



THE WILDLIFE RESORT
MASHPI LODGE,
MASHPI, ECUADOR

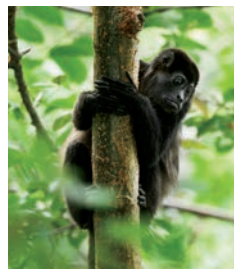
By Joy Phelan-Pinto, executive
director of Micato Safaris

Ecuador is incredible, but the Mashpi might be my favorite place. It's an hour away from downtown Quito and sits on 3,000 acres in the rain forest, in the midst of all this biodiversity. There are 400 species of birds, 35 of which are only found in that area. The bugs alone are interesting, but the orchids, ferns, frogs and monkeys are truly awe-inspiring. Their sky bicycle (a wired cage with pedals) allows you to cruise above the rain forest, with great views. Naturalist guides take you out on walks and through rushing rivers. I could easily spend two weeks there. mashpilodge.com

JOY'S OTHER PICKS

Four Seasons Resort Costa Rica at Peninsula Papagayo, Guanacaste, Costa Rica
There's the bay on one side and the ocean on the other. Without even leaving the resort, you can bird-watch and see iguanas and white-faced monkeys. There's kayaking, snorkeling and paddleboarding, too. fourseasons.com/costarica

Sonora Resort, Sonora Island, Canada
We took a ski-plane to get there, which was pretty exciting. This is the great Canadian outdoors. We saw bald eagles, seals, porpoises. The ocean is in front of you, and the resort lends fantastic Nikon cameras so you don't miss anything. sonoraresort.com



TOP: MICHAEL KLEINBERG; BOTTOM LEFT: WILLA KVEITA; BOTTOM RIGHT: WYNNE POWELL