



2018 IEEE Magnetics Summer School

Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador

Hotel information and recommendations for your stay in Quito

The participants of the 2018 IEEE Magnetics Summer School will stay at Hotel Finlandia (<https://www.hotelfinlandiaquito.com>). This is a wonderful four-stars hotel, located in a privileged residential neighborhood of the city of Quito called “La Carolina”, for its proximity to one of the largest parks in the city. This is one of the safest areas of the city, with bars, some of the best coffee shops, restaurants, movie theaters, and shopping malls at a very short walking distance. Most of these places are within 200 meters from the hotel, from low-cost fast food to high quality restaurants.

<https://www.google.com.ec/maps/place/Hotel+Finlandia/@-0.1797646,-78.4828877,17z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x91d59a69047fa377:0xbefd894e367f93f!8m2!3d-0.17977!4d-78.480699>

The hotel provides lots of services and amenities. Some of them are:

- Wifi internet connection
- In-room safe
- Cable TV
- Buffet breakfast
- Onsite restaurant

Being in one of the safest neighbourhoods in Quito, it is safe to walk around the hotel and enjoy the surrounding area. Nonetheless, it is important to follow some security recommendations:

- Do not go into the park after dark.
- Try to avoid walking alone, always find at least one partner for your walkabout.
- Leave valuable objects at the hotel.
- Bring a color copy of your passport with you at all times, and leave the original at the hotel.
- The legal currency in Ecuador is the US dollar. Always bring some cash with you, but in small amounts (around 100 US dollars is a reasonable amount). Leave the rest at the hotel. You can always use a credit card at the restaurants. Note that you should bring bills of small denominations, 20 US dollars or lower, since higher denomination bills (50 and 100) are usually not accepted.
- If you need a taxi, you can ask the hotel reception to call one for you. Other than that, you can use app-based taxi services like Uber or Cabify (available in



- Android and iPhone). Both are very safe, cheap, and efficient, and you can pay via credit card, with no need of cash.
- You should purchase an international health insurance before coming to Ecuador. Have the insurance ID card with you at all times.
 - If you need it, 911 is the number you can call for any kind of emergency. Also, the 24-hours emergency numbers of the university are 0997896177 and 0989074606.

Free time on Wednesday evening

After the Wednesday outing, we plan to be back at the hotel at around 4:30pm, after which you will have some free time. During this time you can enjoy and have dinner at the hotel surrounding area, you can go to one of the shopping malls, etc. However, you can also enjoy the Quito's historic center, which is one of the best preserved colonial towns in Latin America, nominated as UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/2>). There you can find a large number of constructions from the 16th and 17th centuries. There are some tours that can be arranged. The historic center is only 15-20 minutes from the hotel, depending on traffic. Also, if you want to shop for handicrafts, you can take a taxi to the local market (do not forget to bargain prices!). The market is 10-15 minutes from the hotel.

Other suggestions

Note that Quito is located at the equator at 2850 meters above the sea level, which results in very warm days and cold nights, so bring light clothes as well as a jacket. For the Wednesday outing, also bring comfortable sport shoes.

If you wish to stay over past the school, there are several options for tourism that can be arranged. Some possibilities are, for example, the Galapagos Islands, Ciudad Mitad del Mundo (the Middle of the World), Papallacta hot springs, Mindo Cloud Forest Reserve, etc.

There are many other options for tourism in Ecuador, either on the Pacific coast, the highlands on the Andes, or in the Amazon jungle (see www.ecuador.travel).

In case you want to stay, let us know and we can put you in contact with the official travel agency of the university. Send us an e-mail to fisica@usfq.edu.ec

For more information, the web page of the 2018 IEEE Magnetics Summer School is <http://www.usfq.edu.ec/eventos/ieee-magnetics/Paginas/default.aspx>