



PLACES OF INTEREST

a death sentence for the murder of a Spanish Colonial governor. Francisco Pizarro would be assassinated by rebellious conquistadors and Spain would rule much of South America for nearly 300 years. Despite being captured, tortured and ultimately killed the Inca commander Ruminahui would never divulge to the Spanish the whereabouts of King Atahualpa's ransom. Over 700 tons of finely worked Inca gold, known as the Treasure of the Llanganatis Mountains, remains hidden to this day.

PLACES OF INTEREST

- 1** The **Archaeological Museum** has an interesting collection of artifacts and pottery that date to the Pre-Colombian era.
- 2** **Playa Murciélago** is along Manta's expanded Malecon (waterfront). This is a very nice area to stroll and relax. There are markets that sell locally made crafts as well as numerous bars and restaurants that offer fresh seafood dishes.
- 3** The **Tagua Factory** is place where visitors can watch the interesting process whereby workers take the ivory-looking nuts of the tagua palm and craft them into buttons and small decorative carv-

ings.

4 **Tarqui** is a Manta beach. It has a lively fish market and boatyard where wooden boats are still built by hand in the traditional way.

Beyond Manta

5 **Montecristi** is a former colonial town that has retained some of its interesting architecture. The town is best known for the production of the world famous and hand woven Panama Hats. The hats have been much sought after for generations. The town also has many craft markets with beautiful ceramics.

6 **La Pila** is a small town filled with artisans who are famous for the quality of their reproductions of Pre-Colombian artifacts.

7 **Machalilla National Park** is a two hour drive along the beautiful Pacific coast of Ecuador. Established in the late 70s, the park preserves and protects rare and endangered plant life as well as providing a habitat to over 200 species of birds. The park has one of the most beautiful beaches in the country.

8 **Agua Blanca** has an Archeological museum that displays artifacts discovered in dig-sites within the park that date to the earliest inhabitants discovered in all of South America.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Manta and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Brochure, Shore Excursion TV Channel or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: Street merchants will often bargain. Approximately 25% below the initial asking price is about right. It is considered rude to bargain with a vendor if you are not truly interested in making a purchase.

Tipping: If a service charge is not included, 10% is a good guideline.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES We recommend, for health reasons, guests refrain from eating food offered by street vendors. With that said, coastal Ecuador is famous for the quality of its sea food. Some popular dishes include: Seviche de Camarones, shrimp marinated in a mixture of onion, tomato, salt and pepper and orange juice. It is often served with a side of maiz tostada...toasted corn and fried plantain. Chupe de Corvina y Camarones is a fish stew that combines stripped bass, shrimp, onions, potatoes and milk. Llapingachos are potato cakes covered with a rich peanut sauce. They might be difficult to find served on the coast. Aguado De Gallina is a delicious chicken and rice soup served with slices of fresh avocado.

Bottled water is highly recommended. Order your drinks without ice (sin hielo). Ecuador has many different and exotic kinds of fruit. Some of the juices are exceptionally refreshing.

SHOPPING FACILITIES The city's best mall is the Paseo Shopping Center located on Avenida 4 de Noviembre. Be aware that many street vendors can be extremely persistent.

LOCAL CURRENCY The national currency is the US dollar. ATMs are limited. Small denomination dollar bills are easiest to use. Master Card and Visa are occasionally accepted.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES The Post Office is located above the Banco del Pichincha.

Dial the following access numbers to use a personal calling card:

AT&T: 1.800.225.528

MCI: 1.800.999.170

TOURIST INFORMATION Tourist Information Center (Ministerio de Turismo) is located at Pasaje José María Egas, Avenida 3 and Calle 11.

TRANSPORTATION Taxis are generally available near the pier.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Yes - Si

No - No

Good Day - Buenos Dias

Good Bye - Adios

Thank-you - Gracias

You're welcome - De Nada