



**Partners in
Transformation**
Import Promotion Desk

Ecuador

BEAUTIFUL CONTRASTS ALONG THE EQUATOR



Ecuador is a colorful journey full of vibrant culture, diverse landscapes and great nature.

The Import Promotion Desk (IPD) supports European tour operators in their search for exceptional touristic products in Ecuador and provides contacts to carefully screened, sustainable tourism companies. Get an overview about the great possibilities of Ecuador for your touristic product development and get in contact with our Sustainable Tourism Specialists.

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Colorful journey full of vibrant culture, diverse landscapes and great nature




OVERVIEW

In the Oriente, from the Andes to the eastern border of Ecuador, nature and wildlife enthusiasts  will find a fascinating diversity of flora and fauna, can visit indigenous communities to learn about their culture and go canoeing and trekking to explore the Amazon rainforest.

The Galapagos islands  stand for a unique wildlife and nature experience. Charles Darwins laboratory of evolution can be explored by foot, bike, with a snorkel or diving gear.

The old town of Quito, the architecture of Cuenca, ancient Inca ruins and various small villages to experience the traditions and culture of Ecuador – all this can be found in the highlands.  In addition, the spectacular landscape along the volcanoes of the Andes has a lot to offer. Either for active travellers and for nature lovers.

The 2,000 km of the Pacific Coastline  are ideal to complement a roundtrip with beautiful beaches to relax, constant swells to surf, diving sites and natural spectacle like hump-back whale watching.

DISTANCES

				
Quito – Cuenca	8 h	10 h	1 h	
Quito – Galapagos			3 h 30'	
Guayaquil – Galapagos			1 h 50'	
Ferries between Galapagos Islands				2 h 30'
Travel time on a roundtrip Quito – Guayaquil	Quito – 1 h 40' – Otavalo – 2 h 20' – Papallacta – 2 h – Cotopaxi – 2 h – Riobamba – 5 h – Cuenca – 3 h 20' – Guayaquil			
Travel time on a roundtrip Mindo – Lago Agrio	Mindo – 2 h – Quito – 5 h 50' – Lago Agrio (Amazon)			

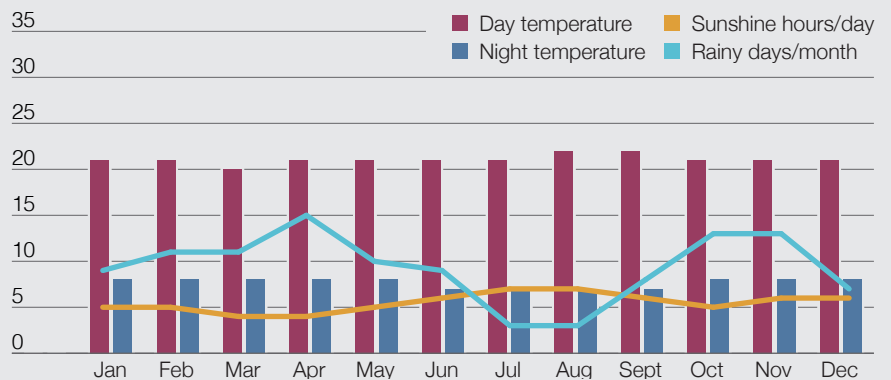


BEST TIME TO VISIT ECUADOR

The best travel time depends on your customers interests, planned activities and travel routes.

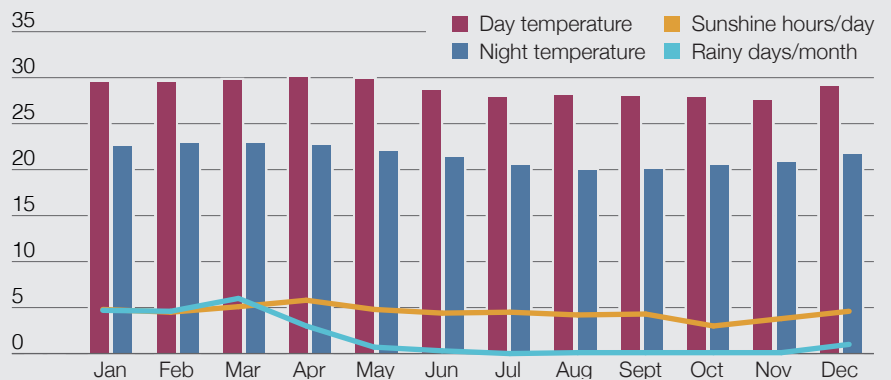
The **Highlands (incl. Quito)** are situated between the two mountain ranges Cordillera Occidental and Cordillera Central at 1,800 to 3,200 metres. This makes the nights cool even on sunny and warm days. June to September is the best travel season and ideal for hiking in the Andes. **Trekking and climbing** in the volcanoes of Ecuador is a year around activity due to the micro-climate of the mountains. Although the best conditions and visibility is in December and January.

CLIMATE DIAGRAM QUITO, HIGHLANDS

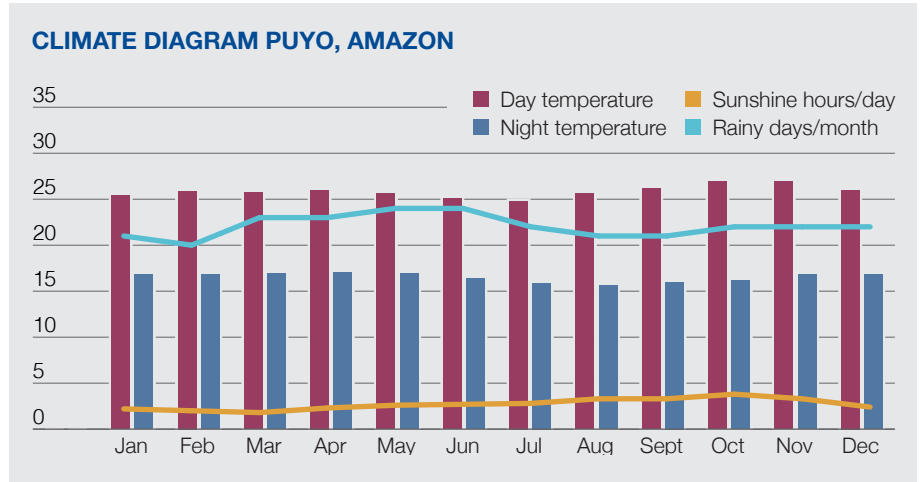


To enjoy the **Coastline of Ecuador**, the rainy season from December to April is surprisingly the best time to travel. It is warmer than the dry season and beside short tropical rain showers, it tends to be sunny. For **surfers**, Ecuador is an all-year destination. The best swells are between November and April.

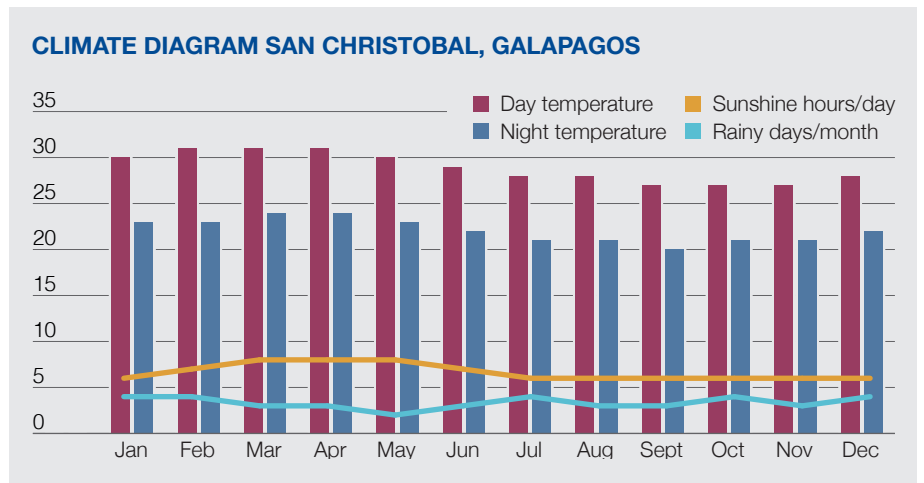
CLIMATE DIAGRAM LA LIBERTAD, PACIFIC COAST







In the **Amazon** it rains all year around. From August to November it gets a bit drier, what makes it easier to **spot wildlife**. From December to May heavy rain often floods parts of the rain forest.








To visit the **Galapagos Islands**, December to May is the warmest season with the calmest sea, which makes it interesting for **snorkeling**. June to November is drier but also colder weather and the underwater visibility is poorer.



A SELECTION OF ACTIVITIES BY SEASON

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
 Surfing at the coastline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Mountain climbing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>											<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Hiking in the Highlands						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
 Dive & Snorkel Galapagos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

A SELECTION OF SEASONS FOR ANIMAL OBSERVATIONS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
 Green turtle season Galapagos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Whale shark season Galapagos						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
 Humpback whale season Pacific-coast						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
 Baby sea lions Galapagos								<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
 Best birdwatching	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>





FESTIVALS IN ECUADOR

Ecuador has a lot of colorful, traditional festivals to offer, which are an enrichment for every roundtrip.

The Diablada Pillareña in Santiago de Pillaro is celebrated in the first week of January. People dress as devils and remember the rebellion against the Catholic religion during the colonial era of Ecuador.

Carnival is celebrated in February/March all over the country with parades and various festivities in the streets. In Guaranda the celebration is the wildest. The festival incorporates an older indigenous tradition of celebrating the second moon by throwing flowers, water and flour.

The **Semana Santa**, the holy week before Easter Sunday, is celebrated with colorful processions. The most impressive is the Good Friday procession in Quito with hundreds of participants dressed in purple penitential robes.

Inti Raymi is an indigenous midsummer festival with music, traditional dances and rituals, which is celebrated over two weeks until the 21st June. It is most common in the Andes region.

Get more information about the [traditional festivals of Ecuador](#).

AVERAGE COSTS

Beer	2 \$
Tip Restaurant	10 % (already included)
Lunch (almuerzo)	2 – 5 \$
Taxi (5 km)	9 \$
Entrance fee National parc	10 – 20 \$
Galapagos liveaboard cruise	400 – 750 \$ per day
Entrance fee Galapagos	100 \$
Usual tip Crew & Guide	15 – 25 \$ per day

CULTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

- + Ecuador is a football-loving country. Mentioning the national team “La Tri” or one of the internationally successful players from Ecuador always causes great joy and often lively conversations. Another very popular sport is the local version of volleyball: Ecuavoley. In the evenings and at weekends, it is played in every village, no matter how small - sometimes with many spectators. The courts are often centrally located next to the church and offer a nice opportunity to get in touch with locals and observe village life.
- + A highlight with every meal are the freshly squeezed juices made from local fruits, which are served almost everywhere. Besides well-known tropical fruits, one can also try Mountain-Papaya, Tamarillo, Guanabana and other exotic fruits. For the European tongue, it is recommended to order the often heavily sugared juices *con poco azúcar* (little sugar) or *sin azúcar* (without sugar).
- + In Ecuador there is a certain rejection of hectic. Sayings like *ya mismo* (yes, immediately) should not be taken too literally. For private invitations, it is considered polite to arrive 15 to 30 minutes after the agreed time.

FLIGHT CONNECTIVITY: EUROPE – ECUADOR

There are two international Airports in Ecuador with direct flights to Europe. All flight connections can be seen at this [interactive Map](#).

	Accessibility	Direct connections	Stop over destinations
AEROPORTO INTERNACIONAL MARISCAL SUCRE QUITO (UIO)	The 40km to the city center of Quito cost 22-30 US\$ by taxi and 8US\$ by bus.	Madrid (MAD) – Quito (UIO): 11 h 00' Amsterdam (AMS) – Quito (UIO): 11 h 40'	USA, Mexico, Panama and Columbia
AEROPUERTO JOSÉ JOAQUÍN DE OLMEDO GUAYAQUIL (GYE)	The airport is located within the city. A taxi to the city center costs 5 US\$.	Madrid (MAD) – Quito (UIO): 10h 45' Amsterdam (AMS) – Quito (UIO): 11 h 35'	USA, Panama and Columbia

USEFUL WEBSITES

- + [Table of distances](#) in Ecuador
- + [Media-Center](#) with guides, maps and pictures
- + [Further pictures](#)
- + [Ministry of foreign affairs](#)
- + [Embassies in Ecuador](#)
- + [Traditional festivals](#) in Ecuador
- + Interactive map of all [flight connections to Ecuador](#)
- + Information and entry requirements for the [Galapagos Islands](#)
- + [COVID-19 entry regulations](#) of Ecuador

VISA REQUIREMENTS

All citizens of the European Union, from Great Britain and Switzerland can enter Ecuador **without a pre-entry visa** for maximum **90 days**.

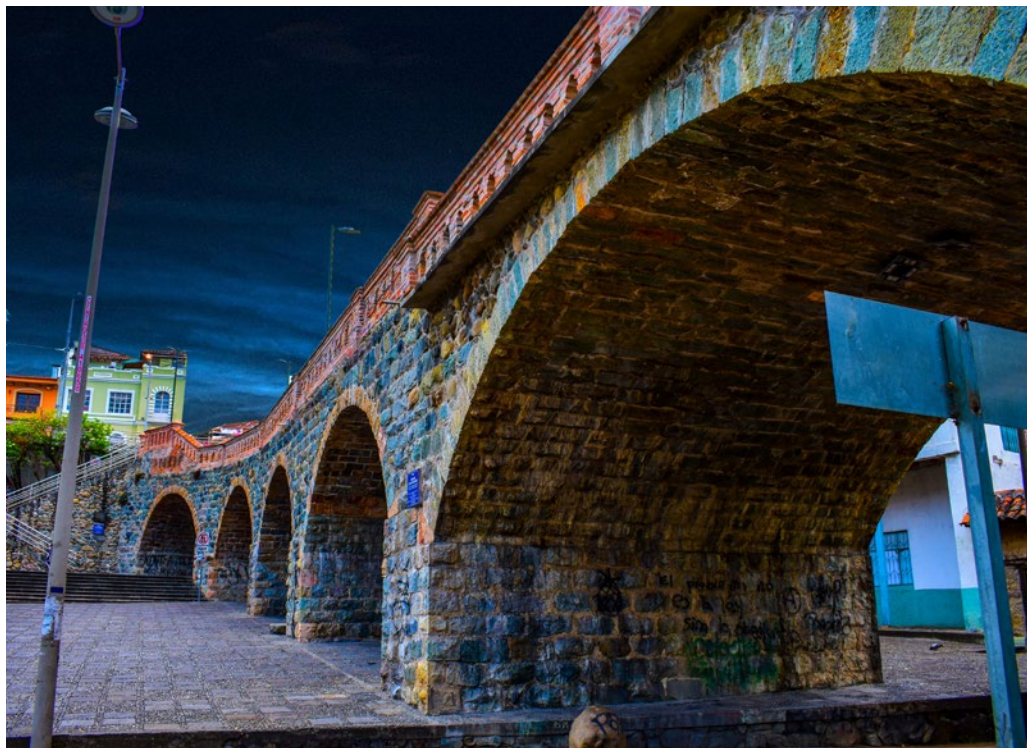
Further requirements:

- + **Passport** has to be valid for minimum another **6 months** at the time of arrival.
- + It is mandatory to have a **travel health insurance at arrival**, which is valid for the whole duration of the stay.

Galapagos Islands:

- + To visit the Galapagos-Islands it is mandatory to have a **return flight ticket** and a **hotel reservation** or invitation of a citizen of the Galapagos Islands for the whole duration of the stay.

It is mandatory to register with the Galapagos Government Council Office to obtain a **Transit Control Card (TCT)**, which must be kept until you leave the archipelago. The cost of the TCT is 20 US\$. Information on the procedure can be found [here](#).



CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Money & ATM

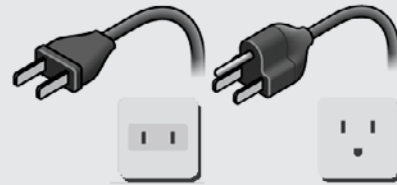
There are ATMs in every city and often even in small towns. Money can be changed in banks and exchange offices all over the country. The exchange rates are usually better in bigger cities

Internet

Most hotels and restaurants offer free Wifi. Local prepaid SIM cards are available at the airport and in many shops. Prepaid SIM cards are valid for 30 days and cost around 10 \$ with 2 GB data. To buy a local prepaid SIM card, a passport is needed.

Electricity

110 volts; travelers from EU countries need an adapter for Ecuador, which can be bought at the airport and in the bigger cities. Power breakdowns can happen during the dry season.



Drinking water

The tap water is not for drinking. It is recommended to use bottled water. A drinking bottle to refill, can avoid plastic waste.

Equipment/ Packing list

- + Passport and travel health insurance
- + Good sun protection
- + Hat and sunglasses
- + Warm clothes for higher altitudes
- + Comfortable trekking shoes
- + Rain jacket
- + Camera
- + Small binoculars
- + Backpack for daytrips
- + Travel socket adapter
- + Torch light
- + First-aid kit
- + Insect repellent

Opening hours

Opening hours vary a lot. While shopping malls and small kiosks are usually open 7 days a week from 9am to 10pm Shops, the usual opening hours of other shops are Monday to Friday 9am to 7pm. Banks and authorities are open from 9am to 4pm. Opening hours of most museums is Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

Emergency numbers

Ambulance: 131
Fire brigade: 102

Police: 101
Emergency number: 911

Health & Vaccination

[Detailed medical information for a trip to Ecuador](#)

COVID-19 regulations

The [interactive map by IATA](#) gives information about the current COVID-19 related entry requirements for tourists in Ecuador.

If you would like to learn more about our partner companies from Ecuador get in touch with us.
We will connect you with carefully screened tourism companies.

CONTACT

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