

SO, YOU'RE HOSTING A STUDENT FROM ECUADOR.



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Thank you for hosting with AYA!

We understand that this is not only a very exciting time for you, but you may also be feeling nervous. Fear not! **Here are some helpful hints to help make your year a successful one.** *(Please note: while this information is mostly typical of a culture, it does not apply to all students. Every personality is different, so keep that in mind!)*

Please be Aware...

Ecuador is a culturally diverse country with Indigenous, Afro-Ecuadorian, and mestizo populations. Your student's traditions and experiences may vary significantly by region (e.g., coastal Guayaquil vs. highland Quito). Be curious and open.

Ecuadorians are generally religious, with Catholicism being the dominant faith. Your student may observe religious holidays or habits, like attending mass or prayer, even if they aren't strongly devout.

1 Warm & Expressive

Ecuadorians are typically friendly, expressive, and warm in conversation. Your student may be comfortable showing affection, speaking with enthusiasm, and using gestures. Politeness is important, especially when speaking to adults or new acquaintances.

2 Strong Family Ties

Family is at the heart of Ecuadorian life. Teens are often very close with their parents and extended family, and they may call or message home daily. They are typically respectful, helpful, and eager to make a good impression on adults.

3 Respectful but Social

Ecuadorian teens are raised to show respect for authority and elders, but they're also highly social. Friendships are central to teen life, and students may miss the casual drop-ins and group outings they're used to. Help them build a social network here to feel at home.

4 Food Habits

Food is a big part of Ecuadorian culture, and mealtime is typically a sit-down, family-oriented event. Rice, beans, soup and plantains are staples. Breakfast and dinner are lighter and often simple. Your student may not be used to fast food or eating on the go. Invite them to share a favorite family dish — it's a great bonding opportunity.

5 Time Flexibility

While punctuality is expected for school, Ecuadorian culture is generally more relaxed about social time. Your student may need gentle reminders about being on time for appointments or events, especially early in the year.