

Puerto Lopez and Guayaquil, Ecuador



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

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Tour Summary

Puerto Lopez, on the coast of Ecuador in Manabi Province, is an undiscovered gem for new and experienced eco-tourists. Start your vacation in busy Guayaquil to get an idea of the country's fascinating history, and then take a short bus ride to the coast.

There, you'll discover deserted beaches, tropical, sub-tropical, and humid eco-systems, unmatched wildlife, and a culture that practically begs you to slow down and see what the natural world has to offer.

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Introduction: Guayaquil & the Historical Park





Most eco-visitors to Ecuador head straight for the Galapagos, which is quite an experience. But Puerto Lopez and its surrounding coastal areas offer an unspoiled look at several amazing ecosystems in one small location. This world is just waiting for the first-time South American traveler and the die-hard eco-adventurer alike.



Ecuador's official currency is the U.S. dollar. Prices are inexpensive and easily comparable to what you might spend in the U.S. To begin your journey to Puerto Lopez and Ecuador's exhilarating coastline, you'll fly into Guayaquil, the commercial capital of the country.



Be aware that you're venturing to the equator, and the summer months can be extremely hot. Bring along plenty of bottled water, sunscreen, and a wide hat to shield yourself at most times of the day.



If you've got some extra time for your vacation, plan to spend two days in Guayaquil. Although it is a commercial capital and exhibits the imposing spread of an urban South American city, the downtown areas are fast becoming tourist destinations - and can give you a spectacular look at Ecuador's culture and history.



The best place to start is the Parque Histórico, or the Historical Park, in the La Puntilla neighborhood. The park is situated in a natural mangrove swamp and boasts three separate areas of interest: animals, history, and agriculture. There are about 30 species of animals living in the park, from white-tailed deer to crocodiles, all living in

their natural habitats. You can get a guide who speaks English, or, if you're willing to give your Spanish a workout, take one of the native speakers. They are knowledgeable and have a great desire to communicate in both languages. The entrance fee for the park is characteristically inexpensive; around \$5, and less for children.

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