



South Coast

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Why Go?

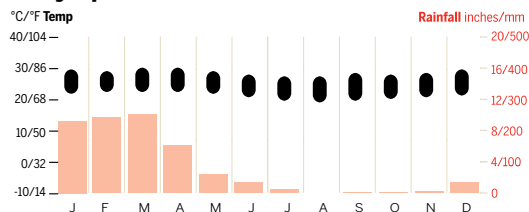
Wide sandy beaches, lush nature reserves and biologically rich islands are just a few of the attractions of Ecuador's southern coastal region. For wildlife watching, outdoor activities or just relaxing on the beach, this is a great place to be.

Gateway to the region is Guayaquil, a buzzing, tropical city that has gone through a remarkable transformation in recent years. West of there lies the so-called Ruta Spondylus. You can watch migrating humpback whales or visit colonies of blue-footed boobies off Puerto López, join the surf and party crowd in Montañita, or unwind in peaceful seaside enclaves like Ayampe and Olón.

South of Guayaquil is mostly banana country, featuring miles and miles of *oro verde* (green gold). Machala celebrates its banana legacy, and it's also the entry point to the rustic, mangrove-covered island of Jambelí, and a key stop-over en route to Zaruma, a picturesque colonial town in the mountains.

When to Go

Guayaquil



Jan–May The rainy season when the coast is hot, humid and sunny, with occasional heavy rains.

Jun–Dec The dry season is cooler and more over-cast. Humpback whales visit June to September.

End Dec–Apr This is generally when Ecuadorians visit coastal resorts.

