



Important information and checklist for your trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

Safety and Security

Places with large numbers of visitors in Ecuador are usually safe and there shouldn't be any safety or security issues. That being said, we strongly advise travellers to not try their luck and follow their instincts when their safety is concerned. We suggest that you use the hotel's safe to store your expensive jewellery or better, leave them at home instead. You should always bring sufficient cash along with you. Bring a copy of your passport and store the rest of your cash as well as the original passport in the safe provided by the hotel.

If possible, you should book a taxi through the hotel you are staying or from a restaurant. You can also discuss your plans and excursions with our Galapagos PRO tour guides when you meet them. They will provide you with important tips regarding your safety and organise your transport for you. In case of an emergency, you can contact our staff on site by the following contact details.

Galapagos PRO emergency number for Ecuador
(+593) (0) 999800239 oder (+593) (0) 992928273

Galapagos PRO emergency number for Galapagos Islands (Santa Cruz)
Karin Kugele +593 (0) 987590736 oder +593 (0) 997067508

Medicine and Health

Please take note of the following travel advice for Ecuador from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/ecuador>

There are doctors, two hospitals and a medical centre on the Galapagos Islands. According to the regulations, there must be at least one doctor on board the cruise. We highly recommend you to purchase a private travel insurance.

Please note that tap water is not suitable for drinking. All hotels provide distilled water and we advise you to bring your own refillable water bottle.

Important documents

- Passport (with at least 6 months validity) and an additional copy
- Vaccination certificate (if available)

Time Zones

UTC -6 Galapagos Islands

UTC -5 Ecuador

Payment methods

Currency: The currency in Ecuador is US dollars. Ecuador has their own Ecuadorian centavo coins. However, we suggest that you have sufficient small change in US dollars (1 or 5 USD). The Ecuadorian centavo coin is not usable outside Ecuador.

Credit and debit cards: Visa card, MasterCard or debit cards are largely accepted and can be used at the ATMs. Please note that the American Express card is only accepted in large hotels and mostly not accepted at the Galapagos Islands.

Additional expenses: Prices in the Galapagos Islands are relatively affordable while prices in Ecuador are slightly lower. However, alcohol and sunscreen can be rather expensive in Ecuador.

Tipping: The nature tour guides do expect tips from tourists. Normally, the cruise would inform and advise travelers on the appropriate amount of tips to give. However, the final amount should be decided by you. Do bring along sufficient cash for tipping.

Please be aware that there are no ATMs on Isabela Island. To ensure that you have sufficient cash. Payments made with credit cards are available in some hotels, restaurants and travel agents. ATMs are available on other islands.

Entrance fee: 20 USD must be paid in Quito/Guayaquil for the INGALA Transit Control Card. Each person also has to pay 100 USD for the entrance fee to the Galapagos National park (50 USD for children under 12). This amount must be paid in cash upon arrival at the Baltra airport in San Cristóbal Island.

Baggage allowance

Please note that the baggage allowance for international flights depends on the category you book (first class, business, economy premium, economy). Baggage allowance for flights from Ecuador to the Galapagos Islands is 20 kg (not including the hand carry). The rest of your luggage which you do not need for your trip to the Galapagos Islands can be stored in the hotel in Quito. Please note that when you fly with EMETEBE for inter-island flights, the baggage limit is 11 kg including hand carry. Both check-in and hand carry luggage will be weighed before boarding. If your luggage is overweight, every extra pound cost 1.50 USD.

Checklist

- T-Shirts, both long and short sleeved blouses and shirts
- Short or long pants
- Lightweight sports shoes (hiking sandals are also good for excursions)
- Bandana, hat or cap for sun protection.
- Sunblock with LSF
- Insect repellent

(Please note that the Galapagos Wasp on Isabela Island is attracted to yellow clothing and even to insect repellent. Therefore we suggest you wear anything besides yellow and not use insect repellent while on an excursion to Isabela Island)

- Small backpack for daily use (preferably waterproof)
- Water Bottle if necessary
- Windbreaker and a thin sweater
- Snorkeling equipment (We recommend you to bring your own snorkeling equipment if you have them, however, on-site rental is also possible)

- Swimsuit x 2
- Medication against seasickness (Medicine for seasickness is available for sale in Ecuador at the airport)
- Medicine and basic first aid kit (in case no doctors are close by)
- Cash (American Dollars, ATM is not available on Isabela Island)
- Comfortable hiking shoes for excursions
- Earplugs (for cruises)
- Camera / Video Camera / Underwater Camera
- Binoculars
- Sunglasses
- 2-Point Power adaptor 110 Voltage
- Toiletries (environmentally friendly if possible and please bring back your empty plastic bottles back to Ecuador)