



# Ecuador Rainforest, Andes to the Sea Multi-Adventure

11 Days



*The Adventure Company* | EST. 1969

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MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS**  
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

# ➤ Ecuador Rainforest, Andes to the Sea Multi-Adventure

Ecuador, one of the jewels of South America, is home to incredible cultural and biological diversity in an area the size of Colorado. Crossed north to south by the Andes mountains, the country is divided into three main regions: the Amazon basin, the high Andes, and the coastal Pacific lowlands, each with unique geography, cultures, and fauna. Glacier-capped volcanic peaks over 20,500-feet high are surrounded by treeless moorlands, subtropical valleys, deserts, lowland rainforests, orchid-laden cloud forests growing in steep slopes of both cordilleras, coastal savannas, and mangroves. All of this creates a mosaic of microclimates resulting in a biodiversity we normally encounter in entire continents. Ecuador is a must for anyone who loves nature and active travelling.

## Details

Arrive:	Quito, Ecuador
Depart:	Guayaquil, Ecuador
Duration:	11 Days
Group Size:	4-12
Minimum Age:	13 Years Old
Activity Level:	

## Testimonials

*“Great experience every time with some of the most knowledgeable guides in their fields. We always come home with wonderful memories of the people we meet and things we see.”*

Bob J.

*“We have traveled throughout the world, but never experienced a level of service and attention to detail as we did with MT Sobek.”*

Dennis G.

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## Why Take This Trip With Us?

### REASON #01

MT Sobek has been exploring Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands since 1970 - we are the experts!

### REASON #02

Our expert naturalist guides hold advanced degrees, and will maximize the amount of bird and wildlife encounters.

### REASON #03

Our mainland Ecuador trip is one of a kind, designed specifically for the active and curious MT Sobek traveler.

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## What to Expect



### ACTIVITIES

Hikes and nature walks, with optional activities that include horseback riding or bicycling.

Many birdwatching and wildlife viewing opportunities.



### LODGING

Nightly stays in luxury spa and boutique hotels, eco-lodges, and authentic haciendas.



### CLIMATE

The coastal lowlands of western Ecuador are typically warm with temperatures around 77°F. Quito has a subtropical highland climate with average temperatures around 70°F. There are two seasons in

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## Meet Our Guides

Our expert guides and trip leaders are truly the key to our trips' success. Many are locals who live in-country year-round; others have made it their second home—all are passionate, enthusiastic and endlessly knowledgeable. Meet two of the guides that might be on your trip.

Luis was born in Seville, Spain, and graduated from the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid with a degree in Environmental Biology. He is fluent in Spanish, English, and French and has guided in Galapagos since 1999. In addition to being a professional nature photographer, Luis has a Master's Degree in Geographic Ecology and is active with conservation groups. A born teacher, he enthusiastically shares his knowledge of Galapagos with people of all ages. He lives in Quito with his wife, twin sons, and daughter and is MT Sobek's head naturalist guide.

**Luis Die**

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# Itinerary

## DAY 1

### ARRIVE IN QUITO, ECUADOR

Welcome to the historic city of Quito, the capital of Ecuador. An MT Sobek representative will meet you outside customs at the airport and escort you to your hotel. Due to late arrivals flights, our welcome dinner is on night two.

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## DAY 2

### TOUR OF QUITO & PAPALLACTA HOTSPRINGS

Explore Quito's Historic Center, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of the best-preserved historic centers in South America. Head to the eastern Andes along the route that led to the official discovery of the Amazon River by the Europeans. Drive over the Papallacta Pass (13,000') and descend into the cloud forests through spectacular snow-capped volcanos, mountains, and pastoral valleys. Spend the night at 10,800' at the Papallacta Hot Springs enjoying the magnificent views of Antisana, and a festive welcome dinner.

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 3

### ENTER THE AMAZON RAINFOREST

Begin the day with a 2- to 3-hour hike into the Cayambe National Park through High Andes grasslands and moorlands. Head into the Amazon rainforest, descending to stop for lunch at the Guango Reserve and enjoy the beautiful hanging orchids and hummingbirds visiting the feeders. Continue into the Amazon plains, arriving at Hamadryade Lodge with time to relax.

**Activity:** 2-3 hours/4 miles hiking

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 4

### EXPLORE THE UPPER AMAZON RAINFOREST

Begin the day experiencing the most diverse ecosystem in the world. Take a nature walk in the jungle and enjoy the pristine rain forest and its many species of birds and flowers. Learn about the medicinal use of local plants with a native guide. Visit an Indian community and learn about their cultures, cuisine, crops and the challenges they face. Enjoy a night walk in search of nocturnal creatures.

**Activity:** 2-3 hours/2-3 miles hiking

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 5

### TRACE THE AMAZON BACK TO THE ANDES

After breakfast, take a nature walk in the forest to observe the wildlife. Later, depart from Hamadryade and travel south to the city of Puyo as we make our way back to the Andes along the deep Pastaza Valley. Here we begin today's hike to the Pailon del Diablo (Devil's cauldron), one of the most spectacular waterfalls in the valley. Our hike takes us through evergreen cloud forests to get to the place where the Rio Verde falls into a deep narrow gorge, producing a deafening sound and a permanent mist. Along the way, look for toucans, tanagers, hummingbirds and other tropical birds, and views of the nearby Tungurahua Volcano.

After lunch, continue to Riobamba, a peaceful city surrounded by majestic volcanos, including Chimborazo (20,550'), the highest peak in Ecuador and The Altar (17,500'), arguably the most beautiful mountain in the country.

**Activity:** 2 hours/2 miles hiking

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 6

### JOURNEY ON THE DEVIL'S NOSE TRAIN TO INGAPIRCA RUINS

Experience one of the most extreme and wonderful train rides in the world, built a century ago through the Andes to link Guayaquil and Quito. Zigzag along the 7-mile route, rapidly gaining altitude to roughly 3,000-feet. Continue on a drive south to Ingapirca, the largest Inca ruins in Ecuador and largest north of Peru, featuring the elliptical Temple of the Sun. Head on to Cuenca, one of Ecuador's most charming and scenic towns.

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 7

### EXPLORE CUENCA

Discover Cuenca, a UNESCO World Heritage site, one of the best-preserved historic centers in South America. Explore its iconic monuments and churches, walk its narrow cobblestone streets and visit small local markets. Participate in cooking lessons and pick ingredients before preparing a delicious market-to-table meal alongside one of Cuenca's best chefs.

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 8

### HIKE EL CAJAS NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy a 3- to 4-hour hike in Cajas National Park, home to beautiful trails and dramatic landscapes, dotted with hundreds of glacial lakes and the tundra-like scenery reminiscent of Scottish moorlands. Be on the lookout for Andean hummingbird species, condors, and even pumas.

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Drive to the coastal lowlands, to Hacienda la Danesa, as the landscape transforms from cold barren grasslands to banana plantations and rice fields.

**Activity:** 3-4 hours/4 miles hiking

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 9

### ENJOY HACIENDA LA DANESA

Begin the day birdwatching, on the lookout for some of the hundreds of species that make the property's forests their home. Choose from a wide variety of activities, including biking the paths inside the hacienda, hiking its extensive trail system, horseback riding, or massage. Learn about the process of making chocolate and create your own chocolate bars with the guidance of an expert chocolatier.

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 10

### EXPLORE GUAYAQUIL

Head to lively and cosmopolitan Guayaquil, the economic center of Ecuador, principal port and largest city. Visit the city center its most iconic parks, the Malecon by the Guayas river, and the barrio Las Peñas, a traditional riverside neighborhood and the oldest section of the city.

**Meals:** B, L, D

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## DAY 11

### DEPART GUAYAQUIL

After breakfast, transfer to the international airport for flights home.

**Meals:** B

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## Dates

Jul 11 - 21, 2021

Sep 5 - 15, 2021

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# Pricing

2021

\$ 5,995 per person

## Additional Cost

\$ 1,800 Single Supplement

### PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert leadership from experienced adventure guides
- Accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- Meals as noted in the daily itinerary
- Potable water and snacks throughout
- 1 glass of wine or beer at dinner
- All tips and gratuities for support staff with the exception of your lead adventure guide(s)
- All group entrance fees, activities, and ground transportation
- Arrival and departure day airport transfers

### PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, any airport taxes, or excess baggage charges
- Optional tips to your lead adventure guides
- Personal expenses such as medical immunizations, phone calls, laundry, or souvenirs
- Airport transfers if arriving or departing outside of Day 1 and Day 11
- Optional travel protection

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## ➤ **The World of MT Sobek**

At Mountain Travel Sobek, we believe life is an adventure and adventure is life.

As the originators, innovators and leaders in adventure travel for more than five decades, we passionately create, craft and share indelible, transformative journeys to the world's most memorable places. Our more than 200 unique and once-in-a-lifetime trips are designed to inspire and exhilarate, enliven and excite--opening eyes and minds through profoundly personal connections with nature and culture.

Our small group and custom adventures span the globe, and the spectrum—of interests, environments and activities—every one expertly planned and knowledgeably and passionately guided. And our commitment to making every experience a remarkable one has earned us preferred travel outfitter status for National Geographic Active Expeditions, Active New York Times Journeys, and Smithsonian Active Journeys.

We are *the* adventure company.

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### **Awards**



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