

# 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 Library article Safety and Security.*

## Consular Travel Warning

Due to drug trafficking and other ongoing security concerns, Canada (GAC) advises avoiding travel to areas within 20 km (12.4 mi) of the border with Colombia in the following provinces: Carchi (except for the Panamericana International Highway that connects to the official border crossing with Colombia at Tulcán/IpiALES), Esmeraldas, and Sucumbíos (and advises reconsidering travel [or avoiding nonessential travel] to the remainder of Esmeraldas and Sucumbíos provinces). Canada also advises avoiding travel to Tiwinza (Morona-Santiago Province), El Pangui, Nangaritzza, and Palanda (Zamora-Chinchipe Province). U.S. (DOS), U.K. (FCO), and Australia (DFAT) have more limited warnings.

## 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 (particularly in El Panecillo, Parque La Carolina, and the districts of La Mariscal, Guápulo, South Quito, and Old Town Quito), Guayaquil (particularly in Malecón 2000 boardwalk), and other cities and on volcano hiking trails, including Cerro Mandango near Vilcabamba, Loja Province.

Kidnappings by criminal groups occur in northern and northeastern areas bordering Colombia and Peru, including the Cuyabeno Wildlife Reserve. Targets may include foreigners (especially Westerners), including foreigners working for oil companies.

Express kidnappings to force cash withdrawals at ATMs occur throughout the country, especially in Quito and Guayaquil.

Scams involving ATMs, credit cards, 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 the ability to carry out daily activities may occur.

## 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 boats may be unsafe on the Galápagos Islands. Decline water transportation in vessels that appear overloaded or lack personal flotation devices or life jackets.

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

## Outdoor Safety

Basic safety standards for adventure activities (including bungee jumping, canopy tours, and recreational off-roading) may not be in place. Travelers should only use reputable adventure-sport operators for activities and equipment rentals.

## Transportation Safety

High risk of traffic-related injury or death exists. The road-traffic death rate is 12 to 24 per 100,000 population. The rate is less than 10 in most high-income countries. Seek local advice before traveling on roads outside urban areas after dark. Driving at night is not advised.

Traffic flows on the right-hand side of the road. Travelers (including drivers and pedestrians) accustomed to traffic moving on the opposite side should be vigilant when navigating traffic.

Avoid public buses (especially in Guayaquil) due to safety and security concerns, including risk of armed robbery.

Many taxis are unsafe. Use taxis from official ranks or dispatched via smart phone app or radio from a reputable company and ascertain the license or identification number of the dispatched vehicle.

## 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

The rainy season is from May through November in areas east of the Andes mountains and December through May in coastal areas. Floods, mudslides, and landslides may occur.

Seismic and volcanic activity frequently occur.

## Consular Information

Selected Embassies or Consulates in Ecuador

- | United States: [+593] 2-398-5000; [ec.usembassy.gov](http://ec.usembassy.gov)
- | Canada: [+593] 2-2455-499; [www.ecuador.gc.ca](http://www.ecuador.gc.ca)
- | United Kingdom: [+593] 2-3972-200; [www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-in-ecuador](http://www.gov.uk/world/organisations/british-embassy-in-ecuador)
- | 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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*Last changed July 3, 2018*

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