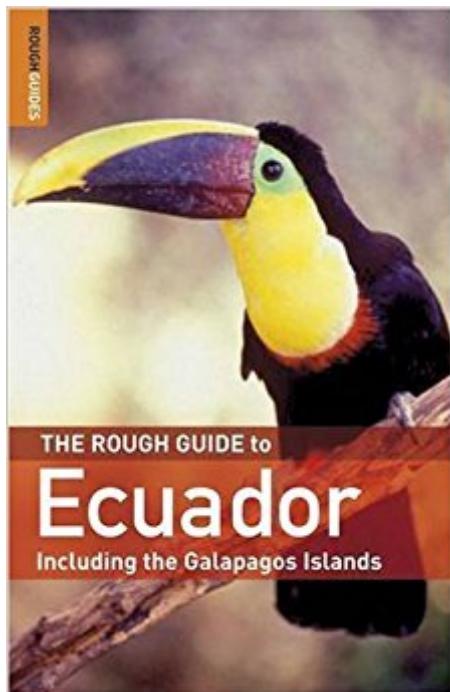


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# Rough Guide To Ecuador, Second Edition



## **Synopsis**

This guide to Ecuador examines this fascinating and dramatically diverse country and includes complete coverage of the unique Galapagos islands. A colour introduction gives an insight into the country's highlights from snorkelling in the Galapagos to exploring Quito's colonial churches. Detailed accounts are given of these attractions as well as all the others from the unspoiled jungle of the Oriente and the highland farms of the central sierra to partying at the capital's latest nightspots. There is also practical advice on a range of activities from learning Spanish in Quito to shopping in Otavalo's bustling markets or climbing Volcan Cotopaxi. There are up-to-the-minute reviews of the best places to stay, eat and drink, plus the pick of the cyber cafes and shops. Finally there are over 50 maps and background on Ecuador's history, culture, indigenous peoples and environmental issues.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Melissa Graham has travelled widely in the Andean countries and is co-author of The Rough Guide to Chile. Harry Ades was born in Oaxaca and has spent many years travelling through Central and South America. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Before traveling to Ecuador I bought the fourth edition Rough Guide paper version published in January 2010 and also the ninth edition Lonely Planet kindle version published in August 2012. They are both fine books but in my opinion, the Rough Guide, even being two and a half years older, is far superior, depending upon what you expect and how you use a guide. I use guides first

and foremost for general planning. Second, I use them to learn as much as I can about the history and culture of the country before I arrive. Third, when in country, I use the guide to help me to understand and appreciate what I am looking at. For example, when in a church, I appreciate information about architectural style and or points of interest. For all the above purposes, I find the Rough Guide better. It is more detailed and informative so I learn far more. This is perhaps to be expected as the Rough Guide is 576 pages versus only 408 pages for Lonely Planet. (The page lengths listed in 's book descriptions are both incorrect.) Historically, I have usually found the Rough Guide series to be superior to Lonely Planet. I guess another way of looking at it would be to say that due to how I use a guide book, and because my expectations are reasonable, one guide may be much older than another, perhaps even in the same series - depending on future editing, but still be superior to the newer. I rarely use guide books to get recommendations for restaurants and lodging. I tend to use internet sources for such things as well as personal recommendations, which I find more up to date and reliable. When guides go to print, the research being presented can already be up to a year old. Establishments disappear or their quality can improve, or more often, flag. This is often the case when an establishment gets recommended in a guide book. For whatever reason, this quite often leads to the establishment going downhill. For such purposes guides are already out of date the moment they are released, or certainly soon thereafter. The same is true for prices listed, which I usually take with a grain of salt. I find that the best restaurant recommendations usually come from asking someone at my lodging, who has been in town for a short while.

**Paper Book versus E-Book:** As much as I love and depend upon my kindle, I find the e-version of a guide more difficult and frustrating to use than an actual book, which is more user-friendly and preferable. It is so much easier to quickly page back and forth with the paper version. For example, going continually back and forth between a map and text on a different page, is infinitely easier. Also, reading a kindle map is at best, highly frustrating.

A warning to all: The tourist train from Alausi to the Nariz del Diablo, or Sibambe, is no longer the same experience it once was. The old cars have been replaced by modern cars. The price is now three times higher, \$25 instead of \$7.80. And, you can no longer ride on the roof. There is zero feeling of being in/on an old-time train. It is a terrible tourist trap to be avoided, not at all worth the time or the money. [Dear , why is it not possible to post reviews only under the specific edition being reviewed? It is absurd to include an irrelevant review published in 2001, for an edition published in 2010.]

I recently went on a 10-day trip to Ecuador with my parents. We traveled to a few different places, and this guide was extremely helpful everywhere we went. It is informative and up to date. We

traveled by bus and taxi so it was important that our guidebook have information on bus terminals/transport and maps. This book did the trick! Especially helpful were the sections on Cuenca and Guayaquil. We didn't make it up to the northern coastal area but this book also has great information on beaches, whether you want to go the touristy or more secluded route. It also has little gems you wouldn't otherwise know about. This book guided us over to Isla JambelÃƒÂ-, a favorite beach among the locals, accessible only by 25 ride in lancha. All in all, this book was always by my side!

The information is useful but not very detailed. Probably best for trip planning rather than a guide on the trip itself. Its major shortcoming is that there is no index as exists in printed versions so you have to serially search the content by region to find a specific item. My particular interests were not in the same sequence as the book was organized so a lot of time was expended finding a particular topic. The obvious convenience is you don't have to lug around a heavy book.

I spent a month in Ecuador, definitely not enough time to experience the entire country, but with this guide, I was able to experience more than I would have otherwise. The initial historical context set up by the book prepared me for what I would encounter in the country - I even loved that they touched, albeit briefly, on the tenuous race relations between Ecuadorian ethnic groups. As a black woman who loves to travel the world, I'm always curious to know how I will be perceived/what reception I will receive, so this tidbit of information was extremely helpful. I was participating in a language immersion program, so I stayed with a host family and thus can not speak to the hotel recommendations, however, I did have opportunity to visit a many of the recommended restaurants and night spots and I have to say, they were spot on with their selections. I think this book presented an authentic picture of Ecuador, covering the major regions quite adequately. I also had the Lonely Planet guidebook, but this was the one that rarely left my side and it is definitely part of the reason I had such an enjoyable time in Ecuador.

When traveling to a new place, I love learning about its history and culture before I go. The rough guide offered plenty of fascinating insights in that regard, so I felt like I had a good sense of Ecuador as a nation, and its pre-Spanish history, before I even arrived. I had no idea Quito was once part of the Inca Empire! I thought the Incas were just in Peru. A great guide that I highly recommend.

They should have mentioned that use of credit cards are limited esp. for budget travelers and not to

bring \$50 or \$100 bills as most businesses won't take them. Also good to know is that food is cheap, meals are monotonous and uninspired. Highly recommend the country and the book was useful

Great value. Great little reference book for anyone who is planning tour Ecuador.

I travelled with this book all over Ecuador and it was of great assistance. I was able to visit quite a few out of the way places thanks to its transportation information.

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