



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Ecuador – Baños

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Quito
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Population:** ±20.000
- ✓ **Currency:** American dollar \$
- ✓ **Country code:** +593 (3)
- ✓ **Visa:** Fore some countries, [check!](#)
- ✓ **Alarm codes:** 911
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A / Hep-B / Typhoid / DTP / Yellow fever / Malaria prevention

History Recap Over 1 Drink

Tribes, hunter-gatherers → Formative period (developed society). 15th century: Inca invasion. Fierce resistance in Cuenca (Cañari tribe), Inca Civil War. 1531: Spanish arrived (Pizarro), defeat Inca's → Colonialisation. Slavery organized in *encomienda* system. 18th century: independence sentiments (Criollo). 1822: Sucre under Bolivar defeats Spanish at Battle of Pichincha: Ecuador part of independent Gran Colombia (with Colombia, Panama, Venezuela). 1830: Ecuador fully independent. 1941: Peru invades El Oro. 1948-60: Banana boom. 1963: President Monroy deposed by military junta: economic reforms → 1966: Interim government, Gomez. 1968: Valesco dictatorial power. 1972: Lara president, oil boom. 1979: Return to democracy. 1981: Border war with Peru → 1998: peace treaty signed. 1982: Falling oil prices: economic & social problems. Presidents to follow: Bucaram Ortiz – Alarcon – Mahuad Witt – Noboa – Gutierrez – Correa corruption. 2000: American \$ to beat inflation. 2004: Jail crisis (hostages to improve jail conditions). Wikileaks Assange: offered asylum in Ecuador.

Tourist Trap Alert

Off course, Baños is *very* touristy, but not in a disturbing way. Tourism handled well.

Travel Seasons

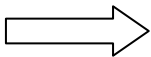
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dry												
Wet							wet	test				
Best												
Budget	Baños	has	tour	ism	year-	round						

Altitude: 1830m. There is always a bit of rain in Baños.

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Admire the Tungurahua volcano during an intense hike. Keep a distance, as it's very active.
- ☺ Check out the Nuestra Señora del Agua Santa church.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 Rent a bike for as little as \$5 and descend the Ruta de las Cascadas (waterfall route). 

👍 If you're into animals, check out [Zoologico S. Martin](#).

👍 Baños is the adventure sport capital. Many companies offer these activities, but [Natural Magic](#), [Geotours](#) & [MTS Adventure](#) have the best reviews.

- ➔ Rafting
- ➔ Bungee-jumping
- ➔ Quad-riding (ATV) & dirt-bikes
- ➔ Canyoning
- ➔ Paragliding
- ➔ Ziplining / canopy
- ➔ Kayaking & rock-climbing: advanced.

👍 Go up to La Casa del Arbol for swing-pictures & don't skip the cheap Baños thermal baths.

Budget Bites

⌘ El Mercado: Cheap fruit, veggies and meals... and a sneak-peak in Ecuadorian culture.

⌘ Streetfood is dirt cheap. Tasty in Ecuador: Carne en polito, chuzos, pinchos (skewers), tamales, humitas, choclo con queso, churrasco, fritada (pork), llapingachos. Do try morocho!

⌘ Splurge at Casa Hood, Martinez y Eloy Alfaro.

Festivals

⊛ Nuestra Señora del Agua Santa: Religious, Oct.

⊛ Independence Day: 3-Nov.

⊛ Baños anniversary: Folklore, 15/16-Dec.

Mama Said

⚠ Watch your bag, buy a lock. Smartphones are popular.

⚠ Take day buses. Night buses are more dangerous in sense of accidents, robberies and hijackings.

Next?

➔ In Ecuador: Cuenca, Galapagos, Quito.

➔ International destinations closeby: Peru, Colombia.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Great Hostels Backpackers Los Pinos, +59332741825, Ricardo Zurita Carrillo y Ambato.

❖ Hostal d' Mathias, +59332743203, Espejo y Maldonado.

❖ Go [Couchsurfing!](#)

Nights Best Spent

◆ Leprechaun Bar, Eloy Alfaro.

◆ Bar Cafe Jack Rock, Eloy Alfaro 541 y Ambato.

◆ Discoteca The Trebol, Av. Montalvo y 16 de Diciembre

Free-Riding?

■ Everything in this tiny town is perfectly walkable.

■ The surroundings are very bike-friendly and daily rentals are as cheap as \$5.

■ Taxi's are cheap, but completely unnecessary.

■ The bus station is located in the city centre. No need to buy tickets in advance, as the buses only go if they have enough people anyway. Better to show up at the moment you want to leave.

Tip: Download the free Triposo Ecuador app for an offline map, offline guide & more. Load Google Maps when you have wifi and leave it open, you will still be able to use it offline.

Knowledge I'm Taking Home

📖 Hable español: [Mayra Spanish School](#).

The Earth Becomes My Throne