



# Living and Retiring in Cuenca: 101 Questions Answered -- Second Edition

*Connie Pombo*

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Revised and Updated (November 29, 2015). The first and most popular usable book on living and retiring in Cuenca, Ecuador, is now available in its second edition with all-new easy-access formatting and up-to-date information. Cuenca is still considered the “Pearl of South America” and continues to draw people from all around the world to explore, to invest, and to live. With its year-round temperate climate, low cost of living, excellent health care, affordable housing, and one of the most well-developed and extensive expat communities, Cuenca remains the number one retirement destination in the world.

After five years, Cuenca’s charm still hasn’t worn off, but this edition presents a viewpoint tempered with real-life experiences, and the author shares these in detail. There’s no sugarcoating or glossing over the realities of living in a developing country, which the author is quick to point out.

The book contains eleven chapters covering: Cuenca in General; Visiting Cuenca; Visas, Residency, and Citizenship; Getting to Cuenca; Settling In; Life in Cuenca; Expecting the Unexpected, and End of Life. There’s even a helpful resource section in the appendices with everything you’ll need to begin your new life, along with insider secrets to help negotiate your way through the first few months in Cuenca.

Cuenca isn’t the next Costa Rica—quite yet—but new arrivals continue to flow in, including younger parents in their 30s and 40s who have school-age children. The typical expat resides in Cuenca approximately three to five years, and then moves on due to health problems, family concerns, or inability to adapt to the culture. That’s why it’s important to get accurate information upfront before making a decision to live or retire overseas.

Although there have been a lot of changes in Cuenca — new infrastructure, stepped-up police presence, and the electric train, which is scheduled to open in 2016—Cuenca is still one of the world’s best retirement choices for those on a budget. Furthermore, Ecuador continues to use the U.S. dollar, so calculating the exchange rate is never a problem.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the second edition, and the author plans to make monthly updates, especially to the Visa section, as these rules change frequently. If you’re planning to visit Cuenca or you intend to make this beautiful city your retirement destination, you’ll appreciate this Cuenca workbook, as it allows you to check things off your list as you go.

What Others are Saying:

“Best Ecuador reference book I have read! Well written book with very detailed reference materials. This book answered the questions I had about relocating to Cuenca. It also provided answers to many questions I had not yet thought of!”

~ Rhonda B. Fordon

“Connie invites you to experience daily life as she and her husband live it. The advice is practical, thoughtful, and on the mark; her connections and resources are excellent. Even though I knew much about

Cuenca through previous experience, Connie filled in the missing pieces. This book is a keeper!”  
~ Wendy J. Carrel, TheWellnessShepherd.com

“A perfect common sense guide for those considering a move to Cuenca. This book is a concise read with answers to the vast array of questions a person might have if they were considering a move to Cuenca, Ecuador. In addition to supplying a plethora of common sense answers, the author also provides a very detailed list of multiple resources to cover almost every topic you might need to know before moving to Cuenca.” ~ M. Smith

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