Ecuador Galapagos Adventure Cruising on Galaxy Diver II

Wildlife Wonders, Expert Guides & Comfortable Cruising

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 Galapagos adventures because we charter truly small (maximum 16-passenger) vessels for an exclusive experience with our 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 deluxe yacht with daily Zodiac excursions to explore hidden coves. Hike, snorkel, kayak, and swim among unique endemic wildlife.

LODGING

Deluxe 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 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.

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Follow in the footsteps of Charles Darwin on this inspirational small-group adventure through the enchanted western and central islands of the Galapagos. The western islands are younger and more volcanically active, studded with cones, craters, and a rippled lava landscape, as well as stunning beaches. 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.

11 Days

Start: Quito, Ecuador

End: Quito, Ecuador

Departing: January, February, March, April, May, June, August, November

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

Lodging: Comfortable Small Ship, Comfortable Hotels

Group Size: 10-16 Guests

ACTIVITY:

Check mtsobek.com for date-specific pricing.

> ***"Everyone involved did an amazing job with my children. All of the guides were able to keep my children engaged while also keeping the information at an adult level for the rest of the group."***
>
> - Patrick H.

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

ACCOMMODATION: Swissôtel Quito
TRANSPORTATION: 1 hour private van transfer

DAY 02

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.

ACCOMMODATION: Swissôtel Quito
MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch
ACTIVITY: 1-2 hours (1 mile) walk in Quito Historic Center

DAY 03

Fly to the Galapagos Islands & Explore Bachas Beach

Rise for breakfast and an early transfer flight from Quito to Baltra Island in the Galápagos. After meeting your naturalist guide, board your private yacht. Arrive this afternoon for a wet landing at 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 November to May). Enjoy a welcome dinner onboard.

ACCOMMODATION: Aboard Galaxy Diver II
MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner
TRANSPORTATION: 2-hour flight transfer and 1-hour private vehicle transfer
ACTIVITY: 1.5 hours easy walk (1 mile)

DAY 04

Hike, Snorkel, & Kayak at Santiago & Rabida Islands

Get a sense of the primordial beginnings of our planet as you walk across a recent lava flow at Santiago's Sullivan Bay and view its beautiful structural characteristics. Formed in the second half of the 19th century, the flow is too young for much plant or animal life. It is the lava itself and the contrasting black pahoehoe flow and the reddish-yellow tuff cones that are the stars of this visit. The colors and shapes of the lava are fantastic for photos. You will also have the option to swim or snorkel from a coral sand beach or from the pangas. Getting underwater is like traveling to another world: if the land is almost lifeless, the sea is teaming with life, including large schools of fish, Galápagos penguins, reef sharks, turtles and rays.

Arrive by wet landing this afternoon for a nature walk at Rabida. 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 flamingoes, migratory shorebirds, wading birds, and ducks. Two species of boobies nest along the cliffs. The sheltered coast of Rabida also offers great opportunities for kayaking, close to nesting pelicans, boobies and herons. The waters off Rabida are usually clear and very rich in fish, sea stars and other invertebrates - perfect for our afternoon snorkel. Also look for reef-sharks and sea lions as they are not uncommon in the area.

ACCOMMODATION: Aboard Galaxy Diver II

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

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

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DAY 05

Discover 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. As soon as you land in the volcanic landscape you will be amazed by hundreds of marine iguanas basking in the sun, as this is the largest colony of these unique reptiles. Sea lion pups often play in the tidal pools while flightless cormorants dry their miniaturized wings nearby. This is a great hunting ground for Galápagos hawks who often perch on the mangroves looking for lizards, baby iguanas, herons and doves. Snorkel amid sea turtles, and look out for marine iguanas feeding on the abundant seaweed underwater. You may even spot a cormorant underwater as it chases fish through the reef.

In the afternoon, navigate to look for whales and dolphins, then visit Tagus Cove, located to the west of Darwin Volcano on Isabela Island. First, snorkel in the sheltered waters of the cove, a great place to swim with penguins and plentiful fish. Then, on a guided walk, inspect the inscriptions left by whalers 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 penguins, cormorants, marine iguanas and a very unique species: the Galápagos martin, a small endemic bird which is one of the most endangered species on the island.

ACCOMMODATION: Aboard Galaxy Diver II

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM 2-2.5 hours moderate hike (1.5 miles) plus snorkeling; PM 1.5-2 hours moderate walk (2 miles) plus panga cruise or kayak, and snorkeling

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DAY 06

Explore Urbina Bay & Elizabeth Bay on Isabela Island

After breakfast, make a wet landing to explore 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 (mostly between January and June) giant tortoises. Snorkel from the beach to see sea turtles, cormorants, penguins and an abundance of colorful fish.

In the afternoon, explore Elizabeth Bay, a beautiful sheltered bay surrounded by large mangroves and barren lava fields. Take a panga cruise to explore many channels, pools and coves teeming with life. This is one of the best locations in the islands to see Galápagos penguins. Flightless cormorants also nest in the area and blue-footed boobies and pelicans often fish in these shallow and rich waters. Rays and sea turtles are also very abundant. Return to the boat for cocktail hour and dinner.

ACCOMMODATION: Aboard Galaxy Diver II

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

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

DAY 07

Isabela Island's Tintoreras Islet & Wetlands

This morning, head to Tintoreras islet, located very close to Puerto Villamil, the main town in Isabela, but accessible only by small boats. This small islet is surprisingly rich in wildlife. The walk on Tintoreras is easy and a great opportunity to observe marine iguanas, sea lions, penguins, boobies, and herons. This afternoon, explore Isabela Island's wetlands, a large area of lagoons, channels, coves, and mangroves that is 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.

ACCOMMODATION: Aboard Galaxy Diver II

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM 1.5 hours/1 mile walk; PM 1.5 hours/1 mile walk

DAY 08

Floreana Island with Post Office Bay, Punta Cormorant, & Devil's Crown

After an early breakfast, make a wet landing at historic Post Office Bay on the north side of Floreana Island, and walk a short distance along the beach to the wooden barrel that has served as an informal post office in the archipelago since the 18th century. If you wish, send postcards to your friends and relatives and/or pick up mail to deliver in your home town! Also enjoy time to relax on the beach, or snorkel from the beach to look for fish and rays, and watch sea turtles feeding on algae.

After lunch on board, cruise to Devil's Crown, a small satellite islet of Floreana, with a group of rocks that resemble a crown due to the constant erosion caused by the sea. Snorkelers will enjoy one of the top snorkeling sites in the islands, swimming in clear waters with schools of colorful fish, turtles, spotted eagle rays, and perhaps hammerhead sharks. Then, venture ashore at 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.

ACCOMMODATION: Aboard Galaxy Diver II

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM 30-minutes easy walk (0.5 miles) plus snorkeling; PM 2 hours easy walk (1 mile) plus snorkeling

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DAY 09

See Giant Tortoises on Santa Cruz

Call back at Santa Cruz this morning and transfer by private vehicle to the lush highlands 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.

This afternoon, visit the Charles Darwin Station, located in the main port on Santa Cruz Island. See the breeding pens where tortoises and land iguanas are bred in captivity in an attempt to mitigate the danger of extinction on various islands. Thanks to the dedicated work of several institutions, some species are being saved. Back on the boat tonight, enjoy a festive farewell cocktail hour and final dinner on board.

ACCOMMODATION: Aboard Galaxy Diver II

MEALS: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

ACTIVITY: AM 1.5 hours easy walk (1 mile); PM 1.5 hours easy walk (1 mile)

DAY 10

North Seymour, Depart from the Galapagos in Baltra & Return to Quito

Wake up early for a last excursion in the islands: a walk at North Seymour, a very interesting island with lots of wildlife. Spy frigatebirds displaying their red pouch to attract their partners while blue-footed boobies nest in the ground. Other common species are the endemic Swallow-tailed and Lava gulls, sea lions, land and marine iguanas and more.

Return to the ship for breakfast and get ready to disembark at 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

MEALS: Breakfast

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

ACTIVITY: AM 1 hour moderate walk (1 mile)

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: 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.

Galaxy Diver II

Cruise the Galapagos in style aboard the 97-foot Galaxy Diver II motor yacht, launching in June 2024 after a full renovation. Her nine beautiful cabins, with a capacity for 16 adventurers, come equipped with en-suite bathrooms and A/C for maximum comfort, and WiFi is available on board. The Galaxy Diver II features an attractive dining room, bar and lounge, and open sundeck with Jacuzzi for relaxing while aboard - plus inflatable pangas, kayaks, and snorkeling equipment. A state-of-the-art swim & dive platform provides easy access to water activities.

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: January, February, March, April, May, June, August, November

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

November 25-December 5, 2024

January 20-30, 2025

February 17-27, 2025

March 17-27, 2025

April 28-May 8, 2025

May 12-22, 2025

June 9-19, 2025

November 24-December 4, 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 porterage

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)
- 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 yacht crew
- Travel Protection Program
- Personal expenses
- Galapagos Transit Control Card

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