

Expats In Ecuador: Cuenca's Top Ten Attractions

Cuenca, Ecuador is a beautiful city with a rich history and culture. It's also a popular destination for expats, who are drawn to its affordable cost of living, friendly people, and stunning scenery. If you're thinking about moving to Cuenca, or just visiting for a vacation, be sure to check out these top ten attractions.



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by David Morrill

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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1. El Cajas National Park

El Cajas National Park is a stunningly beautiful park located just a short drive from Cuenca. The park is home to a variety of ecosystems, including páramo, Andean forest, and lakes. There are also several hiking trails that wind through the park, offering visitors the chance to explore its diverse landscapes.



2. Pumapungo Museum and Archaeological Park

The Pumapungo Museum and Archaeological Park is a great place to learn about the history of Cuenca and the surrounding region. The museum houses a collection of artifacts from the Inca, Cañari, and Spanish periods, and the park features reconstructed buildings from each of these eras.



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3. Catedral de la Inmaculada Concepción

The Catedral de la Inmaculada Concepción is a beautiful cathedral located in the heart of Cuenca. The cathedral was built in the 16th century and is a stunning example of Spanish colonial architecture. The interior of the cathedral is decorated with gold leaf and frescoes, and the altar is made of silver.



4. Río Tomebamba

The Río Tomebamba is a river that runs through the center of Cuenca. The river is a popular spot for locals and tourists alike to relax and enjoy the scenery. There are several parks and walking trails along the river, and there are also several bridges that offer stunning views of the city.



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5. Mirador de Turi

The Mirador de Turi is a viewpoint located on the outskirts of Cuenca. The viewpoint offers stunning views of the city and the surrounding mountains. It's a popular spot for tourists to watch the sunset.



6. Ingapirca Ruins

The Ingapirca Ruins are the remains of an Inca city located about an hour's drive from Cuenca. The ruins are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and are a popular destination for tourists. The city was built in the 15th century and was once home to about 10,000 people. The ruins include several buildings, including a temple, a palace, and a fortress.



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7. El Barranco

El Barranco is a neighborhood located in the historic center of Cuenca. The neighborhood is home to several colonial-era buildings, as well as a number of shops, restaurants, and bars. El Barranco is a popular spot for both locals and tourists to enjoy the city's nightlife.



8. Baños Termales

The Baños Termales are a series of hot springs located about an hour's drive from Cuenca. The springs are a popular spot for locals and tourists alike to relax and enjoy the healing waters. The springs are said to have therapeutic properties and can help to relieve stress, pain, and inflammation.



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9. Parque Nacional Sangay

Parque Nacional Sangay is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located about a two-hour drive from Cuenca. The park is home to a variety of ecosystems, including rainforests, páramo, and glaciers. The park is also home to a number of endangered species, including the spectacled bear, the mountain tapir, and the giant otter.



10. Laguna de Quilotoa

Laguna de Quilotoa is a crater lake located about a three-hour drive from Cuenca. The lake is a stunning turquoise color and is surrounded by towering mountains. The lake is a popular spot for hiking, camping, and swimming.



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Cuenca is a beautiful city with a rich history and culture. It's also a great place to live or visit for expats. The city has a low cost of living, friendly people, and stunning scenery. If you're looking for a new adventure, Cuenca is the perfect place for you.

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