



Pacific Coast

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Why Go?

There are few destinations as ruggedly spectacular as the Pacific region of Colombia. This is where the jungle not so much meets the sea as comes crashing headlong into it. It is a place where waterfalls pour out of forest-covered bluffs onto spectacular gray-sand beaches, thermal pools lie hidden in dense jungle and tiny indigenous villages cling to the edge of wild rivers. It's a place where whales and dolphins frolic so close to shore you can admire them from your hammock and majestic sea turtles come even closer. There are plenty of comfortable ecoresorts throughout the region and you will find budget guesthouses in the many friendly Afro-descendant communities whose residents eke out a living from fishing and agriculture.

Security has, for the most part, been sorted out but the crowds have yet to arrive. Make sure you visit before they do.

Best Places to Stay

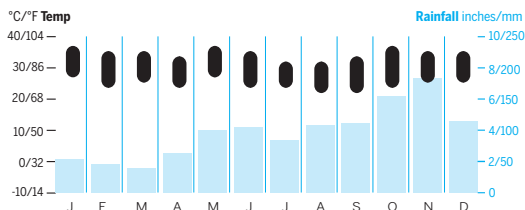
- » Morromico (p256)
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Best Places to Spot Whales

- » Parque Nacional Natural (PNN) Ensenada de Utría (p254)
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When to Go

Buenaventura



Jan-Mar Lighter rains make for better hiking and other outdoor activities.

Jul-Oct Hump-back whales arrive in the region after an epic journey from Antarctica.

Sep-Dec Watch giant marine turtles scramble up beaches where they were born to lay their eggs.

1 Scuba dive with whales off **Parque Nacional Natural (PNN) Isla Gorgona** (p260) or join a whale-watching tour at **Parque Nacional Natural (PNN) Ensenada de Utría** (p254)

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2 Surf the Pacific's 2m waves at **Ladrilleros** (p258)

3 Swim with hundreds of hammerhead sharks at **Isla Malpelo** (p261), Colombia's most difficult scuba dive destination

4 Linger amid tropical gardens on the black-sand beaches of **Guachalito** (p256)

5 Go catch-and-release sportfishing for blue marlin and sailfish near **Bahía Solano** (p251)

6 Travel up the Río Juribidá in dugout canoes from **Jobí** (p256) to remote waterfalls

7 Relax in thermal pools deep in the jungle near **Jurubidá** (p256)

8 Fly along ziplines above virgin forest at **Playa Mecana** (p253)

