

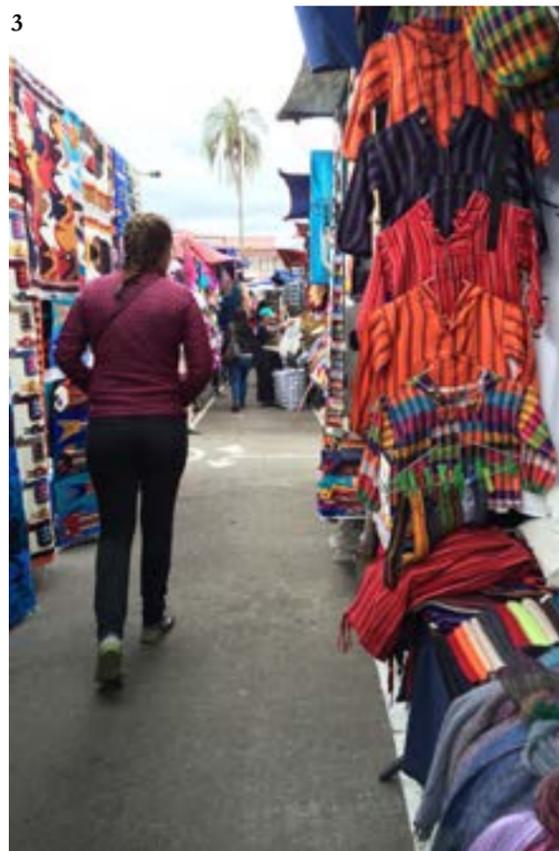


View of Quito from the top of the Basilica del Voto Nacional. This Roman Catholic Church shows great Spanish influence, and it is the largest neo-Gothic basilica in the Americas.

Man & Nature

in ECUADOR

Ecuador is a colorful nation with varying landscapes and a rich, diverse population. Depending on the region, the scenery presents the Amazon, the highlands, the beach, a cloud forest, or the islands. Ecuador's history is a fascinating yet sad story. The Spanish conquered Ecuador in the 1530s, and the indigenous people did not win their freedom until centuries later. Today, one can visit the city and see the Spanish influence then travel less than an hour to another community where the indigenous live remote from the Western world. While much of Ecuador is developed and mimics European culture, there are some parts which remain in their natural states - untouched by man.



¹ Blancita sits with her ox that helps her plow the field. She lives in a community called San Clemente that sustains itself by farming and selling homemade goods.

² Seen from the top of the stairs in the community of Columbe, children intermingle with volunteers from Medlife: the children have skipped school today to visit the mobile clinic for primary healthcare.

³ The Otavalo Market located three hours north of Quito holds one of the largest textile markets in South America. Here, one can see entire families at their stalls presenting their goods to tourists — everything from alpaca blankets to wooden instruments.



The Iglesia y Convento de San Francisco was built a few weeks after the founding of the city. During this period, indigenous slaves built many churches with volcanic rock and decorated the interiors with gold plating.



Iglesia de Balbanera in Colta, Ecuador on the Pan American Highway and Chimborazo Volcano on the horizon. This church is the first Catholic church in Ecuador and is dedicated to the holy Virgin Mary Nativity Balbanera.



A view of Cotopaxi, one of Ecuador's most active volcanoes. The last eruption occurred in November 2015, and the highest point of Cotopaxi is at 19,347 feet.



A view from the top of the stairs of Los Baños, a small town four hours from Quito that attracts many tourists with its beautiful waterfalls and scenic views.



A clear view of the Tungurahua Volcano, which translates from Quichua to "Throat of Fire." Tungurahua is highly active and therefore constantly being monitored.