



## [Ecuador Visa Requirements](#)



By [Roger Keays](#), 3 August 2012

Some people have been asking online about the **visa requirements** for Ecuador and I don't want you to [end up in prison for following bad immigration advice](#) like I did. So here are the details for getting a **6 month tourist visa** for Ecuador.

Firstly, the free tourist visa is valid for **90 days** in the country every 365 days. It is multiple entry, but you **cannot** go to the border and renew it once it has expired (although apparently you can pay the border officials \$200 to delete the record of your previous entries).

Police make a sport out of catching foreigners who overstay their visa and the normal "on-the-spot-fine" (i.e. bribe) is **\$100**, but as the legal six-month visa only

costs **\$230** it is better to apply for that. You may be able to apply from overseas but that would be very slow and difficult.

You will need about two weeks for all the paperwork and all the documents have to be in Spanish. I needed the following.

1. letter of petition
2. application form
3. original passport valid for more than 6 months
4. copy of your passport
5. passport photos
6. bank statements
7. evidence of onward travel

The official visa requirements are listed at <http://www.mmrree.gob.ec/servicios/visa9v.asp>

Your letter of petition has to be a little more specific than just "I want to bum around Ecuador".

The bank statements, evidence of onward travel and copy of your passport **all have to be notarized**. This only costs ~\$1.50 per document.



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For evidence of onward travel I **reserved a flight** to Miami and made a copy of the reservation with the travel agents business card underneath. It wasn't professional at all - I could have just printed up my own "reservation" from Microsoft Word. My reservation was only valid for 3 days and they don't cost anything as long as you **don't mention it's for a visa application**.

Your bank statements also have to be in Spanish. **English won't be accepted**. I translated my bank statements on the computer (photoshop!) before printing them. If you pay a translator they must sign the translation which means you have to pay \$15 for notarization instead of \$1.50 because it has a signature.

I don't know how notarization makes the process any more secure since the notarias don't even bother confirming the documents are genuine copies.

The duration you are given depends on how much money you can show you have access to. I showed my credit card which has a limit of \$5000 and some other cash accounts and they gave me six months.

Oh, and the office in Guayquil (el Litoral?) is only open **Monday to Thursday 8am to 12noon** for visa applications.

Hope that helps!

## About Roger Keays



Roger Keays is an artist, an engineer, and a student of life. Since he left Australia in 2009, he has been living as a digital nomad in over 40 different countries around the world. Roger is addicted to surfing. His other interests are music, psychology, languages, and finding good food.