The Galapagos

With
Ranette & Pat
Richard & Colleen
July 2012
First Stop Miami South Beach for Lunch
Miami Airport
Next Stop Guayaquil Ecuador
View from Hilton Colon, Guayaquil
Saturday, July 24
From Guayaquil to Galapagos
Finally, the arrival in Baltra!
First Stop
Baltra
The Port in Baltra
Zodiacs to the Endeavour
Our Home for the Week
The National Geographic Endeavour
Boarding the National Geographic Endeavor Crew is extremely efficient & helpful
FYI: The food was terrific!!
On the way to our first hike!
Las Bachas
Northern Coast of Santa Cruz
With Greg

One of the amazing naturalists
Sally Lightfoot Crabs
Flamingo’s
Some shore tropical fish
Sunday, July 15
North Seymour Island
& Rabida Island
Arriving at North Seymour
Giovanna helps Old Man Pat with the very rocky landing
Male and Female Lava Lizards
Different species on each island
Male Frigate Bird
Nesting Female & Juvenile Frigates
Pat & Richard
Unbelievable Photo Ops
Where Frigates Live
Blue Footed Booby
Blue Footed Booby with Chicks
Blue Footed Booby Family
They nest on the ground
We love Boobies
Some Deep Water Snorkeling (Pat)
Mexican Hogfish
King Angelfish
Hawkfish
Sea Lions on Rabida (Red)
Up Close & Personal
Galapagos Hawk - Juvenile
Prickly Pear Trees!!!
A look around
Beauty Surrounds us!
Richard & Pat - First sighting of Sea Lion poop

Colleen Hiking
Monday, July 16, 2012
Fernandina Island
Isabela Island
Notes on Fernandina

• The youngest of all the islands
• Maybe as young as 30,000 years
• Sets on top of the hot spot
• Volcanic activity every several years, April 2009 was the most recent.
• The caldera underwent a collapse in 1968, when parts of the caldera floor dropped 350 meters
Fernandina is the youngest Island and volcanic rock is everywhere!
Home to MANY Marine Iguanas
Really...MANY!!
On the coarse sand, too!
Yes, you can get close...But they stink!
Sea Lions - on most all the islands
Sea Lions are excellent sleepers!
Whale Backbone
Brown Pelican
Lava Cactus
They’re smaller than you think!
After Lunch...More Snorkeling!
More Beauty...Under the Sea!
With Sea Turtles!
Lava, Urchins, & Tiny Fish
Now off to Isabela
Amazing Lava Cliffs
Isabela Island
Blue footed Boobies hang out here too! (Yes, more poop!)
Back to the ship
King Neptune Celebration
Crossing the Equator
Hey, there is the Equator!!
“I was then placed on a plank, which could be easily tilted up into a large bath of water. — They then lathered my face & mouth with pitch and paint, & scraped some of it off with a piece of roughened iron hoop. —a signal being given I was tilted head over heels into the water, where two men received me & ducked me. —at last, glad enough, I escaped. — most of the others were treated much worse, dirty mixtures being put in their mouths & rubbed on their faces. — The whole ship was a shower bath: & water was flying about in every direction: of course not one person, even the Captain, got clear of being wet through."
Sunset at the Equator
Tuesday, July 17, 2012

Isabela Island
Urbina Bay
Tagus Cove
Historical Note

In 1954 over half a square mile of marine reef off the coast of Urbina Bay was uplifted almost instantaneously by as much as 15 ft.

Turtles and other marine animals were placed so far away from the water edge that many were not able to make it back and died.
Rough Lava (ʻAʻā or ouch, ouch)
Our First Giant Tortoise Sightings
Some were shy
Some traveled with friends!
Some were especially friendly!
Even with Richard!
Meet Josh!
Hiking on Isabela
Ranette & Pat
Almost all Flowers are Yellow!
More Flowers!
Just so you know, not EVERY flower is yellow.
Gorgeous Flowers
Uplifted Coral Reef
What is this?
Reposition to Tagus Cove

Darwin was here!
Tagus Cove

• Many ships, including pirates, sought shelter in Tagus Cove due to its protection & easy access to island.

• Home of very old graffiti – dating back to 1800’s.

• Darwin visited here in 1835

• Only island we visited which had man-made stairs to help scale the island.
Entering Tagus Cove
Tagus Cove
The Grafitti
Darwin was here in 1835!
Note the dates carved in the rock
Our Landing in Tagus Bay
Note the staircase in background
Tagus Bay – Charles Darwin Lake
Charles Darwin Lake is inside the bowl of volcano
Another View of Tagus Bay
Finch nest
Plant life Above Tagus Bay
Brown Pelican
(they are everywhere)

*pelecanus occidentalis*

2000? pairs
Flightless Cormorants
Galapagos Penguins
No other penguins live this far north
Penguin Roosting Area
Santiago Island
Our Journey So Far
Dry Inland Lake
Through the Jungle
Ranette & Pat
A Galapagos Mockingbird

* Nesomimus parvulus (six subspecies) *
Yet another amazing view!
Galapagos Dove
Zenaida galapagoensis
Just Plain Paradise!

A Homo sapiens pair
Some Colorful Shells
Wetsuits Required for Snorkeling
Water Temp – 70-74 degrees
Snorkeling Anyone?
Not all fun & games...
Ranette & Richard attempt to identify fish
Richard’s Underwater Camera turned out to be the BEST investment of all!!!
King Angelfish
Mexican Hogfish (terminal phase)
Green Sea Turtle
Photos do not do justice to the beauty of the sea turtle!!
Blue-chin Parrotfish and others
Sea Lion
Giant Hawkfish
*Cirrhitus rivulatus*
Back on the ship
Yes, that’s Colleen on the stairs!
Thursday, July 19
Santa Cruz
Darwin Research Station
El Trapiche
The Journey Continues ~ Day 6
Arrival to Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz Dock Area
BIENVENIDOS — WELCOME

ESTACION CIENTIFICA
CHARLES DARWIN
Charles Darwin Research Station
High Speed Frolicking
Note the Shell Structure
Diego – Returned from San Diego Zoo
Ranette at Darwin Station
Santa Cruz has more rainfall – so lush greenery abounds
Baby Giant Tortoises Galore
Number indicates island of origin – all are returned!
Walk back toward town
In Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz Cemetary
Boobies anyone?
Richard put this slide in!!!
Bus to the Highlands
Home of MANY Giant Tortoises
Grinding Sugarcane
Old Power Machines
How a family survives on Galapagos!
El Trapiche Moonshine
Yes, we tried it!
Lava Tubes and More Tortoise Observations
Back to the boat for a party with local musicians!
Friday, July 30
San Cristobal
Aka Chatham Island (in Darwin’s day)

Formation: “Kicker Rock”
San Cristobal (aka Chatham Island)
Climb to the top (a rough one!)

Few animals on this island
More cactus trees
A Common Succulent on the Island
Red Sesurium
Red Sesuirim
And growing on lava.
From near the top...
See the tiny people on the beach!
Red Footed Booby & Baby Booby
Going back down!
Resting Sea Lions
Next stop Leon Dormido aka Kicker Rock
Heading for Kicker Rock to Snorkel
Yes, we snorkeled through there! Rough going for one of us!
Whale Poop! On the way back to the ship.
The Last Night: The Simpson’s re-enacting Titanic.
Halversons with the Captain
A Final Look!

The Galapagos Islands

July 2012