

FUNDACION GUAYASAMIN & THE MIDDLE OF THE WORLD

Tucked away in a quiet corner of the Bellavista neighborhood of Quito, just below Parque Metropolitano, the former home of Oswaldo Guayasamín provides a glimpse into the economic divide that describes so much of South America. Guayasamín, the most influential Ecuadorian artist of the last century, was born to poverty and died a rich man. His story reveals the complicated relationship between money and power in Ecuadorian society.



THE FUNDACIÓN GUAYASAMÍN

In 1976, Guayasamín founded the Fundación Guayasamín with the intent to preserve and protect his personal art collections and to provide gallery space to highlight many of his own works of art. The Foundation protects more than 2,000 pieces of Pre-Combian artifacts, over 500 examples of Spanish Colonial paintings and sculptures, and more than 250 works of modern artists, including many of his own pieces.



THE CHAPEL OF MAN

When Guayasamín created his foundation, his dream included building a gallery where his artwork in Ecuador would reside. He called it the *Capilla del Hombre*, or Chapel of Man. Inaugurated in 2002, the building is a stark structure built with square stones reminiscent of cobble that line many of the streets of historic Quito. It is also square in shape; a huge cube topped with a trapezoidal dome. From the outside, it is devoid of any article that equates it to a church or chapel.



This is not a museum for the faint of heart. As I walked the passageways I felt deep hurt, pain, and guilt and can only imagine that the artist must have felt similar emotions while creating these stunning pieces. A meditation in this space would leave me feeling helpless in the face of the current inequalities around the world. In fact, I see this as a chapel that calls attention to the hopelessness of both religion and man. Despite that, I found pieces to

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love, like the Andean Condor clawing at the back of a fighting bull, symbols of the Andean people mastering their Spanish conquerors. Despite the hopelessness, there were occasional sparks that hinted at free-will and possibilities.

Continue your tour to the Middle of the World on the Equator.



The name Ecuador is a result of the visit of the Geodesic Mission in the 18th century. This mission came to Quito to measure the latitude and define the shape of the earth. During this mission, it was established that the earth was round and that the "middle of the world" was in our country.

Inside the emblematic Equatorial Monument, you will be able to observe several thematic and interactive exhibits. The museum includes practical explanations of topics such as:

- The French Geodetic Mission
- Electromagnetic Levitation Exhibition
- Ethnographic floors
- Solstices and equinoxes
- Photomontage of the regions of Ecuador

After your visit you will have free time for shopping or have a snack.

PRICE PER PERSON IN US\$:

2 PEOPLE	3 – 4 PEOPLE	5 - 6 PEOPLE	7 - 9 PEOPLE	10 - 15 PEOPLE
\$ 170.00	\$ 130.00	\$ 105.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 65.00

General conditions:
* Credit Card using secure payment through PayPal (Note: a 5% PayPal additional fee will be added to your account)
* A wire transfer to Mytoureec Bank account in USA.

RATE INCLUDES:

- Private tourism transportation
- Private English speaking guide
- All entrance fees as described on program

RATE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Unspecified extras
- Personal expenses