

FULL MOON FAMILY FUN

Before TV and internet arrived in Galapagos, families would gather under the full moon to comb the rocky tide line for a small marine mollusk. Known locally as *Canchalagua*, they are now only permitted to be caught according to an annual fishing calendar.

The flesh, marinated in citrus juice with onions, chili, and coriander to create a ceviche, is considered to be a traditional dish of the Islands. The Galapagos National High School presented an official request to register this ceviche with the Ecuadorian Institute of Intellectual Property at a special event attended by the deciding authorities — bringing national recognition to the mystique of this humble mollusk.

The registration of the recipe created by the young chefs will boost the school's national rating. In 2006, the high school became one of the first schools in Ecuador to offer a specialization in gastronomy and business management. Despite the considerable local labor demands for hotel services, such training was previously only available on the mainland.

Funds from the Celebrity Xpedition Galapagos Fund have supported this vocational education initiative, and we have hired graduates to work on board the *MS Xpedition*. This year we are thrilled to help renovate unused staff housing on the school's campus for use as a training facility for a new hotel management program. A local skilled labor force can fill many jobs in the Galapagos tourism industry, reducing migration and strengthening the opportunities of local people.



Canchalagua ceviche



Above: Ecuadorian Institute of Intellectual Property representatives receive the formal application.

FIELD NOTES: TORTOISES

190 juvenile captive bred Española tortoises recently joined the 206 young tortoises released on Santa Fe Island in 2016. The original tortoise species on Santa Fe went extinct more than 150 years ago. These young tortoises, natural large herbivores, will grow to bring balance to the island's landscape. The Giant Tortoise Restoration Initiative, an ambitious effort by Galapagos Conservancy and the Galapagos National Park, aims to restore giant tortoise populations to their historic numbers across the Archipelago.



Tortoises released on Santa Fe © GNPD

Celebrity Xpedition Galapagos Fund: Connecting people to nature and to each other to leave the world a better place

Celebrity Cruises created the **Celebrity Xpedition Galapagos Fund** in 2006 to support initiatives by the people who call Galapagos home. We are proud to partner with Galapagos Conservancy and their more than 30 years of solid contributions to protecting Galapagos. **Our guests have contributed more than \$1,000,000 to date.** Thank you!

DISCOVER MORE. BECOME AN ACTIVE PARTNER.
<https://www.galapagos.org/xpedition/>

For more information, please contact:
xpedition@galapagos.org



"For 13 years we have proudly supported local initiatives that are compatible with the delicate Galapagos environment."

Fausto Pacheco
Captain of the *MS Xpedition* since 2004

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Celebrity Xpedition Galapagos Fund



The Celebrity Cruises-Galapagos Conservancy partnership, formed more than a decade ago, is a natural connection that is contributing to the long-term protection of this world treasure. The generosity of our guests makes these projects possible.

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"Celebrity is not only our biggest customer, but also our greatest ally."

Kleber Lopez Palma,
Santa Cruz Fishers' Cooperative



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INTERSECTING INTERESTS

What do projects about pet sterilization and providing disabled kids with the space to learn life skills have in common?

They are projects supported by **Celebrity Xpedition Galapagos Fund!** In partnership with Galapagos Conservancy, we seek out local initiatives that ensure people have what they need to live well without jeopardizing future livelihoods or putting at risk the integrity of an irreplaceable Galapagos. Since 2006, more than 50 projects have been implemented that link the security of the local economy with the protection of the Islands, as the following examples show.

While the local artisanal fishermen worked with authorities to create a Marine Reserve management system, we were helping the *Santa Cruz Fishers' Cooperative* to obtain certification to be competitive in the national market.

Three local teens from *Agents of Change* united efforts with another Fund recipient, *Darwin Animal Doctors*, to encourage pet sterilization to help reduce the impact of domestic pets on wildlife.

More than 200 Galapagos teachers use space outfitted by the Fund for mentoring workshops as part of the Education for Sustainability Program, and young children with physical disabilities now have specialized equipment for their therapy.

Bolstered by the success of past projects, we know the new beneficiaries will make us just as proud. Sometimes a great project just needs a boost to get going or to fill critical funding gaps. "Thank you for providing us with a place where we can learn to look after ourselves," said Jeremy, a student at the school for disabled children, when he proudly showed off the site of their new kitchen. Also, youth on San Cristóbal will lead a citizen science and public awareness campaign about reducing plastic trash, an all-too-present threat to the sea lion colony living on their doorstep.

The Galapagos experience connects people to nature and to each other. We are very proud to work so closely with the Galapagos community, but the biggest thanks of all goes to the people who make these projects possible — our generous *MS Xpedition* guests.

To support the **Celebrity Xpedition Galapagos Fund**, please visit: www.galapagos.org/xpedition



Making A Difference Together



HELP IS ON ITS WAY

Send the helicopter! With more than 200,000 visitors each year there are often medical emergencies that require patients to be airlifted from any point within the Archipelago to hospitals located in Santa Cruz and San Cristóbal

HELPING PEOPLE

In 2015 there were 115 medical evacuations. It could happen to anyone, as Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos found out when struck by kidney stones while visiting Galapagos. He had to be helicoptered to medical aid. Plus, the dusty football field "landing pad" is a relic of the past. Celebrity Cruises made a significant corporate contribution to the construction of a purpose-built helipad, which opened in October 2016. Behind the scenes we are not only ensuring you have a memorable journey, but we are also investing in the facilities that ensure residents and visitors are in safe hands.

HELPING WILDLIFE

The same ocean currents that converge in Galapagos where penguins swim with tropical fish also bring plastic trash from around the world into the Galapagos Marine Reserve. Ocean trash confuses animals such as turtles, which may try to feed on floating plastic, builds up on shores to restrict the growth

of coastal plants, and decomposes releasing dangerous chemicals into the environment. Since 2000, the Galapagos National Park Directorate has coordinated boats, divers, and walkers for the annual International Coastal Clean-up Day; to date they have removed more than 85,000 kgs from local shores and beaches. Our MS Xpedition staff recently joined the local volunteer teams participating in this global effort. These events not only clean up the areas that most need it, but also raise public awareness about littering with visitors and the local community.



Top, left: A patient in Galapagos is evacuated to safety by helicopter.

Top, right: A veterinarian from Darwin Animal Doctors happily accepts a huge shipment of supplies made possible by our support.

Above: Galapagos residents take part in International Coastal Clean-up Day.



HELPING PETS

Let's not forget our pets. Suitcases full of medical supplies and equipment were ferried to the Darwin Animal Doctors free clinic in a massive restock made possible with support from the Celebrity Xpedition Galapagos Fund. As well as the logistics of moving such a large order to Galapagos it was important to comply with the strict restrictions on imports into the Islands. The grant also helped upgrade the surgery room, where domestic animals and the increasing number of wildlife cases are treated by the volunteer vets. Safer surgeries, better anesthetics, better equipment and a stock of high quality supplies means improved treatment for more animals.

Steps in the Right Direction

COMMITMENT CEMENTED

Celebrity Cruises and Galapagos Conservancy staff joined local authorities and the students and families of the Santa Cruz Special Needs Education Center to launch the construction of a new kitchen and dining room facility. The expansion will enable mentally disabled students to achieve a higher level of personal self-sufficiency and success in school and in their community. The students proudly served the snacks they had prepared at the launch event. Everyone placed their names into a time capsule to be buried below the building as a permanent reminder of our commitment to a brighter future for these youngsters. (See photo at right.)

BORN TO BE PARK RANGERS

Children raised in Galapagos learn very early on that they live in a special place and their desire to protect their home is strong. The Galapagos National Park Directorate's communication team works with sports clubs, scouts, conservation clubs, artisan groups, and others which encourage activities that are compatible with the unique natural environment. The Park's Junior Rangers program enabled 22 high school students to go on patrol with park rangers monitoring key species such as marine iguanas and sharks and to participate in coastal clean-ups in outlying areas. On International Turtle Day, they also hosted local primary schools to learn about the local and global issues facing marine turtles and land tortoises. The rangers' capstone project was an environmental awareness campaign based on the new knowledge they acquired "on the job."



Attendees place namecards in a time capsule at the groundbreaking ceremony at the special needs kitchen.



TURN BACK TIME

"Going back to a plastics free ocean" is the campaign slogan chosen by the young members of the GECCO-ALIVE project to stop plastic pollution in our oceans. Many of the local teens remember their families living a simpler life before plastic items and packaging became commonplace. The San Cristóbal children grow up keenly aware of trash scattered among the sea lion colony living near Puerto Baquerizo Moreno. While most plastic waste arrives with ocean currents from faraway places, there is increasing local plastic use. These motivated young people implement campaigns on how to avoid using plastic bags and bottles. For International Recycling Day, the group presented an artistic performance of puppets and recycled artwork for their community.



Left: Youngsters learn about turtles from the Junior Rangers of the Galapagos National Park.

Above: Dance and theatre help share the message about protecting our oceans.



Connecting people to nature and to each other

Leaving the world a better place

