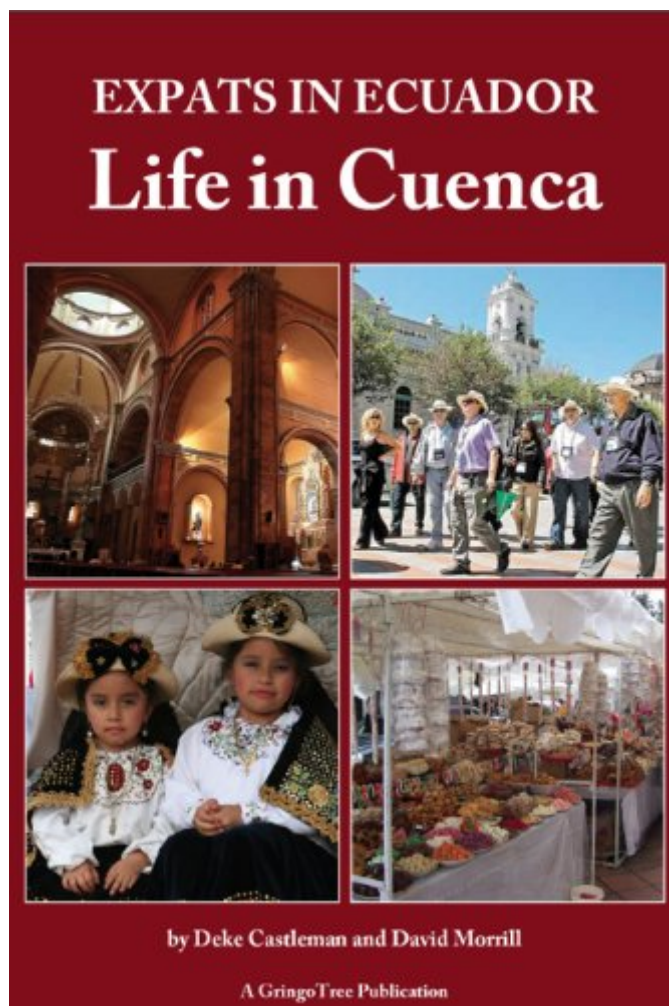


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Expats In Ecuador: Life In Cuenca



Synopsis

Authors Deke Castleman and David Morrill combine ten years of living in the world's hottest expatriation destination – Cuenca, Ecuador – to provide an incisive overview of adapting to and adopting a Cuenca-expat lifestyle. Their points of view, honed in the Cuenca school of hard knocks, are razor-sharp. Topics include: gringo prices, a reality check; the destiny of the U.S. dollar in Ecuador (where the dollar is the currency); why Cuenca means good health; what to expect from the local buses and taxis; how many more immigrants Cuenca can absorb; the profound cultural implications of crossing the street; such cultural conundrums as punctuality, efficiency, and honesty; challenges for couples; the day-to-day impact of the government; and much much more. Packed with personal experiences, the big-picture perspective, and inside info (for example, the one thing you can carry that will make life easy; how to buy a popular pill for men for ten cents on the dollar over the counter; and the one challenge that almost guarantees you won't make it in Cuenca – and it's not Spanish), Life in Cuenca will engage current expats in their own stories and inform prospective expats of exactly what's to come.

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Customer Reviews

If you're looking to retire in Ecuador, then maybe you're doing what I did trolling yahoo groups and blogs trying to get a "feel" for what it's like. Put that on hold for a few days and read this book, it gives you ALL of the info you're looking for in one place. I'm not saying don't do the trolling, just read this first. A+++ great information.

The two authors of "Life in Cuenca" know of what they speak, and you can tell this as you read this well written book on living the expat life in Ecuador's 3rd largest city. Ecuador, and especially Cuenca, are hot on the list of places to retire to these days for those seeking an alternative to the usual suspects. With all the hype and attention Ecuador and this city are currently getting as "THE" retirement haven, it's rather hard to sort out fact from fiction. Well, that's just what's been done in this interesting and informative look at what expating to Cuenca will entail. If you are at all serious about moving to Ecuador or are just looking for that winter get a way, this book is an absolute must read... the best so far.

I have recently purchased and read four books on moving to/retiring to/living in Ecuador and this was the most recent. It ranks as one of my top two most informative books on the topic of moving to/retiring to/living in Ecuador. The authors present both sides of the story, both the pros and the cons, in an interesting manner. Extremely well written and highly recommended!

Not only is this book written in a clear and concise manner, it touches on every aspect of living in Cuenca. I loved hearing about the authors' experiences, as well as the different experiences of their friends. From the least expensive living to the most exorbitant (fine dining at every meal and a luxury apartment complex--all very reasonable for us in the United States), no stone is left unturned. Not only is practical living explored: shopping, dining, utilities, gas, condos, but also the cultural expectations of sharing another person's country. The authors give examples of interactions with the locals, what to do and not to do, as well as tips to negotiating currency. For me, this book read quicker than a great novel.

I have been researching a move to Ecuador for the past several years. My first interests were for a

couple of years were concentrated on Cuenca. However, the more I read on Cuenca and researched other parts of the country I began to feel that for a longtime Florida guy that Cuenca is perhaps too cold for me along with the possible difficulties of the high altitude. However, I still keep up my interest in life in Cuenca and found this short book just full of good honest information that I think is a MUST READ for anyone that is even giving a little thought to moving there.

It's the real deal; the author does not lead us down the proverbial Primrose Path. He provides us with a plethora of Real life scenarios: the good bad and the ugly . It was well worth the couple of dollars I paid for the Kindle version, and I would highly recommend this reading for anyone visiting or considering retirement in Cuenca. Having said that, I am a Spanish teacher, and some of us gringos already speak Spanish before we arrive. I would've liked more coverage on what a newcomer could expect in terms of enhanced social circles by virtue of being already fluent. Either way, it's a five-star read. The best part is the heads up about the "gringo price" that we pay in many parts of the world because of our appearance.Barb

I am looking to move to Ecuador and this book provides lots of useful information and is fun to read. I can't wait to visit Cuenca and put the information provided here to use. Anyone who is looking for an honest overview of life in Cuenca before visiting or moving there should read this book.

In contrast to the euphoria or disenchantment of an expat "newbie", the author writes from the perspective of a number of years as a Cuencano resident. Many will find affirmation that Cuenca seems a perfect expat destination: moderate temperatures, low cost of living, healthier lifestyle. Others may be troubled by potential downsides: elevation, El Centro pollution, unpredictable weather or noise. Of course, few locations are perfect; what we see often depends on what we are looking for. Enough unbiased information is provided, however, to help the reader decide if Cuenca, is or isn't a possible "fit". Also helpful: the author provides links to an English language on-line publication, GringoTree, and other resources that afford an up-to-date "street" view of Cuenca based on the events and topics discussed. Altogether, a definite worthwhile read.

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