

7 TREASURES OF QUITO'S MATERIAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Railway Station Eloy Alfaro of Chimbacalle, the Church La Compañía de Jesús, the Church of San Francisco, the Basilica, the Church of Our Lady of El Quinche, the Independence Square and the Statue of the Virgin of Panecillo have been chosen as the 7 treasures, or wonders, of Quito's Cultural Material Heritage.

The initiative, conducted by the International Bureau of Cultural Capitals and the Metropolitan District Municipality of Quito, has been carried out in the context of the American Capital of Culture Quito 2011.

A total of 37 nominations have aspired to become Quito's treasure, or wonder. The treasures of Ecuador's capital have been selected by fourteen thousand votes of citizens of Quito and, also, of all the provinces of Ecuador.

The 37 candidates who have aspired to become Quito's Treasure are as follows: the Old Military Hospital, the Old San Juan de Dios Hospital, the Basilica, the Ronda Street, the Metropolitan Cathedral, the San Diego Cemetery, the Metropolitan Cultural Centre, the Peak of the Liberty, the Middle of the World City, the St. Augustine Monastery, the Carmen Alto Monastery, the Railway Station Eloy Alfaro of Chimbacalle, the Guápulo Church, the Church La Compañía de Jesús, the Merced Church, the Church of Our Lady of El Quinche, the Church of San Francisco, the St. Barbara Church, the Santo Domingo Church, the Tabernacle Church, Quito's Botanical Garden, the Chapel of the Man, the Alameda Lake, the Yaku Museum of Water, the Archbishop's Palace, the Carondelet Palace, the Itchimbía Crystal Palace, the Ejido Park, the Metropolitan Park, the Independence Square, the Pululahua Reserve, the Machángara River, the archaeological site of Rumicucho, the Bolivar Theatre, the National Sucre Theatre, the Statue of the Virgin of Panecillo and the Pichincha Volcano.



The Mayor of Quito, Augusto Barrera, and the President of the International Bureau of Cultural Capitals, Xavier Tudela, presented the certification diplomas of the treasures of Quito to the representatives of the elements chosen in a ceremony held on September 8, 2011, in the Church La Compañía de Jesús. The event coincided with the 33rd anniversary of Quito being declared by the UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Quito, along with the Polish city of Krakow, was the first to be declared a World Heritage Site.

THE RAILWAY STATION ELOY ALFARO OF CHIMBACALLE

The festivities lasted four days when the rail road arrived in Quito on June 25, 1908. People were waiting for it in the streets with arcs of palm and laurel. But for this to happen much effort had to be done since 1874, the year when the first locomotive reached Milagro (Guayas province), until 1899, when, impulsed by the President of the Republic, General Eloy Alfaro, the building of one of Ecuador's most significant infrastructure, transport and trade works began. Thus, the dream of thousands of men and women was fulfilled. Little by little. Section by section. From the plains to high mountains.

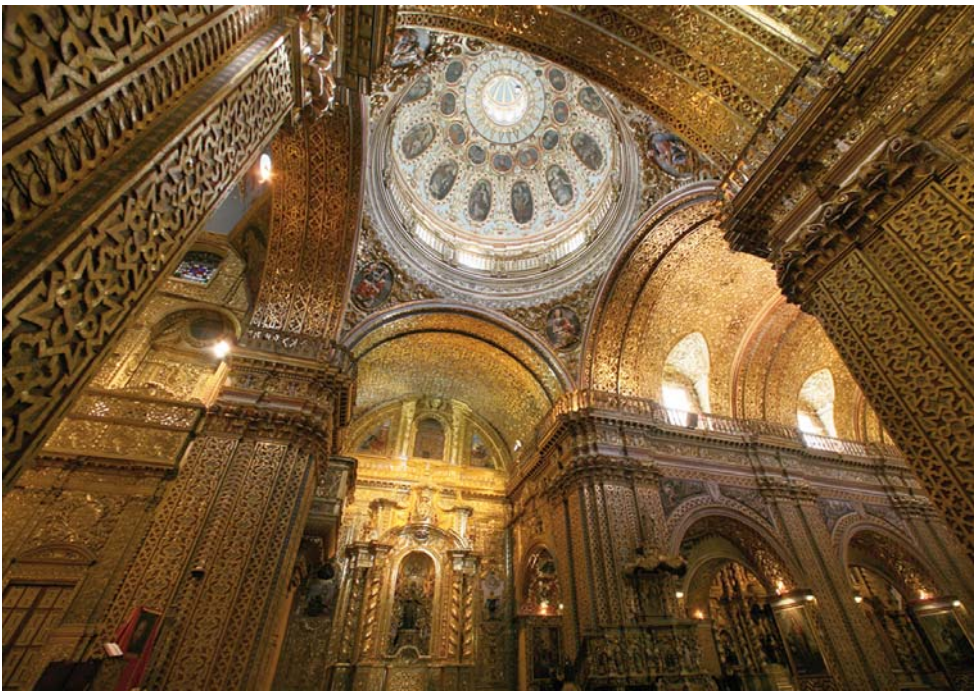
Connecting Mountain to Coast and thus drawing up an idea of a big country.

Nowadays, the public company of Ecuador's Railways is in the process of regeneration, as part of the Ecuadorian Heritage and Identity. Works are carried out on the restoration of their old stations and providing a move from mass transport means to a new tourist attraction, willing to rediscover the places situated between the coast and the wasteland. Eloy Alfaro station was regenerated within only three years.



THE CHURCH LA COMPAÑÍA DE JESÚS

The Church La Compañía de Jesús, considered the most representative example of the baroque style of the colonial Quito, is part of the Jesuit monumental architectural complex, which is a veritable emporium of faith, art and history of the city. The building of the Church of the Society, built by the Jesuits starting in 1605, took about 160 years to be completed. Only two years later, the Jesuits were expelled from this country due to the Edict of estrangement decreed in 1767 by Carlos III, King of Spain. The Church La Compañía de Jesús in Quito was abandoned until 1794, date on which it was entrusted to the Camillians.



The entire work of evangelization, missionary and education conducted by the Jesuits in the colonial era was abandoned during the time of their absence (1767-1862). The Society of Jesus returned to the country in 1862, when Gabriel García Moreno, the then President, returned the church and a part of the monumental complex to the Jesuits.

THE CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO



A few weeks after the founding of Quito, in 1534, construction of the church of San Francisco began, which took 70 years to complete. The complex was founded by the Franciscan Fray Jodoco Rico who is credited with being the first man to plant wheat in Ecuador.

The complex was built by Francisco Cantuña. Legend says he made a pact with the Devil surrendering his soul in exchange for completing the Church. The Devil, anxious to receive the soul of Cantuña, helped him to complete this monumental work with armies of demons. Once the work was finished, he demanded that Cantuña deliver his soul. Cantuña first insisted that the devil's work be checked and, when he found out that there was a stone missing, managed to save his soul, since the Devil's work was unfinished.



THE BASILICA

Father Julio María Matovelle drove the construction and materials were brought from the district of San Juan. The project was contracted in France by the architect Emilio Tarlier who, being inspired by the Bourges Cathedral, drew up the plans between 1890 and 1896.

From any corner of the city you can see the Gothic Basilica, the largest in Ecuador and throughout Latin America. It is one of the most beautiful city's churches, adorned with gargoyles inspired on the country's fauna such as armadillos, iguanas and turtles of Galapagos. If you have no fear of height and want to enjoy one of the best panoramas of the old and new city of Quito, climb the stairs of the main tower. Each section provides postcard-like images of a city in constant growth. And from a height of 117 meters you can make out the entire city.

THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF EL QUINCHE



This town was blessed by God with the presence of such august, heavenly lady in the protection of Our Lady of the Presentation of El Quinche. At 60 years of its arrival, the town and the temple moved two miles further down in the present plain and it was there that the first sanctuary dedicated to Our Lady of El Quinche was erected and the new town was built. The Quinche is a town of aboriginal people confined in time as there are no certain data concerning its founding. It was conquered by the Incas and then by the Spaniards. It was a place fit for war, Inca's barn of Quito, Shrine of the Sun God and a key centre of Indian astronomy.

It was coveted by neighbouring tribes. The temples built for Our Lady of El Quinche were eventually destroyed by the earthquakes of Quito.

The current sanctuary began construction in 1927. It is made of lime and brick. The sanctuary has a total capacity for 3,556 pilgrims standing and 966 people seated. It has a total built-up floor area of 2,049 m².

THE INDEPENDENCE SQUARE



The beautiful Independence Square, also called the Great Square, is the heart of Quito's Historical Centre. It is surrounded by four pillars of society: the Cathedral, the Presidential Palace, the Archbishop Palace and the Municipal Palace.

Under the watchful eye of the volcano Pichincha and the blue Andean sky, the square protects the city's secrets and legends, its political traditions, hidden covenants and treaties, being a witness of Quito's chronicles.

In the early twentieth century, the Monument to the Heroes of the Independence was built up in the center of the square. It is the symbol of the triumph of the Republic over the Spanish rule.

The Square is a great place to watch the flow, colours, humor and dramas of Quito citizens' life. Here, we find old people who talk and rest among the benches, shoe shiners, people who

browse the latest headlines, mothers pushing their baby carriages, candy sellers offering their goods, indians with their babies attached to their backs, blowing cars and squealing brakes, women knitting, photographers snapshots, foreigners walking, police watching, security guards admiring the shining brilliance of their boots, and so on.

THE STATUE OF THE VIRGIN OF PANECILLO



In 1976, the Spanish artist Agustín de la Herrán Matorral made the monument of Our Lady of Quito, which is situated at the top of the hill and dominates the landscape of this area.

This sculpture is 45 meters high and is a large-scale copy of the sculpture of Our Lady of Quito, by Bernardo de Legarda, shown in San Francisco church's main altar and is regarded as the top work of sculpture of the colonial Quito school.

It is built with around seven thousand pieces of aluminium, being the largest representation of this material in the world. It rests on a building built of concrete and covered with volcanic rock.

The Representative List of the Treasures of the Material Cultural Heritage of the World of the International Bureau of Cultural Capitals currently includes the following cities or geographic areas

**Asunción
(Paraguay)**

1. Palace of the López
2. Pantheon of Heroes
3. Town Council
4. Cathedral
5. Hotel Guarani
6. Ignacio A. Pane Municipal Theatre
7. Church of the Holy Trinity



Palace of the López

**Badalona
(Spain)**

1. Monastery of St. Jerome of Murtra
2. Roman City of Baetulo
3. Catamaran Sailing
4. Anis del Mono Distillery
5. La Rambla Boulevard
6. Historic site of Dalt la Vila
7. Giants Anastasi and Maria



Monastery of St. Jerome of Murtra

**Barcelona
(Spain)**

1. Expiatory temple of the Holy Family or Sagrada Familia
2. Church of Santa Maria del Mar
3. Palace of Catalan Music
4. Milà House or La Pedrera House
5. Liceu Great Theater
6. Batlló House
7. Agbar Tower



Liceu Great Theater

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**Brasilia
(Brazil)**

1. Brasilia Cathedral
2. National Congress
3. Alvorada Palace
4. Planalto Palace
5. Good Will Temple
6. Temple of Dom Bosco
7. JK (Juscelino Kubischek) Bridge



Brasilia Cathedral

**Catalonia
(Spain)**

1. Expiatory temple of the Holy Family or Sagrada Familia in Barcelona
2. Monumental Complex of the Seu Vella Hill in Lleida
3. Archaeological Ensemble of Tarraco
4. Historic Centre of Vic
5. Girona Cathedral
6. Monastery of St. Michael of Cuixa
7. Cooperative Wine Cellars of Gandesa



Expiatory temple of the Holy Family or Sagrada Familia in Barcelona

**Madrid
(Spain)**

1. Monastery and Royal Residence of San Lorenzo del Escorial
2. Royal Palace in Madrid
3. University and Historic Precinct of Alcalá de Henares
4. Main Square in Chinchón
5. El Prado Museum
6. Aranjuez Cultural Landscape
7. Main Square in Madrid



Monastery and Royal Residence of San Lorenzo del Escorial

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**Nizhny Novgorod
(Russia)**

1. Cultural Landscape of the descent to the Volga
2. Blagoveschensky (Annunciation) monastery complex
3. Rozhdestvenskaya Soboro-Bogoroditskaya (of Our Lady's Nativity and Convocation) Church, also known as Stroganov's
4. The citadel of Nizhny Novgorod ("Kremlin". The walls and ramparts)
5. "Garantia" and "Titanic" Buildings
6. Trade Fair Palace
7. St. Alexander Nevsky's Cathedral



St. Alexander Nevsky's Cathedral

**Quito
(Ecuador)**

1. The Railway Station Eloy Alfaro of Chimbacalle
2. The Church La Compañía de Jesús
3. The Church of San Francisco
4. The Basilica
5. The Church of Our Lady of El Quinche
6. The Independence Square
7. The Statue of the Virgin of Panecillo



The Railway Station Eloy Alfaro of Chimbacalle

**Santo Domingo
(Dominican Republic)**

1. The Alcázar de Colón or Columbus Alcazar
2. Cathedral
3. Ozama Fortress
4. Museum of the Royal Houses
5. Botanical Garden
6. Pier
7. Fine Arts Palace



The Alcázar de Colón or Columbus Alcazar

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**Sarajevo
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)**

1. Old Town of Sarajevo (Bascarsija)
2. Begova Mosque complex
3. Hadzi Sinan's house
4. Careva Mosque complex
5. National Library
6. Ali-Pasha's Mosque
7. Old Orthodox Church



Ali-Pasha's Mosque

The International Bureau of Cultural Capitals

The International Bureau of Cultural Capitals has its origins in 1998 when it launched the cultural capital of the American continent, with the name of the American Capital of Culture.

Over time, the Bureau has created and is also developing the Capital of Catalan Culture (since 2004, having the entire Catalan language ambit as its area of activity, which covers four states in Europe), and the Brazilian Capital of Culture (since 2006, being directed to the entire Federal Republic of Brazil, the fifth country in the world by its population and extension). The Bureau is planning to establish, in the future, new capitals of culture in other areas of the world.

In addition to the cultural capitals, the Bureau has also been developing international campaigns to promote culture and heritage with great citizen participation. To date there have been a total of 15 promotional campaigns in the following areas:

- **Material Cultural Heritage:** Asuncion (Paraguay), Badalona (Spain), Barcelona (Spain), Brasilia (Brazil), Catalonia (Spain), Madrid (Spain), Nizhny Novgorod (Russia), Quito (Ecuador), Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) and Sarajevo (Bosnia & Herzegovina).
- **Non-Material Cultural Heritage:** Catalonia&Andorra and Spain.
- **Great Persons of Mankind:** Europe and Latin America.
- **Sports Heritage of Mankind:** Argentina, Brazil and Mexico.

Official channels of TV of the American Capital of Culture



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