



International Programs Office Transportation Guide

Public transportation in Quito is the cheapest and most frequently used form of local transport. Since bus schedules are irregular and the routes are not posted online, it will take some time to learn how to navigate the system. Please ask your host family or staff at the Office of International Programs if you are unsure about how to get around town.

Bus Etiquette and General Information

- Most bus stops are either marked by a blue sign (*Parada*), by a covered bus stop, or by a small station (e.g. most *Ecovía* or *Trole* stops, as pictured below).



- Most buses (to/from Quito and within Quito) cost **\$0.25**. If you enter the bus from the street, you will pay the tout (the driver's partner who shouts out destinations and collects money) when you board, when he/she comes to collect your fare, or when you exit. In the **Ecovía and Trole stations** (typically glass, rectangular booths), you pay at a till when entering the station; **for these stations, you must have a quarter for the toll** or have the booth attendant convert coins or make change for you. Make sure to have small bills/change as many operators are unable or unwilling to change currency larger than \$5.

- To figure out where a particular bus is headed, read the **destination list** that's posted on the front window. Do not get on a bus until it comes to a complete stop, but do make sure to get on quickly and sit or grab a handhold.



- To get off the bus, push the stop request button (in Quito); walk to the front and indicate to the tout that you want to disembark; or walk toward the exit (usually at the back of the bus) and say, "**PARE por favor!**"
- **Watch your belongings carefully**, especially if the bus is packed with people. Many pickpockets steal from bus passengers, so keep your backpack or purse in front of you and your wallets and phones in your bag or front pockets.



Public Transportation Options

You will likely use four main types of buses in the Quito metropolitan area: **Ecovía**, **Trole**, **Metrobus**, and the interparroquial buses. This [map](#) shows these basic routes. In addition, you could use google maps to have an idea of the routes.

Traveling between USFQ/Cumbayá to Quito

- The green “interparroquial” buses that depart from the bus terminal located on **Río Coca** (between 6 de Diciembre and Eloy Alfaro) are the main buses that run between Quito and USFQ (\$0.25). These buses have signs that say Tumbaco, El Quinche, Pifo or Yaruquí, but all pass through Cumbayá on the way to their final destinations. If in doubt, ask the tout or driver if the bus goes to Cumbayá—**not all green buses go there!**
- When going to Quito from Cumbayá, make sure that the destination sign on the bus says Río Coca/Quito. **Do NOT** get on a bus that says “RUTA DEL SUR” or you will end up in the Valle de los Chillos, south of Quito!

Traveling within Quito

- The buses of Quito crisscross the city in every direction, but you will most likely use some combination of the Ecovía, Trole and Metrobus buses, each of which run from north to south (and vice versa) on a dedicated pair of lanes on several major avenues: 6 de Diciembre, 10 de Agosto, and La Prensa/Americá, respectively.
- Once you have boarded any one of the three main lines, you can switch to another line without additional charge by taking an “alimentador” at any of the end-of-the-line stations.

Ecovía

- The Ecovía only runs on Av. 6 de Diciembre. It starts at the bus terminal in **Río Coca** and goes to La Marín in the old city, among other stops. It ends at bus station **La Y** in the south, but it is also possible to reach the interprovincial bus station **Quitumbe** through the Ecovía. You can take buses to the south of Ecuador from here.
- Ecovías pass by very regularly during regular operating hours: 5a.m. to 10p.m., Monday through Friday, and 6a.m. to 9/9:30p.m. on weekends and holidays.
- Evening hours are 10p.m. to 5a.m., Monday through Friday; 9:30p.m. to 6a.m. on Saturdays; and 9p.m. to 5a.m. on Sundays. Buses during these hours run hourly, have limited stops both ways (El Recreo, Marín-Playón, Simón Bolívar, Manuela Cañizares, Baca Ortíz, Eloy Alfaro, 24 de Mayo, Los Sauces y la Terminal Río Coca), and cost \$0.50.

Trole

- The Trole runs mainly north and south along Av. 10 de Agosto and other streets in that area from the northern terminal **Labrador** to the southern **station El Recreo**, and ultimately the interprovincial bus station Quitumbe in the south as well.



- Troles run regularly during normal operating hours: 5a.m.-midnight (every 8-15 minutes), Monday through Friday, and 6a.m -10p.m. (every 10-15 minutes) on weekends and holidays
- Evening hours are midnight to 5a.m., Monday through Friday, and 10p.m. to 6a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Buses during these hours run hourly, have limited stops in both directions, and cost \$0.50.
- Along its trajectory, three stops are worth noting: Colón (outskirts of La Mariscal neighborhood), Plaza del Teatro and Plaza Santo Domingo (in the Old Town).
- At the three following stations, the Trole splits off into a number of supplemental routes:
 - At **Morán Valverde** you can continue on along Camal Metropolitano, Cdla. Ejército, Guamaní and San Martín de Porras.
 - **El Recreo** serves Solanda, Chillogallo, Lucha de los Pobres, Oriente Quiteño (ending at Vilcabamba) and Ferroviaria.
 - **Labrador** connects to Cotocollao, Rumiñahui, Carapungo, Kennedy, Comité del Pueblo (ending in Jiménez) and Los Laureles (to Río Coca and Eloy Alfaro).
- If need be, many Trole stations have route maps posted to help you find your destination. If you're still unsure, ask at one of the main stations for directions and a "*mapa de rutas y paradas del Trole*" (map of Trole routes and stops).

Metrobus

- The Metrobus line reaches farthest north. Terminus station to the south is **Estación Varela**, and to the north is Estación **La Ofelia**.
- Running along America and La Prensa, the Metrobus makes several stops within walking distance of several areas, such as: Mañosca St., La Gasca, Iñaquito Alto, Urb. Granda Centeno, Quito Tennis, El Bosque, Pinar Bajo, Pinar Alto, and La Concepción.
- The Metrobus is also your first step in getting from Quito to Mitad del Mundo via public transit. Transfer at the final stop, Estación La Ofelia, making sure to check (by asking) which buses are leaving to Mitad del Mundo from there.

For more information traveling by bus within Quito see:

- <http://www.vivatravelguides.com/south-america/ecuador/quito/quito-overview/getting-around-quito/>
- <http://www.getquitoecuador.com/quito-map-center/quito-map-metrobus.html>
- <http://www.trolebus.gob.ec/index.php/servicios/mapa-del-sistema-integrado-de-transporte> (see Mapas y Circuitos section)



Traveling to/from other Destinations within Ecuador

- The main long-distance bus terminals in Quito are **Terminal Terrestre de Quitumbe** (South of Quito) and **Terminal Terrestre de Carcelén** (North of Quito).
- Quitumbe Terminal:
 - From the Quitumbe Terminal, you will be able to take buses to travel to the South of the country (Baños, Manabí, Los Ríos, Guayas, El Oro, Cotopaxi, Tungurahua, Azuay, Loja, Sucumbíos, Napo, Pastaza, etc.).
 - You can reach the Quitumbe Terminal by taking the Trole south or by taking the Ecovía to La Marín and changing for the Sur Oriental bus.
- Carcelén Terminal:
 - From the Carcelén Terminal you will be able to travel to the north of the country (Nanegalito, Guayllabamba, Cayambe, Tabacundo, San Miguel de Los Bancos, Imbabura, Carchi).
 - Three bus systems (Metrobus Q, Trolebus, Ecovía and Corredor Central Norte – CCN) can take you to Carcelén's bus terminal at the northern part of Quito; the buses are easily identified and leave from Labrador, Río Coca and La Ofelia stations.
- Some of the larger, well-known companies are TransEsmeraldas, Transportes Ecuador, and Flota Imbabura. Additional information is available here:
 - <http://www.epmmop.gob.ec/epmmop/proyectos/terminales-terrestres/terminales-interprovinciales/terminal-quitumbe.html>
 - <https://www.ecuador-turistico.com/2013/11/terminal-terrestre-de-carcelen.html>
 - <http://terminalquitumbe.blogspot.com/p/terminal-terrestre-quitumbe-destinos-y.html>
 - <http://www.vivatravelguides.com/south-america/ecuador/quito/quito-overview/getting-to-and-away-from-quito/buses-from-the-carcelen-terminal-in-quito/>
 - <https://latinbus.com/>