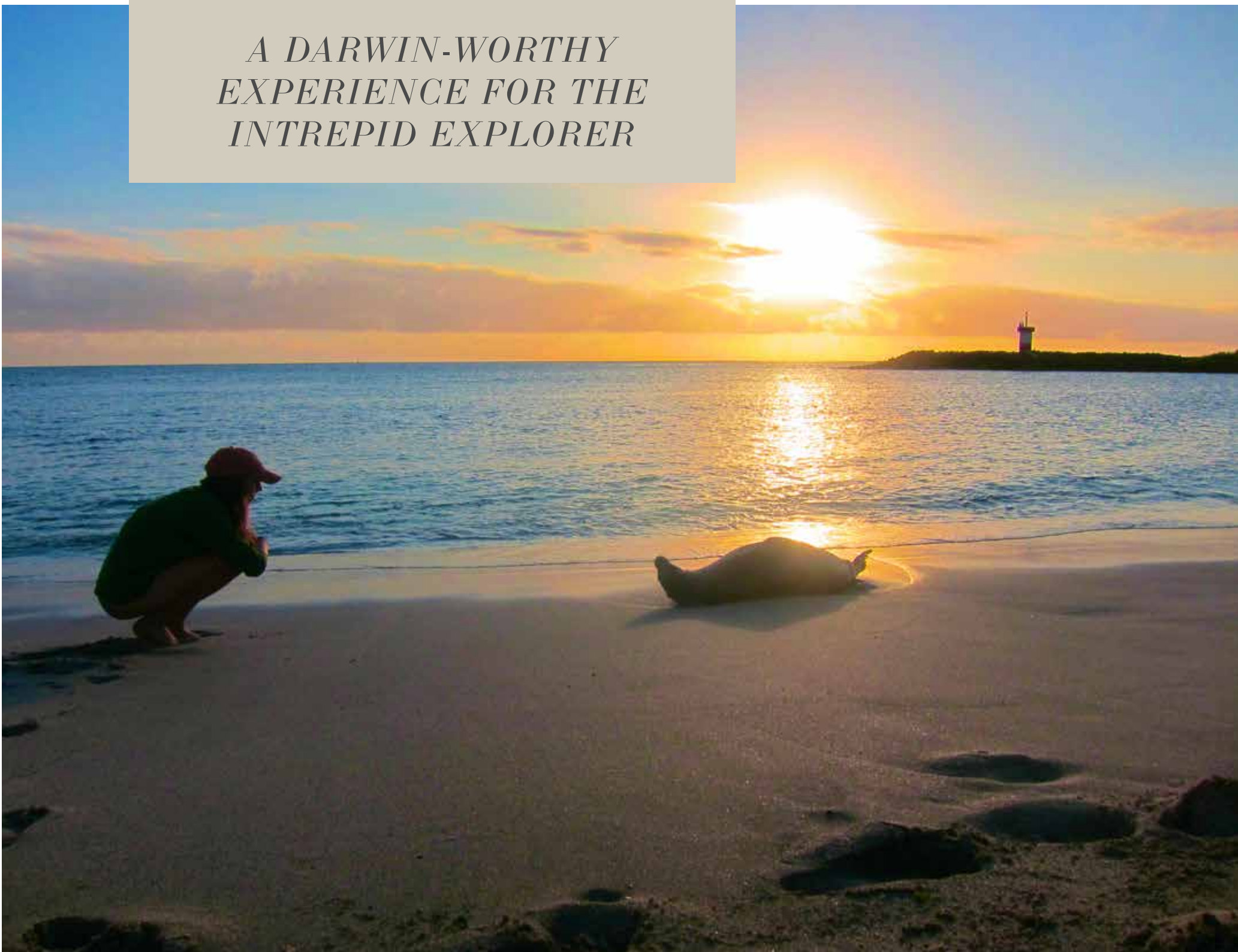


ECUADOR + GALAPAGOS



*A DARWIN-WORTHY
EXPERIENCE FOR THE
INTREPID EXPLORER*





TRIP OVERVIEW

Right on the Equator, Ecuador sits, holding court as a cultural mecca and natural wonder. Featuring lush jungles, tropical waters, huge mountains and abundant wildlife, this paradise also hosts some of the most vibrant history and civilization on the planet. Right off its rugged coastline sits the ecological wonders of the Galapagos Islands, a place more unique in its biodiversity than anywhere else in the world. This trip offers an exploration of both Ecuador and Galapagos, featuring a white water expedition, cultural immersion, service opportunities, snorkeling, and world famous wildlife exploration. For those with a thirst for adventure, travel, and a penchant for deep connection, this trip delivers.



EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Ride through Cotopaxi National Park on horseback

Whitewater raft through the jungle on the giant waves of the Jatunyacu River

Visit the Shandia Village and earn community service hours

Snorkel among sea lions and explore the exotic wildlife and ecosystems of the Galapagos Islands

DAY 1

Land in Quito and orient yourself to Ecuador. At 9,350 feet, Quito sits in the beautiful Andes mountain range. You and your team will spend your first night in this vibrant city.

DAY 2

Today you'll get to explore the lush landscapes of Ecuador from the back of horse. Take a ride through the mountains and orient yourself to high altitude life. Travel south to the small town of Baños, known as a mystical destination at the foot of the Tungurahua volcano. Spend the night in Baños.

DAY 3

Baños, is known for its beautiful waterfalls, geothermal landscapes, and being a gateway to the Amazon Basin. Spend the day exploring this thriving jungle community through its lush trails and colorful marketplace.





DAY 4-6

Travel deep into the rain forest to either the Shandia or Sacha Sisa Village. This will be your home for the next few days as you assist this native community with various service projects. Whether you are building a community center, playing soccer with a local family or learning Ecuadorian dance, you will find this experience illuminating and powerful. Immersing yourself in this unique and inviting culture will be a highlight of your trip, and one of the most memorable parts of your time.

DAY 7-8

Travel from the village to a deeper part of the rain forest where you and your team will take on a white water rafting expedition. The Jatunyacu River is an exhilarating white water highway through the Amazon Basin, and is known for its huge waves. Learn to navigate the rapids with your team as you carve your way through the jungle on this tropical waterway. Finish your exhilarating cruise and travel back to Quito.

DAY 9-10

Touch down in the most unique wildlife refuge in the world, the Galapagos Islands. Spend your first two days here exploring the island of Santa Cruz, and Tortuga Bay. Here, you'll see spectacular wildlife, including giant tortoises, iguanas, blue footed boobies, and countless other species of animals unique to this place. Catch a boat to San Cristobal where you'll visit a Giant Tortoise center and witness how these gentle giants are raised and rehabilitated.



DAY 11-12

Get ready for an incredible snorkeling safari for the next two days. Explore the underwater forests and technicolor reefs, looking out for damselfish, pufferfish, manta rays and watching out for sea lions. Scan the coastline for great frigate birds puffing out their bright red chests, and marine iguanas. Enjoy a different vantage of these incredible islands in the underwater edition.

DAY 13-14

Travel from the Galapagos Islands back to Quito where you will celebrate all you've experienced with your group at a final banquet. Say goodbye to your new friends family, and to the incredible places you've come to know in Ecuador and the Galapagos as you fly with your group back to the United States.

**Itinerary and order of activities subject to variation.*



“Moondance is how I met some of the most impactful and caring people who I know I will keep in touch with. It also allowed me to experience things that I never imagined I would.”

» CALLIE OXFORD, RALEIGH, NC





TRIP DETAILS

LENGTH	14 Days
GRADE FOR CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR	9th-10th
CHALLENGE LEVEL	Moderate
BEGINS/ENDS	Quito, Ecuador (UIO) <i>Suggested flight details provided upon acceptance</i>
GROUP SIZE	13 Students
AVERAGE AIRFARE FROM EAST COAST	\$900 <i>*Internal airfare included</i>

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Two dynamic trip leaders
- Professionally outfitted activities
 - White water rafting
 - Boat tour + snorkeling
 - Community service
- Accommodations
 - Hotels/ Hostels
- Private ground transportation
- Internal flight to/from Galapagos Islands
- All meals
- Photos taken during your trip

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to and from Quito, Ecuador (UIO)
- Baggage fees
- Personal clothing + equipment
 - Full clothing + equipment list provided upon acceptance
- Personal spending money (\$150 recommended)
- Trip Insurance (Highly recommended)

CONTACT

ADMISSIONS

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EXPERIENCE MOONDANCE IN 2022