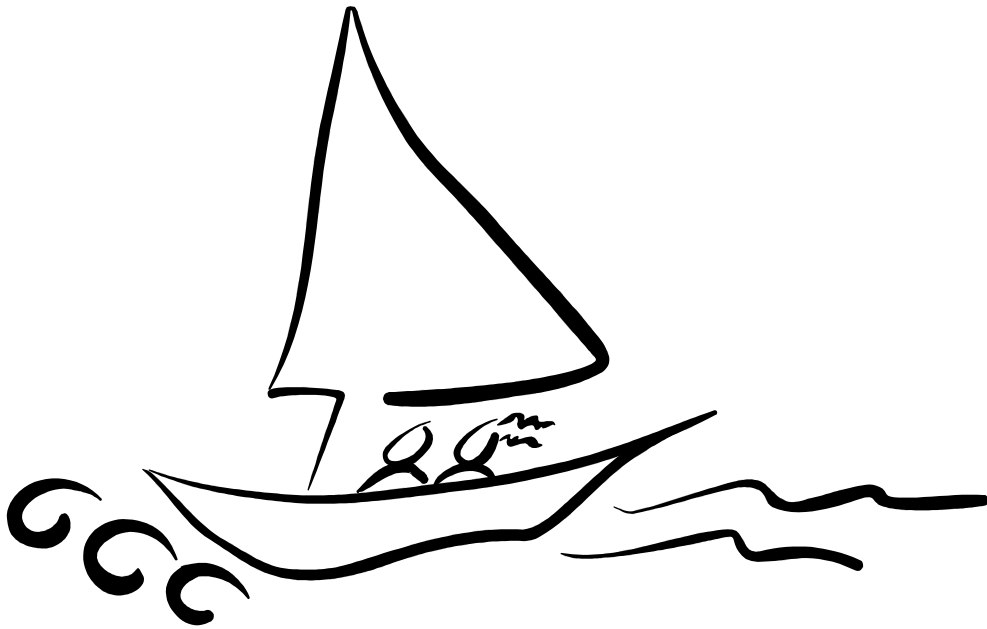


Bahia de Caráquez Cruiser's Guide



Rev C.2 – October 2009

Revision Log

Many thanks to all who have contributed over the years!!

For details, see [Acknowledgements](#)

Rev	Date	Who	What
Original	??	She Wolf any many others	
2008	2008	Carina	
C	Mar 2009	Soggy Paws	Re-arranged, renamed 'Bahia' Guide Added Bahia updates
C.1	June 2009	Soggy Paws	Minor updates on anchorages between Bahia and PLYC, PLYC fees and entry procedures
C.2	Oct 2009	Soggy Paws	Updating the Galapagos information from info received from boats visiting during 2009

**To add updates to this guide, email the current 'owner',
Soggy Paws at sherry –at- svsooggypaws –dot- com.**

**The current home of the official copy of this document is
<http://svsooggypaws.com/files/EcuadorCruisers2009.pdf>**

**If you have found it posted elsewhere, there might be an
updated copy on the official home.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	PASSAGE MAKING TO/FROM ECUADOR	7
1.1	CHARTS	7
1.2	PASSAGE NOTES FROM OTHER BOATS.....	7
1.2.1	<i>Asylum – Early January – Panama to Bahia.....</i>	7
1.2.2	<i>Villasar - from Mexico to Galapagos</i>	8
1.2.3	<i>Moira – May – From Golfito Costa Rica to Puerto Lucia.....</i>	8
1.2.4	<i>Soggy Paws – February - From Cocos Island, Costa Rica to Bahia de Caraquez</i>	9
2	OFFICIALDOM	10
2.1	PORTS OF ENTRY IN ECUADOR.....	10
2.2	DIGMER AND SITRAME – NOTIFICATION OF ARRIVAL	11
2.3	HOW LONG CAN I STAY IN ECUADOR?.....	11
2.3.1	<i>Immigration.....</i>	11
2.3.2	<i>Customs</i>	12
2.4	BUYING FUEL	13
3	BAHÍA DE CARÁQUEZ	13
3.1	WAYPOINTS	13
3.2	ENTRY PROCEDURES	13
3.3	MARINAS IN BAHIA.....	14
3.3.1	<i>Puerto Amistad.....</i>	14
3.3.2	<i>Saiananda</i>	15
3.3.3	<i>Bahia Yacht Club.....</i>	15
3.4	SERVICES IN AND NEAR BAHIA, INCLUDING MANTA.....	15
3.4.1	<i>ATM / Banks.....</i>	15
3.4.2	<i>Boat Services</i>	15
3.4.3	<i>Hardware Stores</i>	17
3.4.4	<i>Communications Related Services.....</i>	18
3.4.5	<i>Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical.....</i>	18
3.4.6	<i>Getting Mail and Parts.....</i>	18
3.4.7	<i>Food and Provisioning</i>	19
3.4.8	<i>Personal Services</i>	19
3.4.9	<i>Restaurants</i>	19
3.4.10	<i>Places to Stay</i>	20
3.5	TRANSPORTATION IN AND AROUND BAHIA.....	20
3.5.1	<i>Eco-Taxi</i>	20
3.5.2	<i>Taxi.....</i>	20
3.5.3	<i>Buses</i>	21
3.5.4	<i>Ferry Service to San Vicente</i>	21
3.5.5	<i>Travel Agencies.....</i>	21
3.5.6	<i>Flying Back to the States</i>	21
4	LAND TRAVEL IN ECUADOR.....	22
4.1	BAHIA DE CARAQUEZ AND VICINITY.....	22
4.1.1	<i>La Tortuga “Miguelito”</i>	22
4.1.2	<i>Museo de Bahia de Caraquez.....</i>	22
4.1.3	<i>Chirije Archeological Site</i>	22
4.1.4	<i>San Vicente</i>	22

4.1.5	<i>Canoa</i>	22
4.1.6	<i>Sosote</i>	23
4.1.7	<i>Montecristi</i>	23
4.1.8	<i>Isla de Corazon</i>	23
4.1.9	<i>Crucita</i>	23
4.2	BANOS.....	23
4.3	CUENCA.....	25
4.4	GUAYAQUIL.....	29
4.5	LATACUNGA.....	31
4.6	LOJA.....	32
4.7	MACHALA.....	32
4.8	MANTA.....	32
4.9	MONTAÑITA.....	33
4.10	OTAVALO.....	33
4.11	PORTOVIEJO.....	35
4.12	QUEVEDO.....	35
4.13	QUILTOA CIRCUIT.....	36
4.14	QUITO.....	37
4.15	RIOBAMBA.....	42
4.16	SALINAS (PROVINCIA BOLÍVAR).....	43
4.17	VILCABAMBA.....	43
5	CRUISING DESTINATIONS IN ECUADOR.....	44
5.1	COLOMBIAN BORDER TO BAHIA.....	44
5.1.1	<i>Esmeraldas</i>	44
5.1.2	<i>Sua</i>	44
5.1.3	<i>Pedernales</i>	45
5.1.4	<i>Punta Ballena/Jama</i>	45
5.1.5	<i>Cabo Pasado</i>	45
5.2	BAHIA TO SALINAS / LA LIBERTAD.....	45
5.2.1	<i>Manta</i>	45
5.2.2	<i>San Mateo</i>	46
5.2.3	<i>Punta Jome</i>	46
5.2.4	<i>Isla de la Plata</i>	46
5.2.5	<i>Puerto Cayo</i>	48
5.2.6	<i>El Islote</i>	48
5.2.7	<i>Los Frailes/Machalilla</i>	48
5.2.8	<i>Puerto Lopez</i>	48
5.2.9	<i>La Playita</i>	49
5.2.10	<i>Salango</i>	49
5.2.11	<i>Isla Salango</i>	50
5.2.12	<i>Valdivia</i>	50
5.2.13	<i>Ayangue</i>	50
5.2.14	<i>Montanita</i>	50
5.3	SALINAS/LA LIBERTAD.....	51
5.3.1	<i>Entry Procedures</i>	51
5.3.2	<i>Puerto Lucia Yacht Club:</i>	51
5.3.3	<i>Fuel</i>	53
5.3.4	<i>Other Boat Services Nearby</i>	53
5.4	SALINAS TO PERUVIAN BORDER.....	53
5.4.1	<i>Isla Santa Clara</i>	53

6	GALAPAGOS ISLANDS	53
6.1	GENERAL INFORMATION:.....	54
6.1.1	<i>Navigation</i>	54
6.1.2	<i>Taking Tours</i>	54
6.1.3	<i>Provisioning</i>	54
6.1.4	<i>Fuel</i>	54
6.1.5	<i>Banking</i>	55
6.1.6	<i>Souvenir shopping</i>	55
6.1.7	<i>Telephones and Internet</i>	55
6.1.8	<i>Airports</i>	56
6.1.9	<i>Other Services</i>	56
6.2	PERMITS AND ENTRY	56
6.2.1	<i>To Autografo or Not?</i>	58
6.2.2	<i>Agents</i>	60
6.2.3	<i>Arriving from Ecuador on National Zarpe:</i>	62
6.2.4	<i>Arriving from Ecuador or Elsewhere on an International Zarpe:</i>	62
6.2.5	<i>Check In Fees:</i>	63
6.3	ISLA SAN CRISTOBAL: PUERTO BAQUERIZO MORENO (WRECK BAY)	68
6.4	ISLA SANTA CRUZ: PUERTO AYORA (ACADEMY BAY)	70
6.4.1	<i>Isla Isabela: Puerto Villamil</i>	71
6.5	ISLA BALTRA: PUERTO SEYMOUR	75
6.6	ISLA SANTA MARIA (FLOREANA): PUERTO IBARRA	76
6.7	OTHER WAYS TO VISIT THE GALAPAGOS	76
6.8	PASSAGE REPORTS.....	77
6.8.1	<i>Gerimar: Panama to San Cristobal – Late Feb 2009</i>	77
7	CRUISING IN PERU	78
7.1	INFO FROM YACHT CLUB PERUANO – FEB 2008.....	78
7.2	NOTES FROM MOON DOG – JULY 2007	79
7.3	NOTES FROM SV BREILA – SEPTEMBER, 2004.....	81
8	LAND TOURING IN SOUTH AMERICA	86
8.1	PERU FROM SALINAS - S/V RESTLESS (OCT 2007)	86
8.1.1	<i>Travels thru Ecuador to the Border</i>	86
8.1.2	<i>Crossing the Border into Peru</i>	88
8.1.3	<i>Chachapoyas & Kuelap (Kway-lap)</i>	89
8.1.4	<i>Lima</i>	92
8.1.5	<i>Cusco, Machu Picchu, and Surrounding Area</i>	93
8.1.6	<i>Heading Back to Ecuador via Lima and Tumbes</i>	94
8.1.7	<i>Crossing the Border into Ecuador</i>	95
8.1.8	<i>Summary & Costs</i>	96
8.2	S/V MUSIC – PERU & BOLIVIA.....	97
8.2.1	<i>City Comments</i>	97
8.2.2	<i>Guided Tours that I took:</i>	98
8.2.3	<i>Using a tour guide/travel agent:</i>	99
8.2.4	<i>General observations:</i>	99
8.2.5	<i>Bus trip to La Paz</i>	100
8.3	SV SAUCY LADY – BAHIA TO PERU AND BACK BY BUS.....	100
8.4	SV SAUCY LADY - SECOND PERU TRIP.....	101
8.5	SV CABIRI – PERU AND BOLIVIA	102

8.5.1	<i>CUSCO</i>	103
8.5.2	<i>From Cusco to Pisac:</i>	103
8.5.3	<i>From Pisac to Ollantaytambo</i>	103
8.5.4	<i>Bolivia</i>	104
8.5.5	<i>La Paz to Arica Chile</i>	104
8.5.6	<i>Arequipa</i>	104
8.5.7	<i>Aerquipa to Lima</i>	105
8.5.8	<i>Lima to Guayaquil</i>	105
8.5.9	<i>Recommendations and Highlights:</i>	105
8.6	SOGGY PAWS' TRIP TO CHILE AND PATAGONIA MARCH 2009	106
8.7	SHE WOLF TRIP TO PERU – SUMMARY	107
9	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	111

1 Passage Making to/From Ecuador

The weather in Ecuador is strongly influenced by 3 things – the Columbian low, the Chilean high and the cold, north-setting Humboldt current.

Winds are almost always S to SW below 3° N and get stronger during the dry season, May through December.

Coming south, count on S to SW winds, 15-25 kts. and adverse current during dry season. Motor sailing is usually required to make headway. You can get a better wind angle by leaving from Costa Rica or Western Panama. During the season of northerlies in Panama (December through April), you can get a good boost out of the Gulf of Panama, and if the ITCZ is particularly far south, these favorable winds may carry you almost to Ecuador.

S to SW winds are also generally much lighter at this time of year, because the Columbian low is not as well-developed. Pass on either side of Isla Malpelo but 10-20 miles off. Staying closer to the Columbian coast when coming from the Bay of Panama may be less rough, but also subject to more convective activity off the land.

1.1 Charts

DMA 21601 Gulf of Panama Morro de Puercos to Panamá

DMA 21036 Golfo Dulce to Bahía de Paita

1.2 Passage Notes from Other Boats

1.2.1 Asylum – Early January – Panama to Bahia

Heard your question about currents to Ecuador and thought I'd throw in our experience on that one.

The most significant weather advice Don gave us had to do with higher levels of convection between the mainland and Isla Malpelo. He strongly urged, and we followed his advice, to go OUTSIDE OF MALPELO [i.e. west of Malpelo]. When we were in that area we could see significant wx/convection activity between that island and the mainland that we weren't getting farther out and that wasn't even in the rainy season. All the boats we've talked to that have gone between Malpelo and the mainland have had yucky trips down. It's ok coming back, but not going down.

We came down in early January, and pretty much followed Don Anderson's routing advice, which of course was more wx-related than current-focused but he did mention that he'd HEARD the currents were better the farther west you go. That being said, here's what we did, and for the record, we had a FOLLOWING current the whole way! Granted, every trip is different, and different things affect currents at different times... (We'd also read an Alvah Simon article about his trip to Bahia in which he said to go out at least as far as 81W to take advantage of the current boost...)

Following is a rough outline of the path we took to get to Bahia from the Perlas in January. We left from Isla Espiritu del Santo near high tide to catch a boost south from the falling tide. The waypoints are taken from our track and show the basic two-tack contour of the trip.

1. Off Punta Mala

07* 08.45 N /079* 43.89 W

2. NW of Isla Malpelo (our farthest west point)

04* 08.08 N / 081* 47.15 W

Don had recommended giving Malpelo a good 10 - 12 miles of berth (less for the wx than the reports of boats being chased away if they get too close), but we came a little closer because conditions were ok and we figured if anyone came out to chase us away we'd move, but no one did.

From that second waypoint. we started to bear SSE into Bahia. It was in this area that we had a great sail, ultimately having to slow down to time our arrival for the high tide entry. It killed us to have to shorten sail when we finally were having such a wonderful sail!

Hope that helps a little. Every trip is different, but the "Go West" advice proved to be very good for us. Let us know if there's anything else we can help with.

1.2.2 Villasar - from Mexico to Galapagos

We sailed directly from Acapulco to the Galapagos, basically SE the whole way. Winds off Mexican coast were light (we averaged 2 knots for several days) until we picked up strong NE winds that took our 35-foot wooden double-ender up to 75-130 Nm a day for a few days until we hit the Doldrums and lost the wind.

We motorsailed, dodging squalls - our first rain since February 2005 in Ensenada. Coming out the south side, we hit SE noserlies and wished we had made far more eastings earlier on. But we had wanted to be well off of the Gulf of Tehuanapec.

We motor-sailed the last 400 miles of the 1200 NM trip and did everything in 17 days. We arrived with fuel and water and two beers so never in desperate straits.

Boats we met in the Galapagos, coming from Panama (mainly Australian, Norwegians and English: very few US vessels and we are the only Canadian boat) said they had SW winds much of the way and had to motor.

1.2.3 Moira – May – From Golfito Costa Rica to Puerto Lucia

Ecuador is directly south of Costa Rica. The winds after March turn to the south and southwest. This is also affected by the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ, or "doldrums")

North of this zone, the winds are from the north, south of this zone they are from the, in the range of 15 to 20 knots. This zone divides the oceans in the vicinity of the equator. The zone itself is an area of little winds and lots of rain, and sometimes lightning.

We were somewhat late in the season for our trip to Ecuador. By the time we started in the first week of May, the ITCZ was far north, adjacent to Costa Rica, and the winds we faced were south westerly. Larry had set us up well by leaving from Costa Rica rather than Panama because in our westerly position we did not have to change course throughout the trip, but we still ended up with winds on the nose.

After three days of this beating into confused seas, we hove to for awhile to get a rest. There were periods of what they call "confused seas," about 12 hours long on each of two consecutive days. The seas were never very high, maybe 4-6 feet at most, but with no regularity, sort of like the surface of a cheese grater. The experience was rather like riding in a family sedan on a very bad, rutted, potholed road. Constant motion and jostling made it tough to get any rest.

One good part of the trip was that with a constant 20 knots of wind, even if close hauled, we were usually made 5 to 6 knots of speed. Our progress down the route to Ecuador was good. The current was good to us and we were not hindered by the fierce counter-currents experienced by many cruisers coming from further east.

For two days before the Equator we experienced the rains of the ITCZ. I have never seen it rain so hard. The rain came down so hard that I could hardly see two inches in front of me. Just amazing. Now this rain is not cold; rather it is warm and soft. In fact, I took one of my daily showers on the deck of the boat with a bottle of Joy and the rain from the skies. The rain poured down and came in torrents over the sails and rigging. It washed the boat free of salt and showered me nicely with lovely soft water. Once we escaped from the ITCZ, the weather improved and we began to see some blue sky, a little picture of what Ecuador would bring. We burned twice as much fuel charging the batteries on this trip as we burned to push the boat: we used about 10-15 gallons of diesel fuel for propulsion to cover the 700 miles.

All in all the passage took seven days for 700 miles, our longest passage to date. On the morning of the 8th day we could see the land and by midday we were moored in Puerto Lucía.

1.2.4 Soggy Paws – February - From Cocos Island, Costa Rica to Bahía de Caraquez

In early February, 2009, Soggy Paws set out from Cocos Island, Costa Rica to 'sail' to Bahía de Caraquez, Ecuador. A few days before there had been a significant 'Gap Event' (Papagayo winds and strong winds in the Gulf of Panama). We waited in Cocos for these to be over and then left (big mistake...we should have taken advantage of the northerly winds).

There was virtually no wind the first day, and the sea was still very lumpy. Very uncomfortable. After about 24 hours, the sea became mostly glassy and we encountered 3-6 knots of wind, mostly from the SW. The GRIB files were mostly accurate.

We chased wind and fought a 1-3 knot current on our nose for days. Didn't have enough fuel to just motor through it, so motorsailed at low RPM's to conserve fuel and get as much as possible out of the sails. Averaged 2.5 knots over the bottom over about 7 days. On the last day, just as we had resigned ourselves to another 2 days to get to Bahía, the wind came up briskly out of the NE and carried us down to Bahía overnight at about 6 knots.

The ITCZ was very inactive and we seemed to breeze (motor) right through it with very little activity.

Encountered a few fishermen with nets out at 125 miles offshore. Fortunately it was getting light. One large lancha with 3 guys and an outboard motor, met us as we approached and gestured for us to turn 90 degrees and go south around their net. They led us around the end and smiled and waved as we departed.

We didn't see hardly any shipping until about 30 miles out from Bahia, and then we were on a 'super highway' of ships coming and going from Panama to South America. (The AIS was invaluable to see the boats coming and going up to 25 miles away).

Did not encounter fishermen with nets close to shore (that we saw). But there was a survey ship in the area as we approached, towing a 6 mile cable. Lots of fishermen and nets just inside the 'waiting room' waypoint.

Emailed Puerto Amistad 3 different times to change our arrival date. They were very responsive and Carlos the pilot showed up exactly as scheduled (1 hour before the high tide)

2 Officialdom

The check-in/check-out process has made some radical changes over the last few years. Here is the current state of affairs as we understand it in Mar 2009.

In 2007, as a result of world-wide 911 concerns, Ecuador instituted an electronic vessel tracking system, and said that it also applied to yachts. See the reference information under DIGMER and SITRAME.

The biggest key to understanding the current situation is that how the rules are applied VARIES GREATLY FROM PORT TO PORT.

In Bahia de Caraquez, for example, arriving Feb 2009, vessels intending to stay at Puerto Amistad were told on arrival that there was no need to directly notify anyone but them. They assured us (Soggy Paws) that they would take care of all arrival notification prior to arrival, and the officialdom and paperwork after arrival.

2.1 Ports of Entry in Ecuador

At this writing four yacht clubs – Puerto Amistad (Bahía de Caraquez), Puerto Lucia (La Libertad), Salinas (Salinas) and Guayaquil (Guayaquil) were able to receive yachts without an agent being employed. Yachts entering at other ports or at other facilities presumably must use an agent; fees vary (one report was a quoted price of \$1000 in Esmeraldas). Yachts moving between ports must have an internal zarpe (domestic zarpe) and agent fees apparently apply (per Willow, leaving Puerto Lucia for Bahía de Caraquez).

In June 2009, the agent fee for entering Puerto Lucia on a national zarpe from Bahia, was \$185, which includes clearing in and out.

The Galapagos also has several ports of entry, but it is dealt with in the Galapagos section.

2.2 DIGMER and SITRAME – Notification of Arrival

SITRAME (Sistema de Información de Tráfico Marítimo) is a computer tracking system that has been set up to oversee the movements of all maritime shipping in Ecuadorean territorial waters. It has been implemented by the Ecuadorean Navy and managed by DIGMER, the authority for the merchant navy. The area of jurisdiction is: West until 095° 23 00 W, from 01° 28' 54" N to 03° 23' 33.96" S; and, 200 NM around the Galápagos Islands.

DIGMER (Dirección General de la Marina Mercante y del Litoral) has information on SITRAME in Spanish and English on its website <http://www.digmer.org/>

Dirección General de la Marina Mercante y del Litoral (DIGMER)
Elizalde 101 y Malecón, Guayaquil – Ecuador
Tel: +593-4-2321602, Fax +593-4-2324714

Email: guayaquil_radio@digmer.org

The official word, as synthesized from this site is: Yachts entering Ecuadorian waters are “required” to email the navy at the address above, prior to their arrival.

If entering at one of the yacht clubs listed above, a yacht should copy the yacht club on the email. Then, according to Puerto Lucia, a yacht will be entered into the Navy’s computer system and the Port Captain will be able to receive a yacht without an agent. HOWEVER, each port captain dictates protocol in their jurisdiction, so the process will vary

2.3 How Long Can I Stay in Ecuador?

This is actually a 2 part question. The first is, how long can YOU stay in Ecuador (immigration) and the second is how long can THE BOAT stay in Ecuador. These rules are changing in every South/Central American country we’ve been in in the last 2 years.

2.3.1 Immigration

Everyone is given a 90-day tourist visa on arrival. The official word on this visa is that the 90 day tourist visa is not being extended. It is 90 days in a 12 month period that begins when you first enter the country.

As in other countries recently, cruisers are traveling outside of Ecuador to ‘reset’ their visa. However, it is very hit-or-miss whether you are given a new full 90 day visa on re-entry to the country.

In June 2009, the old trick of crossing the southern border from Peru did not reset your visa, and arriving by air into Guayaquil from outside the country (USA via Bogota, Colombia) did not reset your visa. They enter your passport number in the computer and they can pull up exactly what movements you have made recently. Leaving the country in 2009, in most cases, just stopped the clock on your 90 day visa.

There are official ways to extend your visa. See website

<http://www.ecuador.org/nonimmigrantvisas.htm>

2.3.1.1 Immigration Lawyers

An immigration lawyer in Quito contacted by phone in June 2009 said 'no problema'. The progression is this:

1. About 10 days before your visa expires, apply for a 12-X visa (gives you another 90 days)
2. Then apply for a 12-IX visa (gives you another 6 months).

Alternatively, you can apply for a residency visa instead of the 12-IX if you plan to stay longer, but you will need to show proof of income, and it costs more.

Gaby Espinosa Phone: 09164592 email gabyespinosa10@hotmail.com

She will refer you to the site above for forms and details, so do your homework first.

This will cost you just in Payments to the government:

\$ 60 (Father) for the 12-X visa and \$30 each, dependent

\$230 (Father) for the 12-IX visa and \$50 each dependent

Lawyer's FEE: \$200 fee for each

Another source of help and advice is here:

<http://ecuadorservices.com/>

2.3.1.2 Doing It Yourself

June 2009: Two cruisers in Puerto Lucia successfully got extensions themselves in Guayaquil. That effort is documented here:

http://svsoggypaws.com/files/Visa_Extension_Ecuador_2009.pdf

2.3.2 Customs

There are no laws dictating how long a yacht can remain in Ecuador. However, customs at Salinas/La Libertad has sporadically tried to fine yachts large sums (10% of boat value) for staying beyond 90 days. This issue seems to be isolated to the La Libertad area. Contact Puerto Lucia Yacht Club for the latest information concerning Customs there.

Customs from Manta has taken an interest in yachts entering Bahia de Caraquez (as of July 2008). It is not known whether a limit on stays will be induced as in Salinas.

But as of March 2009, boats left for extended periods at Puerto Amistad have not had any problems when leaving.

2.4 *Buying Fuel*

Fuel purchases are also in a state of flux right now. Fuel is subsidized by the government (it is approx \$1 per gallon at the pump in Bahia, Mar 2009), and extranjeros are supposed to pay a higher price, though there exists no mechanism for this.

Extranjeros are not allowed to purchase fuel (diesel and gasoline) at a service station pump via jerry jug. Discuss fuel purchases with the port captain or your host yacht club.

In Bahia, fuel can be purchased and delivered to your boat through Puerto Amistad at \$1.50 per gallon. You are not supposed to be able to buy diesel yourself at the gas station. However, some cruisers have said that if you are low key and try it at a time when there are not many people around, usually you can buy it yourself at the gas station. This is very hit or miss and probably has a little to do with how gringo-y you appear.

In Bahia, you CAN buy your own gasoline. Propane fills are handled by Puerto Amistad.

As of March 2009, Puerto Lucia also has secured a permit to sell fuel to cruisers. See the Puerto Lucia section for details.

3 BAHÍA DE CARÁQUEZ

3.1 *Waypoints*

Approach (from north): 00° 36.6' S 080° 28.2' W - this keeps you away from shoals

“Waiting Room”: 00° 35.8' S 080° 26.8' W – anchor or wait for pilot here for entry over bar. Open roadstead but relatively calm at most times of year.

3.2 *Entry Procedures*

There is a river bar with a lot of tidal action, reefs, and breaking waves in/near the Bahia entry. Entry or exit is only possible at high tide (WXTide32's world tides has a Rio Chone station that is accurate). A pilot is required for entry (and exit) over bar of Rio Chone. Contact Puerto Amistad on Channel 69 upon arrival at “Waiting Room”.

If possible, pre-arrange with Puerto Amistad by email (PuertoAmistadEcuador@yahoo.com) or through another cruiser via the Panama Pacific SSB net (8143 USB @ 1400 Z daily). The fee for pilots has been established by the Port Captain, and you'll pay the pilot directly. For a single boat entering, the fee is \$30. For two boats it's \$25, and for three or more it's \$20/boat. Port Captain monitors Channel 16.

The pilot will meet you in a launch at the ‘Waiting Room’ waypoint above, and come aboard and coach you into the anchorage.

Port Captain, Customs, Immigration, and Quarantine will come out to your boat for an inspection before you are allowed ashore. Most recently, Puerto Amistad has been making the arrangements and sending a taxi to collect all officials in Manta, as soon as practical after your

arrival. This is normally a few hours. The taxi fee is \$60, which you must pay (can split with other boats that are coming or going at the same time).

When the officials arrive from Manta, Puerto Amistad will bring them out to your boat. Fees in March 2009 were:

\$5 Health Inspection
 \$20 Immigration
 (plus taxi fee)

We paid this directly to Carlos at Puerto Amistad, who then took care of the tax and the officials.

Finally, you must also take your paperwork to the Port Captain's office after arrival and inspection (opposite Puerto Amistad dinghy dock). There was a \$39 'ports' fee that we had to pay there.

3.3 Marinas in Bahia

3.3.1 Puerto Amistad

Website: <http://www.puertoamistadecuador.com>

Email: PuertoAmistadEcuador@yahoo.com

+593-5269-3112

Tripp & Maye Martin

Prices (these Feb 2009) continuously changing, email if you are unsure.

Moorings - \$270 (moorage plus dinghy dock), \$9 per day

Dinghy Dock – at Puerto Amistad \$100 per month includes full club privileges (hot showers, etc)

Fresh Water – available at Dinghy Dock and always at the Clubhouse dock, non-potable. Potable water is delivered to your boat \$1.75 per 5 gallons

Clubhouse – bathrooms, showers, office, dinghy dock, restaurant and bar, book and video exchange. TV and wifi internet. Clubhouse services only (no mooring) is \$100 (same as dinghy dock fee).

Boat Services

Diesel and gasoline delivered to boat in your jerry jugs or pumped from 65 gal. container – pump price plus \$0.12/gal.

Laundry – machine wash and dry. \$0.35 per pound

Propane – can fill US style tanks for flat fee, \$6 or \$8, depending on size

Purified Water – in 20 liter jugs, \$1.75, delivered to your boat

Bottom Cleaning – 1 per foot, LOD

Galapagos Permits – Inquire

Boat Services – Referrals Available

Boat sitting – air out, run engine, etc., \$5 per day

Boat washing, \$20

Bottom Cleaning – Puerto Amistad (talk with Carlos)

Polish stainless and hull

Sand and varnish

3.3.2 Saiananda

This is a relatively new offering, and is unfortunately up-river of the new bridge being built across the bay, so when the bridge is complete, it will unusable by sailboats.

Has about 6 bow-and-stern moorings. A little less expensive than Puerto Amistad, but no services ashore and it is out of town. Nice grounds on site.

They are approved do the agent paperwork required to enter into the Bahia area.

<http://www.saiananda.com/>

3.3.3 Bahia Yacht Club

Bahia Yacht Club is no longer an APPROVED host of foreign yachts (ie cannot handle boat check-in).

You can get an associate membership for \$30/month. With an associate membership, you get hot showera, pool, dinghy dock, fresh water (not potable), bathrooms, activities room available for parties or large projects, manager Giovanni, treasurer César.

Arrangements can be made to tie your boat up to the dock for a limited time to complete projects, for additional fee. Small sailboats can tie up to the wall at extreme high tides to do bottom work.

3.4 Services in and Near Bahia, Including Manta

3.4.1 ATM / Banks

Banco de Pichincha; Bolivar at Ascazubi; VISA, MasterCard, Plus, Cirrus. No access fee. ATM is outside around the corner.

Banco de Guayaquil; Bolivar at Riofrio; VISA, MasterCard, Plus, Cirrus. \$1.50 access fee.

3.4.2 Boat Services

Alternator and Starter Repair - Taller de Electricidad “Bahía”, Walter Mero. In Barrio Astillero, Av. Ibarra (past Policia building in Bahia, toward Leonidas Plaza)

Carpenters - Marco & Father - Cell 094192555. Located somewhere in the Leonidas area (Giovanni knows and recommended them) Marco built some custom shelving for Soggy Paws and installed it for \$25 (2009).

Diesel – Repsol station on the Malecon or delivered to boat by Puerto Amistad

Diesel injector repair, cleaning and adjustment: Manta. Manadiesel; Via Manta a Portoviejo, Sector la “Y”. Tel. (05) 292-0907 or 292-0909. Email manadiese@interactive.net.ec. Roberto Cevallos, Technical Manager.

Dinghy Dock – Bahia Yacht Club (members and associates \$30/month); Puerto Amistad (\$100/month)

Dockage – The only possible dockage in town is at Bahia Yacht Club. They have space for one boat to tie alongside for a short period of time to complete a specific project. Ask at the yacht club, reasonable fee per day.

Fire Extinguisher Servicing - Setmabas in Manta or Guayaquil. In Manta, across from Fish n Dive Calle 105. See more info under Liferrafts.

Gasoline – Repsol station on the Malecon or delivery by Puerto Amistad

Galvanizing – There is a galvanizing place outside of Manta. Giovanni the taxi driver knows where it is and has the phone number. In Feb 2009 charge was \$1.30 per kilo for a combination of chain and anchors, plus Giovanni’s delivery fee. He took 3 boats worth of chain and anchors with no problem in his pickup.

Hardware Stores – see separate subsection below.

Hoses (high pressure, high temperature), swaged fittings, **hydraulic fittings**, auto parts and supplies: Manta El Amigo; Avenida 113 y Las Acacias. Tel. (05) 292-1629. Email: elamigo@manta.ecua.net.ec. Jose Luis Cedeno, Manager. Cell phone: 09 318-7665.

Liferaft Servicing - Setmabas-In Manta, satellite office, main office in Guayaquil. Main Office 042-211-557, Hugo (Manager) Cell 09950-7757, In Manta, across from Fish n Dive Calle 105. Responds to email at administrador@setmabas.com in English

Machine Shop – Fred and son, In Leonidas area... going South of out town on main road, turn left 2 blocks before the bridge on Calle Laureles at Acuarela sign, then turn Right at 3rd dirt road. House with workshop under it is about 5 houses down the road on the right. Good machining work and welding. Giovanni taxi knows where they are.

Marine Store - Fish & Dive – Manta - Ave 106 #502 y Calle 105 Manta, Tel 2624914. As close to a marine store as you will get near Bahia. Many marine items including GPS’s, watermakers, line, anchors, etc, some stainless fittings. Also a limited selection of dive gear including tanks and BC’s.

Metal – Plate metal (like aluminum iron and steel) – Manta – Cedeno Mera Pedro Pablo – Matriz Shop: Los Almendros, Calle 17 s/n y Ave 22, tel 2610419, 2621242; Sucursal Shop: Ave 113 y Calle 116, tel 2923938, 2927225

Outboard Motor Repair – Manta - Almacen Actual - Yamaha Repairs, Parts & stuff. La Ensenadita, Calle 2, Manta Tel 05-2627413 Also has offices in La Libertad

Paint Store - Pinturas El Maestro - On Bolivar approximately up from the Ferry Docks. They sell all kinds of paint including bottom paint. Hempil is \$95/gal and local brand Ancla is \$62/gal (2009) **Manta:** Pinturas Zambrano calle 3 y Av 5 Manta Tel 05-610183. Got stainless steel paint scrapers here. Much better store than other paint stores we stopped at in Manta.

Propane – Puerto Amistad will fill US style tanks. \$8/10 lb. Tank.

Refrigeration Repair – Simón, in Bahia, tel. 269-0774

Refrigeration Supplies–Bahia: Small cans of refrigerant (non-resealable) available from Auto Repuestos Chavez.

Refrigeration Supplies-Manta:

Angloequatoriana Major supplier of large, resealable cans of refrigerant, as well as compressors, copper tubing, and other refrigeration/air-conditioning supplies is Angloequatoriana, with shops in Manta, Quito and Guayaquil. Manta shop is at Av. 4 de Noviembre y Calle 118 (halfway between El Paseo Mall and Migracion, on the same side as Migracion. Tel. (05) 292-1097, email anglo3@ecua.net.ec or maybe manta@angloequatoriana.com (Nemesis said they could find no parts in this store that were 12v (trying to repair their compressor), but there was lots of tubing and refrigerant).

Comercial Jocay – Calle J-11 y Calle J-8 in Barrio Jocay. Nemesis was referred to them by Angloequatoriana, called but didn't visit. Tel 05-292-2409. Card says 'Repuestos para Refrigeracion Domestico e Industrial y de A/A Vehiculos'.

Upholstery – Lucho in Leonidas Plaza area (Giovanni knows where they are). Go to center of Leonidas, turn right (west) on Avenida Esmereldes. House is near the end of the street on right, ask for Lucho. Upholstered a nav station chair for Soggy Paws 2009, nice job, reasonable price.

Canvas Repair -

Water – city water available at Puerto Amistad or Bahia Yacht Club dinghy docks, for cooking or cleaning, but not for drinking. Puerto Amistad will deliver 20 liter purified water to boat. Purified water also available many places in town.

Welding – Auto Repuestos Chavez did a little light welding. But for better work use Fred in Leonidas. See details under Machine Shop.

3.4.3 Hardware Stores

Bahia

Auto Repuestos Chavez, just up from the Tia, Ascazubi between Malecon and Bolivar, English spoken.

Carlos Delgado C – across from Chavez

J&H, next to Police behind Bus Terminal.

Manta

Hardware, hoses, building supplies, pumps, some marine equipment: Grupo Zurita; Via Manta a Portoviejo, Sector la "Y". Tel. (05) 292-4321. Email: gerencia@grupozurita.zzn.com. Edison Zurita, General Manager. See "Boris", who speaks good English.

Ferreteria Industrial Ludepa - Ave 106 y calle 105 esquina Tel 05262-7289

3.4.4 Communications Related Services

Internet – Puerto Amistad has free wifi for boats on their moorings or paying the dinghy dock fee. Pretty good service. Can be picked up out on the boat from dusk to dawn with a good wifi antenna. Lots of other wifi signals received on the boat, but all seem to be locked. Several wireless providers in town (for a \$40/mo fee). Also, internet cafes: Systecom, Bolivar near Aguilera, English spoken; Genesis Net, Malecon across from Repsol, English spoken, Spanish language classes. Both have local and long distance phone booths.

Long Distance Telephone – See Internet. Cheapest long distance rates.

Copies- See Internet. Many other places in town as well – look for "Copias" signs.

Cell Phones – There are two major cell providers in Ecuador, Porta and Movistar. You can walk in to any cell phone provider and buy just a sim card, if you already have a phone that will work. Porta sims were \$6 each Feb 2009. Porta-to-Porta calls for people on your 'friends' list are only 5 cents a minute. Non-friends on Porta are 10 cents each, and to other phones about 30 cents each.

If you have an 'open' cell phone that works in the US, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, or Panama, it will work in Ecuador. ATT cell phones with international roaming enabled do work within Ecuador, but you pay something like \$2-\$3 per minute.

3.4.5 Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical

Dentist – Doctora Berthalina Andrade de Viteri, Calle España and Esmeraldas, Leonidas Plaza. Tel. 239-9785. Take any local green/white bus to Leonidas Plaza. Pass Parque Central. Get off at the first traffic light after the park, walk down the street to the left. Go 2 blocks, turn left. Office is in the white house on the corner on your left.

Farmacias – Sana Sana, Montúfar between Antes and Aczázubi; Elianta, Bolivar near Banco de Pinchincha. I found my hard-to-find blood pressure medicine at the farmacia opposite the SuperMaxi in Manta (Farmacia Fybeca).

3.4.6 Getting Mail and Parts

Joe from s/v Jubilee says that the best way to get small stuff is to have it sent by U.S. International Priority Mail. If it is under 4 lbs, you can do this and it almost always comes in without getting stuck in Customs.

Do NOT send it addressed to 'Puerto Amistad' as that is a red flag and it may get held up in Customs. Instead, have it sent to your name at any street address in town (Puerto Amistad's address is OK, just don't say 'Puerto Amistad'). Then go check for it at the Post Office in town, as all parcel mail is held there.

DHL - #1115 Bolivar, in front of Banco de Pichincha. Also Western Union

Fed Ex – Guacamayo Tours is agent, Bolivar at Arenas.

Post Office – Aguilera, just off Malecon.

3.4.7 Food and Provisioning

Public Market in Bahia - On the corner of Morales and Ante; 2 floors; fruits, veggies, meat, seafood, flowers. Get there before 10am as things start shutting down. Some dry goods also available there.

Micro Mercado Yanina - Mateus between Bolivar and Montupar; best selection in town.

Comercial Navia – Simon Bolivar between Ante & Ascázubi, warm friendly folks, clean, good stock of basic items (tortillas in the 'frig).

Tia – On the corner of the Malecon a few blocks north of Puerto Amistad. Has groceries and household items.

There are several large US-style supermarkets in Manta and Puerto Viejo.

Manta - El Paseo Mall: modern, enclosed mall, with food court on second level. Large "Mi Commisariato" supermarket, Ace Hardware store, etc. Discount store (reportedly best liquor prices) across the street from the mall. Supermaxi supermarket near new hotel area downtown.

3.4.8 Personal Services

Haircuts – Naza (Maria Marlene), Rio Frio just west of Bolivar, \$2-3 each or \$4 for two. Poor reports have come back from the following: Loly's, Bolivar 809 near Checa; cutting (\$4), coloring, manicures, pedicures, facials; air-conditioned. Fanny's (on Malecon) (\$2)

Laundry – Machine wash/dry service at Puerto Amistad; Inquire at Auto Repuestos Chavez for lady who does laundry at home; Hostal Bahia B&B, 2nd floor reception (machine wash, line dry), \$3 for LARGE bag; Blancanieves Lavanderia, Intriago y Plaza (machine wash and dry).

3.4.9 Restaurants

If you are eating lunch, always ask for the special. They will give you a menu that has prices in the \$5-\$6 range, and not tell you about their \$1.50 lunch special, which usually includes small soup, small salad, main course, and juice.

- Hugo's – almuerzo only, set menu changes daily; clean & friendly neighborhood atmosphere and only \$1.50. Rio Frio & Morales.

- Puerto Amistad – Open every day for cena except Sunday or if closed with a large party. High quality & creative but not the cheapest around.
- D’Camaron – delicious shrimp, low prices
- Arena Pizza – Reports are of acceptable (but tomato-sauce-free) pizza. Bolivar
- Pepitos – Bolivar & (approx. Estada). Palapa style open restaurant, opens around dusk. Great grilled meat/veggies for \$1.20 - \$1.80 per stick. Pop and beer only.
- Muelle Uno – excellent food, especially parrillada, large portions. Higher prices than other parrillada places, but good value. Watch out for ants.
- Chifa Lau – inexpensive and plentiful Chinese food
- Tropihelado – ice cream, hamburgers, papi-pollo, salichipapas
- Big Boy Robin – hamburgers, other fast food
- Pollo Dorado – great roasted chicken, \$2 for a huge quarter plus sides
- Ice Cream – On Bolivar about 3 blocks north of Ascazubi
- Coco Bongo Hostal – Good American-style full breakfast for \$2. Near corner of Arenas and

3.4.10 Places to Stay

If you have guests coming, and want to put them up ashore...

Coco Bongo Hostal – A backpacker place a few blocks from Puerto Amistad, run by an American and an Aussie. Nice clean rooms, inexpensive. Has two 6-person ‘bunk rooms’ and 2-3 double-rooms. Doubles are about \$20-\$30.

Bahia Hotel – Directly across from Puerto Amistad. Would be convenient, but haven’t checked out the facility or price.

3.5 Transportation in and Around Bahia

3.5.1 Eco-Taxi

The least expensive way to get around Bahia is the pedicab or “Eco-Taxi” – great for getting your mercado purchases down to the dock or laundry to and from the lavanderia. \$0.25/person.

3.5.2 Taxi

Yellow taxis, \$30-35 all day. A one-way trip anywhere in town, including out to Leonidas, is \$1.

Yellow taxi as a colectivo is \$.50 per person.

Fernando’s pick-up truck (\$35 all day)

Roberto’s taxi, 269-0233 or 269-0037 (\$30-35 all day)

Margarita Lopez Quiroz, 239-9394 or 09-754-5374 (\$30 all day).

Giovanni Alvarado has a truck and a car, 09425-9244 (Cell, Porta) 09816-1330 (cell, Movi). He is well acquainted with all the places yachties like to go in Manta, including the galvanizing place, and will work by the trip, the hour, or the day. A trip out and back to Leonidas, and hanging out for a half an hour while we talked with the proprietor, was \$3 in 2009. Taking 3 sets of cruisers, and their chain, to the galvanizing place and then all over Manta to hardware stores and repair places for 12 hrs was \$60 in 2009.

3.5.3 Buses

Local Bus - around town and to Leonidas Plaza, \$0.18. Green and white.

Buses to and from Bahia de Caraquez

Puerto Viejo - \$2.25, 2hrs.

Manta – Change buses in Puerto Viejo, \$0.90/ 30 minutes further. (Some buses with no change required in Puerto Viejo – check at bus station for times)

Guayaquil – Ejecutivo class, reserved seats, bathroom, air-conditioned with movies, \$7, 6 hrs. Seats in front row have less legroom. Reina de Camino. 7:15, 9:30, 11:30am among others.

Quito – Reina del Camino, Ejecutivo class, air-conditioned with movies, comfy seats, 8-9hrs. day (9am, \$9, arrives about 5:10pm), or overnight. Goes through Chone (buy food and drink here) and Santo Domingo. Day bus stops for almuerzo at about 1:45pm. Driver side of bus has best view going TO Quito; right side on the return trip. Arrives Terminal Terrestre in Old Town and then continues to Reina del Camino terminal in New Town.

3.5.4 Ferry Service to San Vicente

Passenger Ferry (Panga) – from Muelle 1, \$0.30/person

Car Ferry – passengers ride free

3.5.5 Travel Agencies

E Ceibas Tours, Bolivar and Checa, Luigi speaks English; Guacamayo Tours, Bolivar and Arenas; Bahia Dolphin Tours, Bolivar and Riofrio

3.5.6 Flying Back to the States

There are several options to fly back to the States. American Airlines flies out of Quito, and a round trip to Miami/Ft. Lauderdale was about \$320 in Mar 2009.

Spirit Airlines flies quite cheaply round trips to/from Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando and Tampa from Lima and Bogota. From Florida you can connect to Southwest Airlines for cheap flights anywhere else. Avianca or LAN are good connections to Lima or Bogota. A good booking site

to check for within-South America-travel, and travel back to the States, is Costamar Travel in Peru <http://costamar.com/special.costamar>

4 LAND TRAVEL in ECUADOR

4.1 *Bahia de Caraquez and Vicinity*

4.1.1 *La Tortuga “Miguelito”*

A Galapagos tortoise brought to Bahía in 1920 and later adopted by the Escuela Fiscal de Niños Miguel Valverde on Calle Ascázubi. The kids care for the tortoise (and learn stewardship of nature as the result) and it's clear the nearly 100 year old tortoise enjoys the children. Bring fruits or veggies for Miguelito and school supplies for kids.

4.1.2 *Museo de Bahia de Caraquez*

Excellent regional museum, concentrates on local north-western Ecuador pre-Columbian cultures. On Malecon in Banco Central building. Also includes art gallery featuring local artists and exhibits which change monthly, museum shop, library, restoration and research area. \$1 entrance to museum, library free (use side door). Closed Mondays. Tour available in English (worthwhile to arrange, as exhibits are all labeled in Spanish) from Jacob Santos (museum director) or Carlos, his assistant.

4.1.3 *Chirije Archeological Site*

This site, about 15km from Bahia on the coast, is owned by Bahia Dolfín Tours, who have developed a small “eco-resort” on the premises. Day trips to the small museum, archeological digs, hiking through the property and along the beach are available, as well as overnight or multi-day visits. The day trip is \$15/person, and includes transportation and a delicious lunch. Because the site is accessible only by driving along the beach, day visits are limited to 3 hours on each side of low tide. Potshards, other pre-Columbian remains, and fossils are literally everywhere. Anything found on the property must be turned in to the owners. However, anything found OFF the property, such as on the beach, are yours to keep. You need a group of 6 people minimum for the \$15 rate, altho you may be able to join another tour group if you can't find enough cruisers. Inquire at Bahia Dolfín Tours or with Jacob Santos at the museum, who often acts as a guide.

4.1.4 *San Vicente*

Take panga from muelle uno (small fee) or gabarra (car ferry, free).

4.1.5 *Canoa*

A short bus trip north of San Vicente. Neat little surfer town. Nice almuerzo at Hotel Bambu.

4.1.6 Sosote

Local source for inexpensive tagua nut jewelry and decorative items (most \$1-\$5). Will sell loose beads as well as finished items. Shops arrayed on both sides of the road from Bahia to Puerto Viejo. Several lunch spots; the restaurant on the left side of the road after the last tagua workshop as you go toward Puerto Viejo is clean, good selection of local dishes, TV, hammocks to sleep off your lunch, and clean bathrooms. Take bus from Bahia to Puerto Viejo but check with driver or ayudante that it passes through Sosote. On return trip, catch bus to Bahia.

4.1.7 Montecristi

See Panama Hats being made by the few remaining artisans. A wide range of qualities and prices are offered.

4.1.8 Isla de Corazon

Mangrove island, bird watching. Tour with English-speaking guide through tour agencies in town, OR take public transport (ferry to San Vicente then bus) or dinghy yourself up the river to the visitor's center on the San Vicente side of the river. You will be taken by cayuca from the visitor center to the island and through the mangroves to the Frigate Bird nesting site. Local guides give tour on the island itself, but only in Spanish. There is an interpretive boardwalk through the mangroves. This trip is only possible at high tides, so check ahead before going up there.

4.1.9 Crucita

Seaside town south of Bahia known for beaches and parasailing. Hostal Voladores, Calle Principal y Nueva Loja, can arrange tandem demo rides (\$20). Also, lessons leading to certification. Contact Luis Tobar, proprietor of the hostel at 05 234 0200 and email hvoladores@hotmail.com. To get there, take a taxi for \$30 for the day or bus from Bahia to Portoviejo and then connect to local bus for the short trip to Crucita.

4.2 Banos

Transportation

Quito to Baños: Ejecutivo, \$3, 3-1/2 hrs. Interesting scenery – view of several volcanos, including Cotapaxi.

Latacunga to Baños: \$2, 2hr.; direct or change in Ambato

Baños to Riobamba (via Ambato): \$2, 2hr., every 2 hours or so.

Places to Stay

Hostal Plantas y Blanco: Martinez, near 12 de Noviembre. Rooftop terrace with cafeteria, honor bar, lounges for sunning, books and games, steam bath, laundry. Guests can use kitchen during off hours. Pleasant rooms with plants and artwork.

GREAT breakfasts. Choice of shared or private bath with hot water. \$4.50-\$7.50pp. Popular. Tel 03-274-0044. Email: option3@hotmail.com

Hostal Hospedaje Santa Cruz: Calle 16 de Diciembre near Martinez. Fireplace, tropical garden, games, self-service drinks, movie library, private baths with hot water. \$5 - \$7pp. Tel. 03-274-0648.

Residencia Hostal (name not known) across from Santa Cruz upstairs (NOT the one above Restaurant Good). Nice room with shared bath \$4; also furnished apartment on top floor, spacious, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living/dining room, bathroom, \$25/day.

Hostal El Oro: Calle Ambato y Mera, Tel: 740-513. \$4 pp. Small room with private bath, hot water, full breakfast included, and really nice owners.

Hostal Isla de Baños: Hafplants 1-31, Tel: 740-609, \$8 pp, continental breakfast, nice double room, knowledgeable owner.

Hotel Santa Clara: \$36dbl.

Hostal de Leon, \$5 pp, TV, private bath, a little bit away from the center, fair price

Places to Eat

Tienda Alex: food tienda, Calle 16 de Diciembre (across from Santa Cruz). Owner Alex speaks english. Very helpful.

Restaurant Good: to right of Tienda Alex – mixed reviews – some people had good food, others awful food and service; 2-hr. machine laundry service.

Restaurant TJ's: to left of Alex (TJ is Alex's brother) - excellent breakfast and free internet while waiting for meal.

Café Mariane: okay food – VERY slow service.

Casa Hood: on Martinez, tasty foods, real coffee and espresso, and old movies in English nightly. Same person owns **Café Hood**, with slightly different menu.

Café Tecuba: excellent, freshly made Mexican food.

Bella Italia: delicious Italian food and pizza, happy hour 2 for 1 drinks, including house wine.

Bar Mocambo: Alfaro between Ambato and Oriente, cable TV with ESPN for you sports fans

Quilombo: Av Montalvo and 12 de Noviembre. Argentinian restaurant whose house wine is in fact from Argentina and very drinkable Sit near the kitchen as the chef uses a wood stove and lots of alcohol so the flames make quite a spectacle. Order a steak.

Things to Do

- Jungle Trip: Recommended tour agency Sixto Perez/ Conquistour Expeditions, Calle Ambato y 16 Diciembre. Wildanimal45@hotmail.com. Friendly, professional, good

English. One and multi-day jungle tours. One day trip included hiking, canoeing, swimming at waterfall, lunch by river, Indian village visit, for \$30pp.

- Piscina el Salado baths – short hike (about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour). Okay but crowded, even on a week day, and not very hot.
- Mountain biking on the road to Puyo. Fabulous. Take a rain jacket – even if it is sunny – as the waterfalls at Pailón del Diablo are very wet. Lots to stop and see. Cable car across at the first waterfall (\$1 each), hike down to cross the suspension bridge and hike back up. Trout restaurants (catch your own if you want) on the waterfall side (wear long pants or take bug spray for the restaurants, as ravenous little mosquitoes LOVE the trout ponds). Further down the road, the walk to Pailón del Diablo waterfalls is spectacular. Privately-owned trail at the end to goes out over the falls (\$0.50 pp) really worth it – pays for the family to maintain the trail. Have a drink at La Otra Lado, across the small suspension bridge. Many bike rental places, all \$4 to \$5, including helmets, lock, extra inner tube and pump. Among others, can rent from hostel (El Oro), Roca Mysteriosa Travel Agency. Check condition of bike (shifting, e.g.) and seat and handlebar adjustments before leaving town. Catch a bus or friendly truck for the trip back uphill.
- Basilica – “miracle” paintings.
- Waterfalls –walk around town, and visit the waterfalls there.
- View from La Virgen del Agua Santa statue above town. Trail begins one block west of hospital on Montalvo. Look for green hiking trail sign. Follow sign for one block, then turn right to the edge of the cemetery where you will see steps leading up.
- Museo de Mi Pueblito – just outside of town on the road to Puyo – walking distance. Memorabilia and local art in an old aguardiente distillery.
- Galerie Huillacuna – Ecuadorean paintings, sculpture and jewelry, Montalvo y Vieira
- Zoo San Martin – excellent small zoo with Ecuadorean animals in natural setting – condors, spectacled bears, tapirs, monkeys, etc. Buses go direct to zoo from downtown. Zoo is outside of town, just across Puente San Martin.
- Quad Runners to climb the road up Volcan Tungurahua to Pondoá - \$8-15 per hour, depending upon size. Great views. 150cc (\$10/hr) was ok for two people, up the mountain road.

4.3 Cuenca

Transportation

Bus between Guayaquil and Cuenca has two routes, same line. More scenic route with mountainous views and steep climb is through PARQUE NACIONAL CAJAS. Bus runs every 35-40 minutes. Ejecutivo class \$7, 3-1/2 hours.

Riobamba to Cuenca: \$6, 6 hrs., approx. every 2 hours.

A taxi from the bus depot will take you to the town center.

Places to Stay

Americano. Tamariz 1-14 y Ave. Heroes de Verdeloma. Tel. 07 283-7882 Casa of Francisco and Sandra. BRAND new room on the second floor with private bath for \$12pp. (Long) Walking distance to town. Quiet. They were helpful with bus schedules, side tours, restaurants and such.

Hostal el Monasterio, Padre Aguirre 7-24 (opposite San Francisco mercado), tel: 824-457. \$7 pp, large rooms, double beds, TV, hot water, very clean, good safe location. Dorm rooms with shared bath less. TV lobby, kitchen and lunchroom. Rooms scattered around several floors of an office building.

Posada del Angel, Gran Colombia at Toral, \$33 dbl, incl. continental breakfast. It is a really nice place, a restored colonial home.

Hostal Macondo, Tarqui 11-64 y Lamar, \$17 dbl, shared bath including tax and continental breakfast. Only a couple of rooms with private bath (\$24 dbl). Lovely old house with large garden, QUIET but still near center, rooms vary in size, but all extremely clean, well-maintained, lots of plants and artwork, shared bath was cleaned at least 4 times per day and never a problem. Safe location, friendly and helpful. Highly recommended!

Hotel Atahualpa, Sucre 3-50 and Tomas Ordenez. Good hot water, quiet, TV, and big rooms.

El Cafecito Hostel/Restaurant, Vasquez 7-36. Dorm rooms \$4pp around interior courtyard, rooms with private bath \$7pp around a garden. Popular restaurant with music til 11pm each night.

Hotel Inca Real, General Torres 8-40 y Sucre \$45 dbl. (negotiated \$30/night for one week stay), cable TV, double bed, buffet breakfast included-the best. Tel: 823636 825571; email:incareal@cue.satnet.net

Places to Eat

WunderBar – for a great almuerzo. Gets noisy at night, though.

Grecia Restaurant: Gran Columbia y Aguirre – only a couple of greek items on the menu but tasty, good paella

La Lucia: looked nice, but very uneven. Service confused, some items overpriced for what you got. Pasta tasty (once it arrived).

Raymipampa: under colonnade, next to Cathedral. Large portions, good prices.

Hari Krishna: vegetarian Pizza parlor a block from Hostal El Cafecito on Jaramillo.

Moliendo Café: Colombian food, on Vazquez 6-24 y Miguel

Mama Kinua Restaurant and Cultural Center: General Torres 7-45 (San Francisco Plaza, next to Casa de la Mujer). Typical Andean food, breakfast, lunch and cultural events (open til 5:30pm)

El Cofratia de Monjes: General Torres, 2 doors south of Casa de la Mujer.

Things to Do

In Town:

- Museo de las Culturas Aborigenes - Calle Larga #5-24 Between Miguel and Cueva. Exhibits of all major Ecuadorian aboriginal cultures.
- Museo de Banco Central – art and archeology, Cuenca history, Inca ruins and garden
- Museo de Artes Populares – traditional native crafts and costumes
- Flower Market – in front of church of El Carmen de la Asuncion
- Tourist Center – free maps
- Barranco Panama Hat Factory: Calle Larga 10-41 between Torres and Aguirre. Museum, store, wine bar, art gallery, workshop, best prices.
- Homero Ortega Panama Hat Factory: Gil Ramirez Davalos. Good tour, larger selection of styles, but considerably higher prices than Barranco, and out of town by the bus terminal.
- Alberto Pulla Hat Factory: Tarqui near Calle Larga. An older-timer who makes the indígenas hats – all the same style, painted with sulphur to shape them, thus he has lost his voice.
- Mercado: shop for crafts – bargain hard – get some excellent deals.
- Casa de la Mujer: Torres, between Cordoba and Sucre (near San Francisco Market) – many indoor craft booths
- New indoor Mercado: 2 stories, great fruits and veggies. Torres y Jaramillo.

Out of Town:

- Baños – smaller version of the town described above, 5km southwest of Cuenca; sulfurous hot springs with public pools and restaurants
- Gualaceo-Chordeleg-Sigsig – Famous for Sunday markets. Can make bus trip to all markets and return same day.
 - Chordeleg: Shop the jewelry stores around the plaza – mostly gold jewelry; Joyeria El Brillante on Juan Bautista Cobos y 24 de Mayo, corner of Parque Central. Owner Carlos Lopez - specialist in gold jewelry; very friendly and speaks good English. Museum on the square is free. Las Ruinas Llaber: a mile walk from the square An unprotected archeological site, a hill with rock walls, overgrown with grass and wildflowers with a nice view of the city and of the surrounding hills.
- Principal – tiny highland town (take bus from Cuenca to Chordeleg, then another bus to Principal). Stay in Hostal Anabel (dorm rooms). Simple meals available.

- Local guides available to El Chorro de Principal Waterfall.
- Horseback ride to Los Dos Encuentras Rios \$11. Wouldn't recommend this for a large group. These were workhorses, not used to being ridden and not used to being around each other. The saddles were wooden with metal stirrups hung on rope; the bridles rope with no bit in the mouth so it was hard to make a point with the horse. Rode to a beautiful spot for a picnic. Then, hiked back to the horses and continued over hill and dale, sometimes on a rocky, muddy and precipitous trail, so narrow at times that our feet were knocked out of the stirrups. We were glad for the rubber boots we rented for 60 cents. Many times the horses slid and tripped on the wet rocks. Donkeys might have been better for this ancient trail, the path the Cañari people used before the Inca civilization
- Hike to Los Tres Lagos. Very strenuous. Beautiful spot but more of a mountain climb than a hike.
- Ingapirca Ruins – most important Inca site in Ecuador. 1km from bus stop in village of Ingapirca. Don't miss the hiking trail. Guides available on site (Spanish and sometimes English) – free if you just stand and listen, extra fee to walk the ruins with you.
- Alternative I: Guided tour arranged through Expediciones Apullacta (Gran Columbia 11-02 y Torres) for \$35pp (plus \$6 park fee), including English speaking guide, transportation, lunch. Guide, Juan Carlos Brito, is an independent and can also be contacted directly for tours at 09-423-0672 (cell).
- Alternative II: Leave the Riobamba to Cuenca bus in El Tambo (about 70 km north of Cuenca - ask the driver to stop near town center). Take a bus from El Tambo to Ingapirca runs from 6:50am till 13:45pm, every 15 minutes (pick the bus anywhere round the market place). Bus from Ingapirca to El Tambo runs from 6:00am till 17:00pm. The trip takes about 30 minutes. Stay overnight in Ingapirca (Hostal Ingapirca is NOT recommended. There is at least one newer hostel which looked good) or return to El Tambo to continue or return to Cuenca (no hostals in El Tambo).
- Alternative III: Leave the Riobamba to Cuenca bus in Cañar (about north 60 km of Cuenca - ask the driver to stop near town center). Stay overnight in Cañar at Hostal Ingapirca, Calle Sucre, 5.de Junio (near church), \$15 dbl with private bath, very basic, but OK for one night. Take bus to Ingapirca – same bus as described in Alternative II, which travels from Cañar to El Tambo and on to Ingapirca. The bus stop in Cañar is on Av. 24.Mayo (direction downhill) and takes about 40 minutes.
- Walk up to El Turi church on a hill on the other side of the river. Walk up Av. Fray Vicente Solano, cross Av. 24 de Mayo to the base of 450 stairs. At the top a plaza with a grand lookout over the city, a cafeteria and a tourist shop
- E. Vega Galería/Taller, Via a Turi 201 frente al PAI – ceramic workshop and showroom, in town of Turi, overlooking Cuenca. Beautiful work and reasonably priced. Sr. Vega came out to greet us. Walk up as described above. We were taken by our guide after tour of Ingapirca.

4.4 **Guayaquil**

Transportation

Guayaquil to Bahía: Reina del Camino, Ejecutivo class, \$8, movie, about 6 hours. Directo trips to Bahia leave Guayaquil at 8am and 9:45am and 11:30am. Note that they will most of the time insist that you check your backpack. The bus stops in Jipijapa and Puerto Viejo. When they stop to gas up, best bathroom (10 min stop).

Another bus is Coacatur, adequate, but not as good as Reina.

Bus between Guayaquil and Cuenca has two routes, same line. More scenic route with mountainous views and steep climb is through PARQUE NACIONAL CAJAS. Bus runs every 35-40 minutes. Ejecutivo class \$7, 3-1/2 hours.

Taxi from Terminal Terrestre to downtown \$3 or \$4. Taxis tend to be expensive, overcharging is common.

Guayaquil to Salinas: There are two options for transport. Ruta del Sol is on the back side of the block from the Ramada Hotel on the Malecon. It was \$15 each way for the Trip to Puerto Lucia. It takes about 2-1/2 hours. 094-640915 cell.

<http://www.rutadelsol.com.ec/#taxi>

The other option is to take a taxi to the bus station (\$3-\$4) and then take the Red bus, CLP, to La Libertad, (\$4) then a taxi (\$1) to Puerto Lucia. As you can see, the cost ends up being about the same. Ruta del Sol is easier because it is right there, and if you have luggage, it's a good option.

Places to Stay

Ninth of October: Recommended by s/v Mainly Me. Right down town. Cheaper than Hostal Wilson (which they also recommended). It is on Ave 9th of October. Big hotel. Have a breakfast room (but not included in cost of room).

Hostal Wilson: Newer hostel, about 10 rooms. \$25 double in 2009.

Hotel Rizzo, Ballén 319, tel: 232-7140. \$20 dbl, with private bath, continental breakfast. hot water, cable TV, fan in small, interior room, double bed, good pillows and sheets, clean and comfortable, though a bit worn. Larger rooms with a/c are \$30-\$40 dbl. ASK for \$20 rooms (not always available). Near the malecón and parque Bolívar, safe to walk day and evening.

Hotel California, Urdaneta 529. \$24 dbl., hot water, private bath. Check with desk re which streets are safe for walking after dark.

Pacifico Hostelng, Escobedo 811, between Junin and Urdaneta. \$12 single, \$16 double bed, hot water, private bath, a/c, color TV. Cafeteria, laundry service, garage. Tel. 256-8093, 223-0077.

Hostal Suites Madrid, Quisquis 305 y Rumichaca. \$12/\$15 double, without/with AC, private bath, hot water, cable TV. Cafeteria. Tel. 231-4992, 230-7804.

Hostal Milenium, close to Hotel Ecuador (Moncayo), \$8pp, private bath, clean room, cable TV

Hotel Ecuahogar, Av. Ayora, Sauces 1, Mz. F-31. \$18 dbl with shared bath or \$25dbl with private bath, hot water, continental breakfast. Discount for Hostelling International members. Near airport and terminal terrestre – handy if you are just staying over to catch a plane or bus.

Castell Hotel, Cdla Kennedy Norte, Av. Miguel H. Alcivar y Calle Ulloa (frente al Parque Japonés), (593-4)2680 190. \$48 cash dbl., includes tax, breakfast, double bed with cable TV, AC, hot water; near San Marino shopping center

Hampton Inn, Av. 9 Octubre. \$60 dbl (weekend rate), much higher weekdays, plush “American Style” hotel with all the amenities, bountiful breakfast buffet, and airport van. A couple blocks from the Malecon. Free airport pickup and delivery – and to the terminal terrestre if they aren’t busy.

Tangara Guest House, Ciudadela Bolivariana block F, house 1, Manuela Saenz. Can be booked ahead on hostelworld.com. \$25 double, plus 12% tax, cash only. Includes breakfast, private bath, hot showers, cable TV.

- **Manso Boutique Guesthouse**, Malecón 1406 y Aguirre, Guayaquil. Can be booked ahead on HostelWorld.com, \$40 double shared bath with all taxes and breakfast included. +593 97372150, reservas@manso.ec, [For directions click here](#)

Places to Eat

Hotel Rizzo has a restaurant – somewhat pricey for what you get, but convenient

Bongo Burgers: an old-fashioned soda fountain downtown on Nueve de Octubre near Chimborazo.

Tipo Don Rico’s - Escobado near 9 de Octubre

Aroma Café – inside the Gardens on Malecon 2000. typical food, coffee and deserts. noon to midnight.

Things to Do

- Iguana Park – Hotel Contiental, restaurant downstairs called Canoas. Open 24 hrs.
- Walk the Malecón - try the whispering wall at the rotunda, visit the botanical garden, and see the Eiffel-built crystal palace – open 7am to midnight, heavily patrolled by police, very safe and clean. Exercise area, underground shops, and restaurants both below and above, lots of locals and kids out for a stroll, particularly on weekends.
- IMAX theatre at the north end of the Malecón – several choices of IMAX films showing afternoon and evening every day
- Climb steps up Las Peñas and walk along the colonial street of Calle Numa Pompilio Llona

- Artisan's market, just past the Crystal Palace at south end of Malecon
- Tour of research ship "Orion", Navy dock on Malecon.
- MAAC (art & archeology museum), north end of Malecón, includes a theatre – this is the new home of the Banco Central Museum.
- Parque Bolívar with 50 or so land iguanas (daytime only – they sleep in trees at night)
- Cathedral, on Parque Bolívar
- Parque Histórico Guayaquil – Via Samborondón, Av. Esmeraldas y Av. Central, on the island between the airport and Duran. Cab \$4-6. Can be reached by bus, but requires a change. – small zoo, reconstructions of period buildings, hacienda, campesino home. English speaking guide is part of entrance fee.
- Museo Municipal – history of Guayaquil, archeology and shrunken heads!
- Naval Museo (free) - Malecón Simon Bolivar y Clemente Ballén open 8:15 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 4:00
- Black Market (Thieves Market) - across the street from the south end of the malecón; rows and rows of booths selling electronics, CDs, T-shirts and stuff
- Shopping for Boat Parts:
 - HIVAMAR, Av. Marengo, Km 2.5 y Casilla – huge importer of bearings
 - Commercial Alarcon, 1714 Eloy Alfaro – large ferreteria, some marine items
 - Pescaequipos, 1516 Alfaro – mostly fishing gear
 - Other marine stores on Alfaro, Argentina and San Martin
 - IMPROMAC, 2014 Alfaro y Columbia – hydraulic hoses
 - Angloequatoriana de Guayaquil, Chimborazo y Argentina – refrigeration supplies
- Mall del Sol - Number 2 bus from the Malecón to the airport stop. Cross busy street and walk two blocks. Expensive stores, 99-cent store, food court, seven MOVIE theaters

4.5 Latacunga

Transportation

Quito to Latacunga: Bus passes Volcán Cotopaxi

Quevedo to Latacunga: Transportes Cotopaxi, \$4, 6hrs., hourly departures. Wonderful scenery; road passes through tropical forest, cloud forest, and over Paramó at 12,000'.

Latacunga to Baños: \$2, 2hrs., direct or change in Ambato

Taxi from Terminal Terrestre to town center for 4 people and luggage was \$2

Places to Stay

Hotel Central: entrance on Orellana, just north of Parque Vicente Leon. Shares building with Hotel Cotopaxi, whose entrance faces directly onto the Parque. \$15 dbl. Friendly owner. Breakfast \$2.

Places to EatThings to DoIn Town:Out of Town:

- Sunday markets in Pujilí – colorful produce and some crafts
- Thursday market in Saquisilí – mostly local stuff
- Quilotoa circuit for the spectacular scenery and walks – there are a number of small villages that form a circle, including Saquisilí, Zumbahua, Quilotoa, Chugchilan and Sigchos. See Separate Section “Quilotoa Circuit” for details.

4.6 LojaTransportation

Bus from Cuenca, 6 hours

Bus from Guayaquil, 9 hrs., Transportes Loja

Places to Stay

- **Hotel Podocarpus**, Eguiguren 16-50. \$30 dbl, private bath, hot water, TV, breakfast. Comfortable and clean.

Places to EatThings to Do**4.7 Machala**Places to Stay

Oro Hotel: \$25 dbl., good bathroom, cable TV, AC, hot water. Tel. 2937569 2932408 2930783 2930032 2930034; email: orohotel@oro.satnet.net

4.8 MantaPlaces to Eat

Bar Mama Rosa – Reyes y Perimetral, Barrio Umiña, Frente al Parque. Pizzeria y Parrillada. Tel. 05-262-6076. Email: mamarosa@latinmail.com

Things to Do

- Immigration: office behind Policia Nacional building, second floor (ask Guard in booth near driveway entrance). Initial entry into Bahia de Caraquez by boat (3 months) – get passport stamped and tourist card, \$15/person. As of Oct. 2004, CANNOT provide visa extensions – must go to Quito for 1 month extension.
- El Paseo Mall: modern, enclosed mall, with food court on second level. Large “Mi Commisariato” supermarket, Ace Hardware store, etc. Discount store (reportedly best liquor prices) across the street from the mall. Supermaxi supermarket near new hotel area downtown.
- Malecon: stroll along the wide, white-sand beach, studded with windbreak enclosures. Many restaurants.
- Museo de Banco Central
- Yacht Club

Boat Supplies and Repair (see Bahia section)

4.9 Montañita

Surf center of Ecuador with waves up to 3 meters!

Places to Stay

Hotel Las Tres Palmeras, directly at the point, \$7pp incl. breakfast, prices are negotiable during low season until December.

4.10 Otavalo

Transportation

Quito to Otavalo, Transportes Otavalo or Transportes Los Lagos. 2.5hrs., \$2, leaves from the downstairs part of Terminal Terrestre at frequent intervals. If you have arrived in Quito on day bus from Bahía, you may be able to catch the 5:15pm departure.

Otavalo to Quito – sit on right side of bus has best views

Places to Stay

Acoma Hotel: Salinas 07-57 between Ave. 31 de Octubre & Ricaurte. Newly opened. \$30 for two including continental breakfast. Discounts offered for long stays or groups. Pedro (manager) speaks English. Giftshop, Café. Tel. 06 2926 570, www.acomahotel.com

Hostal Doña Esther: Juan Montalvo 4-44 & Roca. Lovely courtyard, nice restaurant with woodfired pizza. Private baths \$30 - \$37 for two. Tel. 06 2925 381

Hotel El Indio: Sucre 12-14, right off Pancho Plaza. Very clean, very convenient, \$20 for two. Room 403 is enormous with nice balcony and view of market. (Alternative higher priced and newer Hotel El Indio Inn is attached but entrance is on Bolivar. Approx. \$40 for two.) Tel. 06 2920 060

La Luna: 4.5km south of Otavalo. Restaurant, movies, rooms with fireplace, live Andean music Saturday nights. Rooms with private bath, as well as camping, dorm and shared bath rooms. \$2-\$9pp. Guided hikes to Mojanda Lakes, can arrange horseback riding and mountain biking. Tel. 09-973-7415. Taxi to town \$3. Free pick up for stays of 2 nights or more until 6pm.

Hostal Santa Fe: Calle Roca 7-34 near G Mareno. Tel (062) 923 640. \$7pp. Hot water, TV, big rooms.

Hostal El Geranio: Ricuarte, between Morales y Colon. Tel (06) 2920-185. \$5pp, hot water, private bath, pleasant rooms, comfy beds, breakfast included. Kitchen and laundry service available, inexpensive guided tours. A real family atmosphere. Convenient to all markets and downtown.

El Valle de Amanecar: “Not Recommended”, per CHAMELEON and CABIRI

Hotel Coraza: Av.Abdon Calderon s/n y Sucre. \$26 dbl., breakfast, double bed, cable TV, nice bathroom, hot water. (593-6)2921 225

Places to Eat

Otavalito – Sucre. Excellent almuerzo or cena. Ecuadorian specialties (cuy with reservation).

Pizza Siciliana – Morales 5-10. A bit lacking in the crust department but lots of choices. “Folklorica” or traditional Andean music on Saturday nights; tip musicians, they are not paid.

Café Sol y Luna – Bolivar 11-10. Best fresh juice. Good organic food.

Shenandoah Pie Shop – Poncho Plaza. Big portions.

Cafeteria Bogota Plaza - a pie shop, on Sucre 12-03 near Morales. Good coffee and breakfasts

Restaurante Il de Roma – Montalvo 4-44 y Bolivar. Part of Hostal Doña Esther. Good Italian food, brick oven pizza, lovely setting off central courtyard of hostal. Mid-range prices.

Pizza Restaurant - C. Mareno, around the corner from Cafeteria Bogota, great pizza with real mozzarella cheese

Things to Do

In Town:

- **Animal Market** – must get there early – over by 8 or 9am.

Saturday Markets – THE BEST!! Walk into town early to watch setting up. Many indigenes sell at this market. Textiles, jewelry, musical instruments in the plaza and almost anything imaginable in stalls lining streets emanating from plaza. Bartering is EXPECTED – early morning and late afternoon prices are best (tour groups come mid-day).

Out of Town:

Parque Condor – About 4 km from downtown Otavalo; a taxi will take you there for about \$4 and it makes a nice stroll back over country roads. A tastefully-developed refuge for raptors in spectacular setting under Vulcan Imbabura with a pair of Andean condors in residence. Joep Hendriks is the director. He will tell you the history and mission. Two free flying demonstrations occur daily. \$3.50 adults. Tel. 06 2924 429, www.parquecondor.com

Festivals – Ask at your hotel about what festivals may be happening in surrounding villages. These present wonderful opportunities to experience the warmth, colors and liveliness of the local traditions. If you are lucky you'll get passed the cup of chichi, a traditional fermented corn drink.

Peguche Cascade - Head out of town in a N/NE direction and veer to the right after you pass the bus terminal so that you are walking with the gum tree hill to your right. You will see the old railway track which you will walk on until it veers sharply left through the corn fields. Walk up the hill and where it T's turn right towards a German sponsored school and follow the track to the waterfall. When you come back walk up the road for about 45 minutes for a great view of the valley and Otavalo.

Tour to Cotacachi, and on to Laguna de Cuicocha which is in the bowl of a crater. This is a beautiful area at 3350m and there is a hostel there for those that may want to spend a tranquil night or two. Condors can be seen in the morning and there is a well maintained walking circuit that takes in the hundreds of botanical plants as well as views of the looming Volcano Cotacachi, 4940m, and the lake. On a clear day you can see 8 of Ecuador's volcanoes from this spot. (www.lospinosdecuicocha.com or email

Jorge@lospinosdecuicocha.com , tel 593-9-9001516).

4.11 PortoviejoTransportation

Bahía to Portoviejo:	see Bahía
Portoviejo to Quevedo:	Transporte Reales Tamarindos, 12noon and 8pm, \$5, 4 hrs.
	Transportes Sucre, 11:45am and 5pm

Places to Eat

Food court in El Paseo Mall (see below)

Things to Do

El Paseo Mall: modern, enclosed mall, with food court on second level. Large "Hipermercado" supermarket, hardware store, department store, etc. Multiplex cinema.

4.12 QuevedoTransportation

Portoviejo to Quevedo: Transporte Reales Tamarindos, \$5, 4 hrs, 12noon and 8pm,.

Transportes Sucre, 11:45am and 5pm

Quevedo to Latacunga: Transportes Cotopaxi, \$4, 6hrs., hourly.

Taxi to centro \$1

Places to Stay

Hotel Ejecutivo Internacional - 7 de Octubre #214 y Cuarta, \$15dbl. Color cable TV, cold water, mini-frig, a/c. Some street noise at night. Friendly. Restaurant next door for breakfast (\$1.25)

Places to Eat

Chifa Peking: 7 de Octubre. Good, inexpensive food

Things to Do

Early morning produce market along Rio Quevedo

4.13 Quilotoa Circuit

Crater Lake with spectacular scenery and walks – there are a number of small villages that form a circle, including Saquisilí, Zumbahua, Quilotoa, Chugchilan and Sigchos.

Transportation

Latacunga to Zumbahua and on to Chugchilan: bus, one leaves at 12noon. Or pick-up truck from Zumbahua to Chugchilan

Chugchilan to Quilotoa: private transport is about \$30. Bus leaves at 4am and arrives while still dark. At 6am, private homes and hostals may answer a knock on the door and feed you breakfast – and hot coffee!

Chugchilan to Sigchos: travel by bus on some days, or by pick-up truck (literally the “milk run” – picking up and delivering milk and propane)

Places to Stay

Zumbahua

Small, simple hotels (basically the home of an indigenous family).

Quilotoa

Cabanas Quilotoa: VERY basic, fireplace in room but toilet was an outhouse (3-holer).

Chugchilan

Hostal Mama Hilda, \$10 US pp in dbl room with shared bath, inc. breakfast and dinner, clean, nice and recommended

Also, Black Sheep Inn, and Cloud Forest Inn.

Things to Do

See Crater Lake in Quilotoa; hike or rent horses. Because Quilotoa crater lays at 3800 m (12.400 feet), in the morning it is very cold and windy. So you need warm clothes and wind protection. Starting the hike at sunrise is the best time. Because of no clouds in the morning you will have a great view to the crater lake.

Hiking Directions: You start on the look out on the crater rim. First look out to the left across the crater rim for the 3rd big sandy spot. Be sure you remember on your way the sandy spot and the surrounding mountains on the crater rim, because during the walk you will pass more sandy spots than you can see from the look out. The most common mistake is to leave the crater rim too early. Then begin your hike to the left. The trail takes you on both the inside and outside of the crater rim. **DO NOT** descend steeply into the crater, **NOR** go down on the outside of the crater rim. Sometimes you will see a old rusty arrow, that shows you the way. Just before reaching the sandy spot, stay on the crater rim, climbing up steeply and then down steeply to the sandy spot (but not the way down to the lake!) For this part we hiked about 1 ½ hours, because we stopped sometimes for lookout. Some hikers do this part in 45 to 60 minutes.

At the sandy spot you will see a **ROW OF EUCALYPTUS TREES** coming up to the crater rim. There is also an old arrow which sometimes marks the way. If it is clear, you can see the small villages of Huayama and Chugchilan beyond, across the canyon. Here you begin your way down hill. Stay left of the eucalyptus trees and go down the field. There are many trails leading down. At some point you will walk along the road to Huayama.

From Huayama to Chugchilan is about 2 hours. Walk through Huayama to the cemetery, there left along the cemetery. Take the 3rd right trail after walking along the cemetery. This follows the top of a gully. Don't go down into the gully, follow the path above it, but you will cross it a little later. After 10-25 minutes you will reach the edge of the canyon with a great view. A tunnel-like trail leads all the way to Chugchilan. You will cross a couple of footbridges as you drop down the narrow switchback trail. Cross the river at the bottom of the canyon and go up to the right. **THE REST IS A CLIMB UP TO CHUGCHILAN** (about 1 hour).

In general it is easy to find the way, but remember, do not leave the crater rim before you reach the sandy spot with the eucalyptus trees!!

4.14 Quito

Transportation:

Bahía to Quito: see Transportation section under Bahía. Sit on driver's side (left) for best view.

Quito to Bahía: Reina del Camino, Ejecutivo Bus, \$7.50, 8-9 hrs. Bahía to Quito 0900 local. Returning "ejecutivo" from Quito: 12:15 pm or 11:00 pm (overnight) from Reina del Camino's North Terminal (Manual Larrea & 18 de Sept.; tel. 02 258 5697). Comfy seats, bathroom.

Returning “normal” class day bus leaves from Terminal Terrestre in old town at 10:30am. Sit on RIGHT side for best view.

From Terminal Terrestre to Mariscal Sucre Tourist Zone: take taxi (\$3-4), or take Trole (trolley) up Av 10 de Agosto. Taxi less (\$2 or less) from North Terminal to Mariscal Sucre.

Places to Stay

New Town (Mariscal Sucre)

In general, **Rodriguez St.** in “New Town” Mariscal Sucre has many decent hostals of varying prices and is quiet, being “semi-pedestrian”.

Loro Verde – Rodriguez 2241-231. \$17 double. Spacious rooms with private bath. Breakfast extra (\$1.40 continental, \$1.70 American with eggs)

Arco del Sol Inn – Rodriguez 7-36. \$25 double. New place, comfortable rooms with private bath, hot water, TV, “American” breakfast included in price. Sitting room with cable TV and DVD player.

Hostal Quito-Antiguo – Corner of Joaquín Pinto y Juan León Mera, very clean, bright rooms, hot water. \$11 pp without laundry and breakfast. Tel. 02 547 333, uioantig@uio.satnet.net

Hostal de la Reina – Reina Victoria 836, Some nice rooms with great views (e.g. Room 11). Living room, kitchen, TV in common room., Tel. 255 1844

Hostal La Galería - Calamá 233. \$4-8 pp, nice big rooms, hot water, TV, relatively clean, safe area at night. Real backpacker-ish, though.

Hostal La Vanessa – Wilson. \$5pp, rooms dark and unattractive, smoking patio, cable TV with some English movie channels.

Magic Bean – Foch 681, above restaurant of same name, which has great coffee. Wonderful breakfast included.

L’auberge Inn, - Av. Colombia 1138, Located between old and new town, \$17 dbl. in the courtyard, private bath; highly recommended, www.ioda.net/auberge-inn.

La Casona de Mario – Andalucia 213. Attractive old house with garden. TV lounge, laundry and kitchen privileges. Shared baths.

Hostal Amazonas Inn - Joaquin Pinto 471 y Amazonas. \$20 dbl. Hot water, TV, hard beds, cafeteria and relatively handy to old town. Avoid the third floor rooms – they have no windows and no way to escape in the event of fire. Tel (593-2) 2225-723.

Casa Sol – Calama 127 – B&B with airy courtyard. Price includes breakfast. (mid-range)

Hotel Bonaventure - Amazonas 1023 y Pinto. \$25 for two double beds with cable TV, hot water (no breakfast). E-mail ecbonaventure@yahoo.com; www.hotelbonaventure.cjb.net

telefax: 250 5246/ 252 6402/ 223 3734

Old Town:

Hotel San Francisco de Quito – Sucre 217 y Guayaquil. \$28 double. Historic old hotel in an attractive colonial building with a courtyard. Clean, comfortable, carpeted room with private bath, hot water, TV, “American” breakfast included in price. Convenient to center of old town and within walking distance of Terminal Terrestre, but secure and quiet.

Hotel Internacional Plaza del Teatro – Guayaquil N8-75 y Esmeraldas (Plaza del Teatro). \$9pp. Private bath with hot water. In a large old mansion, somewhat funky lobby but much renovation in rooms, especially elegant new bathrooms. Airy, spacious outside rooms have balconies and windows overlooking street. Interior rooms less attractive but quieter. Café on site.

Places to Eat

New Town:

Bhuoos: on Rio Amazonas y Colon – nice restaurant, bacon and omelet breakfast for \$5; somewhat pricey but good Mexican food for dinner.

El Español – J L Mera & Wilson. Good Spanish delicatessen.

Flanagan’s: Irish-American Bar on Calamá (newly opened). Also awful and overpriced.

Magic Bean: Foch 681 – Wonderful coffee and breakfast (bagels!). Earliest open breakfast spot.

Mango Tree Café: Foch (across from Magic Bean) – another good breakfast choice

Mama Clorinda – Reina Victoria y Calama. Good for Ecuadorian food – try the cuy (guinea pig). The special Ecuadorean teas (with booze) are really tasty.

La Sala – Reina Victoria y Calama. Ecuadorean “fusion” food. Small place, with comfy lounge in back. Good prices and “specials”, interesting food, nice ambiance.

La Boca del Lobo – Reina Victoria y Calama. Great décor, creative international cuisine. Not a budget place, but for a special night out.

Le Arcate – Marginal Italian food, maybe the pizza is better. General Baquedano

Red Hot Chili Peppers – Great margaritas and fajitas. Foch 713

Reina Victoria: “British” pub - awful, and ridiculously over-priced.

Siam – Calamá ES-10. Good Thai but a bit pricey.

Texas Ranch – Mera 1140. Plentiful food, good steaks, reasonable prices, nice fireplace.

TexMex – Reina Victoria 847. Good burritos.

Xocoa – Corner of Reina Victoria & Foch. Dessert place; chocolate to die for from around the world.

Old Town:

D'Camaron – Crespo and Borrero – same owner as the shrimp place in Bahia.

Tianguez – Plaza de San Francisco, outside entrance to Monastery. Café and restaurant with both indoor and outdoor seating, and first class handcraft shop. Open for snacks and meals 9:30 to 18:30, 7 days a week.

Pizza CHQ – Espejo between Guayaquil y Flores. Good pizza and italian dishes. Mezzanine level above ovens is cosy on a cool, rainy night.

San Agustin Heladeria y Restaurante – Guayaquil 1053 y Mejia. Clean, friendly place for lunch or early supper.

Things to Do:

New Town:

- TeleferiQo – a new upscale park and malls on the western edge of town with a fantastic gondola to 4100 m where you can do more shopping, sip espresso or wine, eat lunch or simply take off walking up the paths through the parámo. Worth every penny (\$4 adults, \$2 kids). Not to be missed; go early and bring a picnic and lots of layers of clothing. Taxi ~\$2.50 from Mariscal Sucre. Minibuses pick up outside Hotel Colon (Ave. Patria & Amazonas) \$1 pp each way.
- Migracion – Av. Amazonas 3149, upstairs – easy to obtain 90-day visa extension. Big mall with Radio Shack across the street.
- Parques: La Alameda and El Ejido – Sunday music and vendors
- Museum of the Quito Observatory – Parque Alameda. Observatory in the heart of Quito, established in 1873. Collection of old instruments, documents. Astronomical, seismological and meteorological stations. Sky viewing through main telescope evenings at 7pm. \$0.50 entry, with guide. They were thrilled to have foreign visitors!
- Museo Nacional de Banco Central – excellent archeology and art exhibits, labeled in both Spanish and English.

Shopping:

- Laboratorio Técnico – Av. Republica 2063 y 10 de Agosto. Any electronic part or accessory you might need for equipment repair, etc.

Bookstores:

- Libro Mundi, down a side street from Hostal Amazonas – guide books in all languages, some English language magazines
- English Bookstore – Calama & Ave 6th de Diciembre, M-Sat 10-7, Sun 11-5. Owner Mark is friendly. New & used books. www.theenglishbookstore.com

- Confederate Books – Calama & Juan Leon Mera. Used books.
- LibroExpres – Ave. Amazonas 816 & Veintimilla. Other locations throughout Quito. www.libroexpres.com.ec

Old Town:

- Old Town Colonial Architecture. Sunday is best for strolling, as traffic in center is limited to residents. Churches, government buildings, Plaza de Independencia.
- Museo de la Ciudad – Moreno 572 y Rocafuerte. History and art of Quito, with some interactive elements. Entry \$2.
- San Francisco Church and Monastery. Guided tour (in English) of museum and renovated areas of church. Furniture, paintings and sculpture dating to 16th century. Entry to museum (with guide) \$1.
- Church of La Basilica – Carchi 122 y Venezuela, at northeast end of Old Town (get off trolley at Banco Central stop), on a steep hill. Relatively new gothic style church (1884), with grand stained glass windows. \$1.50 give entry to the towers. Climb up into the belfry, ring the bells, get a fantastic view of Quito. For those who enjoy heights!!

Out of Town:

- La Mitad del Mundo – on equator, 15km north of Quito – \$1.50 per person to enter compound; monument and ethnographic museum (\$3 entry), model of colonial Quito (\$1), planetarium, Museo Cultura Solar (interesting presentation of an archeological project, donation). 9am-7pm;. Live music on Sunday. Take green bus labeled “Mitad del Mundo” from the corner of Av. America and Colon in Quito (\$0.40pp each way) – stops right in front of the compound. Okay, the French miscalculated by 300 meters, but the real story here is in the Museo Solar, which explains why this area is so important to astronomy, and how the city of Quito was laid out by the pre-Incans. Really fascinating. Plenty of restaurants and handicraft shops on site.
- Museo Solar Inti Nan – Immediately east of the “official” Mitad del Mundo and a bit difficult to find. Visit the exact site of the equator as identified by the indigenous people (and confirmed by GPS). Take a tour, blow a dart, see a shrunken head, do push-pull experiments on the equator and in both hemispheres, see a solar chronometer, watch centrifugal forces flow, etc. \$3 adults, \$2 children. Please tip guides who are paid little.
- Volcan Pululahua – 6km from Mitad del Mundo. Guided tour available for \$6pp at Mitad del Mundo gate by Community Ecotourism Information Center (comunidad_pululahua@hotmail.com). Drive to base of this extinct volcano (Reserva Geobotanica Pululahua), hike up a steep trail to the rim, overlooking 1300ft. deep caldera, where the bottom is farmed. Bilingual guide points out medicinal plants along the way and provides commentary/history. Do this in the morning, because clouds roll in from the opposite side in the afternoon, obscuring the view. Longer walks available to the northwest side where there is cloud forest, waterfalls, etc. Calima Tours also goes here. Fernando

provides extra access to private property (1.5 hours, \$8 pp); ask at the Ecuadorian restaurant in the Mitud del Mundo park.

Other Services

ATMs

Banco de Pinchincha – Ave 6th de Diciembre (near Garcia or Rodriquez) and also Ave. Amazonas & Cordero

Banco de Guayaquil – Ave. Amazonas & Veintimilla

Lavanderias

Ecuadorian Cleaning Lavanderia: Foch 4-272 & Amazonas

Super Lavado: Joaquin Pinto E6-32 & Reina Victoria

4.15 Riobamba

Transportation:

Baños via Ambato to Riobamba, \$2, 2 hours, leaves every couple of hours.

Riobamba to Cuenca, \$6, 6hrs., approx. every 2 hours.

Places to Stay

Hotel Tren Dorado: Carabobo 22-35 y 10 de Agosto (near train station). \$8pp, hot water, sitting rooms, café with fireplace, most rooms have twin beds. Buffet breakfast served at 5:30am on “train days”. Also a al carte breakfast and light dinners.

Places to Eat

Hotel Tren Dorado Café – limited menu, but tasty and reasonable. Nice fireplace.

Chifa Pekin – Borja 37-42 y Brasil. Good Chinese food, inexpensive, large portions.

El Dilirio – Primera Constituyente 28-16. Lots of atmosphere but pricey.

Things to Do:

In Town:

- Museo de Banco Central - \$0.50pp, nice archeology exhibit, labeled in Spanish and English.
- Saturday Market – all over town. Crafts at Orozco y Colon – Salasaca weavings, woolen goods, jewelry.
- Parque 21 de Abril Observation Platform – great view of city and mountains

Out of Town:

Nariz del Diablo Train - \$11pp, buy tickets the evening before and show up EARLY for best seats on top (by 6am). 6 to 7 hours from Riobamba to Sibambe and back to Alausi. Two stops (Guamote and Alausi) with bathroom facilities, plus basic toilet in one car. Rent cushion for \$1 from vendors. Dress warmly. Train leaves at 7am *Wed, Fri and Sun only*. Ride terminates in Alausi between 2 and 3pm. Buy onward bus tickets to Cuenca, Guayaquil or Quito on train or ticket counter in Alausi, to Riobamba ONLY at ticket counter in Alausi. Bus to Riobamba leaves hourly on half hour, \$2pp, 2 hours.

4.16 Salinas (Provincia Bolívar)

Transportation:

Guayaquil to Salinas: From bus terminal in Guayaquil, bus to Guaranda via Babahoyo, 4.5 hrs. One bus leaves at 8am, arrives Guaranda at 12:30pm. Ask directions in Guaranda for the bus or colectivo (truck with benches in the bed and plastic curtain sides) to Salinas, 1.5 hrs.

Riobamba or Ambato to Salinas: Bus to Guaranda, (2hrs. from Riobamba), then take the bus or colectivo (see above). The road from Riobamba to Guaranda passes Volcan Chimborazo and is spectacular.

Places to Stay:

Hotel El Refugio: dorm room with 6 beds, \$5pp, toilet and hot shower down the hall. Lobby with Direct TV and fireplace, dining room, mountain views. Cozy “ski lodge” ambiance.

Places to Eat:

Lenin’s Café: English-speaking owner gives town tours.

Things to Do:

- Tour of cheese, sausage, mushroom co-ops, chocolate and wool factories. Lenin (of restaurant fame) gives 2 hr. tour for \$3.50.
- Soccer Ball Factory
- Knitting Factory
- Market (Tuesday)
- Rent horses for rides through hills, 11,500’ and higher!

4.17 Vilcabamba

Beautiful “valley of longevity” with nice sunny dry climate but not hot. A good place to have a break from your journey

Transportation:

Bus from Loja – frequent, about 1 hour. These stop in Vilcabamba center and then continue past the Hosteria Izhcayluma.

Places to Stay:

Hosteria Izhcayluma: \$12 dbl with private bath, including breakfast, in a bungalow with beautiful view over the valley. About 2 km out of town Vilcabamba. It is the only hostel which lies on an hill with a great view over the valley and the mountains. Offers horse riding and hiking tours in the valley and to the waterfall. izhcayluma@yahoo.com. www.izhcayluma.com. Tel. 07-258-0895.

Places to Eat:

Things to Do:

- Horseback riding
- Hiking
- Tour Parque Podocarpus

5 Cruising Destinations in Ecuador

5.1 Colombian Border to Bahia

5.1.1 Esmeraldas

Stella Maris Yacht Club – NOTE: Vessels visiting Esmeraldas in 2006 reported this marina does not yet exist.

Breakwater: 00° 51.6'N 079° 55.4'W

New marina south of Esmeraldas. Still under construction at this writing but may provide a safe harbor or rest stop north of Punta Galera. This is a new development associated with a resort. The port of Esmeraldas itself is NOT considered a safe harbor, for security reasons. Breakwater is under a development of white apartment buildings. Entrance, especially at low tide, reported “iffy”, but can anchor off and dinghy ashore for diesel by jug and taxi.

Email for further info: fmestanza@mardisresearch.com

Note from Chica Bonita: We made landfall from panama into the northern port of Esmeraldas. we were guided to anchor in the middle of a small-crowded basin, around the coast guard, port authority, and commercial fishing fleet. the port captain came by eventually and was very nice and friendly. We said we ere leaving off the next day again, so he did not bother with clearing us in. he did not want to be bothered with it. He took a copy of our zarpe from panama though. we did not leave boat. we caught up on sleep.

5.1.2 Sua

(from Chica Bonita) South west down the coast from Esmeraldas about 16 miles is a town called Sua (NOTE: this town is north of Punta Galera). We anchored here. There is a point and

headland that gives protection from seas. It's totally calm and no roll. We dropped in 10 feet low tide. Sua is a beach town with lots of Ecuadorians here for the weekend. The beach and water is full of people having fun. Music plays out from the beach huts. we took our row dink ashore and was met by a local hotel proprietor who welcomed us and helped acquaint us with the town. There are many beachside restaurants with excellent seafood and bars with batidos and pina coladas.

We walked the beach a couple miles to Atacames. Same beach tourist scene but bigger. there is a section of the town inland where we bought bread, produce from mercado, did laundry, got money from bank etc. we took the 10 minute bus ride back to Sua for a quarter.

It's a beautiful place with wonderful folks. Come Sunday afternoon the crowds are back home in Quito and it's a lazy beach town again.

5.1.3 Pedernales

(from Libre) Anchor at: N 00° 03.888' / W 080° 05.160'

CAUTION!!! Five armed and dangerous men attacked the vessel Sarana while it was anchored at Pedernales in November of 2008.

5.1.4 Punta Ballena/Jama

(from Creola) Anchor at: S 00° 10.7 / W 080° 18.7 in about 10' at low tide, mud bottom.

5.1.5 Cabo Pasado

Anchor at: 00° 21.7'S 080° 28.5'W

Can be somewhat roly. Used as an overnight before entering Bahia de Caraquez on an early high tide, or as a day trip from Bahía for those looking for clear water for snorkling or bottom cleaning.

5.2 Bahia to Salinas / La Libertad

5.2.1 Manta

Anchorage (from IWA)

Manta: S 00 56.301 W 080 42.986 We came in next to the breakwater and weaved our way in front of the big ships to avoid the wreck. The wreck does have a marker on it. It is quieter inside here and not so smelly from the generators. We have only used this place for one night.

Approach Waypoint: 00° 55.769 S 080° 43.156W (end of seawall)

Anchorage Waypoint: 00° 56.052 S, 080° 43.036 W

Alternate Anchorage Waypoint: 00° 56.10 S 080° 42.72W

Manta is a big city and the site of one of the largest tuna canneries in the world. It is the largest tuna fishing port in the Pacific and boasts an enormous fishing fleet. Since the small boat

harbour has been filled in and there is major construction going on at the shore, the outer harbour is packed with 1) HUGE fish boats (some over 200 feet), 2) Regular sized deep sea fish boats, to which 3) Hundreds of pangas were rafted up. The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force also have a presence here. Anchor among the fishing fleet. You may be asked to move by the harbor patrol if you appear to be anchored in an area where more boats are expected. The anchorage waypoint above was closer to the wall, among the boats. It is quite shallow - some spots about 13 or 14 feet - and very calm - so boats don't have a lot of scope out. Go in close by the end of the breakwater and you will miss all the wrecks that scatter the bay.

For services in Manta, see the Bahia services section

5.2.2 San Mateo

S 00 57.267 W 080 48.367

From Iwa: we came around the corner [from Manta] and anchored off this little town called San Mateo. S 00 57.267 W 080 48.367 we are anchored in about 18 ft. We seem to be riding very comfortable. When we look for a new spot to anchor along this South coast we look where the shrimpers and fishing boats are anchored and know that it will be a good spot and have not been wrong yet.

5.2.3 Punta Jome

S 00 58.645 W 080 50.751

From Iwa: ...we anchored just around the corner from Punta Jome about 1.36 miles away at

S 00 58.645 W 080 50.751

5.2.4 Isla de la Plata

Anchorage: 01°16.05'S 081° 03.70'W

Probably will require an overnight from Bahía because of adverse wind and current and the requirement to leave the bay only at high tide, but an easy day hop from Manta. It is a straightforward approach to anchorage off the beach, just east of Drake's Bay. Drake's Bay is conspicuous as you get close to the island as the ranger station is right in the middle; there is a narrow shelf for anchoring depth. If the tide is high, look to make sure you are between the two rock outcrops at the shoreline. There were a lot of day boats moored there so we went over to where the fishermen were. We anchored just inshore of the last mooring can, in about 17' at low tide, 22 when we got in. We stayed beam to the island all day as the wind and current shear that way. It was flat calm even though there were 10-15 kn winds and 2-3' seas in the crossing. A very comfy night.

Update from Nemesis Feb 2009: \$25 per night for a mooring, you cannot anchor. The park fee was \$20 pp per entry... good for however long you stay (day or week or whatever). \$40 for a Spanish-language guided walk at 7am or 3:30 in the afternoon. You are not supposed to walk on your own, and this is enforced. The rangers were right there as we came in, and they said there was no getting around it the fees. They saw a pod of several hundred dolphins as they

entered and left the anchorage. See more info and comments on their sail blog:

<http://sailblogs.com/member/nemesis/?xiMsgID=81428>

Background: The island is part of the Parque Nacional Machalilla, known as "poor man's Galapagos" where blue-footed boobies and frigates, circle and swirl feeding on schools of fish around the rocks. The island is steep-to, with exposed rocky protrusions covered in guano like a dusting of snow. The sea is settled and the water appears fairly clear. The temperatures however are not equatorial. Clearly we are under the influence of the cold Humboldt current that comes up from Peru. The water temperature is a brisk 67 degrees, and the air temperature about the same! You will encounter sport fisherman, tour boats, snorkelers & divers.

The Park Ranger is busy in the mornings with the day boats that come in, and he said for us to come ashore as soon as they leave - about 3:30 - and he will walk us around. This Ranger, Jorge, is alone on the island, so he welcomes the chance to talk to someone - all in Spanish, though, he speaks little English.

Regulations: (From Moira in 2006): The regulations governing yachts who wish to visit Isla de la Plata have been the subject of some conflicting reports. We spent a couple of nights there and these are the regulations as we understand them, subject to change as always.

(1) You must purchase tickets for entry to the park at park headquarters in Puerto Lopez (across the street from the mercado) before you go to the island. The rangers/caretakers are within their rights to refuse you entry to the park, including the anchorage, if you arrive without them. Granted, they may not exercise those rights, but why gamble on whether you'll catch them on a bad day?

(2) The ticket price per person depends on the season, and whether you ask for entry to the mainland part of the park as well. Our off-season, island-only tickets were \$15/person. Adding the mainland park adds \$5, and I believe high-season tickets go up another \$5. Note that these prices are per entry, not per day. We stayed 3 days, 2 nights for the single entry price.

(3) At the time we visited there was one mooring ball, which we used. There were a number of fishermen's floats (bleach bottles) in one corner of the cove. The rest of the cove within the 30-45' depth is available for anchoring. The rangers told us that there is no prohibition against anchoring. If you choose to use the mooring float, we found that the trick was to hang it on very short scope (taut) from the end of our bowsprit. If you give it room to roam, it will bang the side of your hull as wind and current swirl in the anchorage.

(4) If you go ashore and wish to take either of the trails, you will be required to hire a guide (\$25/group of any size). The two trails are the Machete Point trail (3 hours, easier) and the Esclarea Point trail (4 hours, more strenuous). There is a lot of stair-climbing on either route, including 160 stairs up to the point where the two trails diverge. Our guide spoke only Spanish, but at a speed and with a vocabulary that I could keep up with. We found our guide's commentary helpful and informative, but if you have no Spanish, you'll profit less. Part of their job is to prevent tourists from molesting the piqueros (boobies) that have nested in the middle of the trails.

If you have seen Isla Isabela in Mexico, this is a very similar experience, though the fauna is somewhat different, and the geology is less frankly volcanic. We saw blue-footed and masked boobies, one albatross chick (seemingly the size of an easy chair), turtles, large unidentified

tropical fish, chivas (the Ecuadorean Army comes over from time to time to get target practice and harvest some meat), one snake, some small lizards, and a number of wildflowers on the Machete Point trail. Visitors who take the Escalara Point trail may see tropicbirds and red-footed boobies in addition to some of the others.

5.2.5 Puerto Cayo

S 01° 21.666 / W 080° 44.847

5.2.6 El Islote

S 01° 22.495 / W 080° 45.649

Iwa comments: It is a beautiful little spot. S 01 22 W 080 45 we tucked in east of the islote to get more protection from the prevailing swell. Worth a stop on the way to Manta it breaks up the mileage to Manta from Isla Salango.

5.2.7 Los Frailes/Machalilla

Approach Waypoint : 01° 29.13'S 080° 48.5'W

Anchorage: 01° 29.62'S 080° 47.74'W or (from IWA) S 01 28.856 W 080 46.700

Los Frailes proved to be a big open bay with a long sandy beach with dramatic rocky cliffs at each end. Parque Machalilla protects the last bit of virgin tropical dry forest remaining on Ecuador's coast and the long caramel beach appears to be a popular vacation spot.

Approach perpendicular to beach, avoiding the SW side where a sand bar nearly breaks at low tide. The water is much warmer here; hikes into park, although there may be a \$20 entry fee.

From IWA: This was also a great place to anchor. There is a nice town and a beautiful beach. The water is very clean and clear. Don't go too close to the beach as there is a shelf and shallows very fast. We anchored in 19 feet. Sandy bottom. We took the dinghy to shore and the fishermen helped us bring the dinghy ashore. Everyone is so friendly. There are little "tiendas" that have the basics. A "panaderia" with nice rolls. The fishermen bring their catch at first light to sell and take to market on the beach. I am sure you can buy some from them. We did not buy fish but managed to score some nice big prawns from a fellow that came by the restaurant we had drinks at for a good price. This is a great place to stay for a while. We stayed for 2 days. Not long enough. There is a Port Captain here. He came out in his panga and visited "Icarian" but not us. He just wanted to check their papers and asked them if we were with them and asked if we were coming ashore. He gave them a nice fish for dinner. He was very friendly.

5.2.8 Puerto Lopez

(from Libre) - S 01° 33.468 / W 080° 48.970

(From Willow)- 01* 33.5' / 80* 49.1'

Dropped the hook in 40' again outside the fleet of smaller vessels. Did not really look around for a better spot to anchor as all seemed good bottom. Again, super friendly people. When I got to the beach a bunch of kids came up to say hello. They did not ask for anything as was the norm up in Mexico, just wanted to sit in our little boat and laugh. I asked them to keep my boat safe and a good thing to. As I was headed back to the skiff after some food and shopping I saw my crew bailing the boat out. I guess I did not pull it far enough up the beach and a bigger wave crashed over the stern and took it off the beach. They hauled it back up and were just finishing cleaning out the sand and water when I showed up. They were all telling me the story and laughing. I did give them all a tip at that point and they were psyched. Now I have my own posse of 6-10 year olds when I hit the beach. That works out fine with me, as my Spanish speaking skills are probably that of a 4 year old.

I know our dingy will be safe from now on. Lots of restaurants and little stores.

5.2.9 La Playita

(from Willow) 01* 38.8'S / 80* 50.3'W

A fantastic bay just around the point from Salango. No name for it on the chart but enclosed by Punta Mala to the south and Punta Los Piqueros to the north. We tried anchoring closer to the Punta Mala side, but was all smooth rock and boulders so had to move around. The position above is well off shore in 35' and we had all sand. I swam around and towards the beach to see what there was to see. Was good depth way inshore, but lots of rocks on the bottom. Would be a good idea to swim around and find a sandy patch to set the hook. Punta Mala is supposedly a good point break, but the conditions are fickle and need to be just right. I was tempted to paddle into the waves breaking there, but on closer inspection realized it was shallow rocks where the wave looked good. Must need a bigger swell to break further out. Nice beach, dramatic geology. Apparently the last nesting beach for sea turtles in Ecuador.

5.2.10 Salango

(from Libre) S 01°35.459 / W 080°50.898

(from Willow) 01*35.4'S / 80*50.6'W

Anchored in 25' just outside of fishing fleet to the north. Would probably be better protection in big swell to the south, but a bit crowded with big shrimpers and the like. Very peaceful spot with an awesome long beach, very small town. Beach landing is just that, a beach landing. There was no spot better than another, just depended on the swell and how badly you wanted to get ashore. I watched the locals come and go for a while before heading in, had no problems. Had a great meal at Restautante Pelicano. The owner, Ivo, we met out at Isla Salango while he was running a dive trip. Very friendly fellow and good food, but probably not the cheapest in town. There is a cool little museum on the north end of town focusing on the history of the people in the area. It is one of the oldest settlements on the coast, super friendly people. My Spanish is improving out of necessity. Virtually no one speaks any English at all.

5.2.11 Isla Salango

Good holding in sand. Lots of pelicans & frigates. Good visibility. Village on mainland smells of fish.

From IWA in July 2006: Isla Salango: S 01 35.560 W 080 51.705 This was our favorite spot! We stayed 5 days here. There is a lovely small beach. The water was nice and clear. We had a panga come along side and sold us a nice size bass. This is a very comfortable place to anchor.

From Willow: Isla Salango - 01* 35.6'S / 80* 51.6'W

Fantastic spot on the north side of the island. Anchored in 25' although there is coral all around the spot. The bottom slopes quickly down away from the beach, so we had to get fairly close to the beach to find good depth. Centered on the white sand beach seemed to be a good spot with more sand than coral. Very cool place. Steep trail to top of island. Bonnie headed up to look at the thousands of birds making the place home. Several tourist boats with divers came out, all were very friendly.

5.2.12 Valdivia

Anchorage: S 01 57.980 W 080 44.63 This was a lovely place. There is a nice looking town with a nice looking beach. We only stayed one night because it was a bit too roly for us.

5.2.13 Ayangue

(from Willow) 01* 58.9' S / 80* 45.3' W

Ayangue is a small beach town about 15 miles north of Puerto Lucia. The beach was crowded with weekend sun seekers and the bay is filled with small boats on mooring or anchored. We anchored outside of the fleet and close to the north side of the entrance in about 16ft of water. Bottom was sand and the anchor stuck hard. Should have dropped a stern hook to keep us pointing into the swell entering the bay, but it was not all that bad really. Would probably not be a great spot if a really big swell was running.

(from Soggy Paws June 2009) 01*59.01' S / 80*45.25' W The beach was deserted in the middle of the week. We anchored near the south side of the entrance in about 14 ft of water, off the big wash. We could see some rocks as we scanned around with the fishfinder, but there are lots of sandy spots. The wind is blowing about 10-12 knots out of 240, so not much real protection here. 2-3 ft swell on our nose, but with the wind holding us into it, not too bad.

5.2.14 Montanita

(from Willow) : 01* 49.3'S 80* 45.5W

Dramatic headland and a big party town for travelers. Also a well known surf destination in Ecuador, and there were waves.

Anchored to the south of Punta Montanita in about 30' of water. Bottom seemed like sand and good holding, but that was all the spot has going for it as an anchorage. In order to get into water shallow enough to anchor we had to be rather close to the beach break, and it was big. I did not really sleep at all that night as I listened to the wave thundering just a hundred yards away. Of course, if you are looking for waves to ride, that is the price. In the morning I paddled over to the point break to have a better look at the surf. It is a beautiful wave as far as waves go, but getting into the big and powerful realm in relation to my level of experiences. But I went anyway. I got creamed a few times, but also got some good rides. The bigger sets were downright unnerving, but managed to get out of their way before taking them on the head. Soon the local crew of surfers came out and I soon paddled back to Willow. Those guys probably ride that wave everyday and they were all over it. We got out of there to look for a calmer spot to play.

5.3 Salinas/La Libertad

5.3.1 Entry Procedures

Approach Waypoint: Buoy at 02° 12.0'S 080° 55.0'W

Anchorage (from Libre): S 02°09.284 ' / W 080°52.205' (Note from Soggy Paws, this wpt is abt 2 miles offshore in 15 mtrs of water! This is an old 'Sailing Directions' big ship anchorage. The only place that we have seen yachts at anchor is right off the beach in Salinas, off the Salinas Yacht Club..a couple of miles south of PLYC). However, we have heard that anchoring is restricted by the Port Captain, so boats wishing to anchor should call the Port Captain.

Puerto Lucia Yacht Club (PLYC) Marina breakwater: 02°12.966'S, 080°55.319'W

There is a flashing white lighthouse on the tip of the breakwater, and red and green channel markers. Behind the marina, there are three tall buildings, one with a distinct pyramid-shape top. There are shoals close inshore to the east and west of the marina entrance, so approach due south from the waypoint entrance. There is no bar to cross.

Communications: Contact the Port Captain on Channel 16, day or night, as you approach Salinas/La Libertad. Contact the PLYC on channel 19A (hours 8 am - 6 pm, daily).

Check-in: Puerto Lucia is an approved host for foreign yachts and will assist with check in. Costs to Port Captain, Customs and Immigration are borne by cruiser. Procedures have been changing continuously so email ahead to PLYC (see below) with your questions.

5.3.2 Puerto Lucia Yacht Club:

Phone 593-4-278-3190 Fax x402 marina @ puertolucia.com.ec

Manager, Galo Ortiz: manager@puertolucia.com.ec .

La Libertad, Guayas, Ecuador

VHF Channel 19

Sept 2008: Our present rate for a 40 feet LOA monohull sailboat
(editor note: med moor-use your own dinghy-or on the hard) are:

- 1st to 3rd month: \$479.00 per month
- 4th: \$459.00 per month (5% discount)
- 5th: \$439.00 per month and following months (10% discount)
- Travelift \$370.00 for service up and down. (editor note: does not include pressure wash, but can contract that from George Stewart for around \$85)
- Add 12% sales tax to all rates

(editor Note: water and electricity are charged by usage)

-- For use of the club facilities, hotel, restaurants, swimming pool, Wi-Fi, front desk concierge services, laundry at reduced rate of \$0.40 per pound (dry and folded), trash removal, there is a fee of \$5.00/day per boat, which is not applicable if you are guest in our hotel or NOT living aboard on the marina.

Rates vary depending on LOA, and are subject to change and availability.

Cheers,

Galo Ortiz

Dogs are not welcome, but cats are, and the marina guys will go on your boat to feed/water/change litter daily for \$5 per week. There are swimming beaches either side of the marina - one is private to the marina.

Marina work: Canadian George Stewart operates independently of the marina. He is very experienced with hull work, fiberglass, painting, and rigging. He can provide good workers, skilled rate: \$60 per day - varnishing, bottom paint, even Awlgrip painting for hull and/or decks. His work is excellent but can be a little pricey, so, like all boatyard work, make sure you get a good firm estimate for labor AND materials, before getting started. George can get HEMPEL bottom paint and Awlgrip paint for you, but it's cheaper to take a taxi out to the Hempel store in La Libertad, and have them deliver it. George also knows who does good welding/machining in town, and where to get various parts. He can get things shipped in from the States, but currently Customs is charging about an 80% duty and does not normally recognize 'Yacht in Transit' status.

Salinas Yacht Club does not welcome cruisers. However, it is reported that you can anchor off this yacht club in protected waters for free.

General Information: There is a US-style mall 1/2 mile from PLYC, with a big supermarket, ferretería, internet, cinema, food court and lots of shoe stores. Prices are higher than in the town of La Libertad, which is more working-class, and where prices are about the same as Bahía. Salinas is a ritzy resort area, so prices are according, but there are nicer restaurants. The land is very flat - good for bicycles - and dusty.

There are local buses (\$.20), colectivos (\$.30), taxis (\$1-\$3), and long-distances buses to Guayaquil (\$3.40) and Quito (\$8). There is a good mercado in La Libertad. Climate is good,

generally dry, not much wind, good for getting boat work done. Mosquitoes are around at dusk/dawn. There are good almuerzo and merienda restaurants within walking distance. People are friendly. The hotel marina will do your laundry, but it is expensive. In La Libertad, there is a lavandería which charges \$3 per load, wash and dry, same day, about 2 miles away (\$1 cab ride.) There are two good laundries in Salinas, \$3.60 per load, \$3 cab ride.

Note: There is a separate document called **La Libertad, Cruiser's Port Guide** that has LOTS of information about the PLYC, Salinas, and La Libertad services, and a map. The latest version is here: <http://svsoggypaws.com/files/LibertadPortGuide2009.pdf>

Ask at the marina for a hard copy.

5.3.3 Fuel

As of August 2009, Puerto Lucia Yacht Club has been licensed to sell diesel and gasoline at their fuel dock to international tourist sailboats and yachts.

- Diesel fuel at US\$2.00 / US gallon including sales tax
- Gasoline at US\$2.25 / US gallon including sales tax

The prices above are subject to change.

5.3.4 Other Boat Services Nearby

Note: There is a separate document called La Libertad, Cruiser's Port Guide that has LOTS of information about the PLYC, Salinas, and La Libertad services. Ask at the marina, or look on the SSCA website for the latest version.

5.4 Salinas to Peruvian Border

5.4.1 Isla Santa Clara

Approach Waypoint: 03° 08.756'S; 080° 25.475'W

Waypoint would bring you within sight of islands from the Northeast. Commodore Palau (Puerto Lucia YC) suggested these islands in the Golfo de Guayaquil as another possible cruising destination. On the chart they appear as an arch of six islands from NE to SW with a seventh island to the N.

6 Galapagos Islands

Note: References to info from boats without specific dates are likely to be 4-5 years old (ie Music and She Wolf). Where we have gotten newer information, we have tried to date the new information and removed the older references. But with no newer information, we have not removed what might be obsolete information.

Note that prices have risen sharply, so unless we have 2009 prices, don't expect to find them anywhere near what they are reported here.

6.1 General Information:

6.1.1 Navigation

MUSIC had his GPS set to WGS 84, which put him about ¼ mile South on electronic charts. He had a temporary anomaly with Fluxgate compass between the islands. His autopilot started to turn the boat 180°. After some investigation and power cycling all of his instruments, he was back on course. His fluxgate compass was knocked 180° off for some strange reason. Four other boats have reported similar occurrences with in a week of his experience. SHE WOLF, on the other hand, had no such problem several months later.

2009: Heard no reports from boats transiting the area in 2009 of such anomalies.

6.1.2 Taking Tours

There are many "tour guides" that will take you on any tour you want to go on. Some are licensed and do a better job than others. If you have even a little Spanish and have studied the cultural and natural history of the islands, you may get away most cheaply with a taxi driver who will tour you in Spanish. English speaking guides are more expensive. Shop around and get the best deal that you can, considering your needs and desires. Some guides monitor channel 16 and 14.

6.1.3 Provisioning

All towns have small tiendas where you can get most provisions, although it is more expensive than Ecuador and hit and miss, depending on when the supply boat was last there.

Count on prices being 2 to 3 times more than mainland Ecuador, especially in Puerto Ayora. Santa Cruz had a large Gringo type market with a good selection of US provisions and a good wine and liquor selection.

There is a very good local market just north of town in Puerto Ayora.

Several stores on all islands will sell the local Pilsener beer, if you have bottles to return. MUSIC was able to buy a case of 12 in Isabela but had to pay the deposit for the empties (total of \$20) and were unable to get the deposit refunded.

There is one small tienda in Isabela that gets fresh fruits and veggies flown in once every two weeks, and will take your order for something special if you are there at the right time (order by Friday for a Monday or Tuesday delivery). Also on Isabela a great panadería which is only open after 4pm. There are no stores on Baltra, except for a few tourist-type stalls at the airport.

6.1.4 Fuel

San Cristobal, Santa Cruz and Isabela have gas stations, where you can get gasoline and diesel. Diesel costs for international visitors (most cruisers) are now up in the \$3-4 range. Carina was able to LEGALLY buy fuel in San Cristobal for \$2.05/gallon by getting an appropriate permit from the Port Captain. (see their note under San Cristobal for details).

One boat was able to get 20 gallons of diesel - in jerry jugs - at Isla Baltra, through the port captain.

At all the above ports, there are folks who will deliver fuel to your boat, either in your own jerry jugs or in bulk containers to be siphoned into your tank, at a price.

Be aware that the gas stations MAY be out of fuel if you try to fill up right before the next tanker is due to arrive. There is also a fuel barge (which services tour boats) that can deliver large quantities.

6.1.5 Banking

San Cristobal and Santa Cruz have banks with ATMs, but you may need to go inside with a copy of your passport and ATM card, depending upon which type it is (go early to do this, as banks get very crowded and you might wait hours in line late in the day on a Monday, for example). Others were able to use Master Card/Debit Card at the ATM in Ayora (\$300 limit in this case.) S/V MUSIC did have cash wired via "Money Gram" for a 8% fee on the sending side. There is a Money Gram office on Isla Isabela, but no bank.

Take lots of cash – most places either don't take credit cards or add a hefty surcharge.

6.1.6 Souvenir shopping

About twice as expensive as on the mainland:

Isla San Cristobal: Many shops along the malecon where you can find a large variety of tee shirts and stuff.

Isla Santa Cruz: Many shops, some very high end, along the main road in town and some on the side streets. You can find almost anything you would want here. The Darwin gift shop is within the center itself and part of the proceeds go to the Darwin Research. The gift shop at the entrance to the area leads you to believe that they are the official store. They are not.

Isla Isabela: Very limited shopping, get your souvenirs in Santa Cruz.

Isla Baltra: There are a few vendors selling tee shirts and stuff at the airport.

6.1.7 Telephones and Internet

There is cell phone service on San Cristobal and Santa Cruz. People with cell phones with international roaming can call on their own cell phone. The three primary carriers are Movistar, Porta, and Alegro, and it is possible to buy a local sim card if you wish.

You can buy phone cards and use the cabins by various providers in all the major ports.

The country code for Ecuador is 593, and the Galapagos have an area code of 05. All phone numbers have six digits preceded by an area code.

There are many Internet cafes and cabins, and they are about \$2.00/hour.

6.1.8 Airports

There is a pretty website I found about flying into the Galapagos, here:

<http://www.galapagosonline.com/predeparture/Transportation/Travel.htm>

Bottom line is that flights serving the Galapagos all connect either through Guayaquil or Quito on the mainland. It is usually necessary to spend the night one night in the connecting city before getting the onward flight to the Galapagos.

There are two airports, Baltra and San Cristobal. Baltra is a small island on the north coast of Santa Cruz. Reportedly there is overland service to Santa Cruz from the Baltra airport.

TAME serves the Baltra airport where the majority of the cruise boats depart from.

Aerogal serves the San Cristobal and Baltra airport.

Tame: <http://www.tame.com.ec/>

Aerogal: <http://www.aerogal.com.ec/>

6.1.9 Other Services

There are decent lavanderias in Puerto Ayora and Puerto Moreno that machine wash and dry with same day service. There are machine wash, line dry lavanderías at Puerto Villamil.

There is no sailmaker here (San Cristobal).

6.1.9.1 Electrical work (from Vilisar about San Cristobal)

Tony (an Americanised local) brought Miguel out to the boat to solicit electrical business. We needed a look at our alternator-voltage regulator-battery setup which Miguel did very competently at about \$15 an hour. He also went and fetched the replacement voltage regulator to be installed as part of the deal. We paid him \$100 all found (including \$32 for voltage regulator). He cleaned up all the contacts as well. It is hard to get a price from the outset since they dive right into the engine room and start to work. We dickered a bit at the end but were relieved to have the work done well and paid him what he asked.

6.2 Permits and Entry

Boats must proceed directly to one of the official ports of entry: Baquerizo Moreno (Wreck Bay) or Puerto Ayora (Academy Bay). These are the only ports where boats may clear in

The official cruising permit for the Galapagos islands is called an Autografo. It must be applied for approximately 2 months in advance through one of the Galapagos agents (see 'Agents' below)

The latest information is as of March 2009. Boats stopping at the Galapagos **without** a cruising permit, were being granted up to 20 days, but were restricted to the port of entry and NOT ALLOWED to travel in their boat to other ports. Many cruisers do this, and then take day tours to other islands or travel by local ferry, which is easy and not that expensive.

Boat arriving **with** a cruising permit (Autografo) arranged are given up to 30 days with the possibility of a 30 day extension and can visit the following inhabited ports:

- Pto. B. Moreno, Isla San Cristobal (Wreck Bay)
- Pto. Ayora, Isla Santa Cruz (Academy Bay)
- Pto. Villamil, Isla Isabela;
- Pto. Seymour, Isla Baltra; and
- Pto. Ibarra, Isla Floreana.



Note that Wreck Bay is Puerto Baquerizo ,San Cristobal, and Academy Bay is Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz. There are subsections below on each port.

Entry/Cruising Permit, Galapagos: There has been a rumor circulating that it is now possible to cruise the Galapagos without an Autografo. The Port Captain in San Cristobal today emphatically stated that this rumor is UNTRUE. Unless you have an Autografo (cruising permit), your boat is limited to 20 days in the Port you arrive and you can only anchor at this port. Also ports of entry are (for all intents and purposes) limited to Wreck Bay and Academy Bay because in these ports you will find the agents which are ALSO required. An Autografo is arranged in advance only; normally one month ahead of arrival.

Limiting a boat to one port does not of course preclude taking tours to other islands (of which there are dozens). It is the boat which cannot move.

The Capitania's in Ecuador share a common computer database. Boats entering the Galapagos are entered into this database upon arrival and a digital photo is taken. Boats that have tried to stop at Isabela in particular seeking entry with real or imagined problems have been dealt with quickly. Those with real problems have been assisted; and those with fictitious problems have been sent on their way.

6.2.1 To Autografo or Not?

When trying to decide this question in 2009 for a 2010 Galapagos visit, I emailed about 5 cruisers who went through the Galapagos in 2009 and asked them what they thought about the benefits vs the extra expense of getting the Autografo (cruising permit). Here is what they said:

s/v Mainly: In Galapagos we did get an autographo from Bolivar (\$300) and would certainly do it again. Doing the water taxis is nothing like having your boat in an anchorage. The ferry rides are long, over 2 hours, each way, from San Cristobal to Santa Cruz; then another 2 hours, each way, from San Cristobal to Isabela. We had a great time in all of the places, plus from Santa Cruz you can take short trips to uninhabited islands. Don't miss the dive at Gordon's Rock in Santa Cruz. Bolivar was pretty inventive. We had only 8 days left in Ecuador when we got to Galapagos and he magically got us another 90 days at no cost. Also knew boats that went to Floreana, just ask Bolivar if you can stop there. We spent 40 days plus in Galapagos and left for the Marquesas on May 2.

s/v Carina: If we were only going to the Galapagos once in our lifetimes, we would DEFINITELY get an Autografo because Isabela was our favorite stop. (The Galapagos penguins alone were worth the trip!) Without an Autografo it's just about impossible to go there. Yes, you can ferry over or take a trip but those we know who did so (and they did love it) spent \$400+ each for a trip (\$800+ for a couple) and only got to stay one day on each of three more islands. With our Autografo we stayed at Isabela almost three weeks and were never once were bored. It's the biggest island and has the greatest diversity of galapagos (tortoises) and of course flightless cormorants (though in the remote areas) - plus penguins. We cannot imagine whisking in and out in a single day. Also, if you try to go to Isabela without an Autografo, they'll ask for a bucketload of money to get you an agent just to check you in. We heard \$250ish but I think Restless has experience with this. The anchorage is good - it's actually behind the Islas Tintorerias (sp?), which is labeled Loberia in the Piere Constant book - not where it's labeled on charts.

We know boats that went to Isabela under false pretenses (one guy faked a wrenched back) and these boats had a short and relatively unpleasant stay. The Port Captains in Ecuador share a common computer database. Boats entering the Galapagos are entered into this database upon arrival and a digital photo is taken. Boats that have tried to stop at Isabela in particular seeking entry with real or imagined problems have been dealt with quickly. Those with real problems have been assisted; and those with fictitious problems have been sent on their way

For the record, we also loved San Cristobal. The anchorage is good, the town is pleasant and the sites bountiful (even the free ones).

Baltra isn't a draw (it overlooks the airport for Santa Cruz) and Floreana is an open roadstead (you cannot go in your own boat to Post Office Bay with or without an Autografo), so the three ports you mentioned were the only ones most visit anyway.

We only visited Santa Cruz by ferry and we enjoyed the Darwin Center, but didn't get to the other sites because we had only one day. By inter-island ferry the round trip is \$70 each for the day, plus hotels and restaurants were very expensive, so we wouldn't have stayed overnight anyway.

s/v Nemesis: We got our autografo and it was worth every penny and frustration we went through to get it. We ended up spending 3 weeks in the Galapagos and it was one of the highlights - it is an amazing place. We did the three ports and they were all different with lots to see and do in each. If you do decide to go ahead with the autografo just make sure that you give yourself heaps of time - 3 months wouldnt be outrageous - it will save you a lot of cash in the long run by not having to check out internationally from Bahia (Ecuador)

s/v Restless: When we left mainland Ecuador for Chile, with a stop in the Galapagos, in December of 2008, we did NOT get the Autografo. There is always such confusion in Ecuador about what you can get, where you can go, how long you can stay, we just decided to take our chances. Our understanding at the time was that if you stopped on the way to someplace else, you could get approval to stay a couple of weeks, particularly if something needed to be fixed on your boat. On the recommendation of George Stewart, we decided that Puerto Villamil on Isla Isabela was where we wanted to go. Our final destination was Valdivia, Chile, but we got our Zarpe from the Port Captain in Salinas to the Marquesas. We thought the idea of "stopping along the way" was more plausible if we were headed west rather than south and knew Chile wouldn't care what the zarpe said as long as we had one.

When we arrived in Puerto Villamil, we told the Port Captain that we had a few things that needed fixing and that we needed to order a part. All true, but nothing that would have really slowed us down for more than a day or two. The Armada (Ecuadorean Navy) sent one of their guys out to the boat to verify we actually had a problem that needed fixing. They photographed the issues and we had to write a letter requesting the stay and why. They also required us to use an agent, and check in at a cost of \$200. We were told that if we were going to stay and visit the park, that we would also need to pay the \$100 per person park fees, which we did. We also paid about \$150 in port, light, and anchoring fees to the Port Captain when we left.

We completely loved Isabela. The Island is huge with lots to see and do. The village is tiny and has very few tourists which was perfect for us.

In hindsight, we did kick ourselves a bit for not getting the Autografo. It would have been nice to be able to sail to a few other places but from what we've heard, Isabela was the most comfortable anchorage due to the protection of the reef and even it was a bit lumpy. We made great friends with several folks on the island and left our boat everyday while we explored. We actually left it overnight when we went to visit Isla Floreana with some friends via a long panga ride. No worries about safety at this port.

I think the costs we incurred would be similar for any boat visiting and you'd just add the cost of the autografo on top of that. If we had it to do again, we'd get the permit. It is such an amazing place that it really would have been tragic to get there and then not be allowed to stay.

6.2.2 Agents

All boats entering the Galapagos (or anywhere else in Ecuador) are required to use an agent.

There are a number of agents providing services for Autografos and for check-ins. They each charge different fees and the 'satisfaction' reports from cruisers **vary widely**. See notes below under each agent. The 2009 price for an Autografo seems to be around \$300, which also includes the agent's fees for checking in and departure from the Galapagos. The cost for the agent just for clearing in and out of the Galapagos, with no Autografo is somewhere in the range of \$50-\$100. Note that there are other fees associated with clearing in and clearing out, that are not under control of the agent (park fees, port captain fees, immigration, etc). These are all in addition to the agent fee.

If you have applied for an Autografo, you will receive your copy of the permit when you check in with the agent and pay his fee, which you do on arrival. *Therefore, the agent you choose for the Autografo will determine your first port of call in the Galapagos.*

See separate section on Check-In Fees, and individual boat reports, that report on fees charged. We have email addresses for most of the agents, so if you really want to know what you will be charged, you should email them directly. Some of the fees depend on the size of the boat and some of the fees depend on the number of crew, so be specific about that, and whether you wish to have a cruising permit.

Finally, if you are coming from mainland Ecuador, your fee structure and requirements will be a little different than those coming from Panama or elsewhere (see the sections on Arriving on a National Zarpe, below). I believe that if you have already paid the Lights and Bouy fee at another Ecuadorian port, and have the receipt, you can avoid paying it again.

6.2.2.1 Bolivar Pesantes (Naugala) on San Cristobal / Wreck Bay / Puerto B. Moreno

The feedback from all cruisers using Bolivar to get their Autografo and/or for entry into the Galapagos has been good.

Bolivar Pesantes, General Manager and his wife is Grace.

Email: naugala@hotmail.com

Fax: 593-5-2520846

Phone: 593-5-252-0958

Bolivar prefers 20 to 30 days notice, but may be able to get the permit more quickly.

In Sep 2009 he quoted \$300 for the Autographo and check-in plus the following fees that will be required on check-in:

- A Port Captain fee (not specified, but depends on the size of your boat)
- \$30 for Immigration
- \$30 for Inspection and Quarantine
- \$100 for each crew member for the National Park Fee

From another website, the Port Captain (or Navy) fees were listed as follows:

- International arrival: 0.15 x GT
- Access channel: 0.23 x GT
- Anchorage: 2.31 x GT x day anchored in the bays.
- Lights and Buoys: 3.00 x GT only once
- Environmental control 7.48
- Radio frequency 7.31 only once
- International departure 0.15 x GT

Where "GT" means Gross Tons as defined on your Vessel documentation.

Bolivar requests the following from each boat requesting an autografo:

- Color copy of the photo page of each crew member's passport
- Copy of the vessel documentation or registration
- Date of planned arrival at San Cristobal
- How long you plan to stay

If you are just checking in with Bolivar, and not getting an Autografo, the agent fee is much less, but all the other fees will still apply.

6.2.2.2 *Fernando on San Cristobal*

A cruiser passing through in 2009 also reported that a guy named Fernando was doing checkins in San Cristobal, but several later reports (see Noonsite.com) indicates that he was ripping people off. <http://www.noonsite.com/Members/sue/R2009-08-19-1>

Tel local 2521289 (int'l add +593, if that doesn't work +5935)

6.2.2.3 *Ricardo Arenas (Servi Galapagos) – Puerto Ayora – Santa Cruz*

Several boats have recommended Ricardo Arenas, Servi Galapagos. Ricardo@arenas.bz, or Yvonne@arenas.bz (Yvonne speaks great English and German too). +(593) 5-252-6186

Mailing address: SERVIGALAPAGOS, Charles Darwin Ave., Pelican Bay, Puerto Ayora, Santa Cruz Island, Galapagos, Ecuador

6.2.2.4 *Peter Schiess (Galapagos Ocean Services) – Puerto Ayora - Santa Cruz*

Peter Schiess, Galapagos Ocean Services, Santa Cruz, Puerto Ayora, Galapagos Ecuador
cel. +593 9477 0804, email: peter@gos.ec, web: www.gos.ec

By his website, he caters to the big yachts, but some cruisers have used him too.

This website has some good info, worth visiting just for the heck of it.

6.2.2.5 Antonio (Gala Yachts) – Isla Santa Cruz

We have a favorable report from two boats that checked in using Antonio in Feb 2009. Antonio can be found at Galayachts, go right from the water taxi dock 200 meters, across from the Pango bar. www.galayachts.com local cell phone 099116066 e-mail antonio@galayachts.com

6.2.2.6 Johnny Romero (Yacht Gala) - Isla Santa Cruz

DO NOT USE JOHNNY ROMERO!! Repeated reports by boats in the last few years (including 2009) have had VERY VERY bad experiences with Johnny Romero. See s/v Zen and s/v Lightfoot's reports under 'Check In Fees' section for first hand accounts.

6.2.2.7 Doing it Yourself

It is *theoretically* possible to go through the permitting process yourself. However, without follow up, the chance of the permit actually being issued in a timely manner is low. Some boats have had the application letter written and faxed it to the appropriate authority 30-60 days in advance, and when nothing was heard, were able to visit the DIGMER office in Quito and get the permit issued during their stay.

As of 2009, agents are required for most boat transactions everywhere in Ecuador.

6.2.3 Arriving from Ecuador on National Zarpe:

There are two basic entry situations; either arriving from Ecuador on a National (internal) Zarpe, or arriving with an International Zarpe from either Ecuador or another country.

To check out of a port on mainland Ecuador to the Galapagos on a **National Zarpe**, you must have been issued a DIGMER cruising permit.

After receiving fax confirmation that a permit has been issued, the Bahia Port Captain – and presumably the one in Puerto Lucia – will then issue a National Zarpe for the Galapagos. You must still have time on your Ecuadorian visa to do this. When ready to leave the Galapagos, either return to the mainland on a new national zarpe or get an international zarpe in the islands and check out with immigration for another country.

You can get an international zarpe from Port Captains at Pto. Moreno (San Cristobal), Pto. Ayora (Santa Cruz) or Isla Baltra, but immigration offices are only in Pto. Moreno and Pto. Ayora. If checking out of Baltra, you must travel to Pto. Ayora by bus/cab to get immigration clearance.

There are no immigration offices at Isla Isabela or Isla Floreana.

6.2.4 Arriving from Ecuador or Elsewhere on an International Zarpe:

Option 1: You can get a DIGMER permit from an agent in advance of your arrival in the Galapagos from a foreign port (checked out on an International Zarpe either to the Galapagos or another destination), which will allow you the same privileges in the islands as described

above. Follow the same process for obtaining the permit. Theoretically, you can also apply to DIGMER yourself from afar, but you've already heard about the difficulties there.

Option 2: If you arrive on an International Zarpe, either from Ecuador or a foreign port, **without** a DIGMER permit, AND you can demonstrate a problem that requires a stop in the islands, you will be allowed to stay for as long as it takes to fix the problem (presumably within reason). Theoretically, you can only stay in that one port and then must leave the Galapagos.

Needing fuel or water would qualify, but would be easily and quickly correctable and wouldn't get you much time in the islands. The Port Captains in Ayora and Villamil are being particularly analytical about assessing the severity of your "problem" and may send a representative out to take a look at things. They are friendly and helpful and will even give advice on where in the islands the problem can be rectified – but it no longer seems to be a blanket "ok, you can stay for 21 days" situation, as in past years. You may be allowed to go on to another island if your problem cannot be dealt with wherever you first arrive. You may or may not be actually checked in to Ecuador, depending upon whether there is an immigration office in the port where you arrive. If you are checked in, then you'll have to get a new international zarpe when you leave for your foreign destination. *This seems to be a very "hit and miss" situation, and depends a lot on which officer you deal with, how persuasive you are, the phase of the moon, etc. Good luck!*

The Bottom Line: Applying for an Autografo permit ensures a "no problema" reception in the islands and a relaxing stay of 30 or more days, with visits to multiple islands on your own boat. Several cruisers in 2009, who DID NOT get the permit, reported that they'd wished they had, once they got there.

6.2.5 Check In Fees:

Fees vary somewhat from port to port. The most expensive port is Santa Cruz. If you use an agent to check you in, it will be even MORE expensive, since the agents are held to the letter of the law, which includes having a current Fumigation Certificate. In Santa Cruz, this costs \$60, and a guy actually comes out to your boat with stuff he injects in various corners and crevices.

Fumigation outfits in Panama are reportedly telling cruisers about this requirement and offering their services for \$100! However, boats which checked in to Puerto Ayora and did NOT use an agent were not asked by the Port Captain for a fumigation certificate. Some fees are dependent upon gross tonnage. There is a fairly pricey Galapagos Lights and Buoys Fee.

6.2.5.1 s/v Migration Report – San Cristobal - 2008

Here's the latest info we have on obtaining an Autografo in the Galapagos (permit to move among the 5 ports).

Yesterday Bolivar came aboard our boat and he had our Autografo in hand. We were quite surprised. We had been in contact with Grace Romero (Nauguala Agency) via email, but we thought the process was stalled. We had contacted many agents in late 2007 and sometimes received a response and sometimes did not. We did get a quote from Grace for \$200 and we sent our documentation via email to her. However, we did not confirm that we wanted to have her get an autografo for us until she confirmed that there were no additional fees above the

\$200 (to their agency) and that we could indeed go to all 5 ports. We did not receive confirmation. However, when we arrived in San Cristobal, Galapagos, we had an email waiting saying that she needed our boat documentation for 2008 since she had our documentation that expired in December 2007. (That was because we originally sent our documents to her in 2007!). Since we were now in the Galapagos we thought it was too late for everything and didn't even respond.

Then, yesterday, Grace's husband Bolivar came aboard with our Autografo. We were shocked. I do have to say he was VERY professional. He had a friend with him who spoke perfect English and he explained everything. The cost was \$200 which is what we were quoted originally. He went with us to the Port Captain to take make sure everything was OK. Unfortunately it was late and the Captain wasn't there so we will go back today. He gave us his card and said if we have ANY problems in ANY port in the Galapagos just call his or Grace's mobile.

The Autografo allows us to stay in the Galapagos for 60 days.

So, it IS possible to obtain an Autografo. Grace will need the following via email at naugala@hotmail.com:

Boat Documentation

Crew List

Copies of Passports of all onboard

Approximate arrival date (and departure if you know it)

That's what we know now. We do not know how much the fees are in each port.

We do know that you need a zarpe from each port captain and that the fees for the zarpe are not expensive (a megayacht paid \$6 for their zarpe here in San Cristobal). There are probably additional fees. We will find out when we move to another island.

NOTE: Do NOT confuse Grace Romero's Agency -- Naugala -- with Johnny Romero and his agency -- Yachtgala. It is especially confusing because Johnny Romero's email often says it is from "Naugala - Galapagos". This is NOT the email to use.

6.2.5.2 s/v Zen Report - Santa Cruz - Feb 2009

We checked in at Academy Bay Santa Cruz. It is busier and more sophisticated than I could have ever imagined. There are 24 hour water taxis, rowdy bars, restaurants, shopping, cobblestone streets and more. Last night the music blasted over the anchorage until 1am. It feels more like Nantucket than a far flung Island in the Pacific. Don't get me wrong, we are not disappointed (well, maybe a little) just surprised. It is still beautiful and we are excitedly enjoying all the wildlife and other wonders of the Galapagos.

Per the logistics: We were happy to have contacted an agent in advance of our arrival. The boats that arrived with no advance prep are being restricted from visiting any other harbors or islands (using their own boats...see more info below) during their time in the Galapagos no matter how much they are willing to pay.

Since we contacted an agent in advance we at least have the option to sail around the islands (however, see second note from Zen below). There are four inhabited ports (all on different Islands) that we are free to roam. The catch, you ask...we had to pay about \$1500 for this privilege (don't freak out until you read the rest of this email). Below is a break down of the fees. The first 4 items are fees everyone pays, no matter if you contacted an agent in advance or not.

The Cruising Permit fees are the additional fees you will pay if you want to roam the islands.

One time Tourist fee

Each Adult \$100

Each child 12 or younger \$50

Base Fumigation \$85

Agent Fee \$250 (negotiable)

One time Cruising Permit fees (see notes below on this)

per person \$200 (Children over two and adults)

Passport Inspection \$50 per person

Guide fee \$150

Fumigation Add \$115

Quarantine fee \$115

Additional Agent fee \$100

With the cruising permit you get to cruise in the national park on your own boat for one day with a guide. Each additional day cruising in the National park costs \$200/person per day and \$150 per day for a guide...YIKES!

Final note: before you freak out on the additional fees for the cruising permit (like we did), keep in mind that if you plan to tour any other islands, other than the one where you are anchored, it can be expensive. We were quoted \$180 dollars/per person for a round trip tour to Isabella, one of the most beautiful Islands. It includes the round trip ferry ride two nights in a hotel and a few meals. There may even be additional fees for the tour guides when you get there. When we did the math we found that we were going to save money using the cruising permit option. Thankfully we had sent the agent our info well in advance. Otherwise you don't even have the choice.

----- Further Info from Zen a day or two later -----

I have an update on our information regarding the Galapagos. In my prior email I mentioned/recommended our agent Johnny Romero. Based on some recent events I must tell you and anyone who is interested DO NOT USE THIS AGENT.

Yesterday I learned that he had completely misrepresented himself and, even worse, me, my family and our presence in the Galapagos to the Galapagos authorities. It is a long story and I do not want to bore you with the details. What's important is that you do not use Johnny

Romero and I apologize for recommending him in the first place. We spent the last eight months believing our visit to the Galapagos was securely in the hands of an honest agent. Instead, we spent four days wasting our time working through red tape and we are still restricted to one port and we must leave within 20 days of our arrival.

Our situation has been resolved through direct contact with the Port Captains office. They were very friendly and polite and have promised to work with us to resolve our situation. We considered a couple other agents and have decided to work with Ricardo Arenas info@arenas.bz. He comes highly recommended from other yachts and the representative from the Port Authority. BTW...He speaks fluent English if that is important to any of you.

Another agent you may consider is Antonio Moriano. He was also recommended by other cruisers. I do not have his email but his phone is 099116066.

All the other information I sent in my prior email is still accurate.

6.2.5.3 s/v Geramar Report – San Cristobal – Feb 2009

What some people don't seem to know that you need a "real" cruising permit (autografo), usually valid for 1 month to 6 weeks, to be allowed to visit the 5 inhabited islands on your own boat. This document should be requested at least 1 month before getting to the Galapagos and will then be ready when you get here. Otherwise you get the 20 day/stay permit.

We used Bolivar on San Cristobal, who came highly recommended by previous visitors here, and he lives up to his reputation. He speaks little or no English, but understands the basics when put in simple terms in an email. We sent him our scanned copies of the passports and boat papers and that was all he needed, together with a rough outline of your plans and ETA.

Check in was smooth, no trouble, the fumigation issue dealt with i.e. we had had an inspection in Panama - upon our arrival in Bocas, Spring 2008 - and not having the document to prove it, was not a real problem, with Bolivar on board at the time.

So if you have had the agricultural inspection and still have the papers--save them, otherwise tell them that you had such an inspection. Bring lots of copies of passports, crew lists, boat papers (immigration, port captain, customs, nat'l park, all of them just love paper - but it works).

Bolivar charged \$ 300 for his services (and is helpful on local issues). Then add \$100 per person for park fees and \$150 for the boat, misc fees and the total was \$650. There will be other minor charges moving around the islands, but a still a good deal compared to the alternatives. So, in our view, if you want to spend time in de Galapagos:

1) Come to San Cristobal: much smoother, cheaper check in than Santa Cruz and a more comfortable anchorage as well; and with the autografo in hand, you may not need to do a minicruise out of Santa Cruz to see the Galapagos on someone else's boat (and that saves you some real money)

2) Use Bolivar (and his wife, Grace) here: naugala@hotmail.com; phone +593-94205158 (local 09205158); there is another guy doing check ins here as well: fernando tel local 2521289 (int'l add +593, if that doesn't work +5935)

3) If you want to see the place, and not be stuck, do a little homework and plan ahead, and get your autografo.

Diesel fuel; the official rate is about \$ 3.50/gallon, which you get with a permit through your agent. People try to get the cheaper fuel for locals, at about \$2 by going directly to the gas station (or getting a local to do it for them). This doesn't work, is illegal, and could cost you dearly. Do the math and buy a few extra jerrycans in panama.

6.2.5.4 s/v Lightfoot Report – Santa Cruz – Feb 2009

We checked into Academy Bay Santa Cruz, Galapagos. I tried to check myself in with the port captain but was told I must use an agent. If you want to cruise the 4 inhabited ports you must make arrangements with an agent a month preferably 2 months prior to your arrival and it is not cheap. s/v Deva was there a week before us. They used Johnny Romero as an agent but could not recommend him, instead they recommended Antonio Moreano at Galayachts. We went with Antonio and were very pleased with the experience.

He speaks perfect English, is extremely honest, helpful and a bargain compared to others we have heard of. Some agents will charge \$100.pp for a park fee. I don't know if this is a legit fee but he does not charge it. Other agents charge an \$80. fumigation fee-we were not. The fees he charged were all invoiced and his fee was \$70. He arranged for diesel to be delivered to the boat and told us to pay directly. The price of \$3.15 was the cheapest we heard of from any of the cruisers.

Our fees broke down as follows:

Immigration	\$ 30.00
Navy arrival	\$170.91
Navy lights and buoys	\$153.00 (\$3/ton)
Navy departure	\$ 12.37
Agent	\$ 70.00

Total: \$436.28

The Galapagos is by no ways a cheap check in (Jamaica didn't cost us a penny) but we thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Antonio can be found at Galayachts, go right from the water taxi dock 200 meters, across from the Pango bar. www.galayachts.com local cell phone 099116066 e-mail

antonio@galayachts.com

6.2.5.5 s/v Lauren Grace - San Cristobal - March 2009

We used Bolivar and Graciela as our agent. Glad we did. For our boat and 5 crew, the total price was \$204 USD. That's it. We were given 90 day visas for us (checking in from Panama)

but the boat can only stay 20 days. That is the normal procedure. Take a ferry to the other islands for \$30 dollars per person, takes 2 hours to go to Academy Bay (Santa Cruz).

Diesel costs \$3.40 per gallon even though the locals buy it for one dollar 5 cents. It is a requirement that you use your agent to get your diesel and after hearing stories about some boats trying to slip around to get it cheaper it just isn't worth it. The officials know and see what you are doing. I will only need about 30 gals so that makes it an easier decision.

Drinking water is .50 cents a gallon and comes in 5 gallon jugs that require a deposit of \$5 dollars. You get the deposit back as soon as you return the jugs. Again I will be using our agent because I also need a way to get the 18, 5 gal containers to my boat and he can arrange that cheap enough. They do not want us to use dinghies because of the lack of space at the dock, sea lions taking their toll on your dinghy, and it creates jobs for the water taxis.

There are water taxis and they cost .50 per person one way and run from 0700 to 1900 hrs each day. The real tourist season here for yachts passing through is Feb-Mar so there are lots of water taxis and they are always around.

A case of beer is 24 dollars so stock up before you leave the mainland. There is a good size fruit and vegetable market in the town but haven't bought anything yet so cannot advise prices.

Today we arranged through our agent (Bolivar) for a taxi to take us to the Galaparea where we saw the huge Galapagos tortoises up close, then on to a big freshwater pond in the basin of an old volcano to watch several species of birds, had a packed lunch on a remote pristine beach while beautiful Finches and Yellow Warblers hopped about inches away. They are not afraid to come very close. Also there were a few lazy sea lions on the beach suning and warming themselves.

Prices are not much higher than the mainland. Diesel and beer are the most drastic. There is a very modern and fast internet for 1.80 per hour.

I can recommend San Christobal. The anchorage has good holding but do not come in at night. Some boats at anchor are not lighted and there are several bouys out marking the reef and other shallow spots that can easily confuse a new visitor. Hope to see you soon.

6.3 Isla San Cristobal: Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (Wreck Bay)

Entry Information: On approach, stay clear of the SE point. Come in midway between the North point of land, which has a lighthouse on it and the northernmost of 2 tall, white/yellow, lighted buoys, with a short red one in the middle. The red buoy marks a wreck or pinnacle and the waves break quite high near it, so be aware and stay clear. Also, don't come too close to the lighthouse point, as there is a big surf break there and shallow water.

SHE WOLF Waypoints:

Approach:	00° 53.00'S	089° 37.00'W
Entry 1:	00° 53.37	089° 37.11
Entry 2:	00° 53.66	089° 36.96

Anchorage:

00° 53.78

089° 36.80

Anchorage: Good holding sand bottom but with big rocky patches which show up from the deck in 30' clear water. On the Southern side, near the Navy buildings, it may be calmer and better protected from the S swell at some times of the year, but it is also MUCH more rocky. No stern anchor required. Water taxi service for \$.50 per person per trip, but there are only 2, call on channel 16. Port Captain is located to your right on the beach facing the anchorage. This is also a good beach to land a dinghy. HOWEVER, there are a lot of BIG sea lions around the anchorage and beach. They have no problem getting up on a swim step, or into a dinghy, so the water taxi may save you a messed up (or sunken) dink.

Information: Camara de Turismo on malecón has island maps in English and Spanish.

Groceries: Saturday morning at a public mercado (ask a local for directions) for the best veggies. Dos Hermanos on Quito is best tienda.

Things to Do:

- **Trip to Punta Pitt**, etc. (areas of Park not accessible by road): FABULOUS! (Carina) We used Manuel Yopez and his new speedboat Sharksky. We organized this through the Camara de Tourism but the American intern, Lauren, may not be volunteering anymore when you visit, so you may need to contact Manuel directly. He speaks English and is a very competent captain. We hiked with a National Park Guide to see tortoises IN THE WILD (Galapaguera Natural), visited Punta Pitt (boobies, tropicbirds) and snorkeled here. We wandered down the coast, exploring amazing nooks and crannies and had lunch and a walk at a beach at Bahía Stephens. We moved onto snorkeling at Leon Dormido (Kicker Rock) where there are Galápagos sharks and then on to hike and snorkel at Isla Lobos. Twelve hours. For a party of 10 it was \$50 each and worth every penny. Contact: Manuel Yopez tel: 09 95 40596
- Cab tour across the islands to the tortoise conservation center, ocean view point, El Junco Lagoon (take the volcano crater rim hike, 1 hour) and La Loberia beach with seals and marine iguanas. \$50 for a cab full (Spanish speaking only). There are English-speaking tour guides who will also give this tour (for more money)
- **Interpretive Center:** (Carina) go here first. Free. Explains islands' history, geology, biology.
- Boat and scuba tours
- Snorkeling from your own dinghy.
- Trails: (Carina) all around Punta Carola, the beautiful beach at Cao de Horno and out to Las Tijeretas where you can snorkel with sea lions. Darwin statue here as this was his first landfall and anchorage. Wonderful and free.
- Side trip to circumnavigate Kicker Rock, about 10 miles up the coast of San Cristobal. This is an incredible rock, in three pieces, rising 500' up above the water which is 400' deep all around. Boat and dive trips to here also available.

Water: (2009) Agua Purificada can be purchased for about \$2.50 per 20 L bottle. A returnable bottle deposit may be required. Agents will offer water to be delivered to your boat but expect the price to be significantly higher.

Fuel: (2009) It is now illegal for extranjeros to buy fuel at the Ecuadorian subsidized price of \$1.02 per gallon (for diesel). Agents have been offering to supply fuel; prices range from \$3.40-\$4.50 per gallon delivered to your boat. Some cruisers have purchased fuel illegally to try to avoid paying these high prices. We have heard that large fines have been levied or threatened for breaking these laws.

HOWEVER, the Capitania will issue to ANY vessel a permit to purchase fuel legally at the "international" price (the international price for diesel was \$2.05 per gallon today March 31, 2009). To obtain a permit (which must be used on the day it is issued) go to the Capitania and ask. He will ask to see a copy of your passport. Take the permit with you to the only filling station (gasolinera) in a taxi/truck (\$10 per hour) and they will dispense fuel and return to you a factura. Bring the factura back to the Capitania and the fuel to the "muelle de carga" and catch a water taxi to your boat. Boats requiring large amounts are pooling jerry cans and making multiple runs. Water taxis (taxis acuatico) monitor channel 14 VHF and charge \$0.50 per person, one way.

Provisioning: An excellent and high quality selection of fruits and vegetables are available and are in general cheaper than in Panama City. Some days are better than others depending on the supply boat (twice per week). There is a public market and many other small tiendas. Dos Hermanos and Gala Market are both "larger" grocery stores though the supplies are pretty basic. The Gala Market is the only place we've found to buy hard cheese (gouda, cheddar, mozzarella). Fresh local cheese is widely available. Unrefrigerated eggs are the norm. Clos Chilean boxed wine is available in one tienda we've found so far; hard liquor is very very expensive (Jose Cuervo Blanco Tequila \$40+). Galapagos coffee is \$10 for 13 oz in the tourist shops; one cruiser found it in bulk for \$3.50/lb.

6.4 Isla Santa Cruz: Puerto Ayora (Academy Bay)

Largest town in islands.

Entry Information: Very straightforward. Keep the lighthouse on Isla Coamaño to starboard upon entry. There are several yellow mooring buoys within the anchorage and many bleach bottles marking local boat moorings, large boats may use the buoys.

Anchorage: Good holding sand bottom, but with rocky patches. Unfortunately it faces S, right where the swell comes from, so can be very bouncy. There is a lot of water taxi and tour boat traffic near the pier on the left side of the bay as you enter, so anchor to the right side of the crowd to avoid it. You will see a large orange day marker on shore to the right of the blue and white Port Captain buildings. Lining up with that seems to keep you out of most of the traffic.

Anchoring Position: 00 44.850 S 090 18.570 W, 18' mid-tide. Don't go much closer to the shore than this, as it shallows up.

Stern anchors are essential, due to the swell, as well as crowded conditions. Water taxis will set and retrieve stern anchors for you for \$2.00 each. It is very crowded when the tour ships come

in on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Also, it is very entertaining to watch as they use their dinghies as tug boats. They can anchor closer than comfortable to everyone. There is no dinghy dock, so use of the water taxis is mandatory, hail on channel 16.

Things to Do

- Tour the Darwin Research Station - tortoise pens where they are raising young ones, and pens with the adults that you can just walk around in. They also had land iguanas in three pens that you could walk around. Nice visitor center/museum with video presentation several times morning and afternoon. Say "hi" to Lonesome George.
- Bahía Tortuga over a great paved path. Free, no guide required. Marine iguanas, shore birds and 2 great beaches made up of fine white sand. Surfing and body surfing if you are willing to brave the currents (large warning signs on beach). In the lagoon at the second beach there were white-tipped sharks in the shallows, shade trees to picnic under, and fearless Darwin finches.
- Las Grietas, which is a fissure in the volcanic rock, again free. Rougher trail there - take a water taxi to the Hotel Finch dock and follow signs to begin the walk.
- Tour to private ranch with wild land tortoises. Many tour companies arrange this for about \$25pp or you can get a cab driver to take you, if your Spanish is up to it. Ranch owner will provide coffee/tea. This tour also usually includes a visit to a large lava tube and to the "craters" of Los Gemelos (actually huge volcanic gas bubbles that collapsed).
- Scuba Iguana Divers rents full air tanks for \$6.00 per day. All of their dive tours are around \$110 for a days trip and 2 dives and includes lunch and equipment. Also recommended is Galapagos Sub-Aqua. There are a number of other dive outfits as well. Incredible hammerhead sharks, large pelagics at Gordon Rocks and Seymour sites.
- Taxi tour to Lava Tubes "Los Tuneles de Bellavista. Described in Lonely Planet, cost \$10 for round trip taxi, \$3.00 pp for the tour. Not to be missed. This same tour costs \$25 pp through the travel agents along the malecon (see Migration report below)
- Tour to North Seymour Island and Las Bachas Beach. \$75 pp for full day, including lunch and transportation. Bus across island to Santa Cruz-Baltra ferry dock, small cabin cruiser to North Seymour Island to see sea lions, blue-footed booby and frigate bird rookeries, lots of marine and land iguanas. Hot lunch aboard, then visit for snorkeling and beach-combing at beautiful white sand Las Bachas Beach. Flamingo lagoon behind beach.

6.4.1 Isla Isabela: Puerto Villamil

Puerto Villamil is a more protected, calm anchorage.

Entry information: As you approach Isla Isabela from the east, there is a small island to the south of Villamil in the shape of a half moon, called Isla Tortuga and a small rock to the north of it, called Roca Bura. If you approach the island in the dark, shape a course to go between the two and avoid going north of Roca Bura. There are breakers off Isla Isabela in this area and the swell picks up.

After passing Roca Bura and Tortuga, alter course to the WSW to pass south of the shoals on the outside of Villamil and then to the NW to parallel them and to intersect the inbound 029° track that is the recommended course on the electronic chart (Chart 22529). (From the ocean, two adjacent orange pyramids on shore - actually roofs of a hostel - make a good day marker.) As you come in on the 029° course, it leads off a white beacon on the beach. You will also see a green buoy just to the left in the distance. On the chart, you will also see a light on the north end of the reef that you are leaving to starboard. The light on the chart has the characteristics Fl(2+1)15s 11m 7M. This marks the entrance to the anchorage area and is also marked by red/green channel markers, as well as a new buoy that is large and yellow and marks the anchorage.

Isla Encanto's waypoints were:

S 01° 04.78 / W 090°52.72

S 00° 59.10 / W 090°59.04

S 00° 58.58 / W 090°58.95

S 00° 58.046 / W 090°58.315

Anchorage: The anchorage area is bounded by low volcanic islets, is quite calm and is a lot smaller than it looks as you enter, because it is mostly filled with submerged reefs and shoals. Reefs are above water at low tide. PEREGRINATA's anchorage position: 00°57.938'S 090°57.730'W (GPS is on WGS84) and were in 14' water at low tide. MUSIC's anchorage position was 00°57.90S, 090°57.74W, in 10' at low tide.

Water taxi: (Carina) only one, run by Ricardo; \$1 per person each way. No VHF so flag him down or call him on his cell phone: 085 564 064

You can land your dinghy across the anchorage to the left of the cargo pier (Embarcadero) in front of the little restaurant/bar called "Club Nautico". We were advised to take our fuel hose with us each time, as this seems to be the item that goes missing (you see locals walking around town carrying their hoses, so it seems a valid concern for everyone). At anything but the highest point of the tide, you will need to travel around the periphery of the anchorage in deeper water to reach the dinghy beach, rather than go straight across. You will see the rocks and sand bars. With care and experience, you can make this trip ok even in the dark at low tide.

To reach town from the Embarcadero, follow the road, which bears to the left and stay left when the road branches. Town is about a 15-20 minute walk away.

Groceries: (Carina) The town is small and easy to walk around visiting various small tiendas. Fresh veggies varied in quality. Frozen chicken could be found but other meats were generally unrefrigerated. If you find something you like buy it then go on to the next store.

Water: We bought locally produced agua desalinada in 5 gallon jugs from Francisco (cell phone: 086 214512) and had it delivered by Ricardo. \$1.50 per 5 gallons. Francisco assured us it was desalinated water but the jugs were not sealed so we treated the water with Microdyne.

Fuel: We used jerry jugs and took a taxi to filling station (1-2 miles out of town) and a few other stops, taxi cost \$3. Diesel was \$1.03/gallon (but is likely more now that you need a permit to buy diesel as an 'extrajano').

Souvenirs: Rare, but on the block to the west of the plaza there was a shop with attractive t-shirts.

Money: No banks and NO ATMs.

Internet: Easy Net and Albatross Net. Both were SLOW and expensive. \$2 - \$2.50 per hour. Easy Net had a laptop station with LAN cable.

Laundry: Concha de Perla Lavaderia; a hundred yards inland from the embarcadero, on the right. \$1.50/kg, one day turnaround, nicely done.

Bike Rentals: \$4 for 3 hrs. at Bazar Veronica on main street just past hospital (heading west). Roads are all sand so traffic moves slowly.

Things to Do:

- Wildlife around the anchorage. There are sea lions that frolic around the boat and you could easily swim with them. On the small islets that surround the anchorage you can see marine iguanas, penguins and sea lions basking on the beach, as well as blue-footed boobies. All the animals let you get pretty close.
- **Bike Rentals:** (Carina) \$4 for 3 hrs. at Bazar Veronica on main street just past hospital (heading west). Roads are all sand so traffic moves slowly.
- **Las Tintoreas:** This is a trail around the reef and islets surrounding the anchorage. Free. Wildlife includes penguins, turtles, marine iguanas, white tipped reef sharks, sea lions, and blue footed boobies living in a volcanic landscape. The steps are in the center opening in the reef that many fishing pangas take to the open sea –just watch them.
- **Tour to the volcanoes Cerro Negro and Volcan Chico.** All day trip. By truck up to the agricultural area and then by horse back for two hours past Cerro Negro crater (12km across). Leave horses huge jaboncillo tree and then hike to the very barren, moonscape like, area of Volcan Chico (45 minutes). There are several vents that had some hot gas escaping and some deep sink holes with steam. The last time this area erupted was 1979. Carina booked through Antonio Gil at the Hotel San Vicente, \$30 includes guide and lunch. Even if it is cloudy and rainy in the anchorage, it will more than likely be clear at the volcanoes.
- **Concha de Perla:** Free. Just off the embarcadero is a raised walkway through ancient mangroves to a tranquil pool with a dock. Nice protected snorkeling or just a great place for a picnic.
- **Tour to the Muro de Lágrimas (Wall of Tears), Mirador and Nature Trails.** The wall was built after WWII by inmates of a penal colony. From there, go to the Mirador (overlook) and then walk along trails. We went into a large lava tube that goes under the ocean in the distance. You could hear the waves crashing onto the tube and the water dripping in. We also went to Playa del Amor, which was covered in marine iguanas. We then walked back

towards town, passing two lagoons, which often have pink flamingos. Locals suggest going at 6pm when they return from feeding although there were some there at mid-day too. You can arrange a taxi for \$12 to take you 6km to the Wall, wait, take you to the Mirador, wait, take you to the first set of trails, from which you visit the others and walk back to town. Biking is a nice option.

- **Snorkeling** in the reef area with white tipped sharks. The cost is approximately \$10 per person for two hours. You can go with your own dinghy by yourselves, too.
- **Guided kayak tour.** Hire guide from Wooden House B&B (Minino) for \$25 and \$5 each per hour for kayaks. To a little offshore island and coves along the coast. LOTS of sealife, surfing the waves! Alfredo Bolivar (Minino), ga_vive@yahoo.com, phone 05-252-9008
- **Cabo Rosa:** (Carina) This is a 25 mile panga ride to Cabo Rosa, with a stop at Roca Union. This is an unbelievable lava landscape which is negotiated by the panga driver through a series of narrow channels and arches with cactus growing on them. The collapsed lava created many tunnels and bridges that are magical. We rode around for about an hour, stopped for a snorkel excursion (wet suits advised; it's chilly!); then to a different cove for our box lunch, which we provided. Antonio Gil arranged for us to use a panguero nicknamed Cuarto de Hora (real name Dario, boat Isabela, cell 097 592 615, cuartodehora16@yahoo.es). We had been told he was the best and we were impressed with his skill. This trip is worth the cost. The tour boats don't go here because of the breakers. LOTS of sea turtles and huge manta rays spotted offshore.
- **Los Tuneles:** (Migration, March 2008) Today, Alene and I went on a tour to Los Tuneles. This was, by far, the best thing we have done in the Galapagos so far. Los Tuneles is about 14 nm SW of Puerto Villamil on Isla Isabela. It is a large area (perhaps 2 kilometers wide) of collapsed lava tubes and tunnels. There are hundreds of channels throughout the area and lava arches and pillars everywhere. The scenery is absolutely beautiful. And the snorkeling magnificent with sharks, turtles, penguins and lots of fish. Swimming through the underwater arches is great fun.

Our guide was Tito and our boat driver was Fabian. We highly recommend going with them. The entrance to Los Tuneles is very tricky - they negotiate breakers and rocks and shallows. Seriously exciting! Only five or six pescadors know how to get in safely. All of us applauded when we were through the pass.

The cost was \$260 for six people. We were told that you could only take five people when we asked around town. We finally were put in touch with Fabian and he agreed to take six of us as there were three couples from three boats. The cost was WELL WORTH IT. As I said, it was the best day we have spent in the Galapagos.

You provide everything: snorkeling gear, drinks and lunch. Bring a wetsuit if you have one. We wore shorties and were cold by the time we got out of the water (we didn't really want to because it was so awesome). This was in March, by the way.

When you arrange the trip you want to do three things:

1. A short stop at Roca Union on the way out to see the Fur Sea Lions.

2. Los Tuneles for hiking and snorkeling.
3. El Finado for snorkeling with many sea turtles (including some very large ones!).

Fabian and Tito were very competent. We were impressed with their boat-handling. Tito snorkeled with us and showed us many arches; he stood by to make sure the less-strong swimmers made it through each one safely. There is a cave but we couldn't find it that day. Neither Fabian nor Tito speak English. They need a day's advance notice as they must get permission from the navy to go there (they'll need the names and passport numbers of all passengers).

Julio, a Galapagos Park guide, put us in touch with them. You can find him at his wife's bakery: Panaderia Salvavida, which is several streets back in town. Just ask. Julio can also take you on other tours and his wife will do special bread orders for those heading across the Pacific.

You can also contact Fabian directly on Channel 16. Call "Lancha Maria del Carmen". He has a handheld VHF. You can also call him on his mobile phone at 091 407 826.

- **Centro de Crianza:** (Carina) Free. Follow main road west to sign (at the Iguana Crossing). Follow beautiful trail and raised walkways to tortoise rescue and breeding center. Most of the endangered species endemic to Isabela are represented here. A small gift shop sells some souvenirs.
- **Lava Tunnels** on West end of town up the beach road; there are many small beaches and lagoons along the way. These tunnels extend out to sea and can only be entered a small distance.
- **Flamingos:** (Carina) Free. We saw a solitary flamingo at mid-day in the small lagoon right in town and later a group at the bigger lagoon behind the beach. Shhh, they are shy.
- **Beach:** Free. Watch wimbrels, plovers, sanderlings, thousands of silly looking orange crabs that skitter sideways or just the amazing turquoise blue waves crashing over offshore reefs.

6.5 Isla Baltra: *Puerto Seymour*

There is an international airport on this island, for Isla Santa Cruz. Some large tour boats pick up their passengers here, rather than in Puerto Ayora.

Entry Information: Easy entrance. The charts call it Caleta Aiolian, but the Port Captain's address is Puerto Seymour. Approach waypoint was 00°26.500S, 090°18.000W

Anchorage: There are large patches of rocks in the anchorage, but there are also large patches of sand. The tour boats seem to have no problems, but look for sand. The wind seemed to be diurnal in nature and swung us around 180° morning and evening. The anchorage seems to be well protected. Anchor at 00°26.248S, 090°17.042W

Things to Do: No real tours except to get checked out of Ecuador on Isla Santa Cruz Immigration office. MUSIC caught a bus to the airport \$1 pp, then a truck to the ferry terminal \$1 pp., then the ferry across to Santa Cruz, \$1pp., then a cab to Puerto Ayora to check out, then

back again with a stop at the Mercado \$30 total. Or, you can take the airport bus, which is scheduled to meet flights, for much less. Only runs in the morning, however.

- Isla Mosquera, white sand island with sea lion colony, is about 4.5 miles from the anchorage, and possibly reachable by dinghy, although we didn't try it.

6.6 Isla Santa Maria (Floreana): Puerto Ibarra

Entry Information: Straightforward, if you avoid rocky patch noted on chart to north of anchorage area. Approach waypoint: 01° 16.0 S 090° 30.0 W

Anchorage: Anchor in front of Hotel Wittmer, to the right of the Port Captain building off brown sand beach. Lots of rocky areas, but good holding in course sand off this beach. SHE WOLF first tried to anchor closer to Port Captain, but just volcanic rock bottom there. Anchorage position: 01° 16.657 S 090° 29.436 W, in 35'. Beach your dinghy in front of the hotel. Sand is course, not packed down and dinghy wheels sunk in, so be ready to push hard if your dink/engine is heavy. Alternatively, you can tie your dinghy up to the concrete pier by the Port Captains office – however, be wary of surge which could abrade your dink on the rough concrete.

Things to Do:

- Highland tour: take the bus up to the end of the line and hike up to the old Wittmer farm. Turtle pen with tortoises which were the pets of Margaret Wittmer and are completely used to humans. Spring which is the only water supply on the island and caves where the Wittmers lived when they first arrived. Great island overlook. "Bus" goes to the farm early in the morning and returns right away – good for "birders" who ride up and then walk back down. Also goes at 3pm and returns at about 5 or 5:30pm. You may be able to tag along behind a tour group and listen to their guide, as SHE WOLF did, for free. SEA TERN went up with Erica Wittmer (grand daughter of the original settler, Margaret), who guided them. Bus is \$1pp each way.
- Panga tour to "Post Office Bay": this is an official tourist site and requires a guide. Hotel Wittmer can arrange.
- Snorkeling tour to Devil's Crown: arrange through Hotel Wittmer.
- Have a beer and/or dinner at Hotel Wittmer, meet Margaret's daughter, Floreana and grand daughter Erica, and look through their Yacht Book, especially the one from the early 60's. Learn about the very interesting history of human habitation on this island. Make arrangements for dinner early in the day as the Hotel does not always have guests, or may have too many to accommodate extra heads.
- Walk or dinghy to La Loberia, sea lion rookery south of the anchorage.

6.7 Other Ways To Visit The Galapagos

If you don't want to take your own boat out to the Galapagos, or if you have guests joining you who need land arrangements, here are some options:

Air Travel: TAME flies from Quito and Guayaquil to Isla Baltra and Isla San Cristobal airports. Round trip fare from Guayaquil to Baltra in February, 2005, was about \$350. TAME usually does not release seats for general sale until close to the departure date (saving them for pre-arranged tour groups), so if you want to assure a seat to someone not on a tour (particularly in high season), you may need to go through an Ecuadorian travel agency. SHE WOLF used Bahía Dolfín Tours agency in Bahía de Caraquez to book the flight and a few days in a hotel on Isla Santa Cruz for a visitor, when they were unable to get the flight arranged directly with TAME.

There is a small air taxi that flies from Puerto Villamil to Islas Baltra and San Cristobal. \$80 one way to Baltra, timed to connect with TAME flight back to Guayaquil.

Boat Travel: There are regularly scheduled small boats which run passengers between Puerto Villamil, Santa Cruz and San Cristobal. \$30 one way.

Multi-Day Boat Tours: Once in Puerto Ayora or Puerto Moreno, you can arrange to take multi-day liveaboard or live-on-land boat tours to other destinations, including many which can only be reached by a tour boat. Also liveaboard dive boat tours. Last minute bookings or advance bookings through travel agencies on the islands.

Hotels: Many hotels and hostels in Puerto Ayora and San Cristobal, and quite a few in Puerto Villamil. Wide range of prices and accommodations. Some suggestions:

Hotel Fernandina, Puerto Ayora: \$37 single, private bath, a/c, including breakfast and taxes.

The Wooden House Hostel, Puerto Villamil: \$25pp, private bath, including breakfast and taxes. Little dipping pool, free use of kayaks, a/c. Email: thewoodenhouse@hotmail.com

Hosteria Isabela del Mar and Hotel Ballena Azul, Puerto Villamil: same owner. \$15pp single, \$12pp double plus 22% tax, does NOT include breakfast. Email: isabela@ga.pro.ec

Hotel La Casa de Marita B&B, Puerto Villamil: European style "boutique" hotel on the beach. \$35 plus 22% tax single, \$60 plus tax double, \$90 plus tax ocean front suite, including breakfast. Takes Mastercard or Visa. Email: hcmarita@easynet.net.ec or hcmarita@ga.pro.ec

6.8 Passage Reports

6.8.1 Gerimar: Panama to San Cristobal – Late Feb 2009

On the passage itself, we used Jimmy Cornell's advice to head S-SSW from Panama to Isla Malpelo, and then turn to the islands, rather than following the rhumb line. It worked brilliantly for us, good northerlies in the beginning, plus nice push by the current until well after the bay of Panama; all on a course of about 200 degrees T. We motored from about 6N to 4.30N, then with light winds from the south (SSW), close hauled. As we moved further southwest, winds gradually developed some east and were able to ease the sheets and fly the genaker.

Some motoring from time to time (also to charge batteries). Total time 7 1/2 days, could have shaved 1/2 day if we had pushed just a little bit harder - now we had to slow down to avoid arriving at night.

Total engine time: about 36hrs. Sailmail GRIB files fairly accurate: more a trend of developments than a hard prediction (after all it is a region with light and variable winds).

Jimmy Cornell's advice: <http://www.noonsite.com/Members/val/R2009-02-10-1>

7 Cruising in Peru

7.1 Info from Yacht Club Peruano – Feb 2008

From Loon III.

Hi all. please find below our correspondence with yacht club peruano. their email is yachtclubperuano@infonegocio.net.pe and the contact name is Jaime Ackermann.

They also have a web page [spanish] at <http://www.yachtclubperuano.com/> . we understand you still have to check in via radio or email daily once you have entered peruvian waters as per s/v breila notes in the southbounders cd .

Dear Sr. Iain Leckie:

1. We understand it is free to stay on a mooring ball for a certain amount of time [how long is that ?] then it is 40 dollars a month is this correct?

Is free for the first month, then the cost es US \$ 60.00 for a month

2. how long can we stay at the club and how long in the country?

In the country 18 month

In the club every time than you want

3. what is the cost for the travel lift?

The cost of the travelift is US \$ 270.00

4. what is the cost in the work yard once you have hauled out?

Us \$ 27.00 per day

5. can a boat be stored on land [work yard] for a long term [5 months]?

Is possible.

6. is there a monthly rate for storing the boat on land?

The cost for the size of your boat [39ft] per day is US \$27.00

Per Month is US \$ 800.00

And a monthly rate is US \$ 700.00

7. does the daily yard rate include electricity water etc?

The dailly yard rate on land include electricity and water

8. we heard from the vessel condesa that after a 5 month stay he had a major bird guano (shit) problem. if we were to stay at the yacht club is there anyway to avoid this problem?

Is necessary employ some person to clean the boat twice a week under supervision of the club

9. can we do the check in ourselves or do we have to hire an agent.

Yes you can do your check in under the asistence of the Yacht Club

7.2 Notes from Moon Dog – July 2007

We got here to Callao last Saturday. Took 6 days 10 hours, the first 3 days was beating into 8-14 kts to get around the western capes of Peru (past Paíta) and last 3 days was motoring in less than 8 kts. Seas generally calm, sailing very pleasant even when beating to weather, and an uneventful trip.

We first contacted TRAMAR through Talara Port Control, then also checked in with TRAMAR Paíta, and then notified the YC when we were within 72 hours of arrival at Callao (hard to estimate of course). And called TRAMAR Callao when entering the harbor area.

The reception at the YC Peruano has been exceptional. Jaime Ackerman (the YC manager) helped us clear in. We did it on Sunday with no overtime charges or hassles. Had to visit 4 offices. Cost less than \$100 approx. Only unusual item was the need to provide a copy of our radio log showing when we first checked in with TRAMAR. The TRAMAR interactions seem very important to them.

YC has given us a free mooring, use of showers, etc as noted below in the email from Jaime. Members seem delighted to have us visit, we are the 4th foreign yacht this year so far. Harbor is fine but slightly roilly. Foggy and cool here of course. The La Punta neighborhood is relatively safe and has the basic cruiser needs (laundry, bakery, small restaurants). Big shopping malls are only a cheap taxi ride away.

So bottom line, the horror stories of the past seem to have been overcome and I think Jaime Ackerman here should get alot of the credit for working with the authorities here and streamlining the clearance process for yachts.

>From: "yacht\operaciones" <yacht.operaciones@infonegocio.net.pe>

>To: "symoondog" <symoondog@hotmail.com>

>CC: "jimackermann02" <jimackermann02@hotmail.com>

>Subject: Re:por favor, necesito informacion de aduana

>Date: Wed, 13 Jun 2007 20:25:06 -0500

>

>Hi John:

- >
- >I'll be glad to give you a preview information for your visit, clearance
- >with peruvian authorities aren't expensive, a sailboat or a yacht is not
- >consider a cargo boat, so won't need an agent, unless you want it.
- >
- >You will need this papers
- >1. The last registered zarpe.
- >2. Boat certicate.
- >3. Passports.
- >4. Vaccine certificate.
- >
- >Steps for your check in
- >
- >1. Call Tramar (Peruvian Maritime control) radio when you get into our
- >territory.
- >2. Announce us at least 72 hrs. before your arriving so I will make an
- >appointment and arrangements with:
- >a. Autoridad Portuaria Nacional.
- >b. Direccion de Sanidad (there is a charge around \$20 when you enter and
- >\$20 more when you leave, depending when are you planning to leave).
- >c. Capitanía de Puerto. (Present paperboats.)
- >d. Inmigraciones. (Seal your passports)
- >
- >When you announce us your arriving we will contact these autorithies to
- >make the check in of your boat.
- >
- >In the Yacht Club Peruano you will receive the following facilities that we
- >give to the navigators visitors: free (mooring & buoy, shuttle boats 24
- >hrs/day, restrooms). Inside we have a five fork restaurant that has an
- >excellent sea food and accepts every Credit Card usually from 9 to 5 p.m.)
- >
- >For your boat(s) we have a pump station with Diesel (low sulfur) and a 90
- >octane gasoline, also different kinds of oil. If you need some boat repairs
- >we have a 20 ton. travel lift and an 8 ton. crane, and a 3000 yd2 if you
- >decide to lift your boat for days or weeks.
- >
- >Nearby the Yacht Club Peruano in La Punta district of Callao city & port at
- >the extreme west of the city of Lima capital of Peru, you'll find a bank
- >with ATM, store, drugstore, laundry, internet café, a bakery (excellent
- >bread), and a comunal market with main groceries.
- >
- >Public transportation to the center of Lima, or you can call to a Phone
- >Taxi. The old Lima is about 20 minutes from here, modern districts 20 to 40
- >minutes, and the airport is about 15 minutes.
- >
- >Remember you must contact a Coast Station and indicate your port

- >destination when you got into peruvian waters they will ask you some
- >characteristics of your boat, when you arrive to Callao call by channel 16
- >to Tramar and indicate that you expected at the Yacht Club Peruano.
- >
- >The following coordinates are for the mooring area of our Club:
- >a) Q = 12° 03' 48.9" L = 77° 09' 55.2"
- >b) Q = 12° 03' 55.8" L = 77° 09' 50.7"
- >c) Q = 12° 03' 50.7" L = 77° 09' 42.5"
- >d) Q = 12° 03' 43.7" L = 77° 09' 47.8"
- >
- >Visit our Web Site:
- >www.yachtclubperuano.com
- >
- >Best regards,
- >Jaime Ackermann
- >Operations Manager
- >(0051) 1429-0775 Office number
- >(0051) 198174869 Nextel mobile also 51*817*4869

7.3 Notes from SV Breila – September, 2004

1. Cruising: As a cruising ground, Peru has lots to offer. Sadly, due to very strict controls on check-ins and movements, we were limited as to where we could stop. They just don't get cruisers here, so we have to fit into the procedures for ships which only go from big port to big port.

Since we were on a limited timeframe, we planned to enter the country at Lima (port is Callao) which is about half way down the coast, so did not stop at any anchorages or ports north of Lima. We did ask if it was possible to check into the country at a port further north, and were told (by our agent) that it was impossible. We suspect that if you just arrived at a major town in the north, you might get checked in, but we don't know for sure.

2. Agent: You must use an agent to check in and out. Since our agent was in Lima with an additional office in Pisco in the south, we visited both places. Our agency, Cosmos, charged \$50 US per international check-in (incl. national zarpe) and another \$50 for international zarpe. Plus we paid an additional \$70 US for check-in fees and an additional \$36 US for various fees for int'l zarpe. Total fees \$206 US. Note that as a small vessel you don't have to pay the Health Certificate fee (\$226 for us), although it took a while to get this verified.

3. Controls: This country is the worst we've seen for excessive controls and paperwork. You have to provide position reports twice daily - either by email or by radio (email's best as you'll have a record) from the moment you enter the country until you leave Peruvian waters (except when you are checked into a port), up to 200 miles offshore. There is a \$10,000 fine for non-compliance if they want to pursue it, so they don't fool around. You must inform Tramar by email 24 hrs before arriving in port. Then call them from 10 miles out, and they will direct you when to call back from there. The port captain/harbour master will come aboard your boat, and you can

not leave until he does. Upon arrival, you must supply a form, in triplicate, (info in following email) which you can print on board, or have made up before you leave your previous port. Your ship's stamp will get lots of use, too. NOTE: They are open 24 hrs, but do not arrive at night, as this causes a bunch of unnecessary confusion, and may necessitate you paying a \$25 US (min) independent lancha service fee.

4. Yacht Club Peruano (YCP)(based in Callao/Lima, with an outstation in Paracas/Pisco) is the most accommodating place we have ever visited as cruisers. Free moorage for short stays, incl. 24-hr security, 24-hr lancha service, decent showers, a lovely bar and restaurant, very friendly members and staff who treated us like visiting royalty. (Note from SHE WOLF: for longer stays, \$40/month). They were exceptionally wonderful-admin. staff even took us home for dinner. The YCP is located in La Punta, an upscale suburb, very safe, with tiendas, a small mercado, restaurants, laundry and internet. It is on the outskirts of Lima, about an hour by bus to centro, or 20 min cab ride. Major supermercado nearby. Lima has interesting museums and architecture. It is a big city - 8 million - and parts are dangerous and dirty. Nearly everything is available here, prices are similar to Ecuador. Fuel is expensive in Peru (nearly \$3 US/gal.) and you will use lots.

5. Inland touring. Fabulous. For Macchu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, Cuzco, Sacred Valley, Colca Canyon. YCP Callao is a great place to leave the boat for inland touring; you can get anywhere in the country from Lima. While in Paracas, we took a day tour that included the Nazca Lines (via plane), a visit to a pisco distillery, Huacachina oasis, sand dunes, Nazca tombs, ceramics maker, cochineal (red dye) farm, for \$230 US for two (incl. private car, driver and guide). You could do it cheaper if you took buses, stayed overnight en route, etc., but we were short of time. We understand that just about anywhere you stop along the coast has fascinating stuff to see.

6. Facilities: 18-ton TravelLift at YCP Callao. Water (non-potable) and v. clean diesel at fuel dock. Gasoline, propane and kerosene available in town (ask at YCP). 50-ton TravelLift at Ancón, 18 Nms north. At YCP Paracas, clean diesel is available on the dock (by jerry jug - it is too shallow to take your boat in), as well as nice clubhouse and great showers.

7. Passagemaking. We were southbound from Ecuador, against the Peru/Humboldt Current. The first part - around the two capes just south of the Golfo de Guayaquil - was a tough slog with big waves and winds on the nose to 23 knots. Not so hard after that, but we motored or motor-sailed a lot. Load up with fuel in Ecuador; we bought extra jerry jugs before we left. The US Pilot book recommends keeping close to shore from Golfo de Guayaquil, which we discovered after we had sailed offshore to escape the "cape effect". In hindsight, we would have been better close to shore. The huge swells (to 20') disappeared closer inshore, and the wind dropped significantly. We did sail a lot around the capes but think it would have been better staying inshore, as our tacking angles were pretty flat. The current seemed weaker inshore, in fact we don't think we were hindered by current after the capes, and in southern Peru we actually got a 1 knot south-going current. It's about 1200 miles along the Peruvian coast, which took us a total of 16 days cruising.

The first leg to Lima is about 760 miles from Salinas Ecuador, but we covered 1027 with tacking. It took 258 hrs of which we motored 102. The trip from Lima to Pisco/Paracas was 120 miles and took 25 hour; we sailed the first 4 hours and motored the rest in hardly any wind. Pisco to Arica Chile (465 miles), we traveled 102 hours, 541 miles, but we motored a total of 74

hours, the last three days straight as there was less than 10 knots headwind. The strongest wind we saw was 23 kn on the nose sailing in big swells and large seas offshore of the northern capes. Most of the time it was between 12-18 kts in reasonable seas. Others we heard from had a motorboat ride the whole way during their November passage. If you have a motorsailor, you have it made, but fuel is nearly 3 times that in Ecuador, so stock up to the gills.

8. Great handicrafts, either in Lima (huge markets at Miraflores or Puebla Libre) or just about everywhere in the country. Alpaca knits, leathersgoods, silver, ceramics, weavings, musical instruments. Bargain hard.

9. Weather: We had a cool passage south from Ecuador, longjohns, fleecies and foulies most of the time, which is normal for Aug/Sept/Oct. Apparently it can be somewhat warmer and less windy starting in Nov (per the folks on PEN AZEN). The YCP in Callao is, for some reason, a local cold spot, and we used our furnace every night. Again, warms in Nov (their spring). Very dry - no rain, although in "winter" you get cold coastal sea fog, which can even be heavy mist. In Pisco, it is VERY dry - no rain ever. Days are warm and sunny - water temp in Bahia Paracas was 18°F warmer than in Callao (75° vs. 57°).

10. Forms: Here is a sample of the twice daily check-in form we emailed.

To TRAMAR: costeracallao@marina.mil.pe

POSITION REPORT FOR YATE BREILA

1. La tripulación

Sienda la tripulación de este yate como sigue:

NOMBRE:	NACIONALIDAD:	PASAPORTE #:	CARGO A BORDA:	EDAD:
Michael Whitby	Britanico	702101473	Capitan	53
Catharine Whitby	Canadiense	VN470390	Marinera	47

2. Rol de pasajeros

Zero/0

4. Declaración General

Michael Whitby, Capitán del yate de placer "BREILA", de la matricula numero 703732 de VANCOUVER, CANADA del porte de 9.24 toneladas brutas y de 8 netas de arquero. Radio Call Sign: VD3700

5. Mensaje – Planear ruta

FECHA	HORA	LATITUD	LONGITUD	RUMBO	VELOCIDAD
10/04/04	20:00L	17°40.0'S	071°38.1'W	121	5.6 Kn

COMENTARIO FECHA y HORA de CHEGADA

Enroute Arica, Chile 10/05/04 16:00

6. Nota.

Upon arrival at port, you will need to present three copies of a report with the above info, but in Section 5 (Mensaje) put the time, date and position you entered the country. We used our laptop and printer, but if you don't have this facility, get the forms made up before leaving previous port, and fill in the blanks. Use your ship's stamp to "official-ize" the form.

11. Contacts/Info/Positions:

TRAMAR (Transportes Maritima) for twice-daily check-ins (0800 and 2000), plus 24 hrs before arrival in port.

email: costeracallao@marina.mil.pe

radio: VHF Ch 16, for each of the 3 stations, north to south: Radio Paiti, Radio Callao, Radio Mollenda.

We had no luck getting a response from Paita, and didn't try in Mollenda as we used email check-ins.

Agency: Cosmos Agencia Marítima. general email: operaciones@cosmos.com.pe

Our contact (good english) Yuri Quispe, Jefe de Operaciones,

email: yquispe@cosmos.com.pe

You must arrange agent in advance of making port.

YACHT CLUB PERUANO

Callao: Position: 12°03.5'S 077°09.8'W

General email: yachtclubperuano@infonegocio.net.pe (NOTE: These are all new email addresses.) Our contact (good english, GREAT guy): Jaime Ackermann, email: yacht.operaciones@infonegocio.net.pe

250 moorings, some with power (!). Occasional swell in north winds (rare). Easy entrance, straight in from the north. Club monitors VHF Ch 68.

Paracas: Position: 13°49.7'S 076°26.6'W

Club outstation, with dock, lancha service, clubhouse, great showers, fuel. Hire a guarda to sit on your boat if away for a full day or longer. The bay is very shallow. You can not get into the dock, use anchor, excellent holding in sand. Can get winds to 50 kts here (called a Paracas). Monitors VHF Ch 68..

ANCON: Position: 11°45'S 77°11'W

Port 18 Nms N of Callao, has 50-ton TravelLift

8 Land Touring in South America

Here are some unedited notes from various people on their trips Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina.

8.1 Peru from Salinas - S/V Restless (Oct 2007)

8.1.1 Travels thru Ecuador to the Border

Mark's daughter Erin flew to Ecuador the first of September and joined us for just over three weeks. On the top of Erin's list of places to visit was Machu Picchu in southern Peru. Mark had done some reading and found a pre-Inca site called Kuelap in the northern highlands of the Peruvian Andes that was said to rival Machu Picchu, with the added advantage that since it is so difficult to get to, hardly anyone is there. With those two basic destinations, we planned the trip which turned out to be a remarkable adventure.

Our overall strategy was to work our way through the southern part of Ecuador, cross the border into northern Peru, and then make our way to the city of Chachapoyas where we would visit the ruins of Kuelap. From there, we would bus to Lima and onto Cusco, the Sacred Valley of the Incas, and Machu Picchu. We would then work our way back up the coast of Peru, cross back into Ecuador, and make it home to Restless. Twenty days to cover approximately 4,000 kilometers or 2,400 miles—by bus and taxi...

Day 1: We took a late bus from La Libertad, where Restless is, into Guayaquil. A 2-1/2 hour, \$3/pp, ride that was uneventful. Unlike most cities in Central or South America, Guayaquil has a central bus terminal that is huge. Upon departure you have to remember to get a dime so you can pay the toll at the turnstile to get out to your bus. A quick \$3 taxi ride from the bus terminal to the **Hotel California** just off the malecon (waterfront) in downtown and we were checked into a decent room for \$30 per night. Guayaquil is the second largest city in Ecuador behind Quito in the north which is the capital. With a population of 2,118,000, Guayaquil is a big city with a beautiful malecon, parks, hotels, and the most amazing malls. They rival those in the states and are a nice little reminder of the capitalism and chaos of home. We took a cab to the big mall where we watched the late movie. The movie theaters here look exactly like the multiplexes back home. Most movies are the same as the current releases in the US, in English with Spanish subtitles. A ticket costs somewhere between \$2-\$4, and a large popcorn is about \$1. They are a great deal and another little taste of home. After our movie, we took another taxi to the airport where we picked up Erin just after midnight. We took yet another taxi, \$5, back to the hotel and arrived about 2:00 am. Throughout South America, it is customary for taxis to charge 20% - 30% more at night. They must consider it hazard pay.

Day 2: We explored Guayaquil including Parque Bolivar also known as Iguana Park. This is the most amazing place--there are literally hundreds of Iguanas that inhabit this city block. They're in the trees, on the grass, sidewalks, they're everywhere you look. We asked several locals how long they had been there and no one was quite sure. They just say for as long as anyone can remember. In the afternoon we gathered our luggage, checkout at the hotel is 2:00 pm which is nice. We boarded a bus for the three hour ride, \$5/pp to Cuenca, population 417,000, which is considered by many to be Ecuador's most beautiful city. The bus ride in and

of itself was remarkable. Guayaquil is at sea level, Cuenca is at 7,660 feet, and the trip there takes you through the cloud forests and up to an elevation of 12,100 feet in the Parque Nacional Cajas before dropping back down and into Cuenca. We stayed at a little hostel called **Posado Todos Santos**. Charming—3 stars, \$24 per night for all three of us.

Day 3: We were up early and started our adventure at the bus station. We rode local buses, \$1/pp to three small villages that all have Sunday markets: Gualaceo, Chordeleg and Sigsig. Each town got progressively smaller and by the time we got to Sigsig, it seemed as if we were the only tourists that had ever ventured this far. It was wonderful to be out of the city and immersed into the local culture. Gualaceo and Sigsig's markets were completely for the locals to buy, sell, and trade their produce, rice, and animals. In Ecuador, the indigenous women wear a heavy, pleated felt skirt with fancy embroidery around the bottom, a simple shirt, and what many mistakenly call a panama hat which is actually called a montecristi. It looks like a man's hat and they vary in color depending on what area the women are from. Chordeleg's was a bit more touristy with souvenir shops surrounding a small town square and a locals market up the hill.

Back at the hostel, we had a nice evening with our host who owns and runs the place and is also a student working on a master's degree. He spoke fluent English which was wonderful. We bought a bottle of vodka and some limes and spent several hours learning about the Cuenca perspective on the new Ecuadorian President and current politics in the country. We also learned about the Ecuadorian way of life, their perspective on family, and many, many other interesting things.

Day 4: We spent the day in Cuenca exploring the city, shopping, eating, and visiting the gallery of modern art. Like most Latin America cities, Cuenca has a wonderful plaza in the center of town that is surrounded by a magnificent cathedral, several older churches, and government buildings. After dinner the hostel loaned us a Monopoly game that was of course in Spanish which made it that much more fun.

Day 5: Up early for a bike tour that didn't work out. Our guide didn't show up. We got our money refunded after a bit of effort and decided to hop on an afternoon bus for Loja, 3 hours, \$7/pp to begin our journey south. We stayed at the **Hostel American**, right off the town square, \$25, and we had a wonderful time. Loja, population 170,000, was not planned to be an overnight stop on our way south. We had intended to just make a quick change of buses here but since the bike trip didn't work out, we decided it was an opportunity to explore this city a bit and get a head start on the next day's travels. We learned that the week long celebration of THE virgin was on day six and it was quite a party. Several thousand people filled the square that evening, live bands, fireworks, dancing, tiny hot air balloons, and a complete party filled the streets.

At the suggestion of our darling, English speaking hostess at the hotel, we went for dinner to a local favorite and tried the delicacy of this area, cuy, pronounced koo-ee. Cuy is your standard household guinea-pig. Yes, you read that right, guinea-pig. We had read about this and heard you could get cuy on a stick at the markets. We had envisioned something similar to a chicken skewer...but...uh...no...it wasn't like that. Cuy on a stick is literally just that...head, teeth, little feet, all there, stuck on a bamboo pole about three inches in diameter, from end to end. See the photos and you'll understand. We had passed on these at the market in Gualaceo and decided

we'd try it in a more civilized setting. Mark and I shared one—I got the back half, he got the front. They looked pretty much like they did at the market minus the stick. I got the back half with its little barbecued rat feet sticking out, Mark got the front half with ears, eyes, and little rodent teeth. Its texture was like chicken but it tasted like wild pork. My half of cuy didn't yield as much meat as you would have on a good chicken wing which was OK with me. Glad we tried it; don't need to do it again.

Day 6: This is the day we really began the journey south in earnest. We had read in the Lonely Planet Guide book of a “wonderfully remote boarder crossing” although the book also warned to stay on the road because this was a major area of confrontation during the 1995 war between Ecuador and Peru and still contained numerous landmines. Perfect—we love this stuff!

We caught the 6:00 am bus from Loja to Vilcabamba, population 4,200. There we had breakfast and met a couple from California who were working their way to the same town in Peru we were. They had walked across the boarder from San Diego into Tijuana with their backpacks almost a year ago and were headed for the tip of South America—cool, perfect traveling companions. We caught the bus and headed for Zumba, population unknown, it's not in any guide books, but maybe 100 people. When we arrived in Zumba we were not exactly sure how to get to the next town of La Balsa. We talked to a woman who said the next combi, a big truck with bench seats in the back wouldn't leave for about another three hours. Mat, our traveling companion who spoke pretty good Spanish found an old man and his small, beat up old truck who said he would take us right then for about \$3 each--we jumped in. The man stopped at his house to put a park bench in the back for us to sit on which was very kind. However, once underway we were stopped by the “taxi police” and he was told he couldn't take us. Guess he didn't pay off the right person, I mean get the proper license. Another truck came along, imagine that, and we all piled into it for the dirt road, four wheel drive, two hour ride to La Balsa. Now it was getting fun!

8.1.2 Crossing the Border into Peru

We arrived at the border about 3:00 pm and walked into the only structure, the customs office. The agent seemed happy to see us and officially stamped us out of Ecuador. The five of us walked across the bridge and into Peru. Same exercise with the passports on the Peru side and it appeared we were the only people who had crossed the boarder and signed the book for a few days.

The real challenge with this two day, off the beaten path trek, not including the multiple forms of transportation, is that you have to make it to a little place in Peru called San Ignacio because it's the only town once past Vilcabamba with a place to stay. We found a four wheel drive Subaru station wagon, all five of us piled in with our packs, and off we went for the last three hour leg of the day. During the planning stages of this crossing, we kept looking at maps to see if we could connect all the dots. We could see a road as far as Zumba on the Ecuadorian side, and we could see a road from San Ignacio south, but we never could find anything that showed a connection. We went on blind faith figuring we just didn't have detailed enough maps. But now the reason was clear. There were dirt roads, at least in the dry season. They included multiple river/creek crossings where no bridge existed; you had to just drive through the water. We still can't imagine how you could possibly get through this area during the rainy season.

We arrived in San Ignacio, Peru about 8:00 that night. San Ignacio isn't listed in the guide books either but it probably had a population of about 5,000. We were most certainly the only white people in town, we were exhausted, and all we wanted was a bed and something to eat.

8.1.2.1 Changing Money

We had a small problem though... While we were in Cuenca, we had gone to an international bank and gotten Peruvian Nuevo Soles. The Nuevo, new, part is important because in the late 1980's the country experienced inflation that reached 10,000%. They cancelled the old money and came up with a new one. We were warned to watch for these old bills because folks will try and pass them off to you when you get change. The bills we got in Cuenca were 100 Nuevo Sole notes which are about \$33 US dollars. When we got to San Ignacio, we had five of these bills and then US money which is what Ecuador uses. Cambio means change in Spanish and no one had or would give us any Cambio! The taxi driver didn't have any, the hotel where we stayed would only change the 100 Nuevo Sole note for the room, no other change. We spent our first hour in San Ignacio trying to get enough cambio for the taxi driver. We offered to pay him in US dollars and he just gave us a bewildered smile and shook his head back and forth. This is not a tourist area and consequently they had no use for US money, no way to exchange it for Soles. We finally got it figured out, checked into the hotel, \$15, and over dinner, we felt pretty satisfied with the day's journey. We temporarily forgot that we had almost as long a trip planned for the next day before we would arrive at our destination of Chachapoyas.

Day 7: Up early again and into a moto-taxi, a three wheeled motorcycle, for the ride to the bus. One thing we've learned over the past year is that most of the people in these countries make a buck just about anyway they can, especially the taxi drivers. If a taxi takes you to a restaurant for dinner, the driver is likely to go in and ask the owner for his cut of the cost of your dinner. If someone shows you to a hotel, they'll go in and tell the inn-keeper they brought you here and they want their cut. They seem to get it too, like it is an understanding they all have with each other. First the driver took us to a taxi stand—the most expensive way to go and the biggest cut for him. We said no, autobus, and he continued on. He then dropped us at what they call here a colectivo. He was pretty persistent that this was the bus and we finally got out and paid him. We're pretty sure he got a cut from the driver because we did eventually see a bus on the route. No problem though, we would get there eventually.

A colectivo is essentially a small, bare bones, Japanese van, with as many seats as possible crammed in. These vans don't leave for their destination until they are full. Full means twenty three – twenty five people plus small kids who are either standing or in laps. Luggage is generally on the roof rack, including our packs, but if you have something special like a small pack/purse with passports, or your pet chicken, that's OK to have inside. Three hours to Jean, where we got in another moto-taxi which took us to another colectivo. Two more hours to, Bagua Grande, another moto-taxi to another colectivo, then two hours to our final destination for the next few days, Chachapoyas, population 20,700.

8.1.3 Chachapoyas & Kuelap (Kway-lap)

So in summary, two days, four taxis, five buses/colletivos, two four-wheel drive taxis, two countries, and we made it! We stayed at the Hotel Revash on the main square for \$18 per

night and all the hot water we could use. Great place, we would definitely stay there again. We stashed our packs in our room and headed out to explore the town.

The main square here was a full city block in size with a dated fountain at its center and brick paved paths and landscaping filling out the balance of the area. On our last colectivo from Bagua Grande, one of the passengers was a young man in his early twenties and Mark noticed that his legs bent in an odd direction as he sat crammed into the van with the rest of us. There was also a very beat up, very simple wheelchair that got tossed up to the luggage rack. The chair had a seat, a back, two large wheels, but only one small rusty wheel on the front. We thought maybe it was broken. It didn't look like it could possibly work and looked as though it was being taken somewhere to be repaired or maybe scraped. However, when we all got out, they threw this chair down and the guy with the bendy legs got himself out of the van, into the chair, and proceeded to wheel his way out of the dirt lot balanced on the two big wheels. An hour or so later, he and his amigo were in the city square with a huge crowd gathered around. Their street show included the guy in the wheelchair who did amazing feats of strength and flexibility including wrapping his non-functioning legs around the back of his head, then standing on his hands. Still in that position he walked circles around the crowd. The highlight of the show, the part that really got the crowd excited, was when this same guy put on a blindfold and his friend threw knives at him. They went through this whole process several more times during the afternoon and evening and it looked like they made some pretty good money. It was the third world version of the street performers at the Pike Place Market in Seattle.

As evening unfolded, many local people came out to the square which seems to be the social center of these small towns seven nights a week. Couples with children, older people selling everything from candy and cigarettes to fresh empanadas to kid's toys, and teenagers in groups or in pairs holding hands. It's the place to see and be seen and in Chachapoyas, it was a fine way for us to end the day and plan for the next.

Day 8: Chachapoyas, Peru is unique because there are a number of archeological sites surrounding it. It is also so difficult and time consuming to get to that you just about have the place to yourself. The down side to this isolation is it means your options for visiting the sites are either to hike for days/weeks since there is not public transportation, hire a taxi for a fortune, or go with a tour. We had talked the night before with the hotel guy about arranging for a tour and so we were up early and joined a group of three others for the trip to Kuelap which was our main reason for coming to Chachapoyas. The ride to the ruins was three hours and the tour for all three of us, including transport both ways, a guide, lunch, and the fee to get in, was \$50. It looked like just a short distance on the map that didn't show any topography. It turned out to be a drop down into the valley of over 5,000 feet, then back up the other side about 6,000 feet. That little van and its driver really earned their money.

The drive was magnificent. Steep, twisting, single-track dirt roads on both sides of the valley wound through the highlands of the Peruvian Andes. It was astonishing to see that every acre on the Kuelap side had been cultivated and in fact most land was still being worked. This is from 5,000 feet to 10,000 feet of elevation for hundreds of miles. The steep hillsides looked like a patchwork quilt in greens and browns. We were stopped twice on the way up. Once because a rockslide occurred blocking the road completely. You'd think this would have jeopardized the trip but it only slowed us down. There were several men working to clear it and we just piled out of the van and did what we could to help. It was cleared enough that the van drove between the

rocks and the shear drop-off of the edge of the road while rocks were still falling from above. He made it and we all jumped back in and continued on.

Working our way up this hill and through the tiny villages is where our love affair with the Andes really took hold. The experience was magical. Oxen were plowing the fields and around each corner we found sheep or goats grazing, often a donkey just standing in the road. Most houses had a pig and piglets running around the front yard. Life seemed like it had gone on like this here for hundreds of years. Twenty kilometers past the last village, we arrived at the top of the highest mountain and to Kuelap.

Kuelap is a pre-Inca citadel that is “matched only in grandeur by the ruins of Machu Picchu” according to the Lonely Planet Guide. It is situated atop a mountain at an elevation of 9,600 feet and was constructed between 900 and 1100 AD. It was built by a cloud-forest civilization that inhabited the area from 800 AD until the Inca arrived in the 1470s. Over five hundred homes are contained within the walls of Kuelap along with ceremonial, burial, and defense structures. It is said that the Inca tried first to convince the tribes they conquered to join them peacefully. They showed them how to grow food in a way that produced abundance and even required they retain their culture and language. I guess if you didn’t join peacefully they’d conquer you anyway so most did. Our guide pointed out architectural elements in the construction that showed the difference between what was built by the natives and what was later added by the Inca. Unlike the Spanish, the Inca did not destroy and rebuild, they added to what was already there.

Our original plan had been to try and hike some part of the way up to these ruins. We instead followed the suggestion of our new friend at the hotel and took the van up, then hiked down from the ruins to a small town where the van picked us up. The trip down was 3,600 feet of drop in elevation in just over three hours. As we started down the trail, we met the archeologist in charge of the site and had a very interesting discussion about how they were trying to preserve the great walls from collapsing. Our next stop was a little complex where the workers stayed doing the restoration camp. There were several structures, no electricity, no running water, but there was a wonderful woman who invited us to rest before heading out. We went into her dining room—a 4’ x 8’ room with a dirt floor, old weathered plywood walls with no windows, and a large table with benches on each side covered with sheep or lama pelts. She made us coca tea from fresh coca leaves and an interesting corn patty with aji which is made from hot peppers. Rested and with our bellies full, we headed out. The trek down was breathtaking. The trail down was steep and rugged. Every mile or so we would come across a man or a small family who were working their way up the path, most with a mule that was loaded with provisions. Tiny houses, what we would call shacks, were tucked away every mile or so. This trek was one of our favorite parts of this trip.

Day 9: We signed up for more tours. The morning adventure, which included another three hour van ride, was to **Karajia**—home of the sarcophagus. We were more than a little sore from the day before so although the hike to Karajia wasn’t all that difficult, we were dying. Karajia is situated in a rock wall of a small valley and was the burial area for a pre-Inca tribe. It was discovered (by the outside world) within the last ten years by a hang-glider which we learned is how many of the ruins in this area were discovered. The wall of the valley has a group of

sarcophagus that bare an eerie resemblance to the Moai of Easter Island. These statues however, contain the mummified remains of tribal elders. The archeologists say that at one time, the whole stone wall of the valley was full of these statues. Over time, due to earthquakes and other natural phenomenon, many have fallen. This is clearly evidenced by the number of human bones piled up at the bottom of the cliff. See the photos, this was so powerful. We had lunch at a local house with typical Peruvian food and music and in the afternoon, we went caving.

The cave was totally amazing; huge, deep, and full of stalactites and stalagmites. We had to stop at someone's house along the way to rent rubber boots for 5 Soles each (60 cents). We just pulled up to the house, walked in, used the bathroom, picked out our boots, and piled back into the van. Hum....

Neither of these places is even mentioned in the guide book and we were the only tour groups there. This group was eight people. The day's trip, including transportation, a guide, lunch, and both sites was \$47 for the three of us. We loved Chachapoyas and could have easily spent another week or so there. The town was great, the people charming, and the exploration opportunities endless. Ten years from now this area will be another Machu Picchu. We were so pleased we had taken the time to visit it now, while it is still rugged and unspoiled.

8.1.4 Lima

Day 10: You know they say that the second day is when you really feel the pain? We'll it was true. Neither Erin nor I could step off a two inch curb without crying out in pain. Mark probably felt the same but he was much tougher about it. We said good-bye to Chachapoyas and boarded a luxury bus for Lima via Chiclayo. The bus was Movil Tours, \$34/pp. Nice big bus with semi-reclining seats, movies, bathroom, and meals. It was twenty hours to Lima but was broken up by several stops along the way including two where we got off the bus and had lunch/dinner at the bus stop. You got off, showed them your bus ticket, and they gave you a ticket for your meal. The bus-attendant, who is like a flight-attendant, grabbed a tray and become our waitress. Typical food—rice, beans, french fries, and a piece of chicken. Sounds funny but it was decent and it was a nice break from being aboard. We rode through the night arriving in Lima the next day.

Day 11: Off one bus, into a taxi, and off to the next bus station—Cruz del Sur. We hung out in the terminal for a couple of hours and then boarded the next luxury bus for the 20 hour ride to Lima, \$47/pp. Fewer stops, meals aboard but it was fine. We'd taken books, a magnetic chess board, sudoku and so we were pretty prepared. We departed Lima at 2:00 pm and we still had a few hours of daylight to be able to see the sights along the way. The route south was via the Pan American Highway and it went directly through the town of Pisco where the recent 8.0 magnitude earthquake was centered. It damage was devastating. All of the buildings were damaged, most beyond repair, and piles of rubble had been swept into neat piles along the edge of the streets. There was a beer truck in front of the bus and small children would run along side begging for food. The kind driver slowed down and dropped a small bag of apples to a little girl. We saw an elderly woman sitting on the side of the road sobbing. It was truly heartbreaking. Our first trip through this area was approximately three weeks after the earthquake. We couldn't even imagine what it must have been like there for the past three weeks. We felt torn, like we wanted to jump off the bus and do something, anything. We in fact

talked about just that for the next week. At some point, if you do want to make a difference, you do have to “get off the bus” and do something about it. By the time we came through this same area a week or so later, things did look better and it appeared more tents had been erected and more aid had arrived. We were however profoundly affected by Pisco and decided that one of the things we would like to do with our flexible schedule, is look for opportunities where we can volunteer—a place where we can get off the bus and help.

8.1.5 Cusco, Machu Picchu, and Surrounding Area

Day 12: We arrived in Cusco mid morning. Another taxi to our hotel-- Hostal Qorichaska, \$24 per night. Forty plus hours on the bus but we felt surprisingly good. We were excited to ditch our packs, shower, put on clean cloths and go discover the city. Cusco, located in the Sacred Valley, was the capital city of the Incas and is steeped in history and ruins. We spent the day exploring the city and devising a plan for what to do over the next few days.

Day 13: Our second day in Cusco we visited the four sets of ruins just outside the city. You need to buy the Boleto Turistico del Cusco (Cusco Tourist Ticket) to enter these ruins, \$25/pp. It's a good deal since it also gets you into many other archeological sites in the Sacred Valley. The highlight of the day's hiking was the ruins at Saqsaywaman, pronounced sexy woman. The magnitude and precision of the stone work was astounding.

We also spent part of the day determining how and when we wanted to visit Machu Picchu. That probably sounds a little funny but the place is such a tourist machine, you can't just “show up”. The typical route people take from Cusco to Machu Picchu is via train. The Machu Picchu Train leaves early in the morning and takes about four hours to reach the small support town of Aguas Calientes which exists for the sole purpose of providing a base for Machu Picchu. From there, you board a bus for the twenty minute ride to the ruins. We decided to do the trip a little differently. The train stops along the way in a little town called Ollantaytambo and so we decided it would be more interesting to spend a day and night there, and catch the train the next morning.

Day 14: We departed Cusco and headed for **Ollantaytambo**, pronounced oy-an-tay-tambo, via a taxi for \$9. Ollantaytambo has a wonderful Inca history. It lies on the floor of a picturesque valley and is dominated by a massive Inca fortress above. It is said to be the best surviving example of Inca city planning and its narrow cobblestone streets, with functioning aqueducts, has been inhabited for over 700 years. Entry to the ruins is covered by the tourist ticket mentioned above. In our opinion, these ruins were the best example of the Inca stone masons astonishing skill. Single stones measuring ten feet in height, five feet in width, and three feet in depth and they are fit together, with no mortar, to create a wall that is mind-boggling. They had no metal tools, they did all this with wood and stone—wow! The Inca also included numerous water features into their stonework. Water was the essence of life and it was celebrated and displayed at every set of ruins we visited. A stream or a spring was channeled through the rock in little carved channels anywhere from two inches wide to five feet wide. Often it would start at the top and work its way down through a series of pools and waterfalls. The other unique thing about these ruins was that most we had visited required a significant hike just to get there. But here, at Ollantaytambo, the city is tucked right into the base of the mountain and the stone terraces that lead to the temples above.

We stayed in a pleasant place called the Hospedaje Los Portadas for \$20 per night. The most charming part of this hostel was our host. She made us breakfast in the morning, did our laundry, and even made Erin urba tea for an upset stomach (old Inca remedy). She didn't speak a word of English and our Spanish is awful, but somehow we became very close with this woman. Fortunately our plans were to take the train back to this little town and so she said she would have our room ready when we got back.

Day 15: We caught the train in Ollantaytambo about 10:00 am and made the two hour trip to **Aguas Calientes**. This town is Peru tourism at its worst. It is just hotels, restaurants, souvenir stands, a cash machine and a ticket office. We knew this but had decided to stay the night here so we could be on the first bus to Machu Picchu the next morning. We spent the day wandering, shopping, and buying our entrance tickets to Machu Picchu, \$34/pp, along with our roundtrip bus tickets, \$12/pp .

Day 16: Up at 4:00 am, we were on the first in bus to **Machu Picchu**. We arrived at the gates before 6:00 am and climbed to the watchman's tower where we were treated to sunrise on the ruins. It is truly a magnificent site. The stone city is draped over the top and down the sides of a staggeringly steep mountain and surrounded on all sides by other equally steep and splendid peaks. Our favorite part of Machu Picchu was sitting just below the watchman's tower and soaking in the magnitude of the Inca's most well known site. There are no vines, very few trees, and what grass does grow here is kept trimmed by the llamas and the groundskeepers. The ruins have had significant restoration done which allows you to see to a great extent what it must have looked like in the fourteen hundreds when it was abandoned. We roamed the ancient city for several hours and when the hordes of tourists began to arrive by late morning, we headed back down. We picked up our bags at the hotel and caught the 2:00 pm train back to Ollantaytambo where our room was waiting.

Day 17: Our plan had been to move on to another town in the Sacred Valley called Pisac for the day but we decided to stop. We had a day and Ollantaytambo was where we wanted to spend it. We spent the day hiking the ruins and hills surrounding the town, talking with the locals, playing with little kids, drinking coffee in the town square, taking photos, and just relaxing. We had dinner for the second time at a little place close to the ruins. The food was wonderful and the chef should be on the cooking network. He was six foot six with wild black hair, a handlebar mustache, a chef's apron and hat, and a personality that was a kick. Originally from Chile, he moved to this little town and opened his restaurant to get away from the civilization of Chile. Too tame there for him, he liked the more authentic quality of the Peruvian people and he loved Ollantaytambo. This little town was the first place in Central or South America where we thought "we could live here".

8.1.6 Heading Back to Ecuador via Lima and Tumbes

Day 18: This was the beginning of our journey back to Restless. We had great espresso and breakfast at a little place called Heart's Café. It was opened four years ago by a British woman, is staffed by the locals, and all profits go to benefit women and children's programs in the valley. Did we mention how much we loved this place? We reluctantly said goodbye to this little town and our new friends. We would have loved to stay and explore for another week or so.

At about 10:00 am we caught taxi for the two hour ride to Cusco, \$9, then another taxi to the bus station, \$1. At 4:00 pm we boarded a Cruz del Sur bus for the twenty hour trip to Lima. The first ten hours take you from almost ten thousand feet of elevation to sea level. The road is steep and curvy and the bus was full of local people who didn't look like they'd spent much time in a car. The sun set, the bus was dark, we seemed to have a new driver who didn't really have the hang of how to control a double-decker bus...are you getting the picture? Four or five hours into the trip, people started vomiting—lots of people. These are nice buses but they don't have those cute little barf bags like they have on planes. It must be a predictable occurrence because the attendant started handing out plastic bags, similar to a small grocery bag. This continued for about four or five hours and we didn't know whether to be completely disgusted by the sound, smell, and the thought of the full plastic bags, or to feel just terrible for the folks who were going through this. At some point Erin grabbed her stuff and said "I've got to get out of here!" as she ran for the back of the bus.

Day 19: What should have been a twenty hour trip actually took about twenty-five hours and we arrived at the Lima terminal just in time to board our next bus from Lima to Tumbes. This leg of the trip home was also scheduled to be a twenty hour ride and stayed pretty much on schedule. No trauma like the night before, just a long ride with varied, beautiful scenery from scenic coastal cliffs, to dramatic deserts, to charming little surf towns.

Day 20: We arrived in Tumbes on schedule at about 9:00am. We read we should have been able to catch a bus in Tumbes that would take us across the border into Ecuador, and then on to Guayaquil. Of course we didn't have the specifics—like the name of the bus company. The guide books have two cardinal rules when it comes to taxis: don't get in an unmarked car and don't get into a taxi with a driver and a second person. The unmarked part is pretty silly since eighty percent of the taxis aren't marked, but the two people thing seems pretty valid. We had now traveled 48 hours straight from Ollantaytambo and we were trashed. We talked to several cabs and decided on an unmarked one that was actually in the bus yard which we thought gave it more credibility. There was a driver and another guy who was talking with us about the bus the cab would take us to, actually showed us the photo on the Tumbes brochure so we felt pretty good.

8.1.7 Crossing the Border into Ecuador

The three of us loaded our packs in the trunk, piled in, and so did the two guys. So now we are in an unmarked cab, with two locals, and we're driving into the desert. It was not a good feeling... About fifteen minutes into what we thought would be a five minute ride, driver number two tells us that the border between Ecuador and Peru is closed and has been for what we think he says is several days. Strange, we didn't hear about this on the bus ride from Lima. Guess it would help if we spoke better Spanish. She could have announced it in great detail and we very probably wouldn't have understood. So anyway, we say: "but what about the bus?" He says, the bus is on the other side of the blockade.

They drive us to Peru Immigration which wasn't the bus station we wanted or expected but at least we hadn't been robbed and rolled in the desert, we were grateful. We checked out of the country, leaving one of us at the taxi the entire time just to make sure our packs didn't disappear. We got back in and headed another several miles down the road towards the border. We went through a checkpoint, and as we approached the second checkpoint, the taxi

pulled off into a little dirt lot behind some street vendors, out of sight from the main road. A security officer or a Peruvian cop, hard to tell the difference, was there and we were told that to cross the closed boarder we would need to pay \$60 Soles/\$20 Dollars for the three of us. We felt like we were being fleeced but what choice did we have? We paid the taxi, paid the security guard, put on our packs, and were led by driver number two on foot over a two-by-six that spanned the creek that is the border. We made our way on foot for about a quarter of a mile through a shanty town that was a little scary and eventually ended up back on the main road. Driver number two, our guide, went to hale us another cab. We were really sure at this point we had just been taken for a ride by the taxi and the guard/cop. We stopped an Ecuadorian policeman and asked if the boarder was closed. He confirmed it was. So how was it that we made it from Peru to Ecuador and nobody seemed to care? Who knows, and at this point, we didn't really care.

We got into the next cab and were taken to Ecuadorian Immigration where we checked into the country. Now the whole event was beginning to make more sense. There is one road that leads from Tumbes, Peru, over the boarder, and into Ecuador about six miles before it branches off to the highway. This six mile stretch of road was closed by a series of five roadblocks that had been setup by Ecuadorian protesters. The only way to make it to the highway, and a bus to Guayaquil, was to walk the six miles. We consolidated our bags and packs, put everything on our backs, and proceeded to walk through the roadblocks. Every mile there would be thirty or so taxis, large produce trucks, and anything else they could find, spread across the road six or seven vehicles deep. The two roadblocks on each end weren't too bad but the one in the middle was a little rowdy. Sure enough, at the end of the road, there was the bus to Guayaquil, \$3pp. We boarded and proceeded to collapse. Three hours to Guayaquil, a couple of cold beers at the bus station, a transfer to another two hour bus for La Libertad, \$3/pp, a taxi to Restless, \$1 and we were home just before dark. Fifty-nine hours after we left Ollantaytambo we arrived home.

8.1.8 Summary & Costs

What an adventure. Poor Erin had passed being stressed out, tired, upset, homesick, and had become totally numb—we think. She really wasn't speaking by this point. Mark and I were tired but couldn't wait to go back. Maybe that was why she wasn't speaking to us...

Our total cost for the trip, from the time we left Restless to the time we arrived back at her, twenty days for three people was: \$2,621. That amount includes about \$300 on gifts and souvenirs, \$660 in bus fares, \$77 for taxis, \$307 for the Machu Picchu experience, \$166 for tours, and \$328 for hotels. Not bad for the adventure of a lifetime!

8.2 S/V Music – Peru & Bolivia

Music's Trip to Peru and Bolivia

Itinerary and costs:

Depart	Arrive	Via	Cost	Hotel	Cost
Bahia	Guayaquil	Reina del Camino bus	\$7.00	California	\$23
Guayaquil	Tumbes	Ormeno bus	\$15.00	Asturias	\$20 ?
Tumbes	Lima	Aero Continente air	\$78.58 + \$12.10 tax	Caribe	\$25
Lima	Cusco	Trans Peru Airline	\$69.02 + \$5.04 tax	Monarca	\$25
Cusco	Aguas Caliente	Rail Peru	\$120 including Machu Pucchu tour	Cabana	\$20
Aguas Caliente	Cusco	Rail Peru	included	Monarca	\$25
Cusco	Puno	? bus	\$10	Don Julio	\$17
Puno	La Paz	Trans Peru	\$10	Galeria	\$8
La Paz	Guayaquil	Taca Airline	\$389 including \$68 tax + \$25 airport tax		
Guayaquil	Bahía	Reina del Camino bus	\$7		

8.2.1 City Comments

Guayaquil: Hotel California wanted to charge us \$28 for a single with hot water, we were able to get them down to \$23, but it was a hassle. My room was very noisy, right over the bakery. Walked the Malecon in the afternoon, which is a great place to go. Went there the next morning as well, and toured the thieves market just to get a feel for it.

Tumbes: Motor cycle taxis dominate, but you can get a car taxi in town. It has a border town feel to it. Taxi driver said to hold onto luggage which was in an open rack behind us. A nice quiet room, but small.

Lima: At the airport we met a taxi agent that we thought was a taxi driver at first. We negotiated a decent fare and a return trip to the airport early the next morning. He was a bit insistent that we give him something for the little service he provided. The taxi driver made sure that the doors were all locked and I didn't have a real safe feeling on the taxi ride to the marina district down town. Nice quiet room, with a restaurant attached, so we didn't need to go far.

Cusco: Were picked up by tour agent (see below) and taken to 3 hotels and decided on an expensive one, near the main part of town and very nice. This was the hub of the tours that we took. Great city. The restaurants had menu pushers out in force. You couldn't even look hungry without a dozen of them trying to get you into their restaurant. The post card vendors were as thick as flies and sometimes pretty insistent. Very tourist oriented where we went, with all of the tourist services you could expect. The airport arrival area was crowded with tour booths and there was even a band playing for tips.

Aguas Calientes: A total tourist town. Restaurant hawkers not as bad here. There are a lot of hostels and restaurants along the main street. Even though the hotel said it had hot water, my room only had very cold water, otherwise it was nice.

Puno: Another very tourist oriented town, located right on the shores of Lake Titicaca. Didn't have much time to spend in the city, out on tours most of the time. Hotel was nice.

La Paz: This was nicer than I expected. I only had a few hours to go exploring. All the streets were lined with stalls selling all sorts of hardware, clothes and food. They were all oriented towards the locals and not tourists. The hotel gave me a wake-up call and arranged for a taxi to the airport the next day. I was told that it was a 45 minute ride to the airport, so I left an hour before the 3 hours I was supposed to be there. It only took 15 minutes early in the morning, so it was a long wait at the airport. They had a rate card in the room that included an antenna for the TV, heater, even oxygen bottles.

8.2.2 Guided Tours that I took:

Sacred Valley: This is a major bus tour that starts in Cusco and makes 2 stops along the way at artisan stall areas. The main place on the tour was the town of Ollantaytambo, where we went through some of the local's houses and walked around the town. Then we hiked up the agricultural terraces up to the temple of the sun, where the view was spectacular. We looked down at the town and the sculpted mountain at Wiracochan. The bus stopped along the way to allow pictures of the snow capped mountains and at another artisan area. The tour cost \$18 each and includes a lunch stop, which was included in the price. There was someone who came on the bus on the way back that was selling a CD with 500 pictures (and music) of the major areas which I just had to buy.

Down Town tour: This included many stops. The first was at the Cathedral del Cusco, which is the main cathedral and located right at the Plaza de Amas. It was an additional \$3.00 and not included on the \$10.00 tourist ticket, which is required for most of the sights around Cusco. All types of photography was prohibited, so I wasn't able to get a picture of the painting of the Last

Supper that had Cuy as the main dish, but I was able to buy a postcard of the painting which I've scanned. The next stop was the temple of Qoricancha, which the Spanish mostly destroyed, but still had some of the major structures in tact. Then we went to the ruins at Q'enqo, Pukapukara, Tambomachy and Saqsaywaman, which was the most impressive of the tour. Then the bus stopped at a tourist store that tried to sell overpriced woven goods. I did buy an alpaca blanket for \$28.

Machu Picchu tour: A real must see. I didn't take the Inca trail, but wish I had. It would have been an extra 4 days. Our cost was \$120 each and included rail transportation, bus transportation up and down the mountain, and entrance to the monument. You just have to see it to believe it.

Lake Titicaca tour: This included 2 floating islands and the island of Tiquilla. The cost was \$10 for the all day tour. Lunch was extra, but organized at a patio restaurant and almuerzo style. I even took a reed boat between the floating islands, which are not to be missed, just because of how they are made and that people actually live on them. Walking on them was like walking on a wet sponge. They both had stalls where they were selling tourist stuff.

8.2.3 Using a tour guide/travel agent:

I highly recommend this, even if you pay a little for their services. I used Sharamira, for the tours around Cusco. She arranged the flights from Tumbes to Lima, to Cusco. Our tickets were prepaid and we picked them up at the respective airports. Her charge for them was \$8.90 for the three of us. We arranged all of our Cusco tours through her, and she even bought our Boleta and brought them to the hotel. She, or her husband, took us to the tour bus pick-up points, the train station and even picked us up at the train station and the airport upon arrival. We bought our bus to Puno tickets through her, and she made reservations at the Don Julio for us as well. Overall a great service and she speaks good English. Her email is: kpulled@yahoo.com and her cell number is: 084-9636301 or 084-9634446. I highly recommend her. Please give her my name if you use her.

In Puno, I used the hotel owner to arrange my Lake Titicaca tour and bus trip to La Paz. If there were any service charges, they were built into the tickets. For the tour and the trip to La Paz, I was picked up at the hotel by van, so just like in Cusco, I didn't have to take a taxi, I was even picked up at the bus station by the hotel.

8.2.4 General observations:

In general things are more expensive in Peru. Food, lodging, taxis and most things cost more. The exception is Internet cafes. They were about 50 cents an hour and much faster than in Bahía. Cusco and Puno are very geared to the tourist trade. When we went to Machu Picchu, we left our big bags at the hotel, and at the train tracks in Machu Picchu there was someone holding a sign with our names on them to deposit our overnight bags, so we didn't have to carry them around Machu Picchu.

The bus trip up the mountain from the valley where the train drops you off is an amazing set of switch backs. A one lane dirt road where the busses were going up and down and managed to not drop over the edge or collide.

There were clouds of black biting bugs all over Machu Picchu, so cover yourself with bug repellent before you get up there.

The Ormeno buses were the best of the trip. Very comfortable leather seats with calf rests and a lot of leg room. We had to buy our tickets in Guayaquil the day before because they get crowded some days. The bus station is a short cab ride from the main bus station.

8.2.5 Bus trip to La Paz

All of the other bus rides were pretty un-eventful, but this one was the exception. I was picked up by a 20 passenger van that went around to several other hotels to pick up passengers. Then it stopped at an intersection and we all got off of it and onto the big Tour Peru bus. It stopped at the border for check out of Peru and check into Bolivia without any problems except for the time it took. The next stop was at Copacabana for almost 2 hours. A nice little beach resort with tons of restaurants and stalls selling all manner of tourist stuff. We had to change busses and the new one was a Hotel Galeria bus, not a Tour Peru bus. About an hour out, we all had to get out of the bus so it could go on the ferry across the lake. All the passengers got out and bought their 30 cent boat ticket for their separate and short ride across the lake. The bus took us to the hotel Galeria, which was the nicest of the whole trip for me.

8.3 SV Saucy Lady – Bahia to Peru and Back by Bus

Bahia to Guayaquil---\$14.00 for two on Reina bus

Bus to Lima, Del Camano--\$100.00 for two

Lima to Cusco, Rutas de America on Cruse del Sur \$52.94 for two

Cusco \$17.00 city tour for two

Machu Picchu \$125.00 per person

Sacred Valley \$18.00 per person

Bus to Puno \$34.00 for two

Boat on Lake Titicaca \$70.00 and includes one night stay on island Amantani

Bus from Puno to Cusco \$60.00 for two including a very nice buffet lunch.

Airline ticket to Lima from Cusco \$116.00 for two

Airline ticket to Guayaquil from Lima \$142.00 for two—we were in the low season and that is why the prices were low and they were doing a special rate at this time: April-May

Hotel California \$20.00 a night for two

Hotel Iquique in Lima \$10.00 pp a night and in Cusco it is \$8.40pp a night.

You have to pay taxes leaving Peru on airlines

You have a six hour bus trip from Bahía to Guayaquil and then we had a 22 hour ride to Lima and the country and towns look just like Mexico and Central America. We had a 25 hour trip to

Cusco with a five hour delay for a slide in the mountains. From Lima to Cusco you follow the ocean and all you see is mountains of sand and very desolate.

Altitude sickness may strike at anytime, so it would be best if you had this medicine with you: Coramina-Glucosa (Novartis) this is a large pill that you just suck on for a long time to absorb in your system. Coca tea works well also.

Our stays in the hostels were very excellent and the people are very helpful and they can do excellent trips for you.

If you plan a trip to the Sacred Valley, plan on a Sunday as they have a big market in one of the towns and you can get great bargains.

The city tour of Cusco is a very good bargain, as you will see ruins outside of Cusco, as well as museums and you will need the ticket to get into Sacred Valley ruins. The cost is \$10.00pp. boleto turistico. (tourism ticket)

All of the buffets that were included on our trips were excellent and no one had any ill effects from the food.

If you do Lake Titicaca, bring shoes you can walk in on rocks and uneven terrain, as you will have two hikes to do.

Shamira Valencia r. is an excellent tour arranger and she will get bus and airline tickets for you. She is in the Hostal Iquique in Cusco.

It would be best if you e-mailed ahead for reservations to the sights you want to see, as the busy season is June through September. Lima Hostal iquique—hiquique@terra.com.pe phone 511-423-3699 Cusco Hostal, iquique—kpullied@yahoo.com

We had a very enjoyable trip and we enjoyed our stay in the home on the island with a lovely family, and experienced how they live and work and play. We went to a fiesta and we all had to dress in their dress, it was quite and experience.

You should take warm clothes, as it is cold in the mountains in the mornings and nights. if you go by bus take a blanket, as the bus is cold.

8.4 SV Saucy Lady - Second Peru Trip

We took the 2:00 pm Ormeno bus from Guayaquil to Tumbes Peru on September 2, 2004. The bus terminal is in a strip mall between the Terminal Terrestre and the airport. You purchase the ticket and get the bus there. It is about a five hour ride to Tumbes. You have to get off the bus three times to show your passport.

1—just show your passport

2—make out papers and have them and your passport stamped.

3—make out papers and them and your passport stamped.

All this is done in reverse when coming back into Ecuador.

The bus is a double deck and the seats below are more comfortable than the upper deck, but it is a very comfortable bus. There isn't any food served, so it is good to take something along.

In Guayaquil we stay in California hotel, and have been very satisfied with their service and hotel.

In Tumbes we stayed in the Rodrich, and if you are sensitive to odors or mildew this isn't the place to stay. Tumbes has lots of hostals in all price ranges.

We did a one day trip to the mangroves and we were the first tourists to do this trip. We enjoyed the trip through the canals and the walk on the beach, where only the fishermen go. This beach was very clean. We had a great lunch in the village that does the dugout canoe ride through the mangroves. The cost was \$70.00 for both of us.

Rutas de America has international bus service—e-mail: ragye@impsat.net.ec guayaquil-----quito: rauio@impsat.net.ec

8.5 SV Cabiri – Peru and Bolivia

Here is some information that might be helpful traveling from Salinas Ecuador to many parts of Peru- Cusco, Sacred Valley, Puno, Lake Titicaca, Copacabana, La Paz Bolivia, Aerquipa and back again. We spent four weeks in December, the beginning of rainy season but it only rained 2 nights.

We chose to travel most of the trip by bus. The Ormeno line (from Guayaquil-walk 3 blocks from terminal terrestre) will take you directly to Lima but it takes 24 hours. The cost was \$55 dollars each. This made border crossings easier – the bus waits. (It will cost the same if you pick it up here or in Chiclayo as we found out returning). The bus was comfortable with reclining seats, bano, movies and food (dinner and breakfast). We had seats 7&8 which gave us lots of leg room and great viewing. Ormeno leaves at 2PM and we couldn't purchase tickets until an hour before departure.

Arriving in Lima we went directly to Miraflores – similar to New Town in Quito.

A taxi should cost about \$3-4 or S9-12 to any part of Miraflores. We stayed in three different hostels but our favorite was El Zaguán Lodging Home(511)4469356 Av. Diez Canseco No 736 Miraflores www.elzaguanelodging.com It is a private house with a beautiful garden, water fountain, birds, courtyard, and living space. \$30 for matrimonial. We walked to the malecon, markets, shopping, and restaurants.

Flew the next leg: from Lima to Cusco. We flew LAN Peru - \$68 but our agent charged an additional \$15 each for us to pick up tickets at the Lima airport and then picked us up in Cusco to take us to a hotel. There are other agents at the airport in Cusco waiting for tourists who will call to find available hotels then even take you. The cost is about \$3 from the airport to Cusco.

8.5.1 CUSCO

There are plenty of English-speaking tourist agents. Except for train tickets in advance, you should be able to book yourself and taxi. We used Sharamira. Her prices were expensive, the hotels needed to be booked and paid for in advance (some of which we were unhappy with) and lastly they over charged us for bus arrangements to Puno by 100%. After one night in Monarca \$30 – Sharamira’s recommendation, which we found to be too noisy, we found near the square Hostal Alfredo’s Palace \$30. Calle Triunfo No 373 (51) 084-223087

alfredospalace@hotmail.com

We spent two nights in Cusco before leaving for Sacred Valley. The Cusco day tour was too many churches and not enough Inca ruins.

8.5.2 From Cusco to Pisac:

Arrange your train schedule in advance. Sharamira arranged ours. Even though we had train tickets we opted to bus to Pisac -\$1. Ask for directions or take taxi to bus station. It is about one mile from town square. The bus will be crowded and is used by the locals. When you get off bus in Pisac it is a short walk across the street and up 3 blocks to the village. We stayed at Hotel PISAQ on the plaza - \$20 hotelpisac@terra.com.pe www.hotelpisac.com

The manager is German and speaks English. He knows the area well and gave us good advice and information. We hiked that day to the top of the ruins. Up and down took about two hours each way plus about 2 hours in the ruins. The path is next to the church and leads to the top. Take water and camera.

8.5.3 From Pisac to Ollantaytambo

Bus (\$1 every hour) at the same corner we got off arriving from Cusco. Found hotel \$30.

Hotel Munaytika in Ollantaytambo Av. Estacion S/N munaytika@latinmail.com

We were glad to arrive early, get settled and see the ruins before the crowds. The hotel is easy to find. Walk down the main road to train station and it is on the left side.

Train: to Aguas Calientes

Stayed at Hostal Ima Sumac (prepaid with our package \$30) but would recommend Gringo Bill’s for the same price. It is right off the square and near the train. Gringo Bill’s Calle Qoya Raymi 104 www.gringobills.com gringobills@yahoo.com cel 748-347 www.machupicchuhostels.com

We arrived around noon and had time to hike Puchu Cuisu. The trail is .2 mi. down the train tracks then up stairs and ladders. It took less than two hours and you find yourself above Machu Picchu looking down! A real highlight for us. We considered hiking the Inca trail but didn’t want the outdoor sleeping on the ground for four days (rainy season!). This hike plus Pisac made up for the loss. Sharamira’s package includes train both ways, guide on site and entrance, we chose to bus through Sacred Valley and catch train in Ollantaytambo. The train costs the same from Cusco or from here however. Don’t miss the Valley and do it going because after Machu Picchu everything is less impressive. We stayed two nights - the next day toured MP and stayed another night before leaving back to Cusco. We didn’t feel rushed and enjoyed the time on

Machu Picchu, hiking to the top. Unless you want to go down and back up again do not hike to the Temple of the Moon as we did. It made for a long hike and the Temple was a disappointment.

Train back to Cusco: After Ollantay, the train is tedious. Coaches have two seats facing each other with no leg room. Consider getting reservations only to and from Ollantay and bus the rest of the way. Spent two days and nights re-visiting Cusco then bus to Puno

Lots of options. Tour bus departs every morning (\$25 with guide and stops at churches/ruins). We took a less expensive bus at 9 and arrived in Puno late afternoon. It is necessary to take taxi to hotels.

Puno: Stayed at Conde De Lemos Inn \$32

8.5.4 Bolivia

Then booked day tour to the Titicaca islands through Edgar for the next day -\$25. Returned to hotel and next day left by Tour Peru bus \$8 for Copacabana, Boliva.

Copacabana Thanks to Cosmos we found a nice hotel (Chasqui de Oro) on the beach for \$20 for a room on the 4th floor with our own terrace with a stunning view. We walked to the top of Cerro Calvario but did not take island tours.

La Paz, Boliva: Scenic bus ride and ferry! Hostal: Posada del Angel Av Illampu 867 Zona El Rosarido Almost across the street from where bus stops in the city. \$10

We liked La Paz especially after the all day city tour on the double-decker open bus! We saw all corners of the city that would have otherwise been missed and appreciated the history and “hat” story.

8.5.5 La Paz to Arica Chile

Unfortunately, this is the route back. Luxury Chile Bus left at 6am. Three hours into the ride it stopped for a broken-down bus and picked up about 10 stranded passengers who stood most of the way. Border crossing was tedious. We moved our watches back one hour eastbound entering Boliva and then moved back another hour westbound into Chile (daylight savings time) – thus, Chile was 2 hours different from Peru. The northern Chilean Pacific Ocean is inhospitable but there is a nice basin in Arica. No cruising yachts though! Jan did not like Arica and we woke early to continue ride to Arequipa.

Border Crossing. Taxi then colectivo to Tacna where we waited five hours for the next direct 1st class bus departing for Arequipa. Flores Line about \$7 each person. Arrived in Arequipa at 5:30. The taxi from bus station to town should cost S3-4.

8.5.6 Arequipa

La Casa de Melgar Melgar No 108. 054-222-459

Email lacasademelgar@terra.com.pe

We loved this hotel. It is an 18th century building with about 20 rooms, all decorated differently. Ours had an outside garden area #109 for \$30. We were there for Christmas and loved it.

Tour Agent Peru Incas Explorer

Katherine@peruoncasexplorer.com

Katherine@hotmail.com

She can be found across the street and around the corner. She was witty, young, helpful, (spoke English), honest, fun-loving, and booked our overnight tour to Colca Canyon, Oltursa Bus to Lima, our Lima hostel and found the greatest hostel for us in Chivay. Pozo Del Cielo (51-54)205838 Colca (51-54) 531040 reserves@pozodelcielo.com.pe

The tour was rewarding but a long drive getting there. The landscape is rather barren except for alpacas, llamas, and vicunas grazing in large herds. Did see 6 condors at the canyon and the overlooks are spectacular.

8.5.7 Arequipa to Lima

Overnight bus (\$30 Oltursa – nicest bus we had for the entire trip). In Lima, back to Mira Flores and an enjoyable day.

8.5.8 Lima to Guayaquil

We were tired of hotels, restaurants, and churches and ready to get back to Cabiri. Tried to break up the 24 hour bus ride by stopping in Chiclayo. Bad hotel (noisy), no sleep, thus no desire to tour the area. Awkward to go north from here. Alternatives were to day bus to Piura to transfer bus to Tumbes or Trujillo spend the night and cross border the next morning then on to Guayaquil or wait til 2am and catch the direct Ormeno bus that originated in Lima 12 hours earlier. We did the second option and paid \$50 for the second 12 hours!

8.5.9 Recommendations and Highlights:

Miraflores: Café Amore. Please say hi to Carmen, the owner. She loves practicing her English.

Cusco: Duffy's Restaurant, upstairs above the square.

Arequipa : La Casa de Melgar Hostal, Katherine at Inca Explorer. Tell her we sent you! She will book any part of Peru, including Machu Pichu.

Sacred Valley: Pisac. Don't go for the market.

Aguas Calienta: Gringo Bill's. Hike up to Puchu Cussi. Two nights gives you time to spend the day at the ruins.

Oltursa, Ormeno, TourChile Buslines

La Paz, Bolivia day tour on double decker bus

Travel light. December was warm and dry. We didn't need a lot of extra clothing.

8.6 Soggy Paws' Trip to Chile and Patagonia March 2009

We are planning our first South American inland trip--to Chile in March and April. High season in Chile is December and January, and the weather, crowds and prices start dropping off in March, so we wanted to launch off from Ecuador in mid-March.

Though it is possible to get there from Ecuador by bus, we decided that with summer fading fast, we'd best get ourselves down there as fast as possible. So we booked tickets ahead for certain critical legs of the trip:

1. **Guayaquil, Ecuador to Santiago, Chile** - via air (we'll take a bus from Bahia de Caraquez to Guayaquil). LAN Chile about \$275 per person, booked through Costamar Travel in Lima Peru. We plan to hang out in Santiago for a week and do some local sightseeing. We saved \$25 by flying overnight (not having to take a room in Guayaquil).

Note that flying to Lima instead and taking a bus in MIGHT save Americans the \$130 per person 'visa' or 'reciprocity fee' that Americans have to pay when entering Chile at the airport.

Also note that the Chileans are very serious about the agricultural stuff you cannot bring into the country. Research this issue before you pack a bunch of snacks, and if you are asked to declare items at the airport, be honest, because they DO FINE if you get caught (and they do search bags). The forums I read said that things like rice and pecans were confiscated...

2. **Santiago to Punta Arenas, Chile** a week later - via air. Sky Airlines one way at \$112 per person, booked through Costamar Travel in Lima Peru. LAN flies there too, but was double the price.

3. **Navimag Ferry from Puerto Natales to Puerto Montt** (a 5 night 4 day trip thru the Chilean fiords) - April 7-11 for \$435 per person. Booked on their website... fill out the form and they email you back. If you don't get their email, get on Skype and call, we had a problem with our spam filter at our ISP filtering their emails.

http://www.navimag.com/en/canales/norte/ruta_norte.asp

4. **Flight back from Santiago to Lima**, again on LAN Chile, on May 2, for a total of 7 weeks. Also booked through Costamar for about \$250 per person (Note: #1 and #4 booked together as a multistop gave us better rate than 2 one-way tickets). From Lima, we booked on Spirit Airlines back to Florida.

This plan gives us about 3 weeks in Patagonia, to hike Torres del Paine and to see Ushaia and Puerto Williams (right next to Cape Horn). Then we'll start working our way back north towards Santiago.

We looked at doing a 10 day cruise to Antarctica from down there, but it's still WAY too expensive--the cheapest cabins start at about \$5,000 pp.

8.7 SHE WOLF Trip to Peru – Summary

**Original plan was Bahía to Guayaquil to Tumbes to Piura to Chiclayo. Strike at border necessitated diversion to Loja and different border crossing. This is not the optimum route unless Cuenca/Loja is part of your itinerary.

Date	Day	Location	Activity	Hotel	Cost	Notes
11-May	W	Bahía to Guayaquil	Travel by bus - 6 hrs.		\$ 14.00	Reina del Camino - 7:15am
		Guayaquil		Ecuahogar	\$ 25.00	Incl. Breakfast
12-May	R	Guayaquil to Loja	Travel by bus - 9 hrs.		\$ 20.00	Transportes Loja
		Loja		Hotel Podocarpus	\$ 30.00	bath, hot water, TV, breakfast
13-May	F	Loja to Piura	Travel by bus - 9 hrs.		\$ 16.00	Transportes Loja, 7am
		Piura to Chiclayo	Travel by bus - 3 hrs.		\$ 7.40	Linea
		Chiclayo		Hotel Paraíso	\$ 14.00	bath, hot water, TV, restaurant
14-May	S	Chiclayo	Museo Tumbes Reales		\$ 9.25	minibus to Lambayeque, entrance and guide
				Hotel Paraíso	\$ 14.00	bath, hot water, TV, restaurant
15-May	Su	Chiclayo	Tour to Sipan		\$ 37.00	transportation, entrance and guide
				Hotel Paraíso	\$ 14.00	bath, hot water, TV, restaurant
16-May	M	Chiclayo to Trujillo	Travel by bus - 3 hrs.		\$ 7.40	Linea - morning
		Trujillo	Chan Chan tour		\$ 26.75	guide, entrance, transportation
				Casa de Clara	\$ 15.40	hot water, TV, guides own it
17-May	T	Trujillo	Tour of Huacas de Sol y Luna		\$ 26.75	guide, entrance, transportation
				Casa de Clara	\$ 15.40	
18-May	W	Trujillo to Chimbote	Travel by bus - 2 hrs.		\$ 3.10	Linea
		Chimbote		Hostal El Parque	\$ 15.40	bath, hot water, TV
19-May	R	Chimbote to Caraz	Travel by bus - 9 hrs.		\$ 15.40	Jungay Express - 8am
		Caraz		Hostal Caraz Dulzura	\$ 14.00	bath, hot water, TV in lounge
20-May	F	Caraz	Tour to Laguna Paron		\$ 28.00	cab and box lunch
				Hostal Caraz Dulzura	\$ 14.00	bath, hot water, TV in lounge
21-May	S	Caraz to Lima	Travel by bus - 10 hrs.		\$ 24.00	Expreso Ancash, Movil Tours
		Lima		Hostal Iquique	\$ 14.00	bath, hot water, TV, breakfast
22-May	Su	Lima	Plaza de Armas			
			Plaza San Martin			
			Museo de la Nación		\$ 6.75	Entrance and guide
			Miraflores			

				Hostal Iquique	\$ 14.00	bath, hot water, TV, breakfast
23-May	M	Lima	Tour to Pachacamac		\$ 14.00	Bus, guide, entrance
				Hostal Iquique	\$ 14.00	bath, hot water, TV, breakfast
24-May	T	Lima	San Francisco Monastery & Church		\$ 3.00	guide and entrance
			Changing of the Guard - Presidential Pal.			
			Zoo		\$ 5.25	
				Hostal Iquique	\$ 14.00	bath, hot water, TV, breakfast
25-May	W	Lima to Ica	Travel by bus - 4.5 hrs.		\$ 9.85	Peru Bus
		Ica to Huacachina	Travel by taxi		\$ 1.00	
		Huacachina		Hosteria Suiza	\$ 35.00	bath, hot water, breakfast
26-May	R	Huacachina	Winery tour - Vista Alegre			
			Dune buggy tour		\$ 21.50	
				Hosteria Suiza	\$ 35.00	bath, hot water, breakfast
27-May	F	Huacachina to Ica	Travel by taxi		\$ 1.00	
			Regional Museum - Ica		\$ 6.75	
		Ica to Nazca	Travel by bus 2 hrs.		\$ 3.70	Expreso Chichapa
		Nazca	Lecture on Nazca lines		\$ 13.00	Maria Reiche Planetarium 7pm
				Hospedaje Yemaya	\$ 15.00	bath, hot water, TV, breakfast
28-May	S	Nazca	Flight over Nazca lines		\$ 110.00	book at hotel
			Museo Didactico Antonini		\$ 6.00	entrance, guide
				Hospedaje Yemaya	\$ 15.00	bath, hot water, TV, breakfast
29-May	Su	Nazca to Arequipa	Travel by bus - 10 hrs.		\$ 21.50	Ormeno- 4am
		Arequipa				
				Hotel Castilla	\$ 18.50	bath, hot water, TV
30-May	M	Arequipa	Museo Santuarios Andinos		\$ 9.25	
			Plaza de Armas			
			Catedral			
				Hotel Castilla	\$ 18.50	
31-May	T	Areq to Colca Cnyn	Colca Canyon Tour		\$ 38.00	Guide, transportation, hotel, breakfast
			Entry to Colca Canyon		\$ 14.00	
			Chivay			
			Hot Springs		\$ 3.00	entrance to site and museum
1-Jun	W	Colca Cnyn to Areq	Colca Canyon Tour			

		Arequipa		Hotel Castilla	\$ 18.50	
2-Jun	R	Arequipa	Monasterio Santa Catalina		\$ 15.00	entrance and guide
			Municipal Historical Museum		\$ 1.25	
				Hotel Castilla	\$ 18.50	
3-Jun	F	Arequipa to Puno	Travel by bus - 5 hrs.		\$ 18.50	Destinos
		Puno	Plaza de Armas			
				Don Julio	\$ 27.00	cable TV, heating, breakfast
4-Jun	S	Puno	Day tour to Uros and Isla Taquile		\$ 20.00	transportation, entrance and guide
				Don Julio	\$ 27.00	breakfast
5-Jun	Su	Puno to Cuzco	Travel by bus - 6 hrs.		\$ 12.30	Transportes Imexso
		Cuzco			\$ 43.00	tourist ticket
				Hostal Iquique	\$ 20.00	bath, hot water, breakfast
6-Jun	M	Cuzco	Plaza de Armas - La Compañía			
			Museo Inka			
			City tour		\$ 24.00	guide, transportation
			Qorikancha		\$ 3.70	
				Hostal Iquique	\$ 20.00	bath, hot water, breakfast
7-Jun	T	Cuzco	Sacred Valley Tour		\$ 36.00	lunch included
				Hostal Iquique	\$ 20.00	bath, hot water, breakfast
8-Jun	W	Cuzco	Santo Domingo			
			Center for Native Art (dance)			
				Hostal Iquique	\$ 20.00	bath, hot water, breakfast
9-Jun	R	Cuzco to A Calientes	Travel by train - 3.5 hrs.		\$ 270.00	2-day tour price, incl. rail, bus, fees, guide
			Machu Picchu			
		Aguas Calientes		Hostal Ima Sumac	\$ 25.00	bath, hot water, breakfast
10-Jun	F	A Calientes to Cuzco	Travel by train - 3.5 hrs.			
		Cuzco		Hostal Iquique	\$ 20.00	bath, hot water, breakfast
11-Jun	S	Cuzco	Convent of Santa Catalina			
				Hostal Iquique	\$ 20.00	bath, hot water, breakfast
12-Jun	Su	Cuzco to Lima	Travel by air - 1.5 hrs.		\$ 146.00	Trans Peru
		Lima to Tumbes	Travel by air		\$ 172.00	Trans Peru
		Tumbes		Hotel Roma	\$ 18.50	
13-Jun	M	Tumbes to	Travel by bus - 5 hrs.		\$ 10.00	CIFA

		Guayaquil				
		Guayaquil		Ecuahogar	\$ 25.00	
14-Jun	T	Guayaquil to Bahía	Travel by bus - 6 hrs.		\$ 14.00	Reina del Camino
					\$1952.05	

At this time of year (dry season), Peru is COLD, especially at altitude!! Dress in layers for warm days, cold nights. SHE WOLF used the agent Sharamira in Cusco and did not find her prices more expensive, as did CABIRI. Good service, pleasant person. Recommend booking Cusco hotel, Machu Picchu train, and flights ahead. Absolutely essential to do this in high season (June – August). Northern Peru not as overrun with tourists, so pre-booking not necessary.

9 Acknowledgements

I inherited this guide in 2009 from s/v Carina, who I think inherited it from She Wolf. Many many cruisers have contributed information and updates. Below is only a partial list.

Lightfoot, Lauren Grace, Restless, Zen, Geramar. Galapagos info 2009.

Breila

Carina – Phil and Leslie. Cruised the Galapagos and hung out in Puerto Lucia during 2006 & 2007, and more updates when they passed thru in 2009.

Loon III – Hung out in Callao Peru for most of 2008

Migration – Dave and Aileen – Passed through the Galapagos 2008

Music

Nine of Cups – Marcie and David. Passed through Puerto Lucia in 2005 and again through Bahia de Caraquez in 2008

Restless – 2007 Peru Travel

Saucy Lady

She Wolf

Soggy Paws – Sherry and Dave – Spent the year of 2009 in Bahia de Caraquez and left in early 2010 for the Galapagos

Willow – Gunkholed the coast of Ecuador