



Ecuador Galapagos Private Adventure Cruise on Endemic Enchanted Isles Exploration Aboard a Spectacular Catamaran

Thank you for checking out our adventures and for downloading this itinerary. Please note that this itinerary may be subject to change depending on the specific departure date. Be sure to check with us before scheduling any flights.

We love talking travel!
Contact us at info@mtsobek.com
or call **800-974-0300**



Feel the difference

with **Mountain Travel Sobek**

Unrivaled Expertise

MT Sobek started it all! Since our first Everest Base Camp trek in 1969, we've been leading award-winning adventures and building authentic connections in far-flung locations around the world. We were named Best Adventure Tour Company in 2022 by USA Today's 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards.

Unique Trip Design

Our adventures are perfectly paced, with incredible attention to detail — the right mix of fun, learning, and challenge that guarantees lifelong memories. Plan nothing, enjoy everything. We take care of all of the logistics so that you can have more time to do what's most important: relax, take in the experience, and enjoy!

Small Groups

We keep our groups intentionally small — usually fewer than 10 people. This allows you a more intimate experience with the people and wildlife you encounter. With a smaller group size, we can take advantage of many unexpected invitations and opportunities that would be impossible with larger groups.





Leading the Way

World-Class Local Guides

Our knowledgeable and passionate expert guides effortlessly create an immersive local experience for you. They are trained to the highest professional standards and are at the heart of everything we do. They make it possible to meet the challenges of adventure travel, and help create lasting memories and lifelong friendships... we can confidently say our guides are the best in the business.





Why take this trip with us?

REASON 1

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 2

Guests love our Galápagos adventures because we charter truly small (maximum 16-passenger) vessels for an exclusive experience with your own expert naturalist guide.

REASON 3

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

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

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



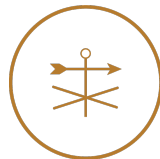
LODGING

Luxurious comfort aboard a sleek new catamaran with private balconies and 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.



KNOW BEFORE YOU BOOK

“What a total comfort to know that with MT Sobek, you're in the hands of professionals who have been doing it so long and so well. That was part of why we landed on them as our operators for our dream trip, and everything about the experience they gave us—from tailored expertise to unswerving professionalism—confirmed the company's emphasis on excellence.” - Alex M.



Ecuador Galapagos Private Adventure Cruise on Endemic

Enchanted Isles Exploration Aboard a Spectacular Catamaran

Experience the Galapagos Islands in comfort and refinement on this small-group adventure, featuring a 7-night cruise on 16-passenger luxury catamaran Endemic. Start your trip in UNESCO-listed Quito, then cruise in style through the Galapagos. Following your MT Sobek naturalist guide, you'll kayak and snorkel with sea turtles, penguins and fur seals, walk among giant tortoises, frigatebirds, all three types of boobies (Nazca, blue-footed and red-footed), and land and marine iguanas. This classic Northern Loop route takes in the natural wonders of Genovesa, Santa Cruz, Santiago, Isabela, Fernandina and Rabida islands.

11 Days

Start: Quito, Ecuador

End: Quito, Ecuador

Departing: August, September, October, November

Activities: Adventure Cruising, Safari & Wildlife, Family Adventure

Lodging: Luxury Small Ship, Comfortable Hotels

Group Size: 10-16 Guests

ACTIVITY:



Check [mtsobek.com](https://www.mtsobek.com) for date-specific pricing.

“

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

- Julia S.

The Itinerary

DAY
01

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 pool's spa services or begin your exploration of this dynamic city. Dinner is on your own tonight.

DAY
02

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 Galápagos Islands and the adventure ahead. Dinner is on your own tonight.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch

DAY
03

Fly to the Galapagos Islands

Rise for breakfast and an early transfer flight from Quito to Baltra Island in the Galápagos. After meeting your naturalist guide, take a short transfer from Baltra to Bachas Beach on the north side of Santa Cruz Island. Encounter sea lions on the beautiful, white-sand beach, look for flamingos and great blue herons in the lagoon, and spot hatchlings' footprints leading from the nest to the water's edge (sea turtles nest here from December to April). Return to Baltra and board your private luxury catamaran. Enjoy a welcome dinner onboard.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2-hour flight transfer and 1-hour private vehicle transfer

ACTIVITY: PM 1.5 hours easy walk (1 mile), option to swim or snorkel from beach

A circular icon with a red border and a white background. Inside the circle, the word "DAY" is written in a small, red, sans-serif font above the number "04", which is in a larger, bold, red, sans-serif font.

Hike & Snorkel Amid Rich Birdlife of Genovesa Island

Genovesa Island is known as Bird Island and is one of the most interesting for visitors! Make a wet landing this morning and hike along Darwin Beach on the north side of Darwin Bay, formed by the rim of a sunken crater. Red mangroves along the trail provide habitat for yellow warblers, yellow-crowned night herons, and pintail ducks. The highlight of this site is the incredible abundance of Red-footed Boobies, Great Frigatebirds and Swallow-tailed Gulls. Despite being the most abundant species of booby in the islands, the red-footed is rarely seen unless you visit Genovesa. The bay also offers several places to snorkel; from deep waters along the cliffs across the bay, to shallow waters by the beach. In either case, there are many fish to see and great chances of seeing sharks, rays and sea lions.

After lunch, explore the cliffs by panga before climbing Prince Phillip's Steps to the island's plateau. The landing sport is a rock fall that forms a natural staircase up the cliffs but the rest of the trail is quite easy and leveled. Walk through massive colonies of Red-footed and Nazca Boobies and an extraordinary Palo Santo forest on the way to a lava ridge where thousands of storm petrels dart about while Short-eared owls stalk them for prey. Along with Darwin Beach, this is one of the trails in the entire Galápagos with the most abundance of fauna. Snorkelers can explore the cliffs, where there are many fish and great chances of seeing sharks, rays and sea lions.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM 2 hours easy hike (1 mile) plus snorkeling & kayaking; PM 2.5 hours moderate hike (2 miles) plus snorkeling

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See Giant Tortoises in the Wild on Santa Cruz and Explore Santiago Island

This morning, explore the lush highlands of Santa Cruz Island. Walk along a shady trail between the Twin Craters, actually two sinkholes created long ago by underground lava tunnels that collapsed. Learn about the special nature of the surrounding forest, with its Scalesia pedunculata trees (endemic to the Galápagos) and abundant bird life including finches, Vermilion Flycatchers, and mockingbirds. Continue for a special opportunity to see giant tortoises in their wild and natural habitat. The Galápagos Islands are named after these magnificent, ancient creatures and the experience with them is magical.

Cruise over lunch to Santiago Island, and venture ashore at Sullivan Bay. Hike along the sandy shore, surrounded by lava fields that formed only about 100 years ago. Your guide will point out the hardy "pioneer" plants, specialized flora that are the first to colonize a lava field. Conclude with a refreshing swim and chance to do some snorkeling!

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM 1.5 hours easy walk (1 mile); PM 2 hours easy walk (1.5 miles) plus snorkeling



Isabela Island's Wetlands, Sierra Negra Volcano and Tortoise Breeding Center

Isabela Island's wetlands are home to abundant bird life, including flamingos, stilts, whimbrels, gallinules, finches, Pintail Ducks, Brown Pelicans and more. Marine iguanas creep through the marshes as well. Part of the trail goes up Orchilla hill, which offers a nice view of the nearby town of Puerto Villamil. Continue to the Sierra Negra Volcano (4,890'), one of the most active volcanoes in the Galápagos. Hikers are rewarded with an unforgettable lesson in volcanic geology, with the chance to see the main volcanic caldera, very recent lava flows and fumaroles, and several smaller craters at the Chico Volcano site. Along the way, enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and surrounding islands.

Enjoy lunch on board, then visit the Arnaldo Tupiza Breeding center, a highlight of any visit to Isabela Island. Here, giant tortoises of the Isabela Island subspecies are hatched and cared for until they can survive on their own in the wild. Hundreds of adorable baby tortoises lumber about in raised pens, designed to protect them from predators including rats and ants. Even the walk to get to the breeding center from town is fun, as it is connected to Puerto Villamil by a boardwalk over some marshy wetlands where sightings of flamingos and other water birds are common.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM 3 hours moderate walk (4 miles); PM 2 hours easy walk (2 miles)



Explore Isabela's Elizabeth Bay & Urbina Bay

Head out by panga this morning to explore Elizabeth Bay, located along the west coast of Isabela Island. 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.

After lunch, anchor near Isabela's Urbina Bay — famous for having uplifted 15 feet along 2 miles of coastline exposing corals and invertebrates in its strata. Make a wet landing then 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.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM panga cruise; PM 1.5-2 hours easy walk (1-2 miles) plus snorkeling



Explore Isabela's Tagus Cove & Fernandina Island, the Archipelago's Youngest Island

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 by panga along the coast of Isabela to look for wildlife. Snorkelers will have great chances of swimming with penguins, cormorants and sea lions.

Rest for lunch, then set out from 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. 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 tidal pools.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM 1.5-2 hours moderate hike (2 miles) plus panga cruise & snorkeling; PM 2-2.5 hours moderate hike (1.5 miles) plus snorkeling



Hike & Snorkel on Santiago Island & Rábida

Wake for 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.

After lunch, make a wet landing on the small red volcanic island of Rábida 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 colorful fish and reef sharks along the cliff face or swim with sea lion pups — another highlight of the trip! Back on the boat tonight, enjoy a festive farewell cocktail hour and a group dinner with the captain.

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM snorkeling, kayaking & panga cruise; PM 1.5 hours moderate walk (1 mile), plus snorkeling & kayaking



Mosquera Islet & Return to Quito

Arrive this morning for a wet landing at Mosquera Islet, and set out on foot to see a large sea lion colony. Then disembark the Endemic and head to the Baltra airport for your return flight to Quito. An MT Sobek representative will greet you at Quito airport and provide assistance to your nearby hotel.

MEALS: Breakfast

TRANSPORTATION: 2.5-hour flight transfer

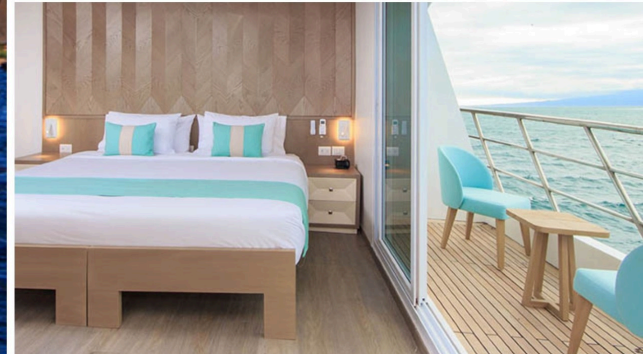
ACTIVITY: AM 1-1.5 hours easy walk (0.5 miles)



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: Breakfast



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Swissôtel Quito

The upscale Swissôtel offers five-star comfort in Quito's Floresta neighborhood, close to great shopping, interesting museums, and the city's architectural gems. Elegant and comfortable rooms feature city or mountain views, flat-screen TVs with premium channels, complimentary Wi-Fi, and more. There are four restaurants onsite offering a variety of international cuisine. Other perks include a fitness center and an indoor pool.

Endemic

Indulge in exceptional style and comfort aboard Endemic, a 115-foot luxury catamaran built in 2018. Its nine luxury cabins, including eight identical suites, set the new standard for modern elegance. Each cabin comes with floor-to-ceiling windows, private balconies, en-suite bathrooms, air-conditioning, and much more. There is an abundance of natural light throughout, and the lounge and deck areas are spacious and beautifully designed — there is even a Jacuzzi! An exclusive buoyancy system gives added stability, plus you can see marine wonders from paddle boards, kayaks, and translucent "crystal" kayaks. Endemic conforms to the highest safety ratings, is 100% single-use plastic free, and has 11 crew members in addition to our naturalist guide. This the best luxury option for adventurers seeking a dream Galapagos cruising experience.



Where You'll Stay

These accommodations may be subject to change depending on your date of travel.

Wyndham Quito Airport

The Wyndham Quito Airport is a convenient and comfortable stopover after your journey back from the Galápagos chosen for its location right next to the airport. Both international and Ecuadorian food options are available at the onsite restaurant and for room service. Rooms have large TVs and free WiFi. There is a 24-hour complimentary airport shuttle.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: August, September, October, November

What's Included

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
- Wetsuit rentals
- Baggage transfers and portage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Galapagos National Park fee, collected upon arrival (Age 13 and older: \$100 current fee, increasing to \$200 from Aug 1 2024 / Age 12 and younger: \$50 current fee, increasing to \$100 from Aug 1 2024)
- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and catamaran crew
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses
- Galapagos Transit Control Card



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