

An aerial photograph of a stunning tropical coastline. The image shows a vibrant turquoise sea meeting a pristine white sand beach. The beach is bordered by lush green vegetation and a rugged, rocky cliff in the foreground. In the distance, more islands and mountains are visible under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is idyllic and scenic.

ECUADOR

SAFE DESTINATION



WRITING AND FORMULATION OF CONTENTS

Direction for the Protection of Users of Tourist Services
Direction for Information and Digital Media Department



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"La Merced" church
Quito Historic Center, province of Pichincha



"Carmen Alto" church
Quito Historic Center, province of Pichincha



This guide provides essential recommendations that tourists should consider when travelling around Ecuador to ensure that their stay is enjoyable so that Ecuador can position itself as a "Safe Destination" and international benchmark in sustainable tourism that offers visitors a unique life-changing experience.

Cotopaxi volcano, province of Cotopaxi





Travel Documents

Ecuadorians

- Passport or valid ID showing Ecuadorian nationality.

Foreigners or residents

- Valid passport with the respective visa
- CAN and MERCOSUR: passport or ID
- Andean card



Citizens who require a visa to enter Ecuador



- »»» Afghanistan
- »»» Bangladesh
- »»» Eritrea
- »»» Ethiopia
- »»» Kenya
- »»» Nepal
- »»» Nigeria
- »»» Pakistan
- »»» Somalia
- »»» Senegal
- »»» Cuba

It is likely that the Migration Offices will request to see proof of a return ticket to verify that tourists will not overstay their 90-day limit.



Asset entry control

According to the Organic Law of Prevention, Detection and Eradication of Money Laundering and Financing Crimes, all passengers arriving to or departing from the country with cash equal to or greater than ten thousand United States Dollars (USD 10,000.00)

or its equivalent in other currencies must declare it to the authorities.



Vaccines

For your safety, the yellow fever vaccine is required for entry.



Seymour Island, province of Galapagos



For Emergencies:

- If you travel with a Smartphone, you can install the free ECU 911 app published by the Integrated Emergency Service to report an emergency and receive an immediate response.
- Dial 911 and report any emergency or if you witness any unlawful act.
- To report a theft, please visit to file a claim: <https://www.fiscalia.gob.ec/denuncias-on-line-para-turistas/>



Safe Transport (Transporte Seguro)

- Ecuador has a safe transport system, with vehicles registered and recognized by the National Transit Agency.



Recommendations for taking a taxi:

- Request taxi services in your hotel or restaurant.

If you are going to take a taxi on the street, consider that:

- It must be yellow with an orange license plate.
- It must have a secure transportation logo.
- It must display a registration number on its doors.
- It should have a security camera and an emergency button.
- It must have a tariff meter (taximeter).



Recommendations for bus trips:

- For interprovincial or inter-county trips, you should board the bus only in the bus terminals located in each city.
- If possible, do not sleep on the trip. If you need to sleep, put your belongings within your reach.
- If you leave a large backpack and / or suitcase in the luggage compartment of the bus, ask for a voucher, ticket or receipt of your luggage.
- Check that your luggage located in the overhead compartments is secure.
- If you put your backpack on the floor, place it in front of your feet.



Recommendation if traveling in rental cars:

- Remember that the speed limits in Ecuador are:
50 km per hour in the city
90 km per hour on perimeter roads
100 km per hour on highways
- Avoid fines by respecting speed limits.



Recommendation for boating:

- If you enjoy water sports either in the ocean or in rivers, do it with a travel agency and/or tour operator that has updated operating permits.



In banks and at ATMs:

- If you need to exchange money, do it exclusively in banks or currency exchange offices. If possible, do it in a bank branch that is inside a Shopping Center.
- If you go to the bank or an ATM, try to be accompanied.
- Use ATMs in well-lit public places.
- Do not accept the help or company of strangers.



In Protected Areas:

- All Natural Protected Areas in Ecuador are free to enter except the Galapagos National Park. (Be aware that the Ministry of the Environment may change this policy at any time).
- To visit Protected Areas, you must do it through a Travel Agency or Tour Operator that provides professional guides certified by the tourism authority.

Other Recommendations

- Maintain frequent communication with your family and friends.
- Always leave valuables in the hotel safe.
- Be cautious when visiting busy places or when you go to bars or clubs.
- If you require information, ask for it at the hotel reception, tour operators or friends who live at the destination you are visiting. If possible, do not consult with strangers.



Guayaquil, province of Guayas





Blossom of the Guayacanes, Mangahurco, province of Loja



- The Secretariat of Risk Management and related entities work to establish a culture of prevention that allows society and national entities to be ready to face any adverse event.
- It is important for tourists to be well-informed of all natural or other risks that may occur while visiting the country. Therefore, it is recommended to use official channels in case of any event:
- Secretariat of Risk Management: <http://www.gestionderiesgos.gov.ec/>
- Geophysical Institute: <https://twitter.com/igecuador?lang=en>

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF:



Earthquakes

- Lie on the floor, cover your head, and get under a desk or a sturdy table.
- Stay away from windows, glass, mirrors, outer doors or walls and anything that may fall over you, like lamps and furniture.
- If there is no table or desk nearby, cover your face and head with your arms and move away from windows and shelves.
- If you are on the street, move away from poles and power lines.



Volcanic Eruptions

- Pay attention to the information published by the authorities in charge of handling the crisis and

follow their recommendations.

- Use mask and goggles if ash falls.
- Wear clothing that covers your whole body.
- Keep calm and follow instructions given regarding contingency plans.
- Take care of your personal safety before helping others.



Tsunamis

- Go inland to a higher place. Do not wait for the official tsunami warning.
- Stay away from rivers and estuaries that lead to the sea.
- Never stay to witness a tsunami.
- Pay attention to the official information; do not listen to unfounded rumors.



Landslides

- If you are in a mountainous area, do not remain near ravines.
- If you evacuate, go to a place that authorities have determined as a safe zone.
- If the landslide is near and you cannot evacuate to a safe area, search for protection in the higher parts of any property (higher floors of houses, roofs and buildings).
- If you are driving and arrive to an affected area, avoid crossing it and move away from the zone.
- Stay away from the area affected by the landslide because other landslides may be triggered.



Floods

- If you are near a lake, pond, river or ravine, and you witness flooding or an increase in the flow of water, go to a high safe area.
- Disconnect all electronic devices.
- Evacuate to a safe area. If you are unable to do so, leave the lower floors and move to higher floors or structures.
- Do not walk in flooded zones or roads. Move around in higher places that are free of water.
- When authorities clear the area, return to your normal lodging.
- Do not drink water until the authorities indicate that it is safe to do so.



Forest Fires

- If you see a fire or smoke in zones of vegetation, please call 911.
- Keep calm and follow the instructions of the authorities and rescue teams.
- Disconnect all electronic devices.
- Make sure to cover your mouth and nose with a damp cloth to not inhale smoke.
- Do not go back to a fire zone until the authorities give you the order to do so. The fire could start again.





Puyo, province of Pastaza



El Panecillo, Quito, province of Pichíncha



To fully enjoy your trip, be aware of the following recommendations:

- Si padece alguna enfermedad es necesario que lleve consigo la medicina que debe administrarse durante todo el viaje.
- If you have any pre-existing medical conditions, please bring the medications that you need to take during your trip with you.
- The Public Health Network of the country is active. In case of an emergency or if you need personalized attention, go to the nearest health center.
- On the GeoSalud website, you can find the georeferenced State Medical facilities. Find the health establishment nearest to you at the following link:
<https://geosalud.msp.gob.ec/>

To avoid other kinds of illnesses, it is important to be aware of the following recommendations:

- Wear protective clothing with long sleeves and pants, especially at sunset and sunrise to avoid bug bites.
- Use mosquito nets and/or window screens in places where there are many mosquitos.
- Use mosquito repellent according to your skin type.
- Use sunscreen.



Kayak, Puyo river, province of Pastaza



To ensure the safety of travelers that enjoy adventure tourism in Ecuador, the Ministry of Tourism has created a regulatory framework for adventure-related activities.

The different kinds of adventure activities are classified according to the natural element where they are performed (land, water or air) and include:



Land

- Horseback riding
- Canyoning
- Bicycle Touring
- Climbing
- Caving
- Mountain climbing
- Trekking



Water

Recreational activities using motorized vessels (buoys, inflatable bananas, parasailing and water skiing).

- Diving
- Sea/lake kayaking
- River kayaking
- Kitesurfing
- Rafting
- Snorkeling
- Surfing
- Tubing



Air

- Hang-gliding
- Canopying
- Paragliding

***To perform any of these activities, please consider the following recommendations:**

- Recognize if you have the required physical ability for each adventure activity.
- Hire a registered tour operator.
- Ensure that adequate safety equipment is used.
- The consumption of narcotics and alcohol is forbidden.
- Use repellent and sunscreen in the mountains and in warm tropical zones.
- Wear appropriate clothing for each adventure activity.
- Bring along hydrating beverages and other items depending on the activities and requirements of the tour or visit planned.
- Inform your guide of any allergies or preexisting medical conditions.
- Confirm that the guide has his/her first aid kit to provide medical assistance.
- Follow the indications of the guide.
- Verify schedules, weather conditions, terrain, mandatory equipment, minimum age and number of guides or instructors that are required for each activity with the tour operator.
- Keep in mind the complexity rating of rivers, since Grade IV and V rivers are intended for professionals only.

HIGH MOUNTAIN



MID MOUNTAIN





CLIMBING



TRAIL RUNNING





The Ministry of Tourism in Ecuador, together with emergency response entities, have an assistance and accompaniment protocol for foreign tourists in case of emergency. Should you require assistance, please find the contact information of the respective national offices below:



HEADQUARTERS

Quito

Address: Calle Briceño E 1 - 24 and
Guayaquil La Licuadora Bldg.
Phone: (593) (02) 3999333
Quito - Pichincha

ZONE 1 OFFICE

Provinces:

Imbabura (headquarters),
Esmeraldas, Carchi, Sucumbíos,
Orellana, Napo and Pichincha
(except Quito).



Imbabura Headquarters

Address: Sucre 14-72 and Av.
Teodoro Gómez, flat 2
Phone: (593) (06) 2958-547 ext.
2630 – 2631 – 2632
Ibarra– Imbabura

Esmeraldas Technical Office

Address: Av. Del Pacífico – Las
Palmas jetty
Phone: (593) (06) 2011446 ext.
2605 – 2606 – 2639
Esmeraldas – Esmeraldas

Carchi Technical Office

Address: Guayaquil N39-008 and
Av. Manabí, flat 2
Phone: (593) (06) 2960046 ext.
2652 – 2654
Tulcán – Carchi



Sucumbíos Technical Office

Address: Av. Aguarico and
Circunvalación, Centro de Atención
Ciudadana Bldg., flat 1, office 18
Phone: (593) (06) 2991914 ext.
2683 – 2684
Lago Agrio – Sucumbíos



Orellana Technical Office

Address: Juan Montalvo and Av. 9
de Octubre
Phone: (593) (06) 2881583 ext.
2660 – 2665
El Coca – Orellana



Napo Technical Office

Rocafuerte S/N and Juan Montalvo,
Napo, Tena
Phone: (593) (06) 2886536 ext.
2623 – 2624 – 2625
Tena– Napo



Pichincha Technical Office

Address: Av. Gran Colombia N11-
165 and General Pedro Briceño, La
Licuadora Bldg. (Mezzanine.)
Phone: (593) (02) 3999333 ext.
1213 – 1003
Quito – Pichincha



Cayambe Technical Office

Address: Panamericana Norte km
0.5, Napoles Shopping
Phone: (593) (02) 2185249
Cayambe - Pichincha

ZONE 6 OFFICE

Provinces:

Azuay (headquarters), El Oro,
Loja, Cañar, Zamora, Cotopaxi,
Chimborazo, Tungurahua, Pastaza
and Morona Santiago



Azuay Headquarters:

Address: México and Unidad
Nacional, Gobierno Zonal 6 Bldg.
Phone: (593) 07 2 887255
Cuenca – Azuay



Cañar Technical Office

Address : Av. 16 de Abril and
Babahoyo. CAC Azogues. Bldg.,
flat 2
Phone: (593) 07 370 6016 ext
2795, 2796, 2798
Azogues – Cañar



Loja Technical Office

Address: Calle Sucre 191-31 and
Quito.
Phone: (593) 07 257 2964 ext.
2760 – 2770
Loja – Loja



Zamora Chinchipe Technical Office

Address: José Luis Tamayo and
Diego de Vaca. Gobernación de
Zamora Chinchipe Bldg., flat 1
Phone: (593) 07 260 6466 ext.
2775 – 2778
Zamora – Zamora Chinchipe



El Oro Technical Office

Address: Av. Rocafuerte 07-22 e/
Junín and Tarqui
Phone: (593) 07 296 8480 ext.
2782 – 2784
Machala – El Oro



Chimborazo Technical Office

Address: Primera Constituyente
and Carabobo. Gad Provincial de
Chimborazo Bldg., flat 1
Phone: (593) 03 294 6682
Postal code: 060101
Riobamba – Chimborazo



Tungurahua Technical Office

Address: Guayaquil 01-18 and
Rocafuerte
Phone: (593) 03 282 1800 ext.
2350
Postal code: 180103
Ambato – Tungurahua



Pastaza Technical Office

Address: Km. 2 1/2 Puyo-Tena
highway, Campus Universidad
Estatul Amazónica
Phone: (593) 03 289 4655
Postal code: 160150
Puyo – Pastaza



Cotopaxi Technical Office

Address: Marqués de Maenza
and Quito, Bldg., CAC El Rosal
Latacunga.
Phone: (593) 03 373 0594
Postal code: 050102
Latacunga – Cotopaxi



Morona Santiago Technical Office

Address: Bolívar and Soasti
Phone: (593) 07 270 1480 ext
2730
Macas – Morona Santiago

ZONE 8 OFFICE

Provinces:

Guayas (headquarters), Los Ríos, Santa Elena, Bolívar, Manabí and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas



Guayaquil Headquarters

Address: Av. Francisco de Orellana and Justino Cornejo. Gobierno del Litoral, Bldg., flat 8
Phone: (593) (04) 2068 508 ext. 2401 / 2402
Guayaquil – Guayas



Santa Elena Technical Office

Address: Av. Carlos Espinoza Larrea and Street 5, Centro de Atención Ciudadana, Bldg.
Phone: (593) (04) 3728904 ext. 2480 – 2481
Salinas – Santa Elena



Bolívar Technical Office

Address: García Moreno and Sucre.
Phone: (593) (02) 3999333 ext. 2380
Guaranda – Bolívar



Manabí Technical Office

Address: Los Nardos and Av. 15 de Abril, Centro de Atención Ciudadana, Bldg., flat 3
Phone: (593) (02) 3999333 ext. 2559
Portoviejo – Manabí



Santo Domingo Technical Office

Address: Av. Esmeraldas and Colorados del Bua, Santo Domingo Plaza Bldg., office. 301
Phone: (593) (02) 3999333 ext. 2203
Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas



Los Ríos Technical Office

Address: Av. 10 de Agosto No. 1805 and Mejía
Phone: (593) (02) 3999333 ext. 2530
Babahoyo – Los Ríos

GALAPAGOS ZONE OFFICE

Province:

Galápagos



Puerto Ayora Headquarters

Address: Av. Charles Darwin and 12 de Febrero, Capturgal Bldg.
Phone: (593) (05) 252-6174 / (05) 252-7135 ext. 2500
Puerto Ayora – Galápagos



San Cristóbal Technical Office

Address: Av. Alsacio Northia S/N and José Vallejo
Phone: (593) (05) 252-0704
Puerto Baquerizo Moreno – Isla San Cristóbal




Isabela Technical Office

Address: Av. Antonio Gil, and 16 de Marzo and Los Flamings
Phone: (593) (05) 252-9132
Puerto Villamil – Isla Isabela

Yasuní, province of Orellana




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