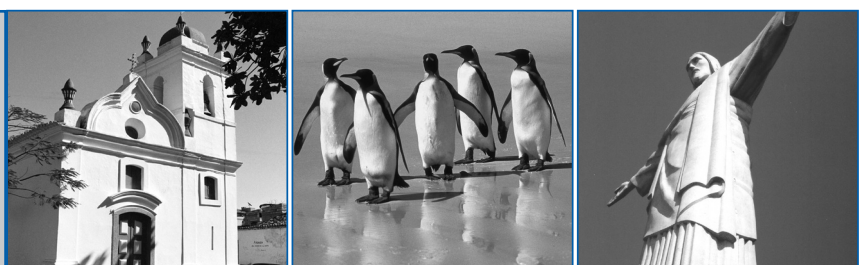


NOTES

Lined area for notes.



PORT EXPLORER

Manta ECUADOR

GENERAL INFORMATION The present-day city of Manta is located on the site of a trading village that dates far back to the time of the Manta and Inca Indians of the Pre-Colombian era. Today, with a population around 250,000 in a country of less than 13 million, Manta is one of the most important cities in Ecuador. Located on the Pacific coast just south of the equator, the city is home to one of the country’s largest ports and many of the most important industries.

The primary industry of Manta revolves around commercial tuna fishing. The large fishing fleet provides the catch for processing factories that export the product around the world. Ships of foreign navies, including the United States, often come into Manta. There is also a small but extremely important air force base in Manta where, the governments of Ecuador and the United States cooperate in waging the war against international drug cartels and narco-terrorists.

Tourism contributes greatly to the city’s economy as more cruise ships call at the port. The local beaches combined with the steady sea breeze make the surrounding area well-liked among surfers. Numerous operators provide visitors the opportunity to enjoy many water sports with deep-sea fishing among the most popular.

As much fun as the available water sports may be in and around Manta, it is the incredible arts and crafts that represent the rich traditions and amazing talents of Ecuadorian artists. This is an ancient country with a wealth of history and they are proud to share it with all who come to visit.

HISTORY He told her stories of great cities filled with gold, silver and precious stones. He did not tell her that he had already made a pact with a Roman Catholic priest and a fellow conquistador to equally divide future spoils among themselves. With a stroke of her pen Queen Isabel signed the “Capitulación de Toledo” (permission to invade Peru) Now Francisco Pizarro had what he wanted...a Royal License and blessing to plunder and destroy an entire South American civilization.

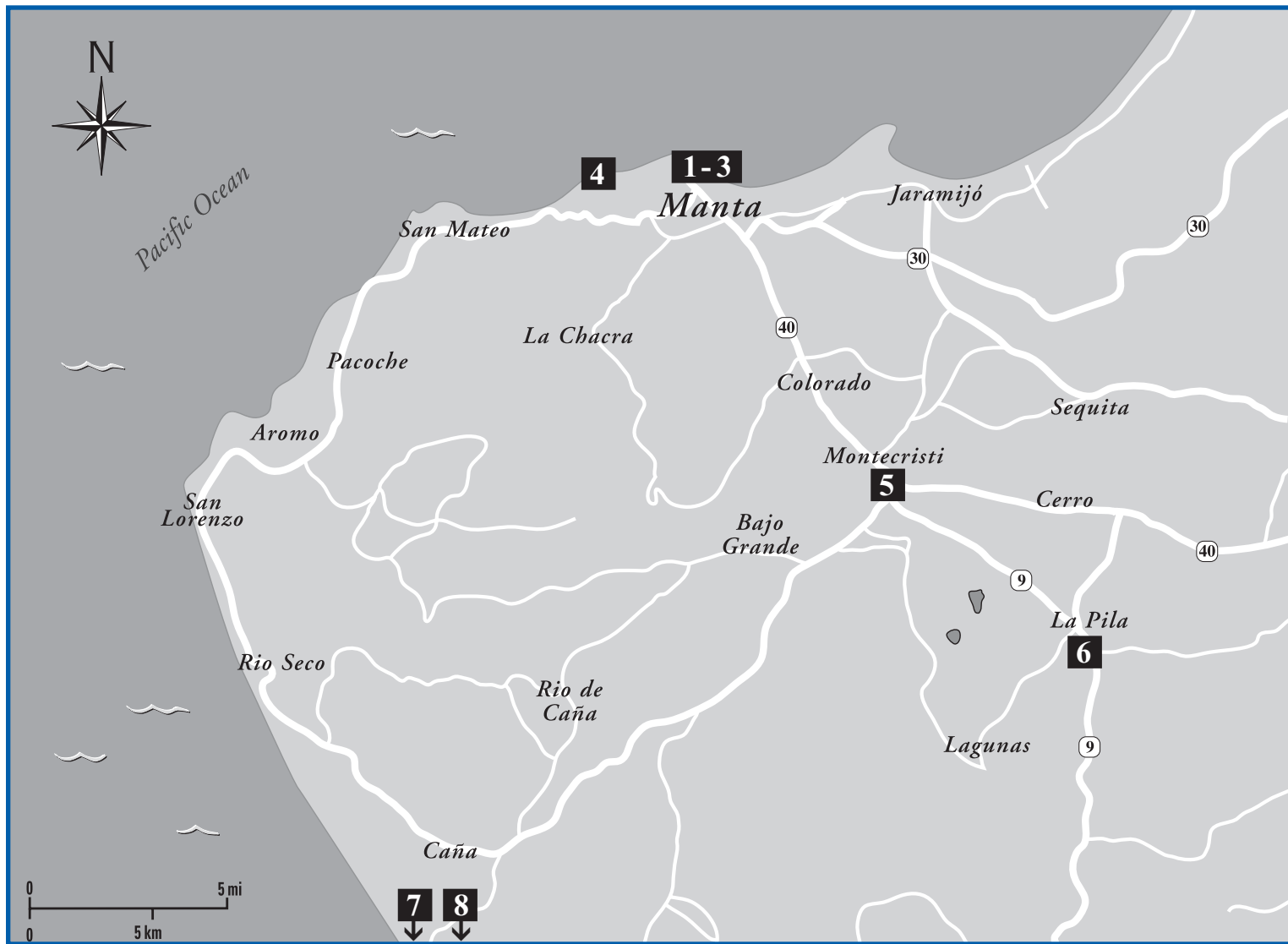
The mighty Inca Empire ruled throughout Peru and Ecuador when the Spanish arrived. In the early 1500s Francisco Pizarro sailed down the Pacific coast of Ecuador. The local tribes confirmed to him the stories of great cities and vast amounts of gold ... in Peru. Consequently Pizarro bypassed Ecuador, for the moment, due to its seeming lack of the precious metal. Pizarro and a small handful of conquistadors soon crushed the Incas and captured and executed their king, Atahualpa. At that very moment and unknown to Pizarro, an Inca commander named Ruminahui was rushing south from Ecuador with an incredible ransom of 700 tons of gold to exchange for the life of Atahualpa. When he heard of the murder of his king he quickly returned to Ecuador and his Inca city of Quito...the ransom unpaid. Pizarro ordered his lieutenant, Sebastian de Benalcázar, to capture Ruminahui, take the gold and conquer Ecuador.

Aware of the unspeakable Spanish atrocities taking place in Peru, as de Benalcázar advanced Ruminahui hid the treasure, killed the Sun Temple virgins to keep them from the ravages of the Spanish and sent the remainder of his people far into the Sierra Mountains. He and his

continued over



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History continued

Inca warriors then met Benalcázar in battle but were defeated. Eventually de Benalcázar would receive 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.

POINTS 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 carvings.

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: 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.

Local drink: 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 & 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

Sprint: 1.800.999.171

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 & PHRASES

Yes - Si

No - No

Good Day - Buenos Dias

Good Bye - Adios

Thank-you - Gracias

You're welcome - De Nada