



Quito

POP 1.6 MILLION / ELEV 2800M

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Zazu (p84)
- ➔ La Chozza (p84)
- ➔ Theatrum (p82)
- ➔ Bohemia Cafe & Pizza (p80)
- ➔ Dios No Muere (p81)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Casa San Marcos (p74)
- ➔ Hotel San Francisco de Quito (p72)
- ➔ Café Cultura (p76)
- ➔ Hotel El Relicario del Carmen (p74)
- ➔ Hostal El Arupo (p75)

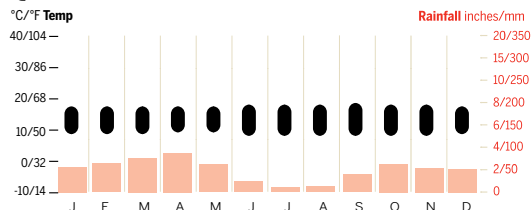
Why Go?

A capital city high in the Andes, Quito is dramatically situated, hemmed in by mountain peaks whose greenery is concealed by gray afternoon mist. Modern apartment buildings and modest concrete homes creep partway up their slopes, and busy commercial thoroughfares lined with shops and choked with traffic turn into subdued neighborhoods on Sundays. Warm and relaxed, traditional Ecuadorian Sierra culture – overflowing market stands, shamanistic healers, fourth-generation hatmakers – mix with a vibrant and sophisticated culinary and nightlife scene.

The city's crown jewel is its 'Old Town,' a Unesco World Heritage Site packed with colonial monuments and architectural treasures. No sterile museum mile, everyday life pulses along its handsomely restored blocks with picturesque plazas and magnificent art-filled churches. Travelers, and many locals too, head to the 'gringolandia' of the Mariscal, a compact area of guesthouses, travel agencies, ethnic eateries and teeming bars.

When to Go

Quito



Year-round Mild days and cool nights, with sunshine typically in the morning and rain by afternoon.

Jun–Sep Best weather for visiting with less rain and warmer, clearer days.

Oct–May Slightly cooler and rainier; fewer crowds.

La Mitad del Mundo 7 (19km);
Pululahua 8 (23km)

Carcelén (0.5km);
Terminal Terrestre
la Ofelia (2.5km);
Aeropuerto
Internacional
Mariscal Sucre (31km);
Cayambe (55km);
Otavalo (170km)

Quito Highlights

- 1 Explore the cobblestone streets of **Old Town** (p54), crisscrossing one of Latin America's finest colonial centers.
- 2 Gaze at Oswaldo Guayasamín's monumental paintings at the **Capilla del Hombre** (p60).
- 3 Sip *canelazo* (sugarcane alcohol with hot cider and cinnamon) while savoring live music in festive **La Ronda** (p55).
- 4 Take the **TelefériQo** (p78) aerial tram up Volcán Pichincha for magnificent views over the Andean capital.
- 5 Discover the vastness of Ecuador's pre-Columbian treasures at the **Museo Nacional** (p61).
- 6 Go on a bar crawl in the nightlife-crazed **Mariscal** (p85).
- 7 Get close to earth's belly button at the kitschy museums surrounding **La Mitad del Mundo** (p93).
- 8 Hike into the Middle Earth-like **Pululahua** (p94).

