



*Dream, Discover, Live Ecuador*

LUXURY CULTURAL PACIFIC COAST OF ECUADOR  
(12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS)



## DAY 1

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### ARRIVAL IN QUITO

After arriving at the airport, our helpful guide will meet you, plus he will serve as a translator, and assist with the private transfer to your hotel.

Situated in a circle of Andean peaks, Quito is the world's second-highest capital, with arguably one of the finest settings in the world. Originally settled by the Quitu tribe in the first millennium, Quito was an important part of the Inca Empire, before being destroyed and re-founded by the Spanish conquistador Sebastián de Benalcázar in 1534.

The colonial center – declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1978 – is one of the largest and best-preserved in Latin America. It is home to excellent museums, churches, and art galleries.

Overnight at Illa Experience Hotel or Similar.

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## DAY 2

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### **HISTORICAL CENTER - THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLD LATITUDE 0 0' 0"**

Early in the morning and right after breakfast, you and our local guide start the travel tour at the downtown area, well known as Quito Colonial. You start your journey along the “churches’ trail” by visiting first the cathedral. In the cathedral, you learn about its history and the guide explains the internal design of the cathedral such as the “mudejar ´s” influence on its first stage, the area with 3 longitudinal wings, and a small transversal wing behind the choir.

After finishing the round in the cathedral, we have a short walk to the church La Compania along with the guide’s expertise. The guide will enlighten you with history and fun facts about every place, in this case, La Compania. Its decoration is based on muslin features and the altars are covered by gold leaf along with faces and birds carved. It is considered an architectonic jewel in the American baroque style. It also has a religious value, because the rest of Saint Marianita of Jesus is located there, and according to some, she is the protector of the city.

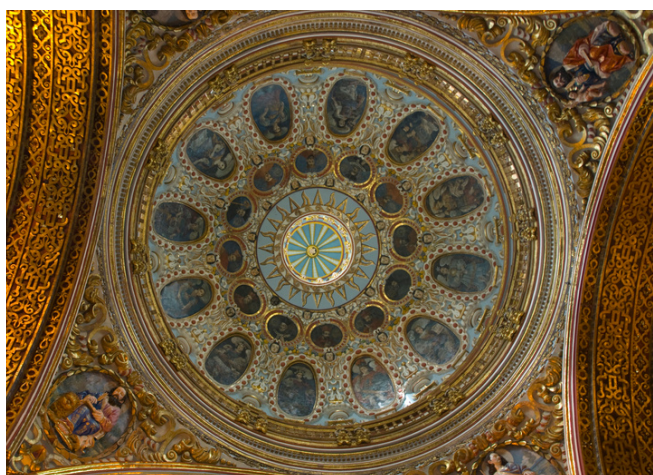
Afterward, we visit San Francisco, which is famous for the Cantuña story. San Francisco is well known due to its legends and stories, which make the place culturally wealthy. At the San Francisco church, there is a local handcraft store called Tianguetz, where you can find a variety of items from the Ecuadorian culture. Here, you can buy postcards, books, Ecuadorian music, natural products, and even get a coffee with Humitas (which is a sweet corn tamale) offered at the local Café Cantuña located at the Plaza San Francisco.

Around midday, you head to “Mitad del Mundo”, a monument at the equator line that passes through our country. You may choose to either visit the Ethnographic or the Inti Ñan Museums, both located near the monument. Along the way, our guide will recommend you some places to have a light lunch.

After the tour, you will return to Illa Experience Hotel to have dinner at Inés Restaurant; which is an oasis in the heart of Quito, carefully made and thought for fine dining experiences. His chef Juan Carlos trained in the world's top Michelin restaurants will take you on a journey of culinary flavors and textures.

Overnight at Illa Experience Hotel or Similar

B / - / D





## DAY 3 & 4

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### DAY 3: QUITO - MANTA

Today you will be met by your guide and taken to Quito airport in time for your flight to Manta.

Upon arrival to Manta, Kontiki shuttle will take you to Manta Yacht Club, from where we will board M/Y Kontiki Wayra for check-in and a welcome cocktail. Our concierge will introduce you to our crew members, go over the yacht areas and assign the staterooms that will become home for the next 5 days. In the evening, we will enjoy a welcome dinner hosted by our executive chef onboard.

Overnight sailing to Isla de la Plata.

B/-/D

### DAY 4: ISLA DE LA PLATA - PUERTO LOPEZ

After breakfast, we will start our activities with a wet landing in Isla de la Plata, which belongs to Machalilla National Park. Also known as Small Galapagos, Isla de la Plata, holds natural treasures similar to those of Galapagos. A walk through its trails will take us to nesting areas of Blue Footed Boobies, Masked Boobies and Frigates. After our land exploration, we will go back to the yacht for lunch. In the afternoon we will do a guided underwater snorkeling expedition to learn about the marine ecosystem in the island. We will be able to see a variety of marine species including giant stingrays, whale sharks, and during mating season we will be able to see humpback whales in the distance. Scuba diving is available by request at the time of booking. Between the months of June and November, our travelers will be able to see large groups of humpback whales as we sail along the coast. In the afternoon we will enjoy a Teppanyaki sunset party with the freshest seafood of the area and live music onboard.

Overnight sailing to Puerto López.

B / L / D





## DAY 5 & 6



### **DAY 5: PUERTO LOPEZ - BAHIA DE CARAQUEZ**

What better way to start the day than alfresco breakfast? After, we will disembark in the harbor of Puerto Lopez where a bus will take us to Agua Blanca. This small community houses archeological pieces from one of the oldest civilizations in South America, the Manteño Culture, which dates back to the year 1500 a.C. Temples, country houses, typical ancient squares and other archeological remains are some of the treasures in Agua Blanca. A short walk through its forest will show us butterflies, hummingbirds and local trees such as the ceibos. At the end of the walk, we can swim in a natural sulfurous lagoon believed to have wellness properties. Return to the yacht for lunch. In the afternoon we will visit Los Frailes beach, a crescent shaped beach believed to be one of the most beautiful in the country with white sand, warm waters and a great spot to snorkel, paddleboard, kayak or to swim in our beach club which includes an oceanic pool, a water slide, SeaBobs, etc. We will go back to the yacht to enjoy a beautiful sunset and dinner in the main deck.

Overnight sailing to Bahía de Caráquez

B/L/D

### **DAY 6: BAHIA DE CARAQUEZ - SAN MATEO**

We start day 4 with breakfast at the gourmet salon, before departing aboard our dinghies to the port of San Vicente, where a bus will take us to a traditional farm in the community of San Miguel de Sarampión. This orchard farm grows some of the Cocoa heritage trees which are over 120 years old and still in production. These trees belong to the “Arriba Nacional” family and as we walk through the farm we will learn about the growth, harvest, fermentation and drying of the cocoa beans that later on will yield the finest chocolate in the world. Afterwards, we will visit Iche in San Vicente, a gastronomic project led by Fuegos Foundation to educate local chefs in creating ‘haute cuisine’ using ancestral techniques of food preparation. A gastronomic farm to table experience hosted by two local chefs that will reveal a mix of history, tradition and the unique flavors of coastal cuisine. In the afternoon, we will get back to the yacht to relax at the sundeck and later on in the evening guests will enjoy a chocolate tasting and dinner.

Overnight sailing to San Mateo, Manta

B / L / D

## DAY 7 & 8

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### DAY 7: SAN MATEO - VALDIVIA

After breakfast onboard, we will disembark in the harbor of San Mateo where a bus will take us to the Refuge of Coastal Marine Wildlife Pacoche. This visit is divided in two. Our first is to the Tropical forest where we will hike through one of its trails to take a look at the community of howling monkeys who live in the middle of its exuberant vegetation.

The second visit takes place in the Reserve Lighthouse, where a short walk will take us through several lookout spots from which we will enjoy the amazing view to the coastal shoreline and neighboring beaches. San Lorenzo beach, next to the lighthouse is one of the largest nesting spots for marine turtles in Ecuador, if we are lucky, we will get to see baby turtles on their way to the ocean.

Afterwards, we will enjoy gastronomic experience in San Lorenzo. In the afternoon we will return to the yacht and enjoy some relaxing time onboard.

Overnight sailing to Valdivia

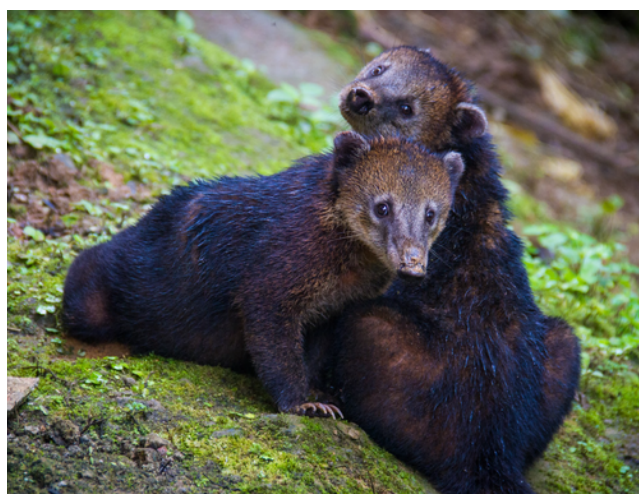
B/L/D

### DAY 8: VALDIVIA / AYANGUE - SALINAS

You will have breakfast on board and will disembark in the community of Valdivia. A millenary culture that maintains intact its pottery tradition in the hands of the Orrala Family. We will learn about the techniques and materials used in making ancestral pieces as we make our own in a beautiful "experience in clay".

Afterwards, we will enjoy lunch onboard our yacht. In the afternoon we have free time to enjoy a snorkeling expedition in Ayangué, have fun in the ocean or simply relax in the facilities on board

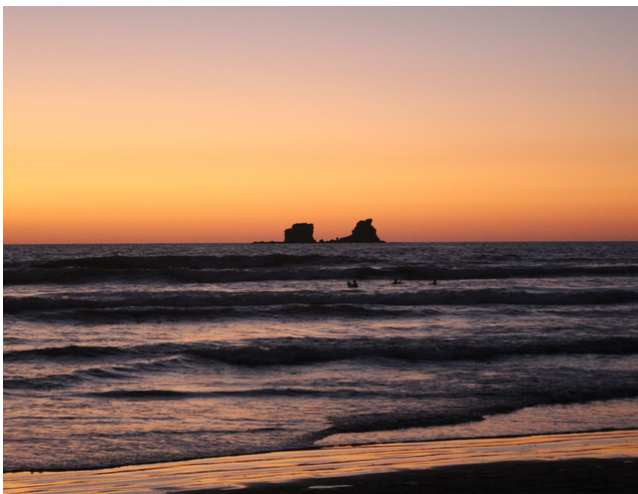
B / L / D







## DAY 9 & 10



### DAY 9: SALINAS - SAN MATEO

After al fresco breakfast we will visit the popular coastal town of Salinas. Salinas is a touristic hotspot and it is located in the second westernmost point of South America. From December to April, Salinas relaxed beach lifestyle is replaced by a vibrant touristic center with a seasonal offering of restaurants, clubs and events.

La Chocolatera is a natural breakwater where the ocean displays its strenght while mercilessly hitting its rocks. It is a beautiful location that amazes as well as inspires awe from its visitors.

Five minutes away from Salinas is La Lobería, a natural reserve where clear water and white sand house a small community of sea lions. You can discover this reserve with a hike along its trails, snorkeling or kayaking. This is also a hot spot for sufing along the sea lions.

Cocktail in the afternoon and farewll dinner.

B/L/D

### DAY 10 : SAN MATEO / PILE - MANTA

We will enjoy our final breakfast and will depart for our last adventure in the community of Pile.

The small town of Pile is known for the community artisan weavers responsible for making the finest and most expensive Toquilla straw hats in the world. We will be able to visit the weaver´s homes and see firsthand how the hats are made. Incorrectly knows as Panama Hats, the Toquilla Straw Hat was designated in 2012 as UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of the World.

Transfer to Manta and the going to Hacienda La Danesa.

B / L / D

## DAY 11

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### FD HACIENDA LA DANESA

On this day after enjoyin a traditional Breakfast from the Pacific countryside of Ecuador you will be able to feel, see, and share the traditions of the “montubio” (coastal cowboy) workers. You will see our plantations (banana, cacao, balsa, and others) as well as the coexistence with the abundant wildlife, which includes monkeys, wild cats, bears, crocodiles and others.

A great one day excursion for those travelers with limited time seeking to explore the Ecuadorian coastal countryside. Guests will learn about cacao and chocolate, go fat-tire biking, tubing in a lazy river surrounded by tropical flowers, trees and birds.

After a short walk to the cacao plantation for an introduction to the chocolate industry, we will go back to the farm house and go through the whole process and start tempering the chocolate! Once you have tempered the chocolate, each guest will start crafting his own chocolate bars or barks before making chocolate Ganache (the filling) from scratch!

We will also take some time to tell you more about Chocolate, the theory behind making the best Ecuadorian chocolates and what fair trade cocoa beans mean to us and how our chocolate start up is contributing to the local economy. While the chocolate bars are cooling in the fridge and not to waste any chocolate, we will end the workshop by making real Ecuadorian hot or cold chocolate, an amazing drink that really tastes like pure liquid dark chocolate heaven!.

You can either eat your own chocolates on the spot or take them home to friends and family!

Overnight at La Danesa

B / - / -





## DAY 12

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### **GUAYAQUIL - TRANSFER OUT**

After enjoying a wonderful breakfast, depending the time you will be taken to the Airport for your International connection.

B / - / -



## WHAT IS INCLUDED DURING THE TRIP?

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- ✓ Accommodation in double room
- ✓ Indicated Meals  
B=Breakfast / L=Lunch / D=Dinner
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Bilingual naturalist & guide
- ✓ Scheduled Visits
- ✓ Air Ticket (Quito - Manta)



## WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED?

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- ✗ Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages
- ✗ Personal expenses
- ✗ Tips
- ✗ Meals not described in the program