

Money

TOURISM

Hotel brand enters Galapagos Islands

Guy Harvey Outpost Resorts announced Thursday it has partnered with two Ecuadoran hotel owners to enter the Galapagos Islands.

The Fort Lauderdale-based hotel branding company said it is planting Outpost flags on the islands of San Cristobal and Isabella, in the Galapagos archipelago about 600 miles off Ecuador.

On San Cristobal, the company plans to open a new 30-unit eco-lodge — **Guy Harvey Outpost Lodge, Galapagos Islands** — which will offer panoramic vistas of the Pacific Ocean and fields where giant turtles roam.

The eco-lodge, which is being developed by Miramar-based Arturo Hidalgo Keyser and three partners at a cost of about \$8 million, is expected to open in early 2016, Guy Harvey Outpost President Mark Ellert said.

The company also put its flag on the recently opened 14-room boutique hotel **Iguana Crossing** on Isabella, which was ranked the top lodging property in the Galapagos by **TripAdvisor**.

"I know of no other tourism company operating in the Galapagos that has a scientist and conservation authority as its chairman and a research institute as a brand partner," Ellert said. He was referring to marine artist and conservationist Guy Harvey and his namesake research institute at the **Oceanographic Center of Nova Southeastern University** in Dania Beach. "For this reason, the [Galapagos] park sees our interest in Galapagos as a game changer."

— **Arlene Satchell**

Send your South Florida business news to ckent@tribune.com, 954-356-4662 or Twitter @MindingYourBiz.