



3 DAYS / 2 NIGHTS PROGRAM

DAY 1:



After a 30-minute flight from Quito to Manta you will be met by one of our qualified staff members and transferred by car to **Machalilla National Park** (a 3 hour drive). On the road, we will stop to visit the legendary Panama hat makers of **Montecristi**, where you will learn about the fascinating history and art of this notable coast town weaving tradition. We continue to Machalilla National Park through roads that will offer splendid views of coastal Manabí, one of Ecuador's largest and most spirited provinces.

Upon your arrival at Mantaraya Lodge, a superb lunch will be waiting. After a deserving rest, our excursion leader will bring you to the small fishing village of Salango. This small town, located south of Puerto Lopez, has an interesting archaeological museum with samples collected at different sites inside and out of Machalilla National Park. In addition, the museum exhibits, in chronological order, the archeological ceramic vestiges of cultures that have inhabited coastal Ecuador in the last 5,000 years ago. The community at Salango is involved in a project called the "**parcela marina**", which is a shallow sea located between Salango Hill and Salango Islet, where you can snorkel, scuba dive, and practice sport fishing. After dinner, our excursion leader will offer a briefing on the activities that will take place the next day.

DAY 2:



We swap the mainland activities at Machalilla to explore the wonders at sea, as we head to Isla de la Plata. Isla de la Plata is an outstanding wildlife sanctuary for seabirds and other marine life. Our sea adventure begins at Puerto Lopez's harbor where we embark on Mantaraya's private yacht. Navigation to the island may last about one and half hours. There are several activities you can complete during this full day tour.



You can hike along trails on the island with our naturalist guide to learn more about the natural, geological and cultural history of Isla de La Plata. You can decide to take either the long or short trail. There is also plenty of time to go snorkeling and observe an interesting marine ecosystem around Drake's Bay. If you just want to swim and relax on the beach, you will have the opportunity to do so as well. A box lunch and water is offered during the excursion. In the afternoon, our boat will take us back to Puerto Lopez where our private van will be waiting to transfer us back to Mantaraya Lodge. After dinner, our excursion leader will offer a briefing on the activities for the next day.

** If you are interested in scuba diving, please contact your booking agent in advance, so we can make the necessary arrangements. Isla de la Plata has excellent locations for divers where you may see multicolored fish, rocky coral reefs, rays, and occasionally sharks. (This is an optional activity that is not included in the cost of the program. Please contact your travel agent to book this activity in advance. You will need to demonstrate your diving experience by presenting your PADI license.*

DAY 3:



This last day offers you the chance to visit the tropical forest, also known as cloudforest. On one trip, you may get a chance to see over 20 different bird species, learn about the local flora, and understand why this ecosystem is different from the others you have already visited. Venture into true tropical jungles along the Equator.

Lunch will be ready for you at the lodge. In the afternoon, you will have some time to pack and get ready to leave Machalilla National Park. The trip to Manta or Portoviejo Airport takes approximately 2 hours by car. On your arrival to the airport, our staff will take care of your ticket and boarding pass for your return to Quito.

PLEASE NOTE:

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described above, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or appropriate to make alterations. You will be notified of any changes on a daily basis.

Our staff will always be offering information about the area, the weather conditions, navigation, native cultures, plants, and probabilities to encounter wildlife through lectures, briefings, recaps and videos.

Diving, fishing, horse-back riding, and biking are offered at an additional cost.