

Dear Mr. Lindblad,

My young explorer and I recently visited the Galápagos Islands on board the *National Geographic Endeavour II* and I am writing to you to express my gratitude to the whole Lindblad-NatGeo team. The excellent service coupled with the knowledge and expertise of the naturalists truly made our expedition unique and memorable. I would also like to commend



you for implementing the Global Explorers Program. My eight-year-old daughter, Sophie, learnt so much — not only about the names of the animals but also their behavior and how the Galápagos Islands were formed. I would also particularly like to mention the following naturalists for their help and support in teaching her: Socrates Tomala, Lenin Villacis, Salvador Cazar, Fabian Bucheli, Ixora Berdonces, Juan Carlos Avila, Gianna Haro and Paola Luque. In addition, Captain Eduardo Neira and his team were very accommodating to Sophie on the bridge, helping her how to navigate the ship and even allowing her to drive it across the equator.

These individuals made a positive impact on her and, most importantly, reinforced to her the value of protecting our planet and conserving nature. They have tremendously inspired her that she even expressed a desire to become a scientist and a naturalist. And instead

of receiving a present for her 8th birthday last week, she asked others to donate to the Charles Darwin Research Station.

For us, the expedition to the Galápagos was not just a trip to tick off our bucket list. It was a remarkable experience, one of “learning, conserving and respecting our planet” instead of just “seeing” the wildlife. Sophie didn’t want to leave and cried to the naturalists at the airport. We will definitely return soon to the Galápagos, especially as my daughter explicitly wishes (even as a kid) to volunteer at the Charles Darwin Research Station and do field work to conserve the wildlife of the islands.



I hope you receive this letter and thank you also for featuring Sophie in Lindblad’s Galápagos video on giant tortoises — www.expeditions.com/sophievideo

Best regards,
Malou Lenoir-Lasquite and Sophie Lenoir