

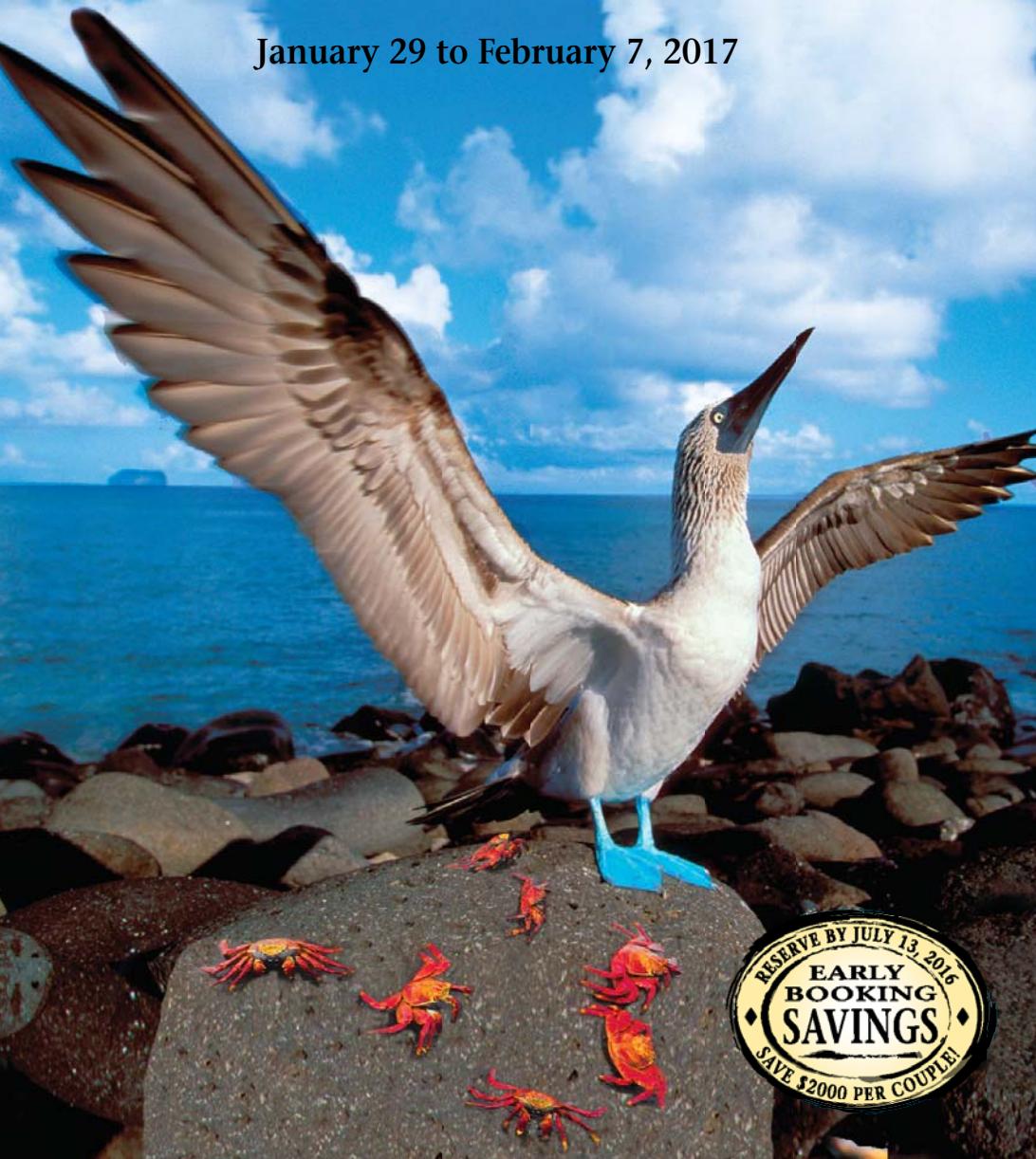


VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY:

*WONDERS OF THE*  
**GALÁPAGOS**  
*ISLANDS*

aboard the Exclusively Chartered  
**SANTA CRUZ II**

January 29 to February 7, 2017





# Commonwealth Club Travel

Dear Club Members,

“The natural history of this archipelago is very remarkable ... the greater number of its inhabitants, both vegetable and animal, being found nowhere else.” Come experience why Charles Darwin made this keen yet simple observation of the Galápagos Islands, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Today, the archipelago’s natural biodiversity is still intact, much as it was when first encountered by a galleon that drifted off course in 1535. Home to the amazing exotic birds, plants and animals that inspired Darwin, this “living laboratory of evolution” continues to offer the excitement of original discovery to every visitor.

Cruise aboard the recently refitted first-class exploration vessel SANTA CRUZ II, designed specifically to navigate archipelagos. The ship is fully equipped to make your Galápagos experience complete, from complimentary snorkeling gear to a fleet of Zodiacs and a glass-bottom boat. Certified onboard naturalists lead excursions and share their knowledge to enhance your understanding and enjoyment of this fascinating and mysterious natural realm.

These islands, each with its own ecosystem, are teeming with vibrant flora, fascinating fauna and species unknown anywhere else in the world, like the flightless cormorant and the marine iguana. With few natural predators on the islands, the abundant wildlife is nearly fearless and innocently receptive to up-close human company, unlike any other place on our planet. Here, you can almost touch spiny-backed iguanas and snorkel alongside playful seals and tropical penguins.

On mainland Ecuador, explore picturesque Quito, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for magnificent colonial churches with opulent gold interiors; walk through the historic Old Town; and straddle the Equator with one foot in either hemisphere.

To complement your Galápagos Islands cruise, we are pleased to offer an exclusive Pre-Tour Option to Mashpi, a protected reserve of rainforest and cloud forest abundant with wildlife found nowhere else on Earth, and a Post-Tour Option to experience the marvels of the UNESCO World Heritage site of the legendary “lost city” of Machu Picchu and the breathtaking Sacred Valley.

We are sharing this trip with like-minded travelers from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and Rice and Villanova universities. We encourage you to reserve now as space is limited and Early Booking Savings are available through July 13. This exceptionally valued journey through the “Islands of Tortoises,” has always been a fast sellout. We hope you’ll join us!

Best regards,



Kristina Nemeth  
Travel Director  
(415) 597-6720





# The enigma of the Galápagos Islands

*“The Archipelago is a little world within itself...”*

— Charles Darwin, *The Voyage of the Beagle*

Amazingly, this remote volcanic archipelago, consisting of islands and islets located 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, inspired one of the most revolutionary theories in the history of science. Formed millions of years ago by volcanic eruptions, these islands’ dramatic landscapes now make a safe home for the quirky finches and primeval iguanas that inspired Charles Darwin’s theory of natural selection and evolution, which he presented in *On The Origin of Species* in 1859.

Scientists theorize that most Galápagos species originally floated to the islands from the mainland, were transported by birds or deposited by whalers and buccaneers. Others, like the Humboldt penguin, Chilean dolphin and Southern sea lion, probably arrived by way of the Humboldt Current, a cold stream of ocean water flowing from the southern coast of Chile. This current makes the Galápagos the world’s only tropical region to support such species.

Darwin noted that life in the Galápagos Islands is comprised of mostly “aboriginal creations, found nowhere else,” which led him to hypothesize that the islands’ species survived by evolving over time independently from their continental cousins. Because natural predators failed to survive—possibly due to the lack of fresh water, which deterred even permanent human settlement until the 20<sup>th</sup> century—its bevy of birds and animals were able to thrive and adapt in a manner not possible in other habitats. This also explains why Galápagos species never developed a fear of humans and allow the near contact that makes your own personal experience on the islands so thrilling and unique.



## U.S./Quito, Ecuador

### Sunday, Day 1

Fly to Quito, the highest capital city in the world at 9350 feet, and transfer to the HILTON COLÓN HOTEL. Surrounded by snowcapped peaks, yet only miles from the Equator, Quito is known for its magnificent Spanish colonial architecture and lively street life.

## Quito

### Monday, Day 2

Quito is a city of startling contrasts, where thousands of years of native South American traditions are interwoven with imported Catholicism, the Spanish language and European culture. Quaint family-owned shops and open-air markets are steps away from gleaming skyscrapers and ornate

Spanish Baroque-style cathedrals favored by the Conquistadors. This afternoon, visit the Equator and stand with one foot in each hemisphere in the “middle of the world,” where an 18<sup>th</sup>-century multinational expedition located zero degrees latitude and established an accurate measurement of the earth’s size for the first time. Step inside the hundred-foot-tall monument to this endeavor for spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and tour the Ethnographic Museum, illustrating the diversity of Ecuador’s indigenous peoples.

This evening, attend a private Welcome Reception in the hotel. (B,R)

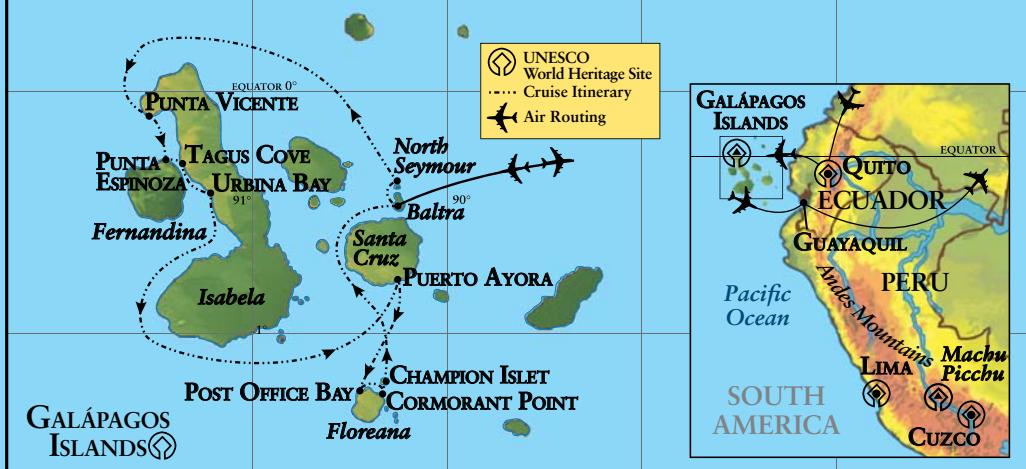
## Quito

### Tuesday, Day 3

This morning, the panoramic city tour features a visit to the noble, 16<sup>th</sup>-century church, Iglesia de San Francisco.

Photo this page: *Watch marine iguanas, found only in the Galápagos Islands, basking in the afternoon sun.*  
Photo above: *While snorkeling in the azure waters, look for panamic cushion sea stars and green sea turtles.*  
Cover photo: *Look for the unique and amazing naturally colored blue-footed booby and the agile Sally Lightfoot crab along the rocky shores of the Galápagos Islands.*





In the heart of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Quito, see the Moorish-influenced Catedral Metropolitana and Iglesia de La Compañía de Jesus, renowned for its lavish interiors decorated with an estimated seven tons of gold leaf. Visit Casa del Alabado Museum, a private museum of pre-Columbian art housed in a colonial mansion built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which displays 500 of its 5000 archaeological pieces. (B)

### Quito/Baltra, Galápagos Islands/ North Seymour Wednesday, Day 4

Fly to the small Galápagos island of Baltra. Embark the SANTA CRUZ II in time for lunch. Depart Baltra and attend your first briefing by the English-speaking Ecuadorian naturalists.

En route to diminutive North Seymour, a sandy-shored isle known for its exceptional whale-watching and home to sea lions and swallow-tailed gulls, observe large colonies of charming blue-footed boobies and magnificent frigatebirds, whose males puff up their bright red chests to impress potential mates.

Attend the Captain's Welcome Reception this evening. (B,L,R,D)

*Please note that the itinerary and cruise pattern is dependent on weather, sea conditions and Galápagos National Park Service regulations.*

### Isabela/Fernandina Thursday, Day 5

Cruise through the Bolivar Channel, showcasing stunning views of the volcanic peaks of Isabela and Fernandina. Spend the morning at seahorse-shaped Isabela Island, snorkeling in the waters off Punta Vicente Roca

*The distinctive conical shape and steep slopes of the Galápagos Islands are a result of five million years of repeated volcanic activity that caused this chain of islands to emerge from the very bottom of the ocean floor.*



and searching the northern shores for blue-footed boobies, Darwin's finches and penguins that inhabit the area.

Dominated by the sweeping slopes of La Cumbre Volcano, the moon-like landscapes of Fernandina Island are the habitat of one of the densest concentrations of wildlife in the Galápagos, including the famous flightless



*Take photographs of a lifetime during up-close encounters with Galápagos wildlife.*

cormorant, sea lions, marine iguanas, pelicans and penguins. Explore how recent volcanic activity has reshaped the island's topography, creating an ever-changing environment for the thriving species found only in the Galápagos. (B,L,D)

### Isabela Friday, Day 6

Trace the west coast of Isabela, one of the younger Galápagos islands, formed by six shield volcanoes. Be on deck for possible sightings of orcas and dolphins breaching the waters of Tagus Cove.



*One of the many different species of birds living on the Galápagos Islands, watch for the magnificent frigatebird doing its unique mating “dance.”*

On shore, a short but steep walk leads to Darwin Lake, a saltwater pool within a tuff cone frequented by land birds—ground and tree finches, large-billed flycatchers and sometimes the woodpecker finch, which awed Darwin with its remarkable use of twigs as a tool for feeding.

Observe the unusual results of geologic forces at Urbina Bay, where in 1954, volcanic uplift stranded nearly four miles of coral reef 15 to 20 feet above the water’s surface. On the island’s arid shore you may encounter the largest land iguanas in the Galápagos as well as giant tortoises and flightless cormorants. Enjoy spectacular snorkeling in the bay. (B,L,D)

### **Santa Cruz Saturday, Day 7**

Santa Cruz’s pristine white beaches, prickly pear cacti, vibrantly colored flamingos and prehistoric-looking iguanas make it an essential stop during a cruise around the archipelago. Visit the Charles Darwin Research Station to learn more about efforts to protect the island’s rare giant tortoises. Transfer to Santa Cruz’s cool, lush highlands for lunch amidst mist-covered forests.

This afternoon, choose from a variety of leisure activities. Swim in the clear blue waters of secluded Tortuga Bay, home to black turtles, colorful reef fish, marine iguanas and lava gulls. Walk through the island’s trails or simply stroll along the sparkling white sandy beaches, the perfect avenues to experience Santa Cruz. (B,L,D)

### **Post Office Bay, Floreana/ Champion Islet/Cormorant Point Sunday, Day 8**

Floreana was one of the first islands in the archipelago to be settled by European whalers and buccaneers. At Post Office Bay, peruse the mail in the wooden barrel “post office,” established by whalers to transport letters home on passing ships. Discover a piece of mail to hand-deliver to its final destination, or leave a message to be delivered by a future visitor.

Snorkel or cruise via Zodiac in the clear waters surrounding pristine Champion Islet, encountering sea horses, sea turtles, sea lions, coral hawkfish and other aquatic wonders. Scan the skies and shorelines for possible sightings of the endemic Floreana mockingbird, common to the islands when Darwin visited, but critically endangered today. Walk along the brackish lagoons and mangroves near

Cormorant Point, famous for the flamingos and pelicans that congregate here.

Attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception this evening. (B,L,R,D)

### **Baltra/Guayaquil, Ecuador Monday, Day 9**

Dock at Baltra to disembark the ship. Fly to Guayaquil and enjoy dinner in the Hilton Colón Hotel, with late-evening departure to the U.S., or continue on the Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option. (B,D)

### **U.S. Tuesday, Day 10** Arrive in the U.S.



*Observe the distinct creatures indigenous to the Galápagos Islands, like this land iguana, the same way Charles Darwin did more than 150 years ago.*

### **Surveying the Ecuadorian Rainforest Pre-Tour Option**

*\$1995 Double occupancy, \$3595 Single occupancy*  
Discover life “among the treetops” in the most unspoiled ecosystem on the planet, the Mashpi Rainforest Biodiversity Reserve, encompassing 3200 acres of protected rainforest located in the monumental Andes Mountains. Learn about this rich ecosystem during discussions with native guides and look for multi-hued toucans, tree-nesting kinkajous, electric blue butterflies and hundreds of species of orchids during naturalist-led day and night trail walks and while gliding through the understory of the forest on canopy aerial gondolas. Accommodations for one night are in the HILTON COLÓN HOTEL in Quito and two nights in the MASHPI ECUADOR LODGE, located in the heart of the reserve.

*Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*



## SANTA CRUZ II

The intimacy and personal service of a small cruise ship experience are the distinguishing characteristics of travel aboard the recently refitted, first-class exploration vessel SANTA CRUZ II. It is designed specifically to navigate the narrow channels, shallow bays and environmentally sensitive waters of remote archipelagos and provides the most comprehensive access possible to the region's marine and wildlife treasures. Refurbished in 2015, the air-conditioned SANTA CRUZ II features only 50 cabins and offers modern amenities and facilities.

A team of multilingual onboard Ecuadorian expert naturalists will share their in-depth insight and knowledge about the Galápagos' distinctive ecosystem during daily excursions and natural history lectures. The ship provides a glass-bottom boat to observe marine life, Zodiacs for island landings and excursions, complimentary snorkeling equipment and a nighttime stargazing program.

Each outside, air-conditioned, tastefully appointed ocean-view cabin and suite (163 to 325 square feet) features one fixed double bed or one double bed convertible to two twin beds, a private bathroom with shower, safe and hair dryer.

All meals, featuring international and Ecuadorian specialties, are served in single seatings in the inviting Beagle Dining Room or alfresco when conditions permit. Complimentary wine is served with dinner.

The ship's public facilities include two lounges, natural history library and reading room with Internet access, bar, boutique, observation deck for dolphin watching, two jacuzzis, gym and medical clinic with a full-time physician.

With a ratio of one crew member for every 1.8 guests, the SANTA CRUZ II's staff provides professional, attentive service. The ship maintains the highest international safety and environmental standards.



*Double Cabin*



*Beagle Dining Room*



*Glass-Bottom Boat*

## Included

- ◆ Three nights in the superior first-class HILTON COLÓN HOTEL, Quito
- ◆ Five nights aboard the first-class SANTA CRUZ II
- ◆ Internal airfare Quito/Galapagos/Guayaquil
- ◆ Cruise round trip Baltra Island, with calls at the Galápagos' most beautiful islands: North Seymour, Isabela, Fernandina, Santa Cruz and Floreana
- ◆ Meals as specified in the itinerary
- ◆ Complimentary wine is served with dinner aboard ship
- ◆ Captain's Welcome and Farewell Receptions
- ◆ All entrance fees and tours as described in the itinerary, including Galápagos National Park fee
- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers
- ◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel and aboard ship
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program
- ◆ Pre-departure materials, including a reading list
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company

## Not Included

- ◆ International airfare
- ◆ Taxes of \$195 per person (subject to change)
- ◆ Gratuities to ship personnel and naturalists
- ◆ Hotel staff gratuities and gratuities for activities on your own
- ◆ Passport and visa fees
- ◆ Meals and alcoholic beverages not listed as included
- ◆ Transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s)
- ◆ Any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s)
- ◆ Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access
- ◆ Accident/sickness, trip cancellation and baggage insurance
- ◆ Baggage charges on aircraft; airfare and associated local taxes not listed as included
- ◆ Airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed as included
- ◆ All other services not specifically mentioned in the "Included" section

*Small Zodiacs allow for landings on remote island beaches for up-close encounters with the miraculous array of wildlife found ashore, such as these Nazca boobies.*



## **Machu Picchu and the Sacred Valley Post-Tour Option**

*\$3395 Double occupancy, \$4195 Single occupancy*

Delight in this extraordinary opportunity to experience Machu Picchu, the majestic “lost city of the Incas;” the lush Sacred Valley; and the colonial and Inca traditions of Cuzco.

Perched on an awe-inspiring mountain range in the Peruvian Andes, Machu Picchu was obscured from humankind for 400 years until Yale Professor Hiram Bingham literally stumbled upon it in 1911. A century of extensive research and study still has not revealed the secrets of its purpose, its residents or its abandonment; nevertheless, this UNESCO World Heritage site has been carefully excavated and preserved.

Admire the spectacular archaeological sites of the beautiful Sacred Valley, where ancient engineering marvels, such as the fortress of Ollantaytambo, stand as lasting testimony to the powerful and far-reaching Inca Empire. Here, village craftsmen employ age-old techniques to weave intricate tapestries and sculpt colorful pottery.

In the historic Inca capital of Cuzco, a UNESCO World Heritage site, see the Inca stone fortress of Sacsayhuamán and grand Baroque- and Renaissance-style churches that provide a fascinating mix of pre-Columbian and colonial influences.

Day 1 *Guayaquil, Ecuador/Fly to Lima, Peru*

Day 2 *Lima/Cuzco/Sacred Valley*

Day 3 *Sacred Valley/Scenic train ride to Machu Picchu*

Day 4 *Machu Picchu/Transfer to Cuzco*

Day 5 *Cuzco*

Day 6 *Cuzco/Lima*

Day 7 *Lima/Depart for the U.S.*

*Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

*Plaza de Armas is the magnificent center of historic Cuzco, a UNESCO World Heritage site.*







*In 1570, the islands were named “galápagos,” meaning tortoise, based on sailors’ descriptions of their inhabitants.*

## RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The Commonwealth Club and Thomas P. Gohagan & Company and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Gohagan is not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party.

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, bites from or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to medical attention or the quality thereof, overbooking or downgrading of accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart timely or safely.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other trip participants, leaders or third parties, or who Gohagan determines to detract from the enjoyment of the trip by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Ship schedules, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable), are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. Gohagan is not responsible therefor and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Gohagan may cancel a trip (or an option) for any reason whatsoever; if so, its sole responsibility is to refund monies paid by the participant to it. Gohagan is not required to cancel any trip for any reason including without limitation, United States Department of State, World Health Organization or other Warnings or Advisories of any kind. Gohagan is not responsible for penalties assessed by air carriers resulting from operational and/or itinerary changes, even if Gohagan makes the flight arrangements or cancels the trip. Gohagan reserves the right to substitute vessels, hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in this brochure.

**ELIGIBILITY:** We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us. People who live outside of the Bay Area may purchase a national membership. To learn about membership types and to purchase a membership, visit [commonwealthclub.org/](http://commonwealthclub.org/) membership or call (415) 597-6720.

**AIRFARE:** Airfare is subject to change and availability and, depending on the fare basis, likely is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.

**LUGGAGE:** Luggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without prior notice. Please contact your airline(s) for the most current luggage allowance policy.

**PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY:** All programs require physical independence and mobility. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance (for example, the need for a wheelchair) must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. Travelers must be able to embark or disembark motorcoaches alone or with minimal assistance from your traveling companion and climb stairs and step over raised thresholds without assistance. Travelers requiring assistance must travel with a companion who will be responsible for handling equipment.

**DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS:** Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of The Commonwealth Club in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by July 13, 2016. In the event a “discounted” reservation must be cancelled, no “replacement” reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate. A “replacement” reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.

PRSRST STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Gohagan &  
Company

Commonwealth Club Travel  
555 Post Street  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
(415) 597-6720 [www.commonwealthclub.org/travel](http://www.commonwealthclub.org/travel)

**CANCELLATIONS:** Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of The Commonwealth Club. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a \$200 (\$50 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, \$600 (\$200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, “no-show,” or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

**TRIP INSURANCE:** Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Information about trip insurance will be sent with your confirmation.

**RATES:** Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

**REGISTRATION:** Commonwealth Club CST#: 2096889-40; Gohagan CST#: 2031868-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OST#: TA 0905.

**BINDING ARBITRATION:** Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement, the brochure, or any other information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and exclusively by binding arbitration in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association then existent. In any such proceeding, the substantive, but not procedural law of Illinois will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT:** By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

*Photo Credits:* Alamy, Metropolitan Touring, Minden Pictures, Ecuador Travel, PhotoShot; all images are rights managed and cannot be used without permission.



**THOMAS P. GOHAGAN & COMPANY**  
209 South LaSalle Street  
Suite 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446  
(312) 609-1140 or (800) 922-3088  
<http://www.gohagantravel.com>  
© Thomas P. Gohagan & Company