

PEDESTRIAN/TRAFFIC DANGERS

When in Ecuador, there are pedestrian/traffic dangers that you might be surprised by. In general, pedestrians have no rights, nor the “right of way”—so please don’t expect otherwise. When crossing the street, you need to keep this in mind and only cross when it’s safe to do so. Many volunteers have had close calls with large buses flying past because they weren’t paying sufficient attention as they were walking around town. Try not to cross in front of or directly behind the buses and please try to avoid getting stuck standing in the middle of the street as you’re trying to cross...this can be very dangerous.

Also, riding in taxis can be a hair-raising experience for most volunteers. Traffic laws and signs are pretty different in Ecuador, seat belts are rarely available for passengers, and at the very least, the driving style is way different. You’ll get used to it, but at the beginning you’ll be amazed at the incredibly tight spaces drivers squeeze through, and how quickly and closely they weave in and out among cars, let alone how closely they ride bumpers.

Always make sure you’re paying attention when out on foot so you don’t run into any problems.