



**THE SPANISH PROGRAM GIVES YOU THE
OPPORTUNITY TO IMMERSE
YOURSELF IN ECUADORIAN CULTURE
AND WILDLIFE**



TFE SPANISH HANDBOOK PROGRAM





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A special recognition to: my husband Fernando Félix...

for helping me with some important information.

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INTRODUCTION

Greetings!

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Spanish Immersion Program with us at Time for English



School (**TFE**)! We are so excited to share this incredible experience and support you in your linguistic and cross-cultural growth! In the following pages, we have collected all the information we would like you to have as you prepare for your time in Guayaquil, Ecuador. If there is anything further you would like to know before you leave, please feel free to ask!

Obviously, we will try to provide you with every detail you need to know before you leave in the following pages, so please just remember that part of the wonderment of traveling abroad is the unknown and the things that are personally and culturally enriching to you – which may be different for everyone. What we have found is that managing your expectations and keeping an open mind is a sure way to enjoy your experience, no matter what it may bring.

Thank you for taking the time to look through this handbook and preparing for your time in Guayaquil, Ecuador. We are looking forward to getting to know you during what will potentially be one of the most meaningful experiences of your Spanish practice!

Sincerely,

Ruby Centeno de Félix
General Manager
Spanish Program in Guayaquil-Ecuador



Quality School Awards 2014 Winner

PART ONE: PREPARATION AND DEPARTURE

1.1. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

You will need a passport valid at least for 6 months beyond the date you plan to enter Ecuador. Ecuador welcomes visitors for stays up to 90 days with a passport valid through the duration of their stay, so you will not need any sort of visa or other travel document to get into Ecuador. Please make two copies of your passport and keep one in a safe place upon arrival to Guayaquil. You can leave your passport in your host family's, hotel or in the place you are staying and just bring the copy of your passport around with you when you travel in Ecuador.

1.2. HEALTH CARE

For information about how to prevent any kind of disease, “to have the most benefit, see a health-care provider at least for several weeks before your trip to allow time for your vaccines to take effect and to start taking medicine to prevent malaria, if you needed it.” Please visit some websites to find the most up to date information on any health issues in Ecuador, this websites is for American Citizen; <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/ecuador>. If you are not USA Citizen, please contact the health agency in your country for similar information. Ecuador does not ask for any specific vaccines.

Students traveling to Ecuador in the past have been unsure as to whether or not to take malaria pills. This is a personal decision due to the expense and potential side effects; however students who have taken malaria pills have said they felt a lot more protected. Side effects noted were strange dreams and nausea. Additionally, students have purchased emergency antibiotics to use in Ecuador in case they got traveler's diarrhea. Students have been very happy to be prepared with antibiotics beforehand, though antibiotics are available here in Ecuador. If you needed an especial prescriptions, please, make sure you have not only your prescription medications, but also any over-the-counter medications you might need while on traveling.

Pack defensively. Although in Ecuador we do have pharmacies all around. Your travel medical kit should include prescription medications, health insurance cards, and proof of immunization (if needed), travel insurance copy of your documents and emergency medical supplies. Also you could bring these items with you to Ecuador, especially if you liked to use special bran:

- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- Anti-diarrheal medication (our food is delicious, but sometimes a little spicy)
- Pain / fever medication
- Antihistamines and / or decongestants
- Antacid tablets
- Motion sickness medication.

1.3. HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance is not included in our Spanish program costs. We encourage you to get your own insurance before leaving your country.

1.4. SAFETY ISSUES

In order being safe in another country, you should be proactive, be prepared and be protected. There are several steps you can take to ensure that you stay as healthy as possible while traveling. We recommend you reading the following tips on how staying healthy while traveling in South America: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/content/survival-guide.aspx>.

Be aware of the fact that drinking tap water is not advisable in most places in Ecuador, so drink only bottled or boiled water or soft drinks. If you are unable to find bottled drinks or to boil water, you can make water safer by using a water-purifier that removes bacteria and viruses and/or adding iodine tablets to the filtered water. Some students have brought a travel water bottle (like a nalgene or something else) and then purchased large jugs of water from the grocery store and used those to refill water bottles. This is important because you need to keep yourself hydrated while traveling and it will be warm while you are in Guayaquil. Most of the hotels and host families will provide water for you either boiled or brought from the grocery store.

The fact that you are from another country unfortunately can make you a target for pick-pockets. Always be aware of your belongings and make sure when walking in crowded areas or traveling on public transportation that your hand is on the zipper to your purse or bag. As with all big, unfamiliar cities, please take the usual safety precautions. Do not walk alone at night. Ask the place you're staying what areas you should avoid. Always be aware of your surroundings and any potential problems you may have. Ask your family, guesthouse or at **TFE** School for safety cabs. It might take between 12 or 15 minutes waiting for one, but you will be safer than taking cabs on the street.

1.5. KEEP YOUR MONEY SAFE

Local currency is the American dollar. ATMs will work in Ecuador, but usually cost a very large fee to take money out of them. Additionally, your home bank will probably charge a large fee. Students have found it useful to take out enough money for the entire stay from their home bank and then split it up in various safe places (pockets, purse and carry-on items) to travel into Ecuador. Once you arrive in your host family's home or in a hotel, you can find a safe spot for your funds like the false bottom of a suitcase or mixed among your clothes (although the host families have been through a rigorous interview process and we trust them, we cannot be sure who else will have access to your home or your room).

Make sure you contact your bank and tell them you will be traveling out of the country. They can let you know what credit card to use and ATM charges while you traveling.

1.6. RESEARCH YOUR NEW HOME IN ECUADOR

We suggest before you leave to do a bit of reading on Ecuador and its rich history, culture and wildlife. Approaching a new country with factual information on which to base your understanding of how the culture operates makes any experience more meaningful.

1.7. PACKING

Please pack business casual attire (school appropriate clothing) and closed toed shoes for your time at your sites, Monday through Friday.

The Ecuadorian Pacific coast and western lowlands locally known as "la Costa" is formed by the following provinces, from north to south: Esmeraldas, Manabí, Los Ríos, Santa Elena, **Guayas** and El Oro. The Coast covers about 70'000 km², less than one third of the surface of Ecuador, but 50 % of the population live in this region, mainly in and around Guayaquil city, the pulsing and modern major business and economic center, and main port of Ecuador.

The region's climate varies from hot and arid on the Santa Elena province of Ecuador to hot and humid in the alluvial plains and interiors between Esmeraldas and the Gulf of Guayaquil. The average temperature is 24°C (18°C to 30°C); the climate is very much influenced by the ocean currents from Panama (warm) and Peru (cold).

On the coast, the dry season runs from about May to December. Temperatures drop to about 20°C and it is often overcast with a damp mist "drizzle" settling in and the sun can disappear for a couple of weeks at a time. The pattern is roughly the same as in the Galapagos Archipelago except the drizzle starts earlier on the mainland and finishes later.

December to April the temperatures warms up, days are bright and sunny with an occasional heavy rain. This is the best time of the year along the beach. The warm current can heavily modify the coastal area weather, making the air and water temperatures soar. The wind comes around the north and it rains.

Please pack clothes appropriate for this weather!!

When packing hair dryers and electronics, please keep in mind electrical outlets are 120 V. You may need an adapter if you are coming from Europe.

Weekend trips: Usually on the weekends students travel to various spots in Ecuador. Make sure to pack a bag that will fit items for the weekend that you can carry on your lap, if you choose to travel by bus. A backpack will work well for this purpose.

A note on laundry: host families and hotels will have laundry service every time you need it. That's why you won't need to drop off any kind of laundry service. When packing, keep in mind the number of weeks you will spend in Ecuador.

You may want to bring enough personal products (shampoo, conditioner and hair product, make-up, feminine products). However, many of these products will be available for you to get in Ecuador.

1.8. INTERNET AND PHONE

Internet cafes are abundant in Ecuador. In the internet cafes, there are cabins (which are like little phone booths) for phone calls and computers for internet. The computers have a Spanish keyboard, which will take a little getting used to. Be aware that most places only take coins.

Your hotel or home stay will certainly have internet access and of course at **TFE** School you will have it for sure. It is strongly recommended to purchase a cell phone upon arrival Ecuador to be in touch with your friends, hotel, and family host or to be in touch with us at the school. The price of the cheapest ones is around US 50.

1.9. COSTS

The cost for the course will depend on the number of weeks and the type of accommodation you want (family stay or guesthouse). Please review the web page or contact directly to **TFE** School for cost according your requirements. Have in mind that a non-refundable down payment will need to be paid one month prior to start the Spanish course.

1.10. IN CASE YOU HAVE REQUESTED HOME STAY

In your home stay you will have your own room that may be quite a bit smaller than to what you are accustomed. Breakfast (fruits, milk and bread in most cases) and dinner will be included in your program fee and you will eat with your host family in most cases. The families have been interviewed at length with Mrs. Ruby Centeno and have been determined to be a good fit. In the off chance that you experience any discomfort at your home stay, please communicate that clearly to **TFE** School.

Every effort will be made to help you feeling safe and comfortable while you are in Ecuador, however you will also need to manage your expectations and approach this experience with an open mind. Things will certainly be different than what you are used to.

PART TWO: SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM IN GUAYAQUIL



2.1. SPANISH LANGUAGE LESSONS

Our Spanish Courses for foreign students are taught by specialists in the teaching of Spanish as a foreign language. Teaching methods on our courses are totally active and participatory, as **verbal interaction** is constantly stimulated between teachers and pupils in the classroom. Teachers employ **communicative approaches** in the teaching of Spanish as a foreign language, placing special emphasis on the development of the student's ability to make **appropriate use of the language so as to ensure effective communication**.

Classes are given in **small groups** of 4 to 5 students, allowing students numerous opportunities to practice language in the classroom. Such small groups enable the teacher to provide on-going, personal attention to the student. Our teaching is essentially **student-centered**.

One to One Spanish Classes.

Individual lessons ensure that the student is utilizing proper technique in every grappling scenario, by having a 1 on 1 practice environment directly with the teacher. One to one lessons are also a great way for students to review prior skills obtained directly with an experienced tutor. For some students it can sometimes be uncomfortable to ask questions in a class environment. Our private lessons give the student the ability to ask as many questions as they desire.



2.2. METHODOLOGY

Grammar – Conversation – and Review

Time for English School will provide their respective supporting material to each of the participants;

- ❖ Book, CD, verbs list, pens, amount others.
- ❖ Teaching the vocabulary in Spanish at their respective levels.
- ❖ Check the grammatical structure of the Spanish language.
- ❖ Use supporting materials for better performance.
- ❖ Delivers evaluation in writing to the student.
- ❖ Certificate, if it reached to the Spanish module successfully.
- ❖ Become aware of the needs of students to guide them and lead them to complete their training.
- ❖ Oral and written exam duration between forty (40) to sixty (60) minutes.

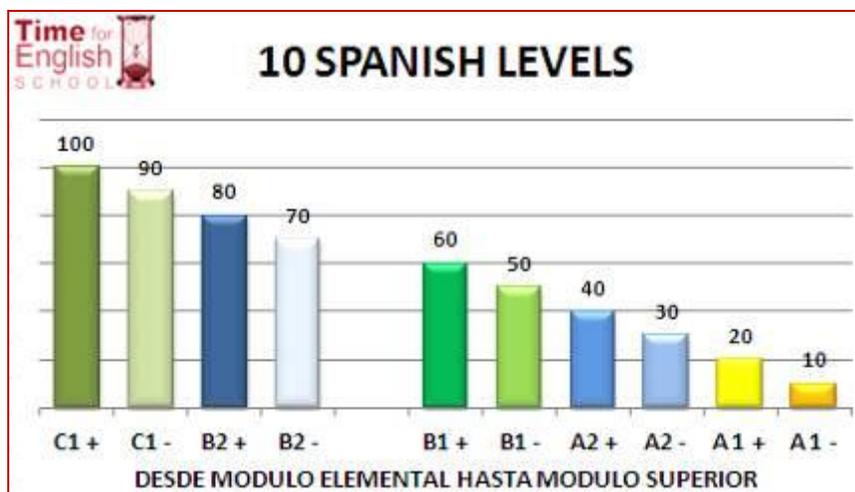
Facilities: Computer room.
Free internet access.

Internet Wi-Fi.
Printing services.

Tea/coffee.
Car parking.

2.3. SPANISH LEVELS

TFE School has adapted its Spanish course to the common European Framework of Reference for Languages and offers all levels: **A1, A2, B1, B2, and C1**, plus two conversational levels (see figure). Each student's level is determined by an entry test that may be taken over the internet before the start of the course.



TFE School awards a course certificate to all participants who have attended at least 85% of the programmed classes. Spanish students are each provided with different services, reading and internet rooms. It also allows the holder to participate in all activities under the same conditions and with the same advantages as full-time students.

2.4. ADDITIONAL SERVICES

If you needed additional service, please let us know in advance. We may contact volunteer organizations or foundations where volunteers wish to work and help them to set up a volunteer work experience.

Additional services/activities could be included:

- Welcome and Goodbye ceremonies for all students
- Birthday celebrations
- Audio and video learning aids
- Visits to local museums, markets, and the historic old city center
- Cooking classes
- Dance classes in tropical rhythms and traditional dance
- Sports and games
- Lectures on ecology, economy, politics and history

All activities can be scheduled according to student's interests, but note those activities will have an extra charge.

2.5. LEARNNG SPANISH HAS NEVER BEEN SO FUN AND EASY





Taking Spanish classes in small groups.



Making you feel at home

TFE gives classes 100% in Spanish, in very small group, allowing the students numerous opportunities to practice and improve the language in a short time.







**OUR FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT
MAKES YOU FEEL SAFE AND WELCOME**





FIELD TRIPS WITH FOREIGNERS AND LOCAL STUDENTS

TFE School invites students attending the Spanish Courses to participate in the different activities offered by the Staff Department including; video projections, seminars, bird watching, whale watching, Guayaquil City Tour, among others.

Since TFE School opened its door in 2010, the students have been able to participate in several activities, Such as:

- ✓ **Posorja and Puna Island:** to observe Bottle dolphins and birds.
- ✓ **Salinas:** Whale watching time.
- ✓ **Dry Forest Cerro Blanco:** to enjoy the environment and observe wildlife.
- ✓ **Historic Park:** to learn about Ecuador culture, the habitat and the history of Guayaquil.
- ✓ **Dry forest Cerro Paraiso:** to enjoy a wonderful and healthy walk.
- ✓ **Ecuasal in Salinas:** bird watching of migratory and resident coastal birds.



WHALE MUSEUM IN SALINAS

Nothing better than share every single moment and be delighted with the magnificent nature and Ecuadorian culture with the experts and having a little tour at the Whale Museum in Salinas, Ecuador. While you're learning one of the most important languages in the world... Spanish.

For further information about the museum, feel free to visit the museum web site: <http://www.museodeballenas.org/>



PART THREE: CROSS-CULTURAL ISSUES

3.1. INTERCULTURAL APPROACH

No matter what your Spanish level were, a Spanish-English Dictionary is a good thing to have on hand. Something small enough to have on you most of the time would be ideal. If you are just learning Spanish, it would be a good idea to have a phrase book of some kind.

Many students ask how they can prepare for the stay in Ecuador – the best thing you can do if you have some Spanish comprehension skills is to start listening to Spanish-speakers on the radio or the television. Also, if you can find a native Spanish speaker conversation partner, that would be ideal. But the most important thing... you never feel afraid of speaking, Ecuadorian culture is to help any foreigner that is visiting our country.

3.2. CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT

Many things in Ecuador will be different than what you are used to in your day-to-day life. You will find some things are easier to navigate, others are more difficult, and some do not make sense to you. If you can, stop and ask yourself why things are different before making a snap judgment on the differences. Judgment can make the cultural adjustment more difficult.

3.3. CUSTOMS INFORMATION

Customs in Ecuador is quite straight-forward. Once out of Customs and into the airport, you will be greeted by masses of people who have balloons and open arms for loved ones. There is a buzz of excitement once you are in Ecuador, so prepare yourself for that. We will meet you at the airport if you have requested that service and of course if you arrive on the arrival day. Please be sure to inform **TFE** School in advance the arrival date, flight and hour, in order to meet you at the airport. Otherwise you would have to manage yourself in getting the School.

3.4. KNOWING A WONDERFUL COUNTRY NAMED ECUADOR

Quito is the capital of Ecuador and the political center, meanwhile **Guayaquil** is the first principal commercial port. To the world the most famous place in Ecuador is the **Galapagos Islands** which are an important territory of Ecuador and are positioned about 600 miles to the west.

The indigenous populations mixed with those of European descent give Ecuador a unique and different cultural texture. Ecuador is a very friendly country, known for its warm and welcoming hospitality.

3.5. TRAVEL IN AND AROUND GUAYAQUIL

Guayaquil is Ecuador's largest city, main port and the economic center of Ecuador. The city is located next to the Guayas River in the inner part of the Gulf of Guayaquil, the major estuarine area in the west side of South America. Most of the country import and export trade pass through the city's port. Major industries in Guayaquil include shrimp farming, agriculture, food processing, and manufacturing of consumer goods.

Guayaquil continues its tradition of trade, although the city is expanding its tourism base, by beautifying the city. Turning Guayaquil into a national and international tourist destination. It is now a headquarters for fairs and international events.



**SIMON BOLIVAR AND SAN MARTIN IN LA ROTONDA
GUAYAQUIL-ECUADOR**

TOP PLACES TO VISIT IN GUAYAQUIL ECUADOR BEFORE YOU LEAVE

1. **Malecón** - Clearly the first place to visit in Guayaquil sitting on the Guayas River side (Malecón, riverside). The Malecón runs about 1.5 miles and is steeped in history as a major port throughout several centuries. Dotted with monuments, entertainment and food courts.

There are unique attractions both popular with Ecuadorians and visitors. The pirate ship (Morgan) that leaves the dock on the Malecón is a very fun time for everybody, with food and drinks. Admission for adults is \$5.00. It provides a wonderful view of the city and evenings are very dramatic. There is also a party or dance boat on the Malecón which runs up and down the river with music blaring and all having a good time.



La Rotonda". Was built in 1937, is a historical monument in the middle of the Malecón. Is an outstanding piece of art of which all Ecuadorians are proud of. There is a statue of Simon Bolivar and José de San Martin that commemorates the meeting in which both South America liberators decided that Guayaquil would be annexed to the Gran Colombia in XIX Century.



Also on the Malecón there is a wonderful **Moorish tower clock**. It was originally placed at the city hall and then placed to the Malecón in 1903. It was later found to be structurally unsound and was demolished and reconstructed. It has been reported that a local scam artist sold the tower to unsuspecting foreigners a few years ago and took them for thousands of dollars. The story goes that somebody discovered and these people had been duped when police told them to leave, these people told the officers they didn't have to leave because they had purchased the elegant tower.



2. **Las Peñas** - First constructed in the 1500's years this was Guayaquil's first residential section. It was totally destroyed in a fire in 1896 and rebuilt in a neoclassic style. It provides a wonderful walk on cobblestone among art galleries and restaurants. At the end of the street is an excellent casual restaurant and club called "Arthur's Place". Also, the old beer factory at the end of this street has been turned into a museum.



3. **Santa Ana Hill** - Adjacent to Las Peñas neighborhood is an outstanding example of redevelopment. Fifteen years ago the Santana Hill was a dangerous site. No outsider would enter the area to visit the church on top of the hill knowing whether they would leave alive or dead... However, development funds have turned this area into a major tourist destination. Outstanding bars, restaurants, and galleries adorn the streets. Security is very tight by now. The walk is strenuous up the hill but well worth the visit and view.



4. **Cathedral and Seminiario Park.** Constructed in 1948 in Neo-Gothic style, it is clearly a focal point in Guayaquil for the Catholic mainstay. Located at Chimborazo and Clemente Ballen Streets. Open every day. The Seminario Park is famous for their friendly iguanas and squirrels that allow you a very close encounter. The Park is just in front of the Cathedral.



5. **MAAC** - Anthropological and Contemporary Art Museum was inaugurated in 2004. It holds an impressive 50,000 archeological pieces and modern art. It is located next to the IMAX theater. Admission is \$1.50. Free on Sundays.



6. **Botanic Garden** - A remarkable garden open to the public 700 plant species. Showcased are over 80 varieties of orchids in amazing colors. Located in Las Orquideas neighborhood at Francisco de Orellana Av. Open daily from 8:00 until 6:00pm. \$3.00 admission fee. Best to take a taxi to this location.



7. **Historic Park** - Located in the Samborondón area in the northeastern part of Guayaquil, this twenty-acre park has three themes. Theme 1, view the habitat that once encompassed all of the Guayaquil area; theme 2, related with the cultural history of Guayaquil and the country; theme 3 provides you the essence of Guayaquil's architecture through the past to the present. On the weekends there are musical and cultural activities.



8. **Puerto Hondo Mangroves** - Much of the beautiful mangroves that once surrounded Guayaquil have been destroyed for city development. Puerto Hondo is nowadays a protected area. A non-profit ecological club has managed to save some remaining mangroves at km 17 on the highway to beach city of Salinas. Open every day from 9:00 until 4:00pm visitors can take a boat ride through the mangroves and visit the interpretation center. Prices from \$8.00 to \$12.00. Insect repellent recommended.



9. **Nahim Isaias Museum** - Holds an outstanding collection of colonial art on two floors. Its doors are opened Monday through Friday, from 10h00 to 17h00 and Saturdays and holidays 10h00 to 14h30. It is located at Pichincha and Clemente Ballén.





10. **Santay Island** is in front of Guayas River, it's about 800 meters of distance from Guayaquil City. The area of the island has approximately 2,179 hectares. And also there are living 56 families located in 46 houses, 36 of these families are relocated at the main entrance of the island. It was declared protected area and a National area of recreation. And of course, it is a beautiful place to visit. You can arrive by boat or walking through the 800 m bridge that communicates Guayaquil and the island.

Getting around

Ecuador has an efficient transportation system, and because of its small size, you can usually get anywhere and everywhere quickly, easily and enjoyably. Local buses are usually slow and crowded, but they are also very cheap. You can get around most towns for US \$0.25. Local buses often travel to nearby villages, and riding along is a good, inexpensive way to see the area.



Maps could be very useful for orientation when you arrive to Guayaquil.

For weekend trips, you will probably use buses to travel. Make sure you keep your belongings on your lap. Buses are crowded and sometimes uncomfortable, but they are a cheap and simple way of getting around Ecuador. If you have interests in going to certain places on the weekends, please let us know and we can try to direct you. Otherwise, any of the travel books will have great descriptions of where to go and how to get there.

3.6. ECUADOR IN THE WORLD PREMIER TOURIST

Ecuador in the World Premiere Tourist Media According to Conde Nast Traveler's Word of mouth (August 2007 edition), "Ecuador's mainland is emerging as one of Latin America's most glamorous lowkey hideaways. It is the wild beauty of the country side that captivates most visitors every year.

This means that tourism IN Ecuador is growing and growing each day and maybe that's why some people might just miss their new friends they have made on this incredible journey. Other people could miss little things, like the greetings of a stranger or the general feeling of community. Many individuals will likely be experiencing some sense of loss. But all of them will just have the same in common...

A wonderful experience to live and a wonderful experience to share with.

PART FOUR: CONSERVATION OF THE ECUADORIAN COASTAL WILDLIFE

TFE supports the conservation of the Ecuadorian coastal wildlife by giving our foreign students the opportunity to join research programs on coastal wildlife (marine mammals and birds) conducted by local researchers. These activities may include lectures and field trips on the topics addressed below.

4.1. RESEARCH FIELDS

Scientist and researchers Fernando Felix and Ben Haase, curators of the Whale Museum in Salinas, are the pioneers on marine mammals and birds research in Ecuador. They have also started whale and dolphin watching programs in several sites of the Ecuadorian coast. In fact whalewatching began in Ecuador as an extension of their research program on humpback whales. The interest in this activity began to increase later in 1994 in the Machalilla National Park, in Posorja (1995), Puerto Callo (1996), and also in Salinas (2001). Researchers of the Whale Museum use whale watching boats as platform for their investigations.



4.2. HUMPBACK WHALE SEASON





The Ecuadorian coast is privileged by the presence of humpback whales from June through October coming from Antarctic waters. Looking for warm waters for breeding, some 8,000 humpback whales move back and forth around 16,000 km every year to complete the migration cycle.

Its large size (males can grow to 14 m and females 16 m), their dance against the blue of the ocean, and the breath and steam of up to five meters high above their heads expelled when they breathe, make them worthy the admiration of tourists. In Ecuador, whale watching has been running for 20 years.



ECUASAL SALT PONDS... Are very important for migratory and resident coastal birds.



4.3. AQUATIC BIRDS AT ECUASAL SALT PONDS

Bird watching is a growing activity on the coast of Ecuador. One of the most important places is located at the ECUASAL salt ponds in Salinas. Despite its rigorous environment, these ponds are very important for migratory and resident coastal birds. In January 2007 the Ecuasal ponds in Salinas and Pacoa were included within the Hemispheric Network as a reserved area for coastal birds. It was a great step in the way towards the conservation of these sites assuring for the birds whereabouts to eat, to change the feathers and to rest from their long trip.

FLAMINGOS



HERONS



GULLS





EC
Una vida

Las Piscinas Artificiales constituyen los puntos de importancia regional para el RHRAP en Ecuador, debido a su importancia en las poblaciones de aves que albergan. Las aves pasan de forma temporal durante el invierno boreal, lo que requiere una cuidadosa conservación.

RHRAP (Red Hemispheric Organization of Migratory Birds)
Organización Internacional de las Aves Migratorias



ECUASAL

da al servicio de la vida

ciales de Ecuasal
primeros sitios de
nal de la red de sitios
or. El valor de las piscinas radica
s de aves acuáticas migratorias
as aves que visitan las piscinas
ransitoria o permanecen durante el
Las piscinas son claves para su

sférica de Reservas para Aves Playeras)
nacional cuya misión es ayudar en la conservación
rias a través de una red de sitios.



4.4. THE CHOCOLATERA AT THE PUNTILLA OF SANTA ELENA RESERVE

Land-based observation of marine mammals and birds can be done from this high and steep site named the Chocolatera. Located at peninsula of Santa Elena, the Chocolatera is the westernmost tip of Ecuador, and offers a wonderful view of 270° of the ocean. The area is ideal to observe the migration of marine and coastal birds, humpback whales, bottlenose and spotted dolphins. Next to the Chocolatera is located the northernmost colony of the South American sea lion.



4.5. AFTER ENJOY A WONDERFUL TRIP AROUND SALINAS WITH US

Rather whale watching or visiting Ecuasal to observe the most spectacular birds, you will enjoy a delicious lunch at the Oyster Catcher Restaurant. The restaurant is located behind the malecon of Salinas, it is administrated by the owners; Ben and Brenda Haase.



4.6. DRY FOREST: CERRO BLANCO

Cerro Blanco contains one of largest and best preserved remaining of the Ecuadorian coast forest (dry tropical forest). It is located 15 km west of Guayaquil, in the southeast part of the Chongón-Colonche mountain range. The reserve extends approximate 6078 hectares.

But, ¿what exactly is a dry forest? Dry forests are those ones that grow in areas that do not receive rain during most part of the year. In the dry forests there is a dry time well defined that could lasts between 8 and 10 months. Many trees on this time drop the leaves. On the other hand, during the wet months there is a lot of rain and the whole plants and trees start showing their leaves, flowers and everything turning in a beautiful green colour. It is good to know that sometimes... Dry forests are not always too dry!

The forest area belongs to the cement company Holcim, but is administered by Pro-Bosque Foundation. This is an area where ecotourism and other low-impact activities are conducted. At least 216 species of birds has been recorded in Cerro Blanco, 9 of them such as the parrot of Guayaquil, the sparrow hawk and the saffron Siskin, are globally threatened, and about 24 endemic species of the region. Cerro Blanco also shelter nearly 54 species of mammals, which 24 of them are bats, 12 different species of reptiles, and 10 species of amphibians, among others.



ECUADORIAN TROGON



4.7. BOTTLENOSE DOLPHINS AND COASTAL WILDLIFE AT POSORJA

Posorja and Puna Island are located in the entrance to the inner estuary of the Gulf of Guayaquil. There is a beautiful seascape with channels, mangrove islands and the typical estuarine wildlife including the bottlenose dolphin and many different species of birds.

Our students really enjoy visiting Posorja and Puna Island.



WHITE HERON



BLACK NECKED STILT AND HERON

ESKIMO CURLEW

Puna Island is the largest island in the Gulf of Guayaquil with approximately 330 square miles (855 square km). It is located in the southwestern coast of Ecuador. It is flanked by two channels, the Jambelí Channel on the east and the Morro Channel on the northwest.

Besides watching the dolphin's beauty aquatic ballet, it's possible to visit the "Bird Island" located in the main branch of the Estero Salado. This is a great opportunity to appreciate the amazing colour of one of the largest nesting colonies of frigate birds in Ecuador.

It was declared ecological reserve a few years ago for the large amount and variety of birds such as seagull, spoonbill heron, white ibis, pelicans, mockingbirds, blue-footed boobies, cormorants, terns and several migratory birds.



Cerro Paraíso

Guayaquil is one of the cities with less green areas in Ecuador, nevertheless, in the middle of the city exists a small tropical dry forest.... It wasn't until 1989 that the Cerro Paraiso Hill was declared a protected forest, with an initial area of 420 hectares. But sadness to see that now there's less than 200 hectares.

In Cerro Paraíso have been registered more than 100 species of birds, like this beautiful Momotus that I'm using as a background and it is an ideal place for climbing or simply enjoying the most wonderful view of Guayaquil from the top of the hill.

We strongly recommend this amazing paradise in the middle of the city.



Parque Lago,

Belongs to the protected areas network of Ecuador since November 2002. It has an extension of 2283 hectares and includes the Chongon reservoir.

Its fauna protects several mammals, like the deer of white tail. Bats, squirrels, reptiles, fish and have been registered more than 100 species of birds.

It is a beautiful place to practice cycling, kayaking, also you can share and enjoy a delicious picnic or a barbecue with friends.

Parque el Lago has one of the most beautiful landscapes in Guayaquil... And it is located 20 kilometers far from Guayaquil... ¡I simply love it!.



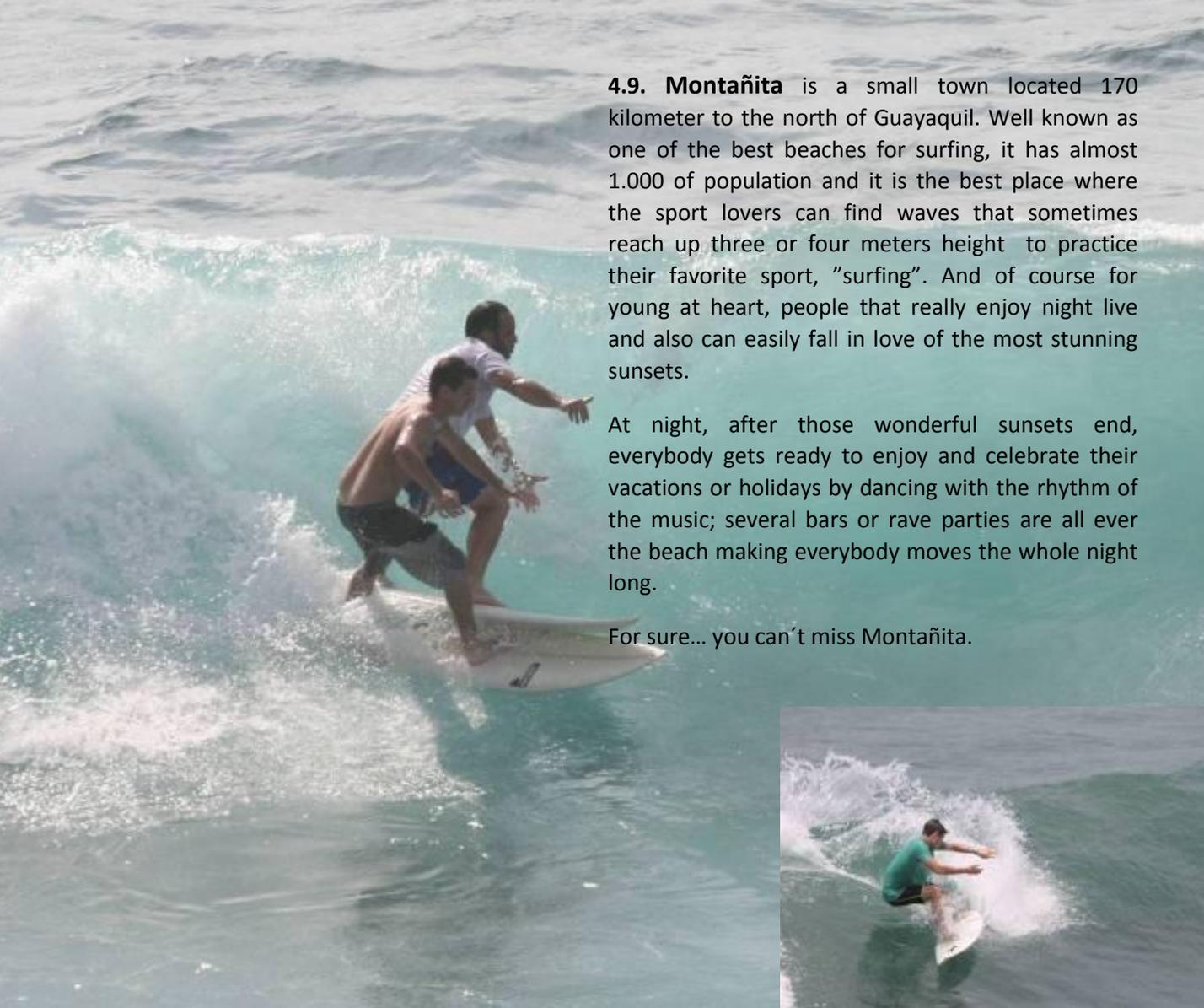
4.8 - General Antonio Elizalde, also known as Bucay.

This wonderful city is located to the East of the province of Guayas, Ecuador. Near to the province of Chimborazo. There is a stunning river called (**Balneareo de Agua Blanca**), which has natural rock formation with a beautiful cascade that comes along with the river Chimbo.

In the river several sports can be practiced, like the rapids, among others.

Bucay is definitely one of my top places to visit before you leave Ecuador.





4.9. Montañita is a small town located 170 kilometer to the north of Guayaquil. Well known as one of the best beaches for surfing, it has almost 1.000 of population and it is the best place where the sport lovers can find waves that sometimes reach up three or four meters height to practice their favorite sport, "surfing". And of course for young at heart, people that really enjoy night live and also can easily fall in love of the most stunning sunsets.

At night, after those wonderful sunsets end, everybody gets ready to enjoy and celebrate their vacations or holidays by dancing with the rhythm of the music; several bars or rave parties are all over the beach making everybody moves the whole night long.

For sure... you can't miss Montañita.



Aerial photograph courtesy of Enrique Villena



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We would like to express our sincere thanks and appreciations to our students for let us be part of your projects in Guayaquil-Ecuador and allow being your Spanish tutor.

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Policía Nacional (Police)	101
Comisión de Tránsito (Traffic Police Department)	103
GIR- Grupo de Intervención y Rescate (Rescue Group Department)	2872-273
Cruz Roja (Cross Red)	131
Cuerpo de Bomberos (Fire Department)	102
Intergua (Water Company)	2241-140
Fugas de Agua (Water Leaking Department)	134
Empresa Eléctrica (Electrical Company)	1800-363532 / 2412-353
Banco de Sangre (Blood Bank)	2560-674 / 2560-675
Aeropuerto (Airport)	2169-000.
Comisión de Tránsito (Traffic Police Department)	103



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