

# Ecuador

## Consular Advice

*The material below includes information from the U.S. Department of State (DOS), U.K. Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), as well as from additional open-source material. Standard safety precautions that apply to all international travel can be found in the Travax Library article Safety and Security.*

## Consular Travel Warning

Due to drug trafficking, post-earthquake concerns, and other ongoing security concerns, Canada (GAC) advises against travel to areas bordering Colombia and Peru and against nonessential travel to Montañita (Santa Elena Province) and the the provinces of Esmeraldas, Manabí, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas. U.K. (FCO) and Australia (DFAT) advise against travel or nonessential travel to more limited areas. U.S. (DOS) has no current warning.

## Terrorism Risk

No intrinsic risk of attack by terrorist groups exists, but unforeseen attacks are possible.

## Crime

High risk of violent crime (armed robbery and sexual assault) and petty crime exists throughout the country, especially in Quito (El Panecillo, Parque La Carolina, and the districts of La Mariscal, Guápulo, South Quito, and Old Town Quito), Guayaquil (Malecón 2000 boardwalk), and other cities and on volcano hiking trails, including Cerro Mandango near Vilcabamba, Loja Province.

Scams involving ATM and credit card fraud and the use of distraction techniques to commit robbery, including squirting substances on victims, have been reported.

## Civil Unrest

Protests and demonstrations frequently occur throughout the country and have the potential to turn violent without warning. Bystanders are at risk of harm from violence or from the response by authorities. Disruption to transportation, free movement, or ability to carry out daily activities may occur. Monitor local media and foreign embassy communications in anticipation of demonstrations.

## Unsafe Areas

A dangerous security environment exists in areas bordering Colombia, including Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve.

Piracy (involving commercial vessels) occurs in coastal waters.

## Water Safety

Passenger boat accidents in the Galápagos Islands may occur. Decline water transportation in vessels that appear overloaded or are without personal flotation devices or life jackets.

Rent water sports equipment from reputable operators. Only scuba dive with personnel certified by PADI or NAUI and only use equipment from PADI- or NAUI-certified dive operators.

## Outdoor Safety

Basic safety standards for adventure activities (including canopy tours, bungee jumping, and recreational off-roading) may not be in place. Adventure sports equipment should only be rented from reputable operators.

## Other Safety Threats

Treks and hiking excursions into Ecuador's mountains should be undertaken in groups, with experienced, certified tour guides only.

## Transportation Safety

Robberies and assaults are reported regularly on intercity and urban Guayaquil buses, especially after dark. Bus drivers often make illegal stops to pick up new passengers on express routes, especially on the routes between Guayaquil and Cuenca and between Guayaquil and Riobamba. Travel after dark, either by long-distance or international coaches, must be avoided.

## Airline Safety

U.S. Federal Aviation Administration has determined that the civil aviation authority of this country oversees its air carriers in accordance with minimum international safety standards.

## Natural Disasters

Ecuador has many active and potentially active volcanoes, including around the capital of Quito and other popular tourist destinations. Other potential environmental threats include flooding, forest fires, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Severe flooding occurs in many areas of the western provinces of Manabí, Los Ríos and Guayas, particularly in Chone, Portoviejo, and parts of Guayaquil.

The hurricane season extends from early June to the end of November.

## Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Ecuador

- United States: [+593] 2-398-5000; [ecuador.usembassy.gov](http://ecuador.usembassy.gov)
- Canada: [+593] 2-2455-499; [www.canadainternational.gc.ca/ecuador-equateur](http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/ecuador-equateur)
- United Kingdom: [+593] 2-2970-800; [ukinecuador.fco.gov.uk/en](http://ukinecuador.fco.gov.uk/en)
- Australia: [+593] 4-601-7529

Ecuador's Embassies or Consulates in Selected Countries

- In the U.S.: [www.ecuador.org](http://www.ecuador.org)
- In Canada: [www.embassyecuador.ca/](http://www.embassyecuador.ca/)
- In the U.K.: [reinounido.embajada.gob.ec/](http://reinounido.embajada.gob.ec/)
- In Australia: [australia.embajada.gob.ec/](http://australia.embajada.gob.ec/)

## Visa/HIV Testing

HIV testing is not required to obtain a tourist, work, or residence visa.

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