



Ecuador Galapagos Adventure Cruise on the Integrity

11 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT SOBEKTM
MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK


CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

Ecuador Galapagos

➤ Adventure Cruise on the Integrity

Follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin on this inspirational small-group adventure through the enchanted islands of the Galápagos. Splash with sea turtles and fur seals, walk among giant tortoises, flamingos and iguanas, and spot 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. Please note that actual itinerary routes vary from departure to departure - for more information about the islands each departure will visit, call for details. 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:	11 Days
Group Size:	10-16 Guests
Minimum Age:	6 Years Old
Activity Level:	

Testimonials

"I've traveled around the world and always took pride in my ability to research and inform myself about my destination. No amount of research would have been able to give me the experience that travelling the Galapagos w MT Sobek did. As we finished this trip I looked back and wondered how much more incredible my previous trips would have been had I done them with MT Sobek."

Lindsay P.

"The entire trip was outstanding including the destination, the trip itinerary, MT Sobek's organization, the crew, and our guide. The Galápagos as a travel destination is truly majestic."

Patrick A.

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 1-800-974-0300

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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 smaller, deluxe yachts for an exclusive 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, kayak, and swim among unique endemic wildlife.



LODGING

Luxurious comfort aboard a sleek and modern yacht 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.

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

Greg arrived in the Galapagos in 1982 leading the Cambridge Darwin Centenary Galapagos Expedition to conduct research on the feeding ecology of marine iguanas. After graduating from the University of London with an honors degree in Biology, Greg's research in Galapagos has encompassed a wide range of ecological projects, including studies on sperm whales and the endangered Galapagos petrel. Greg and his wife have retraced Darwin's footsteps through Galapagos using information from his original notebooks and manuscripts of the famous voyage.

Greg Estes

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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 a 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 Galápagos 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 & SEE GIANT TORTOISES IN THE WILD

Rise for breakfast and an early transfer to Quito airport for a flight to Baltra Island in the Galápagos. 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. The Galapagos Islands are named after these magnificent, ancient creatures and the experience with them is magical. Next, transfer to Puerto Ayora for a stroll along the main street to the harbor, where you will board your private yacht. Enjoy a welcome dinner onboard.

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

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 4

FLOREANA ISLAND WITH PUNTA CORMORANT, CHAMPION ISLET & POST OFFICE BAY

Please note that Days 4 to 9 may slightly vary depending on your departure date. From your anchorage off of Floreana island, venture ashore a green-tinged beach this morning to observe the flamingos and other water birds that frequent the lagoon at Punta Cormorant and see the white-sand Flour Beach where sea turtles come out at night to nest. Then cruise to Champion Islet and set out in pangas (small, motorized inflatable boats) for your first snorkeling opportunity (often with playful sea lions!), and look out for the rare Floreana Mockingbird. After lunch on board, return to shore for a visit to historic Post Office Bay, with its wooden barrel that has served

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as an informal post office in the archipelago since the 18th century. Continue to the Floreana highlands to see the local tortoises. Return to the yacht for cocktail hour and dinner.

Activity: Morning 2-hour walk (1 mile) and 0.5-1 hr snorkeling, Afternoon 2-hour walk (up to 1 mile)

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 5

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 panga 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. After the walk, you will have the opportunity to snorkel and see sea turtles, penguins and occasional cormorants and sea lions. In the afternoon, explore Elizabeth Bay, located along the west coast of Isabela. This is one of the island's breeding sites for penguins. Exploring the mangroves, channels and coves by panga, you'll have the chance to see many sea turtles, penguins, pelicans, flightless cormorants, herons and rays.

Activity: 2-hour walk (1.5 miles), 1 hr snorkeling, panga cruises

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 6

ISABELA'S URBINA BAY AND FERNANDINA ISLAND, THE ARCHIPELAGO'S YOUNGEST ISLAND

Awake at your anchorage near Isabela Island's 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, and finches. You can also snorkel at this location and look for turtles, cormorants, a large diversity of fish and, with a bit of luck, octopus and lobsters. After lunch, continue to Punta Espinosa on Fernandina Island — said to be the largest ecologically pristine island in the world and one of the highlights of the trip. This island is an active shield volcano which had an eruption as recently as 2018. Upon landing, take a walk on black lava fields in search of marine iguanas, colorful Sally Lightfoot crabs and Galápagos sea lions lounging in its lagoons. The island is also a nesting site for flightless cormorants.

Activity: 5 hours hiking, 1 hour swimming and snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

ISABELA'S TAGUS COVE & VICENTE ROCA POINT

In the morning, visit Tagus Cove, located to the west of Darwin Volcano on Isabela Island. While walking, inspect the inscriptions left by pirates in the 1800's. From here, you can see Darwin Lake, perched above sea level, but full of saltwater. It contains no fish, but it is very common to see a variety of bird species. After the walk, cruise

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by panga along the coast of Isabela to look for wildlife. Snorkelers will have great chances of swimming with penguins, cormorants and sea lions. In the afternoon, disembark for an unforgettable panga 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. A spectacular variety of sealife includes seahorses, sea turtles, and the strange but fascinating Mola-mola (sunfish).

Activity: 2 hours hiking, 2 hours swimming and snorkeling, panga cruise

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 8

HIKE & SNORKEL ON SANTIAGO ISLAND

Wake for a 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, visit the grottos for a chance to see a colony of Galápagos fur seals up close. After lunch, make a wet landing on Santiago's soft, sandy Espumilla Beach. Walk the island's lagoon and beach in search of raptors and finches before suiting up for cliff-side kayaking and snorkeling. Perhaps the finest snorkel of the trip, you will be amazed by the array of colorful marine life, from angelfish and rays to sea turtles and white-tipped reef sharks.

Activity: 3 hours hiking, 2 hours swimming and snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 9

NORTH SEYMOUR ISLAND AND SANTA CRUZ ISLAND'S BLACK TURTLE COVE

Located near Baltra, North Seymour is home to an incredible diversity of species, including dense breeding colonies of blue-footed boobies and frigatebirds. Walk North Seymour's loop trail and keep an eye out for Swallow tailed gulls, blue-footed boobies, and colonies of both Magnificent and Great frigatebirds. The island is rich in sea birds, but look also for marine iguanas, huge land iguanas, sea lions and other smaller birds such as Darwin finches and mockingbirds. After the walk, get ready to snorkel in one of the sites with the highest diversity of fish you'll find on your trip. Enjoy an afternoon 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. Back on the boat tonight, enjoy a festive farewell cocktail hour and a group dinner with the captain.

Activity: 2-3 hours hiking, 1 hour swimming and snorkeling, panga cruise

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 10

DEPART FROM THE GALAPAGOS & RETURN TO QUITO

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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 11

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

Nov 24 - Dec 4, 2022

Dec 1 - 11, 2022

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

- Galapagos Transit Control Card
- 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
- Galápagos National Park fee, collected upon arrival (Age 12 and older: \$100 / Age 11 and younger: \$50)
- Wetsuits (can be rented on arrival)

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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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