



UNIQUE LODGES  
OF THE WORLD™



The image features a lush, misty forest scene. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees, with a thick layer of white mist or fog hanging between the canopy layers. The foreground shows more detailed foliage, including several large, rounded tree crowns with vibrant green leaves. On the left side of the image, there is a solid, dark green vertical gradient bar. Centered over the forest scene is the text "WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF MASHPI, A LUXURY COCOON IN THE CLOUDS." in a white, sans-serif font.

**WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF MASHPI,**  
A LUXURY COCOON IN THE CLOUDS.



**AN ENCOUNTER WITH  
THE EXTRAORDINARY**

## THE EQUATORIAL CHOCÓ, A RENOWNED HOTSPOT OF BIODIVERSITY

Shafts of light filter through the canopy... The aroma of forest plants and flowers... The swirl of clouds through branches and trees... The sound of rain drops cascading onto leaves... This is the world of the forests on the western slopes of the Andes Mountains, regarded as one of the most biologically-diverse ecosystems on the planet. Everywhere you look, you find life, in all its varied, surprising and multi-coloured forms.

Nowhere is this truer than within the Mashpi Rainforest Biodiversity Reserve. The Reserve enjoys a privileged position, harbouring both cloudforest and rainforest. A profusion of plant and animal species has adapted to these environments, creating an incredibly rich ecosystem which is still revealing its secrets to science, still mysterious, still magical.

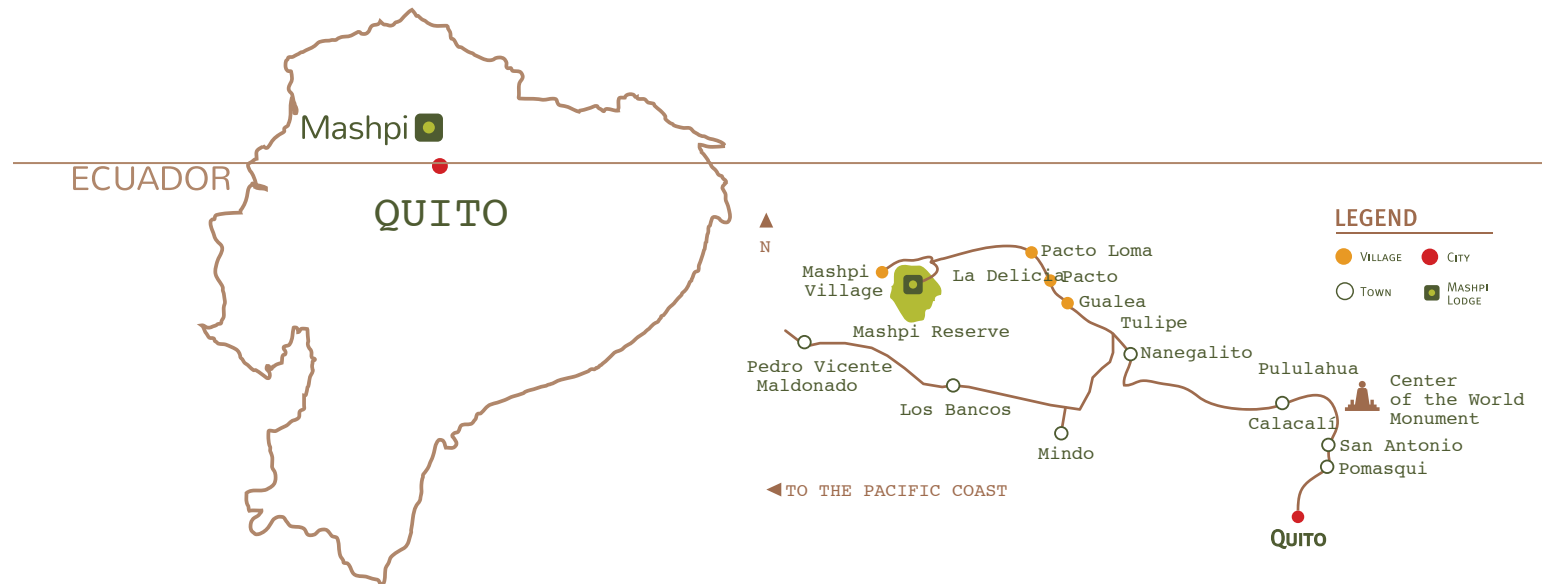




## A GATEWAY TO BIODIVERSITY

The Mashpi reserve is located a mere three hours to the northwest of Ecuador's capital, Quito – the first city named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO – and is accessible via paved and unpaved roads. Mashpi Lodge is set within a 1,300-hectare (3,200-acre) private reserve, which is part of the globally important bio-region: the Tumbes-Chocó-Darien.

The area around the reserve is one of the very few biodiversity 'hotspot' in the world, particularly when it comes to flora and avifauna. The reserve occupies much of the land that was previously part of a logging concession. It was purchased in 1997. Over the following years, more land was added until the forest was registered as a private protected forest. Eventually, the project's inceptors turned their dream into reality with the building of the lodge itself –in fact, on the very site of the mill which once whined with the sawing of the forest's trees.



## THE MASHPI EXPERIENCE

“The whole glory of these forests could only be seen by sailing gently in a balloon over the undulating flowery surface above: such a treat is perhaps reserved for the traveller of a future age.” Alfred Russel Wallace, 19th century British naturalist and explorer, best known for independently proposing a theory of natural selection.

The Mashpi experience is about discovering life in the tree tops, trekking along trails, listening to animal calls, absorbing each and every colour, bathing in pure waterfalls, spotting butterflies and birds, encountering amazing creatures, or simply relaxing with a view of clouds playing hide-and-seek with the forest. Share our passion for the awe-inspiring rainforest and explore it, as nature comes alive before your eyes.





## GUIDED NATURE WALKS

As one enters the realm of the rainforests, one becomes aware of life at every step: mushrooms and “fox fire” fungi below, tree trunks festooned with liverworts, lichens and mosses, giant ferns reaching up to the light above, swirling mists and clouds of moisture. And then, from nowhere, comes the sound of rushing water, a waterfall amid this glistening, green world, where senses are revived and new perspectives gained.

The trails are designed for a complete vision and understanding of the various life-zones and types of forest within the Reserve. Trained local guides and expert naturalists explore this world with guests, bringing the reserve’s riches to life through their explanations of its flora and fauna’s behaviours, adaptations and medicinal uses. Exciting guided night walks through the reserve reveal an altogether different side of the magic of the rainforest: true nocturnal adventures.

Lectures by the team of naturalist guides are part of everyday activities, allowing guests a more in-depth understanding of the ecosystem and the science at work within the Reserve.



## DISCOVER THE WORLD OF BIRDS

Mashpi rewards the curious with sightings of amazing avian species. Take hummingbirds: these unfailingly busy flying machines buzz from flower to flower at speeds of up to 115 kilometres per hour (70 miles per hour), their wings flapping at up to 80 beats per second. An incredible sight!

And then there are flocks of chattering parrots to spot, or sightings of multi-hued toucans up in the canopy... In this small region northwest of Quito, you can spot an estimated – and staggering – 500 species (about half the total for all of Europe, and a third of all of the five-country Amazon Basin), including some 36 endemics – birds found here and absolutely nowhere else.



## ORCHID SEDUCTION

The environment around Mashpi Lodge provides ideal conditions for what are commonly called 'air plants' because they do not root in soil, but rather grow on living plants.

The most beautiful of these plants are orchids, bromeliads and gesnerias, 'the violet of the Tropics'. Ecuador is home to 4,000 known orchid species – a thousand of them discovered in the past 12 years alone – more than any other country in the world, despite its small size. Within the Reserve, natural gardens and trails will allow you to explore the amazing variety and beauty of these most beguiling of plants.



## SCIENCE AND INVESTIGATION

The science and investigation projects are ample and varied. Since the Lodge was being constructed, a professional Biologist was hired to conduct a vast and ambitious program of research to find out as much as possible about the myriad natural elements that the Mashpi Reserve hosts.

In one of the most endangered places in the world, the Ecuadorian Chocó, lives the brown-headed spider monkey. Considered as one of the 25 Most endangered primates of the world and probably the most Threatened primate species of Ecuador, our resident Biologist is developing a new project for studying and re-introducing the Spider Monkey in the tropical forests.

The camera trap program is a fascinating, technology that consists on the installation of active video and photo-cameras which are switched on 24-hours a day and placed at strategic locations previously identified and researched by means of studying animal footprints, trails and other parameters which ensure the highest accuracy and proficiency for the collecting of data, which is later processed, analyzed, systematized and published when applicable.

Other wildlife research projects include a “package” of specific programs for which Mashpi Reserve signed a cooperation agreement with the Indoamerica Technological University (UTI for its initials in Spanish). A special research program of Lepidoptera (butterflies) is conducted especially through the installations, lab and field work done in and around the Reserve’s “Life Centre,” a 45-minutes hike from the Lodge’s main installations.





## THE FASCINATING WORLD OF MASHPI CREATURES

The forest ecosystem of Mashpi hosts hundreds of bird species, possibly thousands of orchid species, tens of thousands of insect species, as well as monkeys, peccaries and even puma. The camera traps installed and the field work carried out by our team of on-site biologists have produced many exciting sightings since the project's inception.

Enter this realm and one's eye soon spots flitting colourful wings, such as the amazing, electric-blue Morpho butterfly. These can be observed at the butterfly exhibition centre, where at night, one can also enjoy the amazing nocturnal show of dozens of multi-hued moths.

The rivers and rivulets, waterfalls and hilly terrain around Mashpi make perfect habitats for dozens of species of amphibians, with new and very rare individuals discovered to date. They come in all sorts of marvellous and eye-catching forms, and all sorts of sizes, from the tiny to the titan, including beautiful, other-worldly glass frogs. These are just some of the mysteries and delights that await in the forest.







## THE MASHPI LODGE: A CONTEMPORARY HIDEAWAY

Mashpi was designed as a private getaway, the ideal springboard for exploring the biodiverse world of its Reserve. It combines the highest standards of comfort, service and cuisine that today's most discerning travellers expect.

Located on a plateau, the Lodge's architecture allows guests breathtaking views of the forest from nearly every angle. Built of glass and steel with the latest techniques in sustainable building, it blends mimetically and beautifully with its surroundings: the forest is at-once incredibly close yet comfortably at a distance.

The Lodge features contemporary design and décor, mixing warm earth tones and clean lines: a cosy cocoon amid the forest. Its ample public areas, lounges, dining room, massage room and Jacuzzi are all perfect for contemplation and relaxation, with huge picture windows making guests feel part of their surroundings, where, at night, the only lights are the dance of myriad fireflies.





The Lodge is intimate, accommodating a maximum of 44 guests in 22 ample rooms, three of which are suites. For those travelling with friends or family, connecting rooms are available.



[www.matthewwilliamt-ellis.com](http://www.matthewwilliamt-ellis.com)

## CHOCÓ CUISINE

Inspired by the rainforest and the huge diversity found in Ecuador, our chefs excel in preparing gourmet dishes that combine locally-grown ingredients such as plantain or chocolate, as well as experimenting with an endless variety of delicious fruits: mandarinas, guavas, naranjillas...

The finest fresh organic produce, complemented by a carefully selected wine list.



## COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY

From the start, the Mashpi project has sought successfully to work hand-in-hand with the Reserve's surrounding community.

The Mashpi project has implemented an innovative programme in which members of the surrounding communities as well as Lodge employees will become shareholders in the Enterprise.

Mashpi offers numerous job opportunities for members of the neighboring communities, the added value is that not only they get the jobs, but they also receive specialized professional training with ongoing programs that include English language classes. But Mashpi goes farther beyond. The communities are also the primary providers of agricultural and other food products and supplies for the use of the Lodge, especially on the Hotel's food and beverage areas.







Mashpi lodge was built using steel and pre-assembled walls, that were put together in Quito before being transported to the site in order to reduce the impact of the construction in the reserve .

As part of our commitment with the wellbeing of the our forest, the lodge has a water treatment plant that allows the operation to have a neutral impact on the water of the Mashpi river.



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