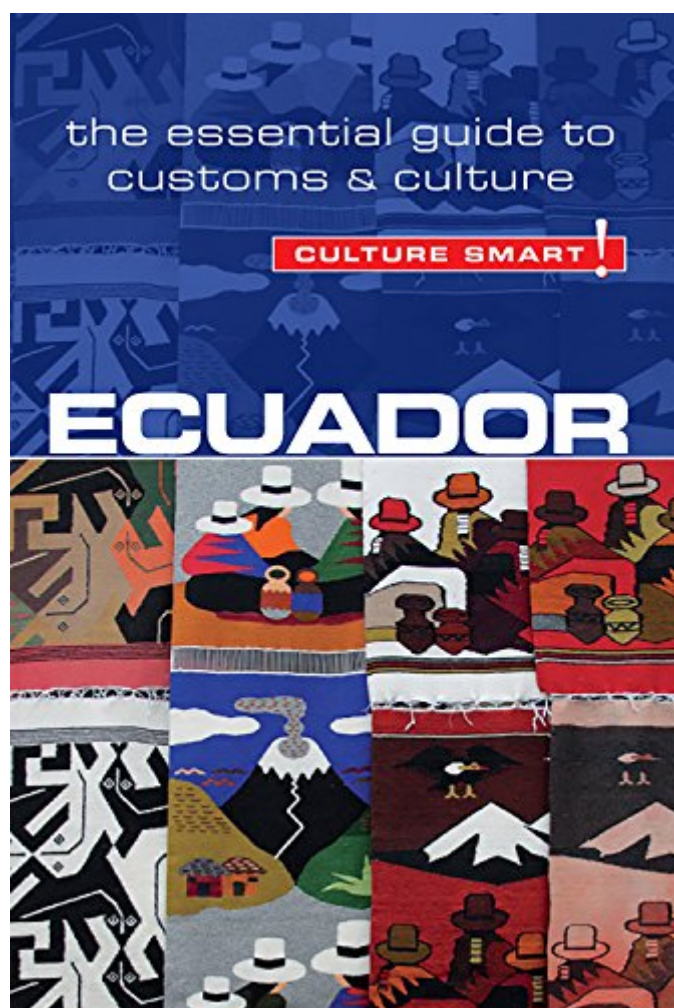


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Ecuador - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide To Customs & Culture



Synopsis

Squeezed between Colombia in the north and Peru in the south, Ecuador is named for its location on the Equator and has a landscape so varied that it has been described as a microcosm of every microclimate found in South America. This diversity makes it a magnet for tourists, mountain trekkers, volunteers, and increasing numbers of US retirees looking for a warm, culturally interesting, economical, and safe place to spend much of their time. The country is booming, thanks to high oil prices and investment in tourism, and a massive infrastructure program and the poverty-reduction measures launched by President Rafael Correa have endeared him to the poorest in society. Ecuador's multiethnic population reflects a unique blend of cultures, from traditionally dressed mountain peoples, whose ancestors inhabited their highland villages before the arrival of the Incas, to the Afro-Ecuadorians of Esmeraldas and the Chota Valley and the tribal peoples of the rain forest. The Ecuadorians are proud, friendly, hospitable, and hardworking, but to know them well the foreign visitor needs to understand the complex historical divisions between the highlands and the coast, and the rigid class and racial hierarchy that has shaped the country's history. Culture Smart! Ecuador takes you beyond the usual descriptions of where to go and what to see, and gives you an insider's view of the people, their history, their food, and their culture. Special sections are designed to help food lovers get the most out of the menu, assist business travelers to gain an edge on the competition, and show expats, volunteers, and visitors how to meet and get on well with the Ecuadorians, who are as diverse and varied as the country's amazing geography.

Book Information

File Size: 7723 KB

Print Length: 172 pages

Publisher: Kuperard; 1 edition (December 1, 2014)

Publication Date: December 1, 2014

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00J1HDNG6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #472,984 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #16

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Central & South America > South America > Ecuador & Galapagos Islands #23 inÂ Books > History > Americas > South America > Ecuador #82 inÂ Books > Travel > South America > Ecuador & Galapagos Islands

Customer Reviews

Very well done. Really elevated my knowledge of the country and its culture.

I can't express how important the information in this book has been to us, even after living here for over 4 years. It explains a lot! Much better information than other books we have read. Don't believe everything you read in some magazines...

Perfect for my study abroad college student.

I will be traveling to Ecuador soon, I bought this to know more about the culture. It gives a great summary of the history. It also points out interesting tips, it even made me laugh in the dating part. It's definitely a fun little book that gives some insight about Ecuador.

the author knows Ecuador very well. Good book on customs and protocols for interacting with Ecuadorians. It is a very useful book

Very well written, lots of helpful advice, and good sections on safety and health. Only thing missing is some useful maps showing how to get to the cities mentioned, and maybe some maps of the major cities.

Yes I thought it was great; better than some I've read for info

Good Ecuador 101 course, and primer preceding my visit. It was a great aid in planning my itinerary!

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