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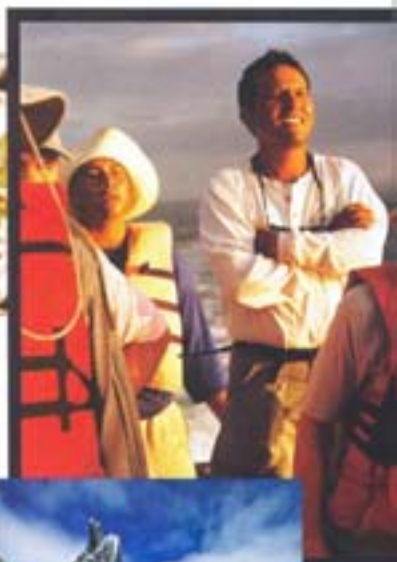
# Word of mouth

What's hot in **Delhi** **Verbier** **Buenos Aires** **Copenhagen** **Phuket** **Qatar** **Norway**

EDITED BY EMILY MATHIESON



The Galápagos Islands' indigenous birds, reptiles and mammals inspired Darwin to write *The Origin of the Species* 150 years ago and continue to attract wildlife enthusiasts



## Creatures and comforts

**GALAPAGOS ISLANDS** Celebrate Charles Darwin's bicentenary on one of three new cruises next year

### For nature lovers

Aptly named after Darwin's own vessel, **The Beagle** will make a special voyage in June (7th-17th) on which guests will be accompanied by Darwin's great-great-grandson, conservationist Randal Keynes. They'll also get a behind-the-scenes look at the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz. Steppes Travel (01285 885333; [www.steppesttravel.co.uk](http://www.steppesttravel.co.uk)). £4,025 per person, including flights from London

### For active types

New tour operator Excedo has come up with a 16-day Darwin trail: guests spend a week traveling along the Chilean coast before cruising the islands on **MY La Pinta**. Active types can climb the cliffs of Genovesa, explore San Cristóbal's crater lake and see the giant tortoises on the island of Isabela. Excedo (0845 246 2666; [www.excedottravel.com](http://www.excedottravel.com)). £8,290 per person, including flights

### For soft adventurers

The nine-suite **MY Grace** was a gift from Aristotle Onassis to Princess Grace and Prince Rainier of Monaco. Following a full refurb, it now offers 10-day, nine-island trips for up to 18 guests. Glass-bottomed kayaks are available for excursions, and penguins are often spotted swimming underneath. Cazenove & Loyd (020 7384 2332; [www.cazloyd.com](http://www.cazloyd.com)). £3,265 per person, including flights