

Health and Personal Security

The main health risk in Ecuadorian cities is from tap water, which sometimes may be unsafe to drink.

If you are travelling to coastal cities, it is advisable to take precautions against malaria and other tropical diseases.

In Ecuador, as in most countries, personal safety is a matter of prevention and precaution. Avoid certain areas, especially at night, and do not wear expensive jewellery or carry valuable objects. Business travellers should exercise good judgement and common sense when visiting the country.

Business Calls and Entertainment

Three to four business calls and a business lunch can be achieved during the working day if the meetings are taking place in centre town. Quito and Guayaquil are relatively small; however distance and at times hectic traffic, particularly at peak hours, make travelling time longer than in Canada. Manufacturing companies are located outside the centre of the city, hence the need to keep a taxi waiting and to allow sufficient time to travel between meetings.

It is convenient to have a day of unscheduled time at the end of a stay since new business leads may have occurred during discussions.

Business entertainment generally means lunch, after-hours cocktails or dinner. Good hotels, restaurants and lounges exist in Quito and Guayaquil, and private clubs are widely used for entertainment purposes.

Mail

Air mail from Canada takes at least 10 days to arrive and may take substantially longer. Reasonable amounts of literature may be sent through the mail by air.

Documents are sometimes sent by air freight or, preferably, air mail. In urgent cases, such as the presentation of costly proposals, documents are personally carried by a company representative.