

## Four South American Capitals

presentation by

Paul Pacter

Collier County Library



# BUENOS AIRES Argentina

## Argentina Map



### Buenos Aires, Argentina

- Argentina population: 46 million.
- Buenos Aires population: 3 million.
- Median age: 32. **US: 38**
- Life expectancy: 77. **US: 80**

### Buenos Aires - 2

- Argentina area: 1,073,000 sq mi.
- 30% of size of USA.
- Highest Point: Cerro Aconcagua 22,841 ft – Highest point in South America (Mt Denali 20,310').
- 23 Provinces.

### Buenos Aires - 3

- National Holiday: May 25 Revolution Day (1810).
- President: Alberto Fernandez  
**Since 2019**
- Legislature:
  - Senate 72 seats.
  - Deputies 257 seats.



### Buenos Aires - 4

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

## Buenos Aires - 5

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

## Buenos Aires – 6

**Money:** Argentine Pesos (ARS)

**Conversion:**  
ARS 142  
= US\$1

*Last 5 years, ARS has gone from 16 to 142 for US\$1*



## Argentina Economy (2021 data)

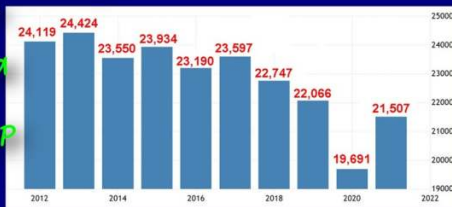
**GDP:** \$492 billion

**GDP PPP:** \$1,371 bn (US \$22,522 bn)

**GDP PPP Per Capita:** \$21,507\*  
(US: \$63,069)\*

\*2017 dollars

*Argentina GDP per capita PPP*



## Argentine 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.
- Nation building 1810-1880.

## Argentine History - 2

- 1880-1930 Economic prosperity.
- 1930-1946 Economic decline.
- 1946-1955 Peron: further decline.
- 1955-1976 Military juntas, instability, further decline.
- Since 1976 various attempts at reorganization and recovery, but still serious economic problems and fragile politics.

## Plaza de Mayo City center of Buenos Aires



## Plaza de Mayo

### Revolt of May 18-25, 1810

The first successful revolution in the South American Independence process.



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  
Manuel Belgrano  
Army Commander  
War for Independence  
1810



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

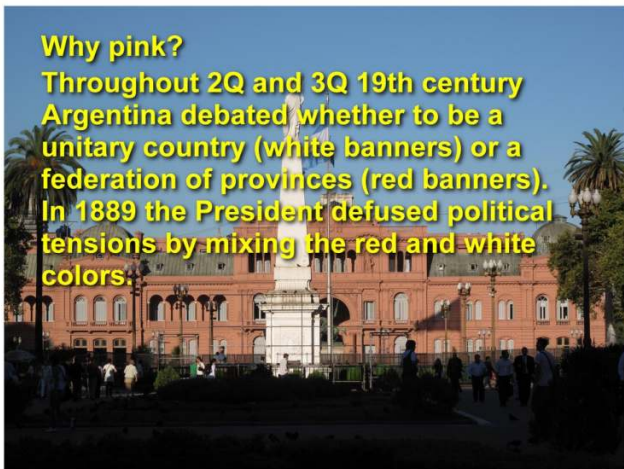


Casa Rosada  
1879  
Executive mansion and office of the President of Argentina

View from Plaza de Mayo



Casa Rosada (Pink House)  
1879



Why pink?  
Throughout 2Q and 3Q 19th century Argentina debated whether to be a unitary country (white banners) or a federation of provinces (red banners). In 1889 the President defused political tensions by mixing the red and white colors.



Casa Rosada  
1879



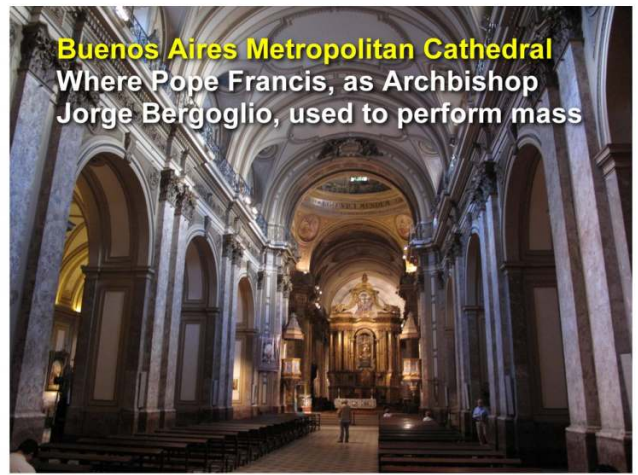
Casa Rosada  
You can visit the courtyard and a small museum



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.**



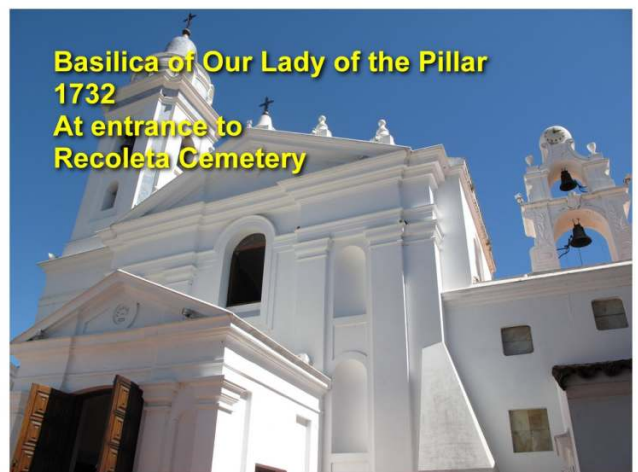
**July 9th Avenue**



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



**July 9th Avenue**



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



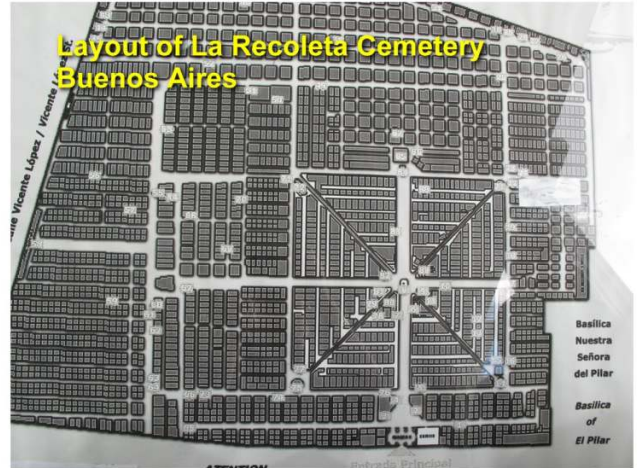
**Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar  
Originally a Franciscan monastery  
1732**



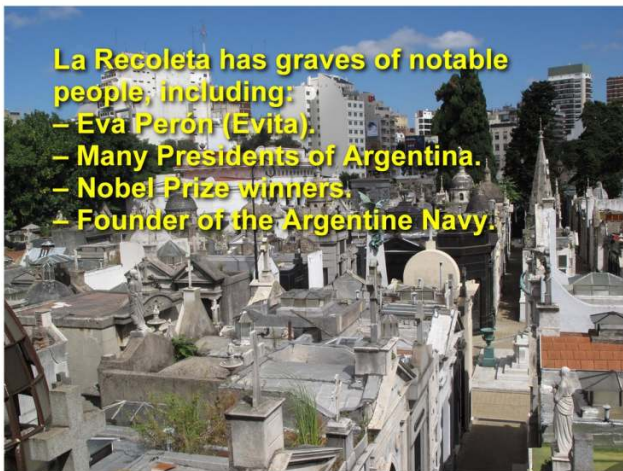
**Our Lady of the Pillar  
Treasury Museum**



**Entrance to La Recoleta Cemetery  
4,691 vaults EXPECTAMUS DOMINUM  
Established 1822**



**Layout of La Recoleta Cemetery  
Buenos Aires**



**La Recoleta has graves of notable  
people, including:**  
– Eva Perón (Evita).  
– Many Presidents of Argentina.  
– Nobel Prize winners.  
– Founder of the Argentine Navy.



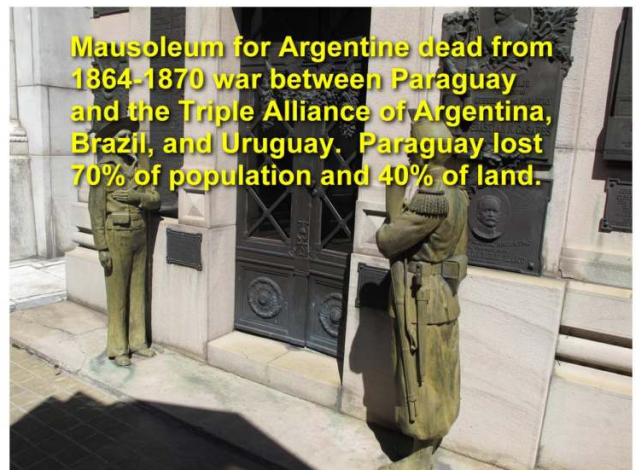
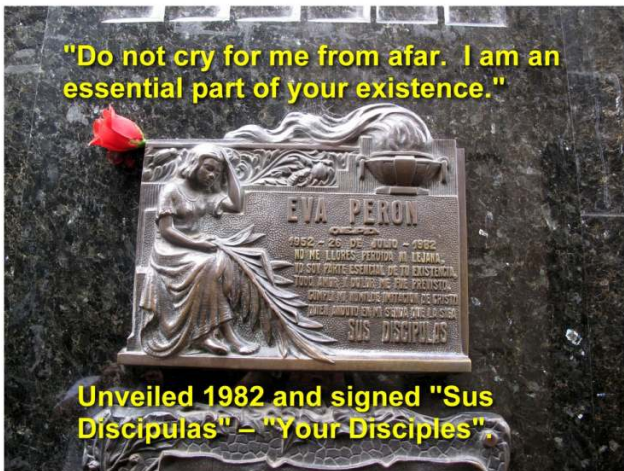
**Of the 4,691 vaults, 94 are declared  
national historic monuments**



**Architectural styles include Art Deco,  
Art Nouveau, Baroque, and Neo-  
Gothic**



**Most materials used in the  
construction of tombs were imported  
from France and Italy.**





**La Recoleta Cemetery**



**La Recoleta Cemetery**



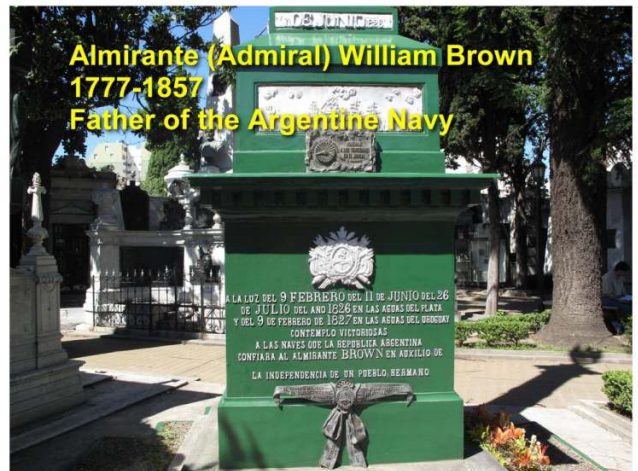
**La Recoleta Cemetery**



**Manuel Quintana - 1835-1906  
President of Argentina 1904-1906**



**Dr Jose E Uruburu  
President of Argentina  
1894-1898**



**Almirante (Admiral) William Brown  
1777-1857  
Father of the Argentine Navy**



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

**The Argentina Paradox:**  
How did a country that was one of the world's richest in the first decades of the 20th century end up in such economic disorder?

In 1913 Argentina GDP per capita was #10 in world. Par with Australia and Canada, ahead of France and Italy.

Today  
it is  
#71.

Why?



Why did Argentine economy deteriorate starting 1930s?

1. Political instability.
2. Foolish economic policies.
3. Lack of investment.
4. Huge foreign debt.
5. Corruption.
6. Policies of Juan Peron (president 1946-1955).

Juan Peron was a:  
Fascist. Demagogue.  
Dictator.

During WW2 supported Mussolini and Hitler. After the war Argentina became a haven for former Nazi leaders. Peron protected war criminals.

“He nationalized large parts of the economy and put up trade barriers to defend them. He cut Argentina's links to the world economy -- which had been one of its great sources of wealth -- embedded inflation in the society, and destroyed the foundations of sound economic growth.”

Excerpt from *The Commanding Heights* by Daniel Yergin and Joseph Stanislaw, 2002 ed.

1955 Peron overthrown in military coup d'etat. Exile 1955-1973.

Sadly, economy continued to decline under military junta:

- Inflation averaged 26% annually from 1944 to 1974.
- Over 400,000 companies of all sizes went bankrupt by 1982.
- Unemployment 25%.

The “Dirty War”

- With the economy tanking, in 1974-1983 the Junta formed right-wing death squads to silence social and political opposition.
- 30,000 people disappeared.
- Most members of the Juntas are now in prison for crimes against humanity and genocide.

Dec 2001 Argentina defaulted on its US\$132 billion of debt.

- Run on banks.
- Locked out of international credit markets.
- Armed confrontations between police and citizens. Fires set on Buenos Aires avenues.
- Dec 2001-Jan 2002 Argentina had four Presidents!

Argentina continues to struggle:

August 2022: Central Bank raised interest rate to 69.5%.

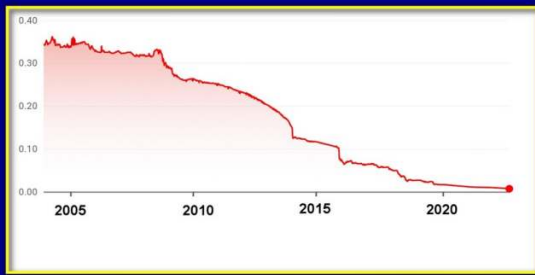
2022 Inflation: Expected to hit 95% for year. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/currencies/argentina-inflation-risk-expected-hit-95-year-2022-09-09/>

June 2018: Borrowed US\$50 billion from IMF (biggest IMF loan in history). Later increased to US\$57 billion.

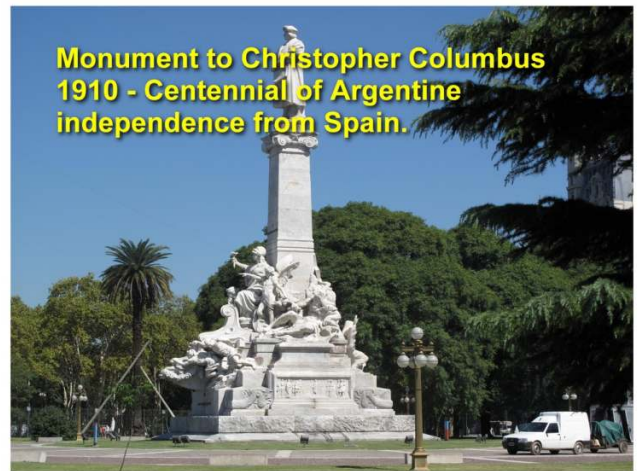


## Argentina continues to struggle

Exchange Rate US Dollar to Argentine Peso – Last 20 Years



<https://www.google.com/finance/quote/ARS-USD>





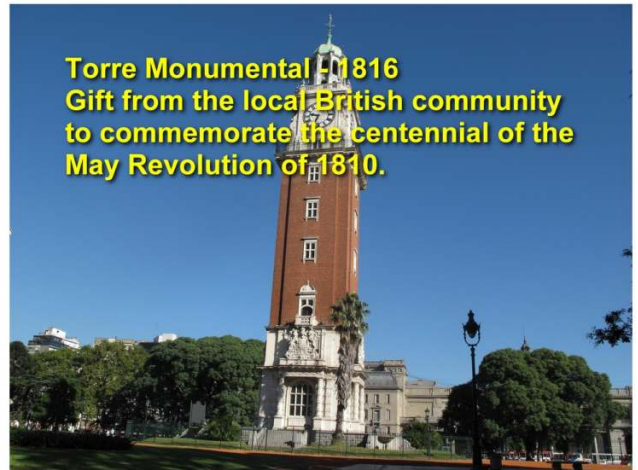
**Military Museum of the Nation**  
**Museo de Armas de la Nación**  
**Medieval to modern arms**



**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 1816**  
**Gift from the local British community**  
**to commemorate the centennial of the**  
**May Revolution of 1810.**



**Retiro Train Station**  
**Largest in Argentina**  
**1915**



**Teatro Colón (Columbus Theatre)**  
**Main opera house in Buenos Aires**  
**Acoustically considered one of the five**  
**best concert venues in the world.**



**Teatro Colon**  
**Seats 2,487**  
**1889**

(not my photo)

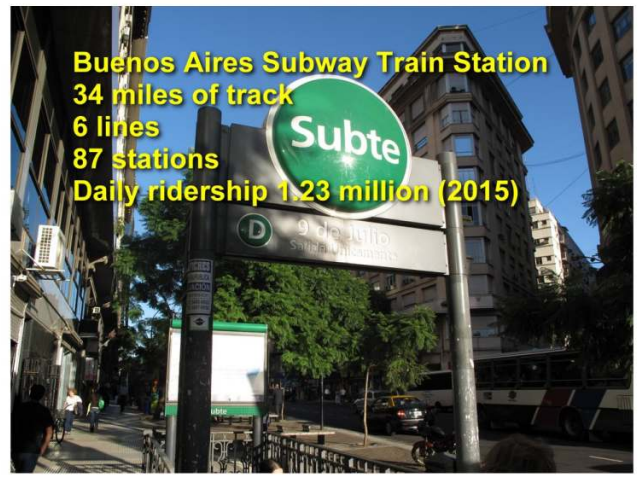


**2,487 seats, standing room for**  
**1,000, stage 66' wide, 66' deep**

Not my photo



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



**Buenos Aires Subway Train Station**  
**34 miles of track**  
**6 lines**  
**87 stations**  
**Daily ridership 1.23 million (2015)**



**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: 48 million.
- Bogota population: 8 million.
- Median age: 30 US: 38
- Life expectancy: 76 US: 80

## 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 171 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.

**Sept 2022: COP 4,413 = US\$1.**

**Economy (2020):**

- GDP: \$271 billion.
- GDP PPP: \$684 billion.
- GDP PPP Per Capita: \$13,400 (US: \$60,200).



## 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.
- 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.
- 2012 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**

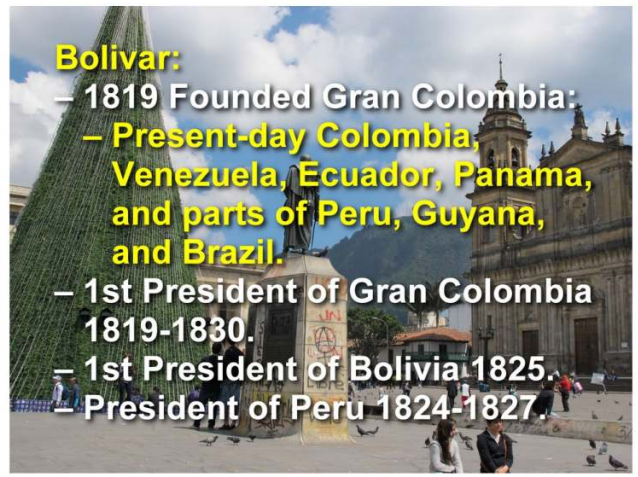
Viewed as a national icon in much of modern South America.





**Bolívar began fighting for independence of Venezuela in 1808:**

- Finally won in 1821.
- President of the Republic of Venezuela 1813-1819.
- Fought in other wars for independence in S.A. as well.



**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**



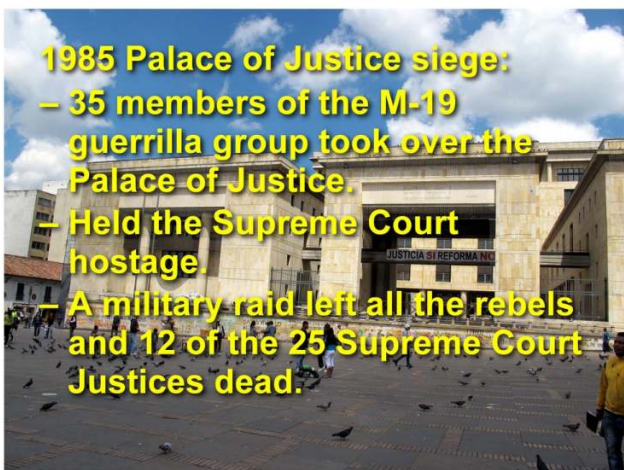
**Metropolitan Cathedral aka Basilica of the Immaculate Conception 1823**



**Cathedral Interior (Internet photo)**



**Palace of Justice Supreme Court of Columbia**

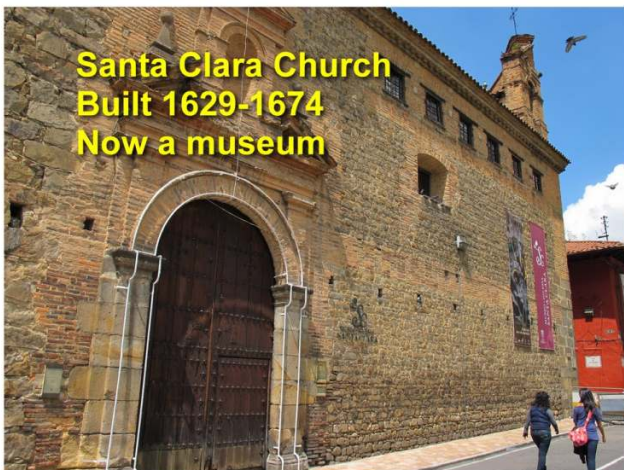
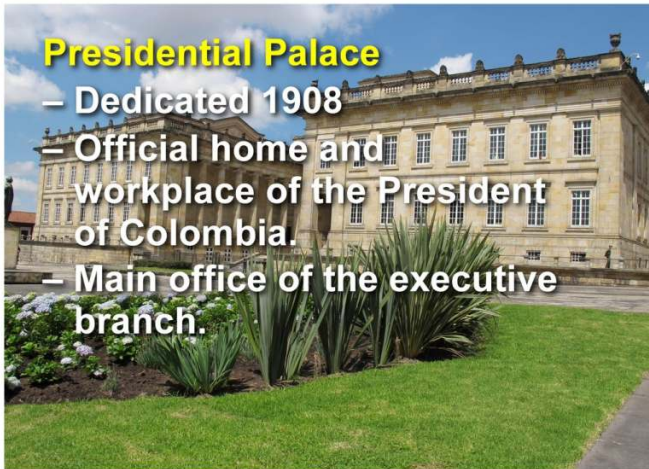
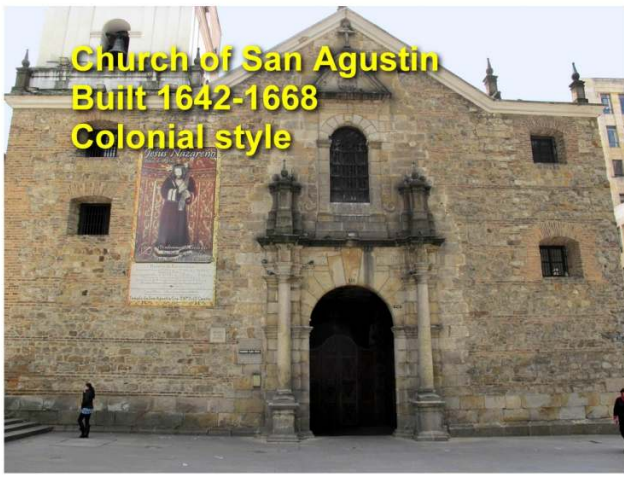


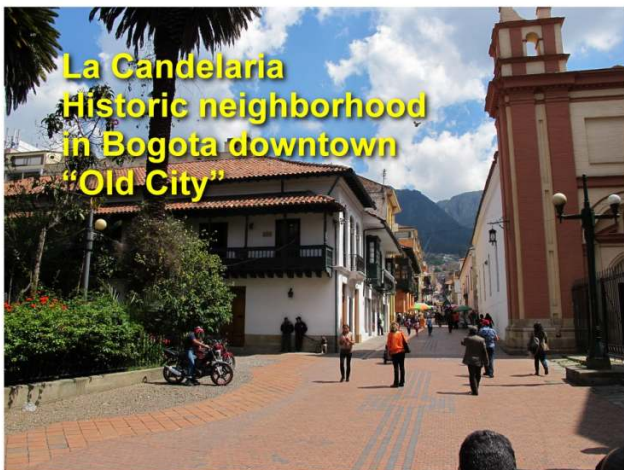
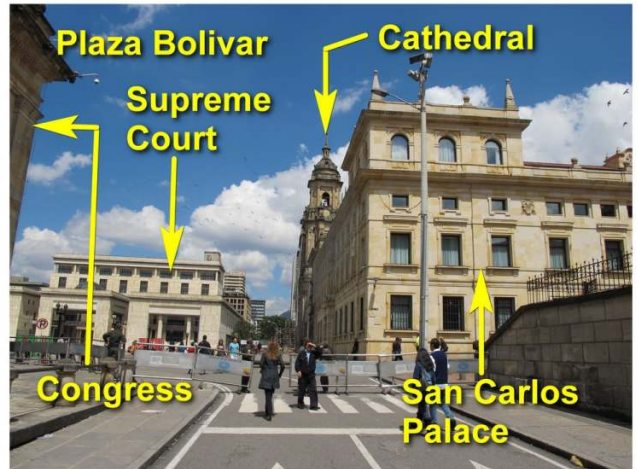
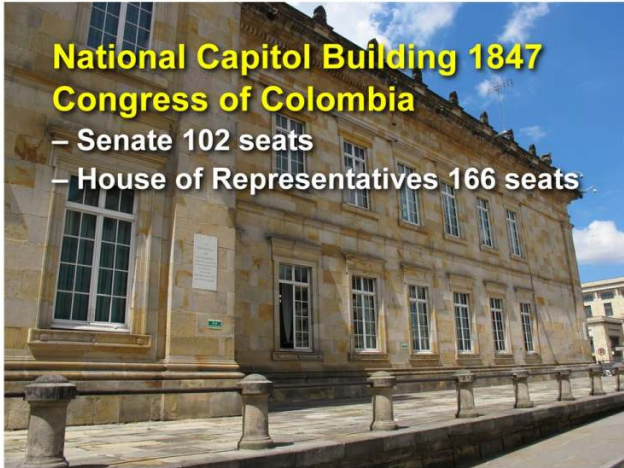
**1985 Palace of Justice siege:**

- 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.

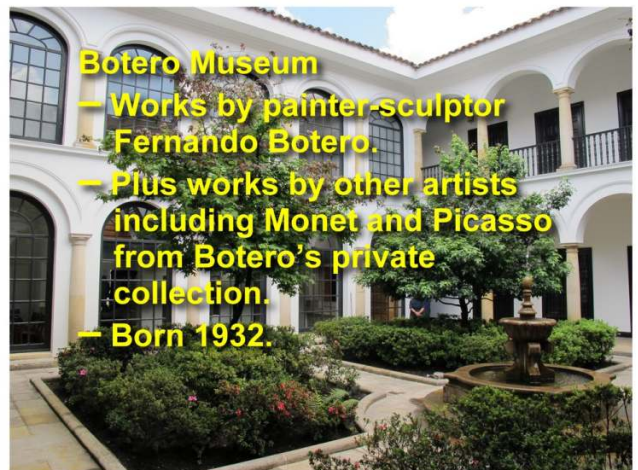


**Lievano Palace Bogota City Hall Built 1843-1848**

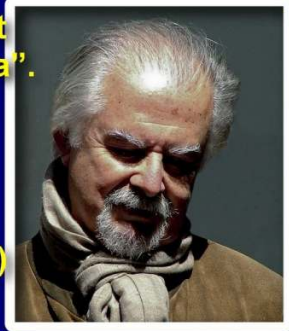








**Fernando Botero**  
"He is considered the most recognized and quoted living artist from Latin America". His paintings and sculptures are united by their proportionally exaggerated ("fat") figures.



**Botero Museum**



**Botero Museum**



**Himself**

**Botero Museum**



**Botero Museum**



**Botero Museum**

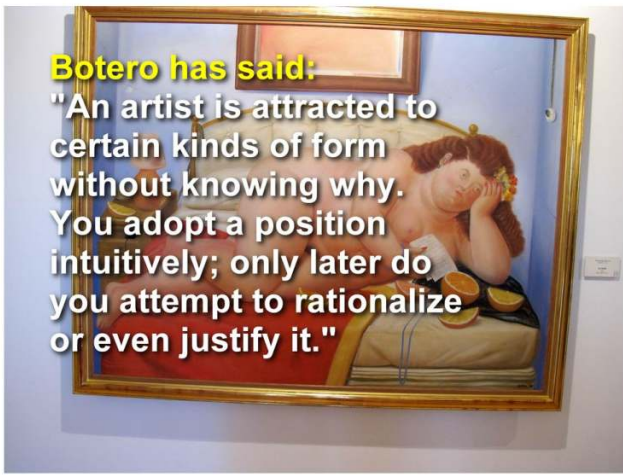


**Botero Museum**



**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."



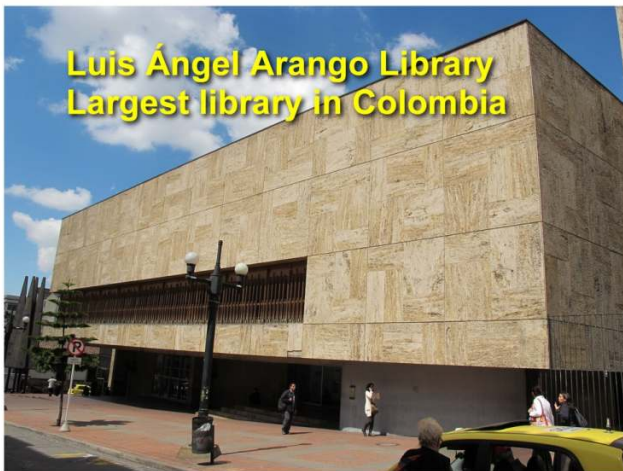
**Botero Sculpture at Peninsula Hotel, HK**



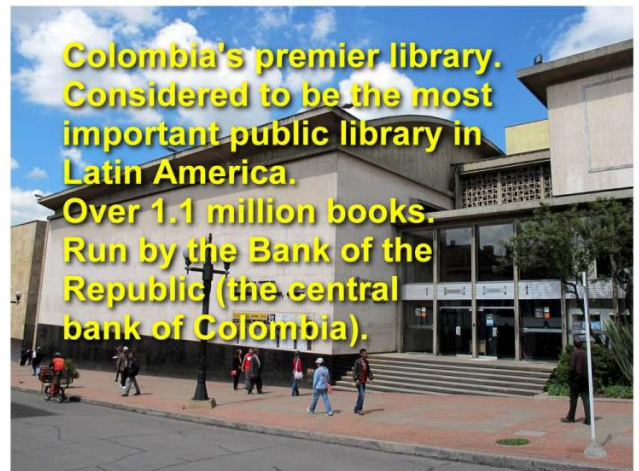
**Candelaria Church  
1686**



**Candelaria Church  
1686  
Bell tower contains remains of colonial people.**



**Luis Ángel Arango Library  
Largest library in Colombia**



**Colombia's premier library.  
Considered to be the most important public library in Latin America.  
Over 1.1 million books.  
Run by the Bank of the Republic (the central bank of Colombia).**



**Nuestra Señora del Carmen  
Built 1926-1938**

**Florentine Gothic style, with Byzantine and Arabic touches**



**Bogota Skyline**



### Quito, Ecuador

- Ecuador population: 18 million.
- Quito population: 3 million.
- Median age: 28. **US: 38**
- Life expectancy: 77. **US: 80**

### 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:** Guillermo LASSO Mendoza (since May 2021).

**Legislature:** Unicameral. 137 seats.



### 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: (2020)**
  - GDP: \$107 Billion.
  - GDP PPP: \$182 Billion.
  - GDP PPP Per Capita: \$10,300 (US: \$60,200).

### **Ecuador – 7 (Economy cont'd):**

- Heavily dependent on petroleum.
- Food and textiles also important.
- President Correa 2007-2017 was socialist. Two presidents since 2017 are economic reformers.
- China is Ecuador's largest foreign lender. 78% of bilateral debt.
- Agriculture is 7% of GDP but 25% of labor force. Sugar cane, bananas, milk, palm oil, cocoa.

### **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.
- Recently: economy hurt by declining oil prices.
- 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



Police presence is common



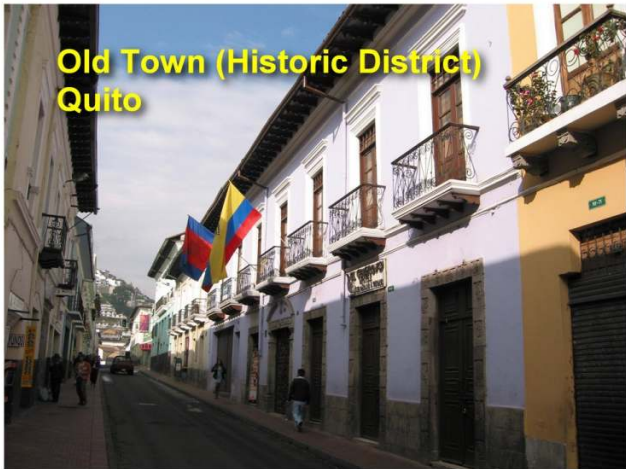
Metropolitan Cathedral of Quito  
Consecrated 1572



Cathedral



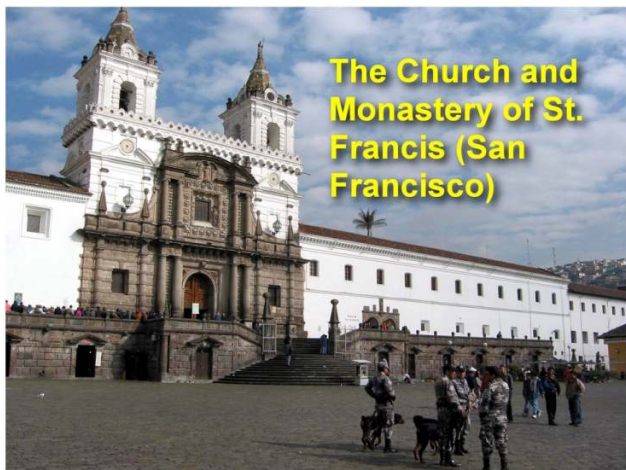
Old Town (Historic District)  
Quito

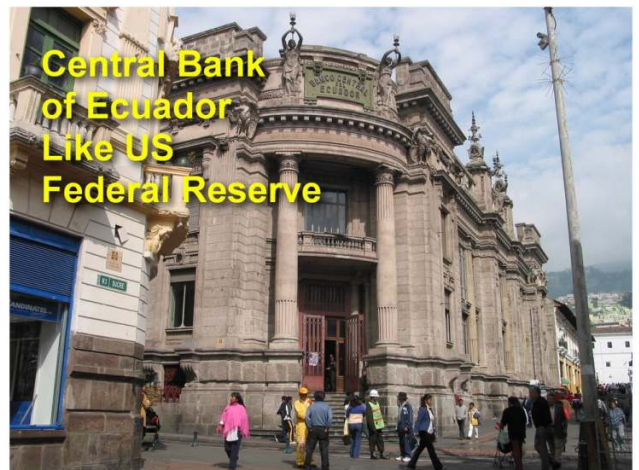
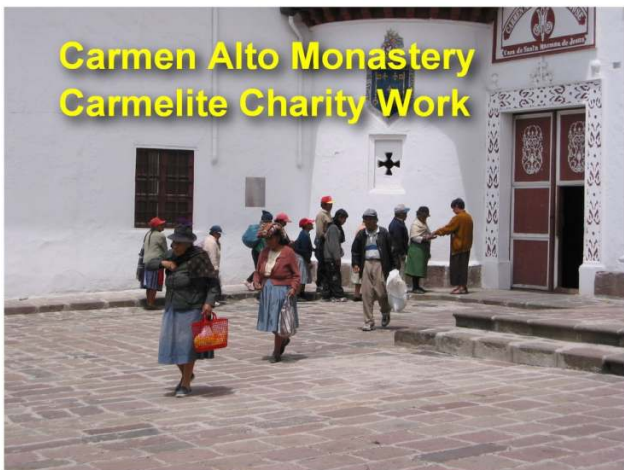
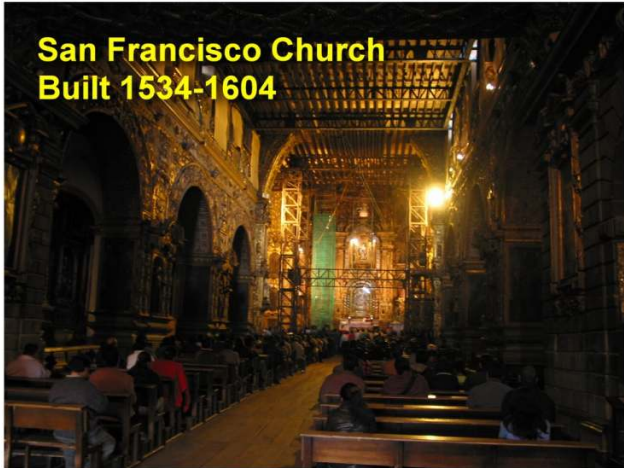


Old Town - Quito



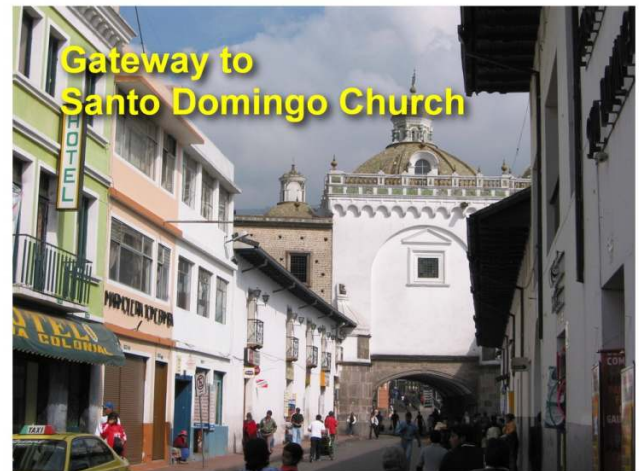
The Church and  
Monastery of St. Francis (San  
Francisco)





## Ecuador "dollarized" in 2000

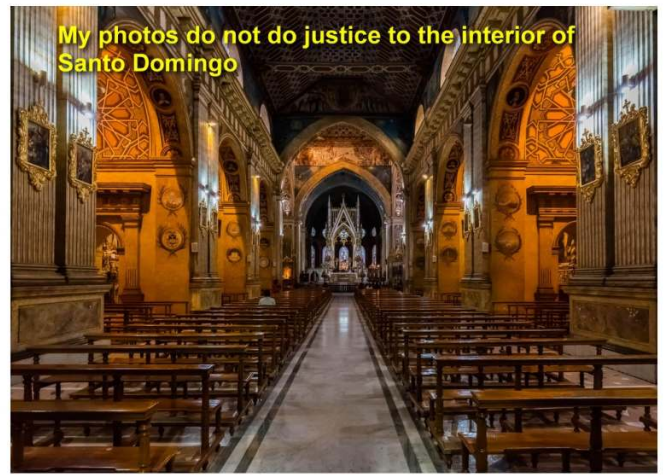
- Inflation early 1990s 20% a year.
- By 1999 inflation was 100%.
- By 2000, 25,000 Sucre = US\$1.
- In 1999 Sucre lost 67% of its FX value. Massive capital outflows.
- People informally used US\$ to avoid losing purchasing power.
- March 2000 \$ formally replaced Sucre.
- Since dollarization Ecuador average annual economic growth 4.4%.



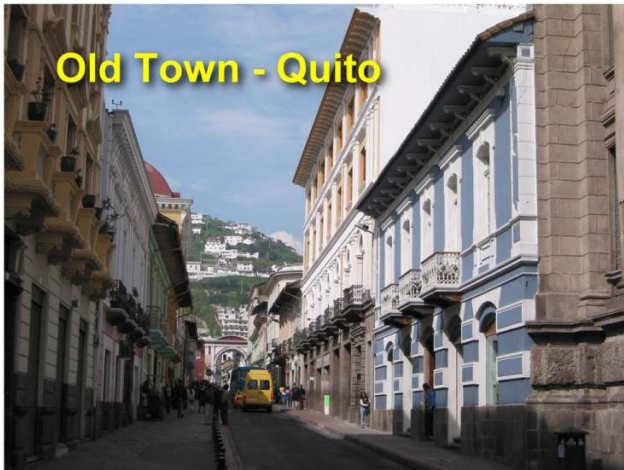




**Santo Domingo Church  
1581-1650**



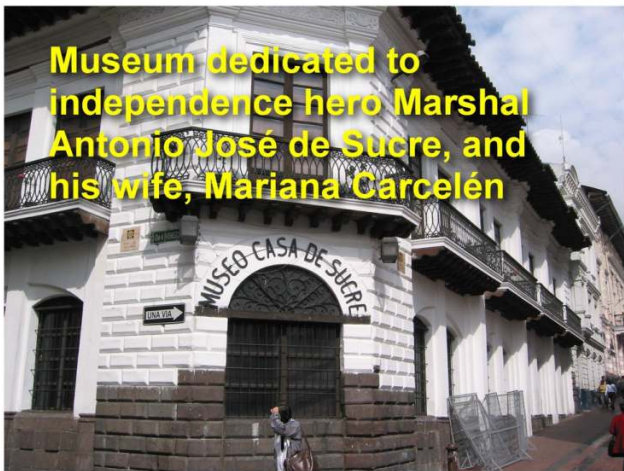
**My photos do not do justice to the interior of  
Santo Domingo**



**Old Town - Quito**



**Old Town - Quito**



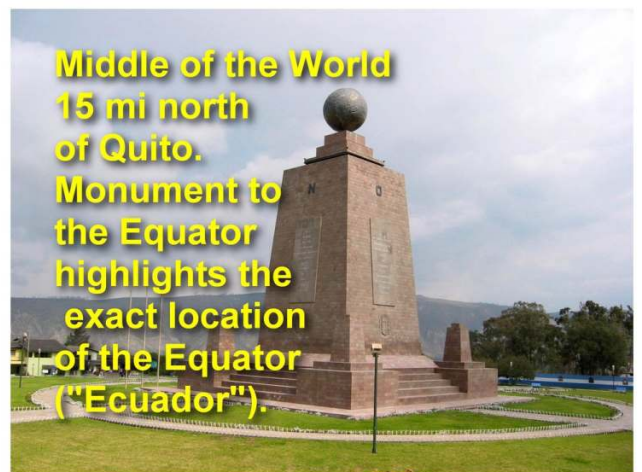
**Museum dedicated to  
independence hero Marshal  
Antonio José de Sucre, and  
his wife, Mariana Carcelén**



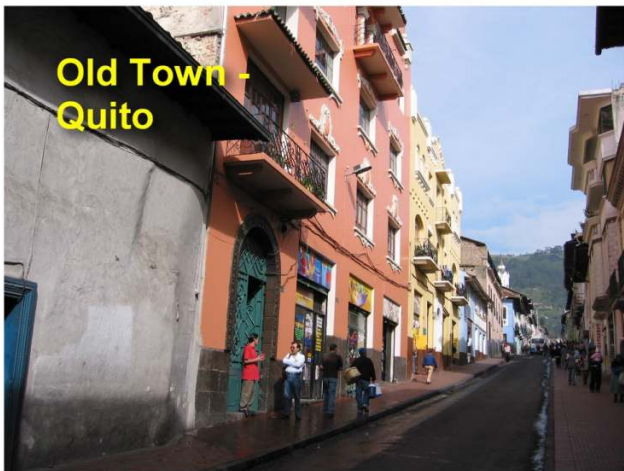
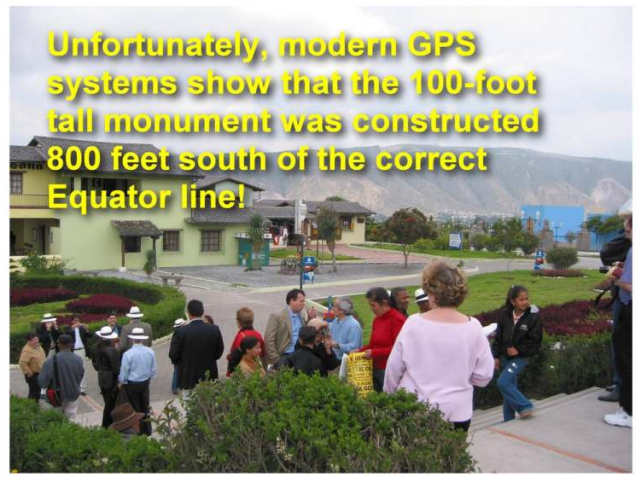
**La Merced Convent  
Moorish design  
Built in 1538**



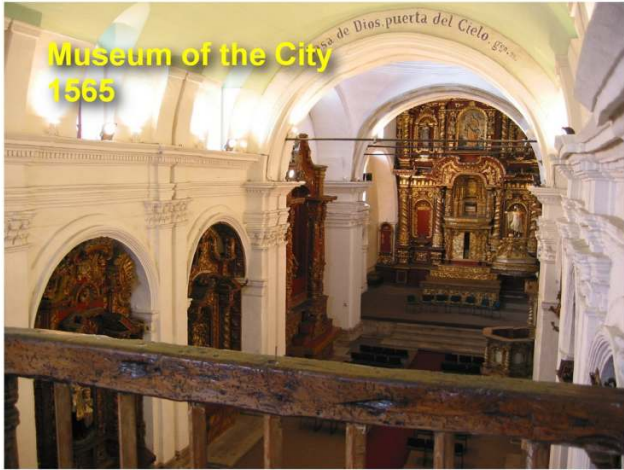
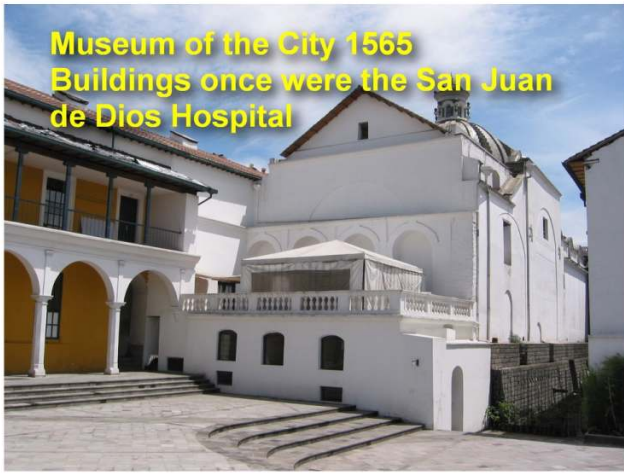
**La Merced Convent  
Built in 1538**



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







## Santiago, Chile

- Chile population: 19 million.
- 90% live in central 1/3 of country.
- Santiago population: 6 million.
- Median age: 36. **US 39.**
- Life expectancy: 79. **US: 80**

## 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: Gabriel BORIC (since 2022).
- 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%.

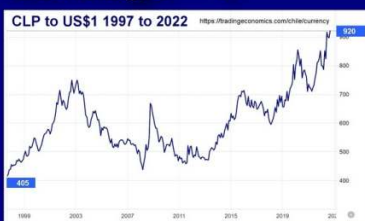
## Santiago - 5

- 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:** 920 CLP = US\$1.
- Economy (2020):**
  - GDP: \$283 Billion.
  - GDP PPP: \$446 Billion.
  - GDP PPP Per Capita: \$23,300 (US \$60,200).

## Santiago - 7



## 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

- 1820-1970s Chile ruled by “restricted governments, where the electorate was carefully vetted and controlled by an elite”.
- 1970-1973 Salvador Allende – left-wing President. USA opposed his policies.

## 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.

Annual ridership: 685 million (2017).

Number of lines: 7.

Number of stations: 136.

System length: 86.8 mi.



## 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

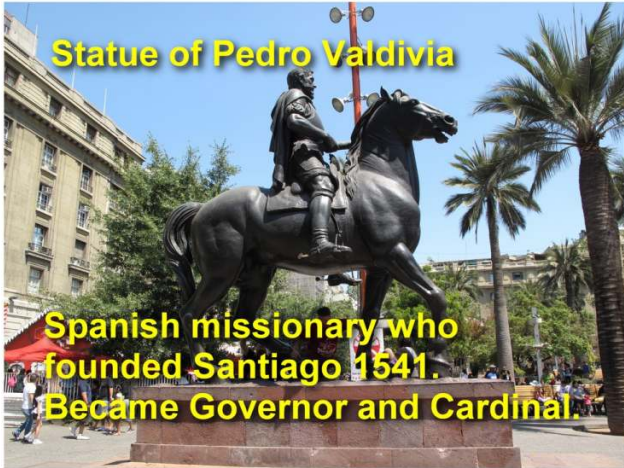




**Plaza de Armas**



**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**



**Palacio Edwards - 1899 Diplomatic Academy**



**Mercado Central Central Market 1872**



**Mercado Central Cast Iron Building**



**Mercado Central Many restaurants**



**Mercado Central Open 7 days**







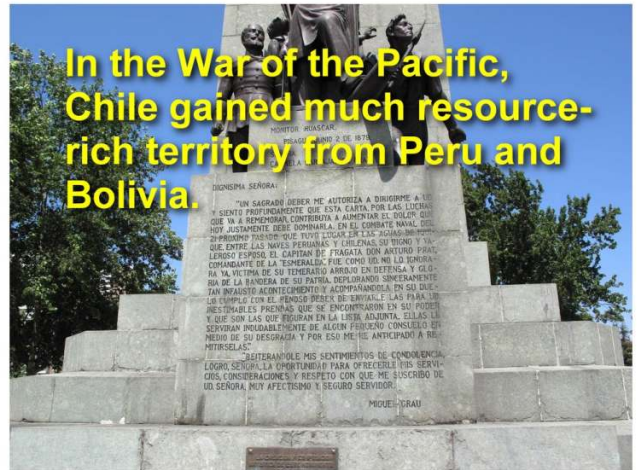
Many old buildings have balconies like this



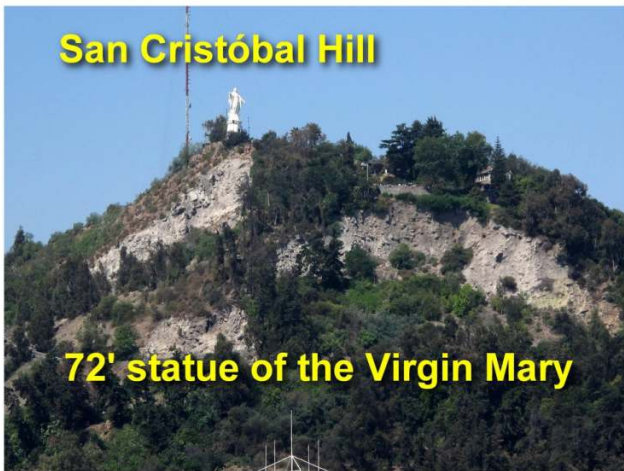
Central Santiago



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



In the War of the Pacific, Chile gained much resource-rich territory from Peru and Bolivia.



San Cristóbal Hill

72' statue of the Virgin Mary



Church of San Agustín 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**



**EL FIN**

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