

American Citizen Newsletter

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U.S. Embassy Quito Appointment System

In order to make services for American Citizens in Ecuador more directed and efficient, the American Citizen Services (ACS) section of U.S. Embassy in Quito has adjusted its hours of service and implemented a new appointment system to help citizens in need of assistance. The U.S. Embassy in Quito serves Americans in the Ecuadorian provinces of **Bolivar, Carchi, Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, Esmeraldas, Imbabura, Morona Santiago, Napo, Orellana, Pastaza, Pichincha, Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas, Sucumbios and , Tungurahua.**

Appointments will be accepted for the many services the ACS section offers including renewal or first-time U.S. Passports, notary services, Reports of Birth Abroad, adding extra visa pages to U.S. passports and other public services. American citizens can visit the Embassy without an appointment only in the following circumstances: in an emergency or in need of assistance with federal benefits adoptions or re-entry permits.

The new hours and appointment contact system breaks down as follows: for notary services, including affidavits of marriage, powers of attorney, witness statements and other sworn statements, calls will be accepted Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Appointments can be made on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. through the Embassy website at <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov>.

For general ACS Services, which includes U.S. Passport renewals, Reports of Birth Abroad, Reports of Death Abroad and other public services, calls can be made Monday through

Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Appointments will be made from Monday through Thursday from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

For Immigrant Visas, American citizens may call Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Appointments can be made on Tuesday and Thursday through the Call Center at 1-800-010-145.

In regard to federal benefits, including Social Security, Veterans benefits and for the Civil Service, telephone inquiries can be made Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome on Tuesday and Wednesday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, American citizens can email: FBUQuito@state.gov.

For all inquiries, please visit the ACS website at: <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov> or email the section at: ACSQuito@state.gov.

Marriage of Foreigners in Ecuador

If you plan to get married in Ecuador, the following information might be of help. Please note that the U.S. Embassy cannot interpret Ecuadorian laws or regulations; for clarification or verification, you should go to the appropriate Ecuadorian authorities.

A marriage that is valid under Ecuadorian law is generally valid in any state of the United States. Marriage of American citizens in Ecuador must be performed in accordance with Ecuadorian law. An American citizen seeking to get married in Ecuador must establish, to the satisfaction of the Ecuadorian authorities, that s/he is free to marry under the laws of the state of his/her residence in the United States and required to comply with the regulations set by Ecuadorian Civil Registry and Immigration Officials. Therefore, an American citizen must possess an Ecuadorian non immigrant visa (known as “12 Visas”, such as the study, work, volunteer, cultural exchange, business, etc). The procedure to obtain a non-immigrant visa is the same as for any other foreigner who would come to Ecuador as a non-resident for a specific purpose.

Non immigrant visas may be requested at an Ecuadorian consulate, if still residing in the U.S., or at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, if applicant is already in Ecuador. The specific procedures for each non-immigrant visas, as to the requirements, are available at the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry’s web page titled [Requisitos Para Solicitud de Visas](#).

In addition, to be legal, all marriages between foreigners and Ecuadorian citizens must only be performed by an Ecuadorian civil authority in the cities of Quito and Guayaquil. Marriages

entered in other provinces are neither legal nor recognized by Ecuadorian authorities. Please note that Religious ceremonies do not have legal validity under Ecuadorian law.

Furthermore, Ecuadorian law requires non-residents of Ecuador to stay in Ecuador for 75 consecutive days prior to the date they wish to marry. Exceptions are granted to foreigners that have children with Ecuadorian citizens; in that case, foreigners are allowed to marry immediately.

The Ecuadorian Government will request the following documentation from couples intending to marry:

1. [Affidavit for Marriage](#), granted by the Embassy or Consulate of the applicant's country of origin. For more information, click on the [U.S. Embassy Quito's Notary web page](#) or the [U.S. Consulate Guayaquil's Marriage in Ecuador](#) web page.
2. Passport with a valid Ecuadorian visa (original and a copy). Foreigners with resident status in Ecuador should also have a 'Cedula de identidad'.
3. Documents to prove the legal termination of any previous marriages (divorce, death or annulment certificates). Foreign documents must be authenticated by an Ecuadorian Consul abroad (not in Ecuador) or an 'apostille' by the appropriate Central Authority in the U.S. or other country under [The Hague Convention](#) and accompanied by a certified translation into Spanish. The certification of the translation must be done by an Ecuadorian Consul in the United States, an Ecuadorian Civil Court or an Ecuadorian Notary public (in Ecuador).

The civil ceremony has a fee of US \$6.00 if it is performed at the Civil Registry Office or US \$60.00 if it is performed at a private place.

Finally, as of December 2009, foreigners who would like to marry in Ecuador must do so at one of two locations: Quito (at the Civil Registry office located at Av. Amazonas N-37-61 y Naciones Unidas) or Guayaquil (at the Civil Registry office located at Av. 9 de Octubre y Pedro Carbo, Edif. Filanbanco).

As an explanation for the policy to conduct marriages in only two locations, the Civil Registry Office cited the need for the Ecuadorian government to detect fraudulent documents presented by people wishing to marry Ecuadorians, as well as the fact that the personnel trained in such fraud detection work at the two above-named locations.

For more information, check the Ecuadorian [Civil Registry](#) website.

Safety and Security

The U.S. Embassy in Quito and the U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil periodically issue “Warden Messages” to inform American Citizens in Ecuador of information that might be relevant to them. For the list of the most recent security and safety Warden Messages – including updates on activity of Tungurahua – please click on the [Warden Messages and Newsletters](#) page of the Embassy’s website.

Planning a trip in the near future?

We encourage you to visit the [International Travel](#) Page of the Department of State’s website. There, you can find useful information and advice, on topics ranging from pandemic influenza to traffic safety, to host government entry and exit requirements, to crime trends. Ecuador’s [Country Specific Information](#) can be found on the website as well.

Interested in Working for the Department of State?

For information regarding careers with the Department of State (including positions in the Civil Service, the Foreign Service and for local employment opportunities in a U.S. Embassy abroad) and in order to register for the FSOT, see the Department of State’s [Careers Representing America](#) website and the [Guide to the Foreign Service Officer Selection Process](#) .

Call for Information Regarding American Citizen Groups

Are you a member of a group that includes American Citizens residing or traveling Ecuador? (This might be a social, religious, professional, volunteer, travel, or other recreational group.) The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy would like to know about your group so that we can provide better services to the American Citizens in Ecuador. Please email us at ACSQuito@state.gov to tell us the name of your group and to give us a point of contact so that we can be in touch. Any information you provide will be kept secure, and will not be shared with anybody else, according to our strict confidentiality requirements under the U.S. Privacy Act.

Results of the Sentence Reduction Law of 2008

Since a September 2008 law titled, “Ley Reformativa al Código de Ejecución de Penas” over 2,243 prisoners nationally have gained their freedom. American Citizens imprisoned in Ecuador are eligible for the program as well. The system is based on merits for work, educational and behavioral progress, countered by demerits for disciplinary or contempt acts. (Persons convicted of rape, murder, kidnapping and crimes against humanity are not eligible to receive the benefit.) Prisoners who earn sufficient merits might qualify for a potential reduction of up to half their sentence.

The regulation applies the benefit to those who have met 50 percent of their prison sentence, demonstrated good conduct, have participated in work programs, and who have shown educational and psychological progress. Since the implementation of the system of reduced sentences, inmate participation in rehabilitation programs has increased.

U.S. Primary Information

For information regarding upcoming U.S. Primary elections to be held in June, July and August, please see the [website](#) of the U.S. Embassy in Quito.

U.S. Census: Who Was Counted?

Census Day was April of this year. Were you counted? American Citizens who were present in Ecuador on April 1, 2010 might or might not have been counted by the U.S. Government, depending on their circumstances.

Since the first census was taken in 1790, the Census Bureau has used the principle of “usual residence” to determine who to count and where they live. A person’s “usual residence” is defined as the place where they live and sleep most of the time. The Census Bureau has determined that anyone with a “usual residence” that is not within the territory of the United States should not be counted in the census. This includes Americans living overseas and their dependents who are:

- 1) employed as civilians by the US government;
- 2) not employed by the US government;
- 3) military personnel living on or off a military installation outside the US;
- 4) military personnel on US military vessels with a homeport outside the US.

Americans whose "usual residence" is within the United States but who happened to be traveling in Ecuador or other overseas location on Thursday, April 1, 2010 (Census Day) should have been counted at the place of their usual residence.

Merchant marine personnel and other persons who do not believe they have a "usual residence" or who have questions about the 2010 census may visit the [Census website](#).

Hours and Contact Information

The U.S. Embassy in Quito and the U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil provide a full range of consular and passport services for American citizens. Please click on Embassy Quito's U.S. Citizen Services [Hours of Operation](#) Page to access the Embassy's website for information on opening hours, contact information and general information on services.

Please click on Consulate Guayaquil's [U.S. Citizen Services](#) page for Consulate Guayaquil's general information.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito and Consulate in Guayaquil are closed on Ecuadorian and American holidays. In the coming months, we will observe the following holidays:

July

2nd: Independence Day (U.S.)

August

13th: Independence Day (Ecuadorian)

September

6th: Labor Day (U.S.)

Contact information and opening hours

Quito: <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/overview-and-contact-info.html>

Guayaquil: http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov/business_hours.html

Embassy Quito American Citizen Services

Notarials:

Monday - Thursday

By appointment 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Social Security and Other Federal Benefits:

Tuesday – Wednesday

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

All Other American Citizen Services:

Monday – Thursday

By appointment 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

ACS Telephone Service Hours:

Tel: (593) (2) 398-5000

Federal Benefits Mon-Thurs 8:00-10:00 a.m.
Other ACS Services Mon-Thurs 8:00-10:00 a.m.,
Fri 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Consular Section Fax: (593) (2) 398-5268

For calls concerning the arrest, injury, serious illness, or death of an American citizen outside regular business hours, please call: (593) (2) 398-5000

E-mail:

ACSQuito@state.gov

Please do not send visa inquiries to the above email address.

Consulate General Guayaquil American Citizen Services

Passport, Adding Pages and Birth Abroad Services:

Monday – Thursday

12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Notarials:

Friday

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Business other than American Citizen Services

Immigrant Visas or Non-Immigrant Visas

Tel: (593) (4) 232-3570

Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

ACS Telephone Service Hours:

Tel: (593) (4) 323-3570 ext 227/228

Fax: (593) (4) 232-0904

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

For calls concerning the arrest, injury, serious illness, or death of an American citizen outside regular business hours (4:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m.), please call: (593) (4) 232-1152

Consular Agent Jack Nelson, Galapagos Islands
Tel: (05) 252-6330 (From the U.S., 011-593-5-252-6330)
or 091-33-4815 (From the U.S., 011-593-9-133-4815)

E-mail:

ACSGuayaquil@state.gov

Please do not send visa inquiries to the above email address.

For additional information and Embassy Events,
Click below and become a fan on our U.S. Embassy-Quito
Facebook page:

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.