

Travel Advisory

Ecuador



Level

2

Exercise increased caution

Updated with information about the current state of emergency and crime information in the province of Guayas.

Exercise increased caution in Ecuador due to **civil unrest, crime, and kidnapping**. Some areas have increased risk. U.S. embassy and consulate personnel are prohibited from traveling to some areas due to increased risk. Read the entire Travel Advisory.

Reconsider travel to:

- Guayaquil **north** of Portete de Tarquí Avenue due to **crime**.
- El Oro province outside the cities of Huaquillas and Arenillas, due to **crime**.
- Los Rios province outside the cities of Quevedo, Quinsaloma, and Pueblo Viejo, due to **crime**.
- All areas south of Esmeraldas city in Esmeraldas province, due to **crime**.
- The provinces of Sucumbíos, Manabí, Santa Elena, and Santo Domingo due to **crime**.

Do not travel to:

- Guayaquil, **south** of Portete de Tarquí Avenue, due to **crime**.
- The cities of Huaquillas and Arenillas in the province of El Oro, due to **crime**.
- The cities of Quevedo, Quinsaloma, and Pueblo Viejo in the province of Los Rios, due to **crime**.
- The canton of Duran, in the province of Guayas, due to **crime**.
- Esmeraldas city and all areas north of Esmeraldas city in Esmeraldas province, due to **crime**.

Country Summary: Crime is a widespread problem in Ecuador. Violent crime, such as murder, assault, kidnapping, and armed robbery, is prevalent and widespread. The rate of violent crime is significantly higher in areas where transnational criminal organizations are concentrated.

Demonstrations occur frequently throughout the country, usually motivated by political and/or economic factors. Demonstrators routinely block local roads and major highways, often without prior notice. Past demonstrations have varied in duration, with some extending for several days or weeks. Blocked roads may significantly reduce access to public transportation, health services, and airports and may disrupt travel both within and between cities.

Outside of Ecuador's urban and semi-urban population centers, much of the country's territory is sparsely

populated and isolated. First responders' and U.S. government officials' access to rural and remote regions of the country is often extremely limited and can lead to significant delays in assistance to U.S. citizens in these areas.

Ongoing State of Emergency: On January 8, 2024, Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa declared a nationwide state of emergency for a period of 60 days. On March 7, 2024, President Noboa announced a 30-day extension to the state of emergency through April 8, 2024. U.S. citizens should be aware of several temporary rules applicable to residents and foreigners in Ecuador due to the state of emergency:

- There is a nationwide curfew in effect for the duration of the state of emergency. Curfew restrictions vary based on location. For specific guidance, please refer to [official curfew guidance](#) issued by the Government of Ecuador. There is an exception for individuals traveling to and from the airports with a scheduled flight during curfew hours. U.S. citizens traveling to or from the airport during curfew hours should carry their flight itinerary and passport.
- All foreign citizens entering the country via land border crossings from Colombia or Peru are required to present an apostilled certificate showing a lack of criminal record. See [Travel.State.Gov's Office of Authentications webpage](#) and [Criminal Records Checks webpage](#) for information on how to obtain a [criminal record check](#) and [apostille](#) from the United States. The U.S. Embassy and Consulate in Ecuador cannot assist citizens crossing a land border in obtaining the required documentation.
- For additional information and updates to the state of emergency, please track official communications from the Government of Ecuador.

Read the [country information page](#) for additional information on traveling to Ecuador.

If you decide to travel to Ecuador:

- Enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive Alerts and make it easier to locate you in an emergency.
- Follow the Department of State on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)
- Review the [Country Security Report](#) for Ecuador.
- Prepare a contingency plan for emergency situations. Review the [Traveler's Checklist](#).
- Visit the CDC page for the latest [Travel Health Information](#) related to your travel.

Level 4: Do Not Travel

Guayaquil, **south** of Portete de Tarquí Avenue, due to **crime**.

The cities of Huaquillas and Arenillas in the Province of El Oro, due to **crime**.

The cities of Quevedo, Quinsaloma, and Pueblo Viejo in the province of Los Rios, due to **crime**.

The canton of Duran, in the province of Guayas, due to **crime**.

Esmeraldas city and all areas north of Esmeraldas city in Esmeraldas province, due to **crime**.

Transnational criminal groups and local gangs regularly engage in violent criminal acts in these areas, including indiscriminate attacks without warning in public spaces. Violent crimes have included murder, targeted assassinations, armed robberies, bombings, kidnappings, and assaults, among others. Violence in these areas has steadily increased in frequency and brutality in recent months, posing an increased security risk to U.S. citizens. U.S. government personnel are prohibited from traveling to these areas without prior authorization. As a result, the U.S. government is limited in its ability to provide emergency services to U.S. citizens in these areas.

Level 3: Reconsider Travel

Guayaquil **north** of Portete de Tarquí Avenue, due to **crime**.

El Oro province outside the cities of Huaquillas and Arenillas, due to **crime**.

Los Rios province outside the cities of Quevedo, Quinsaloma, and Pueblo Viejo, due to **crime**.

All areas south of Esmeraldas city in Esmeraldas province, due to **crime**.

The provinces of Sucumbíos, Manabí, Santa Elena, and Santo Domingo, due to **crime**.

Transnational criminal groups and local gangs have sporadically engaged in violent criminal activity in these areas, with violence increasing in recent months. U.S. government personnel are directed to exercise extreme caution and maintain increased vigilance when traveling in and around these areas.

Visit our website for [Travel to High-Risk Areas](#).