yacht to navigate to the island. Hike and snorkel , lunch on board. We are usually back around 5PM to the hotel. Meals included: B/L/D Difficulty: EASY (except for Bartolomé where the hike is uphill a bit longer than other hikes, to reach the top).

Day 7: UNINHABITED ISLAND

Today we will visit another island: different to the previous day of course  . Hike and snorkel, back to port around 5PM. Meals included: B/L/D Difficulty: EASY (except, again, Bartolomé).

Day 8: BALTRA

In the morning we will reach the airport passing by a lava tunnel that we will visit going entirely through it. We can spot there sometime an owl. Meals included: B/-/ Difficulty: EASY

Estimated Cost: $3500 pp