



Ecuador Galapagos Islands Land & Sea Multi-Adventure

Culture in Quito, Galapagos Cruise on Alya & Isabela Island Boutique Hotel Stay

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**

Unrivalled 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 Galapagos Islands, with an inaugural charter for the Sierra Club in 1970.

REASON 2

We charter truly small (maximum 16-passenger) deluxe vessels for a fully MT Sobek-operated experience with our own expert naturalist guide and a dedicated Quito office.

REASON 3

This trip is the perfect blend of cruise- and land-based explorations of the Galapagos Islands, with an exploration of historic Quito, joined into one deluxe adventure.

At A Glance

ACTIVITIES

Cultural touring and tasting dinner in Quito, island cruising by luxury catamaran and a lodge-based island stay, both with daily panga rides, hikes, kayaking, and/or snorkeling.



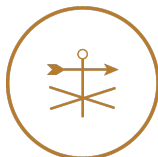
LODGING

Deluxe accommodations throughout, from a boutique hotel in Quito and a Galapagos catamaran with private balconies, to a premier beachfront lodge on Isabela Island.



CLIMATE

In Galapagos, Dec-May expect 76-86°F and water temperatures of 70-75°F. Jun-Nov expect 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 Islands Land & Sea Multi-Adventure

Culture in Quito, Galapagos Cruise on Alya & Isabela Island Boutique Hotel Stay

Discover the best of the Galapagos by land and sea, combining a magical 5-day cruise with the active options and flexibility of a 3-day island stay. First, enjoy curated cultural immersion in UNESCO-listed Quito, then cruise the islands in style aboard the elegant 16-passenger catamaran Alya. Hike, snorkel, and kayak at Genovesa and other remote islands, getting you amazingly close to wildlife - on land and underwater. Top it off with an action-packed stay on Isabela Island. Hike the Sierra Negra volcano, snorkel amid tubes and bridges formed by lava flows, explore the charming town, and enjoy the comforts of your beachside boutique hotel.

10 Days

Start: Quito, Ecuador

End: Quito, Ecuador

Departing: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, November, December

Activities: Adventure Cruising, Safari & Wildlife, Family Friendly, Family Adventure

Lodging: Comfortable Hotels, Comfortable Small Ship

Group Size: 10-16 Guests

ACTIVITY:



Check mtsobek.com for date-specific pricing.

“

"MT Sobek answered our questions before we asked them. They coordinated the trip from arriving at our destination until we flew back out. All of the staff was so helpful, informative, and friendly."

- Michelle G.

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 deluxe boutique hotel located in the heart of the Old Town. After settling in at the hotel, the rest of the day is free to unwind, take advantage of the spa services or begin your exploration of this dynamic city. Dinner is on your own tonight.

ACCOMMODATION: Illa Experience Hotel, Quito

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private van transfer from airport to hotel

DAY 02

Explore Quito's Old Town & Meet Local Artisans

Set out this morning on a 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 at a local restaurant, participate in one of the interactive Illa Experiences and learn how local artisans make a local product using authentic ancestral methods. Gather for an evening briefing about the upcoming Galapagos portion of the adventure, followed by a special tasting dinner at a local restaurant.

ACCOMMODATION: Illa Experience Hotel, Quito

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM 1-2 hours/1 mile walking in Quito Historic Center

DAY 03

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 and board your private luxury catamaran. Enjoy an afternoon excursion by panga in Santa Cruz Island's Black Turtle Cove and see a variety of bird and small shark species, as well as sea turtles, in this protected mangrove lagoon. Enjoy a welcome dinner onboard.

ACCOMMODATION: Aboard Alya

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

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

ACTIVITY: PM panga cruise



Discover the 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 and hike along the north side of Darwin Bay, formed by the rim of a sunken crater. The highlight is the incredible abundance of red-footed boobies (rarely seen outside of Genovesa Island), great frigatebirds and swallow-tailed gulls. The bay also offers several places to snorkel or kayak, with opportunities to get close to wildlife such as Galapagos fur seals, and bird life. After lunch, explore the cliffs by panga before climbing Prince Phillip's Steps to the island's plateau. Walk through massive colonies of Red-footed and Nazca Boobies on the way to a lava ridge where thousands of storm petrels dart about. Snorkelers can explore below the cliffs, where there are chances of seeing sharks, rays and sea lions. Return to the boat for cocktail hour and dinner.

ACCOMMODATION: Aboard Alya

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM 2 hours easy hike (1 mile) plus snorkeling & kayaking; PM 3 hours moderate hike (2 miles) plus snorkeling



Hike & Snorkel on Santiago & Bartolome Islands

Get a sense of the primordial beginnings of our planet, walking across a recent lava flow at Santiago's Sullivan Bay where dramatic contrasting black pahoehoe flow and the reddish-yellow tuff cones are the stars of this visit. You will also have the option to swim or snorkel where the sea is teeming with life. After lunch, make a wet landing at Bartolome Island, one of the best snorkeling locations in the Galapagos, not only for its clear and calm waters, but also because of the presence of Galapagos penguins, which are relatively easy to find while snorkeling, along with an incredible diversity of fish, colorful invertebrates, sea lions, turtles, rays, and reef sharks. End the day with a climb up to the pinnacle of this ancient cinder cone, with spectacular views of iconic Pinnacle Rock, as well as Santiago Island, and Daphne Major and Minor.

ACCOMMODATION: Aboard Alya

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

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



Sombrero Chino & Mosquera Islet

This morning, anchor off the small islet of Sombrero Chino and make a wet landing on shore. Snorkel with Galapagos penguins along the cliff face or swim with sea lion pups - another highlight of the trip! On a guided walk, enjoy additional encounters with the colony of sea lions and their pups that often play along the coral beaches and tide pools, and marvel at the fantastic volcanic scenery. This afternoon, make a wet landing at Mosquera Islet, located between the islands of Baltra and North Seymour, and boasting a white sand beach framed by a reef of rocks and coral. This island has one of the largest populations of sea lions in the archipelago, as well as several species of shore birds. Enjoy a final dinner on board tonight.

ACCOMMODATION: Aboard Alya

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM 1-1.5 hours easy walk (1 mile) plus snorkeling; PM 1 hour easy walk (1 mile)



DAY 07

See Giant Tortoises in the Wild on Santa Cruz & Journey to Isabela Island

Arrive this morning back at Santa Cruz Island. Disembark the Alya and transfer by private vehicle 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. Return to the port and board a privately chartered speedboat to Isabela Island, the largest of the islands, and transfer to your beachfront hotel in Puerto Villamil. Take the remainder of the day to swim and snorkel at the beach and explore the village with your guide. Be sure to keep an eye out overhead for blue-footed boobies and along the shoreline for Galapagos sea lions. Formed by six volcanoes, Isabela is home to roughly 60% of the flora and fauna found in the Galapagos.

ACCOMMODATION: Iguana Crossing Boutique Hotel, Isabela Island

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 1-hour private vehicle transfer; 2.5-hour speedboat transfer

ACTIVITY: AM 1.5 hours easy walk (1 mile)

DAY 08

Hike the Sierra Negra Volcano

Take an awe-inspiring hike up the Sierra Negra Volcano (4,890'), one of the most active volcanoes in the Galapagos. Hike two hours up a gradual incline to the massive crater's edge, walking among fumaroles and petrified lava formations. Along the way, enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and surrounding islands, and watch for endemic Galapagos hawks, martins, and vermilion flycatchers. From the top, you can hike back down or extend your hike by continuing along the crater's rim.

ACCOMMODATION: Iguana Crossing Boutique Hotel, Isabela Island

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch

TRANSPORTATION: 2-hour private vehicle transfer

ACTIVITY: 4–7 hours/10 miles hiking with 400' elevation gain and loss



Snorkel at Los Tuneles

Set out by privately chartered motorboat to Los Tuneles, a marine paradise where stunning natural tubes and bridges were formed by the impact of lava flows on ocean waves. Enjoy spectacular snorkeling in shallow, clear waters brimming with parrot fish, yellowtail surgeon fish, and green sea turtles, as well as manta rays and small white tipped sharks. It's an unforgettable experience to discover the diversity of species that have taken up residence in the unique geological formations of arches and tunnels both under and above water. Return to the hotel for a festive farewell evening. NOTE: the entrance to this site is shallow and the waves can be strong. If conditions prohibit the stop, we will substitute another snorkeling option on this day.

ACCOMMODATION: Iguana Crossing Boutique Hotel, Isabela Island

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

TRANSPORTATION: 2-hour speedboat transfer

ACTIVITY: Snorkeling



Depart from the Galapagos & Return to Quito

Awake early to swim or take a nature walk before your transfer to Puerto Villamil airport for the short flight to Baltra, connecting with a flight back to Quito. An MT Sobek representative will greet you at Quito Airport and provide assistance to meet your connecting late-night flight home, or opt to stay on in Quito for an exciting extension in Ecuador or Peru!

MEALS: Breakfast

TRANSPORTATION: 2.5-hour flight transfer



Where You'll Stay

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

Illa Experience Hotel

Illa Experience is a deluxe boutique hotel with just 10 rooms, housed in a restored colonial mansion in the historic San Marcos neighborhood of Quito's Old Town. The family owners take great care in providing an immersive experience to capture the traditions, flavors, and scents of a local, traditional home, as well as chances to meet local artisans who make the neighborhood such a special place. The elegant contemporary rooms overlook the Old Town or quiet internal patios. An award-winning gourmet restaurant and rooftop bar celebrate local ingredients, and the spa features a Jacuzzi, sauna, and small fitness center, with massage treatments available.

Alya

Indulge in exceptional style and comfort aboard [Alya](#), a 103-foot catamaran. Eight comfortable cabins each have a private balcony, en-suite bathroom, air-conditioning, feather pillows and luxury cotton sheets. An additional ninth cabin is available for single accommodations, and is the only cabin with no private balcony. The lounge and deck areas are spacious and beautifully designed, with a Jacuzzi, movable sunroof, and indoor and outdoor dining options! Wi-Fi is available on board, and use of paddle boards, kayaks, and snorkel gear are included.



Where You'll Stay

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

Iguana Crossing Boutique Hotel

This premium small hotel occupies the island's best location, between a pristine beach and a wildlife filled natural lagoon, just outside the town of Puerto Villamil. The name derives from its strategic location next to the paths used by marine iguanas to cross from the wetlands to the beach, and guests can observe this daily pilgrimage. Rooms are spacious with ocean views and air conditioning. The excellent restaurant offers a variety of regional cuisine. An outdoor pool, terrace, and Jacuzzi all feature gorgeous views of the white sand beach, just steps away.

Departure Dates

This trip is available to run in: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, November, December

Book early for a greater choice of available dates.
Once you book, your price is GUARANTEED!

January 28-February 6, 2025

December 2-11, 2025

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
- Baggage transfers and portage

PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Galapagos National Park fee, collected upon arrival (Age 13 and older: \$200 from Aug 1 2024 / Age 12 and younger: \$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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