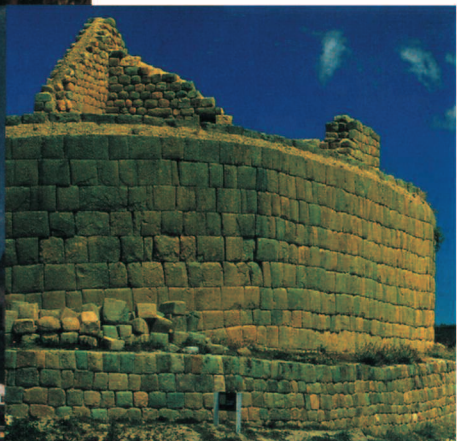


Ecuador

Life at its purest...
Ecuador

The first natives established sophisticated cultures from approximately 18,000 years ago. The country is located in the north west of South America, on the equator and consists of four regions: the Coast, the Andes, the Amazon region and Galapagos. It encompasses a variety of climates and is one of the 17 countries in the world containing the planet's greatest biodiversity. Its population is over 13



million and the surface area is 256,370 sq km. The country is home to 13 indigenous ethnic groups. It produces a great amount of handicrafts and is the world's largest banana producer. The urban areas offer state-of-the-art infrastructure and technology.

Mask from La Tolita culture



Main Pic: *The high altar of the church of "La Campania" coated in gold leaf.*
Inset pics: *Left: The domes of Cuenca's Cathedral.*
Right: Ingrapirca, the Temple of the Sun.