

# Ecuador

## Information for applicants

### Ecuador

Ecuador derives its name from the equator, which runs about 15 km north of the capital Quito. The country is bordered to the north by Colombia, to the south and east by Peru, and to the west by the Pacific Ocean. With a population of approximately 16 million and a territory of 283,560 km<sup>2</sup>, Ecuador is a little larger than the United Kingdom. Quito is home to some 2.6 million residents, while Guayaquil on the Pacific coast is the largest city, with a population of about 2.7 million. Ecuador's territory also includes the world-famous Galápagos Islands.

### Climate and sights

The nation is split into three regions by the Andes: the coast (*Costa*), the Andes mountain range (*Sierra*) and the Amazon (*Oriente*). The climate is warm, tropical or sub-tropical, with marked differences between the Andes region and the coast.

Ecuador is one of the world's most biodiverse countries, boasting over 20,000 plant species (compared with 17,000 for the whole of North America) and around 1,500 bird species (twice as many as on the European continent).

Quito's old town, featuring many buildings from the Spanish colonial era, is one of the best-preserved historic districts in Latin America. The Church of Saint Francis, the Jesuit church and the Basilica of the National Vow are just some of the many sights.

A visit to the Galápagos Islands is an absolute must.

### Medical care

Medical care is of a good standard in the major cities. The private hospitals are on a par with European ones and treatment costs are significantly lower than in Europe in most cases.

### Accommodation and quality of life

There is a decent range of accommodation on offer in Quito. Attractive and furnished apartments cost between USD 600 and USD 2,000 per month, depending on size, location and features.

### Shops and services

Living costs in Ecuador are lower than in Europe. However, enjoying a European standard of living in the major cities is significantly more expensive due to high import duties on international goods. There are several modern shopping centres in northern Quito. Popular malls include El Jardín in the north of central Quito, Quicentro Shopping and Scala Shopping Center in Cumbayá Valley.

The official currency and tender is the US dollar, and credit cards are almost universally accepted. You can use your debit card to withdraw cash from most ATM machines.

## Accompanying partners and children

Accompanying partners can apply for a work visa, provided they have their seconded status.

**Schools and childcare:** Students at the German School in Quito can complete the Hauptschule or Realschule certificate, or the higher education entry qualifications entitling them to study at a university in Germany. The school has a kindergarten with a pre-school admitting children from four years of age. There are also a number of prestigious private international schools.

## Find out more

<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/ausserpolitik/laenderinformationen/ecuador-node>

<https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/399.html>

**Published by:**  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices  
Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

Street address  
Postcode, town/city, country  
T +49 61 96 79-0  
F +49 61 96 79-11 15  
E [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)

Eschborn 2017

**Responsible/Editor, etc.**  
Ulrich Heise, Eschborn

**URL links:**  
The providers of linked external websites are always responsible for their own content. GIZ explicitly disassociates itself from all such content.

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.