SAN JORGE’S MAGIC BIRDING & HIKING CIRCUIT
HIGH BARREN PLAINS, HIGHLAND RAINFOREST,
CLOUD FOREST & TROPICAL RAINFOREST

STUDENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM
& GALAPAGOS ISLANDS CRUISE

For: Professor Chris Bazinet – St. John’s University
Travel dates: January 1 – 10, 2016

The Magic Birding & Hiking Circuit is the first of its kind in South America. We own four private nature reserves in six different eco-systems throughout Ecuador. Experience our eco-tours at their best as you visit the High Barren Plains, Highland Rainforest, Paramo, Cloud Forest and Tropical Rainforest. We also own five Eco-Lodges which are located inside the reserves! Our lodges are rustic and environmentally friendly, and offer quality services.

With over 1,000 possible species of birds, 65 species of Hummingbirds, wildlife, 15 waterfalls, wild orchids, butterflies and diverse flora and fauna, we offer the best options for birdwatchers, naturalists and making it the ideal eco class room for students in a range of disciplines.

Our excursions will take you through San Jorge Botanical Reserve (High Barren Plains and Highland Rain Forest), San Jorge de Tandayapa Hummingbird Reserve (Cloud Forest) and San Jorge de Milpe Orchid & Bird Reserve, (Tropical Rain Forest), known for its majestic waterfalls and swimming holes. Kept in their rich, natural state, all of our exclusive reserves offer the chance to fully immerse yourself in all that is Ecuador; a diverse array of flora, fauna, climate regions and gorgeous scenery awaits you.
ECUADOR AN ECOLOGICAL MIRACLE

San Jorge Eco-Lodge & Botanical Reserve/Quito, 18th Century Spanish Hacienda, located in the High Barren Plains/Highland Rainforest, (Lodge 9,500 ft. o.s.l.) Comfortable Andes hacienda rooms decorated in typical décor. **Accommodations include a double room with 2 beds**, with private bath and hot shower. We offer Wi-Fi in our upper level rooms and outdoor courtyard. Enjoy peace & tranquility at our mountain lodge in the Pichincha Foothills, situated on 230 acres inside Bosque Pichincha of 10,000 hectares of protected land. We are the only private pristine native reserve close to Quito, to birdwatch, hike, spot wild orchids, medicinal plants, and a wide array of flora and fauna. Explore our beautiful gardens within a comfortable Eco-Resort environment. Relax at our festive El Cucayco Restaurant which serves delicious Ecuadorian and international cuisine, and overlooks the valley of Quito.

San Jorge de Tandayapa Hummingbird Sanctuary & Lodge, located in the Cloud Forest (5,580 ft. o.s.l.) is part of the Choco Bird Area of N.W. Ecuador where as many as 500 species live; consisting of 150 acres of prime birding property in beautiful Tandayapa Valley, lovely pristine trails, new ponds, observation deck, open air Hummingbird Restaurant surrounded by active hummingbird and tanager feeders with superb photography options; all within a totally peaceful and tranquil Cloud Forest setting.

**Natural Areas**
San Jorge de Tandayapa Lodge lays on the edge of our pristine Cloud Forest Reserve. Well-kept trails explore the different parts of the reserve. Our main loop trail (Toucanet Trail) goes around the lower part of the forest visiting beautiful primary forest and small creeks. Our newest trail (Nunbird Loop Trail) goes all the way to the top of the ridge to a very ancient forest which is almost completely covered in moss. This forest is habited by very localized bird species such as the White-faced Nunbird and the Toucan Barbet. The most impressive views of the valley can be appreciated from here. The main open air dining area has spectacular views of Tandayapa Valley and is surrounded by beautiful orchid gardens.

**We have presently developed 2 ponds near the lower section** of the lodge to attract Kingfishers, Tiger-herons, migratory birds, frogs and other water life.

A **NEW** paved concrete road has recently been constructed direct to lodge, with just a 5 minute walk into the lodge.

The “Olinguito”, the latest mammal discovery has been made at San Jorge de Tandayapa Hummingbird Sanctuary in the Tandayapa Valley. A lap-sized critter that looks like the mix between a cat and a teddy bear was unveiled as the first new carnivore identified in the Western Hemisphere in 35 years.
San Jorge de Milpe Orchid & Bird Reserve located in the Upper Tropical Rainforest near Mindo (3,280 ft. o.s.l.) situated on 260 acres. 9,000 hectares (22,200 acres) in Milpe have recently been declared as a protected forest for conservation and San Jorge de Milpe Reserve is centered in the middle! Accommodations include a double room with 2 twin beds at our Cliff Lodge (Scientific Research Center) with private bath and hot shower, and an open air restaurant. The reserve offers over 450 possible species of birds, 11 waterfalls - cascading waterfalls for swimming, pristine hiking trails, 60' high birding observation tower overlooking the canopy, watch the hummingbirds at their feeders and toucans at banana feeders; wild orchids and butterflies. San Jorge’s Observatory Hill is unique with four species of parrots, four species of Toucans, a huge amount of Tanagers and many more! Our lodges have the comfort and rustic charm in the tropical rainforest offering spectacular scenery, making it the ideal retreat for photographers, wildlife enthusiasts, students and nature lovers alike.

Natural Areas: The stunning upper tropical rainforest surrounding the lodges feature well-kept pristine hiking trails - a total of 8 different trails to explore the different features of the reserve, with 11 spring fed waterfalls, crossed by the large Chaguaryacu River. At the edge of the reserve is a 65 foot high Observatory hilltop with a 360° panorama views of the surrounding valleys. San Jorge de Milpe is part of the globally important Tumbez-Chocó endemic region and borders with the protected forest reserve of Masphi. It is located inside the Hummingbird Route (Ruta del Colibrí), a major destination in South America.

Upon your arrival at Quito Airport, you will be met by your escort and transferred to the beautiful San Jorge Eco-Lodge & Botanical Reserve/Quito, which will be your primary base.

Day One – Jan 1 – Evening Airport Group transfer from NEW Quito Airport to San Jorge Eco-Lodge; overnight San Jorge/Quito, no meals included

Day Two – Jan 2 – Sacred Waterfalls & Medicinal Plants at San Jorge Botanical Reserve/Quito. We will trek to the Highland Tropical Rainforest, visiting up to 5 sacred waterfalls. Here, we will learn about some of the 250 varieties of native medicinal plants in the region. At the same time, you will take in the fabulous panoramic views of Quito, its lush valleys and majestic mountains and the volcano peaks of Cayambe, Antizana, Pasochoa, Pululahua, Pichincha, and Illalo. We can observe 11 mountains from various points of San Jorge Botanical Reserve. Picnic lunch at the waterfalls. Overnight San Jorge/Quito, includes 3 meals

Day Three – Jan 3  – AM Airport transfer to Quito Airport for your flight to the Galapagos Islands (airfare included)
Days – Three – Seven – Jan 3 - 7 – Galapagos Island Cruise aboard The Eden Yacht, First Class vessel, 4 Nights/5 Days, 16 person capacity, includes double twin cabin with private bath/hot shower, 3 meals per day, naturalist guide for daily excursions to the islands, including airport transfers to yacht.

Day Seven – Jan 7 – Return flight to Quito Airport; transfer to San Jorge, overnight San Jorge Eco-Lodge/Quito, includes dinner

Day Eight – Jan 8 – Guided Hiking & Natural History Excursion at San Jorge de Tandayapa Hummingbird Sanctuary (CLOUD FOREST)  Over 450 beautiful species of birds, panoramic views, wild surroundings, pristine trails, tropical plants/flowers, wild orchids and wildlife within our tropical world famous Cloud Forest. After lunch, continue on to San Jorge de Milpe Orchid & Bird Reserve Cliff Lodge, overnight San Jorge/Milpe Cliff Lodge. After dinner, Wild Voices- Night Walk in the Tropical Rainforest: hearing crickets, satunines, potoos, owls, parakeets, frogs, etc.; includes 3 meals

Day Nine – Jan 9 - Guided Hiking & Natural History at San Jorge de Milpe Orchid & Bird Reserve (SUBTROPICAL RAINFOREST) with swimming at the waterfalls & picnic lunch (bring swimsuits and water shoes). Experience the unique, quick changes of eco-systems within an hour drive to our San Jorge de Milpe Reserve. Guided naturalist hike, exploring great jungle trails, observing beautiful exotic flowers, wild orchids, tropical plants with gigantic leaves - like a fantasy land in 3D movies. Cross several streams, swim in beautiful pools under cascading waterfalls. Along the way learn about a variety of exotic birds (over 450 species). It’s like an open biology book, a bio lab, a delight for the eye and curious mind. Later afternoon, transfer to San Jorge/Quito; overnight San Jorge/Quito, includes 3 meals

Day Nine – Jan 10 – AM airport transfer