

Ports & Excursions



Manta, Ecuador

Manta is your gateway to Ecuador and its capital, Quito. Founded in 1534, Quito is one of the best-preserved cities in South America, boasting superb 16th- and 17th-century Baroque architecture including Convents and Churches which include the first major religious structure built in the New World. In 1978, Quito and Krakow, Poland were the first World Heritage Sites to be designated by UNESCO.

Ecuador possesses one of the world's most varied terrains. To the west of Manta lie the Galapagos Islands. To the east rises the great rampart of the Andes.

Note: Manta offers little in the way of tourist infrastructure. Transportation and tour guides are imported to the area. Despite the sometimes hot and humid conditions there is no guarantee of air-conditioned vehicles..

Points of Interest

1 Quito

Ecuador's well-preserved capital and one of the world's first UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Quito boasts a wealth of South American history as well as phenomenal views of the Andes.

2 Independence Square

Surrounded by historic buildings, including palaces, cathedrals and hotels, this pristine landscaped square has been the center of Quito since the early 17th century.

3 Church of Santo Domingo

With elaborate murals adorning its walls, this 17th-century church is perhaps most treasured for a sculpture of the Virgin Mary that was given to the church by Charles V of Spain.

4 Artisan Market

Where several handicrafts are found

5 Montecristi

Birthplace of the popular Panama hat, this small town is nestled at the base of Montecristi Hill, here you will have the chance to find the handicrafts of local artisans

6 Ivory Nut Factory

Discover the art of cultivating and carving ivory-like tropical palm nuts called taguera into intricate souvenirs and buttons.

7 Pacoche Wildlife Refuge

Stretching out over 27 acres within the Pacoche Forest, the reserve is home to a large variety of flora and fauna including howler monkeys, hummingbirds, orchids and ornamental plants.

8 Archaeological Museum

The Museum features pre-Columbian artifacts. The archaeological permanent exposition shows components that chronologically illustrates the cultural background of the region.

Special Child Pricing Available!

Children age 12 and younger, savings up to 50%. For actual pricing information, click on tour title or Reserve button.

Sightseeing & City Tours



Montecristi & Archaeological Museum MEC-200 | Manta, Ecuador | Group Size: 40

You will visit:

5 8



4 hours

from \$69.95 (AUD)

Take in the sights of Montecristi, a quaint colonial seaport where the local bank hosts a compact museum complete with quality artifacts and colorful dioramas. Then top off your moderate half-day tour with the purchase of a stylish and authentic Panama hat hand-woven in the country of its origin.



Ivory Nut Factory & Montecristi MEC-210 | Manta, Ecuador | Group Size: 40

You will visit:

5 6



4 hours

from \$69.95 (AUD)

Visit the nearby village of Montecristi, famed as the birthplace of the Panama hat - and for its fine wicker ware and craftwork. Visit a local factory and view artisans carving figurines and jewelry from taguera, an ivory-like palm nut. Enjoy free time to browse the Central Plaza for souvenirs.

Special Interests



Montecristi & Archaeological Museum (Guided in German) MEC-203 | Manta, Ecuador | Group Size: 40

You will visit:

5 8



4 hours

from \$79.95 (AUD)

Take in the sights of Montecristi, a quaint colonial seaport where the local bank hosts a compact museum complete with quality artifacts and colorful dioramas. Then top off your moderate half-day tour with the purchase of a stylish and authentic Panama hat hand-woven in the country of its origin.

Nature & Wildlife



Trails & Crafts of the Pacoche Wildlife Refuge MEC-300 | Manta, Ecuador

You will visit:

7



4 hours

from \$149.95 (AUD)

Put on your walking shoes and get ready to hike. The Pacoche Wildlife Refuge is not only well known for howler monkeys, and over 250 species of birds but handicrafts. Watch artisans weave Panama hats and learn how the vegetable ivory nut is carved from carefully nurtured trees.