



## WHALES FOUNDATION IN ECUADOR



A once in a lifetime opportunity to support the research and protection of the humpback whales in South America.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The Whale Foundation, located in Puerto Lopez, has dedicated time and effort to recollect data about whales and contribute with scientific research to the Whale Commission South America. This happens every year during the season that the Humpback Whales come to the pacific coast of Ecuador (mid- June to mid-October).

The Foundation has already identified and catalogued over 2200 different whales by photographing their tails and has contributed to different scientific studies and determination of migration routes, feeding areas and more. Besides whales, marine birds and dolphins are also monitored.

### WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- Administration fee
- Orientation meeting
- 24/7 local emergency contact
- Project donation
- One welcome dinner with the staff and other volunteers
- 4 sea trips + 1 day to analyze the recollected information
- Accommodation in dorm in our volunteer accommodation with swimming pool
- Ingredients at disposal to prepare own breakfast

## **WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED :**

- Flights
- Meals not included
- Medical insurance
- Personal expenses

## **VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES**

- Introduction to the research team, orientation, and methodology ●  
Field research of whales and the Pacific Ocean
- Data Analysis : results and conclusions
- Lectures on biology and conservation cetaceans

## **A NORMAL DAY AS A VOLUNTEER**

Volunteers will be trained in research techniques, including behavioral, demographical, biopsies, and acoustic data collection, as well as photo identification while on a whale watching vessel.

They will participate in the boat-based humpback whale photo-identification and behavioral data collection trips. This data is analyzed and shared with the staff. Cristina de director of the Whale foundation will explain you the first day the work schedule and tasks. You have to help with general tasks but there are also possibilities to use and work with other tasks like marketing, text writing, painting, audio visual etc. You will work 5 days a week from 8am until 5pm.

## **WHAT TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME**

- Introduction to the research team, orientation, and methodology
- Field research of whales and the Pacific Ocean
- Data Analysis: results and conclusions
- Lectures on biology and conservation cetaceans

You can visit a small indigenous community called "Agua Blanca", where you can see pre-Colombian art in the museum. Close to it you can soak in a sulfur pool and get a free mud mask.

Walk between Palo Santo trees and endemic flora from the island and enjoy snorkeling in the authorized areas.

Visit the untouched beaches such as 'Los Frailes', which is the most beautiful. Puerto López is also the starting point to visit "Isla de la Plata", a place that is well known as the "Poor Man's Galápagos". Here, you can find blue footed boobies, cormorants, frigate birds and seals. You can also enjoy a visit to a Palo Santo fabric in Puerto Lopez.

Surf at the popular beach in Ayampe or Montañita town.

## LOCATION

Puerto López is a small fishing town in the Machalilla National Park, where you can enjoy Puerto López is also the starting point to visit "Isla de la Plata"

## ACCOMMODATION

Volunteers are accommodated in a 3-floor house located on the outer side of Puerto Lopez, and only a 10-minute walk into town, where they board the whale-watching vessels.

Electricity is 120v. Connector Type A and B.

There is WIFI internet at the house free of charge.

The property is rounded by a 3.000 m2 garden. There's a swimming pool, games area. Dorms up to 4 people. And there is an indoor and outdoor kitchen.

## WHAT TO CONSIDER...

- Be willingly to have a life changing experience
- Pre & Post-stay in Guayaquil (recommended) upon request
- Internet connection signal is not stable and can be poor
- Available for longer stays, please send us your request

## WHAT TO BRING

- Towel
- Personal laptop (optional)
- Rainproof jacket
- Small waterproof backpack to take to the field trips
- Hat
- Sunscreen (min factor 50)
- Flip-flops / sandals
- Swimming costume
- Sunglasses
- Repellent
- Personal / prescription medicines. Do take in consideration that although there are pharmacies in town, you must bring your personal medication (to last the duration of your stay) if you need any
- Although not mandatory, it is preferable that you bring a professional camera with a 300mm lens and a memory card.

***Experience is not something that happens to you, it is what you do with what happened to you.***