

# Quito Culture Kit

## Online Version



# Ecuador / República del Ecuador

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## **Bienvenido! Welcome to Quito!**

Quito is the capital of Ecuador, nestled nearly two miles beneath Mount Pichincha in the Andes near the equator. The Spanish settled Quito in 1534 and its official language is Spanish. Quito's Spanish colonial heritage can be seen in the beautiful Spanish architecture that adorns the heart of the city. In fact, the main city center remains exactly as it was in colonial times, but in the surrounding area modern buildings are prevalent. Quito supports its local economy by exporting products of the area, including flowers, tuna, rice, coffee, bananas, cotton, and petroleum.

## **Facts about Quito:**

- Quito is surrounded by volcanoes and forested mountains.
- Quito took its name from "Quitus," one of the several tribes that inhabited the city in the pre-Colombian era.
- Quito once served as the capital of the northern half of the Incan Empire.
- Modern Quito is made up of two parts, the Old City and the New City. The Old City remains the same as it did during the colonial era, while the New City gleams with modern office buildings and bustling crowds. Quito is filled with hundreds shops, cafes, and restaurants. Many visitors are of the opinion that Quito is the most beautiful city in South America.

## **Sister City Relationship:**

Quito became Louisville's second Sister City in 1962. Since the beginning of the relationship, the Louisville Quito committee has been active in areas of sharing medical knowledge, municipal cooperation, and humanitarian aid. Additionally, the Quito Committee offers multicultural exchange opportunities, which include educational, cultural, and artistic exchanges. The committee also supports city development projects and provides humanitarian aid in areas of public health. The Quito committee has also initiated a student exchange program, whereby Ecuadorian students from Quito receive grants to study at the University of Louisville. Past students from Quito have greatly benefited from the SCL Music Scholarship and the Monsky-Wolf Scholarship.

# Snapshots of Culture

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## **People and Places:**

Ecuador (176,196 sq. mi.) is just smaller than Nevada. It is located on and named after the Equator. Ecuador has four main geographic regions: agricultural lands, snowcapped mountains, tropical rain forest, and the Galapagos Islands. Political areas are divided into provinces. The population of nearly 13.4 million and 65 percent of the people are mestizos, people who are born of mixed parentage (Spanish and Amerindian). Amerindian account for 25 percent of the population and a small minority of Afro-Ecuadorians constitutes the remainder of the population.

## **Life Experiences and Needs:**

Families are generally close-knit. Traditionally, mothers are honored for their primary role of raising children. Ecuadorians like corn, potatoes, rice. Some favorite dishes are arroz con pollo (fried chicken and rice), llapingachos (cheese and potato cakes), and cuy (roast guinea pig).

## **Aesthetics and Language:**

Ecuador's music and dance are a mix of different cultures. The bomba is a rhythmic dance with African influences. String and wind instruments, such as bamboo flutes and rondadors (panpipes), are traditional also. Spanish is Ecuador's official language since the country was colonized by Spain. Quichua is recognized by the constitution as an important part of Ecuadorian culture, even though it is not an official language. Many of the Amerindians are bilingual in a native tongue and in Spanish.

## **Past and Present Cultures:**

Compared to the past, greater cooperation is evident between the Amerindian and Ecuadorian groups. Children used to live with their parents until they married. Now they commonly leave to get an education or to work.

## **Rules, Leaders, and Institutions:**

The Republic of Ecuador has a President and a Vice President in the Executive Branch. Elections are held every four years for national offices and every two years for provincial representatives. All citizens 18 and older are required by law to vote. The largest political parties are the Popular Democratic, Roldosista, Democratic Left, and the Christian Democrats.

## **Recreation and Celebrations:**

Soccer, volleyball, and basketball are the favorite sports. Ecuadorian volleyball is played with a heavy ball with three players on each side. Many Ecuadorians participate in community groups (church, sports clubs) and mingas (community improvement projects). Ecuadorians celebrate the Carnaval (Spanish spelling) season as a festival for parades, dances, and parties, as well as the custom of throwing water on each other. Inti Raymi is the Festival of the Sun that features dancing of indigenous groups.

## **Values and Service:**

Ecuadorians value familial relationships and responsibilities. More than 94% of Ecuadorians belong to the Catholic Church. Many of the national holidays and festivals center on the Catholic religion that religion that the Spanish brought with colonization. Today Ecuadorian families place high value on baptism, first communion, and confirmation of their youth into the Catholic faith.

## **Producers, Consumers and Transporters:**

Ecuador's economy has been devastated by the effects of El Nino weather patterns, low world oil and banana prices, and the country's banking crisis. One third of the population is employed in agriculture for production of fruits, coffee, sugarcane, potatoes, and rice. Ecuador is the world's biggest banana exporter. City transportation is provided by buses, taxis, and colectivos (minibuses).

## **Interdependence and Connections:**

Ecuador is important in world markets for its bananas, tropical fruits and plants, and sugar. Ecuador also possesses substantial petroleum resources, so international oil prices have a significant impact on the domestic economy. More and more tourists are attracted to Ecuador's beautiful scenery with some even choosing it as a retirement location.

# When In Ecuador

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## **Ecuador Greetings:**

- Men usually shake hands when meeting; women greet friends with a kiss on the right cheek.
- It is common courtesy to greet the staff of a restaurant, shop, or outdoor kiosk when entering.

## **Common Phrases in Spanish:**

- “Buenos dias” (Good day)
- “Buenos tardes” (Good afternoon)
- Ecuadorians customarily address people by title (Señor, Señora, etc.)

## **Etiquette Do’s and Do Not’s in Ecuador**

- It is considered impolite to point at others in public
- Ecuadorians find nervous, repetitive movements such as toe tapping, knee jiggings, and thumb twiddling annoying.
- Lunch is the main meal of the day.
- Ecuadorians tend to dress more formally than North Americans or Europeans.
- Table manners are often relaxed.
- It is not uncommon for strangers to share tables at casual restaurants, just may sure to ask if space is available and say “buen provecho” when leaving or joining someone’s table.



# Spanish Vocabulary

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1 = uno  
2 = dos  
3 = tres  
4 = cuatro  
5 = cinco  
6 = seis  
7 = siete  
8 = ocho  
9 = nueve  
10 = diez  
20 = veinte  
30 = treinta  
40 = cuarenta  
50 = cincuenta  
100 = cien

red = rojo  
green = verde  
blue = azul  
pink = rosado  
yellow = amarillo  
black = negro  
purple = morado  
white = blanco  
orange = anaranjado

pencil = lapiz  
pen = pluma  
paper = papel  
folder = carpeta  
scissors = tijeras  
ruler = regla  
notebook = cuaderno

math = matematicas  
science = ciencias  
history = historia  
English = Ingles  
Spanish = Espanol  
music = musica  
art = arte

soccer = futbol  
baseball = beisbol  
swimming = natacion  
basketball = basquet  
tennis = tenis

arm = brazo  
leg = pierna  
neck = cuello

hand = mano  
finger = dedo  
foot = pie  
toe = dedo  
fingernail = una  
nose = nariz  
mouth = boca  
eyes = ojos  
ears = orejas  
hair = pelo

t-shirt = camiseta  
pants = pantalones  
shirt = camisa  
shoes = zapatos  
shorts = pantalonetas  
skirt = falda  
dress = vestido  
belt = cinturon  
sandals = sandalias  
watch = reloj

house = casa  
bedroom = dormitorio  
bathroom = bano  
kitchen = cocina  
living room = sala  
dining room = comedor

dog = perro  
cat = gato  
guinea pig = cuy  
horse = caballo  
rabbit = conejo  
bird = pajaro  
cow = vaca

Hello! = Hola!  
Good-bye! = Adios!  
Please = Por favor  
My name is... = Me llamo...  
Thank you = Gracias  
I'm sorry = Lo siento  
You're welcome = De nada  
Excuse me = Perdoname  
How's it going? = Que pasa?  
I like... = Me gusta...  
Do you speak English? = Habla inglés?  
I am lost = Estoy perdido  
I don't understand = No entiendo  
It's OK = Está bien

# Additional Information

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The following is an annotated list of links to web pages relating to the nine global universal themes as outlined in the Sister Cities Culture Kit.

## People and Place

Wikipedia Encyclopedia - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecuador>

Encarta Encyclopedia - [http://encarta.msn.com/text\\_761565312\\_\\_0/Ecuador.html](http://encarta.msn.com/text_761565312__0/Ecuador.html)

CIA World Factbook - <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/ec.html>

Contains the most up-to-date statistics on Ecuador compiled by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

Ecuador Statistics - <http://www.nationmaster.com/country/ec>

Galapagos Islands - [http://encarta.msn.com/text\\_761575904\\_\\_0/Galápagos\\_Islands.html](http://encarta.msn.com/text_761575904__0/Galápagos_Islands.html)

Article on the Galapagos Islands, which are a province of Ecuador.

## Life Experiences and Needs

Ecuadorian Food & Ecuador Recipes - [http://www.ecuadorexplorer.com/html/ecuador\\_food.html](http://www.ecuadorexplorer.com/html/ecuador_food.html)

Excellent article on all aspects of traditional Ecuadorian cuisine.

Ecuadorian Recipes - <http://www.galapagosonline.com/predeparture/Food/Recipes.htm>

Recipes from Ecuador as well as the Galapagos.

Ecuador for the Gourmet Traveler - <http://www.eturismo.com/gtrav/ecuador.html>

Guide to some of the major cuisines and staples of Ecuadorian food.

## Aesthetics and Languages

Spanish Language Learning Site of the BBC - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/spanish>

Features topical Spanish phrases and a video-learning series.

Quechua Language Homepage - <http://www.ullanta.com/quechua>

Lessons and resources on to Native American language spoken by many people in the Andes region.

## Past, Present, and Future Cultures

Culture of the Andes: Quechua Song, Poems, Stories, etc - <http://www.andes.org>

Site focusing on the culture of the Native Americans of the Andes.

## Rules, Roles, and Leaders

Profile of Ecuador's President - [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country\\_profiles/1212882.stm#leaders](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/country_profiles/1212882.stm#leaders)

BBC News profile of the president of Ecuador.

## Recreation and Celebration

Public Holidays in Ecuador - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_holidays\\_in\\_Ecuador](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_holidays_in_Ecuador)

## Values and Service

Official Site of the University San Francisco of Quito - <http://www.usfq.edu.ec>

## Producers, Consumers, and Transporters

El Universo - <http://www.eluniverso.com>

Large Ecuadorian daily based in Guayaquil.

La Hora - <http://www.lahora.com/ec>

Major Ecuadorian daily in Quito.

## Global Connections and Interdependence

Official Ecuador Tourism Site - <http://www.vivecuador.com/html2/eng/home.htm>

Contains information on all aspects of traveling to Ecuador

# Ecuador Culture Kit Contents

A hands-on learning culture kit is also available from Sister Cities that contains the following items:

- El Ilustre Municipio de Quito Record
- Parramont Record
- A Bailar Mis Chullas ! A Escuchar Record
- Llama wool wall hanging
- Quito Banner
- Military College Banner
- Ecuador Sash/Belt
- Ecuador Bag made from Llama Wool
- Mat of Llama Wool
- The Valley of Dawn Brochure
- Todas Las Voces Todas CD (2)
- Natural Ecological Banner
- Button
- 3 complete tourist folders, 2 DVDs The Pathways of the Sun
- Focus: International Economics
- The Wide World of Trade
- U of L Study Abroad in Ecuador Program brochure
- Ecuador: A Natural Choice
- 4 Jacchigua Ballet brochures
- Ecuador: A World of a Place brochure
- Descumbriendo Ecuador brochure
- Municipio del Distrito printout
- Ecuador, The Galapagos, and Columbia book
- 1 Evaristo doll and video
- 1 Canciones a Quito record
- 1 Pista del Pequeno Ciudadano de Quito set
- Insight Guides: Ecuador
- Lonely Planet: Ecuador
- 1 green bound picture book from the mayor
- Picnic: How Do You Say It?
- 1 white Ecuador Culture Kit binder
- 1 miniature Ecuadorian flag and stand ?
- 1 paja toquilla hat
- 1 Ecuador picture book
- El Fondo de Salvamento book
- Quito y sus Iglesias video
- Galapagos: The Flow of Wildness (volumes I and II)
- Arte Colonial del Ecuador
- Revista Quito magazine
- 1 full-size Ecuadorian flag
- Cultural Policy in Ecuador book
- 1 bird tapestry
- 1 Ecuador canvas bag
- 10 paperback children's books
- 1 balsa bird
- 1 1001 Most Useful Spanish Words
- 1 Perro Grande, Perro Pequeno
- 1 South American Handbook
- 1 Hermanas/Sisters





## Sister Cities of Louisville

**SCL Mission:** Sister Cities of Louisville, Inc. (SCL) is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to global friendship, multicultural understanding, and economic growth by developing lasting relationships between the Louisville area and its Sister Cities around the world. To that end, SCL promotes, fosters, and publicizes local, state, and national programs of international municipal cooperation.

Sister Cities honors the following values to pursue its mission of peace and friendship:

- To create opportunities for Louisville citizens and citizens of Sister Cities to work together in creating international community partnerships.
- To develop municipal partnerships between Louisville and its Sister Cities.
- To stimulate exchanges and projects in the areas of professional economic development, education, community initiatives, arts and culture, medicine, tourism, and technology.
- To promote public awareness of our Sister Cities through community outreach and people-to-people relationships.
- To collaborate with local international organizations with similar goals.

**History of SCL:** Sister Cities of Louisville, Inc. became one of the first of many Sister City organizations to develop after World War II, when President Dwight Eisenhower proposed his "People-to-People" idea in 1956. President Eisenhower's intention was to involve individuals and organize groups at all levels of society in citizen diplomacy, with the hope that personal relationships, fostered through Sister City, county and state affiliations, would lessen the chance of future world conflicts.

### Sister Cities of Louisville:

Montpellier, France - 1954  
Quito, Ecuador - 1962  
Mainz, Germany - 1977  
Tamale, Ghana - 1979  
La Plata, Argentina - 1994  
Perm, Russia - 1994  
Jijang, China - 2004  
Leeds, England - 2006

[www.sclou.org](http://www.sclou.org)