

Salinas Relocation Guide



Salinas is considered the best tourist beach resort in Ecuador and the Pacific coastline by most visitors. The sandy moon bay arcs around the resort with dozens of diverse high-rise developments rising above the waves. These condominiums belong mostly to Ecuador's wealthy elite and a rising tide of Expats that have discovered the charm of Salinas. These tropical towers overlook the main boardwalk road, known as the Malecón, fronted by colorful shops, restaurants, bars, discos, and a historical marine museum, as well as a diversity of hotels, including one with a casino. Salinas, is also the main starting point to the scenic Pacific "[Route of the Sun](#)" (Ruta del Sol) with many tourist resorts and attractions to enthrall. The high season in Salinas (December - April), is party time, with plenty of night life and nice bars to enjoy along the main frontage of the bay. Salinas, offers the most developed tourist infrastructure (regarding accommodations, beaches, restaurants and other attractions) together with the most exciting whale watching tours with luxurious yachts and professional guides. The closest and finest location to witness the wonder of these amazing creatures in the wild. A once-in-a-lifetime experience that should not be missed...



The weather in Salinas has great temperatures all year round. The high season is warmer with temperatures between 75°-85°, while the off-season (Mid-May to early November) has lower temperatures (between 65°-75°). Precipitation is nearly non-existent, with Salinas getting less yearly rainfall than Las Vegas. Salinas also enjoys over 300 days of sunshine per year (avoid September and October, the two cloudiest months).

The scenic bay is full of jet skiers, water skiers, hang-gliders, sky divers and a plethora of various sized yachts anchored in the bay adjacent to the yacht club. The beach is very popular during high season and most weekends, due to warm waters all year round, because of the insulated peninsular position.

While on the beach you'll find several free-lance tour operators offering boat excursions and/or tours around the closest fishing villages, such as Ballenita, Ayangué and many other destinations. On the beach, you can also hire Jet Skis for about US \$40,00 an hour, or US \$20.00 for a 30 minute ride. Water skiing is also available for the same price.



A second major beach in Salinas is Chipipe (adjacent to the yacht club), with exciting waves for body boarding or Mori Boogie boarding in a pleasant environment. Chipipe is located in a residential area compared to the main Salinas' beach, which is the commercial side of this small city. Open markets are available in both areas during the evening selling handicrafts, coral jewelry, multi-colored dyed clothing, art, shell crafts, wind chimes and even jewelry from semi-precious stones, such as amethyst.



You can also take a 4 seat passenger bike tour for US \$2.00, amidst the fresh evening breezes. Stationed next to the town, opposite the Chocolatera point, on the most western tip of the bay, is an Ecuadorian military base. Often you'll see military as well as private planes flying low above the bay as they descend to the airport.



Salinas, is only 25 minutes from the fine Thermal Baths of San Vicente, which boasts rich mineral mud baths and thermal springs, along with massage and sauna therapies.

Tour Operators

Important Notice: If you wish to book in advance through any of the below listed tour operators in Salinas for guided tours, water sports, fishing tours, or any other activity, it is always advisable to book early, especially during high-season. Direct reservations are available and orient your inquiries so as to search for the best and most affordable tours and rates! We are here to assist, if you prefer.



The finest whale watching tours in Ecuador are best viewed from this major beach resort between June and September. Hotel Bleu and the Barceló Hotel both organize professional whale watching, fishing and diving tours amongst others. The tours are all-inclusive with fully equipped luxurious yachts.

Tour Operators Include

Guayatur - Tour operator and travel agency. Fishing, ocean tours, whale watching, diving, city tours. Excursions to Olón, Montañita and Punta Carnero. Sea lion watching on Punta Brava and other varied tours. Address: Ave. General Enriquez Gallo and Rumiñahui street.

Pesca tours - Fishing charters and varied tours. In Salinas. All equipment included. Owned by the Bazán Family. Address: Malecón 717.

Barcelo Colon Tour Center - Tour and excursion operator based out of the most popular hotel in Salinas, Ecuador. Whale watching tours. Fishing expeditions. Trips to Montañita, Olón and Guayaquil (commercial capital of Ecuador). Nature tours and shopping excursions also available. Address: Malecón, entre la 38 y la 40.

Transportation

Bus

Salinas has a small bus terminal next to the market area, all buses stop by the second main street (known also as General Enriquez Gallo), parallel to the Malecón, to pick up passengers. Some buses make additional stops in nearby La Libertad for about ten minutes to pick up more passengers. To and from Guayaquil (US\$3.40, 2 hours approx.) with LIBERPESA from CLP (recommended) or Costa Azul. Other buses for other destinations are caught in La Libertad, or Santa Elena.



Taxi

Besides normal taxis you can arrange fares with, there is a transport system in Salinas called Ruta Taxis. It is a shared ride format, with other passengers in the same cab from Salinas (on General Enriquez Gallo Street) all the way to La Libertad and back for only US \$0.40 each way, per person.

Shopping

Approximately one kilometer along the main road from Salinas to La Libertad, you'll find a new shopping center with the following well known local chains: Supermaxi (groceries), Fybeca (pharmacy) and Claro (cellular service). On the same road to La Libertad, a few kilometers further, you can not miss the main, modern and impressive "El Paseo Shopping Mall". Here, you'll find a large selection of fine stores, beauty salons, electronic shops, computer stores, fast food restaurants, Supercines (cinemas), Internet cafes and the largest Hiper-Market in the area, including the following local chains: Rio Store, Mi Comisariato, Ferrisariato and much more...



Restaurants

The market (Not recommended for newbie Expats), is the cheapest place for seafood especially "ceviches" (approximately US \$5,00) and Arroz con pescado, menestra and patacones (rice with fish, lentils and fried green banana). It is located by Banco del Pacífico (1 block from the Malecón). Around and behind the Market there are several stalls and restaurants selling typical fixed meals for around US \$1,80.



Ristorante DiGabrila - Address: Maria Jose Velasco Ibarra entre la 40 y 41 avenida

Outdoor/enclosed seating, with scrumptious authentic Italian cuisine. A sheer culinary delight, with the friendliest staff in town. **Highly recommended!**

Lui e Lei - Address: Malecón and Calle 19

Cozy outdoor restaurant with yellow umbrellas in front of the beach. The place offers international and local specialties (seafood, lovely salads and pasta). Located right in the heart of the Salinas Malecón, for the perfect “people watching” experience.

Recommended.

Amazon - Address: Malecón 417

Brick oven pizzas, steaks, seafood and bar. Located on the Malecón, with an excellent bird’s eye view of the beach from the second story seating. **Recommended**, but pricey for the region.

Cafetería del Sol - Address: Malecón next to the Capitanía del Puerto

This classy cafetería is the perfect place to sit and spend some time enjoying the beach view and people watching. Come here in the morning and treat yourself to real coffee, whipped up using an authentic cappuccino machine. Lunches and dinners range from traditional meat, chicken and rice dishes, and mariscos (seafood), to international dishes like tacos and burritos, pizza and hamburgers. **Recommended.**



Luv N Oven - Address: Malecón and Calle 19

Vegetarians and anyone in search of a decent cup of coffee should head to Luv n Oven, a cozy restaurant previously known as Pasquale. While the interior décor is nothing special the outdoor seating with an ocean view is spectacular. Dishes range from traditional coastal cuisine (like mariscos) to lasagna, chicken, and a variety of pastas. Vego’s will be delighted to find an entire page of the menu dedicated to meat-free dishes like carne de soya con vegetables and fifteen other tempting plates. Coffee comes from an espresso machine and is served in colorful ceramic mugs. **Recommended.**



Oh, Mar - Address: Malecón and Fidón Tomalá

For a taste of traditional Ecuadorian food with a distinct Manabí flair try this simple seafood restaurant. At night the outside seating area with seaside view fills with people, testament to its popularity among locals. The menu is fairly extensive. Service is friendly and fast. **Recommended.**

Mar y Tierra - Address: Malecón and Calle 37

Your traditional “surf n’ turf” specialties, with a greater emphasis on the “surf”. Large menu with a diverse selection of seafood and heartier beef dishes. Excellent view of the ocean from the aptly “ship motif” laden restaurant. Staff is friendly, location is pleasant and the food is delicious and plentiful. **Recommended**, but pricey for the region.

La Scala - Address: Malecón between Calle 23 and 25

Specializes in the creation of complex, homemade pasta dishes, delectable seafood preparations and a more limited assortment of beef dishes, with some very creative sauces. A good selection of wines from around the world are hand-selected by the sommelier/host, who will gladly guide you through the history and tradition of the dishes prepared and the wine served. **Recommended**, but pricey for the region.



Paella de Ipanema (Omar’s Place) - Address: Malecón and Avenida Eleodora Peña

The place is known for its namesake paella dishes, done Brazilian style. A carefully crafted paella is a complex dish and this USA trained classic chef, Omar, originally from Brazil, knows how to blend it to perfection. Still, for my money, I would opt for any of the daily specials, always prepared from the freshest seafood (they shop the freshly caught fish markets every day) or try their shrimp with “Chef’s special sauce”. Absolutely delectable. The staff is friendly, but except for the brightly colored yellow sign, this place is nondescript and easy to miss. **Highly Recommended**, but slightly pricey for the region!

Bars / Nightclubs

Big Ralph’s Restaurant/Bar & Hostal - Address: Av. San Lorenzo and Av. Carlos Espinoza. **Recommended.**

Fabulous little piece of England hidden in Salinas Ecuador - a real fish & chip shop/pub. Big Ralph is the owner and resident chef. His pedigree is great as he has worked in some of the top restaurants in London. This shows because the ingredients are always fresh, the fish is straight off the boat and the resulting meal is delicious. The location features a beautiful courtyard, slated for expansion, where you can enjoy local musical acts at night and a frothy cold beer (unless you prefer the British “room temperature” variety) any time of day or night. A great place to meet Expats and locals alike!





Coco's Bar & Hostel - Address: Malecón de Salinas and Fidón Tomalá Streets. **Recommended.**

What more can you say. Across from the Salinas Yacht Club...shady beachfront seating...perfect umbrella drinks (must try the Coco Loco)...a great mix of locals and Expats to chat with, Coco's bar has it all. The prime location, with a view that kills! The establishment offers your typical bar food menu, but with a decisively "seafood dare twist". Spend an hour...spend a day...Coco's will melt your cares away.

Hotel Barcelo Colon Miramar Poolside Bar - Address: Address: Malecón between Calle 38 and 40.

Well...you know....almost every locale has one. The place to go see and be seen. To mingle with the "pretty people", if that is your scene. Piña Coladas flow freely, bikinis are the "official dress code" and the pool (reserved for guests or dues paying members) is the best in town. Still, walk-ins are welcomed for the cocktails and while the place is pricey, the sunshine and vistas are free.



Cranberries Bar & Creperie - Av. Gral. E. Gallo and Av. Guayas y Quil. **Recommended.**

Yes...I know. "Bar & Creperie". Found the combination odd at first blush, when this recently opened gem came to town. However, it blends perfectly. The bar menu offers both salted and sweet crepes...meaning they can be a hearty meal, a subtle dessert or a light breakfast. My favorite is the ham n' cheese with egg. The drinks are varied and flow freely, from the friendly staff led by Gerardo. The service is always present, without being obtrusive. The emphasis here is on relaxation, with free-flowing hammocks from which you can dangle your drink of choice deftly. The second story level is being completed now and will offer an even better bird's eye perch from which to enjoy the Salinas scene.



Nostalgia (Barcelo Colon Miramar) - Address: Malecón between Calle 38 and 40.. **Recommended.**

Back to the Barcelo Colon Miramar for a touch of...well..."Nostalgia"... and good 70's and 80's dance music. Newer nightclub venue, appeals to a cross-section crowd, with your typical heart-pumping

music and over-priced drinks. Still, if you want a place to dance the night away, with the posh comforts of a hotel, it is hard to beat Nostalgia.

Nassau - Address: Maria Jose Velasco Ibarra entre la 40 y 41 avenida.

Appealing to the younger, upscale set, Nassau remains while many competitors have faded. Consistently good music and a wide variety of "beverages" keeps them coming back for more. The dance club draws heavily from the local Ecuadorian population and the bouncers attempt to create an "exclusive atmosphere", including the whole velvet rope treatment (rare in Ecuador). Not for everyone, but the loyalists swear by the place.



Ocean - Address: Malecón between Calle 29 and 30.



So...you are up real late night, bored...looking for something to do. Can you hear the Ocean call? Ocean is the largest dance club in Salinas. It also doesn't even start pumping out the loudest music in town, until midnight. It is the favorite late night party-goers hot spot. It is a heavily mixed and diverse crowd that frequents this behemoth, which boasts its own pool to cool off in, if the frothy concoctions whipped up by the bar staff fail you.

This place is energy charged, fun and promises plenty of dance floor space! Live bands, with diverse musical stylings, often play. **Recommended.**

Hotels

Hotels are so numerous and diverse in Salinas that any extensive coverage would go beyond the scope of this report. We will offer details only on a maximum of 2 options in each of 3 price categories: 1) Expensive; 2) Moderate; 3) Bargain. One option for each category will be in the heart of the Salinas Malecón strip, the other option will be drawn simply from our own opinion of the “best” category option in the area, if they differ.

Expensive Hotels

Barcelo Colon Miramar - Address: Malecón between Calle 38 and 40.

No Salinas hotel coverage could exclude the Grand Dame of Salinas hotels. The Barcelo is the priciest and most business friendly hotel, with a first-class feel. It is the only true full-service hotel in Salinas. Located right in the heart of the Salinas Malecón strip, it is the easy choice for those that want to be both pampered and right in the heart of everything.

Playa Canela Boutique Hotel - Address: Costa de Oro, Calle Principal, directly on the oceanfront. **Recommended.**



For our money, if you are going to pay top dollar, while the Barcelo is an obvious choice, it lacks the charm and quaintness of the region. It is a hotel that could be found anywhere. If you are coming down to paradise, why do without the charm? Playa Canela has that charm in spades. From its comfortable lounge chairs, posed on the rim of the ocean, to its sumptuous swimming pool, to the family pet parrots

that adorn the grounds, Playa Canela speaks to understated elegance. The owner lives on the grounds and the staff is always friendly. Set back about a mile from the heart of Salinas, this quiet oasis prompts reflection and conjures up images of a lush tropical playground. While seemingly lost in the wilderness, this key location is only 5 minutes from the region’s largest mall.

Moderate Hotels

Coco’s Hostal - Address: Malecón de Salinas and Fidón Tomalá Streets.

Already recommended for their fabulous bar, Coco’s merits consideration as a premiere location to take up residence, while visiting sunny Salinas. The accommodations are basic. The rooms clean. The location unbeatable, with views to the vaunted Salinas Yacht Club and easy access to “Restaurant Row”. A good option, at the reasonable prices, for those that want to be in the thick of the beach action.

Hotel Amira - Address: Av. Eloy Alfaro between Calle 4ta. y 5ta. **Recommended.**



Shrouded in a wall of flowers and set back only a block from the best beach in Salinas (Chipe Beach), the Hotel Amira is easy to mistake for someone's professionally well-cared personal residence. The sun-drenched courtyard is a perfect place to sip a refreshing beverage, as you sit by the pool. All meals are prepared and served to guests directly from a surprisingly good kitchen, which is a rarity amongst hotels in Salinas. Easy walk to gorgeous Chipe Beach. Rooms are small, but clean. This boutique hotel will charm you with its beauty and beguile you to return.

Bargain

Big Ralph's Hostel - Address: Av. San Lorenzo and Av. Carlos Espinoza. **Highly Recommended.**

Another repeat performance, as the bar of this establishment was recommended earlier in our guide. For bargain and location, nothing comes close to Big Ralph's Hostel. Strategically and conveniently located at the entrance of the Salinas Malecón, the accommodations offered are clean, modern (new construction) and offer the best prices in town. Add to that the value of having Ralph whip up some of his famous fish and chips, or authentic curry, and you will understand why this is truly the ultimate value experience in Salinas! The open courtyard setting, setback from the street traffic, provides a wonderful place to hold a quiet conversation or simply reflect on the beauty of the surrounding region. Ralph, always with a smile on his face, will make you feel like family.



Museums

Museo Salinas Siglo 21.- Archaeological exhibits of the Peninsular area. Valdivia (4200 a.C), Machalilla (1500 a.C) and Chorrera (1200 a.C) cultures' exhibits. Address: Malecón between Guayas and Quil (next to restaurant Colonial). Tel. 04-2771279. Entrance fee US \$2. Open Wednesdays to Sundays 10:00 till 13:00 and 15:00 till 18:00.

The Naval Maritime Museum - Address: Malecón near Capitania. On displays is a model of a raft-Guancavilca Manteña reproduced according to the description of Samano 1526. The Guancavilcas large rafts were in their black-colored vessels, hands and stone metate for grinding grains, spherical stone weights for nets and pointed to the divers who were also used to hit and release Spondylus shells attached to rocks. Jesus Maria de la Limpia Concepcion known as "The Captain" takes us back to colonial times and the exhibit showcases the salvage in that galleon wrecked in 1654 off the coast of Chanduy. Coins of 1, 2, 4 and 8 reales cobs or crushed calls were made in silver and transported on ships to Panama and from there to the Caribbean to be transported to Europe, fragments of silver cutlery and plates and pottery known as majolica bars, tin, silver, cannonballs both bronze and iron and lead for muskets.

Whales Museum - Address: Av. Gral. Enríquez Gallo (Av. Segunda) entre calles 47 y 50, Salinas. Located in the heart of the city of Salinas this interesting museum with delight you with species of marine mammals that were collected by volunteers since 1987. Besides watching skeletons you will receive information about the species inhabiting Ecuadorian waters, for example, the hunchbacked whales. Open all the year from 10:00 to 17:00 hrs.

General interest - Top Recommendations

Attorney Services

Dr. Andrés Córdova Lozano
Diana Palacios (assistant)
Gonzalo Córdova Abogados
El Vengador N37-33 y El Comercio
Quito, Ecuador
Tel : 011 (593-2) 244-7551,7599,7549
Cell : 011 (593-9) 972-4864
Fax : 011 (593-2) 292-0665
Email: afcordova@gcabogados.com
dpalacios@gcabogados.com
Web: www.gcabogados.com

Medical Services

Clinica Ajoy
Dr. Betsy Ajoy
BARRIO 6 DE DICIEMBRE CALLE CLEODORO SOLORZANO Y AV 12 LA LIBERTAD
097-919542, 092-331776

Hospital (Closest for Emergencies)

FAE Hospital
Salinas Naval Base

Pharmacies

There are several 24 hour small pharmacies along the Malecón and the Market area. Fybeca, is the largest one and is located at the entrance of Salinas.

Fybeca
Cdra La Floresta Mz R1 y R2 (SuperMaxi Shopping Center)
04-2777131
www.fybeca.com

Dentist

Dr. Gladys Morales
La Libertad,, Calle 23 at 4ta Av
Accepts Walk-ins

Optometrist

El Paseo Optical Center
El Paseo Mall
Calle 9 entre Av. 10 y 12
Walk-ins welcome

Groceries

SuperMaxi
Cdra La Floresta Mz R1 y R2 (SuperMaxi Shopping Center)
04-2930335
www.supermaxi.com

Cell Phone Service

Claro
El Paseo Mall
Calle 9 entre Av. 10 y 12
www.claro.com.ec

Internet Cyber Cafe

TelcoNet
El Paseo Mall
Calle 9 entre Av. 10 y 12
www.telconet.net

Movie Theaters

CineMax SuperCines
El Paseo Mall
Calle 9 entre Av. 10 y 12
04-2777-264.

Land Line Phone Service

CNT
Salinas Government Center
Av. Carlos Espinoza Larrea
04-2775024
<http://www.cnt.gob.ec/>

Electric Company

CNEL
Salinas Government Center
Av. Carlos Espinoza Larrea
042683218
www.cnel.ec

Water Company

AguaPen
Av. Carlos Espinoza Larrea y San José. Edificio GAMMA 5, local 2
04-2778322
<http://aguapen.com.ec/>

Cable TV

Grupo TVCable
Av. Carlos Espinoza Larrea
04-600-2400
www.grupotvcable.com.ec

Satellite TV

DirecTV
Cdla La Floresta Mz R1 y R2 (SuperMaxi Shopping Center)
1 800 888 000
www.directv.com.ec

Banks

Banco de Guayaquil
Av. Malecón 417 y La 21 Ava
www.bancoguayaquil.com

Banco Pichincha
Malecón next to the Capitania del Puerto
wwwp1.pichincha.com

Police Emergencies

Dial 101

Fire Emergencies

Dial 101

Taxi Service

You do not so much call for taxi service here, you just walk outside and hail one. Taxis are everywhere.

Private Car Service

Ruta del Sol
Malecón and Fidón Tomalá
04-2770358

Money

Most restaurants, hotels, bars, discos, casinos and shopping centers accept Visa, Amex, Mastercard and Diners. ATMs are available at most banks. Travelers checks are accepted almost nowhere. Leave the travelers checks at home. Cash is king here in Ecuador.

Best of The Rest

Copies

Libreria Libertad
Avenida 9 de Octubre , La Ilbertad
Has a large, pink sign and offers good copy services at about 5¢/copy for standard size.
They also do binding and have the capacity to copy large charts

Customs (Corporacion Aduana Ecuatorina CAE)
Ave. 9 de Octubre in Libertad
04-2782643

Furniture

Decorando Q & V

Av Eleodoro Solórzano E/ Calles 16 y 17, La libertad

04-2782112

Celular : 091789647

Ask for Mercedes (owner) and tell her we sent you, for a minimum of a 10% discount.

Hair Salon - Unisex

Lei

Av. Carlos Espinoza Larrea (Next to SuperMaxi shopping center)

Walk-ins welcome.

Hardware Store

Ferrisariato (Part of the HiperMarket at El Paseo Shopping Mall)

El Paseo Mall

Calle 9 entre Av. 10 y 12

Household Appliances

Comandato

El Paseo Mall

Calle 9 entre Av. 10 y 12

04-2296300

Ask for Natalia (Sales Manager) for a minimum of a 10% discount.

Immigration (Migracion)

Located in downtown La Libertad, Ave. 9 de Octubre,

In a small second- floor office. There is a sign, but it's hard to read. The office is right next door to the TransEsmeraldas bus station.

ROCAFUERTE: CALLE 25 Y AVENIDA SEGUNDA (ESQUINA)

(04) 2786-670

Locksmith

Hiper Market Locksmith (inside the Hiper Market Complex)

El Paseo Mall

Calle 9 entre Av. 10 y 12

Post Office/Correo del Ecuador (CDE)

Av. Carlos E Larrea between Calle 5 and 6

Located one block from the Barcelo Colon Miramar Hotel in Salinas on the street one block back from the Malecón.

Veterinarian

Dr. Maria Paz Mora
Polyclinico Veterinario
La Libertad
04-2784362

Yacht Clubs

Salinas Yacht Club - Private Membership (Offers limited services only for visiting yachts).

Puerta Lucia Yacht Club (PLYC) Lat S 02° 12.966', Long W 080° 55.319' is a beautiful, modern, secure marina facility offering many amenities and services.



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