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YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL GUIDE

# WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT ECUADOR

Your Expert Guide For Great Times In Peru

YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL GUIDE

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# INTRODUCTION

Ecuador is a diverse country, known as the 'country of the four worlds' due to its location in the Amazon, highlands, coast, and overseas territory (Galapagos). Therefore, the best time to visit Ecuador depends on the region you wish to explore.

However, rest assured that, because the Machu Travel Peru team will provide you with the most comprehensive information to visit this magnificent country. Ecuador is known for its vibrant colors, diverse wildlife, breathtaking landscapes, and rich cultural traditions. Please, accompany us!

# BEST TIME TO VISIT ECUADOR



**As we mentioned, Ecuador is the country of the 4 worlds. It is because the country is located over the Amazon, Sierra, Coast, and overseas of a determined area of South America. That's why the best time to visit it will depend on what place you want to visit.** In this sense, the dry season of rainy absence, clear skies, and sunny days mean the best time to visit the Ecuadorian Mountain ranges. This goes from June to September.

On the other way, **our Ecuadorian tour guides recommend visiting the Amazon of Ecuador from October to November.**

**This period belongs to the dry season of low water levels and excellent conditions for observing natural life, the most active in this season.** Instead, the coast presents the rainy season, from January to March, the best time to visit its beautiful beaches. It is because you'll have sunny days, clear waters, fresh and humid breezes in the mornings, and rare fast rains in the afternoons.

**Galapagos don't have a special time to visit them.**

However, if you want our opinion, we can say from December to May is recommendable to visit the Galapagos. Why? Because the rains over the islands and their waters last very little and push the impurities of the sea to the bottom. It is enough reason to practice snorkeling, diving, and swimming and be able to appreciate the submarine life in a better form. Also, the tide is calm, and the island presents sunny days.



# WHAT IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT GALAPAGOS?

**We must not forget that the Galapagos islands are located in an overseas territory, at 1.000 km of Ecuadorian coasts. That means the Galapagos has its own climate conditions. Although it is true that islands reach their high tourism flow from June to September and from December to January. Due to mid-year and Christmas vacations in Europe and the United States. There are better times to visit them than these.**

**This is because from June to November the Galapagos climate is dry, without rain but coldest, with poor visibility for divers.**

**On the other hand, December to March is the best time to visit Galapagos. The islands present the warmest months with calm tides and gentle winds.** This offers major possibilities to see amazing marine life from cruise journeys and from the same Galapagos shores. While it is true during this period rains can occur, these are quick and drizzles during the afternoon.



# 4 ECUADORIAN REGIONS

Ecuador, or the 4-worlds country. This appellation is not in vain. The South American country is small but located over 4 totally different climate regions; the Amazon, the mountain ranges, the coast, and the overseas territory (Galapagos). For this reason, the best time to visit Ecuador will depend on what zone would you like to visit. Therefore, we will delve into the climate of each of these areas.

## A. THE AMAZON

The Ecuadorian Amazon is located in the extreme east of the country. It rains around the year, especially from December to March. When there is humidity, the volume of water in rivers increases, and the trails become flooded and muddy. While it is true that there is periodical flooding of forests and footpaths, the visitors can sail on little boats by the swollen tributaries and enjoy the paradise landscapes and fresh weather. However, wildlife is more elusive and difficult to see in this season.

Therefore, in the dry season, specifically from October to November, you can take a walk by the jungle through its dry footpaths. Without hard rains, low water levels and excellent conditions for observing colorful birds and other active wildlife.

## B. THE ANDES

The Ecuadorian Andes are located between the Amazon and the coast. Although it is true that throughout the year, the Andes have hot, sunny days and cold nights, sudden rains can occur at any time. The months warmest and most humid used to go from December to March. But these are the least recommended to visit the Andes. Because these are full of hard rains, muddy roads, cloudy skies, and even hail, be aware hikers that this season is the least recommended for trekking or hiking. However, the dry season, especially from June to September (High tourism season) is the best to visit the Ecuadorian Andes. This is because the mountains and hills are green and full of life, without hard rains and cloudy skies.



### C. THE COAST

The coast is on the west of the country, bordering the Pacific Ocean. **Due to its Ecuadorian location, its beaches are usually warm and good ones to spend some days of tropical vacations around the year.** However, the weather will depend so much on the season in which you visit them. **From May end to November is the dry season and you can find fresh but muggy and cloudy weather on the beaches. On the other hand, from December to May beginnings you will find sunny and hot mornings with clear skies, perfect to enjoy the Ecuadorian waters.** Despite finding little and fast rains in the afternoons. For this reason, **the best time to visit the Ecuador coasts is in the rainy season.**

### D. THE GALAPAGOS

**Usually, the Galapagos weather has warm and sunny days around the year.** With some drizzles in the afternoons. However, **believe us or not, the rainy season is the best time to visit the Galapagos islands. Just as you read it! Although it is true from December to early May there are continuous and light rains in the afternoons,** then the days are completely blue, with sunny skies and fresh air. Also, the winds are light and the sea is calm, with an awesome transparency.

Allowing unforgettable views of the sealife from the balconies and terraces of the boats and yachts, besides the practice of bird watching. The rainy season is also suitable for practicing water sports such as swimming, diving, paddle surfing, snorkeling, and boat riding.





# THE DRY SEASON (JUNE TO SEPTEMBER)



**The dry season in Ecuador typically lasts from June to September and varies across the country's different regions, including the jungle, highlands, coast, and overseas territories like the Galapagos Islands.**

**During this time, the days are generally dry, sunny, clear, and bright, with a slight risk of drizzle in the afternoons.** This period also coincides with the mid-year vacation season in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe.

**For this reason, popular tourist destinations in Ecuador,** such as the Galapagos Islands, are often crowded with visitors.

# THE RAINY SEASON (OCTOBER TO MAY)

**The rainy season in Ecuador goes from October to May of each year. During this period, the weather is usually humid, with some months being wetter than others, such as April. The rains are of great intensity but of short duration, between 1 to 3 hours, and usually appear in the afternoons.**

**However, the days are sunny, with blue skies and fresh winds. As mentioned above, this season is the perfect time to visit the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador's main attraction. In addition, it coincides with Summer all over the world.**



# ECUADOR WEATHER MONTH BY MONTH

## 1. JANUARY (HAPPY NEW YEAR)

January is a very warm and humid month in the Ecuadorian Sierra. The new year brings many tourists at the beginning of the year, but the tourist flow usually drops from the middle to the end of the month and consequently, it is a good time to visit Ecuador without crowds of people.

## 2. FEBRUARY (FEWER TOURISTS)

The month is warmer and more humid than January. While it is true that February belongs to the rainy season, there is usually heavy but rapid rainfall in the afternoons, with the rest of the day being clear and bright. February is also a perfect month to visit Ecuador.

## 3. MARCH (HOLY WEEK)

March is known as the month with the second highest rainfall during the year in Ecuador. As we said before, the rains can be of great volume but of short duration in the afternoons. But March is also known as a hot month and usually coincides with Easter. Let's remember that Ecuador is a country with a Catholic majority. So you can find fantastic celebrations and traditions during this week in the country, with a lot of tourist flow as well.

## 4. APRIL (RAINIEST MONTH)

April is the rainiest month in Ecuador. However, it is also the warmest. As mentioned before, the rains are short period and only in the afternoons, the rest of the day is warm. If Easter week falls in this month, expect a lot of activity in the streets and many visitors as well.

### 5. MAY (RAINFALL BEGINS TO DECREASE)

In this month the rains begin to decrease, having cooler days. However, the warm temperature may persist. **May is perhaps the most advisable month to visit Ecuador since we are not in high season**, we will find fewer tourists and less rainfall.

### 6. JUNE (HIGH SEASON BEGINS)

**In June the weather is warm, with little rainfall and the temperature is more pleasant. So it is an excellent month to visit Ecuador.** This excellent weather makes June the starting point for the high season in the country. **So you will find more people in the tourist spots and the prices in hotels, restaurants, and travel agencies will start to get more expensive.** In the days around June 21, indigenous celebrations take place in the highlands, perfect to visit them.

### 7. JULY (MID-YEAR VACATION IN THE UNITED STATES)

**The mid-year vacation season begins in the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe. Therefore, more visitors are expected to visit tourist attractions.** The weather is dry and warm making it a perfect month to visit the Ecuadorian Sierra.

### 8. AUGUST (ECUADOR'S NATIONAL HOLIDAY)

On August 9 and 10, Ecuador celebrates its national holidays.





**Nationals take advantage of the holidays to travel around the country.** This coupled with the influx of foreign tourists make August the peak month of the Ecuadorian high season. The weather is still dry and warm.

### 9. SEPTEMBER (HIGH SEASON ENDS)

**This month the weather is still mostly dry and it is still hot. In addition, the tourist demand decreases because it is the month that marks the end of the high season in Ecuador.**

These two factors make September a perfect month to visit Ecuador, as you will find good weather and fewer crowds.

### 10. OCTOBER (RAINS BEGIN)

**In this month, prices in hotels, restaurants, and tours are lower due to the low season. However, the rains begin to reappear, but only in the afternoon.** These factors make October a perfect month to visit Ecuador. However, October 9th is a holiday for the independence of Guayaquil, one of its most important cities, so the influx of visitors may increase around this day.

### 11. NOVEMBER (ALL SOULS DAY)

**November is characterized by holidays in the Ecuadorian highlands. In addition, All Souls Day is a holiday in Ecuador, creating a sudden influx of national visitors on the roads and tourist attractions.** However, the rest of the days there are usually few visitors, despite the rains that increase their frequency.



## 12. DECEMBER (CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR)

December is synonymous with Christmas and New Year, so from the 20th to the end of the month the tourist flow usually increases. Increased prices for hotels, restaurants, and tours. In addition, on December 6 Quito, the Ecuadorian capital, celebrates its foundation, and also during these dates the tourist flow usually increases, too. Regarding the weather, it is drier than the previous months, making December another perfect month to visit Ecuador.



# “TRAVEL FAR ENOUGH, YOU MEET YOURSELF”



Ecuador is a unique and transforming adventure for all human beings. Likewise, knowing the multiple options of activities that can be carried out allows you to enjoy the experience better. Moreover, knowing the best time to enjoy it will be the best information that we can give you. At **Machu Travel Peru**, we are convinced that traveling to a destination not only involves a plane ticket or a hotel or spa; we believe that the true essence of travel is embodied in the experience and learning of its weather and geography.