### Europa Hotel in Baños



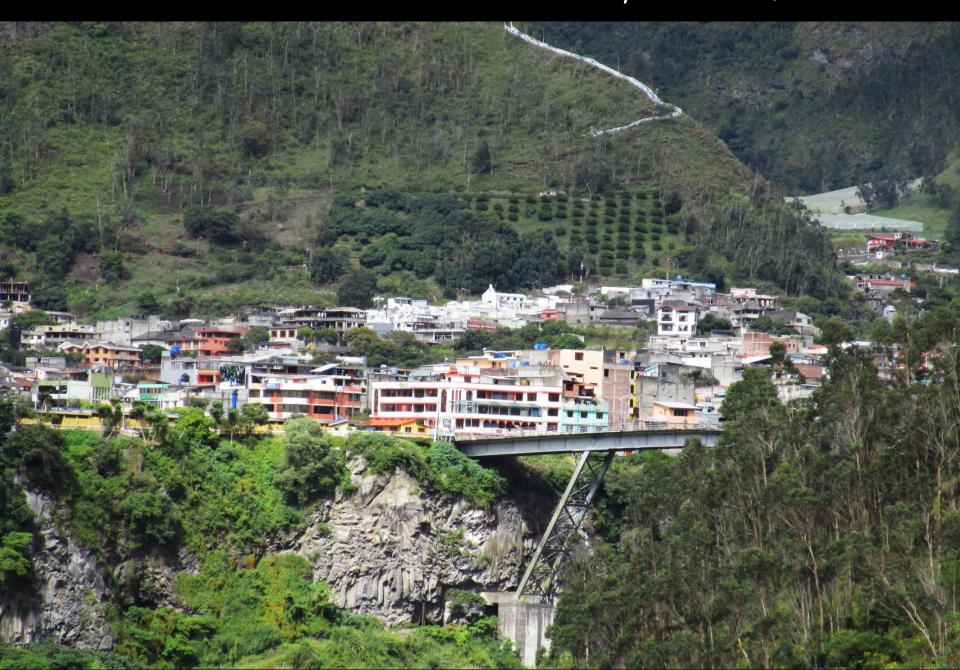
View of the Cascada de la Virgen from the hotel balcony.



Baños is located at the foot of the Tungurahua volcano



It is located beside the Rio Pastaza in a valley at about 6,000 feet.



There are surrounding homes and farms along the hillsides.



Crops are produced on steep slopes.



Street vendors outside the central park in Baños.

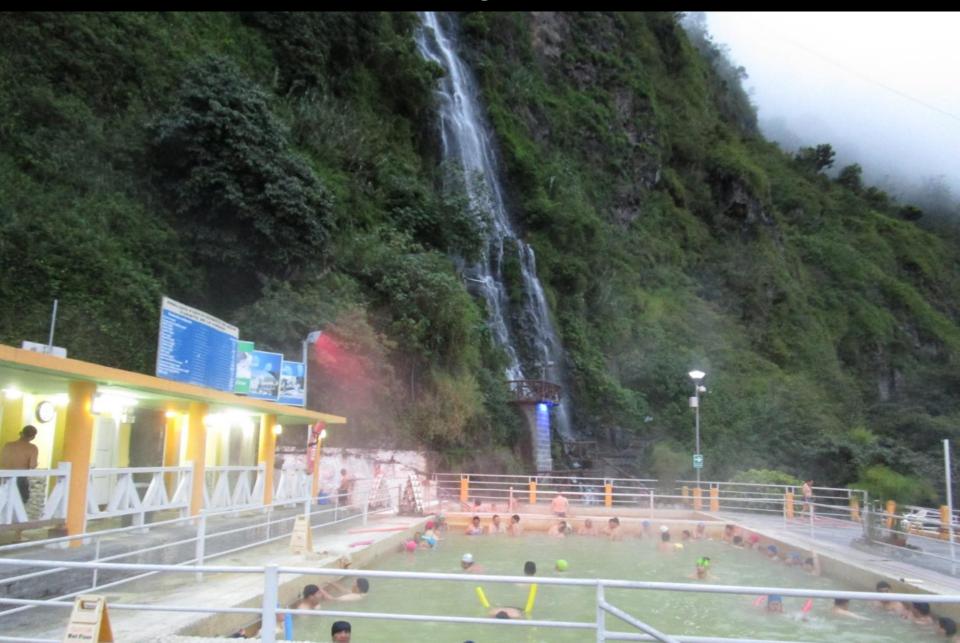


The full name for Banos is Baños de Agua Santa (Baths of the Holy Water).

This is in reference to the thermal pools filled with mineral water heated by the nearby volcano.



The Piscina de la Virgen thermal pools is located at the base of the Virgin's waterfall.



Early morning soak in the thermal pools.



Baños is noted for their taffy ("melcoch") made from sugar cane.



Baños is also the place we were able to taste "Cuy" or guinea pig.



## Guinea pigs



#### Sidewalk restaurant cooking guinea pigs.



Guinea pigs ready to eat.



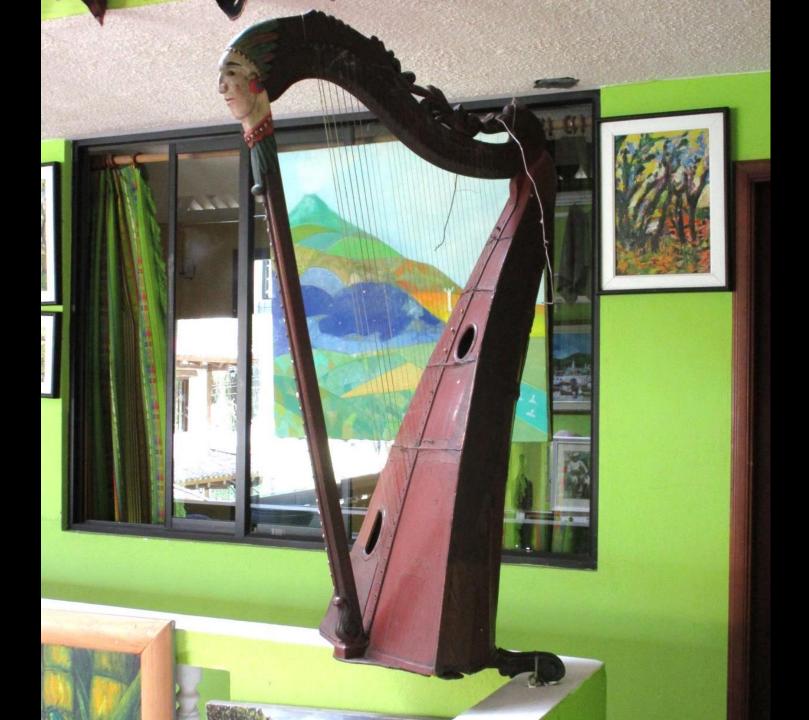
Baños is an artsy colorful city.



Hostal la Posads del Arte gallery.







# Street art was popular all over Ecuador but it was exceptional throughout the streets of Baños.

















Tagua nut is a palm seed that is also called vegetable ivory. When it is dry it can be worked into various shapes or jewelry.



Ecuadorean ivory palm (Phytelephas aequatorialis)



Palm fruits containing tagua nuts



Tools to turn, carve and polish Tagua nuts.



#### Blue-footed booby and tortoises from Tagua nuts.



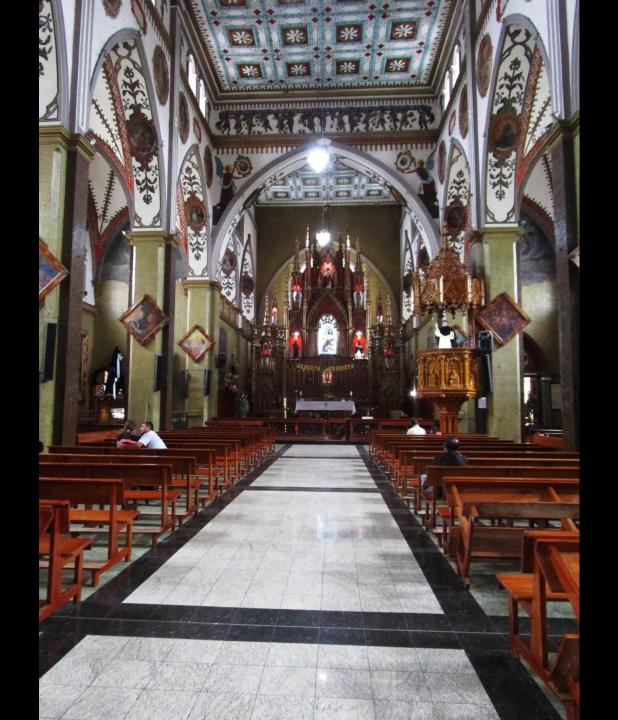
The main church in Baños is the Basilica de Nuestra Señora de Agua Santa (Our Lady of the Holy Water).



Courtyard garden at the church.









## Votive candle station



Baños has an intimate relationship with the Virgin Mary.

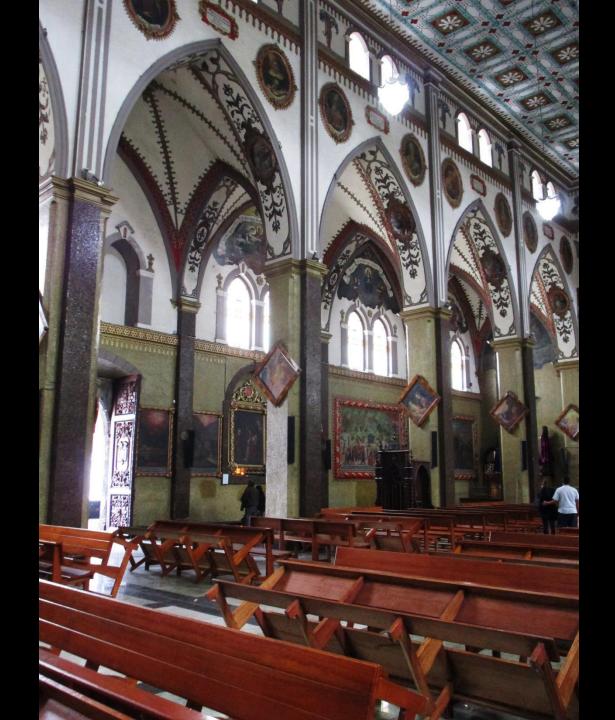




The grotto at the base of the Cascada de la Virgen de Aguas Santas has a spring that is supposed to have healing properties.



In side the Basilica are numerous paintings depicting miracles performed by the Virgin Mary in and around Baños





Saving the village from the Tungurahua volcano.



Preventing a cable car accident.



The swing at the end of the world is located at the base of the Tungurahua volcano.



It is called the treehouse (Casa del Arbol).

There are a pair of swings, one on each side of the treehouse.

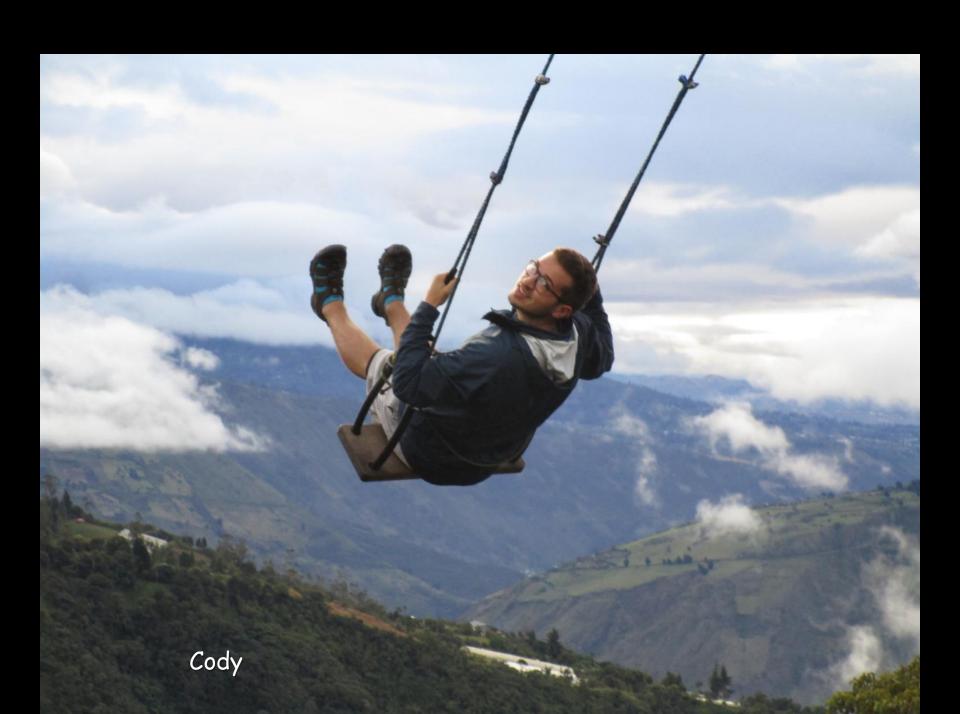




You climb the ramp, mount the seat and wing into the abyss.







The Rio Pastaza valley.



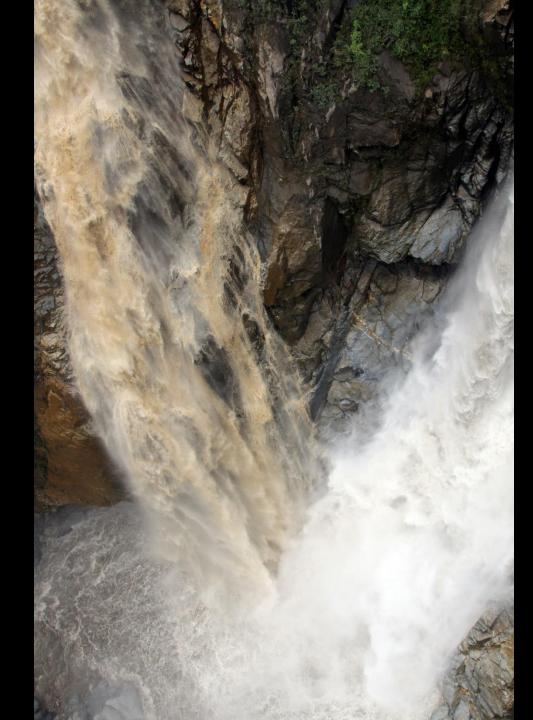
Cable car (Tarabita) ride over across the Rio Pastaza valley.



Loading into the cable car ride.



Waterfall at the end of the cable car ride.



El Palon del Diablo The Devil's Cauldron waterfall



Hiking to the top and behind the waterfall.





The best view of the waterfall is across the suspension bridge.



