



Hotel Plaza Grande

QUITO, ECUADOR

Located in the heart of Quito's Historic Centre — a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site since 1978 — Hotel Plaza Grande is a landmark of luxury and heritage. Overlooking Independence Square and the Presidential Palace, this striking colonial building has witnessed more than five centuries of history. It now stands as one of the Ecuadorian capital's most distinguished hotels.

The property occupies an historical site — it was once home to the first residential house built in Quito after the Spanish foundation in 1534. Today, its suites exude classic elegance, with balconies offering privileged views of the Metropolitan Cathedral, El Panecillo Hill (topped by the iconic Virgin of Legarda statue), and the bustling square below. Period furnishings and colonial-inspired details reflect the cultural richness of Quito.

Dining is a highlight of the Hotel Plaza Grande experience. At Café Plaza Grande, guests can explore traditional Ecuadorian flavours with dishes such as *locro de papa* (potato and cheese soup), *fritada quiteña* (slow-cooked pork), and hand-spun *helados de paila* — a fruit ice cream prepared

in copper pans using ancestral methods. For a more relaxed ambience, Bar 1936 serves refined cocktails and fine spirits, while the terrace of the San Francisco Hall offers a memorable setting for a drink at sunset, with panoramic views of Quito's domed churches and El Panecillo in the distance.

Beyond the hotel, a guided walk through the cobbled streets of the Historic Centre reveals some of Quito's baroque landmarks. Highlights include La Compañía de Jesús, often called one of Latin America's most breathtaking churches, and the Museo del Carmen Alto, which offers insight into Quito's sacred art and traditions. Nearby San Francisco Square is a gateway to the city's colonial past, while the Calle de las Siete Cruces (Street of the Seven Crosses) tells the story of Quito's spiritual identity through its sequence of historic temples.

Don't miss La Ronda, a lively neighbourhood just a short stroll away, known for its artisan workshops, music, and traditional Ecuadorian treats. Time your visit with the Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Carondelet Palace, a colourful and moving display of national pride.

Need to know

KEY FEATURES

- 15 elegant colonial-style suites
- Café Plaza Grande restaurant
- Bar 1936
- San Francisco Hall with terrace overlooking Independence Square

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Guided tours of the historic centre
- Ecuadorian cooking experience
- Dessert experiences: *helados de paila* & Ecuadorian fusion desserts
- Gastronomy that reflects Ecuador's diverse cultural & geographic identity

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DON'T MISS Taste a traditional *helado de paila*, handmade fruit ice cream served by El Cucurucho, a symbolic religious figure