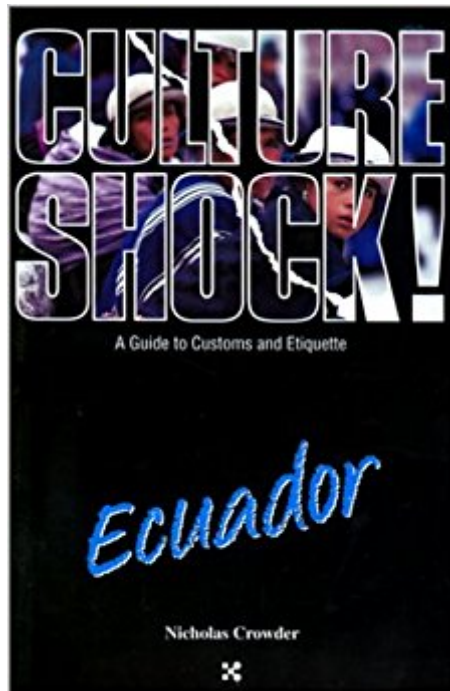




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Ecuador (Culture Shock! A Survival Guide To Customs & Etiquette)



Synopsis

Whether you travel for business, pleasure, or a combination of the two, the ever-popular "Culture Shock!" series belongs in your backpack or briefcase. Get the nuts-and-bolts information you need to survive and thrive wherever you go. "Culture Shock!" country guides are easy-to-read, accurate, and entertaining crash courses in local customs and etiquette. "Culture Shock!" practical guides offer the inside information you need whether you're a student, a parent, a globetrotter, or a working traveler. "Culture Shock!" at your Door guides equip you for daily life in some of the world's most cosmopolitan cities. And "Culture Shock!" Success Secrets guides offer relevant, practical information with the real-life insights and cultural know-how that can make the difference between business success and failure. Each "Culture Shock!" title is written by someone who's lived and worked in the country, and each book is packed with practical, accurate, and enjoyable information to help you find your way and feel at home.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have never met the author, but our experience is far different and much more positive than his. Read the book for the facts and history; he does a wonderful job in those areas. But please do not judge Ecuador by the 'sore loser' tone with which he writes. Despite Mr. Crowder's experience, we moved to Ecuador as retirees. Please visit and judge for yourself. I kept this book for the cultural and historical facts, but the rest is one opinion (as is this review).

I have read lots of analyses based on the country's history and politics, but this is the first one to tackle the issue from the perspective of culture, including the various cultures of Ecuador's diverse racial and social groups. A must-read for anyone interested in the country and/or planning to work or live there.

I heartily recommend *Culture Shock! Ecuador*, to anyone who is planning on visiting Ecuador. I have been to Ecuador several times, and I can tell you that this new publication is a valuable resource. Whether you are planning a short term visit to Ecuador, or have plans to live there for a while, this book will really help the uninitiated, to better understand the Ecuadorian culture and the Ecuadorian way of thinking. Nicholas Crowder includes information in his book, *Culture Shock! Ecuador*, that other travel books on Ecuador don't think to include. The book is chock full of information on how to navigate your way around in Ecuador. It suggests things to do and places to see. The author also provides information on reliable hotels and restaurants. There is even an extensive list of web sites, so you can surf to your hearts content and learn about other things of interest pertaining to Ecuador. The most valuable thing that can be gained from reading *Culture Shock! Ecuador*, is a better understanding of the people. The knowledge gained by reading this book can help the traveler avoid falling into the dreaded stereotype of "The Ugly American". It will help the traveler to avoid embarrassing situations caused by a lack of understanding and cultural differences. Nicholas Crowder's book, *Culture Shock! Ecuador*, presents a well rounded view of Ecuador. I really liked it!

Having bought this book in anticipation of a trip to Ecuador, I am having second thoughts based on the negative impression with which I'm left after reading this book. Although he relates fond memories and favorite foods and regions, it's not clear if he really likes it there. That said, however, Crowder's book is factual (if not a little outdated since it's now 2 yrs old). As a seasoned traveller to Mexico and Guatemala, I would expect some of the cultural differences (concept of time, casual bribery to get anything accomplished, trouble with visas, etc.), but he offered very little, if anything, to make me actually want to visit Ecuador. Though the book does contain a lot of information for anyone who wants to do business in Ecuador, it's not terribly well written (most business books aren't imho) and certainly not written for the average tourist. Of course, that can be a good thing if you follow the path that he took. Crowder DID live there, though I found it strange that even with an Ecuadorian wife, he mentions that his son doesn't speak Spanish. Makes me wonder how much of Ecuador he really got to know aside from his business ventures. He does include examples of native poetry, a rundown of typical food fare, transportation issues, and a brief helpful history, all good

things to know in a new country. And I do appreciate his advice that you should speak Spanish or employ a native speaker you can trust if you want to spend any time there. In short, I can confidently recommend this book for anyone wanting to do business in Ecuador but not necessarily for the average traveller. Unless this is your very first trip to ANY Latin country, the cultural information won't be anything new and it may discourage you from visiting altogether.

This book is essential to all travelers going to Ecuador for either business matters, to live, or for vacation/pleasure. My friend gave me this book before I left for my community service program in Ecuador this summer, and it helped me tremendously in relating to the country and the people there. In his easy-to-read, almost conversational narration, Nicholas Crowder gave me some insight on manners (what is and is not appropriate to do: for example, usually it is not expected to meet a person until 45 minutes after the time said), social events (parties and what kinds of presents to bring), information on all the cultural traditions, festivities and national cuisine (what's really in that stew?) ... and so much more! Without this book, I would have been clueless. It also includes valuable guides to buying a house, dealing with business colleagues, and setting up bank accounts, etc for those who intend to move there. I recommend this book highly - it tells you the valuable information that other guide books don't mention at all. Don't go without it.

I was given this book as a gift before leaving for Ecuador. Firstly let me say that it is written from the perspective of a quite senior American businessman. There's nothing wrong with that, but if you're looking for the backpackers budget guide, this ain't it. Having been in Riobamba for just two weeks now, I haven't really found the book much use to me. My early observations are; there is a big divide between the indigenous people and the middle class. Nobody seems to smoke, drink, or wear watches. If you smile and smile and attempt to speak Spanish however badly, you will be very well looked after. I really don't want to dump on this book, I find the author honestly outspoken, and though I don't think we'd have much in common if we met up, if you fit into the target readership you may well get a lot out of this book. I also have Lonely Planet Guide and to tell you the truth it's a bit dry and old-fashioned. There aren't a lot of guides to Ecuador. Please excuse the cruel two stars; it just wasn't for me but it might be for you!

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