

## SAFETY CHECKLIST

Precautions to take in large cities. The best way to prevent crime is using your common sense to reduce the likelihood of being a victim by following a few basic precautions.

- Travel with trustworthy companions.
- Ask about unsafe sectors and avoid them. Find out which are the best hours to visit tourist sites.
- Keep all-important documents in a secure place, such as an inner pocket or a pouch that is hidden under a layer of clothing.
- Make copies of your important documents, such as passport, travel ticket and credit cards. Leave originals in a safe box in your hotel. Always carry a **copy** of your passport with you for identification. Foreign Embassies can provide its citizens with an **official copy** of your passport recognized by Ecuador. Report lost or stolen passports immediately to your Embassy or Consulate.
- Carry traveler's checks and credit cards instead of large sums of cash.
- Walk confidently with your head up, not at the ground; it makes you look nervous.
- When you feel unsafe listen to your instincts. If you get that feeling grab a taxi or go into a place with lots of people.
- Be wary of people who approach you and are too friendly offering to show you around or asking for directions. Pick-pockets often travel in groups to distract you. Use your judgement.
- Do not wear expensive jewelry or wristwatches. They make you a target.
- Your cameras are also valuable, take them inside your bag or keep them out of sight.
- Keep an eye on your carryon shoulder bags and purses. Keep them in front of you in crowded places.
- Keep all bags and other valuables where you can see them in restaurants, airports and bus terminals, and other public places.
- Change your currency in a bank or ATM or in your hotel. Do not do it in the street.
- If you rent a car, park it in parking lots; do not leave valuable objects inside the car.
- Do not take hitchhikers.

### Safety Outside of a City

- Look for the security measures in National Parks. Stay on the paths.
- Before swimming in the sea, ask if there are any dangerous zones. Ask about the tides. If you feel a strong current is taking you away from the shore, swim in parallel in relation to the coast until you reach the shore. Stay calm.

### Travel Advisory

Check with the US travel advisory for areas of concern.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/ecuador-travel-advisory.html>

We recommend using a travel agency's service, and we can help you make your travel plans in Ecuador or South America.