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QUITO - GENERAL VIEWS

Only two other pre-Columbian cities in the Western Hemisphere are as old as Quito -- Mexico City (Aztec capital) and Cusco (the former Inca capital). A former capital of the Quita kingdom, the Caras Indians and the Inca empire, Quito was raised again in 1534 by Benalcázar to become a great artistic center.

The city is overshadowed by the volcano, Pichincha, with its twin peaks Rucu (the Old One) and Guagua (the Young One). The Plaza Independencia marks the center of the city and the location of the city's Cathedral, the Municipal Palace, the Archbishop's Palace and the Government Palace. Colonial Quito is found in the city's center and near and about the Calle de la Ronda and Santo Domingo Plaza. In contrast to the Colonial remains, Quito accommodates various modern structures known not only for their construction but also for their decorative details (bas-relief in stone, murals and Venetian glass mosaics).

San Francisco is the city's largest convent, occupying the full length of the block which faces the plaza of the same name. Finished in the mid-seventeenth century, the facade is Italian Baroque and rests on a stone atrium accessible by stairways of a semi-circular design. The convent contains many artistic treasures, among which are paintings by Miguel de Santiago and carved statues by Manuel Chili, better known as "Caspicara". La Compañía is another of Quito's principal religious structures. Its facade is a great stone carving and the interior is decorated in gold leaf and red plateresco. The remains of Quito's saint, Mariana de Jesus, are guarded in a gold crypt beneath the main altar. In the monastery of St. Augustín, the treaty of Independence from Spain was signed. The remains of heroes of past wars are located in the crypt of this monastery. The Church of La Merced contains the oldest clock in Quito, built in 1817, it is a duplicate of London's Big Ben.

As both political and cultural capital of Ecuador, Quito is host to a number of museums and collections dedicated to colonial and modern art. The center of education and artistic endeavor is the University City, located in the northern residential sector of the city.

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QUITO - GENRAL VIEWS

Slides:

- A. Panoramic view of Quito, Ecuador, the country's capital.
- B. Convent of San Francisco. A view of the front facade of the city's largest convent, extending an entire block in length. The architecture is Italian Baroque in style and it stands upon a stone atrium. Two large bell towers are placed on the top of the facade. The monastery adjoining the church is the first of the Franciscan Order in South America.
- C. Patio of the Convent of San Francisco. The Convent itself contains many fine works of art including paintings by Miguel de Santiago and carved statues by Manuel Chili or "Caspicara".
- D. Corridor bordering the Patio, Convent of San Francisco.
- E. Fountain located in the center of the Patio, Convent of San Francisco.
- F. The barrio of the 24th of May. To the right is the theatre for religious festivals, and at left, a small street market.
- G. A girl is carrying ceremonial candles used commonly in preparation for religious festivals.
- H. A view of Calle de la Ronda, one of Quito's oldest streets.
- I. The Philanthropic Bank, commonly known as the "Liquadora" or the "Blender".
- J. Bull-fighting ring of Jesus de la Misericordia.