



WHAT ARE ECUADOR'S MOST IMPORTANT FESTIVITIES? (CALENDAR)

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START DATE	FESTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
January 1	New Year	New Year's Day is celebrated enthusiastically in Colombia, offering the opportunity to welcome the beginning of another year, filled with hopes, aspirations, and renewed energy. Epiphany (Three Kings Day)
February Floating Holiday (long weekend (Sat-Mon) just before Lent)	Carnival	Colombia has several Carnival celebrations. The most popular of these is that of Barranquilla along the Caribbean Coast. Other popular Carnival celebrations take place in Bogota, Pasto (the latter is located in the south close to the border with Ecuador).
March Floating Holiday (observed on the Monday between the 19th and 25th)	Saint Joseph's Day	A Roman Catholic holiday, the Feast of Saint Joseph celebrates Jesus' father figure and the role of the "father" in society. Think of it as a sort-of Father's Day.
March/April Floating Holiday (begins with Palm Sunday, 39 days after Ash Wednesday)	Holy Week	Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. In Colombia, this event is commemorated via church processions and observances throughout the country, culminating with Easter Sunday, the day on which Catholics celebrate the Resurrection.
May 1	Labor Day	Colombia celebrates the plight of "the worker" on Labor Day.
May Floating Holiday (celebrated 39 days after Easter)	Feast of the Ascension	The Feast of the Ascension commemorates the belief that Jesus physically ascended into Heaven 40 days after His resurrection.
June Floating Holiday (60 days after Easter or the following Sunday)	Feast of Corpus Christi	This holiday celebrates the concept of the Eucharist with prayer, song, and parish processions.
June Floating Holiday (celebrated on the 3rd Friday)	Feast of the Sacred Heart	This holiday celebrates the Catholic devotion to the Sacred Heart as a symbol of divine love for mankind.

following Pentecost)		
June 29th (observed on the Monday between June 29th and July 5th)	Feast of St. Peter and St. Paul	This holiday observes the martyrdom of Saints Peter and Paul, and is observed on a Monday to coincide or immediately follow the June 29th commemoration, resulting in an extended weekend.
July 20th	Independence Day	Colombia celebrates its independence from Spain on the date of the 1810 uprising that took place in Bogota and set off a chain of events that would lead to the eventual formation of Gran Colombia and the later to the establishment of four separate countries: Colombia, Panama, Venezuela, and Ecuador.
August 7	Battle of Boyacá	This national holiday commemorates the 1819 battle that saw Colombia finally and definitively acquire its independence from the Monarchy in Spain. It is celebrated in the form of festivals and parades throughout the country. Military officials also perform ceremonies to remember the fallen soldiers.
August 15th (observed on the Monday between the 15th and 21st)	Assumption of Virgin Mary	This international celebration of the Virgin Mary celebrates her assumption, body and all, into Heaven.
October 12th (observed on the Monday between the 12th and 18th)	Día de la Raza ("Day of the Races")	This day commemorates the initial encounters between the Europeans that sailed with Christopher Columbus and the indigenous people of the Americas. It was first celebrated in Colombia back in 1921.
November 1st (observed on the Monday between the 1st and 7th)	All Saints Day	All Saints Day is a celebration of our deceased loved ones and their souls' eternal rest. It is common to visit cemeteries and decorate graves with fresh flowers. The holiday always lands on the Monday either on or immediately following November 1st.
November 11th (observed on the Monday between the 11th and 17th)	Cartagena's Independence Day	All Saints Day is a celebration of our deceased loved ones and their souls' eternal rest. It is
December 8th	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	Another important holiday for the Catholic faithful, this one celebrates the day that the Virgin Mary was conceived, and it is believed that she was born and preserved from original sin, for her entire life.
December 25	Christmas	The Christmas holiday is actively celebrated throughout Colombia. It often determines peak travel season, as visitors and residents flock to vacation destinations, particularly those along the Caribbean Coast.