



Taking a break on a snow hike  
in the Andes

## ISV Checklist

### Have you turned in the following?

- Flight/Options Form and applicable Deposit(s)
- Copy of Passport
- Proof of Travel/Medical Insurance
- Project Preference Form  
(sent by Departure Date)
- Spanish Form  
(sent by Departure Date)

### Due dates link:

[www.isvonline.com/ecuedates.html](http://www.isvonline.com/ecuedates.html)

## Ecuador Quick Facts

- Its capital, Quito, has an elevation of 9,300, making it the second highest capital in the world (the first is La Paz in Bolivia at 11,913 feet).
- There are 23 islands in the Galapagos, and only 4 of them are inhabited: Santa Cruz, San Cristobal, Floreana (only 100 people), and Isabella.
- Ecuador's national football (soccer) team has its own fragrance called Dribbling (*totally true!*).

### Phrase of the day

¿Qué hora es?

"What time is it?"

The coastal region and the high Andean basins of what is

now Ecuador were inhabited by Indian tribes when the first Europeans reached the area's Pacific coast in 1526. The Inca Empire extended over the highland region to an area near to Quito. The first Spanish settlement in Ecuador was established in

1534 at Quito on the site of an important Inca town of the same name.

Expeditions initiated by Francisco Pizarro, who discovered and conquered Peru, founded the settlements and extended Spanish rule over the highland basins and coastal lowlands. The

Spanish colonial period lasted until 1822.



The first uprising against Spanish rule took place in 1809, but only in 1822 did Ecuador gain independence as part of the Federation of Gran Colombia, from which it withdrew in 1830. During the first century of its independence, Ecuador had changed its constitutions 13 times

and only few of its presidents had managed to serve a full four-year term.

Deteriorating economic performance in 1997-98 culminated in a severe economic and financial crisis in 1999. On January 9, 2000 the administration announced its intention to change its currency (Sucre) to adopt the U.S. dollar as the official currency of Ecuador to address the ongoing economic crisis.

In Nov. 2006 presidential run-off elections, Rafael Correa, a left-wing economist, won with 56.7% of the vote. Correa's platform was based on economic growth and rooting out corruption in the country's political system. In an April 2007 referendum, voters overwhelmingly approved his call to rewrite the Constitution.

## Check out these books & movies that take place in Ecuador!

*Savages* (1996) by Joe Kane is a travel book profiling the Huaorani tribe in the Amazon. *Fire from the Andes, Short Fiction by Women from Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru*, edited by Susan E. Benner, is a collection of stories by 24 women, mostly personal, revolving around peasants, the urban poor, and other marginalized members of society.



*Crónicas* (2004), starring John Leguizamo, is a thriller about a reporter traveling from Miami to Ecuador in pursuit of a serial killer known as the "Monster of Babahoyo." *Keepers of Eden* (2007) is a documentary by Yoram Porath about the industrial contamination affecting the Amazon Rain Forest. *Proof of Life* (2000) with Russel Crowe and Meg Ryan was actually filmed in Ecuador, though it takes place in Colombia.

## Project Preference Form

If you have not already submitted one, your Project Preference Form will be sent to you by Departure Date (100 days prior to your Departure). It will be due 75 days prior to your Departure. See the due dates link for exact dates.

## Spanish Lessons Form

If you are taking Spanish Lessons, and you have not already received your Spanish Lessons Form, you will be sent this Form 100 days prior to your Departure Date. It will be due 75 days prior to your Departure. See the due dates link for exact dates.