GALAPAGOS
DARWIN’S ENCHANTED ISLES
ABOARD THE 32-GUEST M/V EVOLUTION
FEBRUARY 17-26, 2017 WITH MASS AUDUBON’S ELISSA LANDRE
AN INTIMATE NATURE EXPERIENCE

Thirteen major islands, six minor islands and 42 volcanic islets make up Ecuador’s Galapagos Archipelago, and while most of these islands are known by both English and Spanish names, you’ll find the landscapes and wildlife on each isle to be singularly enchanting. It is against a contrasting patchwork of deserts, forests, volcanoes, beaches and cobalt water and iconic importance. The islands’ compelling wildlife inspired Darwin and will do the same for you.

MASS AUDUBON GUIDE

Elissa Landre is Sanctuary Director of Mass Audubon's Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary. She has consulted on interpretation, guide training, and marketing for ecotourism at national parks in Bolivia and Poland, holds a master’s degree in biology, runs a bird-banding station at Broadmoor, and is a past president of the Association of Field Ornithologists.

She has enjoyed leading tours for Mass Audubon travelers all over the world, including: Belize, Hawaii, Trinidad, and Tobago, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, and Greece.
A VISUAL FEAST

Galapagos is a canvas splashed with a variety of brilliant hues. A visual feast of chocolate chip sea stars, prehistoric marine iguanas, 500-pound tortoises with shell shapes that vary from island-to-island, flamboyant Sally Lightfoot crabs and the jewel-hued feet of blue-footed and red-footed boobies. This is an archipelago boasting 77 endemic species — animals that are found only here.
SLIP UNDER THE WAVES TO A RICH UNDERSEA WORLD
Life below the cool Pacific waves is unimaginably rich, with more than 3,000 species of marine plants and animals calling these waters home. Beneath the sea, golden rays and white-tipped reef sharks swim just feet away. Playful sea lions encourage you to dive and roll with them during snorkeling excursions. The cool Humboldt and Cromwell currents carry oxygen and nutrients, even making it possible for the Galapagos penguin to live quite happily on the Equator.

EXPERTS, EDUCATORS AND FRIENDS
So intensely protected is the Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve that visitors are prohibited from visiting 97% of the islands without the guidance of a licensed naturalist. Beyond just “visiting” the islands, we want you to reach a deeper understanding. That’s why we’ve selected guides, like Bolivar Sanchez, who are natives of the islands, licensed at the highest level (Level 3) by the park, and have decades of experience.

ONLY ON this Galapagos Expedition can you enjoy the combination of an in-depth, naturalist-guided expedition and the Galapagos’ largest cabins and outdoor spaces, all aboard an intimate, classically styled yacht.

A SMALL SHIP FOR A SELECT FEW
Other companies have ships carrying 48-100 guests while some sail on cramped, uncomfortable 16-passenger boats. Only the Evolution is uniquely sized to offer just 32 guests an opportunity for intimate exploration of the islands without sacrificing gracious outdoor spaces. In fact, with an open-air bar, hot tub, indoor and outdoor dining areas as well as two sun decks, the Evolution offers guests more open-air public space than any boat in her class!

EVERY DAY IS A HIGHLIGHT
Our Galapagos experience includes an astounding list of highlights that combine to make this a once-in-a-lifetime experience! Island excursions like snorkeling, kayaking and picnicking in the lush highlands blend with time onboard spent dancing to the tunes of a local band and savoring snacks and exotic juices after every excursion.

THE LARGEST CABINS IN THE GALAPAGOS
Ranging from 143 to 263 square feet, our oversized cabins aboard the Evolution are the largest on average of any ship in the islands.

TRAVEL WITH THE HIGHEST RATED GALAPAGOS GUIDES
Our guides not only grew up in the islands but they are rated at the highest level (Level 3) by Galapagos National Park. You gain insight only a local can offer and benefit from their 10+ years of field experience.
**DAILY ITINERARY**

**Day 1 • Friday**  ARRIVE GUAYAQUIL
Fly independently to Guayaquil, Ecuador, and transfer to the Hotel Oro Verde.  (Meals Aloft)

**Day 2 • Saturday**  GUAYAQUIL / BALTRA / DAPHNE MAJOR ISLAND
Fly to Galapagos and board the Evolution. After a safety briefing, enjoy a circumnavigation of Daphne Major, a paradise for sea birds such as magnificent frigatebird. (B,L,D)

**Day 3 • Sunday**  ISABELA ISLAND / FERNANDINA ISLAND
Zodiaks take you into a sunken volcano at Punta Vicente Roca, where we snorkel among sea turtles. Explore the lava fields of Punta Espinosa, spotting flightless cormorants and marine iguanas. Whale watch from the Evolution’s open-air decks. (B,L,D)

**Day 4 • Monday**  ISABELA ISLAND
Hike along the uplifted section of sea floor in Urvina Bay. Our naturalists point out the tortoises, colorful land iguanas and other wildlife that feed on the vegetation. Board our Zodiaks for an excursion to Tagus Cove, where we look for penguins, flightless cormorants, pelicans along the cliffs before a chance to snorkel and swim. (B,L,D)

**Day 5 • Tuesday**  BARTOLOMÉ / SANTIAGO ISLAND: SULLIVAN BAY
Visit Bartolomé Island, hiking to the top of a dormant volcano for a dramatic panorama, including famed Pinnacle Rock. Snorkel with sea lions and maybe even penguins. This afternoon, hike across the panoehoe lava of Sullivan Bay, seeing some of the hearty flora colonizing the landscapes. Stroll along the coralline beach spotting black and white oystercatchers. (B,L,D)

**Day 6 • Wednesday**  SANTA CRUZ ISLAND: BACHAS BEACH / RABIDA ISLAND
Walk along the white sands of Bachas Beach looking for Sally Lightfoot crabs, black necked stilts and whimbrels. Snorkel in the calm waters where sea turtles nest. Our afternoon is spent along the distinct red-sand beaches and cliffs of Rabida Island. While exploring this uninhabited island at the archipelago’s geologic center, watch for up to nine species of Darwin’s

**EXPEDITION HIGHLIGHTS**
- Hike, kayak & snorkel on daily naturalist-guided excursions.
- Enjoy the archipelago’s best guest-to-guide ratio on small-group departures of just 26-32 guests.
- Climb Bartolomé for a famous view of Pinnacle Rock.
- See waved albatross in the world’s only nesting site, Espanola Island (seasonal).
- Learn about conservation efforts at the Charles Darwin Research Station.
finches, doves, yellow warblers and mockingbirds. A small saltwater lagoon is home to white-cheeked pintail ducks and black-necked stilts. Snorkelers may take to the water with sea lions, sea turtles and reef fish such as damsels and pufferfish. During a guided kayaking excursion, watch for brown pelicans and blue-footed boobies while savoring views of the island’s sloping volcanic peak. (B,L,D)

Day 7 • Thursday  SANTA CRUZ ISLAND  Begin our day in the forested highlands, with ample opportunity to see and photograph giant tortoises in the wild. Stop at a family run farm before learning about the work being done to study and preserve wildlife at Fausto Llerena Tortoise Breeding Center at the Darwin Research Center. (B,L,D)

Day 8 • Friday  ESPAÑOLA ISLAND  Enjoy a Zodiac ride before wading ashore to Punta Suarez through a sea lion colony. Walk along the cliffs looking for waved albatrosses, Galapagos hawks, Hood mockingbirds and the red-colored race of marine iguana en route to Española’s blowhole, where waves spout 90 feet into the air. Swim, snorkel and kayak in the waters off Gardner Bay. (B,L,D)

Day 9 • Saturday  SAN CRISTÓBAL ISLAND / GUAYAQUIL  Return to San Cristóbal and visit the Interpretation Center. Fly to Guayaquil, where we have time to relax. Spend tonight at the Hotel Oro Verde. (B,L)

Day 10 • Sunday  DEPART  Board your independent flights home. (Meals Aloft)

All itineraries are subject to approval by the Galapagos National Park and may vary according to changes in park regulations.

Day 9 • Saturday  DISEMBARK / QUITO / LIMA  After disembarking the Evolution, board connecting flights to Lima. Overnight at the Costa del Sol. (B,L Aloft)

Day 10 • Sunday  LIMA / CUSCO / URUBAMBA  Drive into the historic Urubamba Valley. The valley is dotted with picturesque Andean markets, impressive churches and Inca ruins. Stop at Sacsayhuamán — a huge fortress of massive stones which zigzags across the side of the mountain. The stones forming Sacsayhuamán are cut so precisely that a piece of paper will still not fit between them. After browsing at Pisac Market, check into our home for the next two nights, the Sonesta Posada Yucay. (L,D)

Day 11 • Monday  URUBAMBA / MACHU PICCHU  Board the train to Machu Picchu, where we spend the day exploring the ruins with our guide. The citadel lies between two peaks — Huayna Picchu (Young Peak) and Machu Picchu (Old Peak). The steep terrain is part of the reason that less than half of the ancient site has been examined. Catch the evening train back to the Sacred Valley. (B,L,D)

Day 12 • Tuesday  URUBAMBA / CUSCO  Enjoy early morning birding in the Andean forests and meadows of Abra Malaga, home to endemic Inca wren, creamy-crested spinetail, white antpita and a variety of other birdlife. Explore the mighty archaeological wonder of Ollantaytambo, where ancient temples and fortresses were built to protect the Sacred Valley. After a Paso Fino horse show at Wayra Ranch, continue across the valley toward Cusco. Spend the next two nights at the Costa del Sol Cusco Hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 13 • Wednesday  CUSCO  Stroll the streets of Cusco, exploring the Koricancha — also known as Santo Domingo, Santa Catalina Convent and the Cathedral. After lunch, the afternoon is free to explore on your own before a farewell dinner featuring Andean fare. (B,L,D)

Day 14 • Thursday  CUSCO / LIMA / DEPART  After breakfast, fly back across the Andes to Lima. Enjoy a superb lunch of local delicacies before an afternoon at leisure. Dayrooms are available until you transfer to the airport for your independent flights home. (B,L)

Day 15 • Friday  ARRIVE HOME  Arrive back in your home country. (Meals Aloft)
Whether in the dining room or al fresco dining area, each meal is something to rave about. Meals feature both international and traditional Ecuadorian cuisine, from fresh fruit juices and savory snacks to lobster and sumptuous soups.

“The Evolution had character... Food was excellent (kudos to chef!), public places were quite comfortable and cabins were roomy. The crew all went out of their way to be accommodating.”  David Kalwinsky of Johnson City, Tennessee

“The food on the Evolution was truly outstanding. Having Champagne and a small cake celebrating our 25th anniversary was very special!”  Laula Ashley of Fairway, Kansas
YOUR PRIVATE RETREAT ONBOARD
The classically-styled Evolution's interior is fully air-conditioned, and cabins on all three decks offer ample storage space, a writing desk, bedside tables and private facilities. The Evolution's spacious cabins — ranging from approximately 143 to 263 square feet — are the largest cabins on average in the Galapagos and the perfect haven for an afternoon siesta between our frequent excursions.

FRIENDLY AMBIANCE AND SPACIOUS PUBLIC AREAS
While the Evolution may carry just 32 guests, she is generous in size with a host of amenities. From relaxing on the sun deck to reading in the lounge, you're sure to relish the friendly ambiance. Enjoy briefings by our naturalists in our comfortable lounge. Or spend time with a snack and your fellow passengers at the canopied bar, a superb place for watching the sun set over the Pacific. After excursions, relax in the hot tub or find a cushy deck chair while enjoying more outside space than any other yacht of this class.
A Day in the Life: Aboard the *Evolution*

While every day in the Galapagos Islands is a new adventure, each day follows a similar pattern anchored by delicious meals, exciting excursions and informative briefings by our local naturalist guides.

**7:00 AM** Enjoy a hearty breakfast and strong cup of coffee as you prepare for a big day of exploration.

**8:00 AM** Our small group of travelers can easily board Zodiacs and be among the first visitors to each island. This ensures you have great light for photography and observe the active morning wildlife.

**9:00 AM** Daily hiking excursions are a chance to walk in the footsteps of Darwin as you discover the singular landscapes and wildlife on each island.

**11:00 AM** Nothing tops off a morning like kayaking or snorkeling in clear Pacific waters!

**12:00 PM** An *al fresco* lunch is a true treat. Be sure to add popcorn to your ceviche for an Ecuadorian twist!

**1:00 PM** Siesta time is perfect for relaxing or reading in one of the *Evolution’s* cushy deck chairs.

**3:00 PM** Back in the water! The rich marine life is sure to dazzle on your afternoon swimming and snorkeling excursions.

**5:00 PM** No sunset stroll would be complete without a group of your new best friends — the Galapagos sea lions!

**7:00 PM** Our Level 3 naturalists give nightly briefings on biology, history, volcanology and more.

**8:00 PM** You have had a busy day! So enjoy a sumptuous three-course meal and dessert (or two desserts!) before settling into your cabin for a good night’s sleep. Or take advantage of the TV or small library in the lounge for some after-dinner entertainment.
**Accommodations**

- Largest cabins on average of its ship class in Galapagos
- 2:1 guest-to-crew ratio
- Guides rated Level 3 (top level) by Galapagos National Park
- Infirmary with full-time doctor
- Air-conditioning throughout
- TV/CD/DVD

All accommodations feature private bathrooms with hair dryers and toiletries, climate controls, safe-boxes and closet/storage space.

**Cabin Sizes**

- Category 1 (A Deck): 263 sq. ft.
- Category 2 (A Deck): approx. 198 sq. ft.
- Category 3 (C Deck): approx. 183 sq. ft.
- Category 4 (C Deck): approx. 143 sq. ft.
- Category 4 (D Deck): approx. 178 sq. ft.
- Category 3 (C Deck): approx. 183 sq. ft.
- Category 2 (A Deck): approx. 198 sq. ft.
- Category 1 (A Deck): 263 sq. ft.

**Type:** Expedition Vessel

**Flag:** Ecuador  **Staff & Crew:** 16

**Length:** 192 feet  **Beam:** 29 feet

**Draft:** 12 feet  **Speed:** 10 / 12 knots

**Gross Tonnage:** 675 metric tons

**Electricity:** 110 volts AC / 60 Hz; 2 flat prong

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**GALAPAGOS VOYAGE**

**FEBRUARY 17-26, 2017**

**PRICE PER PERSON**

**CATEGORY 4 (D DECK)**

- Double Occupancy: $6,198
- Single Occupancy: $7,698

**CATEGORY 4 (C DECK)**

- Double Occupancy: $6,398
- Single Occupancy: $7,898

**CATEGORY 3 (C DECK)**

- Double Occupancy: $6,748

**CATEGORY 2 (A DECK)**

- Double Occupancy: $7,248

**CATEGORY 1 (A DECK)**

- Double Occupancy: $7,698

**In-Country Airfare**

- $600

**Park Fee**

- $135

- Park fee and in-country airfare are subject to change and must be purchased through IE.

- **TRIPLE OCCUPANCY DISCOUNT:** 3rd person saves $1,000

- Select cabins only.

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**MACHU PICCHU & CUSCO EXTENSION**

**FEBRUARY 25-MARCH 3, 2017**

**PRICE PER PERSON**

**International & In-Country Airfare**

- $759

**Park Fee**

- $185

- Park fee and in-country airfare are subject to change and must be purchased through IE.

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**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

- Accommodations and meals as shown
- Snorkeling gear and wet suits
- Full educational program with lectures and field interpretation
- All scheduled transportation by land and ship.
- All transfers, porterage and service charges.
- All excursions accompanied by English speaking naturalist guides.
- Complete pre-departure information to help you get the most out of your expedition.

In summary, everything except international and in-country airfare; ticketing fee; U.S. domestic and international departure taxes; Galapagos National Park tax & transit fees; air or ship fuel surcharges; tips to naturalist guides and Evolution crew; passport fees; and items of a personal nature, such as laundry, alcoholic beverages, etc.

Final Payment due 90 days prior to departure.

- $600 per person deposit required for main program.
- $150 per person deposit required for extension.

**Cancellations:** $300 per person penalty from time of booking until 90 days prior to departure. 50% of trip price per person from 89-61 days prior to departure. 100% of trip cost per person from 60-0 days prior to departure.

**Registration as a seller of travel does not constitute approval by the State of California. CST:2045230-20**
By traveling with the Massachusetts Audubon Society and International Expeditions, you are supporting IE’s conservation efforts in the Galapagos Islands, including programs to bring environmental education to local school children.