

TOURISM TO ECUADOR

Ecuador reported its first case of COVID-19 on February 29th hence, a health emergency was declared throughout the country. Particularly, Guayaquil, which is the commercial capital of Ecuador, located in its coast, has been the most affected. However, after five weeks of intense work the situation is under control in this city and the rest of the country. The evolution of the pandemic is now similar in behavior as it is worldwide.

We grieve the loss of Ecuadorians lives due to the pandemic. In the midst of this tragedy, it is important to acknowledge the solidarity shown, once again by the Ecuadorian people. Through immediate coordination with the private sector, several committees have been created to support the government to support the most vulnerable, across all regions of Ecuador. It is well worth to note that the circumstances dealt by this pandemic, especially in Guayaquil, are largely distant from the normal kind and warm atmosphere of life in the country. This, particularly, has been felt always by our visitors.

Since May 4th, Ecuador incorporated a traffic light system to gradually reactivate its economy. Each week, the COVID-19 trend line will be evaluated in order to continue to incorporate activities into people's daily life until borders finally re-open. According to this process, cities throughout the country will recover, under the ruling of local authorities, what has become the worldwide "new normality". To this date the majority of cities are under social distancing.

"We work in a responsible and coordinated manner to take care of our citizens. The restart of activities must comply with strict security protocols to guarantee the health of all Ecuadorians and residents", stated Rosi Prado de Holguin, Minister of Tourism.

Likewise, Mrs. Sandra Reed, President of the Board of AMCHAM, stated that: ***"Ecuador is working in a broad spectrum of actions to guarantee all its inhabitants' safety and optimal health conditions within the current pandemic situation. This is being done with the outmost responsibility and drawn on the best examples implemented throughout the world"***.



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Furthermore, Mrs Gabriela Sommerfeld, President of the Tourism Committee of AMCHAM said: *“It is very important today, more than ever, that unity and coordinated work in the tourism sector, at national and international levels, help push the rebirth of the tourism industry, while new processes and protocols that guarantee the safety of tourists are put in place. This will be what the new reality demands”.*

We will provide a weekly update of the status of the reopening of various sectors of the Ecuadorian economy to all friends of Ecuador abroad. We continue welcoming everyone from around the world with open arms, willing to share the great natural and cultural heritage that this small country holds.

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