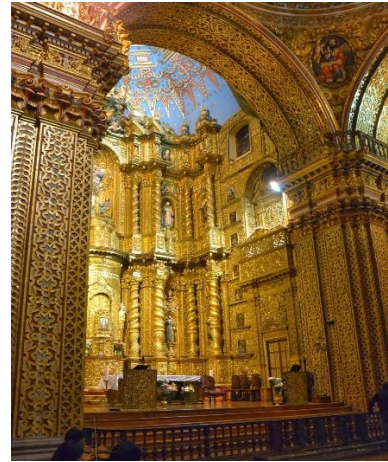


# QUITO WALKING TOUR



This experience will reveal the rich history of the Historic Center, pre-Colombian sites, colonial churches, and museums that allowed Quito to be recognized as the first UNESCO “Cultural Heritage Site” in 1978. The first stop is at the National Basilica, a neogothic structure, with an imposing façade and incredible view from the church towers.

You will continue your walk up and down the cobblestone streets into the heart of the historical town until you reach the San Francisco Square and church. This is the city’s largest colonial structure; its construction began only a few weeks after the Spanish establishment of Quito in 1534 and it took 70 years to complete. Although much of the church has been rebuilt due to several earthquakes, the majority of the buildings are original. It is possible to visit the museum and the main temple.

Next, you will continue on to La Compañía Church, which was built between 1605 and 1650. The interior is entirely covered in goldleaf, it shines like a jewel and its paintings, sculptures, altars, cupula, and pulpit have been carefully illuminated so that all details can be observed. Of over the 50 churches in the colonial town, the most extravagant.

To finish the tour, you will advance down García Moreno Street, towards Independence Square to see the Presidential Palace (Carondelet), Municipality, the Archbishop’s Palace, and the National Cathedral.

The tour routes may vary upon request and depending on time constraints, group interests, and activities in the Historic Center.

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