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# The Rough Guide To Ecuador & The Galápagos Islands (Rough Guide To Ecuador & The Galapagos Islands)



## Synopsis

The Rough Guide to Ecuador & the Galápagos Islands is the definitive travel guide to this captivating country. In-depth coverage of Ecuador's incomparable wildlife, vibrant indigenous cultures, and awe-inspiring scenery takes you to the most rewarding spots—from the rain forest to the heights of the Andes to glorious, laid-back beach resorts—and stunning color photography brings the land to life on the pages. Discover Ecuador's highlights, with expert advice on exploring the best colonial cities, participating in ancient festivals, scaling volcanoes and learning Spanish, straddling the Equator, and swimming with turtles, penguins, sea lions, and even sharks. This guidebook includes extensive coverage of the capital, Quito, and the Galápagos Islands, the world's premier wildlife destination. Easy-to-use maps, reliable advice on how to get around, and insider reviews of the best hotels, restaurants, bars, clubs, and shops for all budgets ensure that you won't miss a thing. Make the most of your time with The Rough Guide to Ecuador & the Galápagos Islands. Series Overview: For more than thirty years, adventurous travelers have turned to Rough Guides for up-to-date and intuitive information from expert authors. With opinionated and lively writing, honest reviews, and a strong cultural background, Rough Guides travel books bring more than 200 destinations to life. Visit [RoughGuides.com](http://RoughGuides.com) to learn more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Excellent guide to Ecuador. Well written, detailed, great pictures. Written from knowledgeable, well travelled authors. Lots of insights, tips and shortcuts. Easy read. Great reference guide.

Great guide pretrip. We shall see when we get there, but so far have gleaned some valuable info in preparing to go.

Used it for a month of travel throughout Ecuador. It was great to have along. Going back in the fall and I now have a better idea how to get the most use out of this guide.

Not a very good book to have in Ecuador. Given that this book was recently published (That's why I picked it), it has inaccurate information and leaves out other essential information. For example, the best restaurant in Banos (by far) isn't listed (Cafe Hood). Overall, poor overview of the country. For Quito, the authors state it's a must to be very careful, especially because there have been a growing number of armed robberies of tourists. HUH?? How can that be since ALL firearms are outlawed in the country, and even the police carry only tasers. Speaking of police, they are on virtually every street corner throughout the city. I never felt safer in a large city. Also, the authors neglect to say that in the north of the country, virtually no business (including small hotels) DO NOT accept credit cards. So don't forget your ATM card, and carry cash. You don't need small bills- \$20 bills are fine because Ecuador uses the dollar, and everyone has change (in dollars). Another important omission: The buses. The buses are cheap, absolutely, but understand that when you buy a bus ticket, you are buying a SPECIFIC seat on a SPECIFIC bus. If you miss that bus, you are out the money you spent for the ticket. Why wasn't this explained? Pretty important, I think. Also, bring good earphones/headphones because most buses will be blasting a movie. And I ain't kidding when I say "blasting." I'm not going to point out every inaccuracy in this book, but I do need to warn prospective tourists to stay as far away as possible from Guayaquil. The book's description of this city is a terrific mini-novel. The city is one of the biggest dumps I've ever visited. It is incredibly hot, humid and muggy, and stinks. It literally stinks because every street and virtually every street corner has piles of trash and garbage, and the stench is unbearable. Also, the people here are unlike people in the rest of the country. They are dirty, curt and unfriendly. The Malecon, which the authors rave about, is nothing but an average walkway overlooking a dirty, gray and depressing "river." The river also smells. One of the places this book calls "great value" is an absolute dump. This would be the Hostal Linda, with rooms with no windows, rude counter staff and plopped in the middle of garbage central. The price given for this dump is also inaccurate. Understand, I am only dissing the book, not the country. Ecuador is absolutely wonderful, cheap and enjoyable, and the people are incredibly friendly. Just stay away from Guayaquil and buy another book. I believe the Lonely Planet guide is far more accurate. No, I'm not a shill for Lonely Planet, I just can't believe some of the crap people

write in travel books.

Best guide I've seen in 2 years of research on Ecuador. Has tons of important info other guides don't mention and great suggestions about what's really good to see, not just the same rehashing of popular sites.

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