

**Water Security
and Climate Change
Conference 2023**
—
Cuenca, Ecuador

Frequently asked questions

Here you can find the answers for the frequently asked questions. There are 6 main topics we considered important for you to know:

- **Transportation**
- **Accommodation**
- **Safety Details about the WSCC venue (Campus Balzay of Universidad de Cuenca): wi-fi, location, etc.**
- **Food**
- **Cuenca: currency, weather, etc**

We hope you have the best experience in our beautiful city, and enjoy the event

Transportation

Is the transportation Hotel-WSCC venue arranged by the Conference?

Yes. You will shortly receive an email with instructions for the morning (Hotel-venue) and evening (venue-hotel).

How can I reach the WSCC venue (Campus Balzay of Universidad de Cuenca) by myself?

The best and easiest way is to take a taxi. It will take 5-10 minutes to arrive. It will cost you between USD 2.5 and USD 3.5. You can ask for a taxi at your hotel reception desk. All taxis use a taximeter.

Accommodation

Can you recommend any accommodation close to the José Joaquín de Olmedo International Airport in Guayaquil?

Grand Hotel Guayaquil
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/pEsqyCF9EaEckSUd6>

Wyndham Garden
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/hSoigtXrumsNerpSA>

Unipark, Hotel Continental
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/XjyromTCGN4DgFut9>

Can you recommend accommodation in Cuenca?

Certainly! Here are some accommodation options we'd recommend:

Wyndham Zahir

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/tEvWLhnYureBBBEo6>

Oro Verde Hotel

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/aL23FZ35DTS7JdZR7>

Rione

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/48L8MVowmANuahgS8>

Hotel Carvallo

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6TpDegoQhad6fNA99>

Safety

Is Cuenca a safe city for visitors?

Cuenca is a city known for its rich culture, historic houses, and as one of the safest cities in Ecuador. It is a quiet town and a very popular destination for European and American retirees. You can walk around the historic center without any problem. The streets are clean and you'll find a permanent police presence around the main plaza and surrounding blocks.

Location of the WSCC Venue

Where will the event take place?

The event will be hosted in Universidad de Cuenca. It is important to keep in mind that the University has four campuses in the city, but our WSCC conference will be held at the Campus Balzay.

The Balzay campus is located at Av. Victor Albornoz y Calle de los Cerezos. It takes some 5-10 minutes by car from the city center.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/2NwHfvzdULokZ2oMA>

Is there a schedule or agenda available?

Yes. You can find all the details and a full agenda here: <https://watersecurity.info/wsc23-program/>

How can I access free Wi-Fi in the conference venue?

There are 2 options.

- 1) People that have access to eduroam can connect to that network.
- 2) Everyone can connect to the "Red Abierta UCuenca" network (no password needed).

Food

Are food and drinks provided at the event?

People who have full registration in the conference will receive a coffee break in the mornings, lunch (according to your specific dietary preferences indicated during registration) and coffee in the afternoon.

What restaurants are recommended?

Here are some recommendations based on types of food:

Typical food

Salón Tres Estrellas

Typical food (Guinea Pig)

Number: (07) 282-2340

Address: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/TLVZCZkb5FsomEuV6>

Raymipampa Restaurant

Typical food from Cuenca

Number: +593 7-283-4159}

Address: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Fy71j5p1ds6aecXA7>

Hotel Oro Verde Cuenca

Selection of traditional and international dishes

Number: +593 7 409-0000

Address: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/aL23FZ35DTS7JdZR7>

International food

Mangiare Bene

Italian food

Number: +593 0999528456

Address: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/jVXh8s4y7qQMPmTYA>

Mansión Matilde

Number: +593 99 503 0935

Address: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/fSZS2D9QLdpjBFrK6>

Bodega XD

Burgers, tacos and fries

Number: +593 0986998511

Address: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/D2Tohu3sBrNzifkF7>

La Raíz

All day breakfast

Numbers: +593958989483

Address: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/3PzfN3WpRmuwCaDL8>

All kind of food : Here you can find different options in the same street (Near Valgus Hotel and Zahir Hotel)

Zircus Restaurant

Selection of traditional and international dishes

Number: +593 98 707 0070

Address: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/KEPGCavPpTCC7oum9>

Dot House

Sushi

Number: +593 0984044920

Address: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/F3BVgkmuH3SRHpc96>

Serafina

Fusion food and specialty drinks

Number: +593 98 002 3503

Address: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/8fQENZ9XK9ncNwGW7>

Sinfonia

Coffee and deserts

Address: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/UeTRKEWgMrwtNDia7>

Is tap water safe to drink?

While tap water is normally safe for consumption, we recommend that you only drink from water bottles during your time here. We will provide water canisters with filtered and purified water at our event.

Cuenca

General information about Cuenca

Cuenca is famous for its architectural and cultural wealth. This has earned it its designation as a World Heritage City. Cuenca is located at an altitude of 2,538 meters above sea level and has a population of approximately 500.000. It is located in a valley formed by mountainous systems of exceptional characteristics and has a river system composed of four principal rivers: Tomebamba, Yanuncay, Machangara and Tarqui, which cross the city from west to east.

How is the weather?

1. Recommended clothing

Cuenca generally has a mild and pleasant climate due to its elevation in the Andes Mountains. In general, it is sunny in the mornings and starts to get cold or rainy in the afternoons. Temperatures generally range from around 10 to 20 degrees Celsius year-round. 1. We recommend you to dress in layers and to always carry an umbrella, so you can adjust to the sometimes-unpredictable weather. Also, it's extremely important to use sunscreen due to the city's high exposure to UV rays.

What language is used in Cuenca? Do they speak English?

The official language is Spanish. However, you may find people who speak English, especially in tourist areas or among the younger population.

Can I explore Cuenca after the event? 1. Recommended tourist places

Of course, if you have the time and want to improve your experience you can visit our Historic Center where the colonial architecture is visualized in the cathedrals, churches and houses. We also have important museums such as Pumapungo Museum and Hat Museum. We invite you to take a walk by Paseo 3 de Noviembre to enjoy the view and the sound of the Tomebamba river, one of our most important rivers. We recommend you to go to Turi, where you could have a whole view of the city while you enjoy our traditional food in many of the restaurants there. Finally, the Cajas National Park where you will be delighted by nature, lagoons, and alpacas.

What is the currency used in Cuenca, Ecuador?

The official currency of Ecuador is the United States Dollar (USD).

Do I need to have vaccinations for yellow fever and malaria to visit Cuenca?

As of the latest information available, there is no mandatory requirement for yellow fever or malaria vaccinations for travelers visiting Cuenca, Ecuador. Please be aware that entry requirements may vary, and it's essential to review the latest information provided by your country's health authorities and the government of Ecuador to ensure a safe and smooth travel experience.

Are there currency exchange services or ATMs nearby?

There are exchange services downtown (Centro Histórico). ATM. To find the most convenient place for you, we suggest you ask for this information in the reception desk of your hotel.

How can I contact local emergency services (police, hospitals, etc.) if necessary?

The best way to call for emergency services is to dial 911. Please keep in mind that you will need to speak in Spanish. If you need help calling, contact this number: +593 0984339456 (Cristina Correa).

If you need to go to the doctor for a consultation, we recommend that you contact the following private hospitals:

-Santa Inés:

Number: (07) 282-7888

Address: Av. Daniel Córdoa 2-67 and Agustín Cueva <https://maps.app.goo.gl/kY8TEpZ-Teu2ZfQ6K9>

Website: <https://cuenca.sisantaines.com/>

-Hospital Monte Sinai ((07) 288-5595)

Address: Solano and Miguel Cordero Dávila 6-140 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/xxka1bv-qKG9sLEGU9>

Website: <https://www.hospitalmontesinai.org>

In general, a medical consultation in Cuenca costs between \$30 and \$50.