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Island of the Birds - El Morro Port "The Small Galapagos"

In the Guayas province, at the Southwest of Ecuador, 2°35" South Latitude and 80°56" West Longitude, at about 111Km. of the city of Guayaquil and at 15-20 minutes of the General Villamil beaches, there is a colorful port inhabited by fishermen. This port is called: "**EL MORRO PORT**".

At the right margin (North) of the river, surrounded by mangroves and islands; one of those islands calls the attention in particular, and due to its characteristics, receives the name of "**the BIRDS' ISLAND**". We can arrive at this island in a one hour speedboat journey, properly equipped and piloted by experts of the zone.

As its name indicates it, the main attractive are the birds, especially thousands of frigates that nest in the island, although also inhabits other species, such as:

Brown pelicans	Roseate Spoonbill	Snowy Egret
Neotropic Cormorant	Little blue heron	Cattle egret
Blue footed booby	Tricolor heron	Great egret
Striated Heron	Yellow crowned night heron	Black necked stilt
White Ibis		Wimbrel

To this number of species, that are the most common, we should add other **fifty** species of migratory birds that use these places as rest and feeding areas in their long trips towards the North or the South Hemispheres. The rich **mangrove forest** makes possible to maintain the life, including of the man, in this coastal zone.

Between these islands it is possible to find a variety of **dolphins** of the "Bottle's Nose" species, which can be found when the sea level is higher; they get their food between the mangroves channels of the islands.

Program for a day:

Early in the morning departure from Guayaquil towards El Morro Port, (journey's approximate duration: one hour and forty five minutes). In this place, we will take a speedboat towards the Birds' Island, at which we will arrive about one hour later, while on route we enjoy the spectacular mangroves' landscape and the dense activity of the birds. When arriving at the island, we'll continue with the



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observation of birds around the shrimp pools. At about noon, between the 1200 and 1300PM, a box-lunch will be served.

In afternoon, will visit the nesting zone of the "**Frigate Magnificent**"; this route is made by a well-marked footpath and must be done under the supervision of a specialized guide; this has a duration of about one hour and thirty minutes.

At about 1500PM, approximately, we'll take the boat again to return to El Morro Port.

1600PM: Arrival to El Morro Port and then return towards the city of Guayaquil.

1800PM: Arrival to Guayaquil.

Recommended Check-List:

- Binoculars
- Plastic covers
- Camera
- Solar Protection (hat, glasses, sun-block crème).
- Insects Repellent
- Sport Shoes
- Shirt with long sleeves
- Long trousers.

The administration offers:

- Rubber boots for the excursion
- Bottled Water during the route
- Lunch
- Guiding assistance
- Private Transportation.

The boarding and disembarkations in the ports will be: Dry and/or wet, depending on the sea level.

Important: People with physical problems, allergies and others, please advice at the moment of the program's reservation.