



Ecuador Galapagos Adventure Cruising on Eco-Galaxy

9 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT•SOBEK™
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ Ecuador Galapagos Adventure Cruising on Eco-Galaxy

Follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin on this inspirational small-group adventure through the enchanted islands of the Galapagos. Splash with penguins and fur sea lions, walk among giant tortoises, flamingos and iguanas, and spot blue-footed boobies and endemic wildlife found nowhere else on earth - all under the guidance of your MT Sobek naturalist guide. Hiking, snorkeling, and kayaking offer you astonishing opportunities to get close to the wildlife underwater and on land. After each action-filled day, return to the luxury of your private catamaran to rest and re-energize. This classic route takes in the natural wonders of Santa Cruz, Isabela, Fernandina, Santiago, and Rábida islands. Explore further on our range of exciting pre- or post-trip [extensions in Ecuador](#). To learn more about the Galapagos Islands and what you can expect from MT Sobek boats and adventures, [check out our Galapagos Islands Visitors Guide](#).

Details

Arrive: Quito, Ecuador

Depart: Quito, Ecuador

Duration: 9 Days

Group Size: 10-16 Guests

Minimum Age: 6 Years Old

Activity Level:



Testimonials

"Do not miss this trip! It's an adventure for the whole family with landscapes and wildlife that are literally no where else on earth. I can't wait to go back and explore even more of the Galapagos."

Jennifer N.

"Our Eco Galaxy Galapagos trip was a 10! Everything was perfect. First class all the way! The boat, the crew, the guests, the excursions! Wonderful!"

Myra F.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

📞 1-800-974-0300

✉ info@mtsobek.com

Why Take This Trip With Us?

REASON #01

MT Sobek was one of the first North American companies to bring visitors to the Galápagos Islands, with an inaugural charter for the Sierra Club in 1970.

REASON #02

Guests love our Galápagos adventures because we charter a small catamaran for a fully MT Sobek-operated experience with our own expert team of naturalist guides.

REASON #03

Our guides and crew work hard maximizing the amount of wildlife encounters both on land and sea, and guides will always be snorkeling with you.

What to Expect



ACTIVITIES

Island cruising by deluxe catamaran with daily Zodiac excursions to explore hidden coves. Hike, snorkel, swim among unique endemic wildlife.



LODGING

Luxurious comfort aboard a sleek and modern catamaran with a full crew to cater to your every need. Also includes an upscale hotel in Quito.



CLIMATE

Mild climate year-round. Jun-Nov has daytime temperatures of 67-77°F and water temperatures of 65-72°F. Dec-May has daytime temperatures 76-86°F and water temperatures of 70-75°F.

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.

Patricia has been guiding diving trips in Galapagos since 1999. A native of Switzerland and originally a journalist for the Swiss News Agency, Patricia started her career in guiding as a divemaster in Honduras in 1995 and as a naturalist guide in Costa Rica. She is fascinated by wildlife, is a passionate teacher, and an active conservationist in the islands. As a resident of Galapagos, she will be able to give you an insider's viewpoint of life in the islands. Patricia is fluent in English, German, and French.

Patricia Stucki

Fernando is an Ecuadorian marine biologist who has worked and lived in Galapagos for over 25 years. An accomplished diver, he has enjoyed more than 5,000 dives in the Galapagos, Ecuador, Cayman Islands, Cozumel, Baja California, Palau, Malaysia, and Costa Rica. He joined Conservation International in 2005 after working for the Galapagos National Park as Head of the Department of Control and Conservation of Marine Ecosystems. Fernando returned to guiding to re-encounter the environment that he is so passionate about and loves inspiring MT Sobek travelers on their adventures in the Galapagos.

Fernando Ortiz

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Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN QUITO

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. After settling in at the hotel, the rest of the day is free to unwind, take advantage of the hotel's pool and spa services, or begin your exploration of this dynamic city. Dinner is on your own tonight.

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DAY 2

TOUR QUITO'S OLD TOWN

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before setting out on half-day guided tour of colonial Quito. The city's UNESCO-listed old town contains the best examples of Colonial Baroque architecture in South America! After lunch, you are free to explore more of the old town, return to the hotel, or shop for handicrafts made by local artisans. Gather in the hotel at 6:30pm for a briefing with your fellow travelers and MT Sobek representative, who will discuss tomorrow's flight to the Galapagos Islands and the adventure ahead. Dinner is on your own tonight.

Meals: B, L

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DAY 3

FLY TO THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Rise for breakfast and an early transfer flight from Quito to Baltra Island in the Galapagos. After meeting your naturalist guide, take a short transfer from Baltra to Santa Cruz Island. Here a private vehicle awaits to take you to the lush highlands of Santa Cruz for a special opportunity to see giant tortoises in their wild and natural habitat. Next, transfer to Puerto Ayora, the largest settlement in the Galapagos. Stroll the main street to the harbor, where you will board the catamaran and your basecamp for activities during the next week. Enjoy a welcome dinner.

Activity: 1-1.5 hours walking, up to 1 mile

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 4

EXPLORE MORENO POINT & ELIZABETH BAY ON ISABELA ISLAND

In the morning, disembark at Moreno Point, which is located near Elizabeth Bay on the west coast of Isabela Island. The plethora of birds seen during the Zodiac ride along the striking rocky shores, and while walking along the path through lava rocks leading to tide pools and mangroves, create a birdwatcher's delight. In the tide pools, green sea turtles and white-tip sharks can be spotted.

In the afternoon, explore Elizabeth Bay. This is one of the island's breeding sites for penguins. Located along the west coast of Isabela, Elizabeth Point is a marine visitor site. Visit Red Mangrove Cove and look for brown pelicans, flightless cormorants, spotted eagle rays, golden rays and sea lions. Return to the boat for cocktail hour and dinner.

Activity: AM 3 hours hiking (2 miles), snorkeling; PM panga cruise

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

HIKE & KAYAK AT URBINA BAY & TAGUS COVE ON ISABELA ISLAND

After breakfast, explore Urbina Bay — famous for having uplifted 15 feet along 2 miles of coastline exposing corals and invertebrates in its strata. Follow your guide on the trail to look for Galápagos land iguanas, Galápagos hawks, finches, and giant tortoises (mostly seen between January and June.)

In the afternoon, visit Tagus Cove, located to the west of Darwin Volcano on Isabela Island. While walking, find several inscriptions (names of pirates) dating back to the 1800's. From here, you can see Darwin Lake, a salt water lake with a depth of approximately 30 feet. It contains no fish, but it is very common to see a variety of bird species.

Activity: 5-6 hours hiking, swimming and snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

EXPLORE FERNANDINA ISLAND AND ISABELA'S VICENTE ROCA POINT

Awake at your anchorage near Punta Espinosa on Fernandina Island — said to be the largest ecologically pristine island in the world and one of the highlights of the trip. As soon as you land in the volcanic landscape you will be amazed by hundreds of marine iguanas basking in the sun, as this is the largest colony of these unique reptiles. Sea lion pups often play in the tidal pools while flightless cormorants dry their miniaturized wings nearby. This is a great hunting ground for Galápagos hawks who often perch on the mangroves looking for lizards, baby iguanas, herons and doves. Look for sea turtles and rays in the shallow coves and channels along the shore.

In the afternoon, disembark for an unforgettable Zodiac cruise (with optional snorkeling) along the dramatic cliffs of Isabela Island's Vicente Roca Point, the remnants of an ancient volcanic caldera. Ride ocean swells beneath the cliffs in search of nesting boobies and explore a huge marine cave. Keep an eye out for seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange yet fascinating Mola-mola (sunfish).

Activity: 4-5 hours hiking, swimming and snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

HIKE & SNORKEL ON SANTIAGO ISLAND & RABIDA

Wake for a landing on Santiago's dark, sandy volcanic beach of Puerto Egas. The trail follows the rocky coastline, where tide pools are home to sponges, hermit crabs, and fish including the world's only four-eyed

blenny. Sea lions bask on the rocks, along with marine iguanas and shore birds. At the end of the trail, visit the grottos for a chance to see a colony of Galápagos fur seals up close.

After lunch, take a nature walk at Rábida. The volcanic "small red island" is located near the center of the archipelago, and its red-sand beach is home to sea lions and pups. Behind the beach is a brackish lagoon, home to migratory shorebirds, wading birds, and ducks. Two species of boobies nest along the cliffs.

Activity: 5-6 hours hiking, swimming and snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 8

DEPART FROM THE GALAPAGOS & RETURN TO QUITO

Enjoy one more early morning excursion by panga to Santa Cruz Island's Black Turtle Cove and see a variety of bird and small shark species, as well as sea turtles, in a protected mangrove lagoon. After breakfast aboard the catamaran, disembark and transfer to the Baltra airport for the return flight to Quito. An MT Sobek representative will greet you at Quito airport and provide assistance to your nearby hotel.

Meals: B

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DAY 9

DEPART QUITO

Use the complimentary airport shuttle to transfer to the airport in time for your outbound flight, or opt to stay on in Quito to join us for one of our extensions in Ecuador or Peru!

Meals: B

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Dates

For full terms and conditions please visit www.mtsobek.com/terms. Please note that our itineraries may be subject to change.

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Inclusions & Exclusions

PRICE INCLUDES

- Expertise and services of our experienced adventure guides
- All accommodations as noted in the itinerary
- All breakfasts, almost all lunches and dinners as noted in the itinerary
- Snacks and water between meals
- Additional regional guides and experts on many trips
- Comprehensive Trip Planner with detailed pre-trip information
- Private guided tours at historic sites, museums, wineries and other select attractions as noted in the itinerary
- Special events and other select attractions as mentioned in the itinerary
- All gratuities at hotels and restaurants
- Equipment and experienced guides for activities as described in the itinerary
- Park and other entry fees (unless otherwise noted)
- Fares for trains, ferries and other modes of travel as listed in the itinerary
- Select transfers as mentioned in the itinerary
- Baggage transfers and portorage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Galápagos National Park fee, collected upon arrival (Age 12 and older: \$100 / Age 11 and younger: \$50)
- Galápagos Transit Control Card
- Wetsuit Rental
- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and yacht crew
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses

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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.

Awards



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