



Argentina - People

- Argentina population: 47 million (2025)
- Buenos Aires population: 3.1 million (2025)
- Median age: 33 (US: 39)
- Life expectancy: 79 (US: 79)

https://estadisticas.renaper.gob.ar/app_poblacion/

Argentina - People

- Ethnic Groups
 - Mixed European and Amerindian 97%. (**Mestizo**)
 - Amerindian 2%.
 - African 1%.
- Language: Spanish.
- Literacy: 98%.

Argentina - Religion

- Religion:
 - Nominally Roman Catholic 92% (less than 20% practicing).
 - Protestant 2%.
 - Jewish 2%.
 - Other 4%.

Argentina - Land

- Argentina area: 1,073,000 sq mi.
- 30% of size of USA.
- Highest Point: Cerro Aconcagua 22,841 ft – That's highest point in S. America.

Argentina - Government

- National Holiday: May 25
Revolution Day (1810).
- President:
Javier Milei
Since Dec 2023.
- Legislature:
 - Senate 72 seats.
 - Deputies 257 seats.



Pres. Milei

Argentina History – 1

- Prior to 1536:** Sparsely populated.
- 1536:** Spanish arrive.
- 1536-1810:** Spanish rule.
- 1810:** Revolt over Spanish rule.
War for independence led by
General Jose San Martin.
- 1816:** Declaration of independence.
- 1810-1880:** Nation building.

Argentina History – 2 (Immigration)

1880-1920: European immigrants made
Argentina into a western Europe society.

European immigrants 1880-1914: 4.5 million.

Italians: 2.3 million.

Spaniards: 1.6 million.

French and Germans: 320,000.

Dirección General
de Estadística

Perspective: Total Population of Argentina

1880: 2.5 million.

1900: 4.7 million.

1920: 8.9 million. <http://populstat.info/Americas/>

Argentina History - 3

- 1880-1905:** Golden Age. Prosperity.
Argentina was one of the wealthiest
countries in the world due to
agriculture and silver. Richer than
France, Germany, Spain, Canada.
- 1905-1929:** Growth slowed.
- 1929-1932:** Great depression. GDP
fell 25%. Economy devastated.
- 1932-1946:** Economic decline.

Argentina History - 4

1946-1955: Peron era.
Nationalization of most industry.
High inflation. Further economic
decline.

1955-1976: Military juntas. Torture and
Instability. Further decline. Disappearances.

1976-1990s: Debt crisis and
hyperinflation. Unemployment.
Peso declined 70%.



Juan
Perón

Argentina History - 5

- 2000s and 2010s:** Austerity,
inflation, trade slumps.
- Government debt restructurings.
- Defaults in 2001, 2014, 2020.
- 2018:** IMF bailout \$44.5 billion.
Interest rates 40% (world's highest).
- 2023-2025:** Milei and shock therapy:
– Severe austerity and deregulation.

Economy

Money: Argentine
Pesos (ARS)

AR\$1,392 to US\$1

Peso to One US\$ Catastrophic!

2001	1	2022	177
2010	4	2023	808
2020	84	2024	1,031
2021	103	2025	1,451

<https://finance.yahoo.com/quote>



Argentina's GDP Per Capita LOW and STAGNANT.

GDP Per Capita 2025:

Argentina \$14,355.

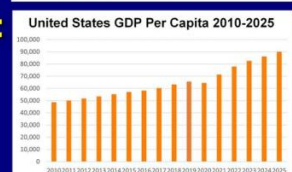
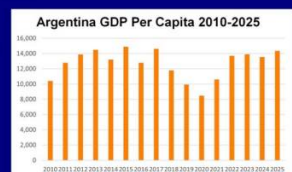
US \$89,991.

GDP 2025 % of 2015:

Argentina 96%

US 158%

<https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/>



Argentina Official Inflation Rates:

2020 36%

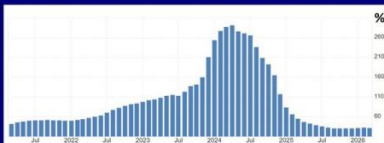
2021 51%

2022 95%

2023 211%

2024 118%

2025 32%



Argentina Inflation
Jan 2022 - May 2026
Monthly

Not good, but
much improved.

Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (INDEC)

In 1810, the Spanish territory included Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and parts of Brazil. So the success of the 1810 Revolution was pervasive.

This is the "May Pyramid"

Plaza de Mayo Revolt of May 18-25, 1810

The first successful revolution in the South American independence process.

Plaza de Mayo Manuel Belgrano Army Commander War for Independence 1810

The Falkland Islands are and always will be Argentine. Spilled blood will never be negotiated.

LAS MALVINAS SON
Y SERAN ARGENTINAS
LA SANGRE DERRAMADA
JAMAS SERA NEGOCIADA
Por nuestros hermanos muertos en las islas, el oceano y el continente

Casa Rosada 1879

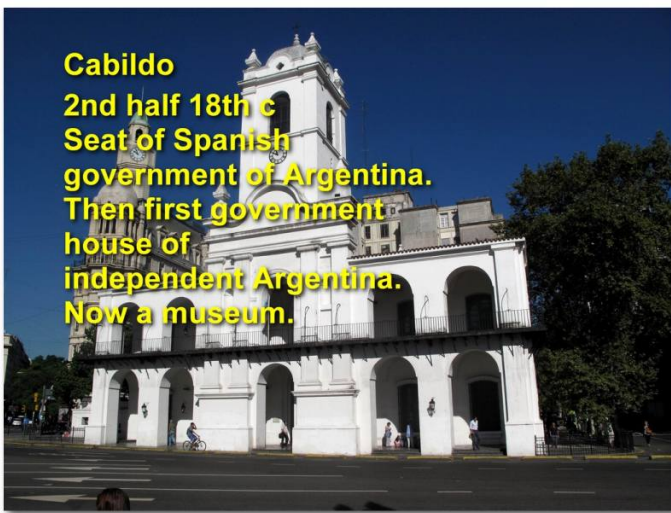
Executive mansion and office of the President of Argentina

View from Plaza de Mayo
"Don't cry for me, Argentina"

Casa Rosada 1879

Famous balcony from which
Eva Peron gave many speeches.

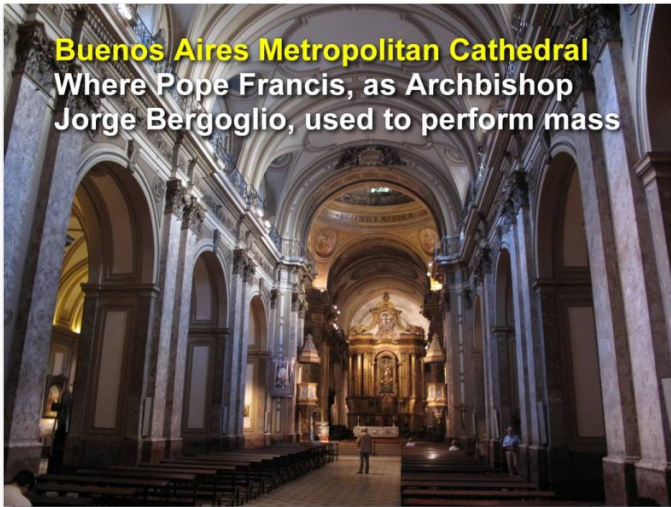
Casa Rosada
You can visit the
courtyard and a
small museum



Cabildo
2nd half 18th c
Seat of Spanish
government of Argentina.
Then first government
house of
independent Argentina.
Now a museum.



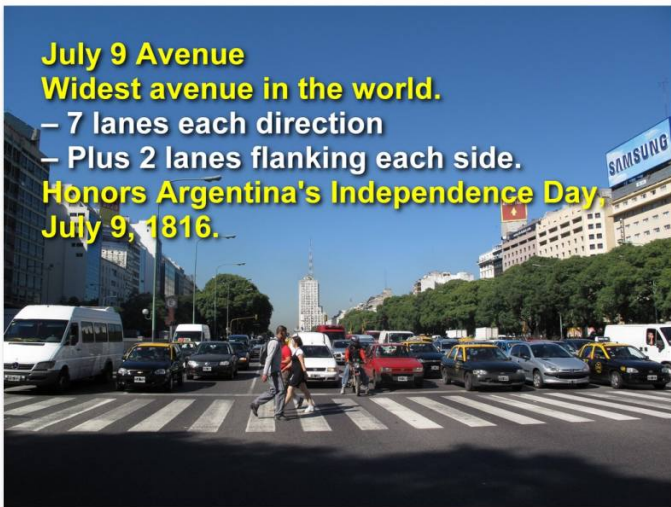
Buenos Aires Metropolitan Cathedral
1791 - Neoclassical



Buenos Aires Metropolitan Cathedral
Where Pope Francis, as Archbishop
Jorge Bergoglio, used to perform mass



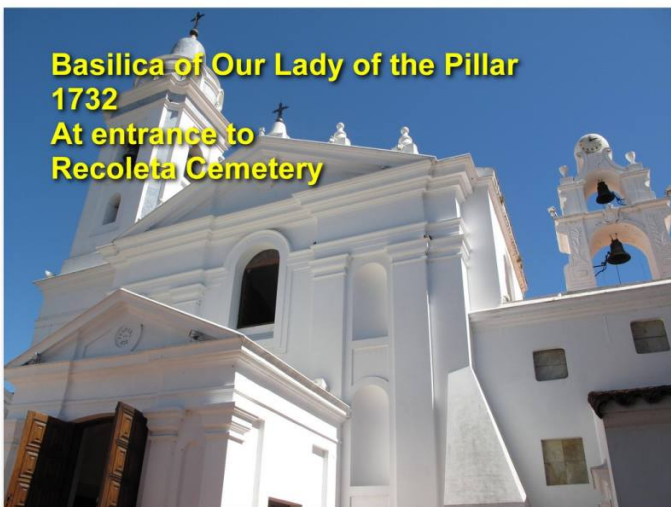
Mausoleum of General San Martín
guarded by statues representing
Argentina, Peru and Chile



July 9 Avenue
Widest avenue in the world.
– 7 lanes each direction
– Plus 2 lanes flanking each side.
Honors Argentina's Independence Day,
July 9, 1816.



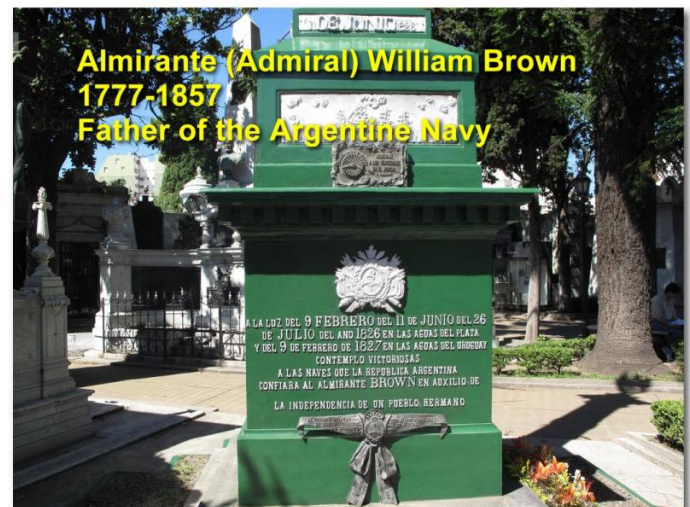
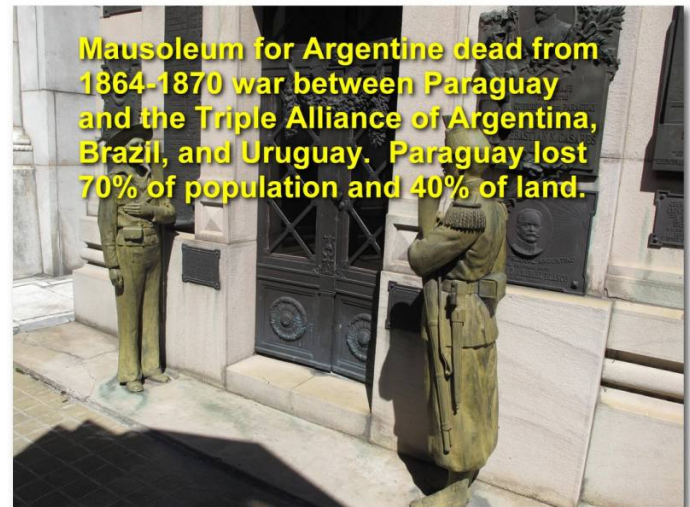
Obelisco (Obelisk)
de Buenos Aires
1936
Commemorates
founding of
the city



Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar
1732
At entrance to
Recoleta Cemetery



Entrance to La Recoleta Cemetery
4,691 vaults
Established 1822





Central Bank of Argentina
Similar to the US Federal Reserve Bank
Establishes monetary policy
Maintain foreign exchange reserves
Building - 1876



Recoleta neighborhood
Affluent
Beaux-Arts architecture



Recoleta Neighborhood
Argentina has about 225 McDonald's



Recoleta neighborhood



Monument to Christopher Columbus
1910 - Centennial of Argentine independence from Spain.



Florida Street (Calle Florida)
Pedestrianized shopping street in downtown Buenos Aires



Military Museum of the Nation
Museo de Armas de la Nacion
Medieval to modern arms



Monument to General José San Martín
1778-1850
Argentine General
Liberator of Argentina, Chile and Peru from Spain



Monument to Carlos de Alvear
Commander of forces defending
Buenos Aires after independence
in 1810



Torre Monumental 16
Gift from the local British community
to commemorate the centennial of the
May Revolution of 1810.



Retiro Train Station
Largest in Argentina
1915



Tango Porteño
Tango Show and Dinner
Regarded as best tango in BA



Buenos Aires Subway Train Station
– 6 Lines.
– System Length: 352 miles.
– 90 stations.
– Daily ridership: 546,000 (2024).

BUT: Ridership declined by over 50%
2015-2024 due to big fare increases,
cheaper alternatives (bus fare is half
of Subte), deterioration of service.
Decline continued in 2025.



High Court (Tribuna)



Monument to Vicente Lopez
Wrote Argentine national anthem 1813
President of Argentina 1827



Buenos Aires Main Library

Puente de la Mujer (Ladies' Bridge)
Swivels to let boats pass



1874 Warship "Uruguay"
On Rio de la Plata



Three museums with global reputations (I never visited):

1. Museum of Latin American Art of Buenos Aires (MALBA).
2. Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (National Museum of Art).
3. National Historical Museum.

MALBA - Museum of Latin American Art of Buenos Aires - 400 works of art by important 20th century Latin American artists.



(Not my photo)

Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes (National Museum of Art)
Largest public art collection in Latin America. Many Impressionists and European.



(Not my photo)

National Historical Museum
50,000 items — since 1891



(Not my photo)

BOGOTA
Colombia

Colombia Map



Bogota, Colombia

- Colombia population: **54,000,000 (2026).**
- Bogota population: **8,000,000 (2026).**
- Median age: **33 (US 39).**
- Life expectancy: **78 (US 79).**

<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/colombia-population/>

Bogota - 2

- Colombia area: 440,000 sq mi (about 2X Texas).
- Note: Bogota altitude 8,661 ft.
- Highest Point: Pico Cristobal Colon 18,800 ft.
- 32 Departments + 1 Capital District.

Bogota - 3

- **National Holiday:** July 20 (1810 Independence from Spain)
- **President:** Gustavo Francisco PETRO Urrego (since 2022).
- **Legislature:**
 - Senate 108 seats.
 - Representatives 188 seats.



Bogota - 4

- Ethnic Groups:
 - Mestizo (mixed Amerindian and white) and white 84%
 - Afro-Colombian 10%.
 - Amerindian 3%.
 - Others 2%.
- Language: Spanish.
- Literacy: 94%.

Bogota - 5

- Religion:
 - Roman Catholic 79%.
 - Protestant 14% (includes Pentecostal 6%, mainline Protestant 2%, other 6%)
 - Other 7%.
- Drive: Right.

Bogota - 6

Money: COP

Colombian Peso.

COP 3,709 = US\$1 (May 2026)

Economy (2026):

GDP Nominal \$539 Billion.

GDP PPP \$1,259 Billion.

GDP PPP Per Capita \$23,576.

<https://www.worldometers.info/gdp/colombia-gdp/>



Colombia History – 1

- 1499 Spanish arrived. Viceroyalty of New Granada.
- 1819 Independence from Spain:
 - Fight led by Simon Bolívar and Francisco de Paula Santander.
 - Republic of New Granada – included Columbia and Panama.
- Ideological divisions to this day:
 - Bolivar supporters: Conservatives.
 - Santander supporters: Liberals.

Colombia History – 2

- 1886 Republic of Colombia was declared. **Included Panama.**
- 1899-1902 – Civil War 100,000 died.
- Panama seceded in 1903.
- 1940s and 1950s: Civil War 300,000 died.
- 1953-1957 Military junta.

Colombia History – 3

- Since 1960s “low-intensity armed conflict” - insurgencies fueled by drug money.
- Escalated in 1990s.
- Decreased from 2005 onward.
- 2016 Peace treaty between Colombian government and Marxist-Leninist guerrilla FARC.

Plaza Bolivar Main square of Bogotá



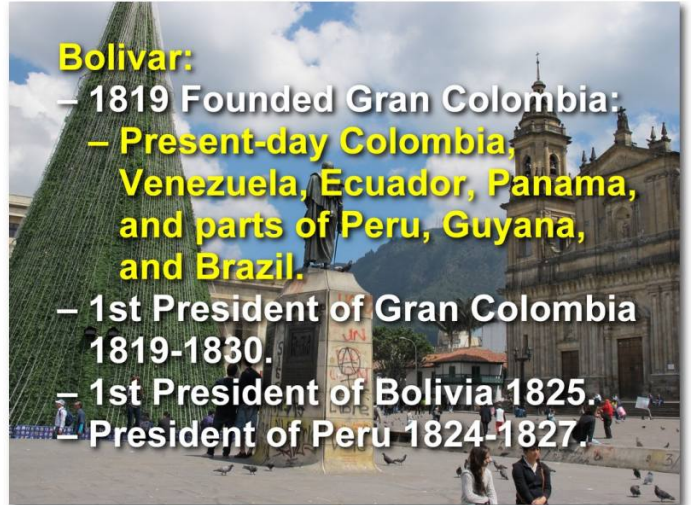
Statue of Simón Bolívar Sculpted 1846 "El Libertador" 1783-1830 Venezuelan

Viewed as a national icon in much of modern South America.



Bolívar:

- 1819 Founded Gran Colombia:
 - Present-day Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Panama, and parts of Peru, Guyana, and Brazil.
- 1st President of Gran Colombia 1819-1830.
- 1st President of Bolivia 1825.
- President of Peru 1824-1827.



Metropolitan Cathedral Built 1807-1823 Plaza Bolívar



Bogota Metropolitan Cathedral Interior

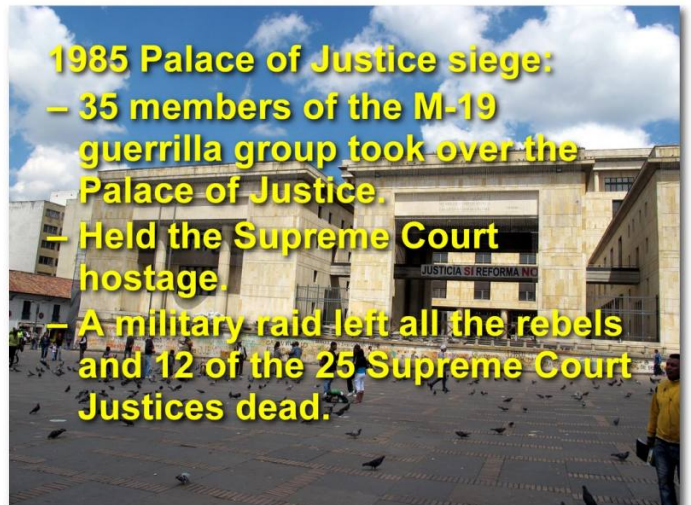


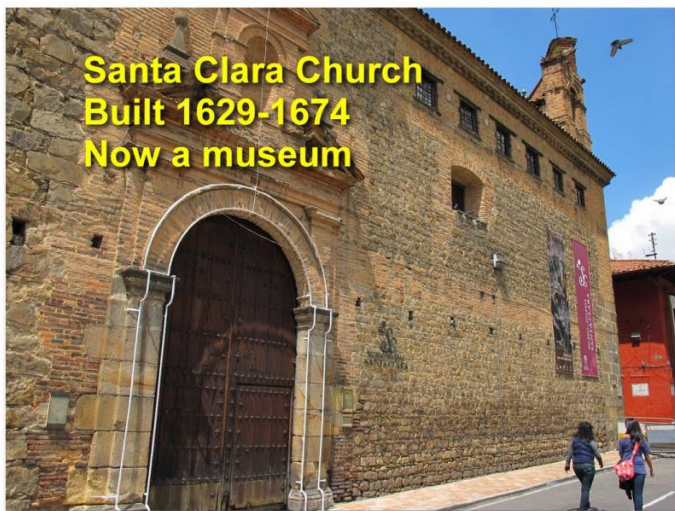
Palace of Justice Supreme Court of Columbia

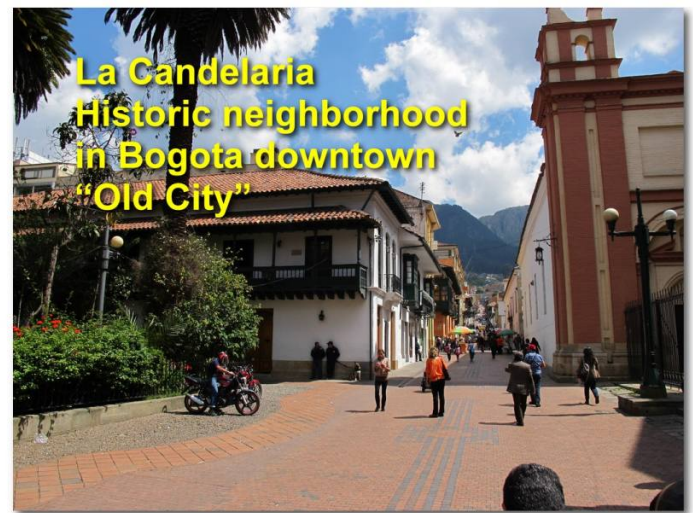
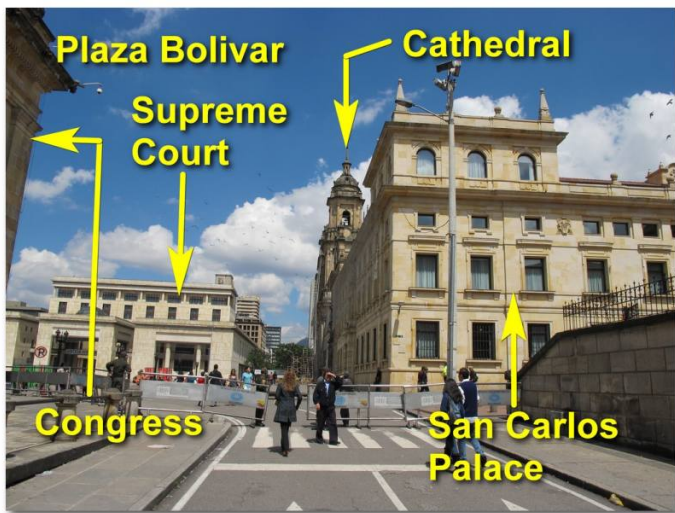


1985 Palace of Justice siege:

- 35 members of the M-19 guerrilla group took over the Palace of Justice.
- Held the Supreme Court hostage.
- A military raid left all the rebels and 12 of the 25 Supreme Court Justices dead.



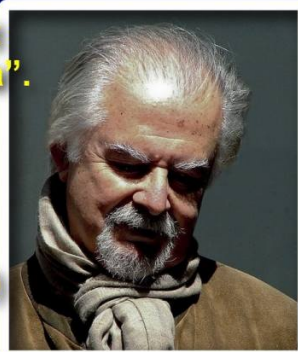




Fernando Botero

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fernando_Botero

"He was considered the most recognized and quoted living artist from Latin America". His paintings and sculptures are united by their proportionally exaggerated ("fat") figures.



Botero Museum



Botero Museum

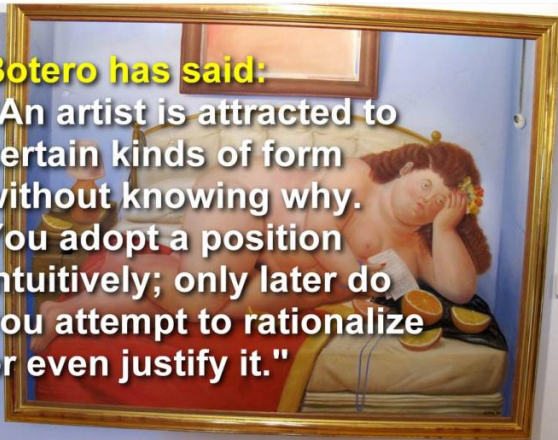


Botero Museum



Botero has said:

"An artist is attracted to certain kinds of form without knowing why. You adopt a position intuitively; only later do you attempt to rationalize or even justify it."



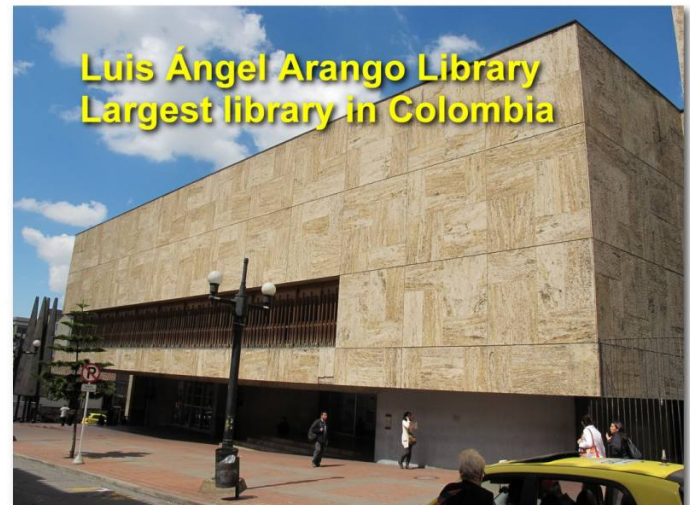
Botero Sculpture at Peninsula Hotel, HK



Candelaria Church
1686
Bell tower contains remains of colonial people.



Luis Ángel Arango Library
Largest library in Colombia





Quito, Ecuador

- Ecuador Population: **18,400,000 (2026).**
- Quito Pop: **2,500,000.**
- Median Age: **29.7 (US 39).**
- Life Expectancy: **78 (US 79).**

<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/ecuador-population>

Quito - 2

- Ecuador area: 109,000 sq mi.
- About size of Nevada.
- Highest point: Chimborazo 20,561 ft.
- 24 Provinces.
- Ecuador includes Galapagos Islands, 563 mi west of mainland Ecuador.

Quito - 3

National Holiday: August 10 (1809) - Independence.

President:

Daniel Noboa
(Since Nov 2023).

Legislature:
Unicameral.

151 seats. Currently 10 parties.



Quito - 4

- Ethnic Groups:
- Mestizo (Amerindian+white) 72%.
- Montubio 7%.
- Amerindian 7%.
- White 6%.
- Afroecuadorian 4%.
- Mulatto 2%.
- Black 1%.
- Other 1%.

Quito - 5

– Religion:

- **Roman Catholic:** 69%.
- **Evangelical:** 15%.
- **Adventist:** 1%.
- **Jehovah's Witness:** 1%.
- **Others:** 3%.
- **None or Atheist:** 11%.

– Drive: **Right.**

Quito - 6

- **Money:** US dollar became Ecuador's currency in 2000.

Economy: 2026

GDP Nominal \$138 Billion.

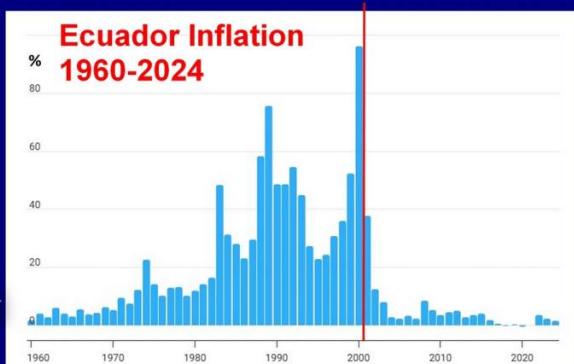
GDP PPP \$323 Billion. **US 32.3 Tr**

GDP Per Capita PPP \$17,720

<https://www.worldometers.info/gdp/ecuador-gdp/>

US \$94,430

Ecuador dollarized in 2000 to stop inflation. It worked.



Ecuador History – 1

- 1450s Incas of Peru conquer Ecuador.
- 1531 Spanish led by Pizarro defeat Incas. Spain controls.
- 1822 Antonio Jose de Sucre defeats Spain. Ecuador becomes part of independent Gran Colombia (Colombia, Panama and Venezuela).

Ecuador History – 2

- 1830 Ecuador leaves Gran Colombia. Now fully independent.
- 1941 Peru invades Ecuador to obtain mineral land. Ecuador cedes 77,000 sq mi of territory to Peru.
- 1948-60 Growth in banana trade brings prosperity. Today Ecuador is #5 worldwide in banana production (after India, China, Philippines, Brazil).
- 1972 Oil production starts.

Ecuador History – 3

- 1972-1979 Military juntas.
- 1980s Return to democracy, but left-leaning governments. Border wars with Peru.
- 2008 Ecuador defaults on \$3 billion of bonds.
- Oil reserves: ¼ of Ecuador exports and ⅓ of government revenue.
- Tourism: : Quito and Cuenca are UNESCO. Plus Galapagos.

Plaza Grande The principal public square of Quito



Plaza Grande and Cathedral





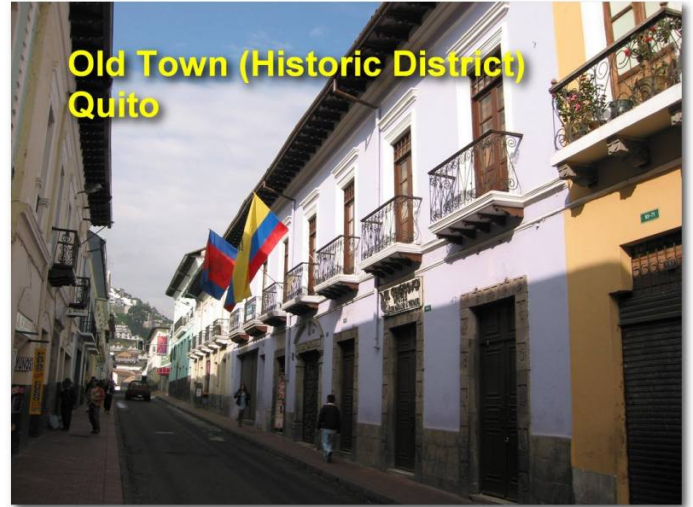
**Monument to the Heroes
of August 10, 1809
– first fight for
independence**



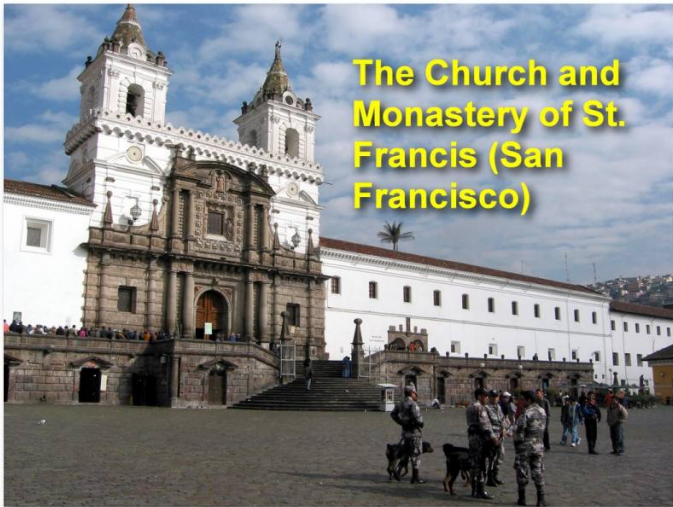
Field Trip



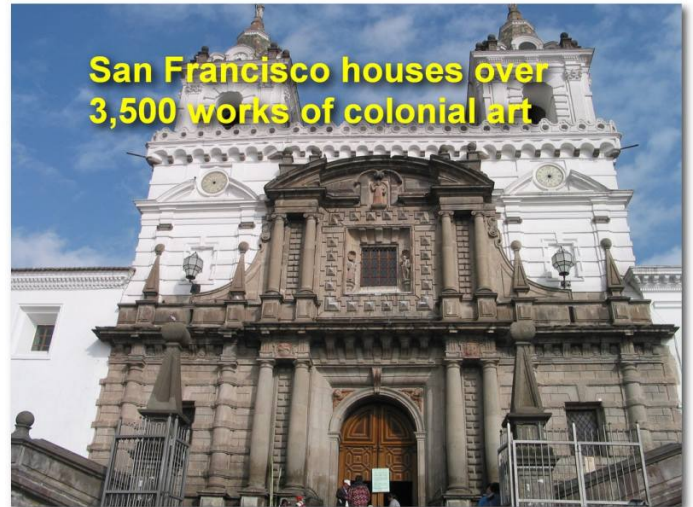
Police presence is common



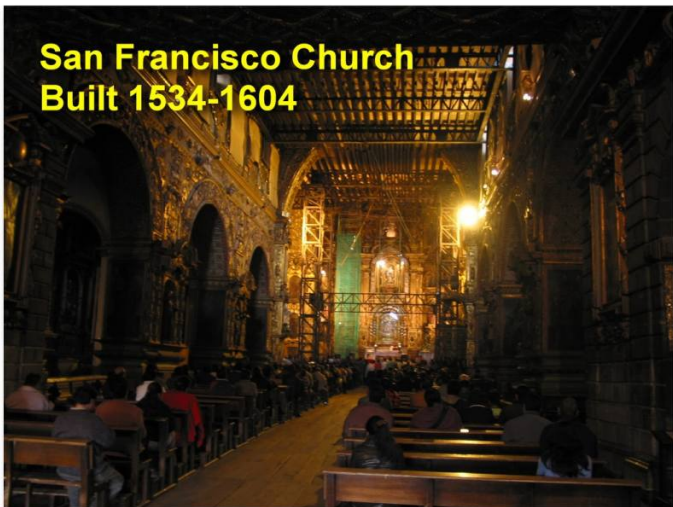
**Old Town (Historic District)
Quito**



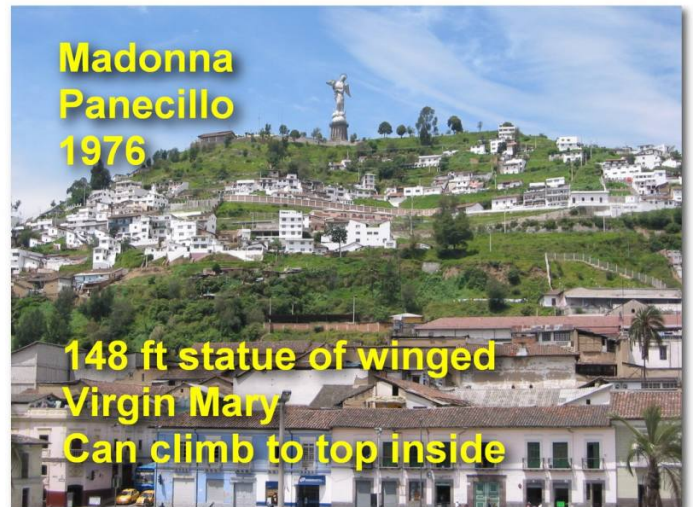
**The Church and
Monastery of St.
Francis (San
Francisco)**



**San Francisco houses over
3,500 works of colonial art**



**San Francisco Church
Built 1534-1604**



**Madonna
Panecillo
1976**

**148 ft statue of winged
Virgin Mary
Can climb to top inside**



**Carmen Alto Monastery
1653**



**Central Bank
of Ecuador
Like US
Federal Reserve**



**Securities regulators from
all over the Americas**

Paul

**COSRA 2005 - Marzo 16-17
Quito - Ecuador**



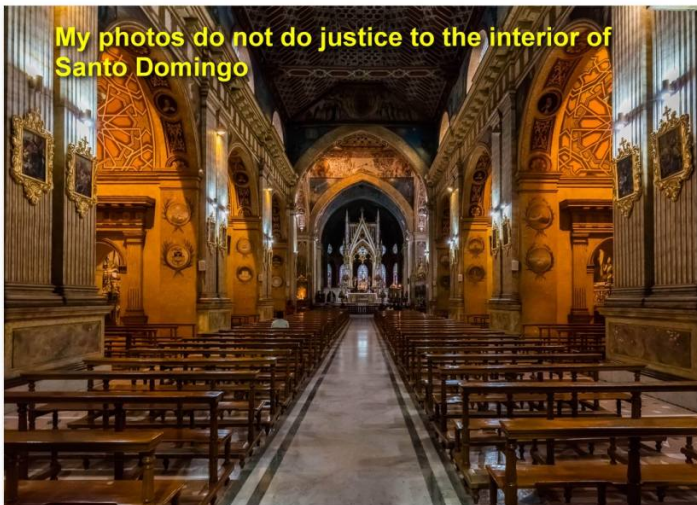
**La Compania Church
Built 1605 to 1765
Baroque
Jesuit**



**Government Palace
Offices**



**Santo Domingo Church
Built 1581-1650**



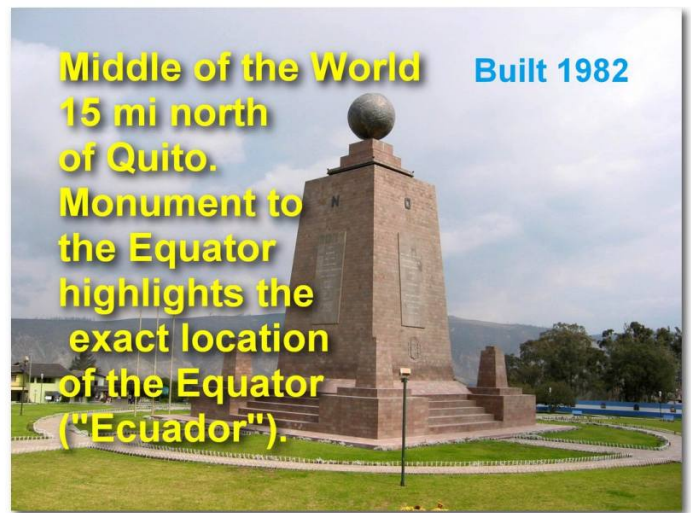
**My photos do not do justice to the interior of
Santo Domingo**



Old Town - Quito



Museum dedicated to independence hero Marshal Antonio José de Sucre, and his wife, Mariana Carcelén

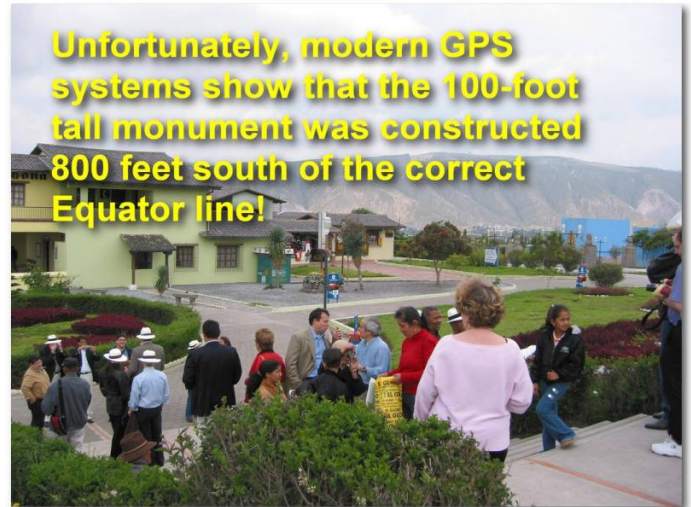


Middle of the World
15 mi north of Quito.
Monument to the Equator highlights the exact location of the Equator ("Ecuador").
Built 1982

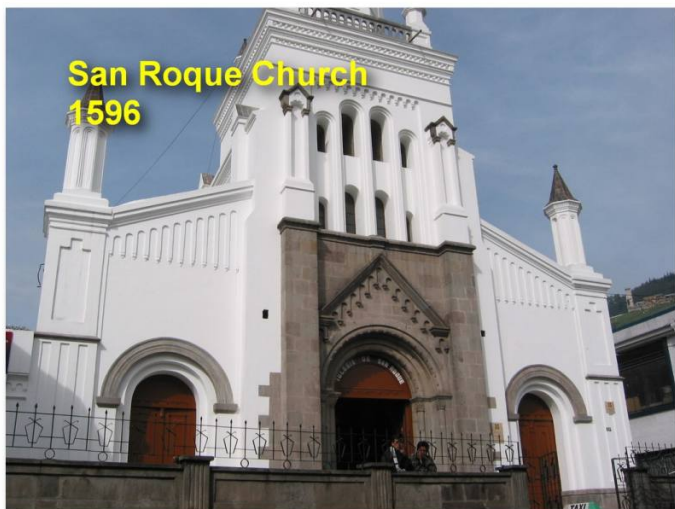


US SEC Commissioner

Equator line



Unfortunately, modern GPS systems show that the 100-foot tall monument was constructed 800 feet south of the correct Equator line!



San Roque Church
1596



San Roque Neighborhood - Quito



San Francisco Market - San Roque



San Francisco Market - San Roque

San Francisco Market - San Roque



San Roque Market Customers



**Museum of the City
Museo de Ciudad
1565**



**Museum of the City
1565**



**Teatro Sucre
1886
- Theatre
- Concerts
- Opera**



Quito Skyline



A graphic of the Chilean flag, featuring a white star on a blue field and a red field below. The text "SANTIAGO Chile" is written in large yellow letters.

SANTIAGO
Chile

**CHILE
MAP**



Santiago is capital.
President, Govt
Departments, and
Supreme Court are in
Santiago.
Legislature meets in
Valparaiso 75 mi away.

Santiago, Chile - 1

- Chile pop: **19.9 Million (2026).**
- 90% live in central 1/3 of country.
- Santiago population: **7.1 Million (2026).**
- Median age: **37.4 (US 39.4 2025).**
- Life expectancy: **81 (US 79).**

<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/chile-population/>

Santiago - 2

- Chile area: 291,000 sq mi.
- About size of Montana.
- Highest point: Nevado Ojos del Salado 22,572 feet.
- 16 Regions.
- Includes Easter Island 2,182 miles away from Chile.

Santiago - 3

- **National Holiday:** September 18 (1810 - independence).
- **President:** José Antonio Kast Since Mar 2026.
- Legislature:
 - **Senate:** 50 seats.
 - **Chamber of Deputies:** 155 seats.



Santiago - 4

- Ethnic Groups:
 - White and non-indigenous 89%.
 - Mapuche 9%.
 - Aymara 1%.
 - Other indigenous 1%.
- Language: Spanish.
- Literacy: 98%.

Santiago - 5

- Religion:
 - Roman Catholic 67%.
 - Evangelical-Protestant 16%.
 - Jehovah's Witness 1%.
 - Other 3%.
 - None/unspecified 13%.
- Drive: Right.

Santiago – 6

Money: Chilean Pesos (CLP).

Exchange: 896 CLP = US\$1.

Economy (2026)

<https://www.worldometers.info/gdp/chile-gdp/>

GDP Nominal \$408 Billion.

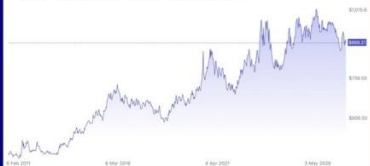
GDP PPP \$752 Billion.

GDP Per Capita \$37,336
(US \$94,430).

Santiago – 7

USD to CLP conversion rate history
2011 to May 2026

<https://www.worldometers.info/currency/conversion-rates/USD-to-CLP-exchange-rate/history/>



Chile History – 1

- Pre-Hispanic: Amerindian societies.
- 1540-1820 Colony of Spain.
- 1810 National junta to replace Spanish rule.
- 1810-1820s Battles with Spain.
- 1818 Declaration of Independence.

Chile History – 2

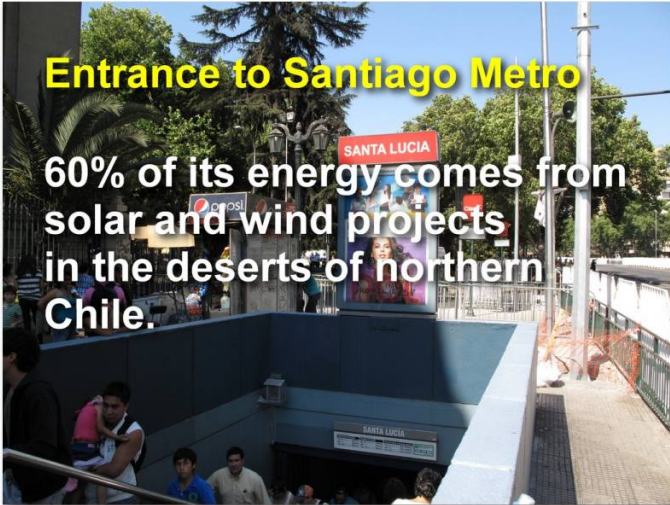
- 1820-1900 Ruled by restricted, elite controlled governments. Voting limited.
- 1900-1970 Social change, industrial growth, labor unions.
- 1970-1973 Salvador Allende – left-wing President. Policies opposed by USA.

Chile History - 3

- 1973-1990 Coup d'etat by Augusto Pinochet. Right-wing junta. Pinochet brutal dictator.
- Since 1990 Peaceful transition to democracy.
 - Free trade agreements with USA and EU.
 - Economic growth.

Entrance to Santiago Metro

60% of its energy comes from solar and wind projects in the deserts of northern Chile.



Santiago Metro (Subway) Began operation: 1975.

System Length: 93 miles. Lines: 7.
Stations: 143.
Annual Ridership: 599 million (2023).



Trains have rubber tires

In March 2012, the Santiago Metro was chosen as the best underground system in the Americas by *Metro Rail*.



Plaza de Armas Main square of Santiago



Plaza de Armas Main square of Santiago Laid out in 1541

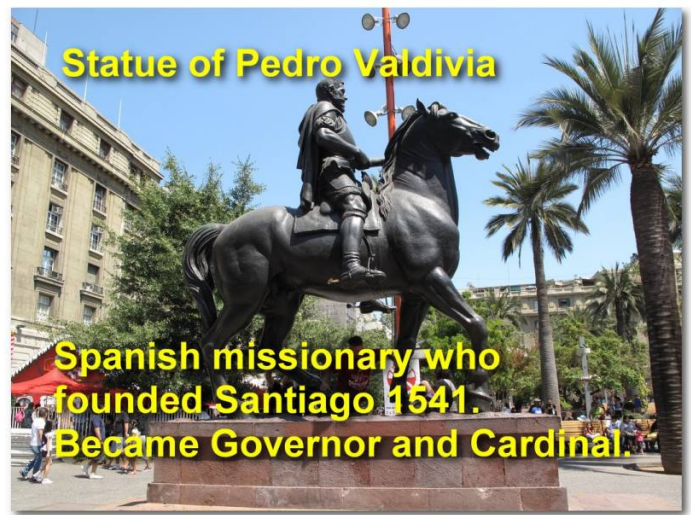


Plaza de Armas Main square of Santiago





**Plaza de Armas
Sculpture**



Statue of Pedro Valdivia

**Spanish missionary who
founded Santiago 1541.
Became Governor and Cardinal.**



**Santiago Metropolitan Cathedral
1748**



**Santiago Metropolitan
Cathedral**



**Santiago Metropolitan Cathedral
1748**



**La Moneda - Offices of the
President of Republic of Chile
1784**



Santiago Stock Exchange



**Former National Congress
Building - 1876**

Still used as Congressional offices.



Supreme Court of Chile



**Mercado Central
Central Market
1872**



**Mercado Central
Cast Iron Building**



Mercado Central

Conger eel

Cuttle fish

Oysters

Clams



Mercado Central



**Nisperos Dulces = Sweet Medlar
Medlar has to rot before it is ripe
Tastes like apple butter / sauce**

Medlar



Santiago center



**Basilica de la Merced
1795**



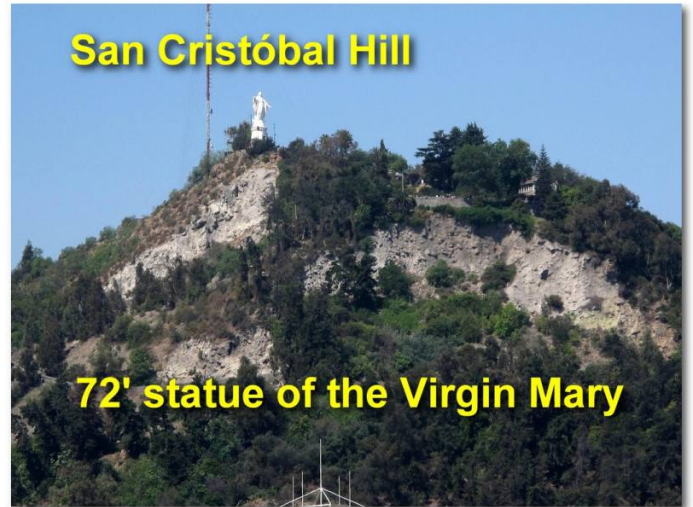
Many old buildings have balconies like this



Central Santiago



Monument to Arturo Prat
Hero in Chile's victory over
Peru and Bolivia 1879-1884
"War of the Pacific".



San Cristóbal Hill

72' statue of the Virgin Mary



Church of San Augustin
Iglesia San Agustín
1625



Church of San Francisco
Iglesia de San Francisco
1622

Oldest building in Chile



Church of San Ignacio
1872



Church of San Ignacio
1872

Concluding observation:

Move to political right in 3 of the 4 countries.

Argentina – Javier Milei: “Right-wing populist” or “right-wing libertarian”. Since taking office, spending cuts, deregulation, monetary restraint.

Ecuador – Daniel Noboa: Businessman. Hard line on fighting crime and drugs. Job creation.

Chile – Jose Antonio Kast: “Broadly right wing” and “conservative”. Supports deregulation, cutting taxes. Hard-line on illegal immigration.

Colombia - ~~Gustavo Petro:~~ ~~Was left wing guerilla leader. Wants peace with rebels. Pro Palestine.~~

~~Conservationist. Anti fossil fuels. Tax the wealthy.~~
June 21, 2026 right wing populist Abelardo de la Espriella won presidential election.

