

## Ecuador Tourism Board Stands Strong in Support of Tourism Sector Following the Passing of Fernando Villavicencio

[Quito, August 10, 2023]

The Ecuador Tourism Board expresses deep sorrow over the tragic demise of Fernando Villavicencio, a prominent Ecuadorian presidential candidate. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family, friends, and supporters during this challenging period.

Ecuador has historically stood as a beacon of peace in South America. This tragic loss deeply affects our nation, piercing the core of our peaceful legacy. In light of the current circumstances, we want to reassure the global community that Ecuador remains unwavering in its dedication to the security and prosperity of its tourism sector.

Furthermore, we emphasize that Ecuador remains a destination of choice for travelers seeking unique and authentic experiences. Transportation services, hotels, restaurants, and main tourist attractions across the nation operate without interruption and prioritize the safety of our esteemed visitors.

While addressing isolated incidents connected to organized crime, it's essential to highlight that these events are confined and do not overshadow the broader, positive tourist experience Ecuador offers.

Our gratitude extends to the international community for their continued trust and their decision to choose Ecuador as their destination. Their visits significantly contribute to the well-being of our communities and the preservation of Ecuador's distinct charm.

Lastly, the National Government of Ecuador, upholding its constitutional responsibilities, has put into effect strong measures against organized crime and drug trafficking. These initiatives prioritize the safety of both Ecuadorian citizens and international visitors. We remain committed to preserving the pillars of democracy and ensuring the scheduled elections take place with fairness and transparency.

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