



Ecuador Galapagos Adventure Cruise on EcoGalaxy

9 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

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MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

➤ Ecuador Galapagos Adventure Cruise on EcoGalaxy

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 yacht to rest and re-energize. This classic route takes in the natural wonders of Santa Cruz, Isabela, Fernandina, Santiago, and Rábida islands. See below for a sample itinerary of your day-to-day activities. Please note that actual itinerary routes vary from departure to departure — for more information about the islands each departure will visit, call for details.

Details

Arrive: Quito, Ecuador

Depart: Quito, Ecuador

Duration: 9 Days

Group Size: 10-16 Guests

Minimum Age: 6 Years Old

Activity Level:



Testimonials

"The Galapagos trip is a once in a lifetime experience. So many great memories."

Julia S.

"Having visited the places that Darwin visited for his evolution theory makes you appreciate all we have in this world!"

Laura C.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

 1.888.831.7526  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 yacht 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. Dec-May has daytime temperatures 76-86°F and water temperatures of 70-75°F. Jun-Nov has daytime temperatures of 67-77°F and water temperatures of 65-72°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 dive master 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 than 5,000 dives in the Galapagos, Ecuador, Cayman Islands, Cozumel, Baja California, Palau, Malaysia, Caño Island in 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. After a few years working in different government institutions and NGOs, Fernando returned to guiding to re-encounter the environment he is so passionate about.

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 unwind, take advantage of the pool's 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 yacht 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

FOLLOW TRAILS ON ISABELA ISLAND

From your anchorage on the southern end of Isabela Island, board a Zodiac (small, motorized inflatable boats) to explore Tintoreras — a group of islets. Follow a trail to observe marine iguanas, sea lions, and marine birds diving for fish. Return to the yacht and cruise to the western side of Isabela Island. Enjoy views of the island's pristine coastline, and keep lookout for dolphins and whales. After lunch, anchor at Punta Moreno for a walk across a pahoehoe lava flow, surrounded by giant shield volcanoes and a series of green lagoons — abundant with wildlife, including flamingos, blue-footed boobies, Darwin's finches, and flightless cormorants. If time allows, take your first snorkel this afternoon. Return to the boat for cocktail hour and dinner.

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Activity: 3 hours hiking

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

EXPERIENCE WEST ISABELA ISLAND

Start the day at Elizabeth Bay, where you will set off by Zodiac to explore tranquil coves and a red mangrove lagoon, home to green sea turtles, flightless cormorants, and Galapagos penguins! Get in the water for a snorkel and you may also spot rays and small sharks among tropical fish. After lunch, continue to 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 Galapagos land iguanas, Galapagos hawks, finches, and giant tortoises (mostly seen between January and June.)

Activity: 5-6 hours hiking, swimming and snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

EXPLORE FERNANDINA ISLAND

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. Upon landing, take a walk on black lava fields in search of marine iguanas, colorful Sally Lightfoot crabs and Galapagos sea lions lounging in its lagoons. In the afternoon, disembark for an unforgettable Zodiac cruise (with optional snorkeling) along the dramatic cliffs of Punta Vicente Roca, the remnants of an ancient volcanic caldera. Ride ocean swells beneath the cliffs in search of nesting boobies and explore a huge marine cave.

Activity: 5-6 hours hiking, swimming and snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

HIKE & SNORKEL ON SANTIAGO ISLAND & RABIDA

After breakfast make a wet landing on the 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, we'll visit the grottos for a chance to see a colony of Galapagos fur seals up close. After lunch, visit the "small red volcanic" island of Rabida near the center of the archipelago. 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. Snorkel with Galapagos penguins along the cliff face or swim with sea lion pups — another highlight of the trip!

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Activity: 5-6 hours hiking, swimming and snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

DEPART FROM THE GALAPAGOS & RETURN TO QUITO

Enjoy one more early morning excursion by zodiac to see a variety of bird and small shark species in a protected mangrove lagoon. After breakfast aboard the yacht, 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

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

Oct 14 - 22, 2021

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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Pricing

2021

\$ 6,295 per person

Additional Cost

\$ 550 Internal Airfare

\$ 20 Galapagos Transit Control Card

\$ 500 Single Supplement (Hotels Only)

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 cocktail at welcome and farewell dinners on the yacht
- All tips and gratuities for support staff with the exception of your lead naturalist guide & yacht crew
- All necessary snorkeling gear
- All group activities and ground transportation
- Arrival and departure day airport transfers

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare, any airport taxes, or excess baggage charges
- Galápagos National Park fee, collected upon arrival (Age 12 and older: \$100 / Age 11 and younger: \$50)
- Lunch on Day 7 and Dinners on Day 1, 2 and 7
- Optional tips to your lead naturalist guide & yacht crew
- Galápagos Transit Control Card
- Wetsuit Rental
- Personal expenses such as medical immunizations, phone calls, laundry, or souvenirs
- Alcoholic beverages at meals other than welcome and farewell dinners
- 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.

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Awards



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