Ecuador, whose name comes from the Equator, is the smallest Andean country in South America and is home to four distinct and contrasting regions (Costa, Sierra, Oriente, and Galapagos). Each region contributes to the country’s industry, agriculture, economy, and tourism. The country is divided ethnically as well as regionally with ten percent of the population being of European descent, a twenty five percent of indigenous cultures, and the rest of mostly mixed ethnicity. The main spoken language in Ecuador is Spanish and 11 other languages specific to native communities. Ecuador has a very unique culture with a long history of Latin music, diverse cuisine, art styles, politics, and a love for football (soccer). Guayaquil, Ecuador’s largest city, major port, and commercial center, rivals Quito, the capital and wealthiest part of Ecuador. The country’s population is 14,666,005 and the Conservation International identifies Ecuador as one of the 17 most megadiverse countries in the world.

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