

OIE Information & Travel Cheat Sheet

Country:

Ecuador (EC)

Sex & Dating

- Machismo is less prevalent now but is still a part of everyday life, catcalling & harassment
- Predominantly Roman Catholic country, and urban areas / rural can be quite different
- Communication typically involves indirectness, with limited personal space

Alcohol & Drugs

- Legal age to buy/consume alcohol: 18
 - Drinking in public is generally illegal in large cities
- Cannabis (marijuana) recreational use is generally illegal
 - Medicinal use is legal

LGBTQIA+ Culture

- EC has legalized same-sex marriages
 - Stigmatized in many areas, especially in regards to trans rights
- Quito and Guayaquil have queer spaces, but rural areas typically do not
- Resources
 - Rainbow SIG
 - Diversity Abroad
 - OutRight Action International

Cultural Customs and Norms

- Population: 17 million
- Currency: USD
- Official Language: Spanish
 - Indigenous languages (such as Kichwa and Shuar) are utilized more predominantly in rural areas
- "Usted" is expected in formal situations, communal situations use "tú"
- Common to greet others with a cheek kiss

Resources

Country-wide: 101 Police / 102 Fire / 131 Ambulance

Guayaquil: 103 Traffic Police / 112 Emergency

+593 Country code

- International SOS
 - DU Membership Number: 11BSGC000067
 - Phone: 215.942.8478 / Website: [internationalsos.com](https://www.internationalsos.com)
- Student Support Program (My SSP): 24/7 Mental Health Support
- U.S. Department of State Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): travel.state.gov



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This is meant to be a helpful resource for students in selecting, understanding, and preparing for their time abroad. There is no intent to discriminate, generalize or stereotype the country or culture with the information provided here. A variety of sources, both formal and informal, were researched to gather this information.