



Ecuador Galapagos Adventure Cruise on Galaxy/Integrity

11 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 Galaxy/Integrity

Follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin on this inspirational small-group adventure through the enchanted islands of the Galapagos. Splash with sea turtles and fur sea lions, walk among giant tortoises, flamingos and iguanas, and spot flightless cormorants 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, Rábida and Sombrero Chino Islands. Please note that actual itinerary routes vary from departure to departure — for more information about the islands each departure will visit, call for details. To learn more about the Galapagos Islands and what you can expect from MT Sobek boats and adventures, [check out our Galapagos Islands portal](#).

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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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 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 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 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 flight from Quito 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

FOLLOW TRAILS ON ISABELA ISLAND & LOOK FOR ENDEMIC WILDLIFE

Please note that Days 4 to 9 may slightly vary depending on your departure date. From your anchorage on the southern end of Isabela Island, board a Zodiac (a small, motorized inflatable boat) to explore Tintoreras — a group of volcanic 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

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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.

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 Galápagos 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 Galápagos land iguanas, Galápagos 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, THE ARCHIPELAGO'S YOUNGEST 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. 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. In the afternoon, anchor at Tagus Cove on Isabela and embark on a snorkeling excursion. This is a good place to look for Galapagos penguins underwater! Later, go ashore to inspect the inscriptions left by pirates and hike to nearby Darwin Lake, perched above sea level, but full of saltwater.

Activity: 5-6 hours hiking, swimming and snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

HIKE & SNORKEL ON SANTIAGO ISLAND

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, land 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

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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 Galápagos fur seals up close.

Activity: 5-6 hours hiking, swimming and snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

SWIM WITH SEA LIONS ON SANTA CRUZ ISLAND

Rise to explore Santa Cruz Island's Cerro Dragón. Named after its large population of land iguanas, this area has one of the longest trails in the islands (2 miles). Spot flamingos in a salt-water lagoon before lunch and then head to 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. Snorkel with Galápagos penguins along the cliff face or swim with sea lion pups — another highlight of the trip!

Activity: 5-6 hours hiking, swimming and snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 9

JOURNEY TO BACHAS BEACH & NORTH SEYMOUR ISLANDS

Las Bachas is a beautiful, white-sand beach on the north side of Santa Cruz. Encounter sea lions on the 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). After our last lunch onboard the yacht, disembark by Zodiac for a snorkeling excursion near North Seymour Island, known for its dense breeding colonies of blue-footed boobies and frigatebirds. Keep an eye out for shorebirds, sea lions, marine iguanas, and huge land iguanas as you walk North Seymour's loop trail in the afternoon. Back on the boat tonight, enjoy a festive farewell cocktail hour and a group dinner with the captain.

Activity: 5-6 hours hiking, swimming and snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 10

DEPART FROM THE GALAPAGOS & RETURN TO QUITO

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.

Activity: 2-hour flight transfer and 5-minute transfer

Meals: B

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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

Oct 14 - 24, 2021

Nov 25 - Dec 5, 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

\$ 6,995 per person

Additional Cost

\$ 550 Internal Airfare

\$ 20 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 10 and dinners on Day 1, 2, and 10
- Wetsuit rentals
- Optional tips to your lead naturalist guide & yacht crew
- Personal expenses such as medical immunizations, phone calls, laundry, or souvenirs
- Airport transfers if arriving outside of Day 1
- 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.

Awards



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