

**cuenca**  
I. MUNICIPALIDAD

con la gente, **siempre**



**MUSEUM  
ROUTE**



Museums included in this route have been selected according to the circuit between San Sebastian Square and Pumapungo Ancestral Park, based on the criteria of the technicians of "Fundación Municipal Turismo para Cuenca" (Cuenca's Tourism Board)

## SOURCES AND REFERENCES

This information was provided by the staff of each of the selected museums.

**#MuseumRoute**

**If you need  
more  
information  
about Museums  
in Cuenca,  
enter:**



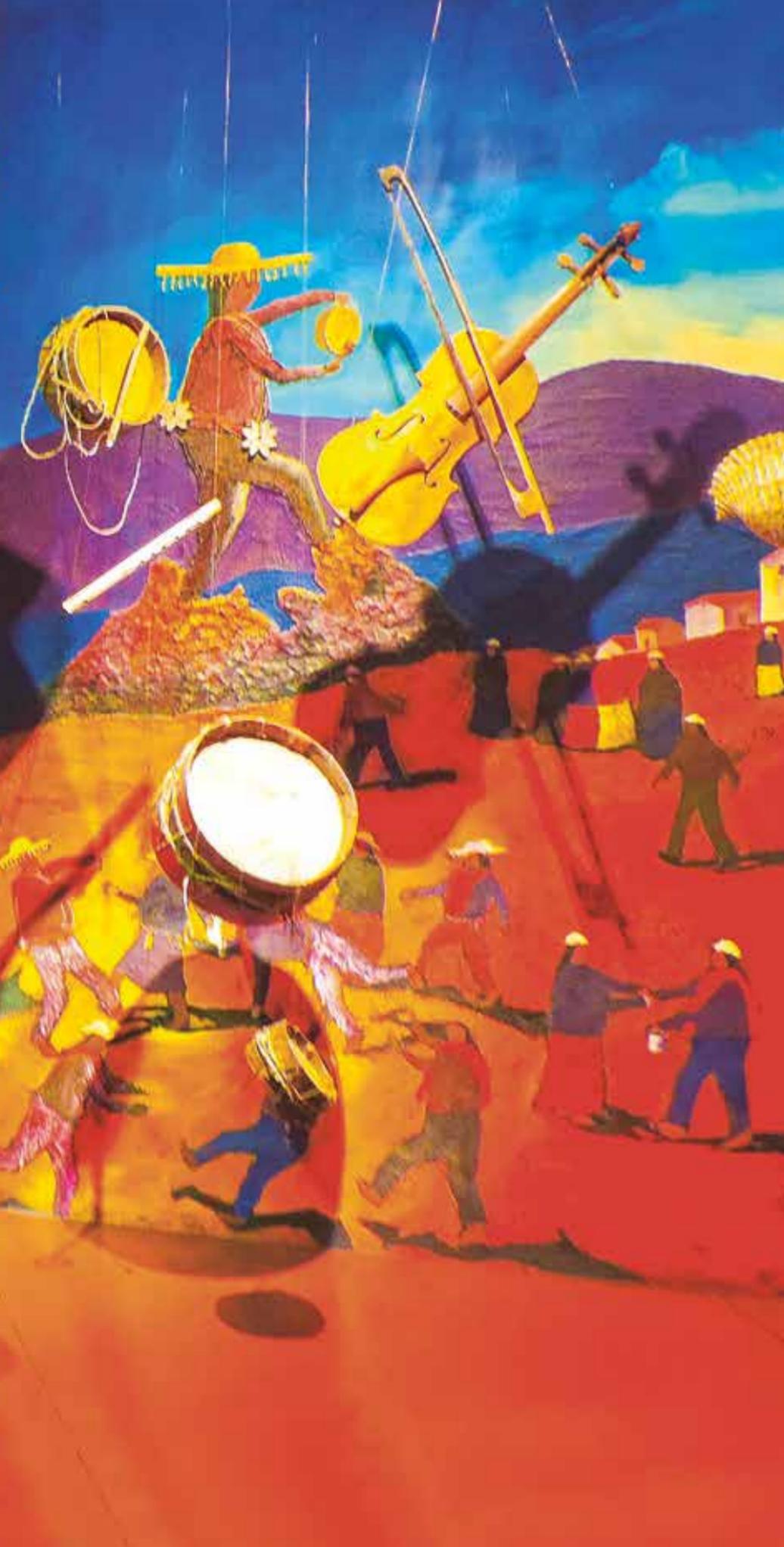


Visiting a museum is much more than walking around an informative space about culture and history. It is getting closer in a vivid way to one of the most important human expressions: admiring art in a way that allows us to see its real message; understanding crafts in its true human and cultural dimension; seeing history in such a way that we can revive it and learn from it.

This route offers the possibility to enjoy the above mentioned at the same time that we discover the scenic beauty of one of the most attractive routes in Cuenca: walking on the side of the Tomebamba River along its way through the center of the city.

Let's learn a little bit more about our patrimony on this dynamic and fun ride!







## MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The Municipal Museum of Modern Art operates in the former House of Temperance, built by the end of the XIX century by the order of Bishop Miguel Leon, it was used as a shelter for rehabilitation and cure of people with alcoholism problems.

A massive escape of inmates in 1896 closed this space temporarily. Later, from 1924 to 1939 it was the home of the male municipal prison. During this time the house was seriously damaged reason to transfer its administration to the Council of Social Assistance, changing its use to charity work and becoming an elderly home. Later it was changed to a solidarity institution named "Drop of Milk", which helped low income mothers.

By the end of the 70's the idea of demolishing the building got stronger until researcher Hernan Crespo and painter Luis Crespo Ordoñez got involved in the idea of remodeling this building to transform it in a museum. In 1978 the Municipality of Cuenca started a restoring project respecting the original characteristics and architectural elements of the building.



*Address: Mariscal Sucre and Coronel Talbot*

*Telephone: 4134900 ext. 1960*

*Schedule: Monday to Friday from 09h00 to 17h00; Saturdays and Sundays from 09h00 to 13h00*



The Municipal Museum of Modern Art opened its doors on August 1st 1981. Today, it is the headquarters of the International Biennial of Cuenca and an important point for the spreading of modern and contemporary art in Ecuador and the world. The public can enjoy here temporal contemporary art exhibits and permanent exhibits of modern art from the patrimonial collection of the Museum.

The Museum has an auditorium for conferences, lectures, seminars, concerts and other types of events, plus a library specialized in art and an information office. Art workshops for children are also organized in this space.



Estimated time  
of the visit: 30 min.



Free  
admission



## “LA CONDAMINE” HOUSE-MUSEUM

“La Condamine” House-Museum operates in a picturesque building of colonial style of more than 160 years of age. This was the home of four generations of the Orellana family, its last owner Graciela Vintimilla Orellana, together with her husband, Dutch gentleman Johannes Van Ruitenbeek, created a space named “Laura’s house-museum”, place used as an antique and crafts shop and to promote traditions and customs in Cuenca for several years.

In 2013, this house was purchased by spouses Manuel Vallejo Chavez and Pauleti Navarrete Farfan, who have maintained the original concept of Graciela Vintimilla, continuing business with the new name of “La Condamine” house-museum. In this welcoming place, visitors can appreciate the characteristic style



*Address: 12-112 La Condamine*

*Telephone: 0969039552*

*Schedule: Monday to Saturday 10h00 to 13h00 and 14h00 to 18h00*



of the colonial architecture of Cuenca. Spaces are located around a central and back patios where a traditional wood oven is preserved. Antiques and crafts are display for sale in such a way that they look more like decorations of a traditional home with special charm.

Today, “La Condamine” House-Museum offers more attractions, for example an original fashion shop named “Mogazza” by designer Gabriela Sanchez Vallejo and a gallery-coffee shop where drawing and painting workshops are offered by plastic artist Fanny Gonzalez.



Estimated time of the visit: 20 min.



\$0,50 per person



## STRAW HAT MUSEUM

The Paredes Roldan House, an interesting historical building of more than 150 years of age where the Straw Hat Museum operates. This space is ideal to learn about the history and reality of one of the most fascinating activities in the country.

This museum was born as an initiative of the Paredes Roldan family, who has been in the straw hat business in Cuenca since the mid part of the XX century. The idea of incorporating this space to the touristic offer of the city became a reality in 2007 creating a space where the main objective is to teach in a didactic and experiential way, the reality of the straw hat in Ecuador.

In the first room of the Museum, visitors find an entertaining exhibit of three dimension pictures where it is possible to take pictures and obtain interesting background sites. The second room shows the tools used to elaborate tailor made hats and the following room replicates a traditional repair shop. Next is a space nicely decorated where visitors can see the first steps in making a hat: the harvest and processing of the Carludovica



*Address: Calle larga and Padre Aguiire*

*Telephone: 2831569*

*Schedule: Monday to Friday 08h30 to 18h30; Saturday 09h30 to 17h00; Sunday 09h30 to 13h30*



Palmata fiber and the weaving process.

After visiting the first rooms, it is possible to visit the factory where the third step takes place: the construction of the hat itself from the weaving made by hand. It is possible to observe the work done by the modeling machines, the steam presses and the manufacture of bands and Moroccan leathers. Here, there is an exhibit area where the final product can be observed, presenting a great variety of styles and designs.



The Museum is completed with a cafeteria and a viewpoint with an amazing view of the Tomebamba River and the south part of the city. There is also a gallery with sporadic art exhibits.



Estimated time  
of the visit: 45 min.



Free  
admission



## UNIVERSITY ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

The University Archeological Museum is part of the Cultural Unit of the University of Cuenca. It was created in 1999 during the administration of Dr. Gustavo Vega Delgado with the purpose of underlining the integral process of restoration by recovering the adobe and bahareque walls, ceilings, patios, columns and other elements which give the building a neoclassic style with a very peculiar attractive.

The Museum offers the possibility of an experiential visit along the history of our country through several rooms prepared in chronological order, archeological objects of five periods: Pre-ceramic, Formative, General Development, Integration and Incan. Different cultures such as Tacalshapa, Cerro Nario, Cashaloma, Challuabamba,



*Address: 5-199 12 de Abril Avenue and Solano Avenue*

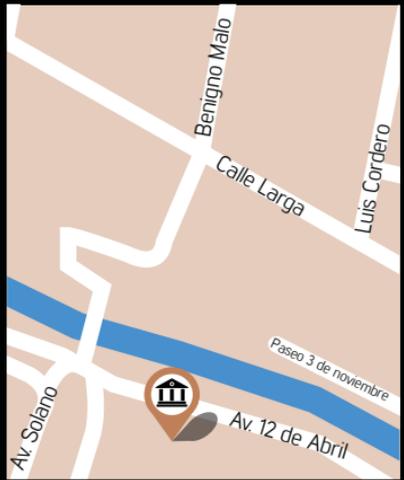
*Telephone: 4051000 – ext 1225 / 4051061*

*Schedule: Monday to Friday 09h00 to 13h00 and 15h00 to 18h00*



Panzaleos, Puruhaes, Bahía, La Manteña, La Tolita, etc, are represented here.

The Museum has a collection of about 4,500 pieces of metal, stone and ceramics, many of which rotate in exhibition every three or four months according to the requirements of the shows. The Museum also has a publication storage room, a room for rehearsals for the dance groups of the Culture Unit of the University of Cuenca and spaces for cultural events and the executions of research works at a higher level.



Estimated time of the visit: 45 min.



Free admission



## MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY SOCIETY OF MEDICINE

This museum was created and maintained by the History Society of Medicine, Chapter Azuay through its main promoter Dr. Guillermo Aguilar Maldonado. Its rooms are located in the remodeled building of the antique cloister of the Sisters of Charity, who arrived in Cuenca from France in the XIX century, starting its volunteer work for the San Vicente de Paul Hospital located right beside the cloister.

The Museum of the History Society of Medicine has more than 1200 pieces donated by public health institutions and families of deceased physicians. The exhibits are organized in fourteen rooms, each representing a branch of medicine, such as Odontology, Traumatology, Heart Surgery, Laboratory, etc. Here, visitors can appreciate equipment, instruments and materials of pre-Hispanic, Colonial and Republican



*Address: Av. 12 de Abril 7-55*

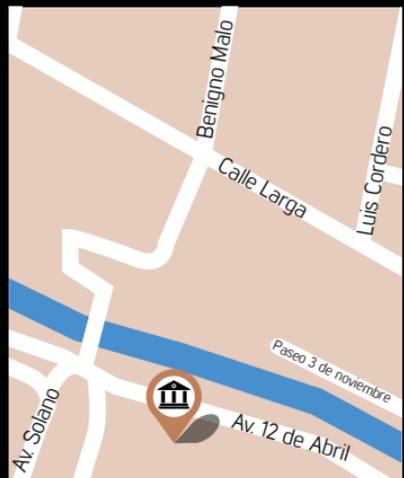
*Telephone: 2835859*

*Schedule: Monday to Friday 08h30 to 13h30 and 14h00 to 17h00*



Medicine periods in our region. There is also a replica of an antique drugstore and a library with books exclusively related to Medicine.

The architecture of the building History Society of Medicine Museum is also an attraction of great value. The church which operates as an auditorium was designed by German Redemptorist Brother Juan Bautista Stiehle by the end of the XIX century, built with funds from the Social Assistance collected from donations and heritages.



Estimated time of the visit: 45 min.



Free admission



## “REMIGIO CRESPO TORAL” HOUSE-MUSEUM

This House-Museum operates in the house of the well-known poet from Cuenca Remigio Crespo Toral (1860-1939) who was also a politician, professor and university rector, and the main promoter of culture in Cuenca, especially during the first decades of the XX century. Its rooms present the elegant home where Remigio Crespo Toral and his family lived. Here interesting goods are shown like the suits of Elia Liut, pilot of the first plane to land in Cuenca or the gravestone of Carlos Maria de la Condamine, member of the First Geodesic French Mission who ordered the engraving of the results of the Mission and points of reference of the measuring in this marble plaque.

The patrimony of the Remigio Crespo Toral House-Museum is formed by:

-An archeological collection of about 18,000 pieces of great aesthetic quality from different regional cultures in the country.



*Address: 7-27 Calle Larga and Presidente Borrero  
Telephone: 4134900 ext. 1970*

*Note: The Remigio Crespo Toral house-museum is preparing its definitive opening to the public.*



-An art collection formed by 500 paintings and 200 sculptures from the XVII, XVIII and XIX centuries, including 25 paintings by Honorato Vazquez, one of the best landscape painters in the country and works by Joaquin Pinto, Abraham Sarmiento, Antonio Salas, Luis Cadena, Antonio Salguero, Rafael Salas, Victor Mideros, Emilio Lozano, among other important representatives of Ecuadorian art.

-The Municipal History Archives has about 3,000 documents.

-A stamp collection of about 2,800 pieces.

-A textile collection formed by 150 historic pieces.

-Miscellaneous: An approximate number of 150 small pieces of different types.



Estimated time  
of the visit: 45 min.



Free  
admission



# LAS CONCEPTAS MUSEUM

A unique space where visitors can travel to a place far away from daily bustle and modernity. Beside the fascinating architecture of vernacular style, it is possible to discover the interesting history of the nuns of the Monastery of the Immaculate Conception, founded in Cuenca in 1599.

The Museum operates since 1986 in the space of the cloister. Its rooms are located along antique wooden halls around two charming interior gardens. The exhibits are divided in the following topics: History of the Monastery and Daily Life; Painting and Sculpture; Custom Miniatures; Furniture; Porcelain and Crystal.

As an interesting fact, the construction of this Monastery which was finished at the beginning



*Address: 6-33 Hermano Miguel and Juan Jaramillo  
Schedule: Monday to Friday 09h00 to 18h30; Saturday 10h00 to 13h00.  
Telephone: 2830625*



of XIX century includes a cemetery with graves of high architectural richness based on its simplicity. Currently in this place operates the Auditorium of the Museum where intense and important cultural activities take place.



The funds of the Museum are part of the dowries of the Conceptas nuns donated along four centuries to the monastery. There are 64 pictures on religious topics and about 250 sculptures of religious and custom topics in the 18 rooms of permanent exhibits of the Museum. This space also holds conferences, seminars, book presentations, temporal exhibits and different types of events.



Estimated time of the visit: 45 min.



School students: \$ 1.50 USD;  
 university and senior citizens: \$ 2.50 USD;  
 national and foreign visitors: \$3.50 USD



## CAÑARI IDENTITY MUSEUM

This private Museum is part of the Gaspar Sangurima Cultural Center. Its owner and director, Mr. Fernando Garcia Duran conceived this idea more than a decade ago with the objective of rescuing, researching and spreading cultural and artistic expressions of the city and the country, especially those related to the southern region of Ecuador and the Cañari culture. To reach this purpose he gradually purchased a series of objects of different nature: Regional archeology, Colonial and Republican Art, custom paintings and sculptures; ethnographic objects, etc.

The Cañari Identity Museum presents the following sections:

1. Archeology Room: It contains about 150 Cañari pieces of pre-Colombian origin, placed in



*Address: 6-26 Presidente Cordova and Hermano Miguel*

*Telephone: 2825384 / 2825212*

*Schedule: Monday to Friday 9h00 to 18h30; Saturday 9h00 to 13h30*



chronological order from the Narrio period until the arrival of the Incas. It has about 500 archeological pieces of the Cañari, Incan and Puruha cultures.

2. Art Rooms: Formed by Colonial paintings and sculptures from the XVIII and XIX centuries and the Republican Period, ethnographic pieces and custom representations mostly from the city of Cuenca.

The Museum through the "Gaspar Sangurima" Cultural Center offers technical support on Colonial and Republican Ecuadorian sculpture and painting and information on Cañari and Incan archeology. The museum operates on the second floor of "El Monasterio" Gallery with an exhibit and sale area of contemporary art, crafts and antiques.



Estimated time of the visit: 30 min.



Adults \$ 2.00USD;  
FREE for public school students,  
disable people and senior citizens.



## MUSEUM OF POPULAR ARTS OF AMERICA (CIDAP)

The Inter American Center of Popular Arts, CIDAP, is a public organism oriented to promote and value crafts and cultural expressions of Ecuador and America. It has a reserve of about 8,020 objects collected during 41 years from different parts of Ecuador and 23 countries of America, and Spain and Madagascar.

The Museum of Popular Arts of America opened its doors in 1983 and through its national and international exhibits tries to reflex and spread the material and non-material legacy of countless cultural and craft groups for the appreciation of local, national and international visitors.



*Address: 3-23 Hermano Miguel and Paseo Tres de Noviembre  
Telephone: 284 0919 / 282 9451 / 285 0516  
Schedule: Monday to Friday 9h00 to 17h00; Saturday 9h00 to 16h00.*



It offers a service of personalized guides for tourists, groups of students, researches and visitors in general.

It also has a Documentation Center formed by more than 67,000 documents related mainly to Crafts, Patrimony, Anthropology, Popular Art and Culture which could be reviewed through a Virtual Library and the Institutional Archive.



The Reserve, Museum and the Document Center offer the public invaluable sources of research, knowledge and awareness towards craft expressions and American popular arts.



Estimated time of the visit: 30 min.



Free admission



## MUSEUM OF INDIGENOUS CULTURES

The Museum of Indigenous Cultures, specialized in Ecuadorian Archeology was founded by the Cordero Lopez family, and is part of the Cordero Cultural Center. Since its opening in 1992, it serves the city with the objective of working towards education, assessment, maintenance and protection of Ecuadorian Cultural Patrimony. It promotes the cultural development of the southern region of the country, research and cultural activities. The museum employs specialists in museums and patrimony that allow visitors to explore the customs and beliefs of our ancestors.

The Museum operates in a house built in the XVIII century in the Patrimonial Center of Cuenca. It offers different cultural acts, courses, conferences, library services and a documentary fund that preserves data, images and unique documents



*Address: 5-24 Calle Larga between Hermano Miguel and Mariano Cueva  
Telephone: 2841540 / 2839181*

*Schedule: Monday to Friday 9h00 to 18h00; Saturday 9h00 to 14h00; Sunday by appointment*



related to the history of Cuenca and Ecuador, and books in the fields of art, history, geography and literature.

The permanent exhibit of the Museum has been conceived as an encounter with fifteen fundamental moments of the Ecuadorian archeology. Its didactic layout follows a geographic and thematic order of objects from different parts of Ecuador. Visitors can appreciate the amazing skills and knowledge of ancient people who worked different materials such as stone, ceramics, shells, bones, metals, textiles, etc. and made beautiful ceremonial and decorative objects and sculptures.



Estimated time of the visit: 30 min.



Students \$2,00 USD  
National and foreign visitors \$4,00 USD



## MUSEO MANUEL AGUSTÍN LANDÍVAR

This museum is located at the Todos Santos area; it is a place with archeological remains from different historical periods: Cañari and Incan cultures and stone mills built by the Spanish. This museum keeps pieces from the three cultures.

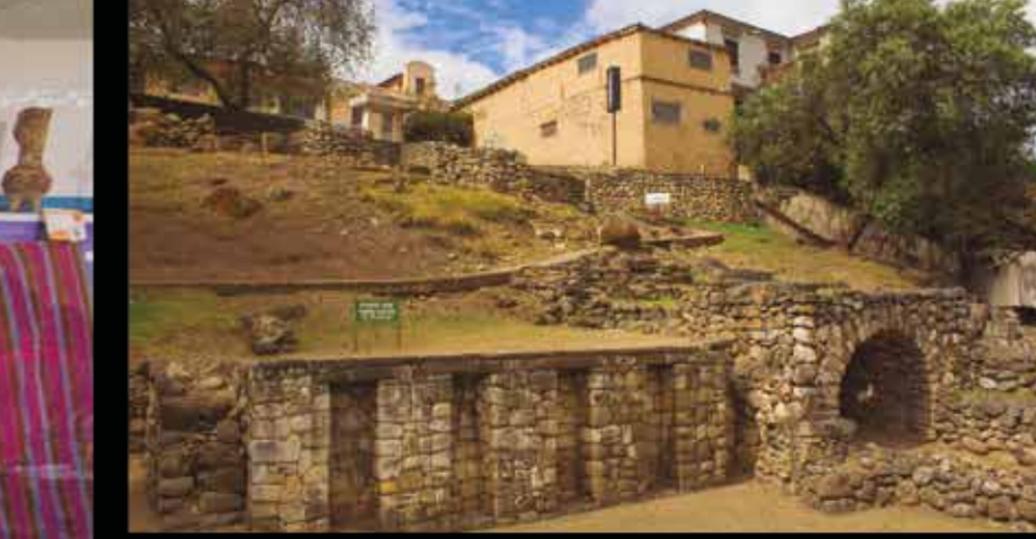
The Museum is located at the north entrance of the archeological complex discovered by chance in 1972 when building a private home. After finding a series of Cañari foundations and other Incan remains, several ceramic pieces were also found. A technical committee designated by the House of Culture, Azuay Branch was organized to assess the



*Address: Calle Larga and Manuel Vega*

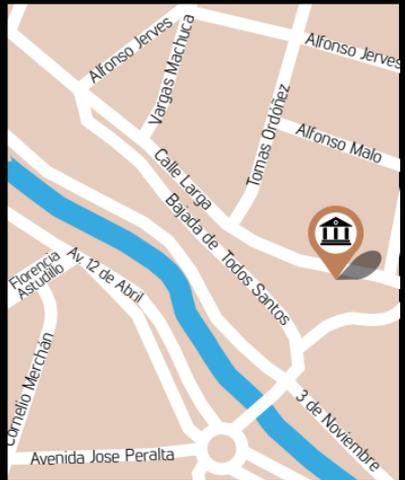
*Telephones: 2821177 / 0995520186*

*Schedule: Tuesday to Friday 10h00 to 18h30 and Saturday 10h00 to 14h00*



archeological site and the later creation of the Museum, which was named after a physician from Cuenca Manuel Agustín Landívar (1921–1980), who performed works of historical and archeological importance in our region.

In the Museum the rotating exhibits include different ethnographic, paleontological and patrimonial ceramics. It is also preparing the permanent presentation of ancient knowledge. The institution in charge of its administration is the House of Ecuadorian Culture, Azuay Branch.



Estimated time  
of the visit: 30 min.



Free  
admission



## PUMAPUNGO MUSEUM AND ANCESTRAL PARK

The museum, theater and ancestral park of Pumapungo which belong to the Ministry of Culture and Patrimony of Ecuador are part of the Pumapungo complex formed by an open space with all kinds of initiatives, projects and cultural activities framed in the National Plan of Good Living and the national policy for museums.

The Museum keeps and protects the reserve and national room of ethnography where the intercultural richness of Ecuador can be appreciated. The archeological "Tomebamba" room or Site Museum shows the historical development of Azuay and Ecuador, through the Cañari, Incan and Colonial cultures. Here the important historical Incan heritage can be observed through the ruins of an administrative, military and religious complex found, which is the second in importance within the Incan empire after the city of Cuzco.



*Address: Calle Larga and Huayna Capac*

*Telephone: 2831521*

*Schedule: Tuesday to Friday 8h00 to 17h30; Saturday, Sunday and Holidays 10h00 to 16h00*



In addition, the Museum has five temporal exhibit rooms and one room for emerging local, national and international artists. In the same way, the Pumapungo Museum offers a room for conservation and restoring; reserves of archeology and modern and contemporary art; a historic archive and a library, all of them at the disposition of students, researchers, curators and visitors in general.



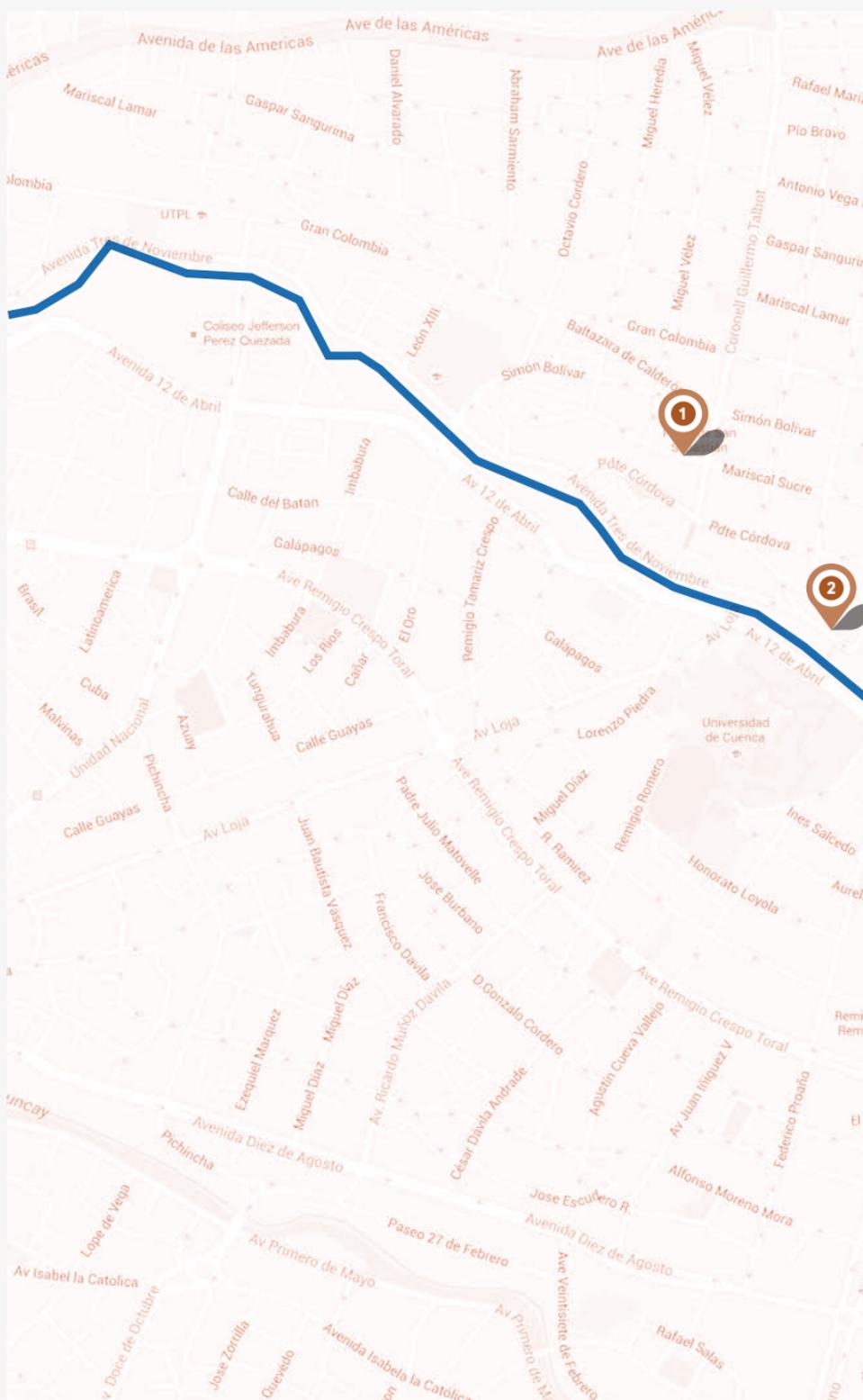
On the other side, at the Pumapungo Ancestral Park beside the Incan ruins, visitors can appreciate the luxuriant vegetation of the ethno-botanic park with more than 230 species native plants and trees from the Andes. It is also possible to visit the rescue center for birds, where in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, the Committee of Environment Management and the Amaru Zoo, these institutions work together against the illegal traffic of birds.



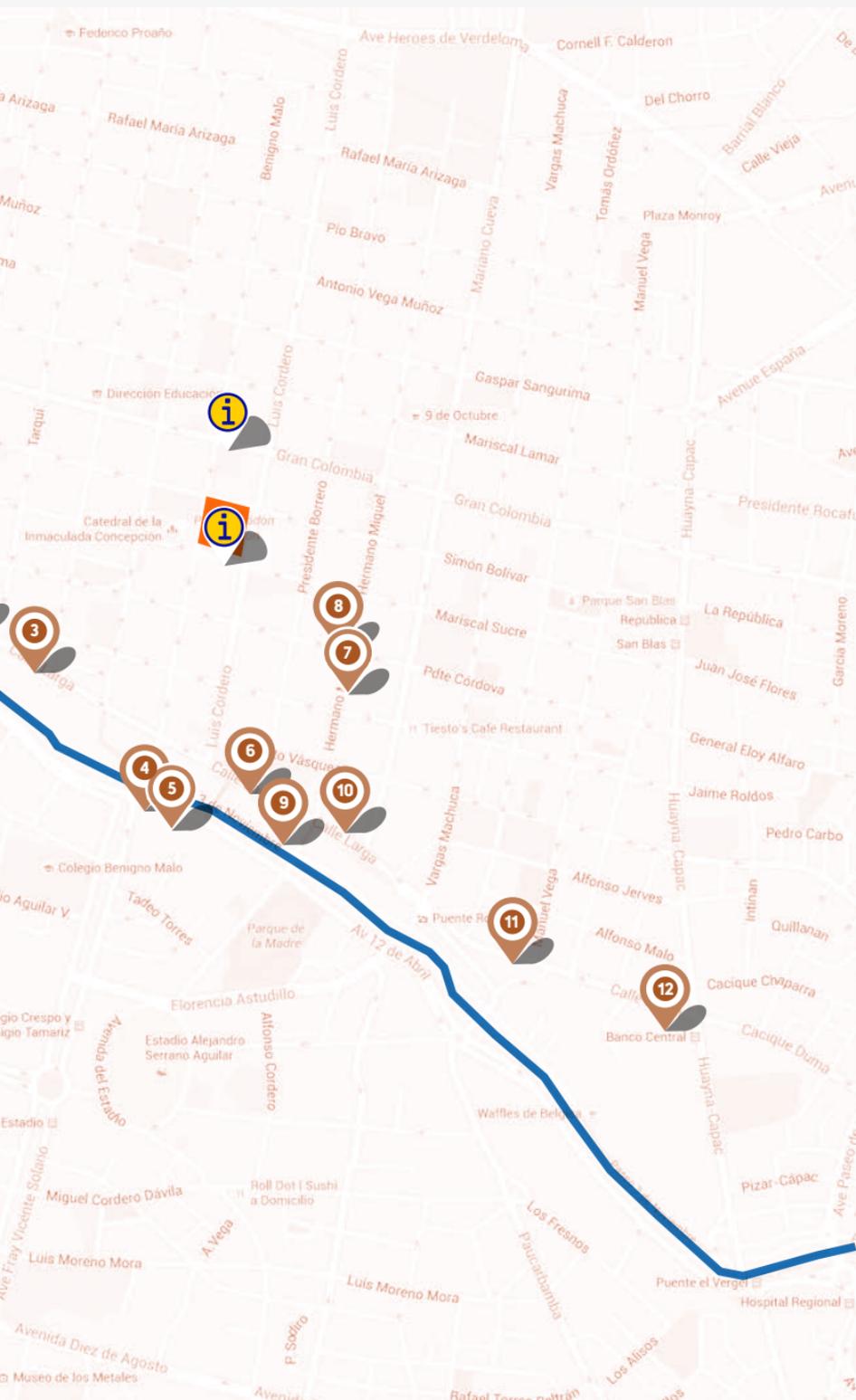
Estimated time  
of the visit: 90 min.



Free  
admission



**MUSEUM  
ROUTE**



**Itur Centro**

Sucre, entre Benigno Malo y Luis Cordero

**iTur Escuela Central**

Gran Colombia y Benigno Malo

**iTur Aeropuerto Mariscal Lamar**

Av. España y Elia Liut

1. MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
2. "LA CONDAMINE" HOUSE-MUSEUM
3. STRAW HAT MUSEUM
4. UNIVERISTY ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
5. MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY SOCIETY OF MEDICINE
6. "REMIGIO CRESPO TORAL" HOUSE-MUSEUM
7. LAS CONCEPTAS MUSEUM
8. CAÑARI IDENTITY MUSEUM
9. MUSEUM OF POPULAR ARTS OF AMERICA (CIDAP)
10. MUSEUM OF INDIGENOUS CULTURES
11. MANUEL AGUSTIN LANDIVAR MUSEUM
12. PUMAPUNGO MUSEUM AND ANCESTRAL PARK

**CUENCA**  
I. MUNICIPALIDAD

con la gente, **siempre**



## Fundación Municipal Turismo para Cuenca

Bolívar 8-44 entre Benigno Malo y Luis Cordero

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E mail: [info@cuenca.com.ec](mailto:info@cuenca.com.ec)

[www.cuencaecuador.com.ec](http://www.cuencaecuador.com.ec)



Visit\_CuencaEc



### UNESCO Awards

- Qhapac Ñan, Andean Road System, World Heritage Site
- Traditional weaving of "Toquilla Straw Hats", Intangible Heritage of Humanity
- Massif of "El Cajas", World Biosphere Reserve
- Cuenca, World Cultural Heritage Site