Ecuador

Beautiful, Bountiful, Biodiverse

Most biodiversity per square mile of any nation
What’s in a Name?

- Ecuador means “Equator” in Spanish, the official language of Ecuador

- Some Equator facts:
  - 24,900 miles in length
  - Always 12 hours of sunlight at the equator
  - Energy from the sun greatest at equator
  - Passes through 3 continents, 3 oceans, 13 countries
Location

Located:
On the Equator in northwestern South America

Borders:
Colombia, Peru, Pacific Ocean

Size:
Including Galapagos Islands it’s 109,484 Sq. Mi.
Slightly larger than Colorado

Distance:
3,016 from Illinois to Ecuador

• Middle of the World Monument (La Mitad Del Mundo) near Quito

• Equator
  Latitude 0 0’ 0”

  North and South Hemispheres meet

  Equidistant between North and South Poles
Geographic Regions

Costa       Coastal Plains
Sierra     Central Highlands
Oriente   Rain Forest
Galápagos Islands

Temperature Range

100 °F to 55 °F Mainland
88 °F to 61 °F Galápagos
Costa

Coastal Plains
Rich soils, tropical rainforest, tropical savannas, dry forests, small coastal mountain ranges

Rainforest along northern coast
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sierra</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central Highlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andes Mountains, volcanos,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>valleys, grassy highlands,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cloud forests, mountain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloud Forest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oriente

**Rain Forest**
*Gentle slopes, flat valleys, Amazon River tributaries*

**Stream in the Amazon Basin**
Galápagos Islands

- In the Pacific Ocean 600 miles west of Ecuador mainland
- 3,090 sq. miles scattered over 23,000 sq. miles of ocean
- Consists of 19 rugged islands and about 50 islets
- Formed by underwater volcanos
- Largest island, Isabela 82 miles long
- Annexed to Ecuador in 1832
- Became Galapagos National Park in 1959

- Natural Laboratory of Evolution
  - Plants, animals and birds evolved in isolation
  - Charles Darwin’s visit in 1835 helped support Theory of Evolution
- Main industry - tourism
  - 170,000 visitors per year
  - mostly by cruise boats
- UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Residents: 25,000 people
  many thousands animals and birds
Blue Footed Booby
Flightless Coromorant and Sally Lightfoot Crabs
History
1450 - 1972

1450s Incas of Peru finally conquer Ecuadorian tribes

1534 Spanish conquer Ecuador

1822 Ecuador becomes part of Gran Colombia

1830 Ecuador independence

1941 Peru invades mineral rich province of El Oro

1942 Ecuador loses El Oro to Peru

1948 – 1960 Banana trade improves economy

1972 Oil production starts
Ingapirca

Most important Inca Monument in Ecuador
In Cañar Province
10,500 ft. high
Temple of the Sun
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Border War with Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Falling oil prices lead to economic depression; state of emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Native people granted title to 2.5 Million acres in the Oriente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Ecuador adopts US dollar as national currency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Rafael Correa elected President promising economic and social improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>New Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Ecuador re-establishes diplomacy with Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Proposed Constitution change to eliminate term limits for re-election of government officials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mainland Wildlife  Mammals

- Jaguar
- Ocelot
- Capybara
- Paca
- Giant Otter
- Brazilian Tapir
- South American Coatimundi
- Collared Peccary
- Nine Banded Armadillo
- Kinkajou
- White-Bellied Spider Monkey

- Mantled Howler Monkey
- Squirrel Monkey
- Three-Toed Sloth
- False Vampire Bat
- Spectacled Bear
- Andean Fox
- Llama
- Amazonian Manatee
- Amazon River Dolphin

These are examples of over 350 species
Ocelot

A wild cat also called dwarf leopard
Birds
1,500 species
- Here are some -

| White-Throated Toucan | Scarlet Macaw | Magnificent Frigate Bird | Blue-Footed Booby | Osprey | Laughing Falcon | Andean Cock-of-the-Rock | Andean Condor | Yellow-Rumped Cacique | Galápagos Penguin | Flightless Cormorant |

Andean Cock-of-the-Rock

Male

Female
Reptiles
over 400 species
-Here are some-

Boa Constrictor
Anaconda
Fer-de-Lance
Green Iguana
Basilisk
Marine Iguana
Spectacled Caiman
Galápagos Lava Lizard
Galápagos Tortoise

Galápagos Tortoise
Invertebrates
- Some fascinating ones-

Blue Morpho Butterfly

Leafcutter Ant

Golden Silk Spider

Sally Lightfoot Crab

4,500 species of butterflies
Blue Morpho rhetenor is an outstanding one
Sea Life

-Some well known-

Manta Ray
Whale Shark
Scalloped Hammerhead Shark
Humpback Whale
Pacific Green Turtle
Hawksbill Turtle
Galápagos Sea Lion

Humpback Whale
Amphibians
450 species
-Here are some-

Amazon Poison-Dart Frog
Ecuadorean Poison-Dart Frog
Fleischmann’s Glass Frog
Marine Toad
Smoky Jungle Frog

Smoky Jungle Frog
## Geographical Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area</strong></td>
<td>109,484 square miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elevation</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Lowest</td>
<td>Sea Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Highest</td>
<td>20,565 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mount Chimborazo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Longest Navigable River</strong></td>
<td>700 miles, Napo River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highest Waterfall</strong></td>
<td>475 feet, San Rafael Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Highest Volcano</strong></td>
<td>19,347 feet, Cotopaxi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wettest Area</strong></td>
<td>The Oriente region, 100 inches precipitation per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Temperature Highs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Quito</td>
<td>66°F January, 67°F July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Guayaquil</td>
<td>88°F January, 84°F July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Temperature Lows</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Quito</td>
<td>50°F January, 49°F July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Guayaquil</td>
<td>70°F January, 66°F July</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Two Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mainland</th>
<th>Galápagos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winter</strong></td>
<td><strong>July - December</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November – May</td>
<td>Foggy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainy</td>
<td>January - June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
<td>El Niño period with seasonal rain and warmer weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June – October</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>but tropical rains till occur</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rivers

- Numerous Rivers start in the mountains of the Sierra
  unnavigable, often torrential
- Guayas
  Main river in the Costa Region
  Navigable
  Fertile Floodplains for crops
- Napo River
  Most important river in Oriente Region
  Carries greatest volume of water
  Navigable

Cropping on Guayas Floodplain
National Symbols

- National Flag
- National Day
  August 10
- National Bird
  Andean Condor
- National Flower
  Rose
- National Tree
  Ecuadorean Palm
Ecuadorean Ivory Palm

- Also called tagua palm
- Endosperm of tagua nut used instead of elephant ivory for carvings and jewelry
Volcanos - 31 Active

Some notables are:

- ‘Cotopaxi’  
  WORLD’S HIGHEST ACTIVE VOLCANO 19,347 feet high  
  36 miles from Quito in Cotopaxi National Park

- ‘Reventador’ 11,686 feet high  
  62 miles from Quito in Reventador National Park

- ‘Tungurahua’ (Throat of Fire) 16,480 feet high  
  5 miles from Baños in Sangay National Park

- ‘Wolf’ 5,610 feet high  
  on Isabela, largest of Galápagos Islands  
  most recent eruption May 25 through June 2, 2015
Cotopaxi

World’s Highest Active Volcano

19,347 feet
Glacier Topped Cotopaxi
Reventador

11,686 feet
Tungurahua

‘Throat of Fire’

Eruption
April 5, 2014

Surged 6 miles above volcano’s crater

Volcano height
16,480 feet
Wolf

On Isabela Island in the Galápagos

Volcano erupted May 25, 2015

Volcano height 5,610 feet
Volcanos - Inactive

Most Notable Inactive Volcano

Chimborazo (Mountain of Snow)
HIGHEST PEAK NEAREST THE EQUATOR
20,702 feet high
located in Chimborazo National Park
90 miles from Guayaquil
last erupted approx. 550 AD
Chimborazo

‘Mountain of Snow’

Highest Peak
in Ecuador

Highest World Peak
from Earth’s Center

20,702 feet
UNESCO World Heritage Sites

City of Quito
Center of City of Cuenca

Galápagos Islands
Sangay National Park
## Cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quito</th>
<th>Guayaquil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Capital</td>
<td>• Largest City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 2\textsuperscript{nd} Largest City</td>
<td>• Population of 2,709,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Population of 1,726,000</td>
<td>• Main Port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cultural Center</td>
<td>• Industrial Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• In North Central Sierra Region</td>
<td>• Lively city of clubs and night life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Located in the Costa Region</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### More Cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cuenca</th>
<th>Machala</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• 3(^{rd}) largest city</td>
<td>• 4(^{th}) largest city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Population of 700,000</td>
<td>• Population of 245,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Center for artists making ceramics, blankets, hats</td>
<td>• ‘Banana Capital of the World’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Four Universities</td>
<td>• Lies in heart of Banana production region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Well preserved Spanish Colonial Buildings</td>
<td>• Main distribution center for bananas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• In Southern Sierra Region</td>
<td>• Southern Coastal City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Machala

Tourist destination among Ecuadorians
### People

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>15,868,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>Spanish (Castillian) 93% (official) Quechua 4.1% other indigenous 0.7% foreign 2.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbanization</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Expectancy</td>
<td>76.56 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literacy</td>
<td>94.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obesity</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ethnic Groups

- Mestizo * 71.9%
- Montubio * 7.4%
- Amerindian 7%
- White 6.1%
- Afroecuadorian 4.3%
- Mulato 1.9%
- Black 1%
- Other 0.4%

* * mixed Amerindian and White
** rural inhabitants of Costa interior
Mosaic by Stolichanin

20 Famous Ecuadorans
Living in a Traditional Roles Society

- Men -

• Head of household usually
• Work outside the home
• Boys in poorer families responsible for contributing to family income
• Sexism and machismo typical
• More urban men beginning to share household duties
• Some signs that the new generation is taking up the baton for gender equality
Living in a Traditional Roles Society - Women -

• Responsible for child rearing and housework
• Teenage pregnancies & single mothers common
• Limited access to education and employment
• Not usually financially independent; and few own land
• Violence against women a persistent problem
• Childlessness grounds for divorce
• More urban women beginning to work outside the home
• Rural women receive 65% of pay for same work as men
## Economy
### Overall

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labor Force</td>
<td>7.214 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Force by Occupation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agriculture</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>industry</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>services</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population in Poverty</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP per capita</td>
<td>$11,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross National Savings</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Debt</td>
<td>30% of GDP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation Rate</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Economy

## Exports & Imports

### Exports

**Commodities:** petroleum, bananas, cut flowers, shrimp, cacao, coffee, wood, fish

**Major Destinations:**
- USA: 44.6%
- Chile: 9.9%
- Peru: 7.5%

### Imports

**Commodities:** industrial materials, fuels and lubricants, nondurable consumer goods

**Major Suppliers:**
- USA: 29.2%
- China: 12.9%
- Colombia: 8.5%
- Panama: 6.8%
- Peru: 4.1%
Panama Hats

• Traditional straw hats with brims
• Significant export product
• Woven from thick grass - toquilla straw
• Up to 3 months to make a quality hat
• Best hats come from Montecristi, town along coast
• Custom made ‘superfine’ costs up to $300

Best hats roll up

Toquillo reeds for sale in the market
Some People at Work

Banana
Harvesting

Gathering Gladioli
More People at Work

Digging Potatoes

Harvesting Corn
Government

Unitary Presidential Constitutional Republic  Capital: Quito
Voting compulsory
Constitution last amended 2011
Civil Law: based on Chilean civil code
Traditional law in indigenous communities
Chief of State & Head of Government: The President
National Assembly: 137 seats

Rafael CORREA Delgado
President
since 2007
Born 1963
Politician and Economist
Currency of Ecuador

Centavo Coins issued by Ecuador used alongside US Coins

1, 5, 10, 25, 50 denominations

U S Dollar is official currency
Education

• Network of public education greatly expanded to promote universal literacy
• Primary education free and compulsory from 6 years of age
• Secondary education varies between overcrowded public and elite private institutions
• Many Ecuadorans seek training abroad, especially in technical fields and business
• Much research takes place outside universities. Major research establishments maintained by French and USA foreign assistance organizations
Transportation & Communication

432 Airports
600 miles Railway
27,135 miles Roadways
932 miles Waterway
3 major seaports
1 River port
1 Container port

Increasingly sophisticated mobile phone network
37% of population use Internet
Multiple TV networks, many local stations (some gov’t owned/controlled)
300 radio stations
President Correa significantly curbed freedom of the press
The Arts

• Certain mestizo and indigenous communities specialize in particular crafts: agave-fiber bags, wood carving, leatherwork, woolen tapestries, carpets, Panama hats

• Revival of interest in folklore among urban people; folkloric dance troupes created

• Modern architects see potential in folk architecture using: bamboo, adobe, rammed earth, daube, wattle, wood

• Contemporary artist Oswaldo Guayasamín (1919 - 1999) – international reputation for depicting social ills of his Mestizo-Indian heritage
Music

- Rondador - considered national instrument a panpipe unique to the Andes
- Everywhere in Ecuador groups of musicians play on street corners
- No Ecuadoran celebration is complete without music
- Folk dancing resurgence in urban areas
- Bomba negra – musical style blending African rhythms and Andean melodies
- Andean Chill – combines traditional instruments of Andes with modern electronic pop styles – hypnotic beat creates trance-dance atmosphere
Cuisine

Fresh and influenced by Spanish, Amerindian and immigrant cultures
Popular Celebrations

Carnaval

La Mama Negra

Pimocha

Rodeo
Sports and Recreation

- National sport: Soccer
- Other popular sports: basketball, volleyball
- Popular Recreation: Picnics, beach excursions, socializing, visit nat’l parks
- Other favorites: Beauty contests, cockfights, occasional bullfights

Estadio Monumental in Guayaquil
Health and Welfare

- 2 physicians and 2 hospital beds per 1,000 population
- Monthly salary deductions pay for health coverage at state run clinics
- Public hospitals in provincial capitals and principal cantons
- Little of national budget devoted to public health programs
- Health conditions generally poor
- Endemic diseases persist like typhoid fever, malaria, dysentery, tuberculosis
Religion

95% Catholic
Other religions well tolerated
2nd largest organized religion:
   Latter-Day Saints
Missionary activity
   largest group - Apostolics
Religious Holidays and Festivals well celebrated
Concerns

- Over 120,000 Refugees from Colombia
- Narco-trafficking and illegally armed groups
- Diminish economic effects of swings in Oil Industry
- Achieving balance between threats to environment and economic demands
When You Can _Travel _Enrich Yourself
You Tube Videos to Access

Enter any of these locations into computer web browser

ISLAS GALÁPAGOS, ECUADOR: VIDEO MONTAGE 2:15 minutes
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=myGbn28zcn8

Ecuador Life at its Purest!! (in English) 6:59 minutes
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xM-o1eesn4M

All You Need is Ecuador - Documental HD 22:53 minutes
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uW4VZzldJbc
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by
Pat Weitzmann
IAHCE Board Member
August 2015