



This is one of the few destinations around the world where U.S. citizens can travel at the present time without having to quarantine.

## **GETTING INTO ECUADOR** (last update Sep. 10th 2021)

The National Emergency Operations Committee (COE) approved new guidelines for entering Ecuador by air. Travelers who carry a vaccination certificate, that proves they have received the complete COVID-19 vaccine doses, will be granted border entry without a negative PCR test. Travelers must complete a Health Declaration form

## **NEW ENTRY RULES FOR THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS (last update Sep. 10th 2021)**

The COE Resolution, approved that from **September 11th, 2021**

- All passengers from 16 years old entering to the Galapagos Islands must present a negative RT-PCR test, for Covid-19 detection, with a maximum validity of 72 hours prior to the trip, from sample collection day. Regardless of whether or not you have COVID 19 vaccines.
- Children from 2 until 16 years will need a negative RT-PCR for Covid-19 detection, with a maximum validity of 72 hours prior to the trip.
- Antigen tests are no longer accepted.

The tour operator or accommodation safe-passes, which used to be regulated by the Ministry of Tourism, will no longer be required; with the exception of the tour leader safe-pass established in the Tourist Guidance Regulations for the Government's Galapagos Special Council.

## **Travelers from Brazil and India**

Travelers arriving from Brazil and India, require a negative RT-PCR or antigen test result, with a maximum validity of 72 hours prior to their arrival to Ecuador. In addition, they must comply with a ten (10) day isolation period either at a residence, or at their choice of accommodation, covering their own expenses. The isolation period will not apply to those arriving from Brazil but presenting a Covid-19 vaccination certificate, with the same requirements mentioned in the above guidelines.



The new guidelines also consider procedures to be followed by people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 for more than a month, but continue to have a positive result in their PCR tests. These cases, as long as they do not present symptoms, will be granted entry to Ecuador if they present a Medical Certificate guaranteeing they are in good health. This document must be issued in the country of origin.

Regardless of the PCR result travelers carry with them, everyone must go through a sensor that detects temperatures above 37.5° C. Likewise, those who present symptoms related to coronavirus will be evaluated by the Ministry of Public Health personnel to determine if there is a possible contagion and need to perform a rapid antigen test. If it turns out positive, the person must undergo isolation for a period of ten days at home or any other type of chosen accommodation. If it turns out negative, travelers will be able to continue their journey.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PCR TEST UPON ARRIVAL?**

You can take a test at the airport. The local government will require you quarantine yourself at a hotel, hostel, motel or any accommodation establishment that is authorized until your negative test arrives – there are labs that can deliver the test within less than 24 hours. With the negative test in hand you must contact the local authorities so you are allowed to resume your travel plans.

For your convenience, you can take a PCR COVID-19 Test at MedicalVIP at the airport in Quito. The cost is \$80 and the results will be ready in 48 to 72 hours.

Here is a shortlist of other local laboratories we can recommend:

#### **Quito:**

- Ecuamerican – Phone: 0995613302 (offers testing in 24 hours and can take the test at your hotel)
- SISTEMAS MEDICOS DE LA USFQ – Phone: 0984534943
- HOSPITAL DE LOS VALLES – Phone: 0991941758

#### **Guayaquil:**

HOSPITAL LUIS VERNAZA – Phone: (04)2560300

PLENISALUD S.A. – Phone: 0987067952

LABORATORIO ALCIVAR / HIPERBARICA – Phone: (04)3711980

For a full list of official labs, please check:

[http://www.calidadsalud.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/24-09-2-Privados\\_compressed.pdf](http://www.calidadsalud.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/24-09-2-Privados_compressed.pdf)

**IMPORTANT ADVICE:** Get the Covid PCR test before traveling

If you test positive you will have to keep your quarantine for 14 days and necessary health care will be provided (at your expense), it is important to travel with health insurance (COVID treatment in Ecuador can raise a bill up to \$70000 USD)

We will try to keep this updated, but it is important you monitor official information at:

<https://www.gestionderiesgos.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/PROTOCOLO-PMU-COE-PIVAPSAP0-verion-2.0.pdf>

### **POST" COVID 19 TRAVELING AROUND ECUADOR (super brief details) :**

Ecuador has ended it's state of health emergency starting on September 13th 2020, with two specific restrictions to be restored: freedom of movement and freedom of association.

- National Curfew is lifted after the end of the state of emergency.
- Freedom to move around Ecuador at any time is back in place.
- Business meetings, press conferences and academic reunions of up to 25 people are allowed.



### **Measures that are maintained:**

- Mandatory use of a mask in public spaces and physical distancing.
- Public and municipal passenger transportation remains with 50% capacity.
- Conventional and executive taxis, mixed transport, tourism transport and light cargo can circulate every day without restrictions of their license plate number. (If renting a car, please ask your rental agent restrictions on private transport for each city).
- Food establishments can serve the public with 50% capacity.
- Activities in archaeological sites, zoos, museums, national parks (except Yasuní National Park), allow entrance of 30% of visitor capacity, for this, each institution must implement a protocol for this purpose best to book a trip in advance for each and ask our travel agent or tour operator.

### **GETTING INTO THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS**

**YES. You can visit the Galapagos Islands without going into quarantine.**

**Regardless of where you are from the it is possible to enter without a quarantine if you comply with the COVID19 travel restrictions mentioned above:**

- Identity document (identity card or passport)
- Roundtrip air ticket
- Traffic control card issued by the Governing Council of the Special Galapagos Regime (You can get it online at least 24 hours before your flight). Here is the official form to be filled:

[https://siiws.gobiernogalapagos.gob.ec/siicgg\\_web/](https://siiws.gobiernogalapagos.gob.ec/siicgg_web/)

- Traveler's Health Declaration Form to identify the places that will be in your stay. (This is given to you during your flight).
- For foreign nationals, compulsory health insurance is mandatory.

**Here is a short video of a traveler entering the Galapagos Islands following all the COVID Protocols:**

[https://youtu.be/kB8Sp\\_1FBSM](https://youtu.be/kB8Sp_1FBSM)

Disclosure: We try to keep this page up to date, but you should always double check official information at the Special Regimen of the Galapagos Government Council, Ministry of Tourism, and the Ministry of Public Health:

<https://www.gobiernogalapagos.gob.ec/wp-content/plugins/download-monitor/download.php?id=6624&force=0>



**You can review up to date details at:**

<https://www.gestionderiesgos.gob.ec/resoluciones-coe/> for specific resolutions for the most up to date information regarding curfew times and other restrictions.

**WE CAN HELP PLAN YOUR TRIP TO ECUADOR AND GALAPAGOS**

If you feel overwhelmed by all this information and want to enjoy a carefree vacation in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands we can help you. Our travel consultants are on call and up to date on all protocols and restrictions. Use our [Ecuador and Galapagos travel planner](#) or Contact us for advice.

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