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TRIP DETAILS

11 days ~ Ecuador

*Moderate hiking,
kayaking, swimming,
snorkeling*

*9 nights hotels,
1 night camping*

Minimum age 12

2008 DATES

*Feb 15–Feb 25
Mar 14–Mar 24
Apr 4–Apr 14
May 2–May 12
Jun 6–Jun 16
Jul 4–Jul 14
Aug 1–Aug 11
Nov 14–Nov 24
Dec 20–Dec 30
Dec 27, '08–Jan 6, '09*

LAND COST

*\$3,195 per person
(4-12 members)
\$670 internal airfare*

GALÁPAGOS MULTISPORT

Active Explorations of the Galápagos Islands

TRIP LEVEL
MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- *Kayak and snorkel among sea lions and marine iguanas*
- *Hike on an active volcano (whose last eruption was just two years ago!)*
- *A perfect alternative to our yacht-based adventures*

Revised February 21, 2008



GALÁPAGOS MULTISPORT

Active Explorations of the Galápagos Islands

If you've always wanted to see the Galápagos, but don't relish the prospect of sleeping aboard a boat, we've got the answer—a unique *land-based*, multisport perspective of the “Enchanted Isles!” Based at comfortable hotels and lodges (and one night camping), you'll set off each day to explore various facets of the islands not usually visited by tourist boats. Excursions include a hike up Sierra Negra volcano—a chance to see fumaroles and a huge caldera, plus panoramic views of the ocean beyond; spectacular snorkeling at a little-visited marine sanctuary off Isabela Island; kayaking along coastal waters; and many other activities, including hiking in the highlands and visiting a giant tortoise breeding center on San Cristóbal. Like our yacht-based adventures, it's an insightful journey into one of the world's most beguiling nature destinations.



ITINERARY

☞ This trip begins with a rendezvous at the airport in Quito, Ecuador, on Day 1.

DAY 1 ~ Arrive in Quito

Arrive in Quito. Our representative will meet you outside the customs and immigration area at the airport. He or she will answer questions, brief you on the immediate arrangements, and escort you to the elegant five-star Swissôtel.

Swissôtel

DAY 2 ~ Equator line & Pululahua Reserve

Today we'll visit the Equator Line outside of Quito (you can place one foot on each side of the line and claim to be in two hemispheres at once!). We'll then depart for a hike at Pululahua Reserve, an overgrown extinct volcano inhabited by a variety of endemic plants and protected wildlife (the variety of bird life is especially good, as there are several distinct habitats). Pululahua means “smoke of water” in the local language, and this volcano has been extinct for about 3,500 years (the bottom of the crater is actually farmed). Return to the hotel for dinner on your own and overnight.

B,L...Swissôtel

DAY 3 ~ To the Galápagos – turtle viewing & kayaking

Transfer to the airport and fly to Baltra in the Galápagos Islands. Here we'll board a vehicle and continue to the green highlands of Santa Cruz Island, which boasts all the various life forms present in the archipelago. We'll view giant tortoises in the wild, as well as explore lava tubes, sinkholes, and eroded craters. In the afternoon we'll travel to the main town of Puerto Ayora for our first kayaking excursion at Punta Estrada, a small beach that's also excellent for snorkeling, and Las Grietas, a nearby lagoon with crystal-clear water.

B,L, D...Angermeyer Waterfront Inn

DAY 4 ~ Boat tour to nearby island

Today we'll take a day tour to a nearby island, where we will see one of the largest populations of land iguanas in the Galápagos and a plethora of bird species, including swallow-tailed gulls, frigatebirds, Audubon shearwaters, red-billed tropicbirds, brown pelicans, and blue-footed and Nazca boobies. This is also a great place to snorkel with sea lions! We can also observe exuberant sea lion pups frolic and chase one another in the small tide pools among the rocks, while their mothers keep a watchful eye from above. Return to Puerto Ayora and visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, a scientific operation that conducts research and assists with projects in the Galápagos National Park and Marine Reserve. Of note is their turtle breeding and rearing project.

B,L,D...Angermeyer Waterfront Inn

DAY 5 ~ Isabela Island – Tortoise breeding center

We take a morning flight to Isabela Island, the largest in the Galápagos Archipelago. Transfer to our hotel in Puerto Villamil on the south coast of Isabela. Later in the day we'll visit the Giant Tortoise Breeding Center.

B,L,D...Hotel Albemarle (or similar)

DAY 6 ~ Hiking on Volcán Sierra Negra

Sierra Negra (4,890') last erupted just two years ago, and today we'll hike its slopes to see its 30-square-mile caldera, petrified lava formations, fumaroles, and enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and surrounding islands. Picnic lunch en route.

B,L,D...Hotel Albemarle (or similar)

DAY 7 ~ Snorkeling at Los Tuneles

Today we'll take a one-hour boat trip to the marine sanctuary of Los Tuneles, a marine sanctuary characterized by unique geologic formations (a series of lava flows have produced a number of arches and tunnels both under and above water). This is a spectacular site for snorkeling as the water is clear, calm, and shallow, and we're sure to spot a number of the animal species that have taken up residence in these magnificent formations. Return to Puerto Villamil for dinner and overnight.

B,L,D...Hotel Albemarle (or similar)

DAY 8 ~ San Cristóbal Island – kayaking & snorkeling

Fly to San Cristóbal Island. Upon arrival, we'll gear up for a kayaking trip down the coast to Tintoreas Beach where we can snorkel with sea lions. Return to town and drive to the highlands of San Cristóbal to our private camping site with amazing view of the coast and Kicker Rock.

B,L,D...Camp

DAY 9 ~ San Cristóbal Island – hiking & kayaking

Hike 2½ hours along secondary roads and past haciendas down to the beach, where we'll board a motor boat for Kicker Rock, a towering vertical rock formation off the coast (also called León Dormido—"sleeping lion"). This is a great place to snorkel with sharks, sea turtles, and young sea lions. We'll also explore nearby Cerro Brujo, a collapsed volcano that is home to blue footed boobies, brown pelicans, marine iguanas, Sally Lightfoot crabs, sea turtles, sea lions, and rays. Return to the main town of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, exploring the coast en route.

B,L,D...Hotel Miconia (or similar)

DAY 10 ~ Quito

Fly back to Quito and transfer to the Swissôtel. Farewell dinner with the group.

B,L,D...Swissôtel

DAY 11 ~ Depart

Transfer to the airport and depart on homeward-bound flight.

B...

Stay a Little Longer!

If you like to explore on your own, plan to arrive a day or two early, extend your trip after the tour, or add any of these great extensions to make your own dream Galápagos trip! Call us for the details, including prices.

Hacienda Zuleta & Otavalo. On a custom tour with a private guide, you'll visit the Andean villages of the Otavalo Indians, widely esteemed for their weavings and handicrafts, and the world-famous market, where stalls are piled high with colorful ponchos, woolen goods, and Indian jewelry. Scenery along the way includes a landscape of snowcapped volcanoes and serene mountain lakes. You'll stay at Hacienda Zuleta, an authentic and delightful country inn/working ranch, rated as one of the world's "Top Ten Finds" by *Outside* magazine. Here you'll have options to hike, horseback ride, mountain bike, visit a condor rehabilitation project on Zuleta's 4,000 acres, and be treated to Zuleta's hospitality and fresh Ecuadorian cuisine as a true guest of the owner. *2 or 3 days.*

Sacha Lodge. A visit to the upper Amazon Basin at Sacha Lodge is a perfect complement to your Galápagos adventure. Canoe down jungle rivers and hike forest paths with an expert naturalist/guide and an indigenous guide, observing the unique flora and fauna of the Amazon rain forest. Our base is a charming and comfortable lodge located on a beautiful jungle lagoon near the Napo River in one of the most ecologically rich areas in the world. Sacha features a 900-foot-long canopy walkway, with great views of wildlife, the canopy, and the foothills of the Andes, while the lodge's 135-foot birding tower around a huge kapok tree affords great views over the jungle treetops and fantastic sightings of canopy activity. Sacha is renowned for its service and great food, and is our favorite jungle lodge in Ecuador! *4 or 5 days.*

Cuzco & Machu Picchu, Peru. Step into the past and see the sights of Cuzco, Peru, including the nearby Inca ruins of Puka Pukara, Kenko, Tambo Machay, and the famous fortress of Sacsayhuaman, and enjoy an excursion to the World Heritage Site of Machu Picchu by train (an overnight at Machu Picchu is included). This is a fantastic complement to Galápagos with a visit to two World Heritage Sites—Machu Picchu and Galápagos! An additional night in Lima is required for the post-trip experience due to flight schedules between Quito and Lima. *4 or 5 days.*

LAND COST

\$3,195 per person (4-12 members)

\$670 internal airfare (Quito/Baltra/Isabela/San Cristóbal/Quito—subject to change. Mountain Travel Sobek will book and issue these tickets for you.)

Rates quoted are per person, based on sharing double accommodations.

Single Supplement—\$450 for “requested” singles; \$250 for “forced” singles. If you prefer single accommodations, you must pay the Single Supplement Fee. If you’re traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we’ll try our best to find you a roommate. If that’s not possible, we will only charge you \$250.

What’s Included

- ◆ expert leadership
- ◆ accommodations in hotels or inns in cities and villages
- ◆ all arrangements in the field, including camp meals, cook staffs, group gear and equipment
- ◆ meals as noted (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- ◆ flights within Ecuador (see separate cost above)
- ◆ airport transfers
- ◆ sightseeing as noted in the itinerary
- ◆ ground transportation
- ◆ basic medical and evacuation insurance

What’s Not

International airfare; meals not noted in itinerary; insurance other than basic medical and evacuation insurance as noted above (we strongly recommend you purchase the supplementary trip insurance offered by Mountain Travel Sobek, which includes trip cancellation insurance); optional tipping to leader, guides and local staff; Galápagos National Park fee (\$100 per person); airport taxes;); international airport departure tax in Quito (\$40.80 per person—subject to change); transit control card (Tarjeta de Control de Tránsito)—\$10; excess baggage charges; and items of a personal nature (sodas, alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

Air Travel

Airfare is not included in the land cost of our trips. For air reservations, we recommend you contact the airlines directly, either by phone or the Internet. In addition, many travelers elect to use their “frequent flyer” miles when traveling with us. **But please check with our staff before purchasing or obtaining your tickets.** We need to verify your arrival and departure schedule and ensure we have enough participants to operate the trip.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT

Expert Leadership

Expert leadership is the key to an exciting, unforgettable experience. Our trips feature gifted leaders for whom leading trips is a true vocation. Besides showing you wonders you’d never find on your own, they make sure everything runs smoothly and safely without a hitch. They are knowledgeable about all aspects of your trip, and take great pleasure in sharing their insights with you. More than just guides, they positively elevate your experience by

being teachers, companions, and the best of friends. You'll be in good hands with them every step of the way. Leader assignments will be confirmed in the Final Bulletin sent to you three weeks prior to departure.

Activity Level

Mountain Travel Sobek trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active and have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. This trip is moderate in nature, and is recommended for people in average to excellent physical condition. There are a few moderate day, and there will also be opportunities for snorkeling. We recommend you bring your own mask and snorkel to ensure a good fit and for sanitary reasons. Wetsuits (2-4 mm thickness) are definitely recommended for the cool season (April-October) when water temperatures range from 60-68°; some people prefer to wear a "skin" or 1-2 mm wetsuit in the warm season (November-March) when water temperatures range from 68-75°, as cool waters flow through the archipelago throughout the year. We will also enjoy a few sea kayaking excursions, and a degree of upper body strength is recommended to paddle the kayaks.

THE NEXT STEP

Ready to go? Signing up is easy!

Just call us at 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) and reserve your spot! You can also book a reservation online at our website (www.mtsobek.com). If you prefer to use a travel agent, he or she can book your trip at no extra cost and provide other helpful assistance.

Then Leave the Rest to Us

Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including clothing recommendations, suggested reading lists, up-to-date health advice prepared by our consulting physician (an expert in wilderness medicine), and other details.

Why Mountain Travel Sobek is Your First Choice for Adventure

Mountain Travel Sobek is the pioneer in active adventure travel. No other adventure travel company can lay claim to that title. We were the first to take Americans trekking in Nepal, raft the wild rivers of Africa, and open up many previously inaccessible corners of the world to curious travelers. We set the standard for adventure travel and have a strong reputation for excellence that we do everything we can to maintain. Since we are the leading adventure company, we have a lot to live up to, so we make sure we provide safe, quality trips and the best customer service to our passengers.

References

Don't take our word for how great our trips are. We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

Questions?

Feel free to call us at 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) if you still have any questions or concerns. We're here to help you. You can also check out our website at www.mtsobek.com.

Note on Itinerary

Although we will do our best to adhere to the itinerary schedule as listed, it is subject to change. Please read the Limitation of Liability and Booking Conditions in the four-page Participant Information Form. You can find all this

information on our website at www.mtsobek.com/faq and the form itself at www.mtsobek.com/pdf/participant_info.pdf.

Terms & Conditions

Once you have made a deposit for a trip, you agree to be bound by all our terms and conditions including the Limitation of Liability Clause. The full Terms and Conditions can be found at www.mtsobek.com/faq/#liability or call 1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235) for a copy. These are partial conditions. Your participation is contingent on your signature on the full list of terms specified in the four-page Participant Information Form (www.mtsobek.com/pdf/participant_info.pdf). Any dispute concerning, relating or referring to the Terms and Conditions, to any literature concerning this trip, or the trip itself, shall be resolved exclusively by binding arbitration in San Francisco, California, according to the then existing commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association. Such proceedings will be governed by substantive California law (but not procedural law) without regard to the California Arbitration Act.

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