



Ecuador Galapagos Adventure Cruising on Galaxy Eastern Loop

11 Days



The Adventure Company | EST. 1969

MT•SOBEK™

MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
AS THE PIONEER OF ADVENTURE TRAVEL

Ecuador Galapagos

➤ Adventure Cruising on Galaxy Eastern Loop

Follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin on this inspirational small-group adventure through the enchanted eastern and central islands of the Galapagos. Take in the natural wonders and rich wildlife on Genovesa, San Cristobal, Española, Santiago, Floreana, and Santa Cruz. The eastern islands are geologically the oldest in the Galapagos, allowing more time for vegetation to take hold and for flora to thrive in their fertile volcanic soils. Hiking, snorkeling, and kayaking under the guidance of MT Sobek's dedicated naturalist guide gets you amazingly close to the wildlife both underwater and on land. After each action-filled day, return to your intimate 16-passenger private yacht to rest and re-energize.

Details

Arrive: Quito, Ecuador

Depart: Quito, Ecuador

Duration: 11 Days

Group Size: 10-16 Guests

Minimum Age: 8 Years Old

Activity Level:



Testimonials

"I have been on adventure travel trips to many places and with many companies, and this trip was the best ever—a wonderful, knowledgeable guide, a great boat and, of course, The Galápagos!"

Dana H.

"Simply put, it was the trip of a lifetime. Epic in every sense of the world."

William G. and Rebecca N.

GOT QUESTIONS? SPEAK WITH AN EXPERT.

📞 1-800-974-0300

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

REASON #02

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

REASON #03

Our dedicated guide and crew maximize wildlife encounters both on land and sea, and your guide will always accompany you while hiking and snorkeling.

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

Superior comfort aboard a 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 of 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

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 divemaster 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

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Itinerary

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN QUITO

Welcome to the historic city of Quito, the capital of Ecuador. Meet your MT Sobek representative outside customs at the airport and transfer together to your hotel. After settling in at the hotel, the rest of your 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.

Accommodation: Swissotel Quito

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 6:30 pm 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.

Accommodation: Swissotel Quito

Activity: 1-2 hours/1 mile of walking in Quito's Historic Center

Meals: B, L

DAY 3

FLY TO THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS & SPOT FRIGATEBIRDS AT NORTH SEYMOUR

Rise for breakfast and an early flight from Quito to Baltra Island in the Galapagos. After meeting your naturalist guide, board your private yacht in time for lunch. Call this afternoon at North Seymour, 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 a welcome dinner onboard.

Accommodation: Aboard Galaxy

Activity: 2 hours/1 mile of easy walking plus snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

HIKE & SNORKEL ON SANTIAGO & BARTOLOME ISLANDS

Make a wet landing this morning at Bartolome Island for another exceptional snorkeling opportunity. Slip into clear and calm waters for the chance to swim with Galapagos penguins along with an incredible diversity of fish, colorful invertebrates, sea lions, turtles, rays, and reef sharks. Next, climb up to the pinnacle of this ancient cinder cone for spectacular views of iconic Pinnacle Rock, Santiago Island, and Daphne Major and Minor. After lunch on board, walk across a recent lava flow at Santiago's Sullivan Bay and view the raw beauty of its barren lava, contrasting black pahoehoe flow, and the reddish-yellow tuff cones. You have the option to swim or snorkel from a coral sand beach or from the pangas, diving into a contrasting environment teeming with life, including large schools of fish, Galapagos penguins, reef sharks, turtles, and rays.. Return to the boat for cocktail hour and dinner.

Accommodation: Aboard Galaxy

Activity: AM 2 hours/ 1.5 miles of easy walking plus snorkeling; PM 1.5 hours/1 mile of easy walking plus snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 5

DISCOVER THE RICH BIRDLIFE OF GENOVESA ISLAND

Anchor off Genovesa, also known as “Bird Island” and make a wet landing. Hike along Darwin Bay, formed by the rim of a sunken crater. Red mangroves provide habitat for yellow warblers, yellow-crowned night herons, and pintail ducks. The highlight is the incredible number of great frigatebirds, swallow-tailed gulls, and red-footed boobies—a species rarely seen on other islands. Snorkel or kayak the bay, where there are many fish to see and opportunities to get close to wildlife. After lunch, explore the cliffs by panga before climbing the rocks that form Prince Phillip's Steps to the island's plateau for an easy level walk through massive colonies of red-footed and Nazca boobies on the way to a lava ridge where thousands of storm petrels dart about while short-eared owls stalk them for prey. This trail is known for having some of the most abundant birdlife in the Galapagos. Snorkelers can explore the cliffs, where there are many fish and great chances of seeing sharks, rays and sea lions.

Accommodation: Aboard Galaxy

Activity: AM 2 hours/ 1 mile of easy hiking plus snorkeling & kayaking; PM 3 hours/2 miles of moderate hiking plus snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 6

CIRCUMNAVIGATE KICKER ROCK & DISCOVER CERRO BRUJO ON SAN CRISTOBAL

This morning, circumnavigate the imposing Kicker Rock, a volcanic formation which rises up over 450 feet from the sea off the coast of San Cristobal. Its vertical cliffs are a breeding ground for boobies and tropicbirds, and the northern slopes host breeding colonies of frigatebirds. Enjoy lunch on board before a short panga cruise along the cliffs of Cerro Brujo, and a walk on a lovely coral sand beach frequented by sea lions, waders, and migrant birds. This is one of the most beautiful beaches in the Galapagos Islands and a great place to photograph sea

lions or simply relax and swim. For snorkelers, the coast of Cerro Brujo is a good place to see sea turtles and different species of fish.

Accommodation: Aboard Galaxy

Activity: AM cruising; PM 1 hour/1 mile of easy walking plus snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

EXPLORE SAN CRISTOBAL ISLAND & ISLA LOBOS

Step ashore in the main port of San Cristobal Island and visit the Interpretation Center, a modern and sophisticated architectural space that provides an excellent overview of the volcanic formation of the islands, the evolution of species, the history of human settlement, and conservation efforts and threats. After lunch, stop at Isla Lobos, separated from San Cristobal by a narrow channel, for opportunities to snorkel with sea lions, sea turtles, and tropical fish. There is also a short rocky trail great for viewing blue-footed boobies, frigatebirds, marine iguanas, lava lizards, and the endemic Galapagos snake.

Accommodation: Aboard Galaxy

Activity: AM 2 hours/1 mile of easy walking; PM 1.5 hours/.5 miles of moderate hiking plus snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

BIRDWATCH & SNORKEL ON ESPAÑOLA ISLAND

Experience the incredible birdlife at Punta Suarez, where you'll get spectacular cliff views of pounding surf and seemingly unlimited populations of seabirds. Brightly-colored marine iguanas and the largest lava lizards in the Galapagos rest on the trail. From the cliff top, watch a blowhole spray water up to 100 feet in the air. Española is the only island where you can see waved albatrosses and possibly observe their fascinating mating dance (seasonally from April to December), and is also a good place to spot the Galapagos hawk and stroll amid large colonies of Nazca and blue-footed boobies and swallow-tailed gulls. After lunch, walk along a magnificent coral sand beach at Gardner Bay. Here, sea lions bask, marine turtles nest, and the curious Española mockingbirds follow your every footstep. Take a brief swim on the beach or snorkel in the company of schools of angelfish, parrotfish, damselfish, and surgeonfish, turtles, sea lions, and possibly small sharks along the underwater cliffs of Gardner, a small satellite islet.

Accommodation: Aboard Galaxy

Activity: AM 2-3 hours/1 mile of moderate walking; PM 1 hour/0.5 miles of easy walking plus snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 9

WALK, SNORKEL & VISIT POST OFFICE BAY ON FLOREANA ISLAND

Venture ashore at Floreana Island's Punta Cormorant. After a wet landing at a green-tinged beach, set out on foot to observe the flamingos and other water birds that frequent the lagoon and see the white-sand Flour Beach where sea turtles come out at night to nest. At nearby Champion Islet, snorkel amid spectacular marine life and look out for the very rare Floreana Mockingbird on shore. This afternoon, make a wet landing at historic Post Office Bay, where a wooden barrel has served as an informal post office in the archipelago since the 18th century. If you wish, send postcards to your friends and relatives or pick up mail to deliver in your home town! Enjoy time to relax on the beach, or snorkel to look for fish and rays, and watch sea turtles feeding on algae. Back on the boat tonight, enjoy a festive farewell cocktail hour and a group dinner with the captain.

Accommodation: Aboard Galaxy

Activity: AM 1 hour/1 mile of easy walking plus snorkeling; PM 2 hours/1 mile of easy walking plus snorkeling

Meals: B, L, D

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DAY 10

DEPART FROM THE GALAPAGOS IN BALTRA & RETURN TO QUITO

Wake up early to disembark in the port of Puerto Ayora. 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. After this memorable experience with the islands' endearing namesake, transfer to Baltra for your flight back to Quito. An MT Sobek representative will greet you at Quito airport and provide assistance to your nearby hotel.

Accommodation: Wyndham Quito Airport Hotel

Activity: AM 1.5 hours/1 mile of easy walking

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

May 18 - 28, 2026

Dec 14 - 24, 2026

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 National Park fee, collected upon arrival (currently \$200 for Age 13 and older: \$100 for Age 12 and younger)
- Wetsuit rentals
- International airfare, airport taxes, and excess baggage fees
- Alcoholic beverages (MT Sobek provides wine at select events)
- Gratuities for MT Sobek guides and shipboard crew
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses
- Galapagos Transit Control Card

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