

Top 10 places to visit in Quito

Its beautiful historic center, traditional neighborhoods and the Middle of the World are the main attractions of an unforgettable experience for visitors

QUITO, ECUADOR, October 23, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Quito is considered one of the top destinations in South America for its wide range of attractions and places of interest for its visitors. Here are the top 10 places to visit during a trip to the Ecuadorian capital:

1. Plaza de la Independencia (Independence Square)

The "Plaza Grande" (Big Square) is located in the heart of Quito's historic center and is home to some of its most important buildings, such as La Catedral Metropolitana (Metropolitan Cathedral), the country's most important Catholic temple, dating back to the 16th century and recently restored; the Palacio de Carondelet (Carondelet Palace), where the president resides; and the Monumento a la Independencia (Independence Monument) in the centre of the square, which commemorates "The first exclamation of independence" on 10 August 1809, which gave rise to the start of Ecuador's independence from Spain.

2. Iglesia de San Francisco (Church of San Francisco)

Is the largest religious architectural complex in the Americas. The church was built in 1537 on the remains of the military settlements of the pre-Hispanic Inca and Caranqui cultures. It makes for an interesting visit not only for its historical and cultural significance, but also for its beautiful cloister and for being the cradle of the so-called Escuela Quiteña de arte (Quito School of Art). It is also home to relevant works of colonial art by artists from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

3. El Panecillo and the Winged Virgin of Quito

Quito boasts a series of locations that offer stunning panoramic views from a height, one of which is the El Panecillo hill. Named after its shape, which resembles a panecillo or small piece of



The Virgin of El Panecillo is an enormous silver statue that stands at 40 metres tall and is made up of 7,000 aluminium pieces that can be seen from across Quito city thanks to its privileged location. The figure also stands out as the only winged virgin

bread, it is located in the heart of the city with the best panoramic views of the city itself and even the surrounding volcanoes. It is also home to one of Quito's most emblematic attractions, La Virgen del Panecillo, an enormous silver statue that stands at 40 metres tall and is made up of 7,000 aluminium pieces that can be seen from different points across the city thanks to its privileged location. This figure also stands out as the only winged virgin in Latin America.

4. [Middle of the World](#)

Located 30km from Quito, it is an emblematic location because of the imaginary line that marks the equator that divides the earth into two hemispheres with a latitude of $0^{\circ} 0' 0''$. In the area there is an obelisk and yellow line that separates the northern and southern hemispheres, as well as a geodesic museum, planetarium and pavilion with works of art by the Ecuadorian artist Oswaldo Guayasamín.

5. Plaza and Iglesia de Santo Domingo (Santo Domingo Square and Church)

The Plaza de Santo Domingo used to be the entrance to the city for those coming from the south. Today it forms part of the Historic Centre and hosts temporary art exhibitions. The main building in the square is the church with the same name. Its construction began in 1581. The cloister's tropical garden stands out and is home to the best pieces of sculpture erected by the Escuela Quiteña (Quito School) between the 17th and 18th centuries. The alterpiece of the Capilla del Santísimo (Chapel of the Santísimo) stands out in the baroque-style interior.

6. La Capilla del Hombre (The Chapel of Man)



The Chapel of Man is one of Quito's best museums. It opened in 2002 and is located in the Bellavista neighbourhood, next to the house and workshop belonging to the late artist Oswaldo Guayasamín. He is considered one of the most famous painters of Ecuador



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7. La Ronda

To the south of Plaza de Santo Domingo is Quito's historic neighbourhood, with the same name as the famous Calle de La Ronda, the most picturesque, characteristic and bustling street in the centre of Quito. This sloping cobbled alleyway is lined with shops and craft workshops, as well as bars and restaurants where you can taste the delicious Ecuadorian cuisine and toast with a "canelazo", a typical drink made with aguardiente alcohol, sugar and cinnamon.

8. La Basílica del Voto Nacional ([Basilica of the National Vow](#))

Considered the largest neo-Gothic temple in the Americas, the basilica was designed by French architect Emilio Tarlier, who was inspired by the Parisian Notre-Dame cathedral. The construction of this architectural gem began in 1884, and it still remains unfinished 139 years later. There is even a legend that says that "the day the Basilica is completely finished, Ecuador will disappear as a free and sovereign state." The magnificence of La Basílica is reflected in its dimensions: 140m long x 35m wide x 30m high. The inside boasts 24 votive chapels, and on the outside there are two front towers that stand at 115 metres high, making it the perfect place to take pictures of the city.

9. La Floresta [neighborhood](#)

La Floresta is one of Quito's particularly charming neighbourhoods. Having recently turned 100 years old, this historic area is constantly undergoing a process of transformation and renewal.

10. Cable car

A trip on the cable car is a must in Quito, as it is one of the highest cable cars in the world, standing at 4,050 metres above sea level. The trip lasts 18 minutes and takes you up to the summit of the Cruz Loma mountain, on the mountainside of the Pichincha volcano with the most impressive views.

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