



**2nd Meeting of the ITU Centres of Excellence (CoE)  
Steering Committee for the Americas Region  
From 11 to 12 December 2019  
Quito, Ecuador**



## **Informative Note**

### **1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **1.1. About Ecuador:**

Ecuador is the second smallest country in South America. Nevertheless, it has a diversity of landscapes to explore. The Pacific Coast stretches along the western edge of Ecuador, while the Highlands or the "Sierra" is centralized in the country, stretching all the way from the North to the South.



The East is mainly composed of Amazonian rainforest; and, the "Island Region" contains the Galapagos Islands, volcanic islands located in the Pacific Ocean about 960 kilometres from the Ecuadorian coast. The unique wildlife located in the archipelago inspired the British naturalist Charles Darwin in the development of the theory of evolution.

Due to the proximity of the country with the Equator and its geographic diversity, Ecuador is an ideal destination for lovers of nature, orchids and exotic birds and jungle plants, strange insects, wastelands hit by the wind, tropical forests and intrepid animals.

Due to the proximity of the country with the Equator and its geographic diversity, Ecuador is an ideal destination for nature lovers, with orchids and exotic birds, jungle plants and strange insects, moorlands hit by the wind, tropical forests and intrepid animals.

In addition to the natural richness, Ecuador has a recognized cultural heritage deriving mainly from the traditions and history of their diverse peoples and nationalities, an integral part of this Andean country.

As a result of its small size (256.370 square kilometres), all its regions can be easily visited in a short period of time. In fact, there is a saying that in Ecuador "you can see the sunrise on the Amazon, have lunch in the Andes and end the day watching the sunset over the Pacific."

Ecuador is a country located in the West of South America, between Colombia and Peru. Its highest point is the Chimborazo remaining 6.267 MASL (meters above sea level), making the highest point on the sea in the world.

Almost half of the population is concentrated in the interior of the basins and Andean valleys, with large concentrations also found in the western coastal part; rainforests remain sparsely populated.

Natural hazards faced by Ecuador are due to volcanism: volcanic activity concentrated along the Andean Mountains; Sangay volcano (5,230 meters) that entered into eruption in 2010, is the most active volcano of continental Ecuador; other volcanoes with historical activity in the Andes are: Antisana, Cayambe, Chacana, Cotopaxi, Guagua Pichincha, Reventador, Sumaco and Tungurahua; Fernandina (1,476 m.).

## 1.2 The Capital City

The Metropolitan District of Quito is the capital of the Republic of Ecuador. It is a metropolis in constant growth, where modern structures merge with mestizo and colonial heritage, and where residents and foreign visitors always find a place to work, enjoy and remember.

Quito is considered a "shrine of art in America" by its beauty, its traditions and corners of mysticism and legends. Due to its unique characteristics, it was the first city to be declared "Cultural heritage of humanity" by UNESCO in 1978.

## 1.3 Climate

Quito is located in the Andean mountains range at 2.800 meters above sea level, has a temperature between 10 ° C and 25 ° C (50 ° F and 77 ° F), with large climatic contrasts that allow locals and visitors to enjoy the four seasons of the year in a single day. In addition, the city is surrounded by Pichincha, Cotopaxi, Antisana, and Cayambe volcanoes that form a majestic Andean contour.

## 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY INTO ECUADOR

Visitors entering Ecuador do not need visa for stays up to 90 days as a tourist. The requirements are detailed below:

- Valid passport (6 months of validity)
- National or state-issued ID card for South American Citizens
- Countries whose citizens must obtain visa prior to entry into Ecuador: China (red passport), Afganistan, Bangladesh, Eritrea, Etiopia, Kenia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistán, Somalia, Senegal, Cuba.

Source: <https://www.ministeriointerior.gob.ec/ciudadanos-de-11-paises-requieren-de-visa-para-ingresar-a-ecuador/>

Yellow fever vaccination is recommended to all travelers (national and international) whose itineraries include provinces of the Ecuadorian Amazon (Pastaza, Napo, Orellana, Sucumbios, Zamora Chinchipe and Morona Santiago).

Visit the following link for more information to enter into Ecuador:  
<https://www.ministeriointerior.gob.ec/requisitos-para-ingresar-a-ecuador/>

### 3. VENUE

The 2nd Meeting of the ITU Centres of Excellence (CoE) Steering Committee for the Americas Region will be held from 11 to 12 December 2019 in the meeting room of “Centro Regional de la Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja in Quito.

Address: Av. 6 de Diciembre N31-50, Quito-170517

### 4. RECOMMENDED HOTELS:

Hotel	Address	Single Room (USD) (Por Persona, Por noche)	Double Room (USD) (Por Persona, Por noche)
HOTEL DANN CARLTON	Av. República de El Salvador N34-377 e Irlanda. Contacto: Srta. Belén Salas Tel.: +593 9 99870 754 +593 2 397 2600 Ext.: 5103 <b>E-Mail:</b> belen.salasm@danncarltonquito.com/ <b>Web Page:</b> <a href="http://www.danncarltonquito.com">www.danncarltonquito.com</a>	118.00 + Tax	118.00 + Tax
HOTEL IBIS	Av. Diego de Almagro E8-18 y Bell horizonte. Contacto: Srta. Daniela Salazar Tel.: +593 9 82856 111 +593 5 000 800 Ext.: 1341 <b>E-Mail:</b> ventas.quito@accor.com <b>Web Page:</b> <a href="https://hotelibisquito.com-quito.com/">https://hotelibisquito.com-quito.com/</a>	67.20 + Tax	72.80 + Tax
HOTEL BEST WESTERN	Av. Shyris N37-53 y Naciones Unidas. Contacto: Andrea Jaramillo Tel.: +593 2 244 5305 <b>E-Mail:</b> <a href="mailto:recepcion@bwplazaquito.ec">recepcion@bwplazaquito.ec</a> <b>Web Page:</b> <a href="http://www.bwplazahotel.com/">http://www.bwplazahotel.com/</a>	70.00 + Tax	85.00 + Tax
HOTEL JW MARRIOT	Av. Orellana 1172 y Av. Amazonas <b>Contacto:</b> Maria Elena Almeida <b>Tel.:</b> +593 2 297 2000 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:maria.almeida@marriott.com">maria.almeida@marriott.com</a> <b>web:</b> <a href="https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/uiodt-jw-marriott-hotel-quito/">https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/uiodt-jw-marriott-hotel-quito/</a>	112.00 + (breakfast not included) + Tax	112.00 + (breakfast not included) + Tax
HOTEL SHERATON	Av. República de El Salvador y Naciones Unidas <b>Contacto:</b> Valeria Córdova <b>Tel.:</b> +593 9 979 18259 +593 2 2297 9200 <b>E-Mail:</b> valeria.cordova@sheratonquito.com <b>Web:</b> <a href="https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/uiodt-jw-marriott-hotel-quito/">https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/uiodt-jw-marriott-hotel-quito/</a> <a href="#">Precio</a>	119 + Tax	139 + Tax

## 5. ELECTRICITY

Plugs are type A and B. Voltage is 110v and frequency is 60 Hz.

Type A: used mainly in North and Central America, China and Japan. This one only functions with type A socket.

Type B: like type A, but with an additional leg to ground. The socket also works with type A plug.



Type A: This socket has no alternative plugs

Type B: This socket also works with plug A

## 6. CURRENCY



**The official currency of Ecuador is the American dollar (USD).**

The official exchange rate fluctuates daily depending on the exchange market. Currency changes can be made in banks or authorized exchange houses in airports and hotels. The US dollar became the official currency of Ecuador in 2001.

All major credit cards are accepted in Ecuador, and the city has a good number of automated teller machines (ATM). Credit cards, such as MasterCard, Visa, Diners Club, American Express and Discover are accepted in most hotels, restaurants and stores. Banks opening hours vary from one to another. Usual hours are from 9:00 to 16:00; there are banks that open Saturdays.

## 7. TIME ZONE

Ecuador is located in the Eastern Time Zone (UTC/GMT - 5 hours), sometimes (UTC-6).

## 8. TIPS

Tipping is common in Ecuador like other parts of the world. Except for restaurants and hotels, where there is a charge of 10% for services plus taxes, in other services is not legally binding; however, any person who provides a personal service, as guide, crew, drivers, among others, always expect a tip which will be the reflection of the satisfaction of services received. An additional tipping is common in restaurants other than 10% charged on the bill.

## 9. TAXIS

Taxis in Quito are colored yellow and have a sign of the Metropolitan Transit Agency (AMT). The minimum fee is US\$ 1.50 and overnight increases to US\$1.75.

There are pre-settled rates from the airport to the Centre of Quito, US\$25.00 approximately

## 10. SHOPPING

Ecuador is known for the high quality and variety of the handicrafts, among which sculptures, paintings, ceramics, embroidery and upholstery stand out, all made by hand as well as their straw hats or Panama hat, and considered a tradition made art. These unique products are available in craft markets and shops.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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