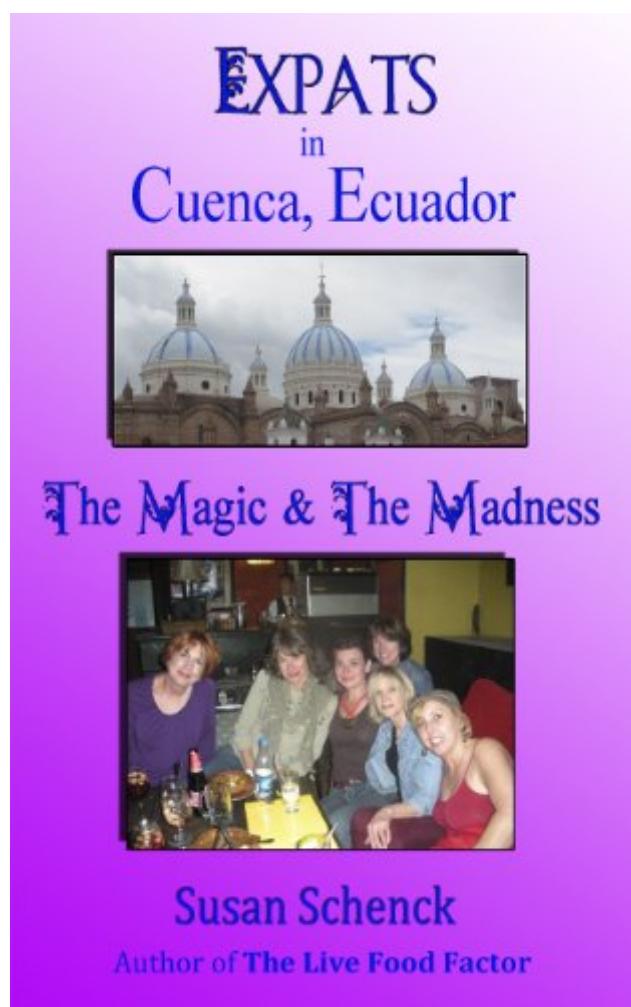


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# Expats In Cuenca, Ecuador: The Magic & The Madness



## **Synopsis**

Find out why thousands of Americans and people from other countries have relocated to Cuenca, Ecuador. Discover the cultural differences, safety issues, where to shop for the best, least expensive, and hard-to-find items, how to avoid petty (and not so petty) theft (including the infamous zombie drug). Learn from the real estate mishaps from previous expats; find out why some move back and why most people lose significant weight here. Can a person really live here on \$600 a month? Where are the best gyms, saunas, mineral bath spots? Where can you find organic produce, health products, and nontoxic personal care items? Who are the best medical and alternative doctors? What are the downsides of life here? Part 1 will inform you about why people love Cuenca so much. Part 2 informs you on what there is to do in Cuenca, the single life, where to get books, shamanic journeys, nature sites, and more. Part 3 includes cultural differences--including how to avoid landing in jail for hiring a maid! You will also learn about the stages of cultural shock you may experience. Part 4 provides useful info on the logistics of moving to Cuenca; Part 5 consists of 25 exclusive interviews with expats living there. Part 6 includes blog and essays by the author. The book contains about 10 photos of Cuenca and its area.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

If you are considering living in a foreign country, or are already doing so, or have an interest in Cuenca, Ecuador, this book is a MUST READ. Here's why: In February, 2012, I was back in California, planning a move to Ecuador, a country where I had never been, knew no one, didn't speak the language and knew nothing of the culture. With the aid of The Internet, I did my best to research and consider all the questions that occurred to me. But you don't know what you don't know! Some questions made my list: I knew I would need a visa, for example. And some questions did not: The challenges of acclimating to a mountain climate, for example. The foregoing illustrates the greatest value of the book: Whether you are considering Cuenca, Ecuador or some other location, Susan gives you THE LIST of all the things you need to consider and plan for. If I'd had this book before departing, I could have saved myself a ton of time, effort, and money. But wait, there's more. As a Cuenca resident, I was surprised how much new information I discovered about the city and living here. Reading Susan's book, and using it as an ongoing resource, will make my experience of Cuenca even richer. Buy the book. Rob Christie

I'm thinking of relocating to Cuenca and found this book to be well written and helpful. One of the challenges in reading books on living in another country is finding an author that looks at the place from a similar perspective as you. I appreciated that she has interests that lump her into the bucket of "alternative." Also, one of the frustrations when reading books on living in another country is that there is often a message of

"you-should-sell-all-your-things-and-come-live-here-because-it-is-really-really-wonderful!" A lot of the most successful expat books and websites sell dreams not reality and what I was looking for was reality. Schenck, fortunately, did not paint her portrait of Cuenca while wearing rose colored glasses (or at least she seemed to. I haven't been there yet!). Expats in Cuenca painted a picture of the ups and downs of living there from the perspective of someone who enjoys the place and offered enough specifics without bogging down into too much detail.

I've been looking for a book on moving to Cuenca that WASN'T geared only toward retirees...and this is it (the closest so far). Very informative: full of websites, addresses, emails for further research. Expats in Cuenca also touches upon the not so good side of Cuenca in a candid, unopinionated

way. I'm not finished with it yet but should be by our Nov 29th move date. :) I highly recommend Expats in Cuenca.

As a person who has traveled a lot and lived in other countries I was impressed with the comprehensiveness of the book. I'm considering retiring in the area and know this will book will be an excellent resource when I am checking out the area. It would be helpful to have a table of contents so one could find more quickly sections one would like to read again.

I have lived in Cuenca for 8 months and thought I knew it all. Susan's book proved wrong. Her attention to detail and her links to other sources provided me with enough information to fill in the gaps. In addition, her interviews to the gringos now in Cuenca( most I now know) was a real and often humorous way to demonstrate what it takes to make a successful move to Cuenca. I would stress that you have to learn Spanish, understand you are an immigrant and rent first. I would further stress that you read this book!

I am so happy with this book. I'm going to move to Cuenca as soon as I can manage it, and this is giving me a lot of useful information.

Full of great information and insight on the nuances of the expat community in Cuenca. A fun read for those already there. Laura Pacetti

I enjoyed the book immensely! Much of it is a repeat of information published by this author under other titles. However, it is enjoyable and informative. For someone planning a move or even considering a move to Cuenca, this book deserves a place on the reading list.

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