



# Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

## Ecuador - Cuenca

### Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Quito
- ✓ **Language:** Spanish
- ✓ **Sq km:** 7059
- ✓ **Population:** ± 33.200
- ✓ **Currency:** American dollar \$
- ✓ **Country code:** +593 (6)
- ✓ **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.

### Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dry												
Wet												
Best												
Budget												

Altitude: 2560m.

### Bucket List For Free

- ☺ Take public transport to Cajas National Park. It is safe to hike without a guide and entrance is free. Go in the morning to avoid heavy rainfall and clouds.
- ☺ Free museums: [Museo Pumapungo](#), [Museo de las Conceptas](#), [Museo de Arte Moderno](#) & Prohibido Centro Cultural. Limited opening times in weekends
- ☺ Free people-watching at Plaza Alban Calderon.
- ☺ Admire the churches (from the outside to avoid fees): New & Old Cathedral, Carmen dela Asuncion.
- ☺ Chill along the Rio Tomebamba.

### Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 [Museo de la Culturas Aborigenes](#) & [Museo de las Conceptas](#).
- 👉 If you're into animals, check out [Zoologico Amaru](#).

### Tourist Trap Alert

- ☹ Unless you are disabled or over 70 years old, you can't be in the tourist bus without losing your dignity.
- ☺ Walk to Mirador de Turi for pleasant city-views.

## 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!

⌘ Self-catering at Super Aki, Comisariato Popular and Coral.

## Festivals

⚙ Independence Day: 3-Nov.

⚙ Pas del Niño parade: Christmas, 24-Dec.

⚙ Festival de Cine: Cinema, end-Nov.

## Mama Said

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

⚠ Be careful with taxi's: Check the orange number plate and municipally stamp. Better: Let your hotel call one.

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

## Next?

➔ In Ecuador: Loja, Galapagos, Baños.

➔ International destinations closeby: Peru, Colombia.

## The Earth Becomes My Throne

## Sleep Cheap

❖ Alternative Hostal, +59374084101, Av. Huayna Capac y Cacique Duma.

❖ Mallki Hostel, +59374044266, Aurelio Aguilar 1-34 y Av. Solano.

❖ Go [Couchsurfing!](#)

## Nights Best Spent

◆ Av. Larga has many clubs and disco's. For example: Zoom, Calle Larga y Mariano Cueva.

◆ La Mesa Salsoteca, Gran Colombia 3-36.

◆ IV y 20, 12 de Abril y Galápagos.

## ... Seated Down

◆ Teatro Sucre, Mariscal Sucre.

◆ Casa de la Cultura, Av. Sucre y Benigno Mali.

◆ Carlos Cueva Tamariz, Avenida 12 de Abril.

## Free-Riding?

■ The innercity of Cuenca is perfectly walkable.

■ Buses cost 25 cents (paid in coins) and will take you everywhere around town and outside the inner-city. Ask locals which one to take.

■ Cuenca is very bike-friendly. And your bike can be fixed for [free!](#)

■ Taxi's are cheap, but take your precautions. Foreigner = money, which can attract robbers. Check the orange number plate and municipally stamp.

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: [Simon Bolivar Language School](#).

📖 Dance the salsa & merengue: [Simon Bolivar](#) as well.

📖 Peruvian kitchen: La Warmi Cocina.