

ECUADOR

Continent: South America

[Population](#): 17.89 million

[Life Expectancy \(at Birth\)](#): 77.7

[Governance System](#): Presidential Republic

Capital: Quito

[Area](#): 248,360 km²

Major Languages: Spanish, Quechua

[GDP \(2021\)](#): \$106,166 (US\$ Millions)

Select Global Rankings

[Human Development Index](#): 95

[Fragile States Index \(Inverted\)](#): 91

[Soft Power 30 rank](#): NR

[Human Freedom Index](#): 72

[World Happiness Ranking](#): 76

[Good Country Index](#): 92

Elite Sport System Rankings

[Global Cup Ranking](#): 72

[Per Capita Cup Ranking](#): NR

[Olympic Medals – Summer '20](#): 3 (60th)

[Olympic Medals – Winter '22](#): 0 (NR)

Football/World Cup Profile

[FIFA Region](#): CONMEBOL

[FIFA Ranking](#): 29

World Cup Appearances: 3

Best World Cup Performance(s): Round of 16 (2006)

Qualification: 4th CONMEBOL

[World Cup Group](#): A

Last World Cup Appearance:

ECUADOR in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Drake Kindred)

The Republic of Ecuador is a country in the northwest of South America and is known for being one of the most naturally diverse countries of the world. Ecuador is aptly named after the equator, the imaginary line that splits the Earth between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Ecuador's assortment of landscapes includes the Amazon Rainforest, the Andean Highlands and the Galapagos Islands off the coast in the Pacific Ocean. Due to this range of landscapes Ecuador has a range of climates that include the tropics and more temperate climates in mountainous regions. Ecuador was originally home to various Indigenous groups that would eventually form the Inca Empire and would later be colonized in the 16th century by Spain. Following Independence from the Spanish Empire in 1830 the state of Ecuador was formed with a diverse population reflective of both Empires.

Ecuador is a Republic where a popular vote occurs every four years. The president serves as head of state and government over this period and also appoints members of his cabinet. Meanwhile, legislative power is placed the National Assembly whose members are also elected to four-year terms. Since 1936, voting in Ecuador has been compulsory for all literate persons aged 18 to 36. Ecuador's constitution has been torn

up 20 times since it gained independence from Spanish colonization in 1830 with the latest being approved through a referendum in 2008. However, in 2015 the National Assembly enacted 15 amendments to the constitution including the removal of term limits for elected office. This was then reversed the same year to create a two-term limit for elected officials.

Ecuador is a member of several international organizations including the United Nations, Organization of American States, the World Trade Organization, and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization along with several others. Ecuador has also been elected to serve on the United Nations Security Council for a two-year term starting in 2023. However, since the presidency of Guillermo Lasso began Ecuador has been withdrawing from several key organizations including the Union of South American Nations in 2018, the Bolivarian Alliance of the Americas, and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in 2019. These changes highlight a period of transition as the country tries to repair damage to its democratic institutions following the previous presidency. Ecuador also faces serious human rights challenges including poor prison conditions with sprawling violence, the excessive use of force by armed personnel, limited access to reproductive health care for women, and limited protection of refugee rights. Despite recent improvements, allegations of corruption within the country's courts and institutions remain.

Ecuador remains a middle-income developing state as it relies heavily on its natural resources sector for its continued development through the export of major commodities like crude oil and bananas. The service sector also makes up almost half of Ecuador's gross domestic product with tourism and transportation being the main industries. As with other countries highly reliant on transport and tourism, Ecuador's economy suffered heavily during the COVID-19 pandemic. The response to the pandemic was further hampered by several allegations of corruption against government institutions and the informal nature of employment within the country.

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-ecuador/>

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/latamcaribbean/2020/11/18/ecuadors-mishandled-covid-19-health-crisis-has-also-had-serious-economic-educational-and-emotional-impacts/>

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/geography/countries/article/ecuador>

<https://www.hrw.org/americas/ecuador>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Ecuador/Trade#ref25853>