

## Manta, Ecuador

Our next port of call is the only one on the continent of South America, the place being the town of Manta, the country being Ecuador. It was a different country, and for many reasons.

It looked sad and dejected, kids in rags greeting you with open begging hands as you stepped off the tour buses. We were forewarned that valuables were best left on the ship, as muggings and robberies and pickpockets were rife. This was immediately brought home to us as we toured Manta - armed police were everywhere and intermingled with us to protect us against the rougher elements who were sidling up to us.

On the other hand, the scenery was unique to Ecuador, and a visit to the quaint old village of Montecristi, settled on a hillside, was very enjoyable.

If you thought that Panama hats, as we did, came from Panama - think again - they are made in Ecuador, so we will return with our genuine articles, complete and folded in a wooden box!

Like the city of Las Angeles - good to visit once, but hardly worth a second visit!



Fish market Manta



Montecristi Ecuador