



The Republic of Ecuador

(GMT - 5 hours)

Geographic overview: Located between Colombia and Peru on the west coast of South America. For a small country, Ecuador has many facets. They include Andean peaks, tropical rainforests and 600 miles off the coast, the volcanic Galapagos islands, home to the animals and birds whose evolutionary adaptations shaped Charles Darwin's theories.

Area: 283,560 sq km (109,000 sq miles) including the Galapagos Islands

Capital City: Quito

Language(s): Spanish (official), Amerindian languages (especially Quechua)

People: Mestizo (60%), Indigenous (20%), Caucasian (15%), Black (5%)

Religion(s): Roman Catholic (95%)

Currency: US Dollar (USD) (Since September 2000)

Major political parties: Partido Social Cristiano (PSC), Partido Sociedad Patriótica (PSP), PRIAN (Alvaro Noboa's party), Democrática Popular (DP), Partido Roldista Ecuatoriano (PRE), Izquierda Democrática (ID), Pachakuti.

Government: Presidential system of democracy with presidential elections held every four years. The 1978 constitution (approved by referendum) provides for an executive and a legislature consisting of a unicameral 100-member Congress.

International Direct Dialling Codes

Ecuador 00 593; Quito 00 593 2; Guayaquil 00 593 4

Fixed Date National Holidays

1 January, 1 May, 23 May, 24 July, 10 August, 9 October, 12 October, 3 November, 6 December (Quito), 25 December

Variable Date National Holidays

Easter

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British Ecuadorian Chamber of Commerce (Quito, Ecuador)

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Ecuador Newspapers

<http://www.elcomercio.com> - El Comercio
<http://www.elmercurio.com.ec> - El Mercurio
<http://www.eluniverso.com> - El Universo
<http://www.hoy.com.ec/home.htm> - Diario Hoy
<http://www.elfinanciero.com/> - El Financiero
<http://www.telegrafo.com.ec/default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1> – El
Telégrafo
<http://www.lahora.com.ec/frontEnd/main.php?idRegional=1> – La Hora
<http://www.eltiempo.com.ec/> - El Tiempo

Ecuador – other useful contacts

<http://www.bce.fin.ec/> - _ Central Bank of Ecuador
<http://www.mmrree.gov.ec/> - Ministry of Exterior Relations, Commerce and Integration
<http://www.inec.gov.ec/default.asp> - National Institute of Statistics and Census