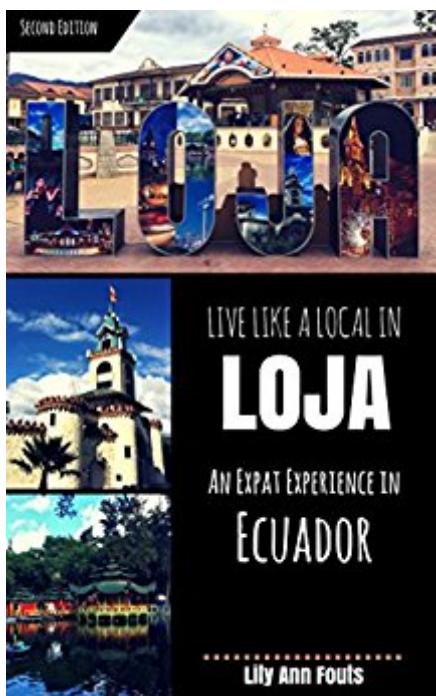


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# Live Like A Local In Loja: An Expat Experience In Ecuador



## Synopsis

Loja, known as the cultural capital of Ecuador, is capturing the attention of the world for its climate, friendly people and rich culture. *Live Like a Local in Loja* is packed with honest, practical information and resources for traveling and living in Loja, stories from the author's experience of living in Latin America and Loja, descriptions of the city and surrounding towns, tips for integrating with the locals, a guide for learning Spanish, and more. A companion website includes photos, videos, and links to relevant resources. *Live Like a Local in Loja* contains all the information you need to visit Loja, Ecuador for a short term trip and learn whether Loja might be a good fit for slow travel or permanent residence. The book covers a wide range of topics and answers many questions, including:

**TRANSPORTATION** Getting to Loja, and getting around in Loja once you're there. Do you need a car? How does the bus system work? How much to the taxis cost? How easy is it to travel between cities?

**SHOPPING** Cost of food and the best places to shop. How much will your groceries cost? What kinds of stores are available? How and where can you find the best deals?

**CULTURE AND LANGUAGE** How to learn Spanish and make friends. How much Spanish do you need to know? Is it easy to make friends? How can you best adapt to the culture? Is it safe?

**HOUSING** Finding a place to stay, short term and long term! Where can you stay while you're house hunting? Are there furnished apartments in Loja? How much are the utilities?

**WEATHER** Loja's climate and what to bring. Does it get very hot or cold in Loja? How humid is it? Does it rain a lot? What kinds of clothes should you pack to be comfortable and fit in?

**THINGS TO DO AND SEE** Landmarks and activities in Loja and surrounding towns. Are there regular cultural events? What kinds of activities and sights can you enjoy around Loja? What readers are saying: "I read your book in about 45 minutes! I only intended to breeze over a few pages, but became so engrossed...could not put it down! You covered so much info from housing to food and everything in between...I loved it. Thanks so very much for writing such a great book." ~Lee Jones "I wish to thank and commend you for the excellent book and the bonuses you've sent. Since purchasing your book and reviewing the website, I spent a couple of days visiting Loja and surrounding area. All of your information is so helpful, and whether I decide to spend more time or relocate, my experience is improved by your support and guidance." ~Ralph Pearson

Last November I bought your Loja book and my wife and I read that as well as your blog. We moved to Ecuador February 1st... Thanks for writing the book. It has been extremely helpful in getting settled in our new home. ~James Hansen

Lily Ann Fouts grew up in Latin America and lived in Loja on two separate long-term trips. She drew on knowledge from her own experiences and information from interviews with locals and expats in Loja to compile this informative book. Lily loves Loja and

Latin America, but it isn't the right fit for everyone! She hopes that this honest book will help you discover whether it's a destination you would love to visit or consider calling home, and if so, that it will be a valuable guide to you as you explore and settle in.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I think the book will give you a lot of general information about the city and what's around it. So for that, I'd give it a 4 stars. I'd recommend it for anyone who might be wondering some of the general things about the city and how to get around. The title is a little misleading. It won't teach you how to live like a local. To do that, you'd need a deep cultural analysis and more insight into how people live. They only stayed in Loja for a few months so that wouldn't really be possible. We've lived in Loja for a little under a year, speak Spanish, involved with lots of lojanos, and definitely wouldn't feel qualified to teach someone how to live like a local. The subtitle is right on. It was an expat experience in Ecuador. For only having been here for a few months they did a great job scouting out the area and giving some good information. Again, I recommend the book for anyone considering Loja or if they have recently moved here. My only complaint would be the title. I was expecting more just by the title. But again, great job! There aren't many books out there about Loja for expats.

Lily Ann Fouts has put together the combination of a nicely written book, an informative web page, and frequent updates that she announces by texting; all of this to provide a great deal of information about traveling from the USA into a Spanish speaking world. The Loja book doesn't present itself as the final or complete word on emigration from the USA, but it does serve extremely well as an overview that suggests first steps for a visit or a move to Loja. Lily Ann's writing is crisp and clear, and her own experiences inform every page. Since we expect to spend three weeks in Loja in early '16, this book was a perfect way to begin planning. Our daughter and younger grandson will join us in Ecuador for a week, and we sent them the book, too. Whether your visit will be to Loja, or to some other part of Ecuador, Living Like a Local is chock full of specific information you need as a baseline before you go. In particular, I truly don't think you ever will find yourself regretting having read the book. Lily Ann's emphasis upon learning, or beginning to learn, Spanish is extremely important. Unless you enjoy being resented and mistreated by locals in any country you visit, you must respect and even honor the culture of the country in which you find yourself. Why anyone would not want to learn local languages and customs, I don't know, unless it is because that person's goal is to perpetuate the stereotype of the "ugly American." If a person isn't interested in immersing herself in another culture, perhaps it would be best to find a pleasant community in her own country to which to retire. It is exciting to learn a new culture, and Lily Ann has made that much easier with this engaging book. First step of a visit to any part of Ecuador: Read this book!

**TWO TYPES OF VISTORS:**Lily makes it plain that there are basically two types of people who come to another country, those who want to be intergrated into the local culture by learning to communicate with the local people, and those who have no such intention of communicating with the locals unless they can speak the visitor's language.Lily's book is primarily for the first type. Early on She has a whole chapter on learning Spanish (or CATILLANO, if you're from Chile :-) She was a Spanish "native" Spanish teacher, havig majored in Spanish in college. I say "native" because she learned the language as a child while ten years in Mexico.(She has written another book about those ten years while Mom and daughters were hiding from an abrusive father back in the States.) For those who have no interest in learning the local language but intend to take advantage of the cheaper cost of living and medicare, she says to consider Cuiña to the north of Loja or Vilcabamba a short distance to the south of Loja. Both have large "entrinched" expat communities...especially Vilcabamba. You need never have to learn to converse with the locals...just be prepared to pay more for most things and to feel socially isolated from the surrounding culture. Some of the cultural

differences that one will have to adapt made me laugh and brought back fond memories of three years our family lived in Santiago, Chile. LIKE,: "manana" does not really mean tomorrow when the plumber says that he will come to fix your toilet. It simply means, "Not now, maybe some time in the future " LIKE: If you show up for a dinner or party invitation exacting on the time you were told, you may well catch the host taking a shower or still getting dressed ! LIKE: When asking directions, you will likely be told what the local thinks you want to hear. And if you do not speak the language, "SI,SI,SI (yes, yes, yes,) Does not mean, "You're right." They're just trying to be kind and accomodative ! On the other hand, when we left after three years in Chile , our local friends actually cried and said that, we weren't just leaving, but that it was like a death in the family !(Would you not be more than happy to put aside the clock and need for prompness to come to know and communicate with locals like that ?!! VIVA LOJA !! VIVA LOS GRINGOS QUIEN HABLA LA LINGUA DE LA GENTE LOCAL !

Highly recommended for those considering a move abroad. This is a helpful book about one city in Ecuador specifically and how to decide if you have the flexibility and potential needed to succeed as an expat in Latin America. The book is well written and well edited, rare for self-published expat ebooks.

This book is indispensable for anyone considering Loja. But this book is also beneficial for anyone considering visiting or moving to Latin America. She gives insights into the Latin culture that every visitor needs to be aware of. This book is especially valuable for anyone planning to visit or move to Loja as it provides a wealth of information about what you can expect from transportation, to accommodations, to restaurants, etc. It is truly a great book!

Thank you so much for writing this book!! We are heading to Ecuador this month!! Very helpful book  
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